

The Occurrence of *Astyanax fasciatus mexicanus* in Lake Texoma, Oklahoma¹

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One specimen of the Mexican banded tetra, *Astyanax fasciatus mexicanus*, was taken on July 14, 1953, from a small pond on an island in Lake Texoma, Marshall County, Oklahoma. This was a small adult of undetermined sex, 2.3 inches in total-length. Its identification was verified by both Dr. George A. Moore, of Oklahoma A. and M. College, and Dr. Robert R. Miller, of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

The pond from which this fish was taken had been treated with rotenone. The pond, the island, and the application of rotenone were described by Riggs and Smithpeter (4). A careful examination of the pond's shore line and of all of the fish killed revealed no other individuals of this species.

Miller (3) gave the range of this fish in the United States as "the Rio Grande of Texas and New Mexico northeastward to the Rio Nueces of Texas." The occurrence of *Astyanax* in Lake Texoma is probably the result of an introduction from a bait bucket. Local fishermen report that it is raised by Texas bait dealers and sold as the "Mexican shiner." Evans and Douglas (2) reported that this species has been introduced into the Colorado River due to its sale by a bait dealer.

At present it is not known whether or not a population of this species has become established in Lake Texoma. Almost certainly other individuals have been dumped into the lake, and since it is being raised and sold as a bait species it probably will be introduced into many lakes and streams in Texas, Oklahoma, and other parts of the southwest. Such introductions may have already occurred. Although environmental conditions in Lake Texoma, as well as other Oklahoma and Texas lakes, may not permit the survival of this tetra, fishermen and biologists should watch for this fish and report its occurrence. It is a very vicious and voracious fish (1, 3). If it becomes well-established, it seems certain to become a problem to fishery technicians, since it could easily do serious damage to populations of desirable game fish. Its spread should be prevented.

LITERATURE CITED

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4. RIGGS, CARL D., AND ROGER SMITHPETER. 1953. The fish population of a small, periodically inundated island-pond in Lake Texoma, Oklahoma. *Proc. Oklahoma Acad. Sci.* 33: 49-55.

¹Contribution of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station, Lake Texoma.