

中国境内始舌齿鱼 (*Eohiodon*) 的发现 ——兼论骨舌鱼类的分布

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关键词 江苏沭阳 始新世 始舌齿鱼

内 容 提 要

本文记述了产自苏北沭阳阜宁群上部的一始舌齿鱼,依据它在外形、鼻骨及尾部结构上与始舌齿鱼现有种的区别,将它定为一新种:沭阳始舌齿鱼 (*Eohiodon shuyangensis*, sp. nov.)。同时,本文对骨舌鱼类的历史动物地理学问题作了尝试性的分析。

始舌齿鱼以往只发现于北美始新世地层中。该属最初由 Cavender (1966) 建立,他将产于加拿大 Kamloops 湖始新世地层中、曾被 Hussakof (1916) 误定为 *Leuciscus rosei* 的化石归入舌齿鱼科 (Hiodontidae), 并将其改名为 *Eohiodon rosei*。随后, Wilson (1978) 和 Grande (1979) 又分别在加拿大和美国建立了始舌齿鱼的另两个种,后者产于著名的始新世绿河页岩中。我国东部沿海地区曾存在一个与绿河页岩中十分相似鱼群(张弥曼等,1985),张等在记述这一鱼群时曾提到采自江苏沭阳阜宁群岩芯中的一个化石,认为它属于骨舌鱼类,与该类化石在绿河页岩中的另一代表 *Phareodus* 接近 (p. 46)。笔者对这一化石进行了观察和描述,结果表明,它并非 *Phareodus*, 而是 *Eohiodon*。始舌齿鱼在中国境内的发现,为骨舌鱼类的历史动物地理学研究提供了新的材料,本文将在此基础上对这一问题作一些尝试性分析。

本文在张弥曼的指导下完成。笔者感谢张弥曼、周家健将原打算作进一步工作的标本让给我研究。同时,笔者对提供标本的苏北油田的王明远、摄制图版的张杰、清绘插图的戴嘉生以及对论文提出宝贵意见的刘宪亭、苏德造、刘玉海和王俊卿表示衷心的感谢。

一、标本记述

骨舌鱼超目 *Osteoglossomorpha* (sensu Greenwood, 1973)

骨舌鱼目 *Osteoglossiformes*

舌齿鱼科 *Hiodontidae*

始舌齿鱼属 *Eohiodon* Cavender, 1966

沭阳始舌齿鱼 *Eohiodon shuyangensis*, sp. nov.

特征 体梭形,最大体高位于头后。鼻骨小,呈片状。副蝶骨腹面及咽舌骨齿板均具锥形齿。前鳃盖骨上枝窄长、下枝宽短。椎体圆筒状,约 49 枚。背鳍起点位于臀鳍起点之前。臀鳍鳍条 22 根。尾鳍深分叉,分叉鳍条 16 根。第一尾前椎有完整的神经棘。尾上骨 1 块。尾神经骨 3 块,第一尾神经骨延至第一尾前椎后部。尾下骨 6 块。圆鳞。鳍式: DV, 12; A IV, 18; P 10; V 9; C 4, I, 8 + 8, I, 6。

正型标本 一条近乎完整的鱼,缺失部分头颅骨片。古脊椎动物与古人类研究所标本登记号 V8778A、V8778B。

产地及层位 江苏沭阳钻孔岩芯中,阜宁群上部。

词源 种名取自标本产地沭阳 (Shu Yang)。

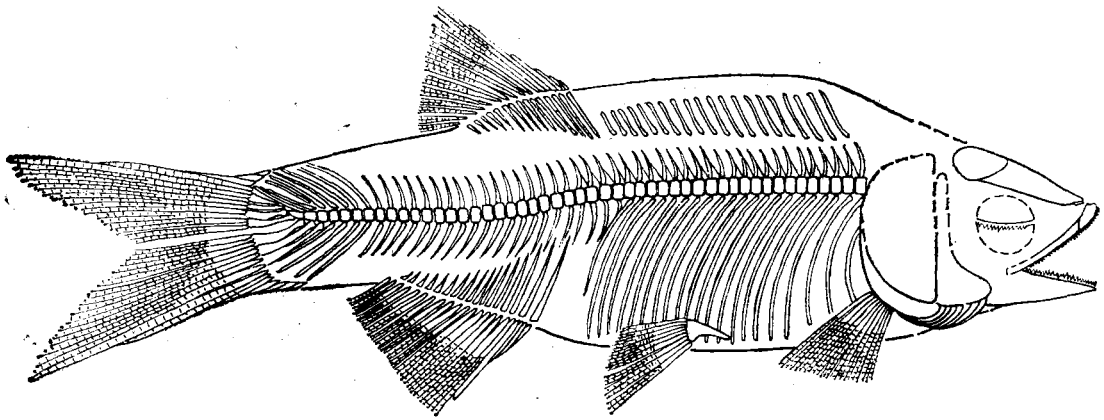


图 1 沭阳始舌齿鱼(新种)的复原图

Fig. 1 *Eohiodon shuyangensis* sp. nov., Restoration of skeleton

描述 鱼体小,呈短梭形,全长 27 毫米(图 1—3, 图版 1)。

颅顶光滑、平坦。中筛骨观察不清,出露部呈扇形。鼻骨小、片状,被额骨前端分开。额骨前部窄,前端向中线急剧收缩形成一前尖;向后渐宽,与顶骨以弧线相接。顶骨保存部分呈“D”形,其后有一圆形突起,向后延伸出一短小的脊,可能为上枕骨。副蝶骨横贯眼眶中部,腹面具锥形齿,锥形齿至少在后部不止一行,副蝶骨后翼延至顶骨正下方。

口端位,口裂中等,下颌与方骨连接处约位于眼眶中部。前上颌骨长方形,弯曲,长度约为上颌骨长的 1/3。上缘前 1/3 处有一小突起,前上颌骨可能以此通过韧带与脑颅连接。下缘具齿,大小不一,可能不止一排。齿着生端骨片增厚。上颌骨长条形,后部较前部宽。未见辅上颌骨。齿骨下缘平直,上缘由前向后逐渐升高,冠状突低缓。齿骨口缘密布锥形齿。下颌其余骨片未保存。

眼眶下半部,内翼骨的印痕不甚清晰,呈弯月状,上缘平缓、略下弯;下缘呈弧线,前端尖,后端钝圆。腭部其余骨片不详。

咽舌骨齿板呈三角形,位于两齿骨间,其上密布锥形齿,交错丛生。紧接其后,有一等边五角形骨片印痕,其上着生鳃条骨,估计是角舌骨的后部。鳃条骨纤细,共约 7 根。

鳃盖骨大,略呈肾形,前鳃盖骨呈“L”形,上枝窄长,下枝宽短。未见下鳃盖骨及间鳃盖骨。

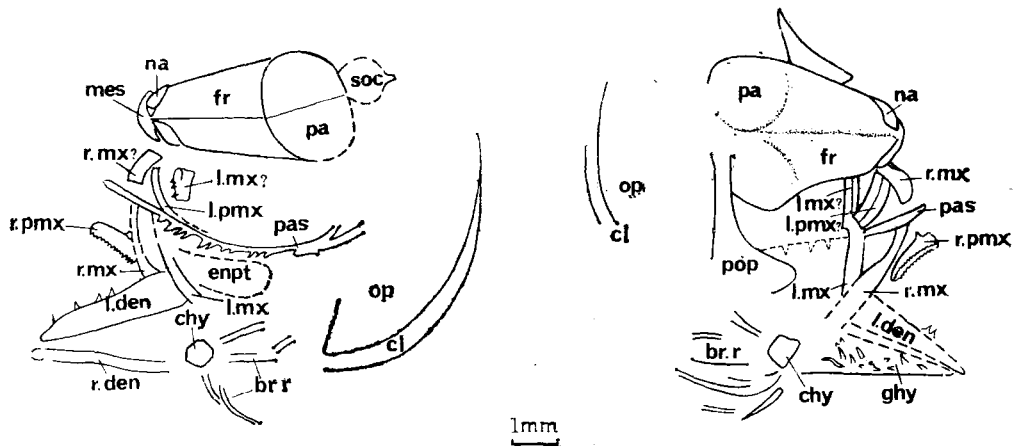


图2 沭阳始舌齿鱼(新种)的头骨(V8778), 简字说明见附注

Fig. 2 Skull of *Eohiodon shuyangensis* sp. nov. (V8778), abbreviations see the appendix

椎骨外观呈圆筒状,长约为宽的1/2,约49枚,其中尾椎21枚,躯椎约28枚。最前24枚椎骨具上髓弓小骨,最前约20枚椎骨有上神经棘,纤细。肋骨22对,最后一对稍短,其余均伸至腹缘。

肩带大部分被鳃盖骨覆压,出露部分也不甚清晰。胸鳍位低,鳍条约10根,自下向上渐长,最长的第一根鳍条相当于12枚椎骨的长度。腹鳍腹位,起于第19枚椎骨处,基鳍骨近于长三角形,后端略内弯,两块基鳍骨前、后端在腹中线相遇。每块基鳍骨外侧面具一脊。鳍条约9根,均分叉。第一根鳍条相当于10枚椎骨的长度,其余依次渐短。

背鳍略靠后,起于第25枚椎骨处,鳍条17根,最前5根不分叉。第一分叉鳍条最长,相当于16枚椎骨的长度,其余依次递减。支持骨15根,第一根最长。臀鳍起于第29枚椎骨处,鳍条22根,最前4根不分叉。第一分叉鳍条相当于13枚椎骨的长度。支持骨17根,基部均扩大成三角形薄片。

尾鳍深分叉,第一至第五尾前椎的神经棘和脉棘变长、变粗,第一尾前椎的脉棘已成宽板状。端椎(ural centrum)两枚,第一端椎比第二大,略上翘。尾下骨观察到6块,下叶2块,附于第一端椎上;上叶4块,与第二端椎相接,其中第一至第四尾下骨与端椎关联处明显扩大。第一尾前椎有完整的神经棘,尾神经骨3块,第一尾神经骨延至第一尾前椎的后部,其余两根延至第二端椎,第三尾神经骨比第二略前,估计是第二尾神经骨折断所致。尾上骨1块。尾鳍最前面的附属鳍条在背缘起于第三至第四尾前椎的神经棘末端,约4根;在腹缘起于第四至第五尾前椎的脉棘末端,约6根。尾鳍条18根,其中分叉鳍条16根,上、下叶各8根。

圆鳞。自背向腹横向鳞片约9枚。鳞片覆瓦状排列,出露部呈扇形。

比较 张弥曼等(1985)在《渤海沿岸地区第三纪鱼化石》一文中曾提到这一标本,认为它属于骨舌鱼类的骨舌鱼科(Osteoglossidae),与该科中的 *Phareodus* 接近。

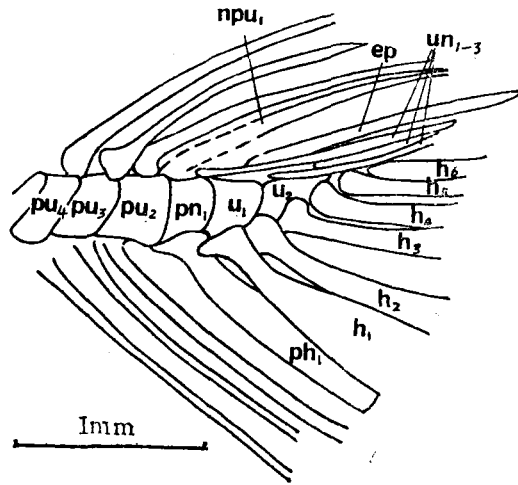


图3 沭阳始舌齿鱼(新种)的尾骨。简字说明见附注 V8778A

Fig. 3 Caudal skeleton of *Eohiodon shuyangensis* sp. nov. from V8778A

骨舌鱼超目 (Osteoglossomorpha) 属真骨鱼类的早期成员, 它分为 Osteoglossoidei 和 Notopteroidei 两亚目, 前者包括 Osteoglossidae 及 Arapaimidae 科, 后者由 Notopteridae, Mormyridae 及 Hiodontidae 三科组成 (Greenwood, 1973; Lauder & Liem, 1983, Fig. 19)。骨舌鱼类目前公认的近裔自性有以下几点: (1) 存在“副蝶骨—舌骨咬合 (parasphenoid-tongue bite)”。即副蝶骨和咽舌骨上有齿, 与颌部齿共同组成一复杂的咬合结构; (2) 第二下鳃骨上有一骨质小棒, 为舌腹肌与鳃弓连接处 (Greenwood et al., 1966); (3) 肠从食管及胃的左侧通向后部, 与所有其他辐鳍鱼类不同 (Nelson, 1972); (4) 尾部第一尾前椎有完整的神经棘。(5) 尾鳍分叉鳍条 16 根或更少 (Goslin, 1960; Patterson, & Rosen, 1977)。其中第 3 点在化石中一般无法观察。

沭阳标本的鳃弓没有保存, 但它具有以上第 1、第 4 和第 5 性状, 而且不与其他真骨鱼类共有近裔性状, 因此, 它无疑应是骨舌鱼超目的成员。然而, 它所显示的形态特征, 尤其是尾部特征, 表明它与 Osteoglossidae 相差较大而与 Hiodontidae 较为接近。前者的尾部结构是: 第一尾前椎及第一端椎有完整的神经棘, 没有尾上骨, 尾神经骨 1 块, 尾鳍分叉鳍条 15 根或更少; 后者的尾部结构则为: 第一尾前椎有完整的神经棘, 尾上骨 1 块, 尾神经骨 3 至 4 块, 尾鳍分叉鳍条 16 根。对骨舌鱼类的外类群而言, 这两种结构均为各自的近裔自性。沭阳标本的尾部骨骼与 Hiodontidae 几乎一致(图 3), 而且不与 Osteoglossidae 或骨舌鱼超目的其余任何一类群共有近裔性状, 因此, 建议将沭阳标本归入 Hiodontidae 中。

Hiodontidae 以往包括北美现生的 *Hiodon* 及始新世的 *Eohiodon*, 两者的骨骼特征十分接近, 唯在脊椎数(前者 55—61, 后者 44—49)、臀鳍条数(前者 27—36, 后者 17—23)上有所不同, 即现生种类的体长和臀鳍长大于始新世的 hiodontids (Cavender, 1966)。Eohiodon 的另一个典型特征是背鳍位于臀鳍之前 (Wilson, 1977)。沭阳标本具有典型的 Eohiodon 的特征: 脊椎 49 枚、臀鳍条 22 根、背鳍位于臀鳍之前。故此将它置入

Eohiodon 中。

已描述的 *Eohiodon* 有三种, 分别为 *E. rosei*, *E. falcatus* 和 *E. woodruffi* (Cavender, 1966; Grand, 1979; Wilson, 1978)。最近, 在蒙古南戈壁始新世地层中还发现了 *Eohiodon* 的一个亚属 (*Syrchevskaya*, 1986), 因该亚属在脊椎数(41—42 枚)、臀鳍条数(23—27)和背臀鳍相对位置上与 *Eohiodon* 的已知三种及沭阳标本差别较大, 而且其头部骨骼没有保存, 这里就不再作详细比较。沭阳标本与 *E. falcatus* 在体高、背鳍前距、脊椎数和尾椎数上较为接近(表 1), 此外, 它们的前鳃盖骨上枝长于下枝, 不同于 *E. rosei* 的上、下枝等长 (*E. woodruffi* 的未保存)。不过, 表中数据均为平均数, 还存在个体变异, 如 *E. rosei* 的体高与体长之比可达 37%。沭阳标本具有以下特征与 *Eohiodon* 已知三种不同: (1) 最大体高位于头后而不是腹部; (2) 鼻骨小片状而不是管状; (3) 尾神经骨前伸至第一尾前椎的后部而不是第二尾前椎上; (4) 尾下骨仅观察到 6 块而不是 7 块。鉴于这些区别, 本文建议将沭阳标本定为一新种: *Eohioson shuyangensis*。

表 1 沭阳标本与始舌齿鱼已知种统计数据比较

Table 1 Statistics comparison between specimen of Shuyang and the known species of *Eohiodon*

	沭阳标本	<i>E. falcatus</i> (Wilson, 1977)	<i>E. rosei</i> (Cavender, 1966)	<i>E. woodruffi</i> (Wilson, 1978)
体长(毫米)	27	—	—	—
体高(与体长之百分比)	33.3	38.5	25	28
头长(与体长之百分比)	33.3	24	27	29
背鳍前距(与体长之百分比)	63.2	61.5	58	57
臀鳍前距(与体长之百分比)	66.7	66.9	69	66
腹鳍前距(与体长之百分比)	48	46	53	49
脊椎数	49	49	44—49	47—49
尾椎数	21	22	24	25

其余的 hiodontids 种属还有最近在我国吉林早白垩世地层中发现的 *Yanbiania wangqingica* (李国青, 1987)。该标本在形态特征上与 *Hiodon* 及 *Eohiodon* 十分相似, 尤其与后者接近(脊椎 44—46, 臀鳍条 16—17, 背鳍位于臀鳍之前)。李曾列举了它与已知 hiodontids 的七点区别, 其中“顶骨后侧角向后呈锥状突起”、“前上颌骨的背部有一高的丘状突”明显不同于 *E. shuyangensis*。

二、骨舌鱼超目的历史动物地理学

早在六十年代末, Nelson 就详细讨论过骨舌鱼类的起源问题, 依据现代种属的地理分支图, 他推测该类群起源于南大陆, 其中唯一的北半球代表 hiodontids 可能由亚洲传入北美 (Nelson, 1969, Fig. 21)。 *Lycoptera* 与 *Hiodontidae* 姐妹群关系的确立

(Greenwood, 1970), 似乎使这一推测得到了证实。然而几年之后, Patterson 却提出了骨舌鱼亚目海洋起源的可能性。他将始新世海生的 *Brychaetus* 作为该亚目的近祖姐妹群, 认为骨舌鱼亚目的世界性分布可能是通过海洋迁徙而实现的 (Patterson, 1975, Fig. 3)。但 Nelson (1973) 认为, *Brychaetus* 在骨舌鱼类中是唯一的海生代表, 其余同时代或更早期的化石及现生种类均为淡水生。这表明 *Brychaetus* 的海相极有可能是次生的。此外, 从目前的分类格局上看, *Brychaetus* 的位置还不确定, Taverna (1979) 趋向于将其作为骨舌鱼亚科 (Osteoglossinae) 的姐妹群。因此, 骨舌鱼亚目的海洋起源说至少从目前看来显得证据不足。在 Patterson 之后不久, 张弥曼和周家健 (1976) 再次撰文讨论了骨舌鱼类的起源问题。她们将中国骨舌鱼类的材料加入 Nelson 的分支图中, 从而推出骨舌鱼类的起源地实际上是在亚洲东部, 而南大陆及北美的骨舌鱼类均为次生扩

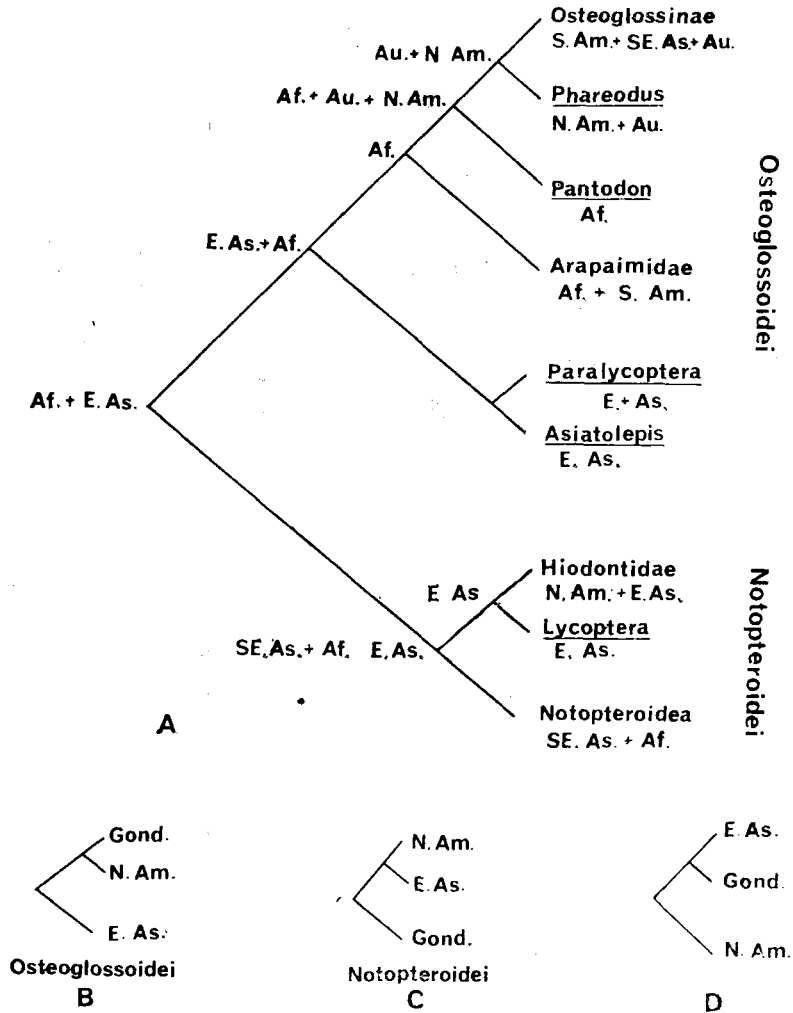


图 4 骨舌鱼类的分布及其扩散与隔离分异假说, 简字说明见附注
 Fig. 4 The distribution of osteoglossomorphs and its dispersal and vicariance hypotheses

散所致(张、周,1976,图4)。这一结论与化石提供的时代顺序是相吻合的,因为亚洲东部最早的骨舌鱼类生存于晚侏罗世,而南大陆最早的是早白垩世(Taverna,1979)。*Eohiodon* 在亚洲东部的发现一方面似乎为北美的舌齿鱼类来源于亚洲进一步提供了证据,另一方面又使得骨舌鱼类的地理分支图再次改观(图4)。无论骨舌鱼类起源于何处,如果我们暂且撇开南大陆间的扩散不谈,综合上述扩散模式可以看到,骨舌鱼类的扩散无非有三个方向:南大陆至北美、亚洲东部至北美以及南大陆至亚洲东部或反之。由于在地质历史中,南大陆与北美以及亚洲东部与北美之间都曾有过陆地联系,所以前两个方向的扩散是可能发生的。但是,根据板块构造理论的传统观点,亚洲东部与南大陆自三叠纪开始后就从未有过直接联系,骨舌鱼类的先驱们只有逾越海洋才能实现扩散。这对于淡水鱼类来说几乎是不可能的。除非作一些特设性假设,如化石记录不完全、最早期的陆生淡水骨舌鱼类与海生类群有联系等等。因此,这些扩散模式所面临的共同问题是如何解释骨舌鱼类在亚洲东部与南大陆间的跨洋分布现象。

隔离分异(vicariance)假说以地球活动论的观点来解释生物类群的跨洋分布。Gayet(1987)最近用这一概念对 hiodontids 和 *Phareodus* 的跨太平洋分布做了尝试性解释。但是,在她的文章中并没有上述类群的系统或地理分支图,因此,她的隔离分异模式难于证伪。依据本文的骨舌鱼类地理分支图,对于骨舌鱼亚目(Osteoglossoidei)的分布,我们可以假设亚洲东部、南大陆及北美的部分地区曾经形成一祖先区系(ancestral biota),随后,祖先区系分裂,首先是亚洲东部与其他区域的分离,其次是北美和南大陆的分离以及南大陆之间的相互瓦解,于是造成了骨舌鱼亚目的现今分布。这种模式为亚洲东部与南大陆间的跨洋分布提供了一种解释。然而,目前我们缺乏的是研究区域内其余生物类群的地理分支图的支持,而骨舌鱼类的另一亚目——背鳍鱼亚目(Notopteroidei)——所显示的南大陆、北美和亚洲东部三地区的相互关系图本身就与骨舌鱼亚目的地理分支图相互矛盾(图4)。因此,这三个区域之间究竟有没有统一的分支图?如果有,是哪一种?这些问题的回答,还有待于进一步的工作。

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简 字 说 明

br. r.	branchiostegals	鳃条骨
chy	ceratohyal	角舌骨
cl	cleithrum	匙骨
enpt	entopterygoid	内翼骨
ep	epural	尾上骨
fr	frontal	额骨
ghy	glossohyal	咽舌骨
h ₁₋₆	hypurals	尾下骨
l. den	left dentary	左齿骨
l. mx	left maxillar	左上颌骨
l. pmx	left premaxillar	左前上颌骨

mes	mesethmoid	中筛骨
na	nasal	鼻骨
npu ₁	neural spine of 1st preural centrum	第一尾前椎 的神经棘
op	operculum	鳃盖骨
pa	parital	顶骨
pas	parasphenoid	副蝶骨
ph	parhypural	副尾下骨
pop	preoperculum	前鳃盖骨
pu ₁₋₄	preural centra	尾前椎
r. den	right dentary	右齿骨
r. mx.	right maxillar	右上颌骨
r. pmx	right premaxillar	右前上颌骨
soc	supraoccipital	上枕骨
u ₁₋₂	ural centra	端椎
un ₁₋₃	uroneurals	尾神经骨
Af.	Africa	非洲
Au.	Australia	澳大利亚
E. As.	East Asia	东亚
Gond.	Gondwana	冈瓦纳古陆
N. Am.	North America	北美
S. Am.	South America	南美
SE. As.	Southeast Asia	东南亚

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EOHIODON FROM CHINA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF OSTEOGLOSSOMORPHS

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Key words East China; Eocene; *Eohiodon*

Summary

Eohiodon, a member of Family Hiodontidae, was formerly discovered only in North America. The specimen described in this paper was collected from Eocene deposit in Shuyang, Jiangsu Province, eastern China. Based on the differences between this specimen and the known species of *Eohiodon* in characteristics of body form, nasal, uroneural and hypural, the specimen from Shuyang is designated as a new species — *Eohiodon shuyangensis*.

Description

Superorder Osteoglossomorpha (sensu Greenwood, 1973)

Order Osteoglossiformes

Suborder Notopteroidei

Family Hiodontidae

Genus *Eohiodon* Cavender, 1966

Species *Eohiodon shuyangensis* sp. nov.

Diagnosis Body fusiform, maximum body depth at posterior margin of the head. Nasals small, thin plate-like. Teeth on the ventral part of parasphenoid and the tooth plate of glossohyal. Vertical limb of preopercular long and narrow while horizontal one short and wide. Vertebrae about 49. Origin of dorsal fin in advance of that of anal fin. Anal fin rays

22. Caudal fin deeply, forked fin ray formula I, 16, I. Full neural spine on first preural centrum. Epural 1. Three uroneurals present and the first one extending forward to posterior margin of first preural centrum. Hypurals six. Scales cycloid.

Remarks The specimen has been reported by Chang and Chou (1985). It was referred to Osteoglossidae and thought to be similar to *Phareodus*.

Osteoglossomorpha is a group of primitive teleostei. It consists of two suborders, that is, Osteoglossoidi and Notopteroidei. The former includes Osteoglossidae and Arapaimidae, the latter Notopteridae, Mormyridae and Hiodontidae (Greenwood, 1973; Lauder & Liem, 1983). The affirmed synapomorphies of this superorder are 1) presence of a "tongue-parasphenoid bite"; 2) paired bone rods or processes at the base of the second gill arch (Greenwood et al., 1966); 3) gut coiled so that the intestine passes to the left of the stomach (Nelson, 1972); 4) a full neural spine on first preural centrum (Patterson & Rosen, 1977); 5) caudal fin containing 18 principal rays (Gosolin, 1960).

Except the 2) and 3) characters which are not preserved, the specimen from Shuyang holds the other ones; besides, it does not share any apomorphy with the other teleosts, so it seems certain to refer it to Osteoglossomorpha. But the characters owned by the specimen, especially by its caudal skeleton, show that it is closer to Hiodontidae than to Osteoglossidae. The caudal structure of Hiodontidae is: full neural spine on first preural centrum, one epural, three or four uroneurals, 16 branched principal rays; while that of Osteoglossidae is: full neural spines on first preural and first ural centra, no epural, one uroneural, 15 or less branched principal rays. As to the out groups of Osteoglossomorpha, both structures can be respectively regarded as autapomorphies of the two families. The caudal structure of the specimen from Shuyang is almost the same as that in Hiodontidae. In addition, the specimen does not share any apomorphy with Osteoglossidae or any other group of Osteoglossomorpha. The specimen from Shuyang, therefore, should be referred to Family Hiodontidae.

Family Hiodontidae includes the extant genus *Hiodon* and the Eocene genus *Eohiodon*. They differ from each other only in the counts of vertebrae (the former 55—61, the latter 44—49) and of anal fin rays (the former 27—36, the latter 17—23) (Cavender, 1966). The other typical character of *Eohiodon* is that the origin of dorsal fin is in advance of that of anal fin (Wilson, 1978).

Our specimen has typical characters of *Eohiodon*: vertebrae 49, anal fin rays 22 and the origin of dorsal fin in advance of that of anal fin. Thus, it is reasonable to designate it to *Eohiodon*.

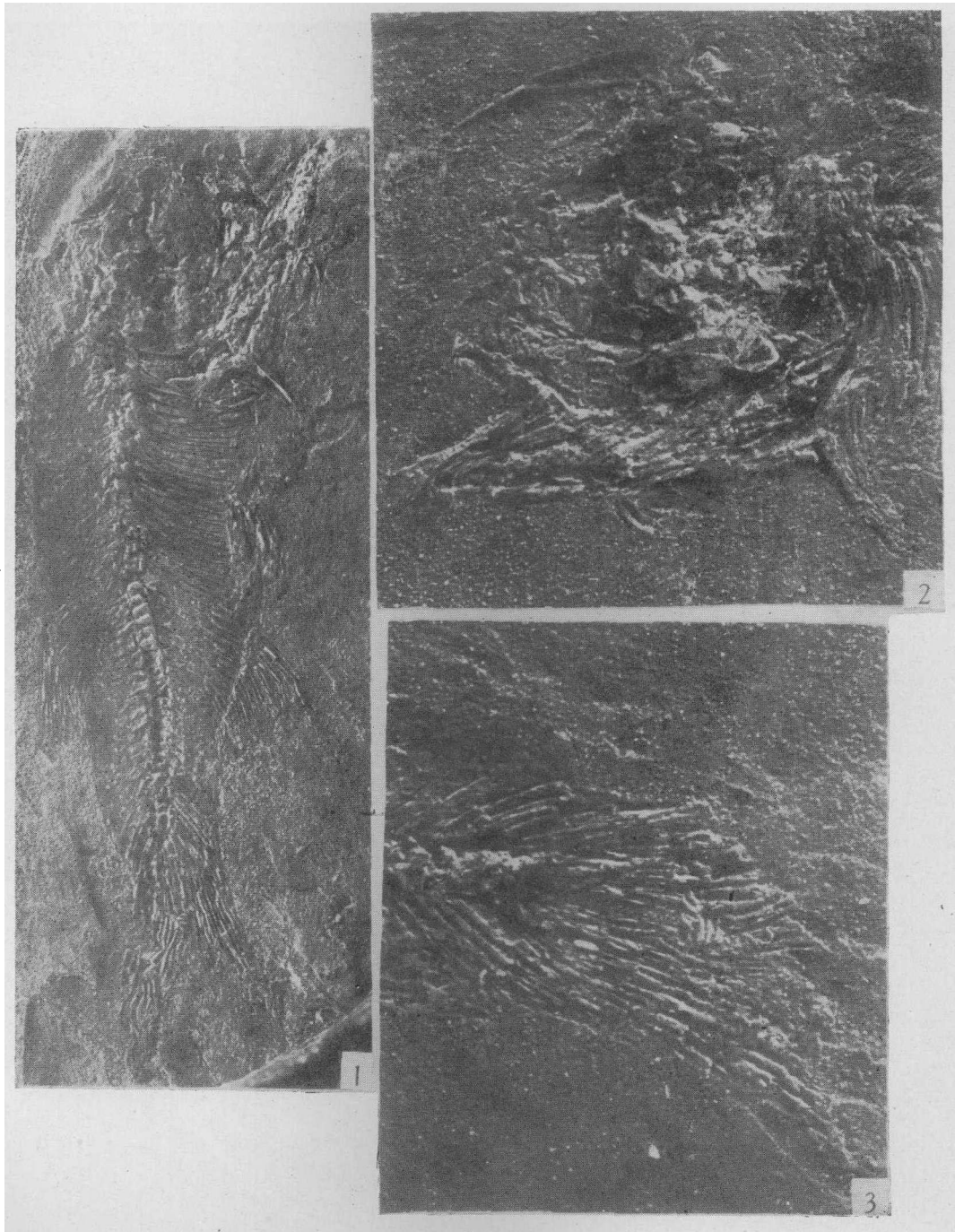
The specimen from Shuyang has a few characters which tell it from the other known species of *Eohiodon*, that is, 1) maximum body depth at the posterior margin of head instead of at abdomen; 2) nasals thin plate-like instead of tubular; 3) uroneural extending forward to the posterior part of first preural centrum instead of to second preural centrum; 4) hypurals 6 instead of 7. Based on these differences, it is designated as a new species—*Eohiodon shuyangensis*.

The historical zoogeography of osteoglossomorphs

Nelson (1969) is the first to discuss the distribution of osteoglossomorphs. On the basis of the traditional concept of origin and dispersal, he inferred, from the area cladogram of the extant osteoglossomorphs, that the center of origin of this group was Gondwana, and the pre-

sence of hiodontids in North America were secondary, maybe having migrated from Asia. Then, Patterson (1975) proposed the possibility of the marine origin of Osteoglossoidei. He assumed the marine *Brychaetus* was the sister group of Osteoglossoidei, and thought that they might have achieved their cosmopolitan distribution by means of seaways. But Nelson (1973) doubted about the possibility, he pointed out that *Brychaetus* was the sole osteoglossomorph known to be marine, that indicated it was probably secondarily marine. Besides, the phylogenetic relationship of *Brychaetus* is not quite clear yet. Thus the marine origin hypothesis still lacks enough evidence. Not long after Patterson, Chang and Chou (1976) added fossil information of China to Nelson's area cladogram and conjectured that the origin center was in East Asia, and the osteoglossomorphs in North America and Gondwana were secondary. This conclusion is supported by fossil information because according to the fossil records, the earliest member of osteoglossomorphs lived in China. Now, as *Eohiodon* is also found in eastern China, the idea that hiodontids in North America came from East China is further substantiated, and the area cladogram is altered accordingly as well. However, no matter where the origin center might be, the dispersal directions in this case are no more than three: from Gondwana to North America, from East Asia to North America and the last one, from Gondwana to East Asia or vice versa. On the basis of the plate tectonic theory, there once existed continental connections not only between Gondwana and North America, but also between East Asia and North America, so the former two dispersal routes may be supported by information from this source; but East Asia has never been in direct contact with Gondwana since the Triassic, that means the forerunners of osteoglossomorphs were not able to leave Gondwana for Asia or vice versa unless across ocean, and that is hardly possible for fresh water fishes. Consequently the common problem of these dispersal molds is how to explain the "transoceanic distribution" in Gondwana and East Asia.

Vicariance theory would solve the problem, such as the distribution of Osteoglossoidei, by supposing that parts of East Asia, North America and Gondwana once formed an ancestral land block, then East Asia split first from the other parts of the land block, followed by the separation of North America from Gondwana. And the fragments drifted towards the continents they collided with consequently. As a result, osteoglossoidei acquired their recent distribution. However, we still lack area cladograms of other groups which might corroborate or falsify the vicariance pattern stated above. And the area cladograms showed by the two suborders of Osteoglossomorpha contradict themselves. Thus the question about whether there exists a congruent area cladogram or which pattern will be the one still remains open.



沭阳始舌齿鱼(新种) *Eohiodon Shuyangensis* sp. nov.

1. 正型标本 Holotype, 右侧视 Right lateral view, V8778B×4;
2. 头骨 Skull, 左侧视 Left lateral view, V8778A×7;
3. 尾骨 Caudal skeleton, 左侧视 Left lateral view, V8778A×10