

one of the latter occurs also in the Balsas. In the last-named river is found a species (*N. boucardi*) which has so far only been obtained elsewhere in Nuevo Leon, possibly a case of discontinuous distribution.

The other Mexican Cyprinidæ are the representatives in Sonora (5 species) or in Mexico north of the Lerma System and east of the Sierra Madre (13 species) of Western and Eastern North-American types respectively.

The family SILURIDÆ, with about 1000 species, is practically cosmopolitan in tropical and temperate regions and is especially abundant in South America, Africa, India, and the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago. The true fresh-water types do not appear to cross Wallace's Line, the Siluridæ of the Australian Region belonging to the marine *Galeichthys*, *Plotosus*, &c., or to genera which may be regarded as evolved from these. A number of genera are common to the Indian and African Regions, but the Neotropical fresh-water types are all generically distinct from, although in some cases closely allied to, those of Africa. Genera related to the existing *Galeichthys* are found in the Eocene of Europe and North America.

As in the case of the Characinidæ, a larger number of genera and species and a greater diversity is found in the Neotropical Region than in any other. This parallelism extends to the fact that of three families peculiar to the Neotropical Region, one (Gymnotidæ) is derived from the Characinidæ, the other two (Loricariidæ and Aspredinidæ) from the Siluridæ.

In Mexico and Central America there are about sixty species, nearly half of which are marine Cat-fishes of the genera *Arius*, *Galeichthys*, and *Ælurichthys*. The fresh-water Silurids belong either to the widely distributed South-American genera *Rhamdia*, *Pimelodus*, and *Conorhynchichthys*, or to the North-American *Amiurus* and *Leptops*. Of these *Pimelodus* is represented only by two or three species in Panama, and *Conorhynchichthys* by one from the Usumacinta. *Rhamdia*, however, extends northward to Oaxaca and Southern Vera Cruz, and includes a considerable number of Central-American species.

*Leptops* comprises a single species from the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, which is also found in the southern tributaries of the Rio Grande. *Amiurus* includes a species in China and about twenty in America, eleven of which are found in Mexico and Central America. Three of these are widely distributed, ranging from the Great Lakes to Tamaulipas; a fourth is found in Texas and North-