

Eastern Asia, whilst to the last-named family has been referred a marine Indo-Pacific genus, with fresh-water representatives in Australia.

The Nearctic Region may be divided into three sub-regions, the first corresponding to the United States west of the Rocky Mountains and Northern Mexico to the west of the Sierra Madre. This, the Californian sub-region, is especially remarkable for the paucity of true fresh-water fishes. Esocidæ and Percidæ, in addition to the endemic nearctic families, are entirely absent, whilst the Siluridæ and Centrarchidæ are each represented by only a single species. The Cyprinidæ are fairly abundant, several peculiar generic types inhabiting this sub-region.

The fish-fauna of the rivers of Sonora and Sinaloa is very little known; the few fishes which have been recorded from the Rio Sonora show that its fauna is similar to that of the Rio Colorado, and the same may be said of that part of the Rio Yaqui which drains the western slope of the Sierra Madre. Only two strictly fresh-water fishes are known from streams of Sinaloa and Jalisco to the west of the Sierra Madre; one of these (*Cichlosoma beani*) is a neotropical type, the other (*Moxostoma mascotæ*) a nearctic one.

The second sub-region of the Nearctic Region includes Alaska, Canada, the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, and Mexico east of the Sierra Madre and north of the Lerma System. This sub-region may be characterized in nearly the same terms as those used to define the Nearctic Region as a whole: there is a northern zone in which the Salmonidæ are dominant; further south the Cyprinidæ become well established, and in the Mississippi System attain their maximum, together with the Cyprinodontinæ, Centrarchidæ, and Etheostomatinae; in the Rio Grande a number of characteristic types disappear. These changes in the character of the fish-fauna render it necessary to divide this sub-region into several provinces, the southernmost of which (Rio Grande Province) comprises the Rio Grande System, with the rivers of the Mexican plateau north of the Lerma System and the streams of the Atlantic slope in Tamaulipas and Northern Vera Cruz.

A number of streams in Chihuahua and Durango flow in the direction of the Rio Grande, but never reach it, terminating in lakes which vary in magnitude according to the season. As has been pointed out by Dr. Meek, the nature of the fish-fauna justifies the supposition that these rivers were formerly tributaries of the Rio Grande. For a similar reason he considers that the portions of the Yaqui and Mezquital Rivers to the east of the Sierra Madre also at one time belonged to the Rio Grande System, and that