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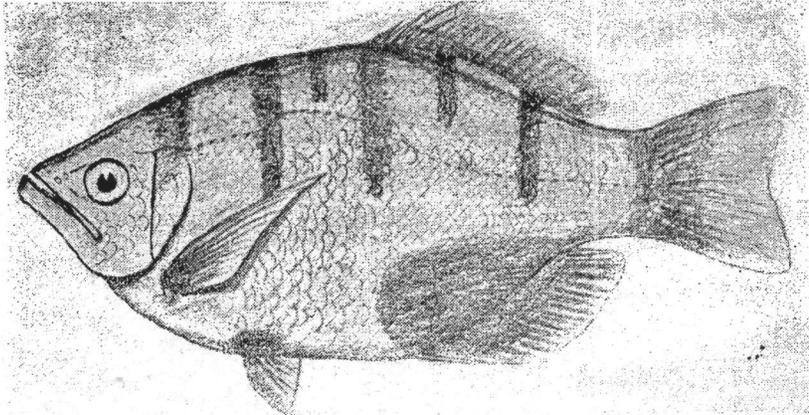
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No. 85

FRESH WATER FISHES OF THE BARRON RIVER.

BRUCE SHIPWAY, Perth, W.A.

(Continued)



TOXOTES CHATEREUS (H. Buchanan)

ARCHER FISH.

Family TOXOTIDAE.

Toxotes chaterius (H. Buchanan).

Archer-fish.

This fish was not obtained from the Barron River itself by the writer, but was caught in adjoining streams. However, reliable local observers report its presence in the Barron and it should therefore be included in the list.

This genus has a world-wide reputation, often greatly exaggerated by misleading cartoon strips, etc., published in various newspapers, and it may be as well to describe its peculiar performance and what actually does happen. It derives its popular name from its habit of forcibly ex-

PELLING drops of water from its mouth at flies and insects resting on twigs or leaves overhanging the water. It rarely misses and has an accurate range of about 2 feet. An examination of its rather big mouth shows no particular difference in structure and it certainly cannot purse its lips as a human being does. It swims near the surface of the water and its prominent dark brown vertical bands against an almost cream background make it an easy fish to see. The dorsal fin is placed far back to allow the fish to take up its "firing position" and the anal fin is nearly half covered with scales. The fish usually illustrated is not the Australian *T. chaterius* but the *T. jaculator* of the East Indies. Length 12 inches.