

4.—AN AMERICAN FISH IN FINLAND.*

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One of the most highly esteemed fishes in North America is the so-called black bass, which designation includes two distinct species, namely *Micropterus salmoides* and *M. dolomieu*. The former, in northern localities, grows to a weight of 6 to 8 pounds, but in southern regions reaches 20 to 25 pounds. The latter species usually weighs only 2½ to 3 pounds, but in exceptional cases reaches 8 pounds, and somewhat more. Both species are distinguished for their firm and savory flesh, and are also highly prized as game fish, which take the fly like salmon and trout. They were introduced ten years ago by the well-known fish-culturist, Max von dem Borne, into Germany, where they are kept in ponds. In Germany the larger species has been called trout bass and trout perch, and the smaller species black bass and black perch, which names have been employed also in the Swedish fish literature. The more rapid-growing trout bass, which thrives in ponds and lakes, has especially been distributed in Germany.

Since the black bass, as appears from the foregoing, is a very valuable fish, I thought it worth the trouble to attempt to introduce it into Finland, and therefore ordered 400 of each kind from Max von dem Borne for the Evois Fishery Experiment Station. I was, however, able to obtain only the trout bass. These were shipped from Berneuchen (near Küstrin, in Prussia) Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, left Stettin Wednesday noon by the steamer *Jakobstad*, and arrived Friday night at 11 o'clock at Helsingfors. When they were examined Saturday morning 59 fish were found dead. From Helsingfors the remaining trout bass were transported to Järvelä (four hours' railroad journey), and from there over 50 kilometers by team to Evois, where, upon arrival at 2 o'clock Sunday morning, they were deposited in a little lake. During the trip from Helsingfors to Evois only 19 fish died. Therefore, of the entire 400 which were shipped from Germany, 322 were planted. Of these fish, which were only six months old, some were 4 to 4½ inches long. They were put up in four lots in locked wooden vessels, 100 in each vessel. From Berneuchen to Helsingfors they received no special attention. In Helsingfors and on the way from Helsingfors to Järvelä air was pumped into the water, and on the journey from Järvelä to Evois fresh water was introduced at several stations from brooks and lakes on the route to replace the water which was spilled in transportation.

* En amerikansk fiskart i Finland: Fiskeritidskrift för Finland, etc., No. 11, 1893, pages 161-162.
Translated by Tarleton H. Bean.

As the trout bass is a very voracious fish, which should by no means be introduced into any trout waters, it was deposited at Evois in a little lake which has no outflow, and from which, therefore, it can not spread to other waters. The lake in question is about 600 meters long by 400 meters broad, and its greatest depth is 9 meters. The bottom is composed of stone, gravel, and sand, and by means of its banks it is protected from the many sudden gales of the region. The water is very transparent. The lake is very well supplied with perch, roach, and pike, and burbot also are found in small numbers.

[Under date of December 31, 1893, Dr. Nordqvist wrote me from Helsingfors about the later history of the experiment as follows: "About the black bass I can only add that when put in the lake they disappeared in the darkness. When I visited the place the next morning none were seen, so I believe all were alive. If some of them had died, one would, no doubt, have seen them on the bottom, as was the case with some *Coregonus maræna* which were planted some days earlier in another lake also belonging to the Experimental Station. Now the lakes are covered by ice, so I can not get any information about the bass until next summer."—T. H. B.]