

***Kryptopterus geminus*, a new species of silurid catfish (Teleostei: Siluridae) from mainland Southeast Asia**

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Abstract

Kryptopterus geminus, a new species of silurid catfish is described from the Bang Pakong, Mekong, Mae Khlong and Chao Phraya River drainages in mainland Southeast Asia. *Kryptopterus geminus*, together with *K. cryptopterus*, can be distinguished from congeners by the dorsal profile lacking a nuchal concavity and short maxillary barbels extending to the base of the pectoral fin. *Kryptopterus geminus* can be further distinguished from *K. cryptopterus* in having a narrower head (9.5–12.0% SL vs. 12.2–14.2), longer anal fin (62.2–72.7% SL vs. 57.2–62.9) and snout (39.5–45.3% HL vs. 35.1–39.8), and more laterally-placed eyes (only ventral half, vs. ventral two-thirds, of the orbital margin visible when the head is viewed ventrally).

Key words: *Kryptopterus*, Siluridae, Indochina, Southeast Asia

Introduction

Members of the silurid catfish genus *Kryptopterus* Bleeker, 1858 are small-to medium-sized fishes found in inland waters throughout Southeast Asia. *Kryptopterus*, as currently understood, is known to be paraphyletic and shown to consist of at least two distinct clades (Bornbusch, 1995). This is reflected in the recent taxonomy of the group, in which the large species with elevated (14–17 vs. 8–13) branchiostegal-ray counts are reassigned to the genus *Micronema* (e.g. Rainboth, 1996; Kottelat, 2001). The distinctive type species of *Kryptopterus*, *K. cryptopterus* (Bleeker 1851), is widely distributed throughout Southeast Asia and easily identified by its dorsal profile (horizontal or very gently convex and lacking a nuchal concavity) and short maxillary barbels.

While examining material as part of a larger collaborative phylogenetic study of the Siluridae, distinct and consistent differences were observed between populations of *K. cryptopterus* from mainland (Indochinese peninsula excluding the Malay Peninsula) and