

***Glyptothorax botius* (Hamilton, 1822), a valid species of catfish
(Teleostei: Sisoridae) from northeast India,
with notes on the identity of *G. telchitta* (Hamilton, 1822)**

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Abstract

Glyptothorax botius is revalidated from synonymy with *G. telchitta*. Both *G. botius* and *G. telchitta* are known from the Ganges River drainage in northeast India, and differ from congeners in the region in having a combination of large, prominent tubercles on the head and body, a thoracic adhesive apparatus without a median depression, and a very slender body and caudal peduncle. *Glyptothorax botius* was previously considered a synonym of *G. telchitta*, but differs from it in having a more rounded snout when viewed laterally, the presence (vs. absence) of dark saddles on the body, a thoracic adhesive apparatus with broader folds of skin, a longer adipose-fin base (12.0–16.4% SL vs. 9.5–11.5) and a more slender caudal peduncle (3.1–4.2% SL vs. 4.7–5.9). Both species are redescribed in this study, and neotypes are designated to fix their taxonomy.

Key words: Siluriformes, Ganges River, neotypes

Introduction

Glyptothorax Blyth, 1860 is a diverse (84 nominal species), widely distributed genus of sisorid catfish known from Asia Minor (in the Tigris and Euphrates River drainages) east and southwards to the Yangtze River drainage and southeast Asia. Members of the genus are diagnosed in having a thoracic adhesive apparatus comprising an elliptical field of folded longitudinal pleats of skin, a detached distal portion of the premaxilla, and long and thin lateral arms of the vomer that extend under the entire length of the articular process of the lateral ethmoid (de Pinna, 1996). The genus is very diverse in the Indian subcontinent (29 of the 84 nominal species are known from there), although the taxonomy of Indian *Glyptothorax* is poorly understood.