

Three new species of *Gastromyzon* (Teleostei: Balitoridae) from southern Sarawak

H. H. TAN¹ & C. U. M. LEH²

¹Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Kent Ridge, Singapore 117600
Email: dbsth@nus.edu.sg

²Zoology Department, Sarawak Museum, Kuching, East Malaysia

Abstract

Three new species of the genus *Gastromyzon* are described from southern Sarawak. *Gastromyzon scitulus*, new species, is similar to *G. ctenocephalus* but differs in having a black body, with numerous evenly spaced smaller light brown spots, head dorsum black, with numerous cream spots, pectoral and pelvic fins with cream spots; caudal fin with iridescent blue streaks when live; and 57–58 scales in lateral line. *Gastromyzon crenastus*, new species, is the smallest known *Gastromyzon*, largest recorded specimen measuring only 29.7 mm SL. It is similar to *G. ridens*, but differs in having a black body, dorsum with 6–8 thin cream bars or spots, head black with cream spots and blotches; a truncate snout when viewed dorsally; and 60–65 scales in lateral line. *Gastromyzon farragus*, new species, is similar to *G. ocellatus* but differs in having a dark brown body, dorsum with 9–10 thin cream bars, side with spots and blotches, head dorsum dark brown with fine cream spots; caudal fin reddish in life; and 52–55 scales in lateral line. Data on these species are presented, together with a short discussion on their ecology.

Key words: *Gastromyzon scitulus*, *Gastromyzon crenastus*, *Gastromyzon farragus*, biodiversity, Borneo

Introduction

The genus *Gastromyzon*, which is endemic to Borneo, exhibits extreme external morphological adaptations for life in torrential waters. Obligate bottom dwellers, the included species have lost the ability to hover or swim in the mid-water column, and as a consequence have evolved new modes of locomotion, which involve creeping and crawling over submerged rocks. Locomotion in the genus has been studied by Wickler (1971) using aquarium stocks of *G. ctenocephalus* (misidentified as *G. borneensis*). The horizontally oriented pectoral fins, fused pelvic fins, and depressed head and body