

***Pseudecheneis supraetula*, a new species of glyptosternine catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from India**

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Abstract

A new species of sisorid catfish, *Pseudecheneis supraetula*, is described from tributaries of the Ganges River in India. *Pseudecheneis supraetula* can be distinguished from congeners in having a combination of a long adipose-fin base (at least 2.0 times length of anal-fin base; 26.6–30.6% SL), small eye (8.1–8.3% SL), the presence of pale spots on the body, and the neural spines of the last 2–3 preanal and first 6–7 postanal vertebrae gradually increasing in height.

Key words: Ganges River, South Asia, Himachal Pradesh

Introduction

Sisorid catfishes of the genus *Pseudecheneis* Blyth, 1860 are diagnosed by a thoracic adhesive apparatus consisting of a series of transverse ridges (laminae) separated by grooves (sulcae) (de Pinna, 1996; Roberts, 1998), and are found in the upper reaches of rivers throughout the Subhimalayan and Indochinese region. Recent studies (Ng & Edds, 2005; Ng, 2006) recognize ten valid species of *Pseudecheneis*: *P. sulcata* (M'Clelland, 1842), *P. paviei* Vaillant, 1904, *P. tchangi* (Hora, 1937), *P. immaculata* Chu, 1982, *P. sulcatoides* Zhou & Chu, 1992, *P. sympelvica* Roberts, 1998, *P. crassicauda* Ng & Edds, 2005, *P. serracula* Ng & Edds, 2005, *P. eddsi* Ng, 2006 and *P. stenura* Ng, 2006.

As part of a phylogenetic study of the Sisoridae, an examination of material collected from the Ganges River drainage in the state of Himachal Pradesh in northwestern India and previously identified as *P. sulcata* was undertaken. This material is shown to belong to an undescribed species, the description of which as *Pseudecheneis supraetula*, sp. nov., is provided below.