

## ***Nandus prolixus*, a new species of leaf fish from northeastern Borneo (Teleostei: Perciformes: Nandidae)**

PROSANTA CHAKRABARTY\*, RONALD G. OLDFIELD & HEOK HEE NG

Fish Division, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, 1109 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1079, USA.

\*Current address: Department of Ichthyology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024-5192.

### **Abstract**

*Nandus prolixus* **sp. nov.** is described from the Sepilok River drainage in Sabah, northeastern Borneo. This species is distinguished from its only Sundaic southeastern Asian congener, *N. nebulosus*, in having a longer, more produced snout (25.7–30.6% HL vs. 18.5–26.1), more lateral-line scales (33–37 vs. 24–34), more scales below the lateral line (12 vs. 10–11), fewer spines in the dorsal fin (XIV vs. XV–XVI), and fewer pectoral-fin rays (15–16 vs. 17–19). It differs from *N. nandus* (from India) in having fewer lateral-line scales (33–37 vs. 42–55), fewer scales above the lateral line (4–5 vs. 6–7), fewer scales below the lateral line (12 vs. 14–18), more dorsal spines (XIV vs. XII–XIII), and the absence (vs. presence) of a distinct dark spot at the base of the caudal peduncle. It differs from *N. oxyrhynchus* (from mainland southeastern Asia) in having a more slender body (body depth 37.6–40.5% SL vs. 41.3–44.1) and a less steeply sloping predorsal profile.

**Key words:** *Nandus oxyrhynchus*, *Nandus nandus*, *Nandus nebulosus*, Sabah

### **Introduction**

Fishes of the genus *Nandus* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1831 are medium-sized freshwater perciforms found in lentic and lotic habitats throughout southern and southeastern Asia and are easily distinguished by their compressed bodies, strongly protrusible jaws, and cryptic coloration. There are three species currently recognized: *Nandus nandus* (Hamilton, 1822) from southern Asia; *Nandus nebulosus* (Gray, 1835) from Sundaic southeastern Asia; and *Nandus oxyrhynchus* Ng, Vidthayanon & Ng 1996 from mainland southeastern Asia.

The freshwater ichthyofauna of northeastern Borneo (largely consisting of the state of