



***Akysis pulvinatus*, a new species of catfish (Siluriformes: Akysidae) from southern Thailand**

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Abstract

Akysis pulvinatus, new species, is described from southern Thailand. It can be distinguished from congeners in having a combination of: length of adipose-fin base 23.0–25.2% SL, body depth at anus 13.2–16.0% SL, caudal peduncle depth 9.4–10.3% SL, head length 27.6–29.8% SL, head width 21.9–25.1% SL, length of nasal barbel 13.9–57.5% HL, length of maxillary barbel 78.5–105.0% HL, smooth posterior edge of pectoral spine, gently forked caudal fin with lower lobe longer than upper, yellow snout, and rounded pale colored patches on body. A possible case of Müllerian mimicry with the syntopic *Pseudobagarius leucorhynchus* is mentioned and briefly discussed.

Key words: Siluriformes, Akysidae, catfish, *Akysis*, new species

Introduction

Akysis species are diagnosed by the anterior margin of the pectoral spine with a notch visible dorsally and the nasals with expansions beyond the canal-bearing region (de Pinna, 1996). Externally, they can be distinguished by a combination of tuberculate skin, small size (typically under 50 mm SL), and a color pattern typically consisting of yellow patches or bands on a brown body. The genus is found in fast flowing streams and rivers in Southeast Asia, more specifically in the area bordered by the Irrawaddy River drainage to the west, the Mekong delta to the east, the Lancanjiang (upper Mekong) drainage to the north and the Citarum River drainage to the south. There is considerable hidden diversity within the genus, with more than half of the 17 valid species described within the last decade (Ferraris, 2007; Page *et al.*, 2007).

Recently, specimens of *Akysis* collected from southern Thailand were made available to me. These specimens closely resemble (and were initially identified as) *Akysis vespa* Ng & Kottelat, 2004 from southern Myanmar, but close examination revealed enough differences to warrant its recognition as a distinct species. The description of this new species as *Akysis pulvinatus* forms the basis of this study.

Material and methods

Measurements were made point-to-point with dial calipers and recorded to 0.1 mm. Ng & Kottelat (1998) are followed for all measurements and counts. Examined material is in the following collections: Natural History Museum, London (BMNH); California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS); collection of Maurice Kottelat, Cornol (CMK); Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm (NRM); University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor (UMMZ); National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC (USNM); Zoological Reference Collection, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore (ZRC); Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta (ZSI).