



Ompok supernus, a new catfish (Teleostei: Siluridae) from Borneo

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Abstract

Ompok supernus, a new species of silurid catfish is described from the Rungan River drainage in Kalimantan Tengah, southern Borneo. *Ompok supernus* can be distinguished from all Southeast Asian congeners, except for *O. borneensis*, *O. fumidus* and *O. leiacanthus*, in having a combination of a brown body without any prominent black humeral spot, the rictal lobes separated by a superficial groove extending from the corner of the mouth to the submandibular groove, a gape not reaching beyond the anterior border of the orbit, and 54–66 anal-fin rays. *Ompok supernus* differs from *O. borneensis*, *O. fumidus* and *O. leiacanthus* in having more dorsally-placed eyes, manifested in its smaller interorbital distance compared to the latter three species (42.6–48.7% HL vs. 49.1–59.5), and a combination of a mottled body and a rounded anterior profile of the lower jaw.

Key words: Ostariophysi, Kalimantan Tengah, Rungan River, Southeast Asia

Introduction

The catfish genus *Ompok* La Cepède, 1803, consists of medium-sized silurid fishes found in inland waters throughout South and Southeast Asia. The genus is traditionally diagnosed by the presence of a short dorsal fin with 4 rays, strongly forked caudal fin, subcutaneous eye that is set immediately posterior to the mouth rictus and two patches of palatal teeth (Weber & de Beaufort, 1913). Bornbusch (1995) showed that *Ompok*, as currently understood, is probably paraphyletic. However, given the weak support for the monophyly of his clades and the difficulty in identifying synapomorphies to easily diagnose genera, there has been little change in the taxonomy of this group.

Recently, I was given the opportunity to examine material of the *Ompok leiacanthus* species group (sensu Bornbusch) from the Rungan River drainage in southern Borneo. This material was obtained both via the aquarium trade as well as from collecting expeditions to the area. Detailed examination revealed this material to belong to an undescribed species, which is described herein as *Ompok supernus*, new species.

Material and methods

Measurements were made point to point with dial calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens whenever possible. Subunits of the head are presented as proportions of head length (HL). Head length and measurements of body parts are given as proportions of standard length (SL). Measurements follow those of Ng (2003). Asterisks after meristic counts indicate values for holotype. Terminology of the structures around the upper and lower lips follow those of Bornbusch (1995) and are illustrated in Fig. 1. Institutional acronyms follow Ferraris (2007).