



## ***Kottelatlimia hipporhynchos*, a new species of loach from southern Borneo (Teleostei: Cobitidae)**

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### **Abstract**

*Kottelatlimia hipporhynchos*, new species, is described from the Sampit, Kahayan and Kapuas drainages, southern Borneo. It is distinguished from its congeners by the extreme development of the papillae on all mouth parts (lips, barbels, lobes), including very long papillae along the anterior edge of the main digitation of the median lobe of the lower lip; a longer snout; more vertebrae; and the upper 3–4 principal caudal-fin rays adjacent along proximal 1/4–1/3. Sexual dimorphism of the pectoral fin of *Acantopsis* and *Neoecirrhichthys* is briefly discussed. The identity and nomenclatural status of *Cobitis barbatuloides* and *Cobitichthys* are discussed; they apparently belong to the genus *Lepidocephalichthys*, which is given precedence under article 23.9.2 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

**Key words:** Cypriniformes, *Lepidocephalichthys*, *Neoecirrhichthys*, *Acantopsis*, *Cobitichthys*, sexual dimorphism, Indonesia

### **Introduction**

Loaches of the genus *Kottelatlimia* are found in Borneo, Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. They inhabit acidic waters in swamp forests and tannin-stained blackwaters in peat-swamp forests (Kottelat & Lim, 1992). Although they are often abundant, they have only been reported recently. They are distinguished by what appears as serration along the posterior edge of the first branched pectoral-fin ray. Roberts (1989) described the first species from Borneo as *Lepidocephalichthys pristis*. Kottelat & Lim (1992) described *L. katik* from the Malay Peninsula. This second species is a miniature fish, mature at 13.0 mm SL and the 'serration' is very weakly developed, a trait which is considered a reduction associated with the small size of the species.

Nalbant (1994) created the genus *Kottelatlimia* to accommodate *L. katik*, which he characterised (among others) by the serrae of the first branched pectoral-fin ray. He did not note that *L. pristis* would also belong to *Kottelatlimia*. Kottelat & Whitten (1996) placed *L. pristis* in *Kottelatlimia*. Molecular characters have confirmed that *K. katik* and *K. pristis* are sister species, and shown that they are not related to *Lepidocephalichthys* (Šlechtová *et al.*, 2008).

We have since collected fishes similar to *K. katik* in several localities and these will be reported elsewhere. We describe here a 'giant' within the genus that has been obtained recently in southern Borneo.

### **Material and methods**

Material examined is deposited in: Research and Development Centre for Biology, The Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Cibinong (MZB); Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève (MHNG); University of Michigan