



Pseudobagrus fui Miao, a valid bagrid species from the Yangtze River drainage, South China (Teleostei: Bagridae)

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Abstract

Pseudobagrus fui Miao is a valid bagrid species that can be separated from all its congeners in having 27–33 anal-fin rays. Among the species of *Pseudobagrus*, it forms part of a group of approximately 20 species putatively characterized by having a smooth anterior margin of the pectoral-fin spine and short maxillary barbels not extending to the base of the pectoral-fin spine. *Pseudobagrus fui*, together with *P. nitidus* and *P. vachelli*, can be differentiated from all other fork-tailed species of this group by having no fewer than 20 branched anal-fin rays, the posterior end of the anal-fin base posterior to the vertical through the posterior end of the adipose-fin base, and anal-fin base longer than the adipose-fin base. It further differs from *P. nitidus* in having a gas bladder without beaded lateral and posterior margins, and from *P. vachelli* in having short maxillary barbels not extending to the base of the pectoral-fin spine. *Pseudobagrus fui* is currently known from the main stream of the upper Yangtze River and its tributaries, the Min River, Jialing River, Tuo River, Wu River and Chishui River in Sichuan Province, Guizhou Province, and the Chongqing City. The identity and nomenclature of *Pseudobagrus nitidus* is also discussed.

Key words: Taxonomy, Yangtze River basin, South China, Siluriformes, Bagridae

Introduction

Pseudobagrus, a genus originally erected by Bleeker (1859) to receive *Bagrus aurantiacus* Temminck and Schlegel, 1846 from Japan, is a group of small- to mid-sized bagrid catfishes that inhabit streams and rivers throughout East Asia (Ng & Freyhof 2007). There are roughly 40 recognized species in the genus including seven which are in need of further taxonomic investigation to corroborate their validity (Eschmeyer 2008). The known distribution of *Pseudobagrus* spans eastern Siberia, northeastern China, Japan, the Korean peninsula, broadly across southern China including Taiwan and Hainan islands, and as far South to the Song Vinh Thanh drainage in Vietnam. Recent taxonomic work offers an argument to place the genus *Pelteobagrus* in the synonymy of *Pseudobagrus* (Ng & Freyhof 2007). This conclusion is concordant with results of a phylogenetic study based on DNA sequence data (Ku *et al.*, 2007). Further, the taxonomic consequences of Ng & Kottelat's (2007) designation of a neotype for *Tachysurus sinensis* Lacepède 1803 would mean the reassignment of the species of *Pseudobagrus* to *Tachysurus*. Pending the outcome of a petition for the proposed conservation of *Pseudobagrus* to the ICZN (López *et al.* 2009), we maintain the current prevailing usage in this contribution as permitted by the Code. The majority of the species of *Pseudobagrus* are found in Continental China. Among the 67 nominal species of *Pseudobagrus*, 50 are reported from this area (Ng & Freyhof 2007; Cheng *et al.* 2008).