



Redescription of *Betta anabatooides* Bleeker, and a new species of *Betta* from West Kalimantan, Borneo (Teleostei: Osphronemidae)

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Abstract

Betta anabatooides is redescribed based on fresh material from Kalimantan Selatan and Kalimantan Tengah, in Indonesian Borneo; a neotype is designated. *Betta midas*, new species, is described from the lower Kapuas basin in West Kalimantan. It differs from *B. anabatooides* in being more slender and having a greater number of gold scales.

Key words: Taxonomy, *Betta*, new species, Borneo, Indonesia

Introduction

Betta anabatooides Bleeker, 1851, was described based on two specimens of 101 and 115 mm total length, obtained from a river in Banjarmassing (=Banjarmasin), South Kalimantan. Since then, there had been few records of this taxon. Bleeker (1879) synonymised several species under *B. picta* (Valenciennes, in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1846), inclusive of *B. anabatooides* and *B. pugnax* (Cantor, 1850). The specimens deposited by Bleeker in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum (Leiden) have been examined and they are in a bad state. Many of the *Betta* specimens are scaleless and totally devoid of colour and pattern (pers. obs.). An application has been sent to the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature to suppress Bleeker's original syntypes, and to designate a neotype from freshly collected material (Tan, submitted). This has also been done for other fishes, such as *Hemibagrus hoevenii* (see Kottelat *et al.*, 1994).

The name *B. anabatooides* was subsequently used by Weber & de Beaufort (1922) and Regan (1910) to include a mixture of taxa. From the localities listed, Weber & de Beaufort (1922: 357) obviously had several species, namely *B. pugnax* (Cantor, 1850), *B. renata* Tan, 1998, and *B. spilotogena* Ng & Kottelat, 1994. Regan's (1910) specimens were from Sarawak and are actually *B. akarensis* Regan, 1910, and *B. ibanorum* Tan & Ng, 2004 (see Tan & Ng, 2005). Subsequent findings were based mainly on collections by German aquarists (e.g., Vierke, 1979; Linke, 1991). Witte & Schmidt (1992: 324) listed in their key the localities from which *B. anabatooides* were obtained, but did not elaborate on their findings.

From recent collecting trips to West Kalimantan, specimens of a large *Betta* were obtained from black waters in the lower Kapuas basin. They were initially identified as *B. anabatooides* (fide Roberts, 1989; Linke, 1991; Kottelat, 1991; Kottelat *et al.*, 1993) but, because of insufficient material, there was uncertainty over the actual identity of this fish. Recently, shipments of *B. edithae* from Pontianak for the ornamental fish trade were examined and sufficient contaminant material of the suspected taxon was obtained. It is herein described as a new species — *B. midas*. Tan & Ng (2006) recently described *B. antoni*, *B. krataios* and *B. mandor* from the Kapuas basin, which clearly illustrates the ongoing discovery phase of research on the freshwater ichthyofauna of Borneo.