



***Nemacheilus marang*, a new loach (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae) from Sangkulirang karst, eastern Borneo**

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Abstract

Nemacheilus marang, new species, is described from Sungai Marang, Bengalon drainage, in the Sangkulirang peninsula karst formation, Borneo, Indonesia. It is distinguished from all other species of *Nemacheilus* of Borneo among others by its unique colour pattern made of 10–18 dark brown bars on the flank, extending from the dorsal midline to just below the lateral line, continuous across back, not or only slightly wider on back and where crossing the midlateral stripe; and having the bars usually regular, straight, and of width less than half that of the interspaces.

Key words: Indonesia, Kalimantan, limestone, stone loach

Introduction

The Nature Conservancy and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences conducted a five-week long biological survey of karstic areas in Sangkulirang Peninsula from July to August 2004. Four sites were surveyed, namely Suatan/Tabalar, Baai, Marang and Tebo. The Sangkulirang Peninsula is a section of 1,000 km² of karstic formation in the East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia, on the border of the districts Kutai Timur and Berau (Fig. 1). This area has been highlighted as a global priority for karst ecosystem conservation. Several new plant and animal species were discovered. We recently described *Nemacheilus tebo* from this area (Hadiaty & Kottelat, 2009). We describe here another new species of loach from Sungai (river) Marang.

Material and methods

Measurements were made from point to point on the left side of the body whenever possible with a digital caliper and the data recorded to a tenth of a millimeter. The measurements and counts follow Kottelat (1990). SL is standard length and TL total length. Material for this study is deposited in the following collections: Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (ANSP); Natural History Museum, London (BMNH); Collection of the second author (CMK); Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Bogor (MZB); Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden (RMNH); Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville (UF); United States National Museum, Washington (USNM); and Zoological Reference Collection, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC).