



***Pseudolaguvia spicula*, a new sisorid catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from Bangladesh and northeastern India**

HEOK HEE NG¹ & LALRAMLIANA²

¹Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, 6 Science Drive 2 #03-01, Singapore 117546.
E-mail: heokhee@nus.edu.sg

²Department of Zoology, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, Mizoram 796001, India. E-mail: lrl_zoo@yahoo.co.in

Abstract

This study describes *Pseudolaguvia spicula*, a new miniature sisorid catfish from the Surma-Meghna River system in India and Bangladesh. *Pseudolaguvia spicula* can be distinguished from congeners in having a combination of: head width 19.2–22.6% SL, dorsal-fin spine length 11.6–14.3% SL, length of dorsal-fin base 13.2–15.9% SL, pectoral-fin spine length 15.7–17.4% SL, length of adipose-fin base 14.7–17.1% SL, pelvic-fin length 14.6–17.1% SL, body depth at anus 12.8–16.8% SL, caudal peduncle length 15.4–17.9% SL, caudal peduncle depth 7.9–9.6% SL, caudal-fin length 24.2–27.5% SL, snout length 48.6–51.9% HL, eye diameter 10.6–13.9% HL, 30–32 vertebrae, smooth anterior edge of dorsal-fin spine, thoracic adhesive apparatus reaching beyond base of last pectoral-fin ray, absence of pale y-shaped marking on dorsal surface of head and supraoccipital process, and indistinct, pale vertical bands on body.

Key words: Siluriformes, Sisoroidea, Mizoram, Barak River, Surma-Meghna River system

Introduction

Among the three river systems that forms the Ganges Delta (Brahmaputra, Ganges and Surma-Meghna), the Surma-Meghna is perhaps the least studied ichthyologically. Existing studies either focus on only a small part of the drainage (e.g. Kar & Sen, 2007), or subsume the fish fauna of the drainage in more encompassing works (e.g. Rahman, 2005). It is therefore not surprising to find that closer study of the freshwater fishes of the Surma-Meghna River system reveals numerous species restricted to this drainage, particularly the hillstream component of this fauna (e.g. Arunachalam et al., 2007; Vishwanath & Joyshree, 2007).

Among the species typically found in hillstreams of the Surma-Meghna River system and throughout the northeastern part of the Indian subcontinent are the small sisorid catfishes of the genus *Pseudolaguvia*. This genus is distributed in river drainages in the sub-Himalayan region and Myanmar (from the Ganges River drainage eastwards to the Sittang River drainage). *Pseudolaguvia* shares the presence of a thoracic adhesive apparatus consisting of longitudinal pleats of skin arranged in an elliptical field with *Glyptothorax* and superficially resemble miniature versions of the latter, but possess a prominent postcoracoid processes. The monophyly of *Pseudolaguvia* has been doubted by Ferraris & Britz (2005), but a phylogenetic analysis of the Sisoridae using both morphological and molecular characters has confirmed *Pseudolaguvia* to be monophyletic (Ng, 2006). Twelve species of *Pseudolaguvia* are considered valid (Ng & Lalramliana, 2010): *P. ribeiroi* (Hora, 1921), *P. shawi* (Hora, 1921), *P. tuberculata* (Prashad & Mukerji, 1929), *P. kapuri* (Tilak & Husain, 1975), *P. tenebricosa* Britz & Ferraris, 2003, *P. foveolata* Ng, 2005, *P. inornata* Ng, 2005, *P. muricata* Ng, 2005, *P. ferula* Ng, 2006, *P. ferruginea* Ng, 2009, *P. flavida* Ng, 2009 and *P. virgulata* Ng & Lalramliana, 2010.

During recent ichthyological surveys of the Barak River drainage in Mizoram, India, the second author collected specimens of a *Pseudolaguvia* species initially identified as *P. flavida*. Detailed comparison of this material with congeners revealed it to belong instead to a previously unnamed species. The description of this material as *Pseudolaguvia spicula*, new species, forms the basis of this study.