



A new species of glass-perch from Belitung Island, Indonesia (Teleostei: Ambassidae: *Gymnochanda*)

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Abstract

Gymnochanda verae, new species, a small, colourful and sexually dimorphic freshwater glassperch, is described from the Gantung area of Pulau Belitung, Indonesia. It shares with its congeners a scale-less body, but differs in the males having broad red anal and second dorsal fins, red caudal-fin lobes, and the elongated rays of the second dorsal fin and the anal fin joined throughout their length by an interradiation membrane.

Key words: taxonomy, freshwater fish, sexual dimorphism, Southeast Asia, biodiversity

Introduction

Three species of the scale-less glass-perch genus *Gymnochanda* are presently known, viz. *G. filamentosa* Fraser-Brunner (1955: 210), *G. flamea* Roberts (1994: 268) and *G. limi* Kottelat (1995: 55). They are recognized by their absence of scales and the presence of elongated dorsal and anal-fin rays. While males of *G. filamentosa* and *G. flamea* have elongated second dorsal and anal-fin rays (developed into free distal fin-ray filaments, extending up to three times standard length), females exhibit no such fin-ray extensions. This character is not so clear in the case of *G. limi*, where secondary sexual characters have not been recorded: the species was described from a single purported male specimen, with an elongated anal-fin spine. Species of *Gymnochanda* appear to be poorly represented in research collections, either because they are seldom collected, or because they have been mistaken for the juveniles of larger ambassids. The genus is also rarely cited in the literature on fish collections, e.g. Roberts (1989: 160) and Kottelat & Widjarnati (2005: 146) from West Kalimantan, and Tan & Kottelat (2009: 21) from Sumatra. A species of *Gymnochanda* with a distinctive male colour pattern recently became available in the ornamental fish trade. The objective of the present paper is to provide a formal description of this species.

Material and methods

Specimens examined are deposited in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH); Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN); Research and Development Centre for Biology, The Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI, formerly the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense), Cibinong, Indonesia (MZB); Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden (RMNH); Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC); and the collection of Maurice Kottelat in Cornol, Switzerland (CMK).

Nomenclature for head serrations follows Fraser-Brunner (1955: 186, fig. 1). All measurements are made from point to point with a pair of dial calipers (up to 0.05 mm). Specimens obtained were euthanized in accordance with the guidelines of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, National University of Singapore. The specimens were fixed in formalin and subsequently stored in ethanol.