



***Glyptothorax maceriatius*, a new species of sisorid catfish (Actinopterygii: Siluriformes) from north-eastern India**

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Abstract

Glyptothorax maceriatius, new species, is described from the Meghna-Surma River system in Mizoram, northeast India. It differs from most congeners in the Indian subcontinent in having thoracic adhesive apparatus with a narrow elliptic central depression that is almost enclosed posteriorly by skin ridges. The following combination of characters serve to distinguish it from congeners in the Indian subcontinent: nasal barbel not reaching anterior orbital margin; interorbital distance 27.0–31.4% HL; head length 23.7–25.3% SL; head depth 12.5–14.2% SL; thoracic adhesive apparatus with narrow elliptic central depression that is almost enclosed posteriorly by skin ridges (striae) and with single, non-diverging series of striae running along its edges; width of adhesive apparatus 55.8–72.1% its length; unculiferous ridges of adhesive apparatus not extending anteriorly onto gular region; absence of striae on first pectoral- and pelvic-fin elements; pectoral-fin length 20.7–24.9% SL; dorsal-spine length 13.0–17.1% SL; smooth posterior edge of dorsal spine; dorsal-to-adipose distance 17.8–23.6% SL; body depth at anus 11.3–13.8% SL; pelvic-fin length 15.9–19.1% SL; length of anal-fin base 13.9–16.2% SL; caudal peduncle length 21.4–23.9% SL; and caudal peduncle depth 6.4–7.6% SL (3.1–3.4 times in its length).

Key words: Sisoridae, Mizoram, Meghna-Surma river system

Introduction

Glyptothorax is a speciose group within one of the largest Asian catfish families (Sisoridae). With nearly 80 species, the genus accounts for nearly half of sisorid diversity; it is known from hillstreams and swift-flowing rivers from the Euphrates River drainage of eastern Turkey eastwards to the Yangtze River drainage and southwards to the Indian subcontinent and the Greater Sunda Islands. Just over half of all *Glyptothorax* species (nearly 40) are known from the Indian subcontinent, although the taxonomy of these species is poorly understood (Ng, 2005).

During ichthyological surveys conducted in the Barak River drainage (itself part of the Surma-Meghna River system) in Mizoram, northeastern India, the second author obtained specimens of *Glyptothorax* that could not be readily identified. Further research revealed this to belong to an unnamed species, which is described here as *G. maceriatius*.

Material and methods

Measurements were made point to point with digital calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens whenever possible, following Ng & Dodson (1999). Subunits of the head are presented as proportions of head length (HL). Head length and measurements of body parts are given as proportions of standard length (SL). Fin-ray and vertebral counts were made from radiographs, with the latter counted following the method of Roberts (1994). Asterisks after a meristic value indicates the condition for the holotype. Numbers in parentheses after each meristic count indicate number of specimens examined with that condition. Institutional codes follow Ferraris (2007), with the addition of PUCMF for the Pachhunga University College Museum of Fishes, Mizoram, India.