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***Pseudolaguvia nubila*, a new sisorid catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from northeastern India**

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Abstract

This study describes *Pseudolaguvia nubila*, a new miniature sisorid catfish from the Kaladan River drainage in northeastern India. *Pseudolaguvia nubila* can be distinguished from congeners in having a combination of a mottled brown body with yellowish bands, a weakly projecting snout in which the premaxillary teeth are barely exposed when the mouth is closed, head width 19.7–21.7% standard length (SL), eye diameter 10.8–14.0% head length (HL), interorbital distance 25.6–31.8% HL, absence of a pale Y-shaped marking on the dorsal surface of the head and supraoccipital process, a smooth anterior edge of the dorsal spine, dorsal-fin spine length 16.4–19.3% SL, length of dorsal-fin base 15.1–17.3% SL, 7–8 serrations on the anterior edge of the pectoral spine, pectoral-fin spine length 18.1–22.0% SL, dorsal to adipose distance 13.1–16.8% SL, length of adipose-fin base 14.2–15.9% SL, pelvic-fin length 15.8–18.5% SL, body depth at anus 13.9–17.1% SL, caudal-peduncle length 15.7–20.2% SL, caudal-peduncle depth 9.1–11.1% SL, and caudal-fin length 20.3–25.3% SL.

Key words: Siluriformes, Sisoroidea, Mizoram, Kaladan River

Introduction

Sisorids of the genus *Pseudolaguvia* are diminutive catfishes (typically under 35 mm standard length) found throughout hill streams of the sub-Himalayan Indian subcontinent (the Ganges River drainage southwards to the Bharathappuzha River drainage of Kerala State), and the Indochinese peninsula eastwards to the Sittang River drainage. They closely resemble species of *Glyptothorax* in overall morphology and, like *Glyptothorax*, possess a thoracic adhesive apparatus consisting of longitudinal pleats of skin arranged in an elliptical or rhomboidal field. However, they also possess a prominent postcoracoid processes, which is absent in *Glyptothorax*. *Pseudolaguvia* has been demonstrated by Ng (2006b) and Jiang *et al.* (2011) to be more closely related to erethistins (a group also including *Ayarnangra*, *Caelatoglanis*, *Conta*, *Erethistes*, *Erethistoides* and *Hara*) than to *Glyptothorax*. Sixteen species of *Pseudolaguvia* are considered valid (Ng & Tamang, 2012): *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, 2005a), *P. inornata* (Ng, 2005b), *P. muricata* (Ng, 2005b), *P. ferula* (Ng, 2006a), *P. ferruginea* (Ng, 2009), *P. flavida* (Ng, 2009), *P. virgulata* (Ng & Lalramliana, 2010a), *P. spicula* (Ng & Lalramliana, 2010b), *P. austrina* (Radhakrishnan *et al.*, 2011), *P. viriosa* (Ng & Tamang, 2012) and *P. lapillicola* (Britz *et al.*, 2013).

During recent ichthyological surveys of the Kaladan River drainage in Mizoram, India, the second and third authors collected specimens of a species of *Pseudolaguvia* that could not reliably be identified to species. Detailed comparison of this material with congeners revealed it to belong to a previously unnamed species. The description of this species as *Pseudolaguvia nubila*, new species, forms the basis of this study.