

## ***Acrochordonichthys gyrinus*, a new species of akysid catfish (Teleostei: Siluriformes) from Thailand**

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### **Abstract**

*Acrochordonichthys gyrinus*, a new species of akysid catfish belonging to the *A. ischnosoma* species group, is described from the Chao Phraya River drainage in Thailand. It can be distinguished from congeners by a concave posterior margin of the pectoral fin and the unique combination of the following characteristics: head depth 9.8–11.4% SL; dorsal to adipose distance 7.4–8.6% SL; body depth at anus 8.3–10.5% SL; maximum width of humeral process 16.3% its length; and anterior margin of anal fin and posterior margin of adipose fin straight. This species represents the northernmost distribution of the genus.

**Key words:** Akysidae, catfish, Yom River, Chao Phraya drainage

### **Introduction**

Akysid catfishes of the genus *Acrochordonichthys* Bleeker, 1858, inhabit the bottom of rivers throughout Southeast Asia. They have a highly rugose skin with tubercles arranged in longitudinal rows along the side of the body, a long, low adipose fin, and an emarginate caudal fin. Until the recent revision by Ng & Ng (2001), the genus has been poorly studied, mainly due to difficulty in distinguishing the species and lack of sufficient comparative material.

During an ichthyological survey of the Chao Phraya River drainage in Thailand, four specimens of an *Acrochordonichthys* were obtained, which on further examination proved to belong to a previously undescribed species. This material is described as *A. gyrinus*, new species, in this study.