

A new species of *Pseudobagrus* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Bagridae) from southern China

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Abstract

A new species of bagrid catfish, *Pseudobagrus gracilis*, is described from specimens collected from the Zhujiang (Pearl River) basin, southern China. It closely resembles *P. adiposalis* Oshima and *P. ussuriensis* (Dybowski), but differs in having a large elliptical eye (19.8–24.4% HL), a short maxillary barbel not reaching the posterior margin of the eye, a lightly serrated posterior edge on the second dorsal spine, a caudal fin slightly emarginated with upper lobe slighter longer than lower lobe, frontal concave with a smooth surface, and supraoccipital process short (far from the first basal bone of the dorsal spine).

Key words: Siluriformes, Bagridae, *Pseudobagrus*, new species, southern China

Introduction

All species of the bagrid catfish genus *Pseudobagrus* Bleeker, 1859 share the following features: an inferior mouth; narial openings widely separated; four pairs of barbels; top of head covered by skin, except the posterior process of supraoccipital in some species; two dorsal spines; pelvic fin small; caudal fin emarginate, truncate or round. Currently 15 nominal species of *Pseudobagrus* are recognised in China (Zheng and Dai, 1999), accounting for about half of the worlds species in the genus (see Ng, 2003). However, relatively little work has been done on bagrid catfishes (Ng, 2003), members of *Pseudobagrus* are morphologically similar, and diagnostic characters are usually subtle. A need to further study the systematics of this genus prompted this study.

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