

***Akysis longifilis*, a new species of catfish (Teleostei: Akysidae) from Myanmar**

HEOK HEE NG

Fish Division, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, 1109 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1079, USA. E-mail: heokheen@umich.edu

Abstract

Akysis longifilis, new species, is described from the Sittang River drainage in Myanmar. It is a member of the *A. variegatus* species group and can be distinguished from congeners in the group (except for *A. brachybarbatus*, *A. fuliginatus*, *A. pictus*, *A. prashadi*, *A. variegatus*, *A. varius* and *A. vespa*) in having a smooth (vs. serrated) posterior edge of the pectoral spine. It is distinguished from *A. brachybarbatus*, *A. fuliginatus*, *A. pictus*, *A. prashadi*, *A. variegatus*, *A. varius* and *A. vespa* in having a unique combination of: length of adipose-fin base 25.7–31.1% SL, body depth at anus 9.7–13.6% SL, caudal peduncle length 18.3–23.2% SL, caudal peduncle depth 5.6–7.2% SL, head width 21.1–24.7% SL, nasal barbel length 67.4–96.4% HL, maxillary barbel length 123.2–159.6% HL, vertebrae 33–35, body with light saddle-shaped spots, and caudal fin forked.

Key words: Siluriformes, Sisoroidea, Sittang River, South Asia

Introduction

Members of the akysid catfish genus *Akysis* are small catfishes with tuberculate skin and a color pattern generally consisting of yellow patches or bands on a brown body. They are diagnosed by the anterior margin of the pectoral spine with a notch visible dorsally and the nasals with expansions beyond the canal-bearing region (de Pinna, 1996), and are found in fast-flowing streams and rivers in Southeast Asia [more specifically in the area bordered by the Irrawaddy River drainage to the west, the Barito River drainage to the east, the Lancanjiang (upper Mekong) drainage to the north and the Citarum River drainage to the south]. There is considerable hidden diversity within the genus; more than half of the 29 valid species have been described within the last decade (Ng, 1996; Ng & Kottelat, 1996; 1998; 2000; 2004; Ng & Tan, 1999; Ng & Freyhof, 2003; Ng & Rainboth, 2005; Ng & Sabaj, 2005).