Pseudecheneis suppaetula, a new species of glyptosternine catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from India

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Abstract

A new species of sisorid catfish, Pseudecheneis suppaetula, is described from tributaries of the Ganges River in India. Pseudecheneis suppaetula can be distinguished from congeners in having a combination of a long adipose-fin base (at least 2.0 times length of anal-fin base; 26.6–30.6% SL), small eye (8.1–8.3% SL), the presence of pale spots on the body, and the neural spines of the last 2–3 preanal and first 6–7 postanal vertebrae gradually increasing in height.

Key words: Ganges River, South Asia, Himachal Pradesh

Introduction

Sisorid catfishes of the genus Pseudecheneis Blyth, 1860 are diagnosed by a thoracic adhesive apparatus consisting of a series of transverse ridges (laminae) separated by grooves (sulcae) (de Pinna, 1996; Roberts, 1998), and are found in the upper reaches of rivers throughout the Subhimalayan and Indochinese region. Recent studies (Ng & Edds, 2005; Ng, 2006) recognize ten valid species of Pseudecheneis: P. sulcata (M'Clelland, 1842), P. paviei Vaillant, 1904, P. tchangi (Hora, 1937), P. immaculata Chu, 1982, P. sulcatoides Zhou & Chu, 1992, P. sympelvica Roberts, 1998, P. crassicauda Ng & Edds, 2005, P. serracula Ng & Edds, 2005, P. eddsi Ng, 2006 and P. stenura Ng, 2006.

As part of a phylogenetic study of the Sisoridae, an examination of material collected from the Ganges River drainage in the state of Himachal Pradesh in northwestern India and previously identified as P. sulcata was undertaken. This material is shown to belong to an undescribed species, the description of which as Pseudecheneis suppaetula, sp. nov., is provided below.