



Pseudomystus heokhuii, a new species of bagrid catfish from Sumatra (Teleostei: Bagridae)

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Abstract

Pseudomystus heokhuii, a new species of bagrid catfish is described from highly acidic blackwater habitats in central Sumatra. The new species can be distinguished from congeners by its unique color pattern of a pale midlateral stripe and pale oblique bands on the sides of the body. It is most similar to, and can be found sympatrically with, *P. leiacanthus*, but can be further distinguished from it in having two (vs. one) dark narrow irregular bars on the caudal fin, longer pectoral spine (19.3–22.4% SL vs. 15.2–18.6), longer caudal fin (33.5–40.0% SL vs. 25.7–31.9) with pointed (vs. rounded) lobes, longer nasal and maxillary barbels (63.1–81.1% HL vs. 31.3–51.5 and 86.2–125.3% HL vs. 70.9–91.3 respectively; nasal barbel reaching to dorsal insertion of opercular flap vs. to just beyond posterior orbital margin and maxillary barbel reaching just beyond base of last pectoral-fin ray vs. to base of pectoral spine), a straight (vs. crescentic) premaxillary tooth patch, a more sharply tapering snout when viewed dorsally, and an even (vs. slightly convex) predorsal profile.

Key words: Siluriformes, Batang Hari, Indragiri, peat swamps

Introduction

Members of the bagrid genus *Pseudomystus* Jayaram, 1968 are small- to mid-sized freshwater catfishes endemic to Southeast Asia. There are currently 18 valid species of *Pseudomystus* (Kottelat *et al.*, 1993; Kottelat, 2000; Ng & Rachmatika, 1999; Ng & Freyhof, 2005; Ng & Lim, 2005; Ng & Siebert, 2005); many of them have a color pattern of contrasting vertical bars or blotches, which makes them attractive fishes for the aquarium trade (where they are known as bumblebee catfishes). As part of a larger revisionary study of the genus by K. Lim, material from Sumatra previously identified as *Pseudomystus leiacanthus* (Weber & de Beaufort, 1912) was examined and it was found that this material represented a distinct, undescribed species. The description of this material as *Pseudomystus heokhuii* sp. nov. forms the basis of this study.

Material and methods

Measurements were made point to point with dial calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens whenever possible. Subunits of the head are presented as proportions of head length (HL). Head length and measurements of body parts are given as proportions of standard length (SL). Measurements follow those of Ng & Kottelat (1998). Asterisks after meristic counts indicate values for holotype. Institutional abbreviations follow Eschmeyer (1998).