



***Garra findolabium*, a new species of cyprinid fish (Teleostei: Cypriniformes) from the Red River drainage in Yunnan, China**

FENG-LIAN LI¹, WEI ZHOU^{1,2} & QIANG FU¹

¹Faculty of Conservation Biology, Southwest Forestry College; Key Laboratory of Forest Disaster Warning and Control in Yunnan Higher Education Institutions, Kunming 650224, P. R. China

²Corresponding author. E-mail: weizhou@public.km.yn.cn; Tel: +86-871-3862458; fax: +86-871-3863635

Abstract

Garra findolabium, new species, is described from the Red River (Yuan-Jiang in Chinese, Song Hong in Vietnamese) in Yunnan, China. It can be distinguished from all other congeners in Southeast Asia and China by the following combination of characters: posterior edge of the oral sucking disc with a median fissure and divided it into two lamellas; caudal fin with an anomalistic dark patch, extending to 50% of length of caudal fin; no barbels; absence of proboscis in front of nostrils; 37–38 lateral-line scales; 16 circumpeduncular scales; distance of anus to anal-fin origin about 33.3–38.7% of distance of pelvic-fin origin to anal-fin origin.

Key words: *Garra*; new species; Red River; Yunnan

Introduction

Species of the cyprinid genus *Garra* Hamilton are widely distributed, occurring in India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Kalimantan (Wu *et al.* 1977; Chu & Cui 1987, 1989; Zhang *et al.* 2000; Kottelat 2001a, b). Most species of *Garra* inhabit swiftly flowing waters of rivers and mountain streams, where they commonly adhere to the surface of rocks by an oral sucking disc modified from the lower lip and by horizontally extended paired fins. The genus *Placocheilus* Wu, also characterized by having the lower lip modified into an adhesive disc, was treated as a valid genus by Wu *et al.* (1977) and Zhang *et al.* (2002), while other authors treated it as a synonym of *Garra* (Kottelat 2001a; Zhou *et al.* 2005). Kottelat (2001a) suggested that the reduced number of pharyngeal tooth rows was a reductive character that could not be used to define genera. In the present study, we treat *Placocheilus* as a synonym of *Garra*.

Presently, nine species of *Garra* have been recorded from the Red River (Yuan-Jiang in Chinese, Song Hong in Vietnamese): *G. apogon* (Norman), *G. bourreti* Pellegrin, *G. caudofasciatus* (Pellegrin & Chevey), *G. gracilis* (Pellegrin & Chevey), *G. imberba* Garman, *G. laichowensis* Nguyen & Doan, *G. micropulvinus* Zhou *et al.*, *G. orientalis* Nichols and *G. robustus* (Zhang *et al.*) (Chu & Cui 1989; Kottelat 2001a; Zhang *et al.* 2002; Zhou *et al.* 2005). When examining materials collected from the Red River of Yunnan, we found that some specimens were different from previously recorded species of *Garra* from this river. After comparisons with specimens collected from Yunnan and adjoining regions, we confirmed that these specimens represent a new species, which is described below.

Materials and methods

Identification of specimens was based on Kottelat (2001a, b) and Zhou *et al.* (2005). Counts and measure-