



Akysis fontaneus, a new species of catfish (Siluriformes: Akysidae) from Sumatra

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Abstract

Akysis fontaneus, new species, is described from a spring-fed stream in the Batang Hari drainage in central Sumatra. It is distinguished from congeners in having a unique combination of the following characters: weakly emarginate caudal fin, convex dorsal surface of neurocranium making predorsal profile appear steeply sloping, presence of 4 large serrations on posterior edge of pectoral spine that are more than half width of spine, predorsal length 34.5% SL, pectoral-fin length 21.7% SL, length of adipose-fin base 18.7% SL and interorbital distance 42.3% HL. *Akysis fontaneus* is most similar to *A. heterurus*, also from the Batang Hari River drainage, but the differing morphology of the predorsal area (particularly the neurocranium) and shorter pectoral fin distinguishes it from *A. heterurus*.

Key words: Batang Hari drainage, freshwater fish, Ostariophysii

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 rivers draining the eastern face of the Annam Cordilleras in central Vietnam to the east, the Lancanjiang (upper Mekong) drainage to the north and the Citarum River drainage in west Java to the south. There is considerable undescribed diversity within the genus that has not been recognized until recently; more than half of the 18 valid species have been described within the last decade (Ferraris 2007; Page et al., 2007).

During a recent collecting trip, a single specimen of *Akysis* was obtained from a spring-fed stream in the Batang Hari drainage in central Sumatra. Comparison with the three described *Akysis* species from Sumatra and other congeners revealed enough differences to warrant its recognition as a species. The description of this new species as *Akysis fontaneus* forms the basis of this study.

Material and methods

Measurements were made point-to-point with dial calipers and recorded to 0.1 mm. Ng & Kottelat (1998) are followed for all measurements and counts. Institutional codes follow Ferraris (2007).