**Bangana brevirostris**, a new species of cyprinid fish (Teleostei: Cypriniformes) from the Lancang-Jiang (Upper Mekong River) drainage in Yunnan, Southwest China

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**Abstract**

**Bangana brevirostris**, new species, is described from the Lancang-Jiang in Yunnan, Southwest China. It can be distinguished from all other congeners by the following combination of characters: a pair of minute rostral barbels; mental groove short and shallow; dorsal fin with 12–13 branched rays; 42–44 lateral line scales; eye large, its diameter 28.1–32.9 % of head length; snout short, its length 25.5–32.7 % of head length. It shares the same postlabial groove-type with **Bangana dero** and **B. devdevi**, which makes them very different from other congeners.

**Key words:** Bangana, Cyprinidae, Taxonomy, Southwest China

**Introduction**

Species of the cyprinid genus **Bangana** Hamilton are widely distributed in South, Southeast and East Asia, including Pakistan, India, Bengal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and South China (Talwar & Jhingran 1991; Rainboth 1996; Kullander et al. 1999; Kottelat 1998, 2001; Zhang & Chen 2006). Species of this genus inhabit flowing waters, mostly in tropical and/or subtropical rivers (Zhang & Chen 2006).

**Bangana** was erected by Hamilton (1822) as a subgenus of **Cyprinus** Linnaeus. Jordan (1917) designated **Cyprinus dero** as its type species. However, **Bangana** was later regarded as an invalid taxon: its type species, **Cyprinus dero**, had been assigned to **Sinilabeo** Rendahl (Wu et al. 1977) or **Labeo** Cuvier (Shrestha 1978). **Bangana** was, however, treated as a valid genus by Kottelat (1985). Up to now, 23 species of **Bangana** have been recorded, 13 of them in China (Zhang & Chen 2006): **B. decora**, **B. dero**, **B. devdevi**, **B. discognathoides**, **B. lemassoni**, **B. lippa**, **B. rendahl**, **B. tonkinensis**, **B. tungting**, **B. wui**, **B. xanthogenys**, **B. yunnanensis** and **B. zhui**. All these species were for a long time assigned to **Sinilabeo** by Chinese ichthyologists (Wu et al. 1977; Chu & Chen 1989; Zhang et al. 2000). **Bangana** and **Sinilabeo** were considered to indicate the same groups of fishes and both generic names were synchronously used and as valid for many years. Then, according to the definition of **Bangana** by Rainboth (1996) and Kullander et al. (1999), some species of **Sinilabeo** were gradually transferred to **Bangana** (Kottelat 1998, 2001). However, the division of **Bangana** and **Sinilabeo** remained unclear and their diagnosis continued to be problematic. In order to resolve these problems, Zhang & Chen (2006) revised the genus **Bangana**. According to their definition, all species of **Sinilabeo** (sensu prior) from China should be transferred to **Bangana**. At the same time, Zhang et al. (2006) showed that the type species of **Sinilabeo** had been misidentified and **Sinilabeo** was thus synonymised. A new type species was then designated for **Sinilabeo**, helping to clarify the identities of **Bangana** and **Sinilabeo**.