



## ***Devario anomalus*, a new species of freshwater fish from Bangladesh (Ostariophysii: Cyprinidae)**

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### **Abstract**

*Devario anomalus*, new species, is described from a small coastal stream south of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong Division, Bangladesh. The new species can be distinguished from all other species of *Devario* by its unique colour pattern. It is further distinguished from all congeners reported from Bangladesh by a combination of characters, including its shorter P-stripe, the presence of maxillary barbels, an ascending process on the first infraorbital, and a lower number of lateral-line scales, branched dorsal-fin rays, branched anal-fin rays, and circumpeduncular scale rows.

**Key words:** Cypriniformes; New species; *Devario*

### **Introduction**

Members of the cyprinid genus *Devario* (sensu Fang, 2003) range in size from around 40 to 80 mm in standard length and exhibit a colour pattern consisting of a series of bars and/or stripes (referred to as P-stripes: sensu Fang, 1997a) along the sides of the body. Its members are distributed throughout the freshwaters of South and Southeast Asia, from Pakistan to Thailand (Barman, 1991). To date, only two species, viz. *D. aequipinnatus* auct. and *D. devario*, have been reported from Bangladesh (Barman, 1991; Rahman, 1989). These species are widespread and, in addition to Bangladesh, both are recorded throughout much of northern India, Myanmar and Nepal (Jayaram, 1991; Talwar & Jhingran, 1991). *Devario aequipinnatus* auct. is also recorded from northern Thailand and *D. devario* from Pakistan (Talwar & Jhingran, 1991).

During a recent expedition to Bangladesh, one of us (RLM) obtained a distinctive new species of the genus *Devario* from a short coastal stream draining into the Bay of Bengal, southern Chittagong Division. This new species is markedly different from *D. aequipinnatus* and *D. devario*, and is described herein as a new species.

### **Materials and methods**

Counts and measurements generally follow Fang (1997a), except that sub-units of the head are expressed as a percentage of head length instead of standard length. Numbers in parentheses after a count indicate the frequency of that count. Head width is measured at the posterior margin of the orbit. All unilateral measurements and counts were obtained from the left side of specimens. The two posteriormost rays of the dorsal and anal fins that articulate with the posteriormost pterygiophore are counted separately. Infraorbital bones were carefully removed from the right side of selected specimens, placed in a trypsin solution to clear excess soft tissue and then stained with an alizarin red S/KOH solution. Colour-pattern terminology follows Fang (1997a,b). We choose to follow Fang (1997a) and refer to *Devario aequipinnatus* as *D. aequipinnatus*