

***Devario xyrops*, a new species of danionine fish from south-western Myanmar (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)**

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Abstract

Devario xyrops is described from small rivers on the western slope of the Rakhine Yoma in south-western Myanmar. It is distinguished from all other species in the genus except *D. anomalous* by its colour pattern including a dark blotch or condensed series of vertical bars anteriorly on the side, separate from a posterior dark horizontal band; and distinguished from *D. anomalous* in particular by deeper body (29.9–35.8% SL, vs. 25.0–26.8 % SL) and fewer lateral line scales (31–33, modally 32 vs. 33–35, modally 34).

Key words Rakhine Yoma, Thandwe, Bangladesh, colour pattern, endemism

Introduction

The cyprinid fish genus *Devario* Heckel includes 37 species distributed in South and Southeast Asia (Fang Kullander, 2001; Fang *et al.*, 2009; Conway *et al.*, 2009). Nine species, viz., *D. affinis* (Blyth), *D. spinosus* (Day), *D. browni* (Regan), *D. annandalei* (Chaudhuri), *D. strigillifer* (Myers), *D. shanensis* (Hora), *D. sondhii* (Hora & Mukerji), *D. auropurpureus* (Annandale), and *D. jayarami* (Barman) have been described from Myanmar. In addition, *D. yuensis* (Kumar & Tombi Singh) from the Yu River drainage in Manipur is likely to occur in Myanmar in addition to *D. kakhienensis* (Anderson) from the border region of Myanmar and Yunnan, China. Those species are all characterized by a colour pattern consisting either of several alternating dark and light stripes along the side, or a series of more or less distinct dark vertical bars.

Collections made in 1998 near Thandwe on the western versant of the Rakhine Yoma in south-western Myanmar include many specimens of a conspicuously large species of *Devario*, characterized by a distinctive colour pattern in which the dark lateral markings are expressed as an anterior blotch and a posterior short horizontal band. In the meantime, this species was also imported to Europe as an aquarium fish with the code names “TW02”, and “Broken Line”. This paper is dedicated to the formal description of this species.

Material and methods

Specimens were fixed in formalin in the field, eventually transferred to 70 % ethanol for storage, and are kept in the fish collection of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm (NRM). Additional material is deposited in the collection of the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH), and California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS). Measurements were taken with digital callipers to a precision of 0.1 mm. Counts and measurements were made according to Fang (1997a), and colour pattern terminology follows Fang (1998). Fin-ray counts from median fins and vertebral counts were obtained from X-radiographs made with a Philips MG-105 low voltage X-ray unit and Kodak X-Omat V plates. The last ray in the dorsal and anal