Pseudolaguvia virgulata, a new sisorid catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from Mizoram, northeastern India

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Abstract

Pseudolaguvia virgulata, a new South Asian sisorid catfish species, is described from the Barak River drainage in Mizoram, India. The new species can be distinguished from congeners in having a brown body with two or three narrow, pale longitudinal stripes and a pale Y-shaped marking on the dorsal surface of the head. Additional distinguishing characters from its congeners are a serrated anterior edge of the dorsal spine, the thoracic adhesive apparatus reaching beyond the base of the last pectoral-fin ray, head width, pectoral-fin length, length of dorsal-fin base, dorsal-spine length, body depth at anus, length of adipose-fin base, caudal peduncle length, caudal peduncle depth, snout length, interorbital distance, and total number of vertebrae.

Key words: Siluriformes, Sisoroidea, Barak River, South Asia

Introduction

Members of the sisorid genus Pseudolaguvia are small catfishes found in rivers draining the sub-Himalayan region and Myanmar. They superficially resemble miniature species of Glyptothorax in overall morphology and in having a thoracic adhesive apparatus with a median depression, but can be distinguished in having prominent postcoracoid processes. Eleven species of Pseudolaguvia are considered valid (Ng 2009): P. ribeiroi (Hora 1921), P. shawi (Hora 1921), P. tuberculata (Prashad & Mukerji 1929), P. kapuri (Tilak & Husain 1975), P. tenebricosa Britz & Ferraris 2003, P. foveolata Ng 2005, P. inornata Ng 2005, P. muricata Ng 2005, P. ferula Ng 2006, P. ferruginea Ng 2009 and P. flavida Ng 2009.

During recent ichthyological surveys of the Barak River drainage in Mizoram, India, the second author collected specimens of an unnamed Pseudolaguvia species. The description of this material as Pseudolaguvia virgulata new species forms the basis of this study.

Material and methods

Measurements were made point to point with digital calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens whenever possible, following Ng & Dodson (1999). Subunits of the head are presented as proportions of head length (HL). Head length and measurements of body parts are given as proportions of standard length (SL). Fin-ray and vertebral counts were made from radiographs, with the latter counted following the method of Roberts (1994). An asterisk after a meristic value indicates the condition for the holotype. Institutional codes follow Ferraris (2007), with the addition of PUCMF for the Pachhunga University College Museum of Fishes, Mizoram, India.