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Three new species of *Psilorhynchus* from the Ayeyarwaddy River drainage, Myanmar (Teleostei: Psilorhynchidae)

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Abstract

Psilorhynchus brachyrhynchus, new species, from the upper Ayeyarwaddy River drainage, northern Myanmar, is distinguished based on a combination of characters, including a short snout (43–48% HL), scale-less ventral surface between paired fins, and features of dorsal and caudal-fin pigmentation. *Psilorhynchus piperatus*, new species, from the eastern slopes of the Rakhine Yoma mountain range, lower Ayeyarwaddy River drainage, Myanmar, is distinguished based on its unique caudal-fin pigmentation. *Psilorhynchus gokkyi*, new species, also from the eastern slopes of the Rakhine Yoma mountain range, lower Ayeyarwaddy River drainage, Myanmar, is distinguished based on unique shape of its snout, which exhibits a deep notch at the level of the ethmoid region.

Key words: Taxonomy, Ostariophysi, Cypriniformes, Indo-Burma

Introduction

Species of the genus *Psilorhynchus* McClelland are small cypriniform fishes with arched backs and flattened, frequently scale-less ventral surfaces. They inhabit fast flowing rivers and streams in the foothills of the Himalayan, Indo-Burman, and Western Ghats mountain ranges (Rainboth 1983; Arunachalam & Muralidharan 2008). In recent years several new species of *Psilorhynchus* have been described (Conway & Kottelat 2007; Arunachalam *et al*. 2007; Nebeshwar *et al*. 2007; Arunachalam & Muralidharan 2008; Conway & Mayden 2008a, b; Conway & Kottelat 2010), more than doubling the total number of species recognized before 2007 to 15 (Eschmeyer *et al*. 1998).

Though several studies have investigated the phylogenetic position of *Psilorhynchus* (Chen 1981; Šlechtová *et al*. 2007; Conway & Mayden 2007; He *et al*. 2008) the interrelationships amongst its species are presently unknown (Conway & Kottelat 2007). Several of the species of *Psilorhynchus* described in recent years, viz. *P. amplicephalus* Arunachalam, Muralidharan & Sivakumar, *P. breviminor* Conway & Mayden, *P. nepalensis* Conway & Mayden, *P. pavimentatus* Conway & Kottelat, and *P. rahmani* Conway & Mayden are similar to *P. balitora* (Hamilton) in scale and fin ray counts (29–34 lateral-line scales, 8 unbranched dorsal-fin rays, 5–7 unbranched pectoral-fin rays, 8–10+7–9 principal caudal-fin rays) and general appearance (e.g. see Conway & Mayden 2008b). The purpose of the present paper is to provide formal descriptions for three additional new species of *Psilorhynchus* from the Ayeyarwaddy River drainage of Myanmar that are also similar to *P. balitora* in meristic and morphometric characters and general appearance.

Materials and methods

Measurements and counts generally follow Conway & Kottelat (2007). Lateral-line scales are counted from the anteriormost scale (the first scale to bear a canal) to the posteriormost scale of the caudal peduncle.

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