



A new species of miniature catfish from the Malay Peninsula (Teleostei: Bagridae: *Nanobagrus*)

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Abstract

Nanobagrus lemniscatus, a new species of miniature bagrid catfish from the Malay Peninsula is described here. It can be distinguished from congeners in having the following combination of characters: large cream patches on a brown body frequently coalescing to form broad transverse band, length of adipose-fin base 24.0–27.1% SL, body depth at anus 13.1–14.0% SL, 35–36 vertebrae, pectoral spine with length 16.1–18.7% SL and 7–9 serrations on its posterior margin, and a convex neurocranium. *Nanobagrus stellatus* is also recorded from the Malay Peninsula for the first time in this study.

Key words: *Nanobagrus lemniscatus*, Peninsular Malaysia, Siluriformes, Terengganu

Introduction

The bagrid catfish genus *Nanobagrus* comprises six species distributed throughout Sundaic Southeast Asia: *N. armatus* (eastern and western Borneo), *N. fuscus* (Borneo, Malay Peninsula and Sumatra), *N. immaculatus* (southern Borneo), *N. nebulosus* (southern Malay Peninsula), *N. stellatus* (central and southern Sumatra) and *N. torquatus* (southern Sumatra) (Ng, 2008; Thomson *et al.*, 2008). Its members typically inhabit small, forested streams with a moderate current. Members of the genus are diagnosed from other bagrid catfishes by their miniature adult size (maximum size under *ca* 45 mm SL); reduced supraoccipital process; reduced anterior nuchal-plate element; and posterior cranial fontanel large and prominent (Ng, 2008).

Ichthyological surveys in the state of Terengganu in northeastern Peninsular Malaysia (reported in Kottelat *et al.*, 1992) obtained a miniature bagrid catfish that superficially resembled juvenile *Pseudomystus stenomus*. Subsequent examination of the resulting specimens indicated that it is a species of *Nanobagrus*, which on detailed comparison with congeners proved to represent a seventh species, described below as *Nanobagrus lemniscatus*, new species.

Material and methods

Measurements were made point to point with dial calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens whenever possible. Subunits of the head are presented as percentage proportions of head length (% HL). Head length and measurements of body parts are given as percentage proportions of standard length (% SL). Measurements follow Ng & Dodson (1999), and institutional abbreviations follow Ferraris (2007).