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).