



Aphyosemion teugelsi (Cyprinodontiformes: Nothobranchiidae), a new species from a remote locality in the southern Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Abstract

Aphyosemion teugelsi is described from specimens collected in a small creek in the upper Wamba River basin in the southwest of the Democratic Republic of the Congo not far from the Angolan border. This is ~400 km outside the known distribution area of the genus. It is distinguished from all other members of the genus *Aphyosemion* by the combination of broad black margins on all fins in males, a robust lower jaw, a more convex back, a large head with large eyes, a more anterior position of the dorsal fin relative to anal fin, and absence of extensions on the upper and lower caudal fin.

Key words: Congo basin, Kwango province, killifish, systematics, taxonomy

Resumé

Aphyosemion teugelsi est décrit à partir de spécimens récoltés dans une petite crique du bassin de la haute Wamba, sud-ouest de la République Démocratique du Congo, non loin de la frontière angolaise. Ceci est de l'ordre de 400km en dehors de la zone de distribution connue pour le genre. Elle se distingue de tous les autres membres du genre *Aphyosemion* par la combinaison de larges marges noires sur toutes les nageoires chez les mâles, d'une robuste mâchoire inférieure, d'un dos plus convexe, d'une large tête à grands yeux, d'une position plus antérieure de la nageoire dorsale par rapport à l'anale et de l'absence d'extensions aux lobes supérieur et inférieur de la nageoire caudale.

Introduction

The genus *Aphyosemion* Myers, 1924 is widespread in the Congo basin with 14 recognized species belonging to a single group, the *Aphyosemion elegans* species group, which represents the subgenus *Aphyosemion* (Collier 2007; Wildekamp 1993; Huber 2007; Murphy & Collier 1999; Van der Zee & Huber 2006). In the northwestern part of the basin *Raddaella splendidum* (Pellegrin, 1930) is present, whilst *Aphyosemion labarrei* Poll, 1951 is restricted to the Inkisi River basin (Lower Congo), both species do not belong to the subgenus *Aphyosemion* according to morphology and molecular data (Collier 2007; Huber 2007; Murphy & Collier 1999; Wildekamp 1993, 1996). Other nothobranchiids in the Congo basin belong to the genus *Epiplatys* (six species), *Nothobranchius* (two species), *Aphyoplatys* (one species), and *Fenerbahce* (one species), a comparatively small number of nothobranchiid species compared with the diversity found for example in smaller countries such as Cameroon, Gabon, or the Republic of the Congo (Huber 2007; Wildekamp 1993, 1996).

In the past only very few collections of nothobranchiid killifishes were made in the large southern tributaries of the middle Kasai River in the southern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Here the Kwango and Kwilu Rivers border a triangular region (Fig. 1) from which currently only two species are known: *Aphyosemion congicum* (Ahl, 1924) (Fig. 2) and *A. cognatum* Meinken, 1951 (Fig. 3), both species living in the northwestern part of the triangle (Radda 1986; Wildekamp 1993).