



## *Silurichthys ligneolus*, a new catfish (Teleostei: Siluridae) from southern Borneo, Indonesia

HEOK HEE NG & HEOK HUI TAN

Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore, 6 Science Drive 2 #03-01, Singapore 117546.

E-mail: heokhee@nus.edu.sg; heokhui@nus.edu.sg

### Abstract

*Silurichthys ligneolus*, a new species of silurid catfish, is described from blackwater habitats in southern Borneo. The new species can be distinguished from congeners in having a combination of: body depth at anus 9.1–11.0% SL, caudal peduncle depth 4.7–5.5% SL, eye diameter 6.7–9.8% HL, pelvic fins present, 44–45 anal-fin rays, 3–4 principal rays on the lower caudal-fin lobe, lower lobe of caudal fin indistinct, 46–48 vertebrae, one gill raker on the first branchial arch, and body uniformly brown. Based on the morphology of its caudal fin, *S. ligneolus* is hypothesized to be the sister taxon of *S. sanguineus*.

**Key words:** Ostariophysii, Siluriformes, Kalimantan Tengah

### Introduction

The silurid genus *Silurichthys* is restricted to the forest streams and freshwater swamps of Sundaic Southeast Asia. Members of the genus resemble the hillstream silurids of the genus *Pterocryptis* (their sister group, fide Bornbusch, 1995), but are distinguished from them by their confluent anal and caudal fins. The following combination of characters additionally diagnoses *Silurichthys* (fide Bornbusch, 1995): (1) metapterygoid contacting the hyomandibula only by a narrow extension that reaches to the anterodorsal corner of the hyomandibula; (2) ascending process of scaphium absent; (3) 9–11 branched caudal-fin rays; (4) upper hypurals fused to form a single plate; (5) lower hypurals fused to each other and, variably, to the parhypural. The only revision of the genus to date (Ng & Ng, 1998) recognizes eight valid species: *S. citatus* Ng & Kottelat, 1997; *S. gibbiceps* Ng & Ng, 1998; *S. hasseltii* Bleeker, 1858; *S. indragiriensis* Volz, 1904; *S. marmoratus* Ng & Ng, 1998; *S. phaiosoma* (Bleeker, 1851); *S. sanguineus* Roberts, 1989; *S. schneideri* Volz, 1904.

During ichthyological surveys of the Kahayan River drainage in southern Borneo, four specimens of a *Silurichthys* species were collected and initially identified as *S. sanguineus*. A detailed study of this material and comparison with congeners revealed them to belong to an undescribed species. This unnamed species is described in this study as *Silurichthys ligneolus*, new species.

### 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. Vertebrae and median-fin rays were counted from radiographs, while paired-fin rays were counted under a binocular dissecting microscope. 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). Measurements follow those of Ng & Ng (1998). An asterisk after a meristic value indicates that for the holotype; the number in parentheses after a count indicates frequency. Institutional acronyms follow Ferraris (2007).