



Cophecheilus bamen, a new genus and species of labeonine fishes (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from South China

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Abstract

A new garrain genus and species are described from a tributary of the Zuo-River of the Pearl River drainage in Guangxi Province, South China. *Cophecheilus*, new genus, is separated from all other Asian garrains by its uniquely modified oromandibular morphology; i.e., rostral cap with a shallow, arched, subdistal depression extending almost the full length of its ventral margin; upper lip greatly reduced to a thin membranous fold medially adnate to the upper jaw, but reflected slightly from its distal margin, and laterally produced into a frenum connecting the upper jaw with the lower lip. The new species, *Cophecheilus bamen*, has an inconspicuous longitudinal black stripe extending along each side of the body.

Key words: taxonomy, Garraina, Pearl River drainage, Guangxi Province

Introduction

The Labeonini (*sensu* Reid, 1982; Stiassny and Getahun, 2007) is composed of a large number of cyprinid genera widely known from the freshwaters of tropical Africa and Asia. These taxa show a high degree of morphological modification of their oromandibular structures not shared with other cyprinid fish groups (Zhang *et al.*, 2000). Currently, this group is represented in Southeast Asia and South China by approximately 29 genera (Zhang *et al.*, 2008). Diversity of the Labeonini at the generic rank is concentrated in South China where 25 genera are found, accounting for approximately 85.2% of the total number censused by Yang and Mayden (2010). Twenty genera of the Labeoninae (which is essentially equal to the Labeonini *sensu* Reid, 1982, and Stiassny and Getahun, 2007) were documented in the recent monograph of Chinese species of the Cyprinidae (Zhang *et al.*, 2000). The generic diversity of Chinese labeonins continues to rise as a result of ongoing taxonomic research; e.g., Zhang and Chen (2004, 2006), Zhang and Kottelat (2006), Zhang *et al.* (2006), Zhang *et al.* (2008), and Yang *et al.* (2008). Five other genera were added by these researchers to the tally of Chinese labeonins, of which three are new to science, *Akrokolioplax*, *Qianlabeo* and *Hongshuia*, and two are newly recorded, *Bangana* and *Mekongia*. Undoubtedly, there are still several taxa awaiting formal description.

Among specimens captured in July, 2008, from a tributary of the Zuo-Jiang of the Pearl River drainage in Jingxi County, Guangxi Province, South China, nine share all of the characters diagnostic for the Garraina as defined by Stiassny and Getahun (2007), but are unidentifiable to any currently recognized Asian garrains. These nine specimens are therefore referred herein to a new genus. The addition of *Cophecheilus* brings the total number of Chinese Labeonini genera to 26.