



Pseudeutropius indigens, a new species of schilbeid catfish (Teleostei: Siluriformes) from peninsular Thailand

HEOK HEE NG¹ & CHAVALIT VIDTHAYANON²

¹Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore, 18 Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119227.

E-mail: heokhee@nus.edu.sg

²Mekong River Commission, 184 Fa Ngum Road, Unit 18 Ban Sithan Neua, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR.

E-mail: chavalit@mrcmekong.org

Abstract

Pseudeutropius indigens, a new species of schilbeid catfish from peninsular Thailand, is described here. It can be distinguished from congeners in having the following combination of characters: head length 23.1–24.3% SL, head width 10.5–11.0% SL, length of anal-fin base 45.6–50.4% SL, 37–41 anal-fin rays, isognathous jaws in which the premaxillary teeth are not visible when the mouth is closed, and long nasal, maxillary and mandibular barbels that reach to at least the anal-fin origin.

Key words: Schilbeidae, Narathiwat, Malay Peninsula, *Neotropius*

Introduction

The schilbeid catfish genus *Pseudeutropius* currently consists of two species known from Sumatra and Borneo (*P. brachypterus* and *P. moolenburghae*), and one species known from southern India (*P. mitchelli*). The genus remains poorly diagnosed, with the South Asian species currently assigned to *Neotropius* being morphologically very similar to *Pseudeutropius* species. The possibility thus exists that *Pseudeutropius* may not form a natural group in the absence of *Neotropius* (Ferraris, 2007).

For some time, a population of *Pseudeutropius* morphologically similar to *P. moolenburghae* (a species known so far only from Sumatra) has been reported from peat-swamp habitats in southern (peninsular) Thailand (Vidthayanon, 2002). This population was suspected to belong to an unnamed species, and we present evidence in this study to confirm that this is indeed the case, describing it as *Pseudeutropius indigens*, 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). Asterisks following a particular meristic count in the descriptive text refer to the condition in the holotype. Data for *N. khavalchor* was obtained from Kulkarni (1952), as we were unable to examine material representing this species.