



***Chaca serica*, a new species of frogmouth catfish (Teleostei: Siluriformes) from southern Borneo**

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Abstract

Chaca serica, a new species of frogmouth catfish from the Kahayan, Kapuas and Mentaya river drainages in southern Borneo, is described here. It can be distinguished from congeners in having the following combination of characters: the oral margin of the lower lip lacking (vs. having) a series of rugose ridges, presence of nasal barbels, presence of papillae around the eyes, a temporal fossa extending to the supraoccipital, 7–8 serrae on the anterior edge of the pectoral spine, four pectoral-fin rays, absence of a row of fimbriate skin flaps on the body dorsal to (and sometimes also ventral to) the lateral line, dorsal procurent caudal-ray base 32.8–37.3% SL, and ventral procurent caudal-ray base 16.0–19.2% SL.

Key words: Chacidae, Kalimantan Tengah

Introduction

The species of the siluriform genus *Chaca* are easily identified by their extremely large and severely dorsoventrally depressed head, caudal fin with greatly enlarged procurent rays, and tuberculate skin, often with fimbriate skin flaps on the head and sometimes on the body. The genus forms the monotypic family Chacidae, whose phylogenetic affinities to other catfishes remains unclear despite numerous studies. Chacids have been variously hypothesized to be most closely related to the Clariidae, Sisoroidei and Loricarioidei (Mo, 1991), the Plotosidae (de Pinna, 1993), the Clariidae and Plotosidae (Diogo, 2005), the Bagridae and Siluridae (Hardman, 2005), or unresolved within a larger clade of catfishes (Sullivan et al., 2006). To date, three species of *Chaca* are recognized as valid (Roberts, 1982; Brown & Ferraris, 1988): *C. bankanensis* from Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula and northern and western Borneo, *C. burmensis* from the Irrawaddy and Sittang River drainages in Myanmar, and *C. chaca* from the Ganges-Brahmaputra system in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent. Chacids are frequently caught and exported for the ornamental fish trade, where they are given the common name of frogmouth catfishes.

Numerous individuals of *Chaca* were obtained from the Kahayan River drainage (and neighboring river drainages) in southern Borneo. These were initially identified as *C. bankanensis*, but detailed comparison revealed consistent differences that indicated that the material from southern Borneo belongs to a distinct, unnamed species. We present evidence in this study to confirm that this is the case and describe the south Bornean species as *Chaca serica*, new species.

Material and methods

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 were made point to point (except for snout length, which is measured as a projection) with dial calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter.