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Glyptothorax jayarami, a new species of catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from Mizoram, northeastern India

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Abstract

A new sisorid catfish, *Glyptothorax jayarami*, is described from the Kaladan basin of Mizoram, India. It is characteristic in having densely tuberculate skin; an elongate, ovoid thoracic adhesive apparatus with an oval central depression from which the ridges on the apparatus diverge; two blackish-brown blotches at caudal-fin base behind the hypural plate; well developed plicae on the ventral surfaces of simple and adjacent branched rays of pectoral and pelvic fins; a narrow caudal peduncle (5.5–7.9 % SL) and long 2 + 6–7 gill rakers on the first branchial arch.

Key words: New sisorid, Kaladan basin, India, Pisces

Introduction

Members of the sisorid catfish genus *Glyptothorax* Blyth, inhabiting mountain torrents or the faster-flowing reaches of large rivers are widely distributed from the Tigris and Euphrates River drainages in the west to the Yangtze River drainage in the east and southward to Southeast Asia (Ferraris, 2007; Ng & Kottelat, 2008). The distribution of each of these rheophilic species, however, is restricted to a particular region (Ng & Rachmatika, 2005). This species-rich genus, with about 90 nominal species (Ng & Hadiaty, 2009), is diagnosed by the presence of a thoracic adhesive apparatus consisting of longitudinal or oblique folds of skin as well as long and thin lateral processes of the vomer extending under the entire length of the articular process of the lateral ethmoid (de Pinna, 1996). Molecular phylogenetic studies based on nuclear RAG2 gene and mitochondrial COI and Cyt b genes of 50 species out of about 70 valid species strongly support the monophyly of *Glyptothorax* (Jiang *et al.*, 2011).

The Kaladan River, itself a drainage, originates in the Chin Hills of Myanmar, flows into Mizoram, India and back to Myanmar in the Arakan (Rakhine) and then into the Bay of Bengal near Sittwe. From this river, Kar & Sen (2007) reported *Glyptothorax cavia* and *G. telchitta*, Anganthoibi & Vishwanath (2010) described *G. chimtuipuiensis* and Anganthoibi & Vishwanath (2011) described *G. ater* and *G. caudimaculatus*.

Further collections of fishes from the Kaladan River in Mizoram, India, included an undescribed *Glyptothorax* species which is herein described as *G. jayarami*, new species.

Material and methods

Measurements were made on the left side of the specimens with a dial caliper to the nearest 0.1 mm, following Ng & Kottelat (1998). Head length (HL) and the measurement of the body parts are expressed as proportions of standard length (SL) and the subunits of the head as proportions of head length (HL). The adhesive apparatus was measured following Vishwanath & Linthoignambi (2007). Osteological structures were observed in a cleared and alizarin-stained specimen. Fin rays were counted under a stereo-zoom light microscope. Numbers in parentheses following a count indicate the frequency of that count. Gill raker counts were expressed as epibranch + ceratobranch. Image of the gill raker was captured using a Leica DFC 425 fitted on a Leica stereo-zoom microscope S8APO. Vertebral counts follow Roberts (1989). Institutional abbreviations follow Eschmeyer (1998).

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