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Pseudolaguvia viriosa, a new catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from north-eastern India

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Abstract

This study describes *Pseudolaguvia viriosa*, a new miniature sisorid catfish from the Brahmaputra River drainage in Arunachal Pradesh, northeastern India. *Pseudolaguvia viriosa* can be distinguished from congeners in having a combination of: eye diameter 10–15% HL, interorbital distance 35–38% HL, head width 21.5–23.5% SL, thoracic adhesive apparatus reaching beyond base of last pectoral-fin ray, pectoral spine length 26.9–32.9% SL, dorsal spine length 23.4–29.0% SL, dorsal spine with anterior edge smooth or with rugose surface only on distal third of spine, body depth at anus 16.9–19.0% SL, length of adipose-fin base 12.5–15.4% SL, caudal peduncle length 14.8–17.7% SL, caudal peduncle depth 7.4–9.8% SL, caudal-fin length 26.5–32.4% SL, 28–29 vertebrae, and one or more distinct pale bands encircling body.

Key words: Siluriformes, Sisoroidea, Arunachal Pradesh, Brahmaputra River drainage

Introduction

Small-bodied sisorid catfishes of the genus *Pseudolaguvia* are found in the Ganges River drainage southwards to the Bharathappuzha River drainage and eastwards to the Sittang River drainage. They superficially resemble miniature species of *Glyptothorax* in overall morphology and in having a thoracic adhesive apparatus consisting of longitudinal pleats of skin arranged in an elliptical field, but have prominent postcoracoid processes lacking in *Glyptothorax*. The genus has been demonstrated to be monophyletic by Ng (2006b). Fourteen species of *Pseudolaguvia* are considered valid (Radhakrishnan et al., 2011): *P. ribeiroi* (Hora 1921), *P. shawi* (Hora 1921), *P. tuberculata* (Prashad & Mukerji 1929), *P. kapuri* (Tilak & Husain 1975), *P. tenebricosa* Britz & Ferraris 2003, *P. foveolata* Ng 2005a, *P. inornata* Ng 2005b, *P. muricata* Ng 2005b, *P. ferula* Ng 2006a, *P. ferruginea* Ng 2009, *P. flavida* Ng 2009, *P. virgulata* Ng & Lalramliana 2010a, *P. spicula* Ng & Lalramliana 2010b and *P. austrina* Radhakrishnan, Sureshkumar & Ng 2011.

During recent ichthyological surveys of the Siang River drainage in Arunachal Pradesh, India, the second author collected specimens of a *Pseudolaguvia* species with relatively long fin spines. Detailed comparison of this material with congeners revealed it to belong to a previously unnamed species. The description of this material as *Pseudolaguvia viriosa* new species forms the basis of this study.

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, following Ng & Dodson (1999). 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). Fin-ray and vertebral counts were made from radiographs, with the latter counted following the method of Roberts (1994). An asterisk after a meristic value indicates the

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