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A new catfish of the genus *Glyptothorax* from the Kaladan basin, Northeast India (Teleostei: Sisoridae)

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Abstract

Glyptothorax churamanii, a new sisorid catfish species from the Kaladan basin of Mizoram State, Northeast India is described. It is distinguished from the congeners of *Glyptothorax* in the NE Indian region by the combination of the following characters: an oblong thoracic adhesive apparatus opening caudally with an inverted V-shaped median depression on its posterior half; the ventral lobe of the caudal fin longer than the dorsal lobe, with diffused black submarginal bands on each lobe; sparsely tuberculate skin; ventral surfaces of pectoral spine and first (and sometimes second) rays of pelvic fins pleated, plicae on pectoral spine arranged in rows, continuous distally and dissociated in a series of three to five hexagonal-shaped spots in each row; and 3+10 rakers on the first branchial arch.

Key words: Sisoridae, Kaladan River, Northeastern India

Introduction

The Chin Hills-Arakan freshwater ecoregion as presented by Abell *et al*. (2008) covers major parts of Mizoram, India, the adjoining areas of Bangladesh and western parts of Myanmar. As inferred from their map, the region is expected to contain 323–490 fish species with 28-40 endemics. Kar & Sen (2007) listed 42 species of fishes from Kaladan. However, the ichthyofauna of the river is poorly explored (Anganthoibi & Vishwanath, 2010), and current estimates of its freshwater fish diversity are almost certainly too low (Vishwanath *et al.*, 2010).

The Kaladan River, an independent drainage connected to neither the Ganga–Brahmaputra nor the Chindwin–Irrawaddy, is about 350 km in length. After originating from the Chin Hills in Myanmar it flows into India and drains the south-eastern part of Mizoram before draining finally into the Bay of Bengal near Sittwe. Eight species of fishes, viz., *Hara koladynensis* (Anganthoibi & Vishwanath, 2009), *Pseudecheneis koladynae* (Anganthoibi & Vishwanath, 2010), *G. chimtuipuiensis* (Anganthoibi & Vishwanath, 2010), *G. ater* and *G. caudimaculatus* (Anganthoibi & Vishwanath, 2011), *G. jayarami* (Rameshori & Vishwanath, 2012), *Batasio convexirostrum* (Darshan *et al.*, 2011) and *Barilius profundus* (Dishma & Vishwanath, 2012) are known only from the Indian part of the drainage.

During recent ichthyological surveys of the Kaladan River, Mizoram, among the many specimens of fishes collected was a species of a novel *Glyptothorax*, which is herein described as *Glyptothorax churamanii*, new species.

Material and methods

Measurements were made on the left side of the specimens with digital calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm, following Ng & Kottelat (1998). Head length (HL) and the measurement of 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 & Linthoingambi (2007). Osteological structures were observed in a cleared and

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