



Article

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***Rectoris longibarbus*, a new styglophic labeonine species (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from South China, with a note on the taxonomy of *R. mutabilis* (Lin 1933)**

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Abstract

Rectoris longibarbus, new species, is here described from the Zuo–Jiang of the Pearl River drainage at Jinxi County, Guangxi Province, China. It is distinct from all other congeners in the rostral barbel length and the structure of the gas-bladder. *Rectoris longibarbus* is further distinguished from *R. posehensis* by having a slightly papillated posteromedian patch on the median plate of the lower lip, and from *R. mutabilis*, as here understood, by having a longitudinal black stripe running along the lateral line on the flank. Taxonomic problems with *R. mutabilis* are also addressed; it is regarded to be a senior synonym of *R. luxiensis*. The type locality of *R. mutabilis* is likely in the Yuan–Jiang (a tributary of the middle Yangtze River drainage) in Guizhou Province. The species currently recognized as *R. mutabilis* is previously unnamed, and possibly represents an undescribed genus.

Key words: *Rectoris*, new species, Cyprinidae, taxonomy, China

Introduction

The labeonine cyprinid genus *Rectoris* was originally established by Lin (1935) as a monotypic genus for *Rectoris posehensis* on the basis of two 109 and 72 mm SL specimens from Poseh (presently Baise), Kwangxi (presently Guangxi Province). A taxonomic revision of *Rectoris* was subsequently presented by Wu *et al.* (1977) in their monograph on Chinese cyprinids in which two other species were referred to this genus: *R. mutabilis*, a species originally described in *Epalzeorhynchus* by Lin (1933) based on four specimens from the Yunkiang, Kweichow (presently Guizhou), and *R. luxiensis*, which was then described by Wu *et al.* as a new species from the Yuan–Jiang of the Lake Dongting system in Hunan Province. The classification of this genus by Wu *et al.* has since been accepted widely by subsequent authors (Li 1989; Zhang *et al.* 2000). Recently, Li *et al.* (2002) described *R. longifinus* as a new species from Yunnan, but without a precise type locality. Our photographic examination of the type material demonstrated that this species does not belong to *Rectoris*. Its generic classification needs further investigation, but that is beyond the scope of the present paper.

Although Kottelat (2001) addressed several taxonomic issues with *R. mutabilis*, but the taxonomy of this species is still poorly understood. The type locality of *R. mutabilis* is in Kweichow (presently Guizhou) Province where no specimens of this species other than the types have been caught until now. Its original description reads: “Chin provided with more or less triangular patch of small, roundish papillae, rudimentary, or absent in young specimens.” Two specimens of 166 and 175 mm SL from the Yuan–Jiang (= Red River) drainage in Yunnan, southern China, on which the description of *R. mutabilis* by Wu *et al.* (1977) was based, did not fit the original description of this species in this regard.

Rectoris luxiensis is known from the Xiang–Jiang and Yuan–Jiang in Hunan Province, and Daling–He in Chongqing City (Zhang *et al.* 2000). Careful examination demonstrates that a triangular, slightly papillated patch on the chin is present in the specimens of *R. luxiensis* from its known distributions. Comparison of the other data given in the original description of *R. mutabilis* with those obtained from the type material and available materials