



Article

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***Schistura maejotigrina*, a new stream loach (Pisces: Nemacheilidae) from northern Thailand**

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Abstract

Schistura maejotigrina, new species, is described from Maechaem River, a tributary of Ping River, in the upper Chao Phraya River drainage, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. It is distinguished from all other species of *Schistura* in having 21–24 dark tiger-stripe black bars on the side of the body and 6½–7½ branched dorsal soft rays. The species is medium-sized, reaching 53.0 mm SL (69.6 mm TL), and is known only from the Maechaem River system, Ping River drainage, northern Chao Phraya River basin, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. It lives in fast running, clear water over a substrate of mixed gravel, small stone and sand.

Key words: Chiang Mai Province, Maechaem River, nemacheilines, new species

Introduction

Nemacheilines are small benthic fishes that inhabit running water and well oxygenated hill streams. Many species of this group inhabit mountainous areas, especially in northern Thailand and neighboring countries, including Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and China (Kottelat 1990a). Nemacheilines in Southeast Asia are divided into nine genera (31 genera worldwide), with 68 species of *Nemacheilus*, 184 species of *Schistura*, seven species of *Physoschistura*, four species of *Acanthocobitis*, two species of *Tuberoschistura*, one species of *Sectoria*, five species of *Neonoemacheilus*, one species of *Yunnanilus*, and two species of *Pteronemacheilus* (Eschmeyer 2012).

Schistura McClelland 1838 is characterized by the following combination of characters: an elongated body with almost uniform depth; mouth moderately arched; blunt snout; inferior mouth; lower lip with median interruption but not forming two lateral triangular pads, from smooth to strongly furrowed; origin of dorsal fin inserted near to a vertical to origin of pelvic fin; pelvic fin not extending to anal fin; body with scales, no acuminate scales on caudal peduncle; secondary sexual dimorphism present or not; dorsal fin with one or two black marks along its base; dark band on base of caudal fin (Kottelat 1990a).

Species of *Schistura* in Southeast Asia were summarized by Kottelat (1990a). Subsequently, species have been described from Thailand (Kottelat 1990b; Vidthayanon 2003, Vidthayanon & Kottelat 2003; Plongsesthee *et al.* 2011), Laos (Kottelat 1998, 2000; Vidthayanon & Jaruthanin 2002), Myanmar (Bohlen & Šlechtová 2009, 2011), Vietnam (Freyhof & Serov 2001; Kottelat 2004; Nguyen 2005; Nguyen & Nguyen 2007), and Cambodia (Ou *et al.* 2011).

Materials and methods

Fishes were collected by electroshockers, scoop nets and side tracking. Color in freshly collected specimens was noted, and specimens were photographed before fixation and preservation in 10% formaldehyde, then stored in 75% ethanol and deposited at the Maejo Aquatic Resources Natural Museum (MARNM). Terminology follows Jayaram (2002) and for counts and measurements follow Kottelat (1990a). Morphological measurements were done using a slide caliper (0.1 mm precision). Thirty-one (26 morphometric and 5 meristic) characters were measured.