



Article

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***Physoschistura dikrongensis*, a new loach from Arunachal Pradesh, India (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae)**

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Abstract

A new species of nemacheilid, *Physoschistura dikrongensis*, is described from the Brahmaputra basin in Arunachal Pradesh, India. It is easily distinguishable from congeners in having two V-shaped dark brown bars across the caudal fin towards the distal end; 11–15 irregular bars on the body; dark brown mottled markings on the head; 4 simple and 8½ branched dorsal-fin rays; 4 simple anal-fin rays; an incomplete lateral line; a forked caudal fin with 8+7 branched rays; a well-developed axillary pelvic lobe; suborbital flap in males, and nine preoperculo-mandibular sensory canal pores.

Key words: Dikrong River, Doimukh, Brahmaputra basin, New nemacheilid

Introduction

Banarescu & Nalbant (in Singh *et al.* 1982) described the genus *Physoschistura* designating *Nemacheilus brunneana* Annandale (1918) from Yawnghwe Valley and Inle Lake, Myanmar, as its type species. Kottelat (1990, 2001) and Lokeshwor & Vishwanath (2012) diagnosed the genus in having a small body (less than 60 mm SL), strongly arched mouth, medially interrupted lower lip forming two lateral broadly triangular pads with deep furrows and irregularly shaped bars on the body. Chen *et al.* (2011) recognized seven species in the genus, which are distributed in the Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween and upper Mekong drainages, and described *P. yunnanioides*, a new species from the Chindwin River drainage of Myanmar. Bohlen & Šlechtová (2011) described the new genus, *Pteronemacheilus*, and placed *Physoschistura meridionalis* (Zhu 1982) in it. Lokeshwor *et al.* (2012) described *Physoschistura tuivaiensis* from the Tuivai River (Brahmaputra basin), Manipur, India, and placed *Physoschistura elongata* in *Schistura* on the basis of its lip morphology. Lokeshwor & Vishwanath (2012) recently described *Physoschistura chindwinensis* from the Lokchao River (Chindwin basin). Thus eight species are currently included in *Physoschistura*. This paper describes *P. dikrongensis*, a new species from the Dikrong River (a tributary of the Brahmaputra River) at Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

Materials and methods

Measurements and counts followed Kottelat (1990) or are self-explanatory. Measurements were made on the left side of the specimens with dial calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm. Anatomical measurements are given as proportions of standard length (SL) and head length (HL). Meristic counts were performed under a stereo-zoom light microscope. Type specimens are deposited in the Manipur University Museum of Fishes (MUMF) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata. One paratopotype (MUMF 11091/4, 51.7 mm SL) was dissected for study of intestinal coiling and morphology of the air bladder. Data from Kottelat (1990) for *Physoschistura brunneana* (Annandale 1918), *P. pseudobrunneana* Kottelat 1990, *P. shanensis* (Hora 1929) and from Chen *et al.* (2011) for *P. yunnanioides* were used in the absence of comparative material.