



# Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:7147698A-94B8-40DE-B0DB-79B01FB7D207

## ***Schistura* (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae) in the Mae Khlong basin in southwestern Thailand with description of a new species**

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### **Abstract**

Recent fieldwork has revealed the presence of six species of *Schistura* McClelland 1838 in the Mae Khlong basin in southwestern Thailand. These include *S. sexcauda* (Fowler 1937), *S. balteata* (Rendahl 1948), *S. mahnerti* Kottelat 1990, the recently described *S. aurantiaca* Plongsesthee *et al.* 2011 and *S. tenebrosa* Kangrang *et al.* 2012, and a newly discovered species described herein. *Schistura sexcauda* previously was the only *Schistura* species known in the Mae Khlong, and it was mis-identified as *S. desmotes* (Fowler 1934). *Schistura pantherina*, n. sp., is easily distinguished from all other species of *Schistura* by its distinctive color pattern. It appears to be endemic to the Mae Nam Kwai Noi system.

**Key words:** Pisces, Cypriniformes, *Schistura sexcauda*, *Schistura desmotes*

### **Introduction**

In his treatise on Indonchinese nemacheilids, Kottelat (1990) recorded only one species of *Schistura* from the Mae Khlong basin in southwestern Thailand and referred to it as *Schistura desmotes*. Recent collections from the basin have included *Schistura mahnerti*, which is widely distributed in the basin, *Schistura balteata*, apparently restricted in Thailand to the Pakkok River of the Mae Nam Kwai Noi system, and two recently discovered and described species, *Schistura aurantiaca*, also widely distributed in the basin, and *Schistura tenebrosa*, found only in a small region drained by the Pakkok River of the Mae Nam Kwai Noi system (Plongsesthee *et al.* 2011; Kangrang *et al.* 2012). A sixth species, discovered in 2011, is described herein. Re-examination of specimens examined by Kottelat (1990) and of many more recently collected specimens indicate that the species in the Mae Khlong previously referred to as *S. desmotes* is *Schistura sexcauda*.

### **Methods**

Fishes were captured throughout the basin with a Smith-Root (Vancouver, WA, U.S.A.), model 15D electrofisher, minnow seines, and dipnets. After capture, specimens were killed by an overdose of methane tricaine sulfonate (>150 mg/l) and preserved, first in 10% formalin for 7 days and then in 70% ethanol for permanent preservation.

Measurements and meristic counts, including counts of pores in the lateralis system, followed Kottelat (1990). Measurements were made point-to-point with dial calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm. Photographs were taken of live and freshly preserved specimens in the field using a Nikon COOLPIX P5100 camera and of preserved specimens using a Visionary Digital (Palmyra, Virginia) with Canon 40D and 5D cameras at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Specimens examined are from The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (ANSP),