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The identity of the cyprinid fishes *Rasbora dusonensis* and *R. tornieri* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)

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Abstract

Rasbora dusonensis, *R. tornieri* and *R. myersi* are valid species. *Rasbora dusonensis* sensu Brittan (1954) is *R. tornieri* and *R. dusonensis* sensu Kottelat (1991) is *R. myersi*. Both *R. dusonensis* and *R. tornieri* are members of the *R. argyrotaenia* group and can be distinguished from congeners in having a broad, dark, sharply-defined midlateral stripe on body extending from opercle to caudal-fin base and separated from the dark dorsum by a highly contrasting light longitudinal area; 12–14 predorsal scales; the dorsohypural distance equal to or slightly less than the distance between the dorsal-fin origin and the posterior orbital margin and 14 circumpeduncular scale rows. The two species differ from each other by the color and color pattern on the caudal fin, and caudal peduncle depth.

Key words:

Introduction

The taxonomy of the large species of the genus *Rasbora* has only been partially resolved. Kottelat (1991) attempted to summarise the information available in the literature and examined some of the type material. Among his conclusions was that *R. dusonensis* sensu Brittan (1954) should be called *R. tornieri* and that *R. myersi* Brittan, 1954 (p. 117) is a synonym of *R. dusonensis*. Since then, the name *R. dusonensis* has been applied to a species characterised by a broad, dark-brown midlateral stripe separated from the dark-brown dorsum by a highly contrasting pale stripe (e.g., Kottelat *et al.*, 1993: pl. 20). Some of the material examined possessed a black posterior margin on the caudal fin, a condition implicitly interpreted as due to geographic variation. Other colors had disappeared from the fins in the preserved specimens.

In a tributary of the Musi River near Palembang, Sumatra, we observed large-sized *Rasbora* that exhibited the characters diagnostic of *R. tornieri* sensu Kottelat (1991): a broad, dark-brown midlateral stripe separated from the dark brown dorsum by a highly contrasting pale stripe. Although they exhibited this body-color pattern, they were immediately distinguishable as two species on the basis of the caudal-fin coloration. Further investigations using recently collected material from various parts of Southeast Asia shows that Kottelat's (1991) conclusions are not correct. This study discusses the identities of, and redescribes, *R. dusonensis* and *R. tornieri*.

Material and methods

Material examined is deposited in Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden (RMNH); University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor (UMMZ); Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt Universität, Berlin (ZMB); Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC); and the collection of the second author (CMK).