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Description of *Notoglanidium pembetadi* new species (Siluriformes: Claroteidae) from the Kouilou-Niari River, Republic of the Congo

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Abstract

A new claroteid catfish, *Notoglanidium pembetadi*, is described from the Kouilou-Niari River basin (Republic of the Congo). This species can be distinguished from all other currently known *Notoglanidium* species as well as from the very similar *Anaspidoglanis boutchangai*, to which two specimens have erroneously been attributed in the past, by the following combination of characters: II, 10–13 dorsal-fin rays; long dorsal-fin base (21.1–24.4% SL); short predorsal distance (30.1–33.5% SL); and short prepelvic distance (40.1–45.4% SL).

Key words: African catfish, Lower Guinea ichthyofaunal province, taxonomy

Résumé

Une nouvelle espèce de poisson chat claroteide, *Notoglanidium pembetadi*, est décrite du bassin Kouilou-Niari (République du Congo). L'espèce peut être distinguée de toutes les autres espèces du genre *Notoglanidium*, aussi bien que de l'espèce très similaire *Anaspidoglanis boutchangai* à laquelle deux spécimens avaient été attribués par erreur dans le passé, par la combinaison unique des caractères suivants: II, 10–13 rayons à la dorsale; base de la nageoire dorsale longue (21,1–24,4% LS); distance prédorsale courte (30,1–33,5% LS); et distance prépelvienne courte (40,1–45,4% LS).

Introduction

The family Claroteidae was separated from the Bagridae by Mo (1991) on the basis of seven derived morphological features, only three of which were considered unique. Within the Claroteidae he recognised two subfamilies, Claroteinae and Auchenoglanidinae. Supporting evidence for the monophyly of each of the two subfamilies is stronger than that of the claroteid family itself (Mo, 1991). Diogo (2004), in a morphological-phylogenitic study, and Hardman (2005), in a molecular-phylogenetic study, confirmed the Claroteinae+Auchenoglanidinae clade to be monophyletic. However, the monophyly of the family has already been questioned by de Pinna (1993, 1998). More recently Sullivan *et al*. (2006) found additional evidence for the paraphyly of the Claroteidae, using a broad dataset of *Rag1* and *Rag2* nuclear gene sequences. A sister-group

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