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***Olyra saginata*, a new species of bagrid catfish (Actinopterygii: Siluriformes) from northeastern India**

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Abstract

Olyra saginata, new species, is described from the Kaladan [=Kolodyne] River system in Mizoram, northeast India. It differs from congeners in having the following unique combination of characters: interorbital distance 27.9–35.9% HL; 54–66 lateral-line pores; body depth at anus 10.5–12.0% SL; length of adipose-fin base 17.3–22.4% SL; adipose fin separate from upper principal caudal-fin rays; post-adipose distance 11.8–14.3% SL; caudal peduncle length 14.8–17.7% SL; and caudal peduncle depth 7.8–8.9% SL. The taxonomy of congeners is also briefly discussed.

Key words: Bagridae, Mizoram, Kaladan River

Introduction

The bagrid catfish genus *Olyra* is known from the Ganges-Brahmaputra river system in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent. It is also known from localities southwards to the Manimalai River in southwestern India and eastwards to the Mae Klong River drainage in western Thailand. The genus is a supported monophyletic group diagnosed by the following combination of external characters: anguilliform body; unossified first and second dorsal-fin elements; and greatly enlarged upper caudal-fin lobe (Mo, 1991). The taxonomy of *Olyra* species is problematic and the number of valid species has been variously thought to range from one (Hora, 1936) to five (Arunachalam *et al.*, 2013a).

During ichthyological surveys conducted in the Kaladan River drainage in the State of Mizoram, northeastern India, the second and third authors obtained specimens of a species of *Olyra* new to science, which is described here as *O. saginata*.

Material and methods

Measurements were made point to point with digital calipers and data recorded to the nearest 0.1 mm. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens whenever possible, following Ng & Kottelat (2013), except body depth at dorsal, which is measured as the vertical distance between the ventral midline and the dorsal-fin origin, and body width, which is measured at the base of the dorsal-fin spine. Fin rays were counted under a stereo zoom light microscope and confirmed by both radiographs and examination of cleared and stained specimens. Vertebral counts were made from radiographs and four paratype specimens cleared and stained following Taylor & van Dyke (1985); the vertebral formulae follow Roberts (1994). Head width, head depth and subunits of the head are presented as proportions of head length (HL). Head length and measurements of body parts are given as proportions of standard length (SL). Numbers in parentheses after a meristic value indicate the frequency of that value. Asterisks after a meristic value indicates the condition for the holotype. Nomenclature for supraorbital and

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