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***Devario deruptotalea*, a new species of cyprinid fish from Manipur, India (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)**

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Abstract

Devario deruptotalea, a new cyprinid fish, is described from Dutah Stream, a tributary of the Yu River (Chindwin drainage) in Manipur, India. It is distinguished from all its congeners by a unique colour pattern consisting of the following combination of pigmented elements: 4–6 dark brown irregularly shaped and arranged bars that are partly confluent with adjacent bars at different levels on the anterior one-third of the side of the body, followed by three distinct dark brown stripes posteriorly, a P stripe that is darker and about twice as broad as other stripes and extending to the tip of the median caudal-fin rays.

Key words: *Devario*, cyprinid fish, Manipur, Chindwin drainage

Introduction

The genus *Devario*, erected by Heckel (1843), was synonymised under the genus *Danio* Hamilton (1822) for many years. Fang (2003) treated *Devario* as a valid genus, the monophyly of the genus being supported by the following characters: P stripe extending to the median caudal-fin rays, infra-orbital five not or slightly reduced, maxillary barbel shorter than eye diameter, short and wide ascending process of premaxillary with a minute apophysis contacting the kinethmoid. *Devario* has been broadly divided into two groups: striped *Devario* as described by Fang (1997a) and barred *Devario*, described by Fang (1997b). Striped species of *Devario* have two or more stripes and light interspaces along the sides of the body with a median stripe extending onto the median caudal-fin rays. Barred species of *Devario* have regular vertical bars followed by the P stripe ending at the caudal-fin base (except *D. apopyris* and *D. pathirana* in which the P stripe extends onto the median caudal-fin rays). Presently, 10 species of *Devario*, viz., *D. acuticephala*, *D. affinis*, *D. amandalei*, *D. browni*, *D. manipurensis*, *D. naganensis*, *D. sondhii*, *D. spinosus*, *D. strigillifer*, and *D. xyrops* are treated valid from the Chindwin drainage, of which *D. xyrops* is barred while the rest are striped.

Recent collection of fishes from Dutah Stream (Chindwin drainage), Chandel District of Manipur, India, included a species of *Devario* with irregular coloured bars and stripes on the side of the body. Upon close examination, the species is found differ from all congeners and is herein described as *Devario deruptotalea*, new species.

Material and methods

The specimens were fixed in 10% formalin and then transferred to 70% ethanol. Measurements were taken point to point with digital calipers to 0.1 mm on the left side of the specimens whenever possible. Counts and measurements follow Fang (1997a) except interorbital width, which is measured as the shortest distance between the left and right osseous supraorbital margins, and head width, which is the widest distance between the opercles. Meristic counts and tuberculation examination were done under a stereoscopic light microscope. Colour pattern

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