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***Parachiloglanis bhutanensis*, a new species of torrent catfish (Siluriformes: Sisoridae) from Bhutan**

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Abstract

Parachiloglanis bhutanensis is a newly discovered species of torrent catfish from eastern Bhutan. With its discovery, the genus *Parachiloglanis* is no longer monotypic. The species differs from *Parachiloglanis hodgarti* in meristic, mensural, and coloration characters. *Parachiloglanis bhutanensis* is confirmed as a member of the genus by the absence of a post-labial groove on the lower lip, which is present in other genera of the subfamily Glyptosterninae (as either complete or incomplete). It is diagnosed within the genus by the presence (versus absence) of a series of 35–40 large white pores along the lateral line, a tall adipose fin (roughly two times the height of the adipose fin in *P. hodgarti*), a less dorsoventrally flattened body than *P. hodgarti*, a deeper head, wider mouth, longer inner- and outer-mandibular barbels, a truncate (versus indented to lunate) caudal fin, and the absence (versus presence) of black and white pigmentation on the caudal fin.

Key words: Sisorid catfish, *Parachiloglanis hodgarti*, Glyptosterninae

Introduction

The genus *Parachiloglanis* Wu *et al.* is a monotypic genus containing only *P. hodgarti* (Hora). However, there is tremendous variation within *P. hodgarti* over a large range in the eastern Himalayas, warranting further examination. Fishes currently lumped within *P. hodgarti* are small (<15 cm) and have elongate, dorsoventrally flattened bodies, large, semicircular pectoral fins, inferior mouths, homodont dentition forming a crescent shaped pad on the upper jaw, heterodont dentition on the lower jaw, and a series of adhesive striations on the leading pectoral and pelvic fin rays. *Parachiloglanis* is distinguished from other genera in the subfamily Glyptosterninae by the absence of a post-labial groove on the lower jaw (versus present) and heterodont (versus homodont) dentition on the lower jaw (Wu *et al.* 1981; Thompson & Page 2006). *Parachiloglanis* also differs from many other glyptosternines in its extremely posterior vent, occurring just anterior to the anal-fin origin (versus nearer to pelvic fins; Linthoingambi & Vishwanath 2011). *Parachiloglanis* is currently known to occur in Nepal, northeast India, Myanmar, China, and now in Bhutan, located in the center of this large range.

Hora (1923) described *Glyptosternum hodgarti* as a new species based on it being the only species of glyptosternine “lacking any labial fold on the lower lip” (p. 28.). Throughout the revisions of glyptosternine fishes, *Parachiloglanis* has remained as the only genus with no labial fold on the lower lip, although some confusion exists with respect to *Myersglanis blythii* (Day). This confusion was made clear by the misidentification of several comparative materials (personal observation). However, *Myersglanis* Hora & Silas is diagnosed by the “continuous nature of the lower lip”, referring to its connection to the upper lip as shown by Thompson and Page (2006; p. 62) as well as homodont dentition in both the upper and lower jaws, thus species of this genus should be easily distinguished from *Parachiloglanis* by these characters (Hora & Silas 1953; Thompson & Page 2006).

During a fall 2013 expedition, an undescribed species of *Parachiloglanis* with consistent and diagnosable differences was discovered in two headwater tributaries of the Dangmechhu River in the Brahmaputra drainage. This species is herein described as *Parachiloglanis bhutanensis* **n. sp.**

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