



Two new species of the South Asian catfish genus *Pseudolaguvia* from northeastern India (Teleostei: Sisoridae)

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Abstract

Two new species of sisorid catfish, *Pseudolaguvia magna* and *P. jiyaensis*, are described from the upper Brahmaputra River basin in Arunachal Pradesh, northeastern India. *Pseudolaguvia magna* differs from its congeners by its much larger size (47.0 mm standard length vs. a maximum of 35.6 mm), by having a broader rhomboid thoracic adhesive apparatus, two pale-brown or cream patches on the mid-dorsal region across the dorsal midline: one rectangular to elliptic patch on the mid-interdorsal region, and another indistinct elliptic to irregular patch between the adipose and caudal-fins; and a small, round, pale-brown to cream spot on the lateral side of the head; and except for *P. inornata*, *P. austrina*, *P. virgulata*, and *P. assula*, in lacking pale to cream cross-bands on the body. Another syntopic new species, *Pseudolaguvia jiyaensis*, is distinguished from its congeners by having the thoracic adhesive apparatus almost reaching the pelvic-fin origin, and by having fewer vertebrae (25–27 vs. 28–34; except in *P. tenebricosa* and *P. tuberculata*). Details of the combination of characters differentiating each of the new species from its congeners are provided in the respective diagnoses.

Key words: Siluriformes, Sisoroidea, Arunachal Pradesh, northeastern India, upper Brahmaputra River drainage

Introduction

Members of the south Asian sisorid catfish genus *Pseudolaguvia* are small, cryptically-colored fishes found throughout hill streams and larger rivers of the Ganges and Brahmaputra drainages, distributed from Nepal in the west, to north and northeast India, the Bharatapuzha River, Western Ghats, in the state of Kerala, and the Kumaradhara River in the state of Karnataka, in the south, and the Brahmaputra drainages in Bangladesh and the Ayeyarwaddy and Sittang drainages in Myanmar in the east (Ng 2006a; Ng & Lalramliana 2010b; Radhakrishnan *et al.* 2010; Britz *et al.* 2013). *Pseudolaguvia* superficially resemble members of the sisorid genus *Glyptothorax* with which they share chiefly the presence of a thoracic adhesive apparatus consisting of longitudinal pleats of skin arranged in an elliptical or rhomboidal field, but differ by having a prominent postcoracoid process and a serrated anterior margin of the pectoral fin, both of which are absent in *Glyptothorax*. A phylogenetic analysis of the Sisoridae, using both morphological and molecular characters, has shown *Pseudolaguvia* to be monophyletic and more closely related to erethistins (*Ayarnangra*, *Caelatoglanis*, *Conta*, *Erethistes*, *Erethistoides* and *Hara*) than to *Glyptothorax* (Ng, 2006b). *Pseudolaguvia* is distinguished from most members of the erethistins *sensu stricto* (Thomson & Page, 2006), by having wide gill openings that nearly meet each other on the venter (except in *Caelatoglanis*), a thoracic adhesive apparatus with a central median depression, or if present (e.g. in *Caelatoglanis*) in lacking a median depression. It can be further distinguished from *Caelatoglanis* by having a papillate (vs. plicate) upper lip and a more slender body; from *Conta* by having a smooth or granular (vs. serrated) anterior margin on the dorsal-fin spine; from *Ayarnangra* by having 8–10 (vs. 13–16) anal-fin rays; from *Erethistes* and *Hara* by having a more slender (vs. shorter) body; and from *Erethistoides* by having only antrorse (vs. antrorse and retrorse) serrations on the anterior margin on the pectoral-fin spine (Hora, 1950; Ng & Kottelat, 2005; Roberts, 2001).

Our recent field collections from a small stream near Bolik village in Lower Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh, led to the discovery of two species of *Pseudolaguvia*. One species has a larger body (7 adults, 38.4–46.7

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