Dario huli, a new species of badid from Karnataka, southern India (Teleostei: Percomorpha: Badidae)

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Abstract

Dario huli, new species, is described from a small tributary stream of the Tunga River in southern Karnataka, India. It can be distinguished from all its congeners except D. urops by the presence of a conspicuous black caudal-fin blotch and by anterior dorsal-fin lappets in males not being produced beyond fin spines. It is readily distinguished from Dario urops by the absence of the horizontal suborbital stripe (vs. presence), the presence of a series of up to eight black bars on the body (vs. 2–3 black bars restricted to caudal peduncle), 25 scales in a lateral row (vs. 28), 3–5 tubed lateral-line scales (vs. tubed lateral-line scales completely absent), 13+13=26 vertebrae (vs. 14+14–15=28-29), and the presence of teeth on hypobranchial 3 (vs. absence of teeth).

Key words: taxonomy, freshwater fishes, Western Ghats–Sri Lanka biodiversity hotspot

Introduction

The Western Ghats mountain range along the west coast of Peninsular India harbours a diverse freshwater-fish fauna of close to 300 species (Dahanukar et al. 2011). Renewed scientific interest in this fauna in the last few years has led to the discovery of a number of new species whose closest relatives live in the northeast of India and adjacent countries, such as, e.g., the sisorids Pseudolaguvia austrina (Radhakrishnan et al. 2011) and P. lapillicola (Britz et al. 2012a), the cobitid Pangio ammophila (Britz et al. 2012a) or the psilorhynchid Psilorhynchus temura (Arunachalam & Muralidharan et al. 2008). Another unexpected discovery was the badid Dario urops (Britz et al. 2012b).

The Badidae comprise a total of 21 valid species (see Kullander & Britz 2002; Geetakumari & Vishwanath 2010; Schindler & Linke 2010; Geetakumari & Kadu 2011; Britz et al. 2012) in two genera, Badis Bleeker and Dario Kullander & Britz. Before the discovery of the southern Indian D. urops, the known distribution of the genus Dario, with its three included species, was restricted to the Brahmaputra drainage in northern India (D. dario) and the Ayeyarwaddy drainage in Myanmar and China (D. hysginon, D. dayingensis). Recently, an additional species, D. kajal, was described from the Meghna river drainage in India (Britz & Kullander 2013).

During fieldwork in southern Karnataka, peninsular India, a species of Dario with a distinctive colour pattern was collected from along the banks of a small stream: it is here described as D. huli, new species.

Material and methods

Ten measurements and 10 counts were taken following the methods outlined in Kullander & Britz (2002). We adopted Kullander & Britz’s (2002) terminology for colour pattern and cephalic lateral-line pores. Counts of vertebrae and procurent rays are based on the single cleared and double-stained (Taylor & Van Dyke, 1985) specimen. Specimens are deposited in the collection of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai, India. Information on D. urops was taken from the original description (Britz et al. 2012b).
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References


