Psilorhynchus kaladanensis, a new species (Teleostei: Psilorhynchidae) from Mizoram, northeastern India

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Abstract

Psilorhynchus kaladanensis, a new psilorhynchid, is described from the Kaladan basin of Mizoram, India. The new species is diagnosed by having the following combination of characters: caudal fin with small but distinct dark brown triangular spot at mid-base, slightly elongated dark mark near base of lower lobe, indistinct V-shaped vertical bar across center, dark brown oblique bar across fin anterior to center; absence of scales on mid-ventral region between pectoral fins; anteriormost branchiostegal ray greatly reduced in length; 32–33 total vertebrae; 30–32 lateral-line scales; caudal fin with 10+9 principal rays.

Key words: new species, diversity, Indo-Myanmar, Sittwe

Introduction

The genus Psilorhynchus McClelland, commonly referred to as torrent minnows, inhabit fast flowing rivers and streams of the Ganges-Brahmaputra drainage, Peninsular India, Ayeyarwaddy drainage of India and Myanmar, Ann Chaung drainage and Ataran River drainage of Myanmar, and Kaladan drainage of northeastern India (Rainboth, 1983; Conway & Kottelat, 2007; Arunachalam & Muralidharan, 2008; Conway & Kottelat, 2010; Lalramliana et al., 2014). Psilorhynchus is characterized by an arched dorsum, flattened ventral surface, small and inferior mouth, projecting snout, lack of barbels, uniserial pharyngeal teeth, gill-membranes joined broadly to isthmus with aperture extending ventrally to base of pectoral fin, horizontally inserted paired fins, naked breast and at least 8 scale rows between anus and anal fin (Rainboth, 1983).


Recent investigation in the Kaladan River and its tributaries in Mizoram, northeastern India, included a species of Psilorhynchus that could not be identified. Detailed comparisons of this material with congeners revealed it to belong to an unnamed species. The description of this material as Psilorhynchus kaladanensis, new species, forms the basis of this study.