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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 atleast 8 scale rows between anus and anal fin (Rainboth, 1983).

Twenty-three species of *Psilorhynchus* are considered valid: *P. sucatio* (Hamilton), *P. balitora* (Hamilton), *P. homaloptera* Hora & Mukerji, *P. rowleyi* (Hora & Misra), *P. pseudecheneis* Menon & Datta, *P. nudithoracicus* **Tilak & Husain**, *P. microphthalmus* Vishwanath & Manojkumar, *P. arunachalensis* (Nebeshwar, Bagra & Das), *P. amplicephalus* Arunachalam, Muralidharan & Sivakumar, *P. robustus* Conway & Kottelat, *P. tenura* Arunachalam & Muralidharan, *P. breviminor* Conway & Mayden, *P. nepalensis* Conway & Mayden, *P. rahmani* Conway & Mayden, *P. pavimentatus* Conway & Kottelat, *P. melissa* Conway & Kottelat, *P. brachyrhynchus* Conway & Britz, *P. piperatus* Conway & Britz, *P. gokkyi* Conway & Britz, *P. maculatus* Shangningam & Vishwanath, *P. chakpiensis* Shangningam & Vishwanath, *P. hamiltoni* Conway, Dittmer, Jezicek & Ng, and *P. khopai* Lalramliana, Solo, Lalronunga & Lalnuntluanga.

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.

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