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A new species of torrent catfish, *Liobagrus hyeongsanensis* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Amblycipitidae), from Korea

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Abstract

A new species of torrent catfish, *Liobargus hyeongsanensis*, is described from rivers and tributaries of the southeastern coast of Korea. The new species can be differentiated from its congeners by the following characteristics: a small size with a maximum standard length (SL) of 90 mm; body and fins entirely brownish-yellow without distinct markings; a relatively short pectoral spine (3.7–6.5 % SL); a reduced body-width at pectoral-fin base (15.5–17.9 % SL); 50–54 caudal-fin rays; 6–8 gill rakers; 2–3 (mostly 3) serrations on pectoral fin; 60–110 eggs per gravid female.

Key words: Amblycipitidae, *Liobagrus hyeongsanensis*, New species, Endemic, South Korea

Introduction

Species of the family Amblycipitidae, which comprises four genera, are found in swift freshwater streams in southern and eastern Asia, ranging from Pakistan across northern India to Malaysia, Korea, and Southern Japan (Chen & Lundberg 1995; Ng & Kottelat 2000; Kim & Park 2002; Wright & Ng 2008). Four species are endemic to the Korean peninsula: *Liobagrus andersoni* Regan, 1908, *L. mediadiposalis* Mori, 1936, *L. obesus* Son, Kim & Choo, 1987, and *L. somjinensis* Park & Kim, 2010. In a recent examination of populations of *L. mediadiposalis* in rivers and streams in Korea, we found evidence that populations restricted to rivers flowing to the eastern coast belonged to a distinct, unnamed species, which is described herein as *Liobargus hyeongsanensis*.

Material and methods

Counts and measurements were taken following the procedures of Hubbs & Lagler (1964) and Wright & Ng (2008). Fin spines and soft rays were counted from radiographs, with the last two elements of the dorsal and anal fins being counted as one ray. Vertebral counts were also made from soft X-ray photographs (HA80, HITEX, Japan), with the three components associated with the Weberian apparatus being excluded (Chen & Lundberg 1995; Zhao *et al.* 2004). Measurements were taken using a digital caliper (to the nearest 0.1 mm). All specimens were deposited at the Faculty of Biology, Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, Korea (CNUC).

Liobagrus hyeongsanensis sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Type material. Holotype: CNUC 38547, 84.1 mm standard length (SL); Hyeongsan River, Yangbuk-myeon, Gyeongju-si, South Korea, 35°49'58"N 129°24'41"E; J.Y. Park & S.H. Kim, 2 June 2013.