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Fundulopanchax kamdemi (Cyprinodontiformes: Nothobranchiidae) a new species from Korup National Park, western Cameroon

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Abstract

Fundulopanchax kamdemi, new species, is described from small swampy pools and rivulets of the Ndian and Akpa-Yafe River systems, Cameroon. *F. kamdemi* is distinguished from all other known *Fundulopanchax* species by a unique male coloration and from most congeners by a higher number of rays in dorsal and anal fins.

Key words: Nothobranchiidae, *Fundulopanchax kamdemi* sp. nov., Western Central Africa, systematics

Introduction

The Nothobranchiidae are The most speciose of the African cyprinodontiform families and have their highest diversity in the two main rainforest areas of West and Central Africa. Of these two, the Central African rainforest area is the most diverse and species rich. Within this region, two large and endemic groups of nothobranchiids, *Fundulopanchax* and *Aphyosemion* have a partially overlapping distribution. The knowledge about phylogeny and biogeography of both genera increased in recent years as well as the number of known species. However, the knowledge of the distribution of some species is limited as they are known from a small number of localities, often far apart (Huber, 2000; Wildekamp, 1996).

Fundulopanchax was originally described by Myers (1924) as a subgenus in *Aphyosemion* Myers, 1924 but his diagnostic characters were not adopted in subsequent revisions. On the basis of two synapomorphic characters, Parenti (1981) recognized *Fundulopanchax* as a monophyletic sister group to *Nothobranchius* Peters, 1868 and consequently designated *Fundulopanchax* as a genus. Van der Zee and Wildekamp (1994) accepted the generic status of *Fundulopanchax*, but the value of Parenti's (1981) diagnostic characters was disputed. Additionally, they found four diagnostic characters for the genus *Fundulopanchax*: chorionic structure (puncti), anal-fin skeleton (lateral processes on anal radialia reduced), otolith morphology and caudal peduncle squamation (16 or more scales, except *Paludopanchax* Radda, 1977) (see Van der Zee & Wildekamp, 1994). Murphy and Collier (1999), using mitochondrial DNA sequences, corroborated the generic status of *Fundulopanchax*, but they did not, in most cases, find correlation between the species groups as proposed by Radda (1977) on morphological arguments. In Murphy and Collier (1999), *Aphyosemion* is the sister group to *Fundulopanchax*, whereas in a second molecular genetic study, based on more limited material and focused on the evolution of diapause in New World Rivulidae, by Hrbek and Larson (1999), *Aphyosemion* is the sister group to a clade comprised of *Fundulopanchax* and *Nothobranchius* (Fig. 1). Morphological char-

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