

## ***Tachysurus spilotus*, a new species of catfish from central Vietnam (Teleostei: Bagridae)**

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### **Abstract**

*Tachysurus spilotus*, a new species of catfish from central Vietnam, is described. It can be distinguished from congeners except *T. argentivittatus*, *T. longispinalis*, and *T. virgatus* in having a color pattern consisting of black longitudinal stripes on a pale body (vs. with a uniform-colored body with pale patches or transverse bands on a dark body, or with dark rectangular patches on a pale body). It differs from both *T. argentivittatus* and *T. virgatus* in snout shape and having gently convex (vs. straight) posterior edges of the caudal-fin lobes; and from *T. longispinalis* in having a shorter dorsal-fin spine (ca. 27% SL vs. 15.1–19.0) and maxillary barbels (shorter, vs. longer than head). *Tachysurus mica* is shown here to be conspecific with—and a junior synonym of—*T. argentivittatus*.

**Key words:** Siluriformes, *Tachysurus argentivittatus*, *Pseudobagrus*, *Pelteobagrus*, Annam Cordillera

### **Introduction**

The bagrid catfish genus *Tachysurus* (known until very recently in the literature as *Pelteobagrus* or *Pseudobagrus*) is among the most speciose catfish groups in East Asia, with at least 31 valid species (Ng & Freyhof; Ng & Kottelat, 2007; Cheng *et al.*, 2008). Its members inhabit habitats ranging from fast-flowing hillstreams to large rivers, and are diagnosed by an extrascapular without a laterosensory canal, and a pterotic with a broad lateral laminar expansion (Mo, 1991).

Many of the species treated in this study, particularly *T. argentivittatus* (Regan, 1905) and *T. virgatus* (Oshima, 1926), are sometimes referred to the Southeast Asian bagrid genus *Leiocassis* in the literature (Zheng & Dai, 1999). My examination confirms that these species possess a synapomorphy unique to *Tachysurus*, viz. a prominent lateral extension of the pterotic (Mo, 1991), but lack any of the synapomorphies that diagnose *Leiocassis* (a very prominent snout with a strongly underslung mouth, narrow head, and a well-developed cleithral process: Mo, 1991). It is on this basis that all the species treated here are referred to *Tachysurus*.

Recent ichthyological surveys in central Vietnam obtained a bagrid catfish with a distinctive striped coloration. Four nominal species—*T. argentivittatus*, *T. longispinalis* (Nguyen, 2005), *T. mica* (Gromov, 1970) and *T. virgatus*—are known to possess a similarly distinctive coloration, and comparison of the Vietnamese material with these revealed that the Vietnamese material represented a fifth such species, which is described below as *Tachysurus spilotus*, new species.

### **Material and methods**

Measurements were made point to point with dial calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens whenever possible. Subunits of the head are