



Luciobarbus kottelati*, a new species of barbel (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from the Büyük Menderes River, Turkey, with rediagnose of *L. lydianus

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Abstract

Luciobarbus kottelati, new species, is described from the River Büyük Menderes, Aegean Sea drainage, Turkey. It is distinguished from all other species of *Luciobarbus* in Europe and western Anatolia by the pelvic-fin origin markedly in front of the dorsal-fin origin (vs. behind). *Luciobarbus lydianus*, considered to be a synonym of *L. pectoralis* by most recent authors is a valid species and is rediagnosed.

Key words: New species, Taxonomy, *Luciobarbus*, Turkey

Introduction

Although the name is still erroneously used for a number of Eurasian and African fishes, the genus *Barbus* includes fishes found in the Western Palearctic and northwestern Africa (see, e.g., Banareescu & Bogutskaya, 2003). In recent years, however, two lineages have been recognized within *Barbus* and they are now considered to be distinct genera, *Barbus* and *Luciobarbus* (Doadrio, 1990; Bianco, 1995; Bogutskaya & Naseka, 2004; Kottelat & Freyhof, 2007). *Barbus* includes species from Europe, the Caucasus, Turkey, and the Aral and Caspian basin and *Luciobarbus* includes species from north western Africa (Morocco, Algeria), the Iberian and Balkan peninsulas and western Asia. *Luciobarbus* is distinguished from *Barbus* s. str. by the shape of the lower lip (absence of papillae on the central part of the lower lip vs. central part of the lower lip completely covered by papillae), the number of teeth in the main row of pharyngeal teeth (only four pharyngeal teeth in main row, vs. five) (see Banareescu & Bogutskaya, 2003: 4), and molecular characters (see Tsigenopoulos *et al.*, 2003).

Only one nominal species of *Luciobarbus* has been reported from western Anatolia until now. It had been identified as *L. capito pectoralis* by most recent authors, following Ladiges (1960) and Karaman (1971). The discovery of a new species of *Luciobarbus* in River Menderes prompted a re-examination of the identity of the Anatolian species of the genus. We found that the western Anatolian species in fact is *L. lydianus*, already described by Boulenger (1896) and that it is related to neither *L. capito* (from the Caspian basin) nor *L. pectoralis* (from the Orontes drainage) but to *L. graecus* (from eastern Greece) according to mersitic counts, metric characters and general features. We herein describe the new species *L. kottelati* and re-diagnose and provide the first figure of *L. lydianus*.