



***Glyptothorax chimtuipuiensis*, a new species of catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from the Koladyne basin, India**

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Abstract

Glyptothorax chimtuipuiensis, a new species of sisorid catfish, is described from the Koladyne basin of Mizoram State, India. It is characterized by having a short and stout body with granulated skin; the dorsal profile anterior to the adipose fin strongly arched; a short and smooth dorsal spine, its length 5.1–8.9% SL; a pectoral-fin length of 16.8–21.9% SL, with the ventral surface of its first simple ray plaited; an adipose-fin base length 22.1–27.3% SL; and a chevron-shaped thoracic adhesive apparatus, the middle of its base concave, opening caudally with a depression at its posterior end, followed by a small fold of skin.

Key words: Sisorid, Kaladan, Mizoram

Introduction

The sisorid catfish genus *Glyptothorax* Blyth is distinguished by its distinctive thoracic adhesive apparatus, comprising of an elliptical field of folded longitudinal pleats of skin, a detached distal portion of the premaxilla, and long and thin lateral arms of the vomer that extend under the entire length of the articular process of the lateral ethmoid (de Pinna, 1996). The members of this genus are inhabitants of fast-flowing hill streams or the faster-flowing stretches of larger rivers. They are the most diverse catfishes of the family Sisoridae, with about 71 valid species (Ng & Freyhof, 2008).

The Koladyne River, also known as Kaladan or Chimtuipui in Mizoram, is a drainage that flows between the Ganga-Brahmaputra and the Chindwin-Irrawaddy drainages. The river originates from the western face of the Chin Hills in Myanmar, bordering Mizoram and Manipur States, India, and flows into the Bay of Bengal near Sittwe in Myanmar. The river is separated from the Ganga-Brahmaputra drainage by the Chittagong hill tract in the west and from the Chindwin-Irrawaddy by the Arakan Yoma hill range in the east; it is not, however, connected to either of these, even in the floodplains. The ichthyofauna of the Koladyne is poorly explored. Kar & Sen (2007) listed *Glyptothorax cavia* and *G. telchitta* from the river basin. A collection of fishes from Chimtuipui River at Kolchaw, a tributary of the Koladyne in Mizoram, included an undescribed *Glyptothorax*, here described as *G. chimtuipuiensis*, new species.

Material and methods

Measurements were made on the left side of specimens with dial calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm, following Ng & Dodson (1999), except for vertebral counts. Head length (HL) and anatomical measurements are expressed as proportions of standard length (SL); and subunits of the head as proportions of head length (HL). Osteological structures were observed in a cleared and alizarin-stained specimen. Methods for making vertebral counts follow Roberts (1989). Fin rays were counted under a stereo-zoom light microscope. The type specimens are deposited in the Manipur University Museum of Fishes (MUMF). Museum codes: