



## Three new species of African suckermouth catfishes, genus *Chiloglanis* (Siluriformes: Mochokidae), from the lower Malagarasi and Luiche rivers of western Tanzania

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### Abstract

Recent fieldwork and review of existing collections containing *Chiloglanis* specimens from the lower Malagarasi and Luiche rivers in western Tanzania has revealed three new species that are readily distinguished from described congeners by external features. Two of the species, *Chiloglanis igamba* **sp. nov.**, and *Chiloglanis orthodontus* **sp. nov.** are restricted to the Malagarasi basin. The third species, *Chiloglanis kazumbei* **sp. nov.**, is more broadly distributed in both the Malagarasi and adjacent Luiche basin. A key to all described species within these two basins is presented, along with comments on the distribution and validity of nominal *Chiloglanis* species examined during this study.

**Key words:** valid species, *Chiloglanis micropogon* Poll 1952, *Chiloglanis pojeri* Poll 1944

### Introduction

The genus *Chiloglanis* Peters 1868 is the second largest genus within the family Mochokidae, with approximately 46 valid species distributed throughout most of the tropical rivers of sub-Saharan Africa as well as the Nile River basin. *Chiloglanis* is also the type genus of the subfamily Chiloglanidinae (Riehl & Baensch 1991; Vigliotta 2008), which also includes *Atopochilus* Sauvage 1879, *Euchilichthys* Boulenger 1900, and *Atopodontus* Friel and Vigliotta 2008. Members of this subfamily are rheophilic taxa that are characterized by jaws and lips modified into a sucker or oral disc used for adhering to and feeding upon objects in fast flowing waters. Most species of the genus *Chiloglanis* are relatively small fishes (<100 mm SL), and are distinguished from other members of the subfamily by several features including: the absence of a free orbital margin; the absence of a mandibular sensory canal; and 1 or 2 rows of mandibular teeth bunched in a tight bouquet at the jaw symphysis, in a more loosely distributed curved row, or rarely a tight, relatively straight row (Fig. 1A–C; Friel & Vigliotta 2008: Fig. 3D–F respectively), as opposed to 3 or more straight, transverse rows of mandibular teeth in all other genera within the subfamily (Friel & Vigliotta 2008: Figs. 2 & 3A–C). Additional internal features that characterize *Chiloglanis* are provided in Friel and Vigliotta (2008) and Vigliotta (2008). Finally, adult males of some *Chiloglanis* species display prominent dimorphism of the caudal fin that is species specific and often useful for identification purposes (Figs. 2, 3 & 6).

Most *Chiloglanis* specimens collected from the Malagarasi River in western Tanzania (east of Lake Tanganyika) have previously been identified as species that were originally described from the upper Congo River basin in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (west of Lake Tanganyika). In an assessment of the Malagarasi ichthyofauna, De Vos *et al.* (2001) listed three species for the genus: *Chiloglanis* aff. *lufirae*, *Chiloglanis* aff. *lukugae* and one undescribed species. This is not surprising perhaps, because the Malagarasi is considered part of the Congo River basin, and was continuous with it prior to the opening of the rift that created Lake Tanganyika (Tiercelin & Mondegue 1991). In fact, De Vos *et al.* (2001) estimated that about 15% of the Malagarasi fish fauna has a Congolese origin reflecting this ancient connection.

To investigate the true identity of *Chiloglanis* species from the Malagarasi, we examined all available collections from this basin, as well as samples from other basins bordering Lake Tanganyika. The majority of this mate-