



Parambassis bistigmata, a new species of glassperch from north-eastern India (Teleostei: Ambassidae)

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Abstract

Parambassis bistigmata, a new species of glassperch from northeast India, is distinguished from its congeners by the combination of the following characters: two distinct black spots on either side of the anal-fin origin connected by a narrow black curved line; 13–14 gill rakers on the first gill arch; 65–67 scales in lateral series; a well developed pre-orbital edge with prominent, acute spines, almost covering the upper lip; dorsal and ventral sides of caudal peduncle with a longitudinal black stripe; and the presence of a faint, vertically elongated humeral spot.

Key words: Glassperch, new species, Brahmaputra drainage, India

Introduction

The glassperch genus *Parambassis* Bleeker is characterised by having 30–100 scales in lateral series, 9–16 dorsal and anal-fin rays, 10+14=24 or 10+15=25 vertebrae, and a serrated preorbital ridge and preorbital edge (Roberts, 1994). *Parambassis* comprises a diverse and possibly polyphyletic group of strictly freshwater ambassids widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent, mainland and peninsular Southeast Asia and the Australian region including New Guinea (Roberts, 1994). Glassperches are small to medium-sized semi-transparent fishes which are extensively consumed by larger fishes (Day, 1875–78). Used in the biological control of mosquitoes and guinea-worm disease, these fishes are cheap and consumed mostly by the poorer sections of the community (Datta & Chaudhuri, 1996). As many as 12 Asian species of *Parambassis* are currently treated as valid (Roberts, 1994; Kottelat, 2003) of which five are from India, viz., *P. baculis*, *P. dayi*, *P. lala*, *P. ranga*, and *P. thomasi*.

Sen (1995) reported three ambassid species from Meghalaya, viz., *Chanda nama*, *Pseudambassis baculis* (now *Parambassis*: see Roberts, 1989) and *P. ranga*, while Vishwanath *et al.* (2007) reported four ambassids from north east India, viz., *Chanda nama*, *Parambassis baculis*, *P. lala* and *P. ranga*. Recently, a series of specimens collected from the Ranga River, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Umtrao River, Meghalaya, both within the Brahmaputra drainage, were made available to me. An undescribed species of *Parambassis* was included in this collection, herein described as *P. bistigmata*, **sp. nov.**

Material and methods

Measurements were made point to point with dial calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm and expressed as percentages of standard length (SL). Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens under a PC-based binocular stereozoom microscope (Olympus SZ40). Methods for counts and measurements follow Kottelat (2003). Terminology for cephalic serration follows Fraser-Brunner (1955). Clearing and staining of specimens for osteology followed Hollister (1934). Identification and nomenclature of bones and vertebral counts followed Greenwood (1976). Numbers in parentheses following a count indicate the frequency of that count. Materials examined in this study are deposited in the Manipur University Museum of Fishes (MUMF) and the Rajiv Gandhi University