



## *Acanthocobitis pictilis*, a new species of loach from Myanmar and Thailand (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae)

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### Abstract

*Acanthocobitis pictilis*, new species, is described from the Ataran drainage in Myanmar and the Mae Khlong drainage in Thailand. It had earlier been misidentified as *A. rubidipinnis*. It is distinguished by, among other characters, its colour pattern, especially the dark brown triangular saddles in the upper half of the body, strongly slanted anteriorly and becoming almost vertical posteriorly, becoming paler in the middle, and forming pairs of narrow saddles in large individuals; lateral line complete; 12 ½ or 13 ½ branched dorsal-fin rays. *Acanthocobitis mandalayensis* is a valid species, removed from the synonymy of *A. botia*.

**Key words:** *Acanthocobitis botia*, *Acanthocobitis mandalayensis*, *Nemacheilus*, Ataran River, Mae Khlong, Meklong River, Kwai River

### Introduction

The genus *Acanthocobitis* includes about seven valid species and about as many unnamed ones, distributed in South and Southeast Asia, from the Indus to the Salween drainages, the Malay Peninsula and the lower Mekong drainage (Menon 1987; Kottelat 1990, 2001; Pethiyagoda 1991; Rainboth 1996). They are small fishes (up to about 150 mm SL) that usually inhabit moderately fast water over stony substrate in piedmont streams, although at least one (*A. zonalternans*) is also found in slow, shallow creeks or sluggish water. They are most easily distinguished from other members of the family by their strongly papillated lips. I describe here a new species from the Ataran drainage in Myanmar and the Mae Khlong drainage in Thailand.

### Material and methods

Method for counts and measurements follow Kottelat (1990) and Kottelat & Freyhof (2007). The following abbreviations are used: CMK, collection of the author; MHNG, Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva; NRM, Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm; ZRC, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Singapore; SL, standard length.

### *Acanthocobitis pictilis*, new species

(Fig. 1)

*Acanthocobitis botia* (non Hamilton, 1822): Kottelat 1990: 29 (in part; Mae Khlong)

**Holotype.** MHNG 2727.066, 71.8 mm SL; Myanmar: Kayin State: stream 'Chon Son' between Kyondaw and Phadaw, about 20 km northwest of Payathouzu (at border with Thailand near Chedi Sam Ong, Three Pagoda Pass); approx 15°25'N 98°15'E; K. Kubota, December 2002.