



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:76EFE276-1245-42B6-8713-6755E3B39C3E

***Schistura albirostris*, a new nemacheiline loach (Teleostei: Balitoridae) from the Irrawaddy River drainage of Yunnan Province, China**

CHEN XIAO-YONG¹ & DAVID A. NEELY^{2,3}

¹State Key Laboratory of Genetic Resources and Evolution, Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming, 650223 P.R. China.

²California Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94103 USA.

³Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, 201 Chestnut St., Chattanooga, TN 37402 USA. E-mail: dave.neely@gmail.com

Abstract

Schistura albirostris, a new species of nemacheiline loach, is described from the Longchuanjiang, a tributary of the Irrawaddy River of Tengchong County, southwestern Yunnan, China. It differs from all congeners in the combination of an extremely slender body; a distinctive rectangular unpigmented area on the snout, ethmoid region and anterior rostral barbels; 5–7 dark dorsal saddles that are confluent with 5–8 lateral bars; lacking a suborbital flap in males; and possessing an incomplete lateral line with 27–51 pores, and a weakly-developed processus dentiformis.

Key words: Irrawaddy, Ayeyarwaddy, taxonomy, fish, biodiversity

Introduction

During an expedition to southwestern Yunnan in 2006, we collected five specimens of a small, slender loach with distinctive saddles and a unique pigmentation pattern from the upper Longchuanjiang, a tributary to the Irrawaddy River in Tengchong County, Yunnan, China, that was clearly distinguishable from all other members of the group currently known from Southeast Asia. Review of other material from Yunnan and adjacent regions of Myanmar resulted in the discovery of only a single additional series, collected during 1998 by C. Ferraris and X.Y. Chen from the lower Longchuanjiang. We provide a description of this loach herein.

Materials and methods

Standard counts and measurements follow Hubbs and Lagler (1958); loach-specific measurements and terminology generally follow Kottelat (1990). Measurements were taken with digital calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm. Measurements other than standard length (SL) were not taken from the two ethanol-fixed specimens due to shrinkage from the fixative. Institutional abbreviations follow the current American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists list (<http://www.asih.org/codons.pdf>). Local geographic nomenclature was obtained when possible. The Irrawaddy River is known as the Ayeyarwadi River in adjacent Myanmar; the Longchuanjiang is known as the Shweli in Myanmar. Color notes are from freshly caught live specimens and/or photographs of live specimens taken in 2006.

***Schistura albirostris*, sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1–4)

Holotype. KIZ 20060415122, a 41.9 mm SL male. Longchuanjiang near Shuang Zhu Yuang village, approximately 3 km upstream of Qiao Tou village, Jie Tou township, Tengchong County, Yunnan, China,