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## An extraordinary new blind catfish, *Xiurenbagrus dorsalis* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Amblycipitidae), from Guangxi, China

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### Abstract

*Xiurenbagrus dorsalis*, a new cave-dwelling amblycipitid catfish species, is described based on one specimen collected from the Pearl River drainage in Guangxi, China. The new species can be distinguished from congeners in having a unique combination of features, including the absence of eyes, long barbels, dorsal-fin origin posterior to vertical line at tip of pectoral fins and an adipose fin confluent with caudal fin. This is the first record of a blind catfish in China.

**Key words:** Siluriformes, Amblycipitidae, *Xiurenbagrus*, new species, blind fish, China

### Introduction

Species of the family Amblycipitidae inhabit rivers and streams in southern and eastern Asia (Nelson 2006). The family contains four genera and 33 species, including *Amblyceps* Blyth 1858 with 16 species, *Liobagrus* Hilgendorf 1878 with 14 species, *Xiurenbagrus* Chen & Lundberg 1995 with two species, and *Nahangbagrus* Nguyen & Binh in Nguyen 2005 with one species. Nine species of *Liobagrus* (*L. aequilabris* Wright & Ng 2008, *L. kingi* Tchang 1935, *L. marginatoides* (Wu 1930), *L. marginatus* (Günther 1892), *L. nigricauda* Regan 1904, and *L. styani* Regan 1908a, are from the Changjiang system; *L. formosanus* Regan 1908b and *L. nantoensis* Oshima 1919 are from Taiwan; *L. anguillicauda* Nichols 1926 is from the Pearl River drainage and streams flowing into the southeastern sea in Anhui, Fujian, Guangxi and Zhejiang Provinces, and the two species of *Xiurenbagrus* (*X. xiurenensis* (Yue 1981) and *X. gigas* Zhao et al. 2004) are from the Pearl River drainage, China.

In 2011, one specimen of a blind amblycipitid catfish was collected from Fuchuan County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, southern China. It was thought to be a new species of *Xiurenbagrus* for eyeless and extraordinary relatively posterior insertion of dorsal-fin origin.

### Material and methods

Most counts and morphometric measurements followed Chu et al. (1999) and Wright & Ng (2008), and were made on the left side of specimen. Caudal-peduncle depth is the narrowest depth and excludes the dorsal and ventral crests. Measurements were made with digital calipers, and data were recorded to nearest 0.1 mm. The type specimen is in the collection of Guangxi Institute of Fisheries (GIF).

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