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## ***Schistura andrewi*, a new species of loach (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae) from Mizoram, northeastern India**

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### **Abstract**

*Schistura andrewi*, a new species of loach, is described from a tributary of Kaladan River in Mizoram, northeastern India. It is distinguished from its congeners in having the following combination of characters: long axillary pelvic lobe; complete lateral line with 82–95 pores; 2 unbranched dorsal and anal fin rays; 6–7 broad, wider than interspace, black bars on the body; 2 rows of black spots horizontally across the dorsal fin; a deeply emarginate caudal fin, with 2 vertical rows of black spots across the fin, and 9 + 8 branched caudal fin rays.

**Key words:** Kaladan basin, Mat River, Ichthyofauna, diversity, Serchhip

### **Introduction**

The genus, *Schistura* McClelland, with more than 200 nominal species, is the most speciose genus within the family Nemacheilidae. They are distributed throughout Asia, Europe and some part of Ethiopia (Kottelat, 1990). The ichthyofauna of Mizoram, northeastern India, particularly the family Nemacheilidae, is poorly explored, and is not surprising that recent investigations (see Lalramliana, 2012; Lalronunga *et al.*, 2013; Lokeshwor & Vishwanath, 2012; 2013a & b; Lokeshwor *et al.*, 2013) resulted in the descriptions of seven new species of the genus *Schistura*. These include *S. aizawlensis* Lalramliana, *S. koladynensis* Lokeshwor & Vishwanath, *S. maculosa* Lalronunga, Lalnuntluanga & Lalramliana, *S. nebeshwari* Lokeshwor & Vishwanath, *S. porocephala* Lokeshwor & Vishwanath, *S. paucireticulata* Lokeshwor, Vishwanath & Kosygin, *S. scyphovecteta* Lokeshwor & Vishwanath.

Mat River, originating from the Chhingchhip-Baktawng Hills, Serchhip District, Mizoram, India, is one of the major tributary of Kaladan River. The river spans about 90 kilometres and flows southward to join the Kaladan River in the southern part of Lunglei District. An ichthyofaunal survey conducted along the river included a species of *Schistura* that differs from other species of the genus already reported from the Kaladan basin and the nearby adjacent basins. A comparison of this material with congeners revealed it to be an unnamed species, which is described herein as *Schistura andrewi*.

### **Material and methods**

Specimens were fixed in 10% formalin and later transferred to preservative 70% ethanol. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens following Kottelat (1990), with the exclusion of total length, and the addition of body depth taken at anal fin origin. Measurements were made point to point with digital calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm. Measurements, except standard length, are given as proportions of standard length (SL). Sub-units of the head are presented as proportions of dorsal head length (DHL). Fin rays were counted using a stereomicroscope. For vertebral counts, four specimens were cleared and stained following the method of Taylor

- Schistura manipurensis*: Uncatalogued (3), 48.7–50.9 mm SL; India: Manipur: Chandel District: Chindwin-Irrawaddy basin: Khujairok, Moreh.
- Schistura multifasciata*: ZSI F26771/1, holotype, Darjeeling, India. Additional data from Day (1878) and Menon (1987).
- Schistura nebishwari*: PUCMF 13024 (10), 37.6–50.5 mm SL; India: Mizoram, Maisa River, in the vicinity of Maisa Village; Lalramliana, 08 December 2011. PUCMF 13025 (9), 43.8–69.9 mm SL; India: Mizoram, Tuisi River, in the vicinity of Khopai village; Lalramliana *et al.*, 07 March 2012. PUCMF 13026 (19), 30.8–65.0 mm SL; India: Mizoram, Tuisi River, in the vicinity of Khopai village; Lalronunga *et al.*, 16 November 2012. Additional data from Lokeshwor & Vishwanath (2013b).
- Schistura paucireticulata*: PUCMF 13020 (9), 41.7–52.7 mm SL; India: Mizoram, Tuirial River, in the vicinity of Tuirial Village; Vanlalmalsawma, 26 March 2013. Additional data from Lokeshwor *et al.* (2013).
- S. porocephala*: PUCMF 13001 (16), 37.6–59.8 mm SL; India: Mizoram, Iana River, a tributary of Kaladan River in the vicinity of Lungbun, Saiha District, 22°28'45"N; 93° 07'01"E; Beihrosa *et al.*, 20 October 2012. Additional data from Lokeshwor & Vishwanath (2013a).
- Schistura reticulata*: MUMF 4400, holotype, 57.1 mm SL; ZSI FF 4146 (1), paratype, 57.8 mm SL; India: Manipur: Ukhrul district: Chindwin-Irrawaddy basin: Maklang River.
- Schistura scaturigina*: MUMF 3008 (1), 39.6 mm SL; India: Manipur: Barak drainage: Tuivai River.
- Schistura scyphovecteta*: PUCMF 13027 (11), 24.2–52.3 mm SL; India: Mizoram, Tuisi River, in the vicinity of Khopai village; Lalronunga *et al.*, 16 November 2012. Additional data from Lokeshwor & Vishwanath (2013b).
- Schistura sikmaiensis*: MUMF 11220–11222 (3), 63.4–74.6 mm SL; India: Manipur: Chindwin-Irrawaddy basin: Senalok.
- Schistura vinciguerrae*: ZSI F 11754/1 (1), 49.9 mm SL; Burma: Meekalan.

Published information used for comparison: Bohlen & Šlechtová (2013) for *S. rubrimaculata*; Hora (1935) for *S. shebbearei*; Lokeshwor & Vishwanath (2013c) for *S. ferruginea*; Menon (1987) for *S. carletoni*, *S. gangetica*, *S. sijuensis* and *S. tirapensis*.

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