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Two new species of African suckermouth catfishes, genus *Chiloglanis* (Siluriformes: Mochokidae), from Kenya with remarks on other taxa from the area

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Abstract

Recent expeditions in Kenya and examination of existing collections confirmed the presence of two undescribed *Chiloglanis* species and revealed previously unknown diversity within the Athi River system. The two new species are easily distinguished from described congeners in the area by external morphology, allopatric distributions, and genetic markers. *Chiloglanis kerioensis* sp. nov., is restricted to the Kerio River system and is the only known suckermouth catfish from the Lake Turkana basin. *Chiloglanis devosi* sp. nov., is known only from the type locality, the Northern Ewaso Nyiro (Ng'iro) below Chanler's Falls. In addition to these two new species, this study confirmed the presence of an undescribed *Chiloglanis* sp. occurring sympatrically with *Chiloglanis brevibarbis* in the Tsavo River. A dichotomous key for identifying all described *Chiloglanis* species found within Kenya is presented along with comments.

Key words: *Chiloglanis deckenii* Peters 1868, *Chiloglanis somereni* Whitehead 1958, Lake Victoria, East Africa

Introduction

Species of the genus *Chiloglanis* Peters 1868 inhabit most tropical rivers throughout sub-Saharan Africa and the Nile River basin. With approximately 49 valid species, and more awaiting formal description, *Chiloglanis* is the second largest genus within the family Mochokidae. Classified in the subfamily Chiloglaninae (Riehl & Baensch 1991; Vigliotta 2008; Friel & Vigliotta 2011), these species possess distinctive oral discs that allow them to feed and maintain their position in flowing waters.

From 2010 through 2012 populations of suckermouth catfishes and other fishes were collected across Kenya in connection with a National Science Foundation International Research Experience for Students (IRES) grant awarded to Tulane University. Three recognized species of *Chiloglanis* are reported from the freshwaters of Kenya (Seegers *et al.* 2003, Schmidt *et al.* 2014). *Chiloglanis deckenii* Peters 1868 occurs in the Pangani River basin of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. *Chiloglanis brevibarbis* Boulenger 1902 occurs throughout the Tana River basin and Athi River system within central Kenya. *Chiloglanis somereni* Whitehead 1958 inhabits streams of the Lake Victoria basin in western Kenya. Two other species, previously discovered, have not been taxonomically described (Seegers *et al.* 2003; Schmidt *et al.* 2014). One of these species inhabits the headwaters of the Kerio River, which flows into Lake Turkana in northern Kenya; the other is found in the Northern Ewaso Nyiro (Ng'iro) below Chanler's Falls (Seegers *et al.* 2003; Schmidt *et al.* 2014). Collected specimens and existing museum collections provide comparative material for a morphological analysis of the Kenyan *Chiloglanis* and formal descriptions of the two previously known but undescribed species. A key for the described Kenyan *Chiloglanis*, including species described herein, and notes on distribution and biology of each species are also presented.