



The catfish genus *Erethistoides* (Siluriformes: Sisoridae) in Myanmar, with descriptions of three new species

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Abstract

The presence of the sisorid catfish genus *Erethistoides* in Myanmar, represented by three new species, is recorded for the first time. This discovery from the Irrawaddy and Sittang river drainages from central Myanmar and the Ann Chaung River drainage in western Myanmar extends the documented range of the genus beyond the Ganges/Brahmaputra River basin. *Erethistoides longispinis* is distinguished from congeners in having the following unique combination of characters: length of the dorsal-fin spine 24–27% SL, length of the pectoral-fin spine 29–35% SL, and absence of proximally-directed serrations on the anterior edge of the pectoral spine. *Erethistoides luteolus* differs from congeners in having the following combination of characters: yellow base color of the body, body with distinct bands, vertebrae 30, premaxillary tooth band partially exposed when the mouth is closed, length of the dorsal-fin spine 14–15% SL, length of the pectoral-fin spine 21–24% SL, absence of proximally-directed serrations on the anterior edge of the pectoral spine, length of the adipose-fin base 16–17% SL, length of the caudal peduncle 22–25% SL and depth of the caudal peduncle 6–7% SL. *Erethistoides vesculus* is distinguished from congeners in having the following combination of characters: cream base color of the body, body with distinct bands, vertebrae 30, premaxillary tooth band partially exposed when the mouth is closed, length of the dorsal-fin spine 15% SL, length of the pectoral-fin spine 22–23% SL, absence of proximally-directed serrations on the anterior edge of the pectoral spine, length of the adipose-fin base 14–15% SL, length of the caudal peduncle 19–21% SL and depth of the caudal peduncle 4–5% SL.

Introduction

Fishes of the sisorid catfish genus *Erethistoides* have, until now, been known only from the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna river basins of South Asia (Ng, 2006; Tamang et al., 2008). Six species were treated as valid in Ng (2006) and Ferraris (2007), and Tamang et al. (2008) recently described one additional species. Herein, we report on the discovery of three species of *Erethistoides* from Myanmar. These species, which come from the Irrawaddy, Sittang and Ann Chaung river basins, represent the first reports of the genus from east of the Brahmaputra River basin, as well as the only specimens known from Myanmar.

Material and Methods

Measurements were made point to point with dial calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter. Counts were made on the left side of specimens whenever possible. Subunits of the head are presented as proportions of head length (HL). Head length and measurements of body parts are given as proportions of standard length (SL). Measurements follow those of Ng & Dodson (1999). An asterisk following a meristic count (if present) indicates the value for the holotype. Osteological data was obtained from radiographs.

Material examined in this study is deposited in the following institutions: University of Kansas Natural History Museum, Lawrence (KU), Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm (NRM), Oklahoma State University Collection of Vertebrates, Stillwater (OSUS), University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor (UMMZ); National