Schistura maejotigrina, a new stream loach (Pisces: Nemacheilidae) from northern Thailand

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Abstract

Schistura maejotigrina, new species, is described from Maechaem River, a tributary of Ping River, in the upper Chao Phraya River drainage, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. It is distinguished from all other species of Schistura in having 21–24 dark tiger-stripe black bars on the side of the body and 6½–7½ branched dorsal soft rays. The species is medium-sized, reaching 53.0 mm SL (69.6 mm TL), and is known only from the Maechaem River system, Ping River drainage, northern Chao Phraya River basin, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand. It lives in fast running, clear water over a substrate of mixed gravel, small stone and sand.

Key words: Chiang Mai Province, Maechaem River, nemacheilines, new species

Introduction

Nemacheilines are small benthic fishes that inhabit running water and well oxygenated hill streams. Many species of this group inhabit mountainous areas, especially in northern Thailand and neighboring countries, including Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and China (Kottelat 1990a). Nemacheilines in Southeast Asia are divided into nine genera (31 genera worldwide), with 68 species of Nemacheilus, 184 species of Schistura, seven species of Physoschistura, four species of Acanthocobitis, two species of Tuberoschistura, one species of Sectoria, five species of Neonoemacheilus, one species of Yunnanilus, and two species of Pteronemacheilus (Eschmeyer 2012).

Schistura McClelland 1838 is characterized by the following combination of characters: an elongated body with almost uniform depth; mouth moderately arched; blunt snout; inferior mouth; lower lip with median interruption but not forming two lateral triangular pads, from smooth to strongly furrowed; origin of dorsal fin inserted near to a vertical to origin of pelvic fin; pelvic fin not extending to anal fin; body with scales, no acuminate scales on caudal peduncle; secondary sexual dimorphism present or not; dorsal fin with one or two black marks along its base; dark band on base of caudal fin (Kottelat 1990a).


Materials and methods

Fishes were collected by electroshockers, scoop nets and side tracking. Color in freshly collected specimens was noted, and specimens were photographed before fixation and preservation in 10% formaldehyde, then stored in 75% ethanol and deposited at the Maejo Aquatic Resources Natural Museum (MARNM). Terminology follows Jayaram (2002) and for counts and measurements follow Kottelat (1990a). Morphological measurements were done using a slide caliper (0.1 mm precision). Thirty-one (26 morphometric and 5 meristic) characters were measured.