Schistura (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae) in the Mae Khlong basin in southwestern Thailand with description of a new species

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Abstract

Recent fieldwork has revealed the presence of six species of Schistura McClelland 1838 in the Mae Khlong basin in southwestern Thailand. These include Schistura sexcauda (Fowler 1937), Schistura balteata (Rendahl 1948), Schistura mahnerti Kottelat 1990, the recently described Schistura aurantiaca Plongsesthee et al. 2011 and Schistura tenebrosa Kangrang et al. 2012, and a newly discovered species described herein. Schistura sexcauda previously was the only Schistura species known in the Mae Khlong, and it was mis-identified as Schistura desmotes (Fowler 1934). Schistura pantherina, n. sp., is easily distinguished from all other species of Schistura by its distinctive color pattern. It appears to be endemic to the Mae Nam Kwai Noi system.

Key words: Pisces, Cypriniformes, Schistura sexcauda, Schistura desmotes

Introduction

In his treatise on Indochinese nemacheilids, Kottelat (1990) recorded only one species of Schistura from the Mae Khlong basin in southwestern Thailand and referred to it as Schistura desmotes. Recent collections from the basin have included Schistura mahnerti, which is widely distributed in the basin, Schistura balteata, apparently restricted in Thailand to the Pakkok River of the Mae Nam Kwai Noi system, and two recently discovered and described species, Schistura aurantiaca, also widely distributed in the basin, and Schistura tenebrosa, found only in a small region drained by the Pakkok River of the Mae Nam Kwai Noi system (Plongsesthee et al. 2011; Kangrang et al. 2012). A sixth species, discovered in 2011, is described herein. Re-examination of specimens examined by Kottelat (1990) and of many more recently collected specimens indicate that the species in the Mae Khlong previously referred to as Schistura desmotes is Schistura sexcauda.

Methods

Fishes were captured throughout the basin with a Smith-Root (Vancouver, WA, U.S.A.), model 15D electrofisher, minnow seines, and dipnets. After capture, specimens were killed by an overdose of methane tricaine sulfonate (>150 mg/l) and preserved, first in 10% formalin for 7 days and then in 70% ethanol for permanent preservation. Measurements and meristic counts, including counts of pores in the lateralis system, followed Kottelat (1990). Measurements were made point-to-point with dial calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm. Photographs were taken of live and freshly preserved specimens in the field using a Nikon COOLPIX P5100 camera and of preserved specimens using a Visionary Digital (Palmyra, Virginia) with Canon 40D and 5D cameras at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Specimens examined are from The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University (ANSP),