



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:6DA89886-FC03-4AB3-9908-9183AB46F9DC

***Schistura tenebrosa*, a new species of loach from the Kwai Noi River system, Mae Khlong basin, Thailand (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae)**

PUNNATUT KANGRANG^{1,3}, LAWRENCE M. PAGE² & F. WILLIAM H. BEAMISH¹

¹Environment Science Program and Center of Excellence on Environmental Health, Toxicology and Management of Chemicals (ETM), Faculty of Science, Burapha University, Bangsaen, Chonburi, 20131, Thailand. E-mails: aui_rmband@hotmail.com, billbeamish@hotmail.com.

²Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida, 32611, USA. E-mail: lpage1@ufl.edu

³Corresponding author

Abstract

A new species of *Schistura* is described from the Kwai Noi, Mae Khlong basin, in the Thong Pha Phum District of Kanchanaburi Province in western Thailand. The species is distinguished from all other species of *Schistura* by a uniform dusky brown color pattern without marks on the dorsum or side of body and with many conspicuous supplementary neuromasts along the lateral line and on the head. It is further distinguished from other species of *Schistura* lacking marks on the body by its dark brown color, an incomplete lateral line extending only to beneath the dorsal fin, and the origin of the dorsal fin located above the origin of the pelvic fin. The species is small, reaching only 46.0 mm SL, 55.1 mm TL, and inhabits shallow gravel and rubble riffles in small streams.

Key words: loach, Cypriniformes

Introduction

The taxonomy of *Schistura* was summarized by Kottelat (1990a) in his review of the loaches of Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and southern Vietnam. Subsequently, six species have been described from Thailand (Kottelat 1990b; Vidthayanon 2003; Vidthayanon & Kottelat 2003; Bohlen & Šlechtová 2009; Plongsesthee *et al.* 2011), 50 from Laos (Kottelat 1998, 2000; Vidthayanon & Jaruthanin 2002), one from Myanmar (Bohlen & Šlechtová 2011), 16 from Vietnam (Freyhof & Serov 2001; Kottelat 2004; Nguyen 2005; Nguyen & Nguyen 2007), and one from Cambodia (Ou *et al.* 2011).

Among the currently recognized species of *Schistura* are only three that lack bars, stripes or other marks on the body and are more or less uniform in color. These are *S. atra*, *S. russa*, and *S. suber*. Recent collections from the Kwai Noi River system of the Mae Khlong basin in western Thailand contain a new species, described herein, also without bars or stripes on the body.

Methods

Fishes were captured with a Smith-Root (Vancouver, WA, U.S.A.), model 15D electrofisher. 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 storage. At most sites, water depth and velocity were measured and recorded as the average of 3–5 measurements made at approximately equal intervals across a transect located at about midlength. Velocity was measured with a propeller current meter (± 0.1 cm/s) at middepth. Canopy was estimated visually and recorded as a percentage of complete cover. Regularly calibrated meters were used to measure temperature (± 0.1 C), conductivity (± 10 μ S/cm), pH (± 0.1) and dissolved oxygen (± 0.01 mg/l). Other chemical factors were measured as described in American Public Health Association (APHA) 1992, and Tongnunui & Beamish (2009). Elevation was measured with a Global Positioning System meter, GPS (± 10 m).