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Metzia parva, a new cyprinid species (Teleostei: Cypriniformes) from south China

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Abstract

A new species of a small cyprinid fish, *Metzia parva* sp. nov., is described here based on specimens collected from a tributary of Hongshui-He River in the Pearl River basin at Anyang Town, Du'an County, Guangxi Province, south China. It differs from congeners in having a smaller body with a standard length of 48.3–57.7 mm (vs. 58.3–151.4 mm in other species); a complete lateral line (although some specimens show interruptions on the ventral margin above the anal-fin); 12–14 branched anal-fin rays (vs. 10–11 or 15–20); 10 branched pectoral-fin rays (vs. 11–16); 6 branched pelvic-fin rays (vs. 7–9); a longer caudal peduncle (17.8–21.7% vs. 14.8–17.4% SL); a shorter preanal length (60.9–66.0% vs. 69.0–73.0% SL) and an obviously larger interorbital width (28.4–33.0% vs. 20.2–24.7% of head length). While *Metzia parva* shares a lateral black stripe from the gill opening to the caudal-fin base with *M. formosae*, the new species can be distinguished from *M. formosae* by a deeper head (16.4–19.2% vs. 13.3–15.7% SL) and a longer anal fin (15.4–18.9% vs. 10.0–13.6% SL) in addition to the diagnostic characters above. Kimura's 2-parameter genetic distance between the two species is 6.6% for the barcoding region of the mitochondrial COI gene and 7.3% across the complete mitochondrial genome.

Key words: Cypriniformes, Cyprinidae, *Metzia parva*, new species, Guangxi Province, China

Introduction

Metzia, established by Jordan and Thompson (1914) with *Acheilognathus mesembrinum* Jordan & Evermann (1902) as type species, has frequently been confused with *Rasborinus* Oshima (1920) as diagnostic characters used to differentiate the two genera are poorly defined (i.e., Berg 1932; Myers 1934; Chen *et al.* 1998; Kottelat 2001; Chen & Fang 2002). Here we follow Kottelat (2001) and consider *Metzia* Jordan and Thompson (1914) as a senior synonym of *Rasborinus* Oshima (1920). Gan *et al.* (2009) and Shibukawa *et al.* (2012) revised this genus to comprise seven species: *M. mesembrinum* (Jordan & Evermann 1902), *M. lineata* (Pellegrin 1907), *M. formosae* (Oshima 1920), *M. alba* (Nguyen 1991), *M. hautus* (Nguyen 1991), *M. longinasus* (Gan *et al.* 2009) and *M. bounthobi* (Shibukawa *et al.* 2012). The principal diagnostic characteristics of *Metzia* include a compressed body, an abdomen with a sharp keel between the pelvic-fin insertion and the anus, soft dorsal-fin rays with 3 unbranched and 7 branched rays, and a bipartite gas bladder with a rounded posterior chamber (Chen *et al.* 1998). Here we determine that *Metzia* specimens collected from Anyang Town, Du'an County, Guangxi Province, south China represent a new species that we describe as *Metzia parva*. In addition to morphological evidence, we present genetic evidence for the distinctiveness of this new species from a newly obtained complete mitochondrial genome sequence.

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