

Revalidation and redescription of *Pterocryptis anomala* (Herre, 1933), a catfish (Teleostei: Siluridae) from southern China

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Abstract

Pterocryptis anomala (Herre, 1933) is resurrected from synonymy with *P. cochinchinensis* (Valenciennes, 1839) and redescribed in this study. This species of catfish from southern China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region can be distinguished from congeners by the unique combination of the following characters: length of dorsal fin 7.9–10.1% SL, depth of caudal peduncle 7.2–9.7% SL, head length 16.6–20.7% SL, eye diameter 9.2–13.7% SL, dorsal-fin rays 3–4, anal-fin rays 59–69, principal caudal rays 14–16, small conical genital papilla in both sexes, anal and caudal fins separated by a deep notch, narrow cheeks, circular eye and weakly contrasting mottled coloration. Characters for diagnosing *Pterocryptis* species are identified and discussed.

Key words: Zhujiang, Minjiang, Hong Kong, Siluriformes, freshwater fish

Introduction

Catfishes of the genus *Pterocryptis* Peters, 1861, are medium sized members of the Siluridae usually found in fast flowing mountain streams throughout India, southern China and Southeast Asia. *Pterocryptis* had been considered a junior synonym of *Silurus* Linnaeus, 1758, until its rediagnosis by Bornbusch (1991). There are 16 nominal species of *Pterocryptis* (see Ng & Freyhof, 2001). Of these, only *P. cochinchinensis* (Valenciennes, 1839), *P. anomala* (Herre, 1933) and *P. gilberti* (Hora, 1938) have been reported from China. Recent work by Ng & Freyhof (2001) suggests that *P. cochinchinensis* is restricted to central Vietnam. This prompted us to examine *Pterocryptis* from southern China with the objective of clarifying its taxonomic status. Our results show that *P. cochinchinensis* also occurs on Hainan Island (off the southeastern