



New species of the amphiliid catfish genera *Amphilius*, *Doumea* and *Phractura* and the taxonomy of *Paramphilius* from West Central Africa (Siluriformes, Amphiliidae)

PAUL H. SKELTON

South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, Private Bag 1015, Grahamstown 6140, South Africa; and The American Museum of Natural History, Department of Ichthyology, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York 10024, NY, USA; p.skelton@ru.ac.za

Abstract

A recent review of the amphiliid fishes of West Central Africa (WCA) indicates the presence of several described and undescribed species in different genera. Known amphiliines include three species of *Amphilius* Günther, one species of *Paramphilius* Pellegrin and three doumeine species in two genera, *Doumea* Sauvage and *Phractura* Boulenger. The known *Amphilius* from the WCA include *A. longirostris* (Boulenger, 1901), *A. pulcher* Pellegrin, 1929, and *A. nigricaudatus* Pellegrin, 1909. Seven species new to science include *Amphilius dimonikensis*, a small species with a banded colour pattern, described from 6 specimens from the Kouilou River system in Congo; *Amphilius caudosignatus*, a very small species with a unique caudal fin coloration, described from 3 specimens from the Ogowe River system in Gabon; *Amphilius korupi*, a dark brown species with a short head, eyes advanced and long oral barbels, described from 43 specimens taken from the Cross, Ndián and Akpa-Yafe River systems in Cameroon; *Amphilius mamonekenensis*, distinguished by its light spotted appearance, described from 18 specimens taken from the Kouilou River system in Congo; *Doumea gracila*, a large robust species but with a relatively slender caudal peduncle, described from 44 specimens from the Lobé, and Lokoundjé rivers, Cameroon; *Doumea sanaga*, with the dorsal fin relatively far back and a long slender caudal peduncle, described from 32 specimens taken from the Sanaga River system, Cameroon; and *Phractura stiassny*, described from a single specimen with a unique pair of neural spines before the dorsal fin from the Nyanga River in Gabon. In addition *Amphilius baudoni* Pellegrin is assigned to *Paramphilius*, with *Paramphilius goodi* Harry, 1953, considered as a junior synonym. Distribution maps for the new species are given.

Key words: Amphiliidae, Amphiliinae, Doumeinae, taxonomy, new species, *Amphilius*, *Paramphilius*, *Doumea*, *Phractura*

Introduction

Following the extensive reviews of the fishes of West Africa (Lévêque et al., 1990, 1992, Paugy et al., 2003) attention recently has been given to a similarly comprehensive review of the fishes of West Central Africa (WCA) (Fig. 1), a region for which the ichthyofauna previously was poorly synthesized. The review has resulted in a great deal of new study material from several collecting expeditions becoming available, especially in the collections of the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium, the American Museum of Natural History in New York and Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates in Ithaca, New York, USA.

The family Amphiliidae includes about 66 species of generally small Afro-tropical catfishes, known commonly as mountain catfishes (Skelton 2001) or loach catfishes (Nelson 1994, 2006; Berra 2001). The species are distributed from the Senegal River in the West throughout coastal West Africa, West Central Africa, the