



***Bangana brevirostris*, a new species of cyprinid fish (Teleostei: Cypriniformes) from the Lancang-Jiang (Upper Mekong River) drainage in Yunnan, Southwest China**

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Abstract

Bangana brevirostris, new species, is described from the Lancang-Jiang in Yunnan, Southwest China. It can be distinguished from all other congeners by the following combination of characters: a pair of minute rostral barbels; mental groove short and shallow; dorsal fin with 12–13 branched rays; 42–44 lateral line scales; eye large, its diameter 28.1–32.9 % of head length; snout short, its length 25.5–32.7 % of head length. It shares the same postlabial groove-type with *Bangana dero* and *B. devdevi*, which makes them very different from other congeners.

Key words: *Bangana*, Cyprinidae, Taxonomy, Southwest China

Introduction

Species of the cyprinid genus *Bangana* Hamilton are widely distributed in South, Southeast and East Asia, including Pakistan, India, Bengal, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and South China (Talwar & Jhingran 1991; Rainboth 1996; Kullander *et al.* 1999; Kottelat 1998, 2001; Zhang & Chen 2006). Species of this genus inhabit flowing waters, mostly in tropical and/or subtropical rivers (Zhang & Chen 2006).

Bangana was erected by Hamilton (1822) as a subgenus of *Cyprinus* Linnaeus. Jordan (1917) designated *Cyprinus dero* as its type species. However, *Bangana* was later regarded as an invalid taxon: its type species, *Cyprinus dero*, had been assigned to *Sinilabeo* Rendahl (Wu *et al.* 1977) or *Labeo* Cuvier (Shrestha 1978). *Bangana* was, however, treated as a valid genus by Kottelat (1985). Up to now, 23 species of *Bangana* have been recorded, 13 of them in China (Zhang & Chen 2006): *B. decora*, *B. dero*, *B. devdevi*, *B. discognathoides*, *B. lemassoni*, *B. lippa*, *B. rendahli*, *B. tonkinensis*, *B. tungting*, *B. wui*, *B. xanthogenys*, *B. yunnanensis* and *B. zhui*. All these species were for a long time assigned to *Sinilabeo* by Chinese ichthyologists (Wu *et al.* 1977; Chu & Chen 1989; Zhang *et al.* 2000). *Bangana* and *Sinilabeo* were considered to indicate the same groups of fishes and both generic names were synchronously used and as valid for many years. Then, according to the definition of *Bangana* by Rainboth (1996) and Kullander *et al.* (1999), some species of *Sinilabeo* were gradually transferred to *Bangana* (Kottelat 1998, 2001). However, the division of *Bangana* and *Sinilabeo* remained unclear and their diagnosis continued to be problematic. In order to resolve these problems, Zhang & Chen (2006) revised the genus *Bangana*. According to their definition, all species of *Sinilabeo* (*sensu prior*) from China should be transferred to *Bangana*. At the same time, Zhang *et al.* (2006) showed that the type species of *Sinilabeo* had been misidentified and *Sinilabeo* was thus synonymised. A new type species was then designated for *Sinilabeo*, helping to clarify the identities of *Bangana* and *Sinilabeo*.