



***Batasio convexirostrum*, a new species of catfish (Teleostei: Bagridae) from Koladyne basin, India**

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Abstract

Batasio convexirostrum, a new bagrid catfish, is described from the Koladyne drainage, Mizoram, India. It is distinguished from congeners by a combination of the following characters: body with a dark-brown oblique predorsal bar on a uniform light-brown background; very short dorsal to adipose distance (1.7–4.1% SL); snout length 39.2–45.5% head length; eye diameter 24.6–29.8% head length; gill rakers on the first branchial arch 4–5; pectoral spine length 14.6–17.6% standard length; adipose-fin base length 31.0–34.9% standard length; post-adipose distance 10.6–13.7% standard length; branched pectoral fin rays 9–10; and 39–40 vertebrae.

Key words: Bagrid, Mizoram, north-east India, biodiversity, fish

Introduction

The bagrid genus *Batasio* Blyth comprises of small, laterally compressed catfishes distributed in South and South-east Asia, diagnosed from its confamilials in having large sensory pores on the head, a narrow mental region, a pair of posteriorly-directed processes on the anterior part of vomer, a transversely-elongated bar-like entopterygoid, and the metapterygoid in close contact with the quadrate but free from the hyomandibular (Mo, 1991).

Ng (2009) recognized sixteen valid species of *Batasio*, viz., *B. affinis* Blyth, *B. batasio* (Hamilton), *B. dayi* (Vinciguerra), *B. elongatus* Ng, *B. fasciolatus* Ng, *B. feruminatus* Ng & Kottelat, *B. fluviatilis* (Day), *B. macronotus* Ng & Edds, *B. merianiensis* (Chaudhuri), *B. pakistanicus* Mirza & Jan, *B. procerus* Ng, *B. sharavatiensis* Bhatt & Jayaram, *B. tengana* (Hamilton), *B. tigrinus* Ng & Kottelat, *B. travancoria* Hora & Law and *B. spilurus* Ng.

The Koladyne River (also known as Kaladan) of Mizoram in northeastern India, is within a drainage between the Ganga-Brahmaputra and the Chindwin-Irrawaddy drainages. It flows into the Bay of Bengal near Sittwe in Myanmar. The ichthyofauna of the Koladyne is poorly explored. Collections from the river included an undescribed species of *Batasio*, which is herein described as *Batasio convexirostrum*, new species.

Material and method

Measurements were made using dial calipers taken to the nearest tenth of a millimeter. Numbers in parentheses following a count are the number of specimens with that count. Methods for counts and measurements follow Ng and Kottelat (2001). Fin rays were counted under transmitted light using a stereoscopic microscope. The method for clearing and staining of bones follows Hollister (1934); osteological characters were observed from cleared and stained specimens. The type specimens are deposited in the Manipur University Museum of Fishes (MUMF). Abbreviations: SL, standard length; HL, head length; ZSI, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata; RGUMF, Rajiv Gandhi University Museum of Fishes, Itanagar.