Vanmanenia maculata, a new species of hillstream loach from the Chang-Jiang Basin, South China (Teleostei: Gastromyzontidae)

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Abstract

Vanmanenia maculata, new species, is described from the middle and lower Chang-Jiang basin in Hubei, Hunan, and Jiangxi provinces, South China. This new species, along with V. caldwelli, V. stenosoma, and V. striata, is distinguished from all other Chinese species of the genus by lacking secondary rostral barbels. It is distinct from V. caldwelli and V. striata in anus placement, rostral lobule shape, and body coloration, and from V. stenosoma in having a larger scaleless area on the ventral surface of the body and a shallower caudal-peduncle. Vanmanenia polylepis should be removed from the synonymy of V. pingchowensis and regarded as valid.

Key words: Vanmanenia, new species, Chang-Jiang basin, South China

Introduction

The family Gastromyzontidae sensus Kottelat (2012) comprises small-sized fishes inhabiting the fast-flowing mountain streams throughout Southeast Asia including Sumatra, Java, and Borneo, and China. Presently, about 17 genera and 132 species have been placed in this family (Kottelat 2012; Eschmeyer & Fricke 2013). These fishes are well adapted to mountain streams by possessing depressed bodies with a flat ventral surface and laterally expanded pectoral and pelvic fins. The Gastromyzonidae is represented in China by 8 genera and roughly 51 species (Kottelat 2012). These fishes have been given a subfamilial ranking in Chinese literature (Tang & Chen 2000; Chen & Zhang 2006) with four tribes identified by Chen (1980): Parhomalopterini, Crossotomini, Beautortini, and Gastromyzonini. Vanmanenia, along with Formosania, is placed in Crossotomini, defined by having specialized rostral barbels and lips. Vanmanenia possesses a trilobated rostral fold and two pairs of rostral barbels, in contrast to 13 well-developed rostral barbels in Formosania.


Vanmanenia pingchowensis is the most widely distributed Chinese species originally described in Praeformosania by Fang (1935) from Pingchow-hsien (now Pingtang County), South Kweichow (today’s Guizhou Province), in mountain streams running into Si-Kiang or West River (Xi-Jiang in Chinese) of the Pearl River (Zhu-
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References


