A REVIEW OF THE CHINESE SPECIES OF *CROSSOCHEILUS*, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES (OSTARIOPHYSI: CYPRINIDAE)

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ABSTRACT. - Fishes of the genus Crossocheilus in China is reviewed on the basis of specimens in Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Crossocheilus multirastellus is described from the upper Irrawaddy and upper Salween rivers. It is distinguished from all of its congeners by having two black longitudinal stripes on sides of body, 36-38 lateral line scales, 18-25 gill rakers, anus at midpoint between ventral fin and anal fin insertions, ventral fin extending over anus, a large deep blue rhomboid spot above the pectoral fin, and a straight mouth gape almost equal to head width. There are presently two species of Crossocheilus fishes in China. Crossocheilus bamaensis Fang and Crossocheilus liuchengensis Liang, Liu & Wu are recognized here as members of the genus Sinocrossocheilus.

KEYWORDS. - Crossocheilus, China, review, new species

INTRODUCTION

Fishes of the genus *Crossocheilus* are distributed over India, the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau of China, Thailand, western Indonesia and Malaysia. They are recognized by the following characters: mouth inferior; rostral cap well-developed, downward and completely covering upper jaw and upper lip; prefringe of rostral cap fissured vertically into tassels; lower lip not modified into a sucking disc, with irregular fleshy papillae; mental groove longer; one or two pairs of barbells, rostral ones often well-developed, maxillary ones absent or rudimentary in some species; no rigid moveable lobes on sides of the snout; and lateral line complete with 33-41 scales.

Since the genus Crossocheilus Hasselt was established in 1823, 12 species and subspecies had been recognized as valid by Bănărescu (1986) and Kottelat et al. (1993). They are: C. latius latius (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822) from Bangladesh; C. latius diplocheilus (Heckel, 1838) from Pakistan and Afghanistan; C. oblongus oblongus (Valenciennes, 1842) from Java and Sumatra; C. oblongus stigmaeus (Smith, 1945) from the Mekhan River (Chao Phraya) of Thailand; C. cobitis (Bleeker, 1853) from western Indonesia and Malaysia; C. langei Bleeker (1860) from Sumatra; C. nigriloba (Popta, 1904) from

Borneo; C. gnathopogon Weber and de Beaufort (1916) from Sumatra; C. siamensis (Smith, 1931) from Thailand; C. reticulatus (Fowler, 1934) from Thailand and China; C. kalliurus (Inger & Chin, 1962) from Borneo; C. horai Bănărescu (1986) from the Salween River and Inle Lake of Myanmar. Crossocheilus horai Bănărescu (1986) was regarded as Cirrhinus lu by Roberts (1997). Other two species in the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau of China were not included in the revision of Bănărescu (1986). They are Crossocheilus liuchengensis Liang, Liu & Wu (1987) and Crossocheilus bamaensis Fang (1981), both from the Xijiang (upper Pearl River). Yue et al. (1998) placed Crossocheilus bamaensis in the genus Sinocrossocheilus Wu (1977). Although Bănărescu (1986) clarified many of the problems in the taxonomy of Crossocheilus, some confusion are still present in the Chinese species. Furthermore, the phylogeny of Crossocheilus fishes has not yet been intensively worked out.

In China, four *Crossocheilus* species have been described until now. They are *Crossocheilus reticulatus* (Fowler, 1934) from Lancangjiang (upper Mekong) and *Crossocheilus latius* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822) from Longchuanjiang and Dayingjiang (Irrawaddy), Nanding River and Nujiang (Salween) (Chu & Chen, 1989) (Fig.1); *Crossocheilus liuchengensis* Liang, Liu & Wu (1987) and

Su et al.: Crossocheilus in China

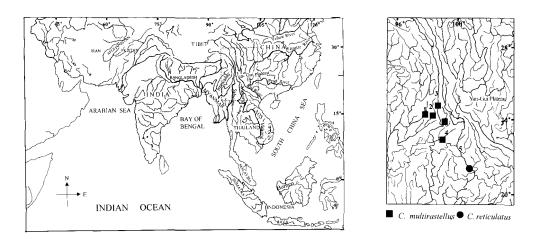


Fig. 1. Map showing the distribution of *Crossocheilus* spp. in China. 1. Dayingjiang (upper Irrawaddy), 2. Longchuangjiang (upper Irrawaddy), 3. Nujiang (upper Salween), 4. Nangding River(tributary of Salween), 5. Lancangjiang (upper Mekong).

Table 1. Main differences among *C. multirastellus*, new species, *C. latius diplocheilus* (Heckel) and *C. latius latius* (Hamiton-Buchanan).

	C. multirastellus	C. latius latius ^a	C. latius diplocheilus ^h	
Gill rakers	18-25	37-39	7-39 17-21	
Romhboid spot	Present	absent absent		
Longitudinal stripe	Present	absent	absent	
Outer margin of dorsal fin	scythe-shaped	scythe-shaped	faintly concave	
D	3,8	4, 8	3,8	
Lateral line scales	36-39	39-41	35-38	
Scales over LL	5	5-6	5-6	
Scales below LL	3-4	2-3	4	
In % of SL CD	6.3-12.5 (M, 8.4)	8.5-11	9.5-12.1	
CPL	12-19.6(M,14.5)	16.7-20.7	16.7-21.3	
PL	40.4-46.8(M, 3.7)	38.9-42.2		
P-A	29.3-4.2(M, 31.2)	26.6-32.2		
V-A	26.5-29.5(M, 28)	24.4-29.8	21.1-25.6	
In % of HL				
SNL	31.3-50 (M, 43.5)	35.5-43.5	35.5-43.5	
ID	40-58.8 (M, 52.6)	40.4-43.5	30-33.8	
ED	21-33.3 (M, 22.7)	25.0-32.3	20.4-30.4	

a.b.: Data from Bănărescu in 1986 and Talwar and Jhingran (1992).

Crossocheilus bamaensis Fang (1981), both from the Xijiang (upper Pearl River). In the present view, close examination of specimens identified as *C. latius* (Hamilton-Buchanan) by Chu & Cui (in Chu & Chen, 1989) revealed characters that are distinct from the two subspecies of *C. latius* (Table.1) and these specimens represent a new species. Our research indicates that *C. bamaensis* and *C. liuchengensis* should be placed in the genus *Sinocrossocheilus*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Examined material belongs to the collections of Kunming Institute of Zoology (KIZ), Chinese Academy of Sciences. Except for one series of Crossocheilus reticulatus, all specimens listed under the material examined sections are from China. Comparative material comprising 9 specimens of Crossocheilus bamaensis and 10 specimens of C. liuchengensis from the Xijiang (deposited at KIZ) were also examined.

Counts and measurements follow Chu & Chen (1989). Characters of C. latius latius (Hamilton-Buchanan) and C. latius diplocheilus (Heckel) are cited from Bănărescu (1986) and Talwar & Jhingran (1992). Our experience in reviewing the fishes of Yunnan (Chu & Chen, 1989; Yang & Winterbottom, 1998) demonstrates that our measurements are comparable to those of Bănărescu (1986) and Talwar & Jhingran (1992). The following 13 morphometric measurements have been made in Table 1 & 2: standard length (SL), body depth (BD), head length (HL), snout length (SNL), eye diameter (ED), interorbital width (IW), caudal peduncle length (CPL) and depth (CD), predorsal length (PL), distance between pelvic fin and ventral fin (P-V) and distance from ventral fin to anal fin (V-A). Mean value and lateral line are abbreviated respectively as M and LL.

Crossocheilus reticulatus (Fowler, 1934).

Holotylognathus reticulatus Fowler, 1934: 128 (type locality: Srisawat, Thailand).

Crossocheilus tchangi: Li, 1976 (Lancangjiang, Yunnan).

Material examined. -2 ex. (KIZ 735263-735264), 63-71mm SL, Lancangjiang, Yunnan, China; 20 May 1973. ---3 ex. (KIZ 781001-781003), 50-54mm SL; front of the dam at Payao Lake, Northern Thailand; T. R. Roberts, Oct.1978.

Diagnosis. - This species is recognized by: its small size (69-87 mm in total length); dorsum and sides of

body with a reticulated color pattern; a large black spot present on the caudal base; lateral line scales 32-34; anus closer to anal fin origin than to insertion of ventral fin, ventral fin not reaching to anus; upper lip separated from upper jaw; two pairs of barbels; horny tubercles absent on sides of snout; gill rakers on the outside of first gill arch 22; swim bladder with two chambers, the anterior one oval-shaped, the posterior one slender and its length almost two times of the anterior one; last simple dorsal fin ray unossified and unserrated.

Distribution and Ecology. - This species is distributed in Chao Phraya (Northern Thailand), Mekong River and lower reaches of Lancangjiang. It seems to prefer rapid areas of streams and rivers

Food habit. - Feeds mainly on algae and zooplankton.

Crossocheilus multirastellus, new species (Fig. 2)

Crossocheilus latius: Chu & Cui, in Chu & Chen,1989 (Tengchon, Yunnan).

Material examined. - Holotype (KIZ8310384), 132 mm SL, Longchuanjiang (upper Irrawaddy), Yunnan, 25°00' N, 98°41'E, China; 22 Oct.1983

Paratype - 4 ex. (KIZ748211, 748213, 748215-748216), 63-79 mm SL, Nanding River (upper Salween), Yunnan, 23°54'N, 99°01'E, China; 27 Aug.1974; --- 8 ex. (KIZ764283-764286, 764291-764292, 764298, 764304), 90-160 mm SL, upper Irrawaddy, Yunnan, 24°43'N, 97°56'E, China; 15 Apr.1976; --- 5 ex. (KIZ7801006-7801007, 7801012, 7801014, 781018), 109-125 mm SL, upper Irrawaddy, Yunnan, 25°00'N, 98°41'E, China; 10 Jan.1978; --- 2 ex. (KIZ8310382, 8310386), 128-145 mm SL, same data as holotype; --- 1 ex. (KIZ8311129), 113 mm SL, Nujiang, Yunnan, 26°26'N, 99°1'E, China; Nov.1983.

Diagnosis. - The new species is distinguished from all known species of the genus *Crossocheilus* by the following characters (Table 2): body rather elongate, body depth 17.1-22.2% (M, 19.9) of SL; side of body with a black longitudinal stripe, a deep blue rhomboid spot above pectoral fin, lateral line scales 36-39, anus at midpoint between ventral fin and anal fin origins, ventral fin extending over anus, upper lip not separated from upper jaw, and gill rakers on the outside of first gill arch 18-25.

Description. - Dorsal fin ii, 8. Pectoral fin i, 12-14. Ventral fin i, 8. Anal fin ii, 5. Branched caudal fin rays 20. Lateral line scales 36-39; scales from lateral line to dorsal fin origin 4-5, scales from lateral line to ventral

Table 2. Morphometric and meristic characters of Crossocheilus multirastellus and Crossocheilus reticulatus.

	Crosso	cheilus multirastellus	Crossocheilus reticulatus
	Holotype	Paratype	
SL	132	60-160 (M, 116.8)	50-71(M, 58.6)
BD	25	12-32 (M, 22.8)	11-21(M, 15.6)
HL	26	13-31 (M, 22)	12-14(M, 12.8)
SNL	11	5-13 (M, 9.2)	4-6.1(M, 5.1)
ED	6	4-7 (M, 5.5)	3-3.5(M, 3.2)
CPL	19	8-29 (M, 16.1)	7-12(M, 8.8)
CD	13	6-16 (M, 10.9)	6-8(M, 6.8)
in % of SL			
HL	20.4	18.1-21.7 (M, 20)	19.7-24(M, 22)
BD	19.0	17.1-22.2(M, 19.9)	22.0-29.6(M, 25.2)
PL	43.2	40.4-46.8 (M, 43.7)	45-46.4(M, 45.8)
P-V	31.1	29.3-34.4 (M, 32.2)	28-30.8(M, 29.4)
V-A	29.5	26.5-29.5 (M, 28.1)	25-26.2(M, 25.6)
in % of HL			
SNL	41.7	31.3-50 (M, 43.5)	33.3-42.9(M, 39.8)
ED	23.3	20.8-50 (M, 22.7)	25(M, 25)
IW	50	40-58.8 (M, 52.6)	50-60.7(M, 53.8)

fin origin 3-4. Circumpeduncular scales 14-16. Predorsal scales 9-12. Gill rakers on the outside of first gill arch 18-25. Pharyngeal teeth in 3 rows, 5.4.2-2.4.5. Vertebrae: 29 + 4=33.

Body rather elongate. Eyes situated at the posterior part of head. Nostril nearer to eye than to tip of snout. Mouth gape straight, its width almost equal to head width, extending to the vertical of posterior rim of eye. Snout broad and rounded, longer than postorbital length of head. The prefringe of rostral cap splits into 17-19 fimbriations with fleshy papillae. Prefringe of lower lip with dense fleshy papillae, separated from lower jaw by a deep groove. Lower jaw with a sharp horny edge. Mental groove long, the part between two mental grooves oval-shaped. Two pairs of barbels, rostral ones reaching to the posterior rim of nostril, shorter than eye diameter, maxillary ones concealed at the corner of mouth.

Lateral line complete and horizontal. Scales on chest and abdomen relatively small, without black spots.

Dorsal fin situated in advance of ventral fin origin, outer edge scythe-shaped. Last simple ray unossefied, about 1.2-1.5 times of head length. Ventral fin origin is

opposite to bases of fourth or fifth branched dorsal fin rays. Tip of ventral fin extending over anus, but not reaching to anal fin. Anus situated at midpoint between anal fin and ventral fin origins. Caudal fin deeply forked.

Pharyngeal teeth with sharp tips. Swim bladder with two chambers, the anterior one elliptic, the posterior one greatly variable. Intestine very long in adaptation to digest algae.

Color pattern. - In alcohol, the dorsal and sides of body and head deep brown, with irregular black spots, the ventral part yellow, pink or greyish white in some specimens. A large deep blue rhomboid spot present above pectoral fin. Sides of body with a conspicuous black longitudinal stripe. Outer edges of dorsal and caudal fins slightly black. Other fins pinkish or yellowish.

Habitat & Distribution. - Crossocheilus multirastellus is known only from Yunnan, China where occurs in the middle and lower layers of swift, mountainous streams and rivers. It has been collected from Longchuanjiang, Dayingjiang (upper Irrawaddy), Nanding River and Nujiang (upper Salween).

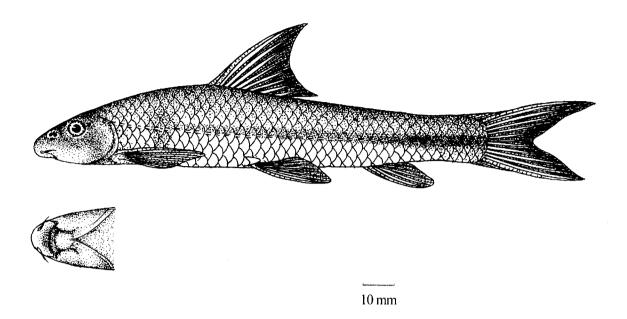


Fig. 2. Lateral view of Crossocheilus multirastellus, new species and ventral view of head.

Food habit.- Apparently feeds mainly on algae.

Etymology.- multi, much or many; *rastellus*, rakers; alluding to its numerous gill rakers.

DISCUSSION

Crossocheilus multirastellus is different from its only congener in China, C. reticulatus, by having two black longitudinal stripes, a large deep blue rhomboid spot above pectoral fin, ventral fin extending over anus and lateral line with 36-39 scales. By contrast, C. reticulatus has a reticulated color pattern, a large black spot on the caudal base, ventral fin not extending over anus and lateral line with 32-34 scales.

Crossocheilus multirastellus resembles C. latius diplocheilus in having the same numbers of lateral line scales and gill rakers. However, the two species can be separated in the following aspects: distance from ventral fin to anal fin (26.5-29.5% of SL in C. multirastellus vs. 21.1-25.6% of SL in C. latius diplocheilus), interorbital width (40-58.8% vs. 30-33.8% of HL), length of caudal peduncle (12-19.6% vs. 16.7-21.3% of SL); a deep blue rhomboid spot above pectoral fin and a conspicuous black longitudinal stripe are present in C. multirastellus (vs. absent in C. latius diplocheilus)(Table 1 & Fig.2). C. multirastellus shares with C. latius latius the same

number of lateral line scales, but is separated in following aspects: number of gill rakers on the outside of the fist gill arch (18-25 in C. multirastellus vs. 37-39 in C. latius latius), scales below lateral line (3-4 vs. 2-3), interorbital width (40-58.8% vs. 40.4-43.5% of HL), length of caudal peduncle (12-19.6% vs.16.7-20.7% of SL), predorsal length (40.4-46.8% vs. 38.9-42.2% of SL) and color pattern (a deep blue rhomboid spot above pectoral fin and a conspicuous black longitudinal stripe are present in C. multirastellus versus absent in C. latius diplocheilus) (Table 1 & Fig.2). Furthermore, those three species and subspecies display an allopatric distribution pattern. C. multirastellus occurs in Longchuanjiang and Dayingjiang (upper Irrawaddy), Nanding River and Nujiang (upper Salween) of northwestern Yunnan, China; whereas C. latius latius spreads mainly over India, Bangladesh and Subarnarakna, and C. latius diplocheilus ranges over the Indus basin, Pakistan, Afghanistan and southeastern Iran.

Li (1976) once reported *C. tchangi* from Lancangjiang, Yunnan. His specimens had 32 lateral line scales with eye diameter equal to mouth width. Bănărescu (1986) recognized *C. tchangi* as a valid species distinct from *C. reticulatus* because it has very small eyes and 30 lateral line scales. We agree to Bănărescu (1986) in that *C. tchangi* is a valid species. The specimens examined by us and those examined by Bănărescu (1986) demonstrate that *C. reticulatus* has eye diameter equal

to or larger than mouth width, lateral line with 32-34 scales. The eye diameter and number of lateral line scales of Li's (1976) specimens fall in the range of *C. reticulatus* and should be ascribed to the species of *C. reticulatus*.

Because some taxonomic confusion present between Sinocrossocheilus Wu (1977) and Crossocheilus (Hasselt, 1823), it's necessary to list the diagnostic characters of the two genera here. A row of tiny fleshy present on the upper jaw of Sinocrossocheilus, but absent in Crossocheilus; prefringe of rostral cap splitted into 10-15 papillate fimbriations in Sinocrossocheilus versus 17-21 papillate fimbriations in Crossocheilus (Yang & Winterbottom, 1998); 39-46 lateral line scales in Sinocrossocheilus versus 30-41 lateral line scales in Crossocheilus (Bănărescu ,1986; Yang & Winterbottom, 1998); the central lobe of lower lip with two straight lateral margins risen as the horse-hooked in Sinocrossocheilus versus the central lobe with two oblique lateral margins in Crossocheilus.

Crossocheilus bamaensis from upper streams of Pearl River is endemic to the east of the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau. Close examination indicates that *C. bamaensis* should be assigned to the genus *Sinocrossocheilus* because it has the diagnostic characters of *Sinocrossocheilus* listed above: a row of tiny fleshy lobes on upper jaw, 39-43 lateral line scales, the central lobe of lower lip horse-hooked with two straight lateral margins.

Crossocheilus liuchengensis is found only in upper streams of Pearl River in the east of the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau. Close examination of specimens from the type locality suggests that this species belongs to the genus Sinocrossocheilus because it has the diagnostic characters of Sinocrossocheilus: a row of tiny fleshy lobes on upper jaw, 40-42 lateral line scales, the central lobe of lower lip horse-hooked with two straight lateral margins.

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