



First record of spottedsail barb (*Pethia phutunio*) from Maharashtra, India

Fishes of the cyprinid genus *Pethia* are diagnosed from other cyprinid genera by a suite of characters that includes small adult size (usually less than 50 mm standard length (SL), exceptionally up to 80 mm SL), absence of rostral barbels, absence or rudimentary maxillary barbels, last unbranched dorsal-fin ray stiff and serrated, 3 to 4 unbranched and 8 branched dorsal-fin rays, 3 unbranched and 5 branched anal-fin rays, lateral line complete, interrupted or incomplete with 19–24 scales in lateral series, and a unique color pattern consisting of a humeral spot, a black blotch on the caudal peduncle, and in some species, black blotches, spots or bars on the body (Pethiyagoda *et al.* 2012). *Pethia* are distributed throughout South and Southeast Asia, from Sri Lanka and peninsular India in the west, to Myanmar in the east (Katwate *et al.* 2016, Sudasinghe *et al.* 2021).

Pethia phutunio was originally described from ponds of north-eastern Bengal by Hamilton in 1822 and can be identified by the following morphological characters: a deep bodied fish with four vertical black bands; head conical and short, eyes large; snout conical, lips thin, plain and maxillary barbels absent; lateral line incomplete present up to 3-4 scales (Knight 2013). The known range includes Ganga Brahmaputra drainage in India (Dishma & Vishwanath 2013, Katwate *et al.* 2018). Recent surveys in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India (Knight & Balasubramanian 2015) also recorded this species making it the southernmost location.

During ichthyological surveys of the Waghur reservoir in Jalgaon district, Maharashtra, specimens of *P. phutunio* were collected from amidst aquatic vegetation consisting of *Hydrilla* and *Vallisneria* in a slow flowing backwater of the Waghur reservoir. The collected specimens matched perfectly with the description given by Hamilton (1822). Co-

occurring species included *Puntius sophore*, *Chanda nama*, *Garra* sp., *Parambassis lala*, and *Oryzias dancena*. Although there have been numerous ichthyological surveys of Maharashtra and Jalgaon district in particular (Dahanukar & Raghavan 2013, Karmakar *et al.* 2012, Singh & Kamble 1987), *P. phutunio* has never been reported. This is the first report of *P. phutunio* from Maharashtra.



Figure 1. A specimen of *Pethia phutunio* collected from Waghur Reservoir, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India

River linking has already been speculated as the reason for the presence of fish species previously unknown in a river system (Knight & Devi 2009). Further studies are required to ascertain if the presence of *P. phutunio* in the Tapi River system is due to river linking or is part of its natural distribution.

Acknowledgements

We thank B. Vijaykrishnan, R. Sonawane, R. Phalak, R. sonawane, P. Sonawane, A. Gujar, A. Sapkale, A. Kazi, S. D'Souza, S.N.J. Patil, and the Maharashtra forest department for the support.

Literature cited

Dahanukar, N. and R. Raghavan (2013). *Freshwater fishes of the Western Ghats*. Pp. 6–16. In: MIN-Newsletter of IUCN – SSC / WI Freshwater Fish Specialist Group South Asia & the Freshwater Fish Conservation Network of South Asia.

- Dishma, M. and W. Vishwanath (2013). A new species of the genus *Pethia* from Mizoram, northeastern India (Teleostei: Cyprinidae). *Zootaxa*, 3736 (1): 82–88.
- Hamilton, F. (1822). *An Account of the Fishes found in the River Ganges and its Branches*. George Ramsay & Co., London: 405pp.
- Knight, J.D.M. (2013). *Pethia aurea* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae), a new species of barb from West Bengal, India, with redescription of *P. gelius* and *P. canius*. *Zootaxa*, 3700(1), 173–184.
- Knight J. D. M. and K.R. Devi (2009). On record of *Badis badis* (Hamilton) (Teleostoi: Perciformes: Badidae) from Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Bombay Natural History Society*, 106(2): 215–216.
- Knight, J.D.M. and S. Balasubramanian (2015). On a record of two alien fish species (Teleostei: Osphronemidae) from the natural waters of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 7(3): 70447046.
- Katwate, U., S. Jadhav, P. Kumkar, R. Raghavan, and N. Dahanukar (2016). *Pethia sanjaymoluri*, a new species of barb (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from the northern Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 88(5): 2027–2050.
- Katwate, U., P. Kumkar, R. Raghavan, and N. Dahanukar (2018). A new syntopic species of small barb from the Western Ghats of India (Teleostei: Cyprinidae). *Zootaxa*, 4434(3): 529–546.
- Karmakar, A.K., B.E. Yadav, N. Bairagi *et al.* (2012). Freshwater fishes of Maharashtra. Zoological Survey of India. Fauna of Maharashtra, State Fauna Series, 20 (1): 247–367.
- Pethiyagoda, R., M. Meegaskumbura, and K. Maduwage (2012). A synopsis of the South Asian fishes referred to *Puntius* (Pisces: Cyprinidae). *Ichthyologic Exploration of Freshwaters*, 23(1): 69–95.
- Singh, D.F. and R.H. Kamble (1987). A note on the Ichthyofauna of Jalgaon District, M.S. *Bulletin of Zoological Survey of India*, 8(1–3): 291–293.
- Sudasinghe, H., T. Ranasinghe, J. Herath *et al.* (2021). Molecular phylogeny and phylogeography of the freshwater-fish genus *Pethia* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) in Sri Lanka. *BMC Ecology & Evolution*, 21: 203.

Submitted: 09 Mar 2022, Accepted: 29 Oct 2022
Section Editor: Upali S. Amarasinghe

G.A. Shinde¹, B.S. Devare² & K.R. Tayade²

¹ Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 248001, India
E-mail: gauravshinde22@gmail.com

² Vanyajiv Sanrakshan Bahuddeshiya Sanstha, Shiv colony, Jalgaon, Maharashtra 412005, India