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First Record of *Parambassis lala* (Pisces: Ambassidae) from Inle Lake, the Salween River Basin, Myanmar

An ambassid fish, *Parambassis lala* (Hamilton, 1822), was originally described from "the Gangetic provinces," India. The species had been synonymized with *Parambassis ranga* (Hamilton, 1822) by DAY (1875) and FRASER-BRUNNER (1955) for several decades, but was recently resurrected by ROBERTS (1995). This small species is presently known only from the Ganges-Brahmaputra and Mahanadi River basins in India and the Irrawaddy (Ayeyarwaddy) River basin in Myanmar (ROBERTS, 1995).

During a field survey in the Shan States, Myanmar in 1995, I collected eight specimens (18.8–26.4 mm in standard length [SL]) of an ambassid species, subsequently identified as *Parambassis lala* (Fig. 1), in a small stream connected with Inle Lake which is known by its highly specialized fauna including several endemic genera and species of fishes as well as its high altitude (3,000 feet above sea-level) and isolated environment (Annandale, 1918). The stream is located at a point just before entering the lakeside town of Yawnghwe. This is the first record of this species from the Salween (Thanlwin) River basin, and now shown to be sympatric with the *Parambassis ranga* reported by Roberts (1995) from Inle Lake. To date, only these two species of ambassids have been reported from this lake. The specimens are deposited in the Museum of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Thailand (KUMF 3063) and are described briefly below.

Counts and measurements followed those of HUBBS & LAGLER (1958). Head bone nomenclature is that of FRASER-BRUNNER (1955) and ROBERTS (1995).

Morphological description: Meristics (from 8 specimens): Dorsal fin rays VII–I, 12–13. Anal fin rays III, 13–14. Pectoral fin rays 10–11. Caudal fin rays 16-17 (upper lobe 8–9, lower lobe 8). Scales on body are very small (scales in lateral series ca. 60–70). Total vertebrae 24 (precaudal 10, caudal 14).

Morphometrics (from 5 specimens [22.1–26.4 mm SL]): Body is very deep (body depth 52.9–60.6 [mean: 55.2] % SL) and compressed (body width 20.8–25.0 [22.4] % SL). First dorsal fin height 36.7–42.4 (38.5) % SL. Second dorsal fin height 20.8–25.4 (23.2) %SL. Dorsal fin base 45.8–50.0 (48.2) % SL. Anal fin height 21.9–25.0 (23.6) % SL. Anal fin base 39.0–45.8 (42.1) % SL. Pelvic fin length 21.6–24.6 (22.9) % SL. Predorsal length 45.3–51.5 (49.1) % SL. Caudal peduncle length 12.5–14.8 (13.8) % SL. Caudal peduncle depth 12.7–12.9 (12.7) % SL. Head length (HL) 39.4-41.0 (40.4) %SL. Eye diameter 33.3–35.6 (34.3) % HL. Snout length 25.3–27.8 (26.5) % HL. Interorbital width 25.0–29.9 (27.4) % HL.

Serrations (Fig. 2) (from 5 specimens [22.1–26.4 mm SL]): Preorbital margin and ridge have 4–7 well developed serrae and 3–5 small serrae, respectively. Supraorbital ridge has 6-15 small serrae . Preopercular ridge has 7–9 well developed serrae on the horizontal portion and a single well developed serra just above the angle. Preopercular

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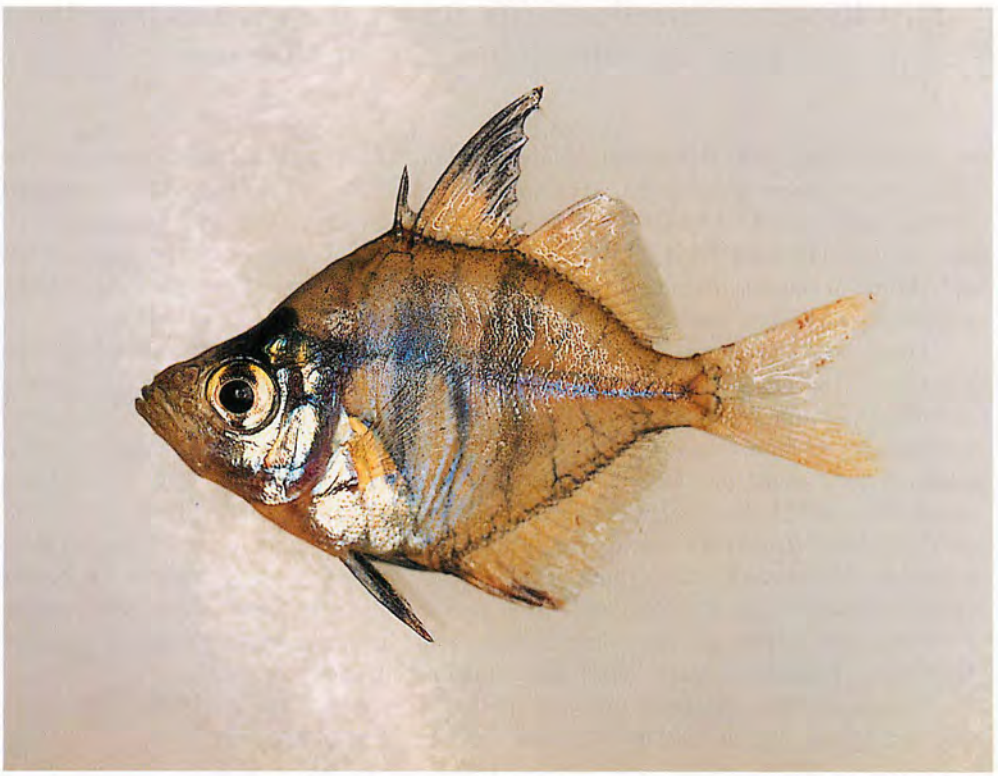

Figure 1. *Parambassis lala,* 26.4 mm SL (KUMF 3063), collected from a stream connected with Inle Lake, Salween (Thanlwin) River basin.

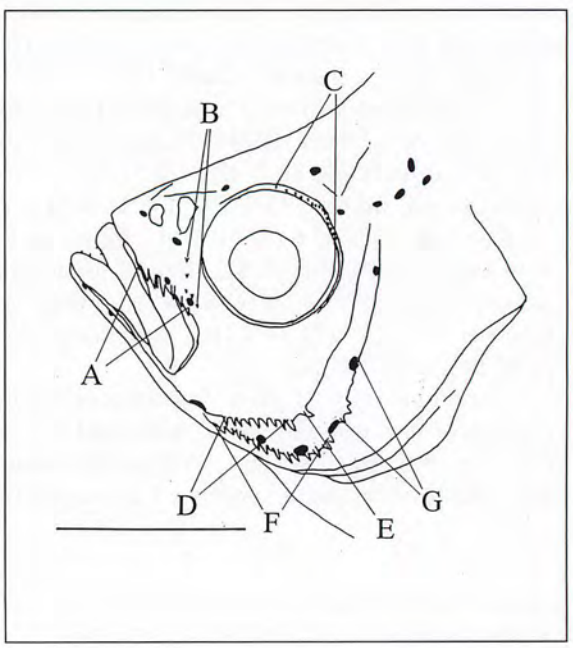

Figure 2. Head of *Parambassis lala.* 26.4 mm SL (KUMF 3063) showing serrations on: A, preorbital edge; B, preorbital ridge; C, supraorbital ridge; D, horizontal portion of preopercular ridge; E, vertical portion of preopercular ridge; F, horizontal portion of preopercular margin; G, vertical portion of preopercular margin. Cephalic sensory pores are shown in black. Scale bar indicates 5.0 mm.

edge has 9–13 well developed serrae on the horizontal portion; 2–3 small serrae just above angle on the vertical portion, and 2–4 very small serrae above those serrae.

Coloration: In fresh specimens, the body is translucent. The whole body and all fins are pale orangish in some specimens, including the largest one (Fig. 1). Two broad black vertical bands appear on the middle of body (more conspicuous in preserved specimens). A humeral spot is present. The distal portion of the first dorsal fin, the anterior (spinous) part of the anal fin and the pelvic fins are black. The distal portion of the second dorsal fin and the posterior part of the anal fin are blackish. A black saddle-back mark appears from the nape to above the posterior part of orbit.

Habitat note: All specimens of *P. lala* were caught in shallow water of about 10–50 cm depth in an about 3–5 m wide clear water stream connected with Inle Lake. The bottom of the stream was composed of mud and sand. Other fishes collected in the same place were *Channa gachua, Microrasbora rubescens* and *Sawbwa resplendens.*

Remarks: The specimens of *P. lala* from Inle Lake showed variation in the number of head serration as noted above, although ROBERTS (1995) did not report any variation in this species. According to Tyson R. Roberts (pers. comm.), food fishes such as *Labeo rohita* observed in this lake by him in 1994 were probably introduced. There is a possiblity that *P. lala* in Inle Lake was unintentionally also introduced with these food fishes.

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