

# *Mustura yangi*, a new species of loach (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae) from Putao, Irrawaddy drainage, northern Myanmar

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*Mustura yangi*, new species, is described from the upper Mali Hka River drainage, Irrawaddy River basin, in Putao District, Kachin State, Myanmar. It is distinguished from all other species of *Mustura* by a unique combination of the following characters: 6–7 dark grey bars on flank, often dissociated into a blotch and a saddle; numerous and irregular spots on the head; extremely dorsally situated eyes; well formed axillary pelvic lobe, prominent air-bladder with a minute posterior chamber in abdominal cavity; males with suborbital flap; lateral line complete; a slender caudal peduncle, its depth 1.6–1.9 times in its length, 8.6–10.1% SL; caudal fin forked; largest recorded size 56.0 mm SL.

## Introduction

The genus *Mustura* was recently established for a number of species of nemacheilid loaches earlier placed in *Physoschistura* (Kottelat, 2018) and is distinguished from all other genera of Nemacheilidae by the following characters: the presence of a small free posterior chamber of the air bladder (or absence); the two halves of the air-bladder capsule connected by a manubrium; the pectoral fin slanted upwards and expanded laterally in male; the first branched pectoral-fin

ray widest, without membrane between branches except near tip; lips fleshy, lower lip with wide median incision, two halves forming an acute angle, wide and fleshy, forming a triangular ‘cushion’, partly free from jaw and connected to throat by a frenum; suborbital flap present, with small tubercles on posterior extremity. Species of *Mustura* are known from the Mekong, Salween, Irrawaddy, Kaladan and Brahmaputra drainages in Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh and India (Kottelat, 1990, 2012, 2018).

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Fig. 10. *Mustura shanensis*, SEABRI-QT 20180128, 21.4 mm SL; Myanmar: Yae Pale Chaung, a tributary of Inle Lake; 12 August 2018. Right side, reversed.

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