

Garra laishrami, a new species of cyprinid fish (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from the Godavari River drainage, Eastern Ghats of Odisha, India

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Garra laishrami, a new cyprinid fish, is described from the Godavari River drainage in Odisha, India. It is distinguished from all its congeners in the Indian sub-continent in having a combination of the following characters: a weakly developed bilobed proboscis, each lobe with 1–4 unicuspid acanthoid tubercles; transverse lobe of the snout covered with 33–47 medium- to large-sized unicuspid acanthoid tubercles; transverse groove demarcating transverse lobe on snout extended laterally; two prominent tubercles anteromedially between nostrils; 9–10 predorsal scales; lateral line complete, scales along lateral line (28–32)+2 on caudal-fin base; and 15 circumpectuncular scale rows.

Introduction

Species of labeonine genus *Garra* are elongate, small- to medium-sized, bottom-dwelling fishes distributed from Borneo, southern China and southern Asia through Middle East Asia, Arabian Peninsula and East Africa to West Africa (Zhang & Chen, 2002). They are usually found under rocks and among stones and boulders of torrential streams and rivers. They adhere to the rocky bottom substrate with the help of a gular disc, acting like a sucker (Kottelat, 2020). Species of this genus are characterised by the presence of a gular disc developed from tissues of the gular region (Kottelat, 2020) and that exhibit variations in the size, shape and arrangement of the snout

tubercles (Nebeshwar & Vishwanath, 2013). To date, four species of *Garra* have been reported from the freshwater bodies of Odisha viz., *Garra annandalei* Hora, 1921; *G. gotyla* (Gray, 1830); *G. lamta* (Hamilton, 1822) and *Garra mullya* (Sykes, 1839) [Mogalekar & Cancial, 2018].

The Kolab River rises near the Sinkaram Hills of the Eastern Ghats, passing through Koraput, Nabarangpur and Malkanagiri districts in Odisha. It is an important tributary of the Godavari River, having a total length of 448 km, of which 88 km flow in the Koraput District. A collection of fishes from the Kolab River in the Koraput District of Odisha included an undescribed species of *Garra*, which is described herein.

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