

## *Homatula dotui*, a new cave-loach from Central Vietnam (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae)

Dinh Tao Nguyen\*, \*\*\*, Hua Wu\*, Liang Cao\*\* and E Zhang\*\*

*Homatula dotui*, new species, is described from a cave in the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in Central Vietnam. This troglobitic loach is the first species of *Homatula* found in Vietnam and the first subterranean species of the genus. It differs from all congeners by a whitish or pinkish body in life, no scales, incomplete lateral line with 4–5 pores, reduced eyes, and the number of dorsal-fin rays and vertebrae.

### Introduction

The nemacheilid genus *Homatula* was believed to be endemic to China and actually comprises a total of 18 species known from the upper Mekong River (=Lancang-Jiang in Chinese), Red River (=Yuan-Jiang), Pear River (=Zhu-Jiang), mid-upper Yangtze River (=Chang-Jiang) drainages, and the Wei-He, a tributary of the Yellow River (=Huang-He) drainage (Li et al., 2019). By the end of the last century, seven species of the genus had been placed in *Paracobitis*, which is a West Asian genus (Kottelat, 1990; Bănărescu & Nalbant, 1995; Nalbant & Bianco, 1998; Freyhof et al., 2014). These species are: *P. anguilloides*, *P. acuticephala*, *P. oligolepis*, *P. erhaiensis*, *P. potanini*, *P. variegata* and *P. wujianensis*. Min et al. (2010) described

*P. nanpanjiangensis*, an additional species from the Chinese Yunnan Province. Hu & Zhang (2010) described *Homatula pycnolepis* from Yunnan Province and revalidated *H. berezowskii* from Sichuan Province, South China. Another eight species of *Homatula* have since been described from China: *H. laxiclathra* (Gu & Zhang, 2012), *H. disparizona* (Min et al., 2013), *H. change* (Endruweit, 2015), *H. wenshanensis* (Yang et al., 2017), *H. coccinocola* (Endruweit et al., 2018), and *H. anteridorsalis*, *H. cryptoclathrata* and *H. nigra* (Li et al., 2019). Nguyen (2005) described two Vietnamese loaches in the genus *Paracobitis* (namely *P. hagiangensis* and *P. phongthoensis*). *Paracobitis hagiangensis* is a valid species in *Schistura* while *P. phongthoensis* is a junior synonym of *S. caudofurca* (Kottelat, 2012a, 2013; Endruweit, 2014).

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\* School of Life Science, Central China Normal University, Wuhan 430079, Hubei Province, P. R. China.  
 E-mail: [wuhua@mail.ccnu.edu.cn](mailto:wuhua@mail.ccnu.edu.cn)

\*\* Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, No. 7 Donghu South Road, Wuhan 430072, Hubei Province, P.R. China. Email: [zhange@ihb.ac.cn](mailto:zhange@ihb.ac.cn)

\*\*\* Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, No. 18 Hoang Quoc Viet Road, Hanoi City, Vietnam. E-mail: [dinhtao23@gmail.com](mailto:dinhtao23@gmail.com)

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