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Garra deccanensis, a new species of labeonine fish (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from Peninsular India

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Garra deccanensis, a new species, is described from the Godavari and Krishna Rivers, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States of India. The new species is distinguished from its congeners in having a combination of following characteristics: snout with a prominent short, unilobed proboscis; 15–18 small to medium-sized unicuspid acanthoid tubercles on transverse lobe; 31–32 lateral-line scales; 9–10 predorsal scales, 16 circumpeduncular scales and two black spots, one at the upper angle of the gill opening and the other behind the median posterior margin of the opercle. Based on mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 gene partial sequence, *G. deccanensis* differs from all congeners for which genetic data are available by a raw genetic distance of 6.0–17.8 %.

Introduction

The elongate, small to medium-sized fishes of the labeonine genus *Garra* usually inhabit rapidly flowing rivers and mountain streams, where they cling to the substratum by means of an 'adhesive' or 'suctorial' disc on the gular region and unculiferous pads on the ventral surfaces of their wide, horizontally-orientated paired fins (Nebeshwar & Vishwanath, 2017). Most have a dull brown to black body with more or less distinct darker stripes between scale rows on the posterior half of the body (Kottelat, 2020). They are widely distributed from Southern China and Borneo in the east, through southern Asia, the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East, to Eastern, Central and West Africa (Zhang & Chen, 2002).

Nineteen species of *Garra* are known to occur in Peninsular India (Sudasinghe et al., 2021), of which *G. emarginata*, *G. hughi*, *G. kalakadensis*, *G. menoni*, *G. mlapparaensis*, *G. palaruvica*, *G. surendranathanii*, *G. joshuai*, *G. arunachalami* and *G. palaniensis* are included in the 'smooth snout' species group; and *G. mcclellandi*, *G. mullya*, *G. nethravathiensis*, *G. jerdoni*, *G. platycephala* and *G. periyarensis*, in the 'transverse-lobe' species group; while *G. bicornuta*, *G. stenorhynchus* and *G. triangularis*, belong to the 'snout with proboscis

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