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Homatula tigris, a new species of nemacheiline loach from the upper Yangtze River in Yunnan, China (Cypriniformes: Nemacheilidae)

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We describe a new species of *Homatula* from the Yangtze River in Yunnan, China based on morphological and molecular analysis. *Homatula tigris*, new species, differs from the other species of *Homatula* in the following morphological characters: predorsal body scales sparse; axillary pelvic scale present; lower jaw spoon-shaped and without notch; lateral line complete; gill opening small, its upper angle aligned to lower margin of eye; head length 15.0–17.3 % of SL. The Bayesian inference trees (BI) constructed from Cyt b and COI sequences support the hypothesis of monophyly of *H. tigris*.

Introduction

The loach genus *Homatula* (Cypriniformes: Nemacheilidae) was established by Nichols (1925) based on *Nemachilus potanini* Günther, 1896 from the Min-jiang (a tributary of the Yangtze River, Sichuan province, China). According to Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes, there are 27 valid species in this genus (Fricke et al., 2023) that are distributed in the drainages of the Nu-jiang (the upper Salween River), Lancang-jiang (the upper Mekong River), Pearl, Red, Yangtze and Yellow River (Zhu, 1989; Zhou & He, 1993; Min et al., 2010; Endruweit, 2015; Li et al., 2019; Nguyen et al., 2021; Min et al., 2022).

Currently, a total of six valid species of *Homatula* have been reported from the Yangtze River, China, namely *H. variegata* (Dabry de Thiersant in Sauvage, 1874), *H. berezowskii* (Günther, 1896), *H. potanini*, *H. oxygnathus* (Regan, 1908), *H. wuji-*

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