

Two New Species of the Cobitid Genus *Botia* from the Lao Mekong Basin

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Abstract Two new cobitid species, *Botia longidorsalis* and *B. caudipunctata*, are described from the Lao Mekong basin. These species are fell into *modesta*-group of subgenus *Hymenophysa* in having short rostral and maxillary barbels, relatively large mental lobes, each with a pair of fleshy papillae at its anterior end, ordinary premaxillae not surrounding a cavity and a fontanelle on the top of the cranium. *B. longidorsalis* is the most similar to *B. morleti*, but is distinguishable from it and other species of *modesta*-group by the combination of the following characters: 9–10 branched dorsal fin rays, 30–31 total vertebrae, 13–18 narrow, irregular, brownish bars on the body sides, a broad, brownish bar on the caudal peduncle, and numerous small brownish spots on the caudal fin lobes. *B. caudipunctata* shows morphological similarities to *B. lecontei* and *B. modesta*, but differs from them and all other species by the combination of the following characters: 8 branched dorsal fin rays, 32–33 total vertebrae, brownish, saddle-shaped bands on the body behind the dorsal fin, a large, blurred blotch on the caudal peduncle, and pale dorsal, anal, pectoral and pelvic fins. The caudal fin has numerous small, brownish spots.

Fishes of the cobitid genus *Botia* Gray, 1831 occur in tropical and subtropical Asia, northeast from the upper Yangze west to the Brahmaputra and Indus basins and south to the Indochinese Peninsula and the Greater Sunda Islands (Day, 1876–1878; Weber and de Beaufort, 1916; Smith, 1945; Yen, 1978; Chen, 1980; Shrestha, 1981; Yang and Chen, 1992). The genus is usually divided into three subgenera, i. e., *Botia*, *Hymenophysa* and *Sinibotia*. Taki (1972) recognized two species-groups in the subgenus *Hymenophysa*, i. e., *hymenophysa*-group and *modesta*-group. The latter is characterized chiefly in having short rostral and maxillary barbels, relatively large mental lobes, each with a pair of fleshy papillae at its anterior end, ordinary premaxillae not surrounding a cavity and a fontanelle on the top of the cranium. Taki (1972) assigned five species to the *modesta*-group: *B. modesta* Bleeker, 1865, *B. morleti* Tirant, 1885, *B. lecontei* Fowler, 1937, *B. sidhimunki* Klau-sewitz, 1959 and *B. eos* Taki, 1972. In addition to these species, *B. nigrolineata* Kottelat and Chu, 1987 is considered to belong to this group, based on the original description of the species (Kottelat and Chu, 1987).

Two undescribed forms belonging to the *modesta*-group were found among fishes collected from the

Lao Mekong basin by the senior author in 1970 and 1971. In this paper they are described as new species.

Methods

Suborbital spine length was measured as a straight line from the anterior origin to the tip of the spine. Vertebral counts were made from radiographs. Abdominal and caudal vertebrae were defined as in Roberts (1989), and predorsal vertebrae were taken as all vertebrae anterior to the first dorsal pterygiophore. Other methods of counts and measurements followed Doi and Taki (1994). Linear discriminant analysis was used for morphometric comparisons. The following institutional acronyms are used in the text: AMNH, American Museum Natural History; BMNH, The Natural History Museum, London; CAS, California Academy of Sciences; FMNH, Field Museum of Natural History; IBRP, Institute for Breeding Research, Tokyo University of Agriculture; KUMF, Museum of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, Bangkok; NSMT, National Science Museum, Tokyo; ZMA, Institute of Taxonomic Zoology, University of Amsterdam; ZRC, Zoological Reference Collection, Department of Zoology,

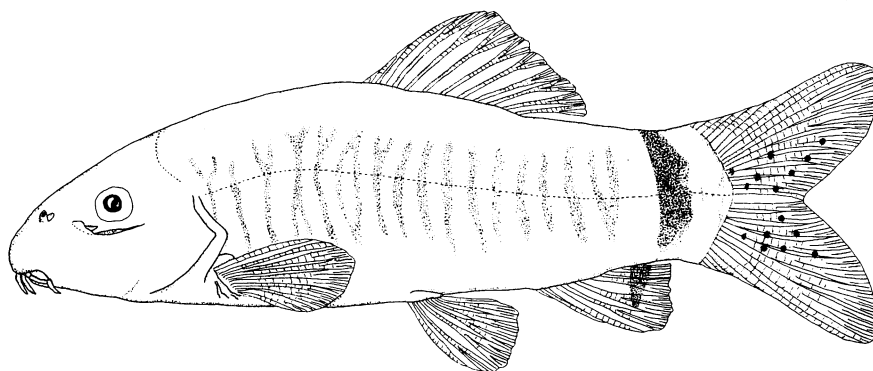


Fig. 1. *Botia longidorsalis* sp. nov., paratype, NSMT-P 35942, 45.1 mm SL, Mekong River at Hatsalao, near Pakse, Laos, 26 June 1970.

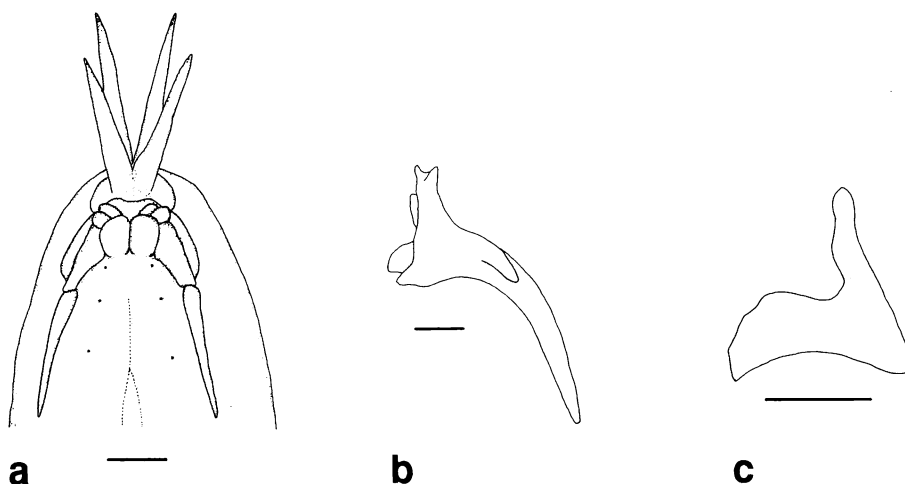


Fig. 2. *Botia longidorsalis*. a) Mouth (NSMT-P 35943, 41.7 mm SL); b) preorbital spine (right) (NSMT-P 35941, 42.7 mm SL); c) premaxilla (right) (NSMT-P 35941). Scale bars indicate 1 mm.

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Botia longidorsalis sp. nov.
(Figs. 1, 2)

Holotype. NSMT-P 35940, 49.0 mm standard length (SL), Mekong River at Hatsalao, near Pakse, Laos, 26 June 1970.

Paratypes. NSMT-P 35941, 1 specimen, 42.7 mm SL, collected with the holotype; NSMT-P 35942, 1, 45.1, collected with the holotype; NSMT-P 35943, 5, 41.7–48.6, collected with the holotype; NSMT-P 35944, 2, 42.1–46.3, Nam Khon River, about 1 km above its mouth to Nam Ngum River, at Tha Ngon, near Vientiane, Laos, 17 June 1970.

Diagnosis. A *Botia* species of the *modesta*-group,

distinguishable from all other species in the group by the combination of the following characters: 9–10 branched dorsal fin rays, 30–31 total vertebrae, 13–18 narrow, brownish, irregular, bars on sides, a broad bar on caudal peduncle and numerous small brownish spots on caudal fin lobes.

Description. All meristic and morphometric characters examined are given in Tables 1 and 2.

Body oblong, somewhat compressed; greatest depth at a point slightly in front of or at origin of dorsal fin; greatest width midway between origins of pectoral and pelvic fins; caudal peduncle compressed, slightly deeper than long (length 86.2–97.5% of depth).

Origin of dorsal fin situated in posterior half of

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body. Origin of anal fin slightly behind a vertical from base of last branched dorsal fin ray, distance between a vertical from base of last branched dorsal

fin ray and origin of anal fin about equal to eye diameter. Pectoral fin extending to or slightly beyond a vertical from origin of dorsal fin. Pelvic fin

Table 1. Meristic characters of *Botia longidorsalis* sp. nov. and *B. morleti*

	<i>Botia longidorsalis</i>				<i>Botia morleti</i>		
	Holotype NSMT-P 35940	Paratypes Frequencies*	Mean**	n**	Frequencies*	Mean	n
Simple dorsal rays	4	4 (3)	4.0	4	4 (7), 5 (3)	4.3	10
Branched dorsal rays	9	9 (8), 10 (1)	9.1	10	8 (10)	8.0	10
Simple anal rays	4	4 (3)	4.0	4	4 (9), 5 (1)	4.1	10
Branched anal rays	5	5 (9)	5.0	10	5 (10)	5.0	10
Total pectoral rays	12	11 (2), 12 (7)	11.8	10	11 (1), 12 (8), 13 (1)	12.0	10
Total pelvic rays	8	8 (9)	8.0	10	8 (10)	8.0	10
Total vertebrae	30	30 (2), 31 (1)	30.3	4	28 (3), 29 (6), 30 (1)	28.8	10
Predorsal vertebrae	10	10 (3)	10.0	4	9 (10)	9.0	10
Abdominal vertebrae	18	18 (1), 19 (2)	18.5	4	16 (1), 17 (7), 18 (2)	17.1	10
Caudal vertebrae	12	11 (1), 12 (2)	11.8	4	11 (3), 12 (7)	11.7	10

* Numbers in parentheses indicate number of specimens; ** including holotype.

Table 2. Morphometric characters of *Botia longidorsalis* sp. nov. and *B. morleti*

	<i>Botia longidorsalis</i>				<i>Botia morleti</i>		
	Holotype NSMT-P 35940	Paratypes Range	Mean*	n*	Range	Mean	n
Standard length (mm)	49.0	41.7–48.6		10	46.0–59.5		10
In % of standard length:							
Head length	29.7	29.7–32.8	31.0	10	30.4–33.4	32.1	10
Head depth at occiput	25.7	24.0–25.3	24.8	10	24.2–27.7	26.5	10
Body depth	33.8	30.3–32.4	31.5	10	30.3–37.8	33.8	7
body width	16.5	15.0–16.0	15.5	10	14.2–19.6	16.9	7
Caudal peduncle length	16.8	14.8–18.5	17.2	10	16.2–18.9	17.2	10
Caudal peduncle depth	19.0	17.2–19.9	18.8	10	18.7–21.6	20.3	10
Predorsal length	59.0	56.2–58.0	57.3	10	56.0–61.0	59.3	10
Preanal length	76.4	73.1–79.8	75.9	10	76.4–82.2	79.6	10
Prepelvic length	59.2	55.7–60.5	58.0	10	56.7–65.2	61.1	10
Length of last simple dorsal ray	16.0	14.5–19.2	17.0	10	15.7–19.8	18.3	10
Length of dorsal fin base	20.0	20.0–23.4	21.5	10	19.7–23.5	20.7	10
Length of last simple anal ray	16.0	15.2–17.3	16.3	10	15.8–17.6	16.8	10
Length of anal fin base	9.7	9.5–11.8	10.7	9	9.0–10.8	10.2	10
Pectoral fin length	21.5	21.3–25.0	22.8	10	22.0–25.4	23.1	10
Pelvic fin length	15.7	16.2–18.1	16.8	10	16.0–18.5	17.0	10
Length of upper lobe of caudal fin	30.0	31.1–32.8	31.9	10	30.9–35.8	33.3	10
Length of lower lobe of caudal fin	31.4	30.4–33.3	32.1	10	32.1–35.3	33.4	10
Head length (mm)	14.6	13.0–15.2		10	14.6–19.2		10
In % of head length:							
Snout length	50.2	48.5–51.3	49.9	10	50.3–55.0	52.5	10
Orbit diameter	19.6	19.4–21.5	20.1	10	14.5–17.7	16.2	10
Postorbital length	41.2	40.1–44.6	42.0	10	39.6–44.4	42.3	10
Interorbital width	35.7	29.7–34.1	33.2	10	32.2–36.7	34.7	10
Preorbital spine length	34.4	29.6–33.2	31.8	10	23.1–28.0	26.3	10

* Including holotype.

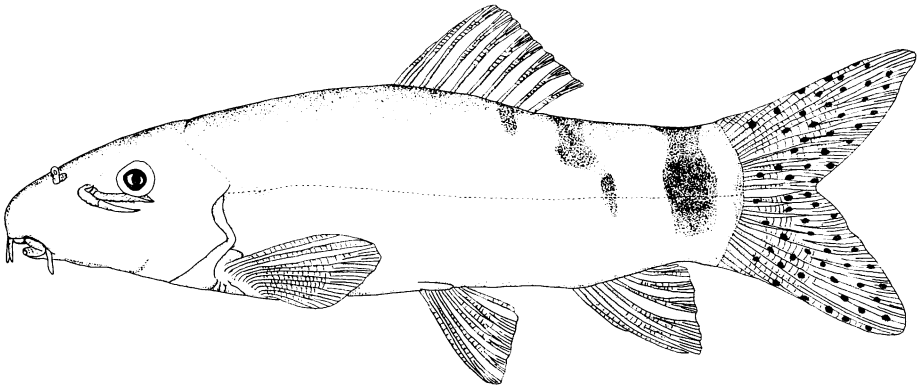


Fig. 3. *Botia caudipunctata* sp. nov., holotype, NSMT-P 35935, 82.0 mm SL, Mekong River, at Hatsalao, near Pakse, Laos, 9 Feb. 1971.

shorter than pectoral fin, inserted under first or second branched dorsal fin ray, tip extending beyond anus.

Head high, moderately long. A fontanelle present posteriorly between frontals, parietals and supraoccipital. Snout pointed, rather short, its length about equal to half of head length. Mouth small, oblique, subinferior, greatly arched, its corners extending to a vertical from midway between anterior and posterior nostrils. Lips thin. Lower lip interrupted at symphysis, with a pair of mental lobes on either side of symphysis (Fig. 2a). Mental lobes moderately large, each lobe with a pair of small fleshy papillae on anterior edge. Barbels six, four rostral and two maxillary, all about as long as eye diameter. Eye relatively small, situated at midlength of head. Suborbital spine bifid, curved, its tip extending to posterior margin of eye. Dorsocaudal process of suborbital spine relatively short, its length about 1/4 of suborbital spine length (Fig. 2b). Anterior process of premaxilla wide (Fig. 2c), its inner edge straight, not forming a cavity space between the bones of both sides.

Color in alcohol.—Body light brown, with 13–18 narrow, irregular, brownish bars on side and a broad, brownish cross band on caudal peduncle. Dorsal, pectoral and pelvic fins plain. Caudal fin with numerous brownish spots. Anal fin with a dark transverse stripe posteriorly.

Distribution. *Botia longidorsalis* sp. nov. is known only from the Mekong River System: Mekong River near Pakse, Laos and the Nam Khon River, a tributary connected to the Mekong River via the Nam Ngum River, at Tha Ngou, Laos.

Etymology. The Latin *longidorsalis* refers to the long dorsal fin base.

Remarks. In color pattern, *Botia longidorsalis* is most similar to *B. morleti*. However, the two species differ in the following characters: mid-dorsal stripe absent in *B. longidorsalis* (vs. present in *B. morleti*), bars on the side present in all specimens (vs. present only in some specimens), 9–10 branched dorsal fin rays (vs. 8), 30–31 total vertebrae (vs. 28–30), 10 predorsal vertebrae (vs. 9), shorter snout (48.5–51.3% HL, vs. 50.3–55.0), smaller eyes (orbit diameter 14.5–17.7% HL, vs. 19.4–21.5) and longer suborbital spines (29.6–34.4% HL, vs. 23.1–28.0) (Tables 1 and 2).

Botia caudipunctata sp. nov.
(Figs. 3, 4)

Holotype. NSMT-P 35935, 82.0 mm SL, Mekong River, at Hatsalao, near Pakse, Laos, 9 Feb. 1971.

Paratypes. AMNH 97708, 3 specimens, 49.6–68.6 mm SL, NSMT-P 35936, 25 specimens, 48.9–83.3, NSMT-P 35938, 1, 70.4, Mekong River at Hatsalao, near Pakse, Laos, 10 Feb. 1971; BMNH 1995.4.24: 1–5, 5, 54.7–60.7, NSMT-P 35939, 6, 49.6–59.0, ZMA 121.536, 3, 47.4–58.5, ZRC 38693, 3, 50.3–56.8, Mekong River at Sithan Tay, near Vientiane, Laos, 9 Apr. 1971; CAS 82271, 3, 65.5–79.4, FMNH 105088, 3, 72.8–79.5, KUFM 3075, 3, 50.7–77.0, MNHN 1995-431, 432, 433, 3, 55.4–74.2, RMNH 32666, 3, 51.3–70.9, Mekong River at Hatsalao, near Pakse, Laos, 10 Feb. 1971; NSMT-P 35937, 6, 55.2–89.1, USNM 336716, 3, 66.4–82.5 collected with the holotype.

Diagnosis. A *Botia* of the *modesta*-group, distinguishable from all other species in the group by the

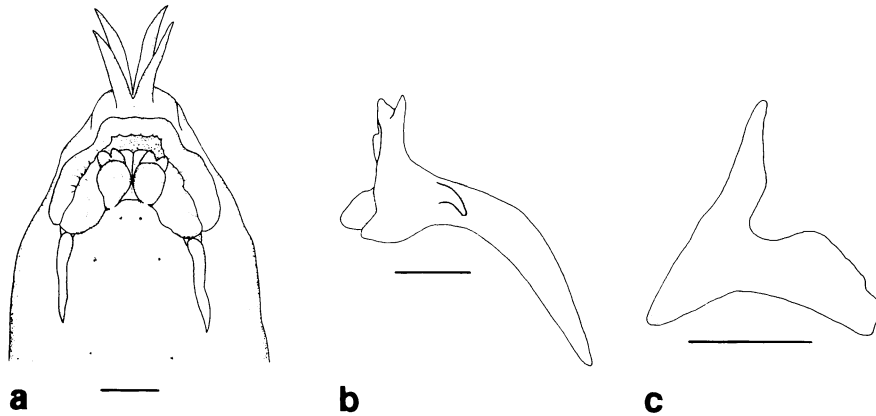


Fig. 4. *Botia caudipunctata*. a) Mouth (NSMT-P 35937, 71.6 mm SL); b) preorbital spine (right) (NSMT-P 35938, 70.4 mm SL); c) premaxilla (left) (NSMT-P 35938). Scale bars indicate 1 mm.

combination of the following characters: 8 branched dorsal fin rays, 32–33 total vertebrae, brownish, saddle-shaped bands on the body behind the dorsal fin, a large, blurred, brownish, blotch on the caudal peduncle, and pale dorsal, anal, pectoral and pelvic fins. Caudal fin with numerous, small, dark brownish spots.

Description. All meristic and morphometric characters are given in Tables 3 and 4.

Body elongated, somewhat compressed; greatest depth at origin of dorsal fin; greatest width midway between origins of pectoral and pelvic fins; caudal peduncle compressed, depth equal to or slightly longer than length (depth 83.2–106.1% of length).

Origin of dorsal fin slightly behind midpoint of body. Origin of anal fin behind a vertical from origin of last branched dorsal fin rays, distance between a vertical from base of last branched dorsal fin ray and origin of anal fin slightly longer than eye diameter. Pectoral fin extending to a vertical from origin of dorsal fin. Pelvic fin shorter than pectoral fin, inserted under second branched dorsal fin ray; tip of the fin reaching beyond anus.

Head high, moderately long. A fontanelle present posteriorly between frontals, parietals and supraoccipital. Snout pointed, relatively long, its length equal to or longer than half of head length. Mouth small, oblique, subinferior, greatly arched, its corners extending to a vertical from anterior nostrils. Lips thick. Lower lip interrupted at symphysis, with a pair of mental lobes medially (Fig. 4a). Mental lobes moderately large, each lobe with a pair of small, fleshy papillae on frontal edge. Barbels six, four

rostral and two maxillary, all of about equal length, shorter than eye diameter. Eye relatively large, situated at a point slightly behind midlength of head. Suborbital spine bifid, moderately curved, its tip extending to posterior border of eye. Dorsocaudal process of preorbital spine very short, its length about 1/6 of suborbital spine length (Fig. 4b). Anterior process of premaxilla moderately elongate (Fig. 4c), its inner edge straight, not forming a cavity between the bones of both sides.

Color in alcohol.—Body light brown, with a small, brownish, saddle-shaped band below posterior half of dorsal fin, a longer saddle-shaped band behind the dorsal fin, and a large, blurred blotch on caudal peduncle. Small specimens sometimes with another pale cross band behind second saddle-shaped band. Dorsal, anal, pectoral and pelvic fins plain. Caudal fin with numerous, small but distinct, brownish spots on each lobe.

Distribution. *Botia caudipunctata* sp. nov. is known only from the Mekong River near Pakse and Vientiane, Laos.

Etymology. The Latin *caudipunctata* refers to the caudal fin being covered with small dots.

Remarks. *Botia caudipunctata* is similar to *B. lecontei* and *B. modesta* in having eight branched dorsal fin rays and brownish body color in alcohol. However, *B. caudipunctata* is readily distinguishable from these two species in having a caudal fin with numerous small dots instead of a plain one as in alcohol-preserved specimens of the two species. In

Table 3. Meristic characters of *Botia caudipunctata* sp. nov., *B. lecontei* and *B. modesta*

	<i>Botia caudipunctata</i>				<i>Botia lecontei</i>			<i>Botia modesta</i>		
	Holotype NSMT-P 35935	Paratypes Frequencies*	Mean**	n**	Frequencies*	Mean	n	Frequencies*	Mean	n
Simple dorsal rays	4	4 (68)	4.0	69	4 (13), 5 (14)	4.5	27	4 (24), 5 (4)	4.2	29
Branched dorsal rays	8	8 (69)	8.0	70	8 (27)	8.0	27	8 (30)	8.0	30
Simple anal rays	4	3 (1), 4 (63), 5 (2)	4.0	67	3 (1), 4 (21), 5 (5)	4.2	27	3 (1), 4 (25), 5 (3)	4.1	29
Branched anal rays	5	4 (1), 5 (68)	5.0	70	5 (27)	5.0	27	5 (30)	5.0	30
Total pectoral rays	14	12 (1), 13 (15), 14 (49), 15 (3)	13.8	69	13 (1), 14 (15), 15 (8), 16 (3)	14.5	27	13 (2), 14 (17), 15 (10)	14.3	29
Total pelvic rays	8	8 (67), 9 (1)	8.0	69	7 (1), 8 (26)	8.0	27	8 (29)	8.0	29
Total vertebrae	32	32 (39), 33 (30)	32.4	70	33 (3), 34 (14), 35 (8), 36 (2)	34.3	27	30 (1), 31 (26), 32 (2)	31.0	29
Predorsal vertebrae	10	9 (41), 10 (28)	9.4	70	10 (24), 11 (3)	10.1	27	9 (21), 10 (8)	9.3	29
Abdominal vertebrae	21	19 (2), 20 (49), 21 (18)	20.2	70	20 (9), 21 (11), 22 (6), 23 (1)	21.0	27	19 (19), 20 (10)	19.3	29
Caudal vertebrae	11	11 (5), 12 (46), 13 (17), 14 (1)	12.2	70	12 (1), 13 (15), 14 (11)	13.4	27	11 (10), 12 (18), 13 (1)	11.7	29

* Numbers in parentheses indicate number of specimens; **including holotype.

Table 4. Morphometric characters of *Botia caudipunctata* sp. nov., *B. lecontei* and *B. modesta*

	<i>Botia caudipunctata</i>				<i>Botia lecontei</i>			<i>Botia modesta</i>		
	Holotype NSMT-P 35935	Paratypes	Mean*	n*	Range	Mean	n	Range	Mean	n
Standard length (mm)	82.0	47.4–89.1		70	45.7–135.3		27	55.9–113.0		30
In % of standard length:										
Head length	31.8	29.9–33.6	31.6	70	26.3–30.8	28.8	27	31.1–35.3	33.4	30
Head depth at occiput	23.2	20.3–23.7	22.1	70	18.0–22.3	19.8	27	22.6–25.5	24.0	30
Body depth	28.4	25.4–30.7	28.4	70	24.0–29.7	26.6	26	30.6–38.0	33.8	29
Body width	16.0	13.6–16.6	15.3	70	12.7–17.8	15.0	26	14.7–19.7	16.8	29
Caudal peduncle length	16.4	15.2–18.1	16.8	70	15.7–19.6	17.4	27	15.9–20.4	17.2	30
Caudal peduncle depth	17.9	16.0–18.6	17.3	70	14.2–17.1	15.8	27	18.3–23.7	20.1	30
Predorsal length	56.3	53.6–58.2	55.9	70	50.8–57.5	54.8	27	57.4–61.3	59.3	30
Preanal length	79.0	74.3–81.9	78.1	70	74.0–78.7	76.6	27	76.6–80.7	78.7	30
Prepelvic length	58.3	56.3–60.0	58.0	70	52.7–58.5	55.4	27	58.3–62.6	60.4	30
Length of last simple dorsal ray	18.6	16.2–21.5	19.0	70	13.3–18.5	15.8	26	17.5–22.9	20.6	30
Length of dorsal fin base	18.8	16.9–19.7	18.3	70	15.4–18.9	17.4	27	15.5–19.2	17.2	30
Length of last simple anal ray	17.5	15.3–19.7	17.4	70	12.5–16.9	14.6	27	15.5–21.2	17.4	30
Length of anal fin base	9.8	8.2–10.7	9.7	70	8.1–10.2	9.3	27	8.5–10.6	9.5	30
Pectoral fin length	22.3	20.1–23.8	22.4	69	17.8–20.9	19.4	27	20.3–24.0	21.7	30
Pelvic fin length	17.1	15.9–19.0	17.4	70	13.2–17.1	15.1	27	15.7–18.2	16.8	30
Length of upper lobe of caudal fin	34.9	31.7–38.1	34.9	70	24.5–33.0	28.7	27	34.9–41.0	38.2	28
Length of lower lobe of caudal fin	34.2	31.3–37.9	34.2	69	24.6–31.6	28.0	27	34.0–39.8	36.6	28
Head length (mm)	26.1	15.5–27.5		70	12.0–39.9		27	18.9–38.5		30
In % of head length:										
Snout length	59.0	49.5–59.0	55.6	70	44.7–52.4	49.1	27	48.1–61.8	54.4	30
Orbit diameter	16.7	16.1–22.2	18.4	70	12.5–19.2	15.8	27	14.3–20.5	18.0	30
Postorbital length	37.0	33.3–39.6	36.7	70	40.0–44.3	42.4	27	35.6–41.5	38.0	30
Interorbital width	34.5	31.8–38.7	35.4	70	31.3–37.5	33.6	27	34.2–41.5	37.4	29
Preorbital spine length	30.7	25.5–35.6	29.9	69	16.1–26.2	21.1	27	24.2–29.7	27.1	30

* Including holotype.

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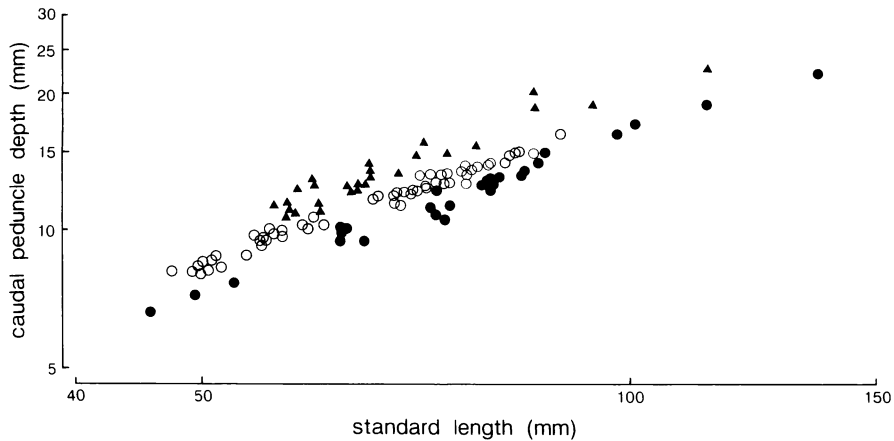


Fig. 5. Relationship between standard length and caudal peduncle depth; *Botia caudipunctata* (○), *B. lecontei* (●) and *B. modesta* (▲).

addition, *B. caudipunctata* has fewer vertebrae (32–33, mean 32.4) than *B. lecontei* (33–36, mean 34.3) (Table 3). In morphometric characters, ranges of body proportions of *B. caudipunctata* and *B. lecontei*

overlap to some extent. However, the following 11 characters show statistically significant differences (correct discriminant rates more than 95% in linear discriminant analysis): head length, head depth, caudal peduncle depth, prepelvic length, pectoral fin length, pelvic fin length, length of upper caudal fin lobe, length of lower caudal fin lobe, snout length, postorbital length and suborbital spine length (Fig. 5; Tables 4 and 5).

B. caudipunctata is distinguished from *B. modesta* in having more numerous vertebrae (32–33, mean 32.43, vs. 30–32, 31.03) (Table 3). In morphometric characters, the following three characters show significant differences (correct discriminant rates more than 95%): body depth, caudal peduncle depth and predorsal length (Fig. 5; Tables 4 and 5).

Table 5. Correct discriminant rate (%) of *Botia caudipunctata* sp. nov. and *B. lecontei* or *B. modesta* by linear discriminant analysis on log-transformed length of each morphometric characters and log-transformed standard or head (with asterisk) length

	<i>B. lecontei</i>	<i>B. modesta</i>
Head length	95.9	87.0
Head depth at occiput	95.9	87.0
Body depth	84.4	99.0
Body width	70.8	78.8
Caudal peduncle length	70.1	57.0
Caudal peduncle depth	96.9	99.0
Predorsal length	76.3	97.0
Preanal length	80.4	62.0
Prepelvic length	95.9	89.0
Length of last simple dorsal ray	92.7	83.0
Length of dorsal fin base	78.4	79.0
Length of last simple anal ray	93.8	40.0
Length of anal fin base	64.6	52.5
Pectoral fin length	99.0	74.7
Pelvic fin length	95.9	69.0
Length of upper lobe of caudal fin	97.9	83.7
Length of lower lobe of caudal fin	99.0	79.4
Snout length*	97.9	76.0
Orbit diameter*	92.8	51.0
Postorbital length*	99.0	67.0
Interorbital width*	73.1	72.0
Preorbital spine length*	96.9	84.8

Comparative Materials

Botia lecontei: NSMT-P 35926, 4, 79.7–135.3, Ban Kok, Wang Sam Mo, Udon Thani, Thailand; NSMT-P 35927, 4, 62.4–73.0, Haad Sang Tien, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand; NSMT-P 35929, 10, 78.4–117.1, Market at Ubon Ratchathani; IBRP 5273, 10, 45.7–79.6, Mekong River at Hatsalao, near Pakse, Laos.

Botia modesta: NSMT-P 35928, 1, 93.9, Talat Thai Khum Market, Chainat, Thailand; NSMT-P 35932, 8, 58.1–85.5, Bung Boraphet Channel, in front of Nakhon Sawan Fisheries Station, Nakhon Sawan, Thailand; NSMT-P 35934, 1, 70.5, Market at Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand; IBRP 5610, 20, 55.9–113.0, Mekong River at Hatsalao, near Pakse, Laos.

Botia morleti: NSMT-P 35930, 3, 47.1–57.2, Ban Kok, Wang Sam Mo, Udon Thani, Thailand; NSMT-P 35931,

5, 48.7–54.5, Sirin Thon Dam, Bun Tharik, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand; NSMT-P 35933, 2, 46.0–50.0, Thapoon Dam, Mun River at Tha Chang, Khorat, Thailand.

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ラオス領メコン水系から得られた *Botia* 属の 2 新種

多紀保彦・土井 敦

ラオス領メコン水系から 1970 年と 1971 年に採集された標本にもとづき、*Botia* 属の 2 新種、*B. longidorsalis* と *B. caudipunctata* を記載した。両種は mental lobe が髭状にならず前端に肉質突起をもつこと、頭頂に fontanelle が開口すること、左右の前上顎骨の先端の間に円形の空隙がないこと等の特徴をもつことから、*Hymenophysa* 亜属の *modesta* グループに含まれる。このグループ既知種と比較すると、*B. longidorsalis* は色彩パターンで *B. morleti* に最も似るが、背中線上の黒色縦帯を欠くこと、背鰭分枝軟条数が 9–10、脊椎骨数が 30–31 であること等により識別できる。*B. caudipunctata* は *B. lecontei* および *B. modesta* に似るが、脊椎骨数が 32–33、尾鰭に明瞭な無数の黒色斑があること等により区別できる。

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