

2 new fish species found in Arunachal

Research Data Point At Catfish Variety

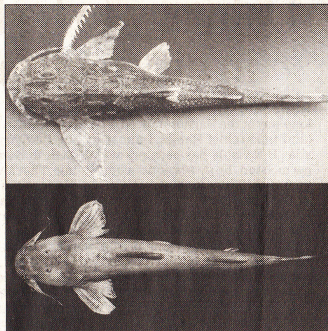
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Itanagar: Scientists at the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED) here have discovered two new species of fish in rivers of Arunachal Pradesh.

"The two species of catfish - *erethistoides senkhiensis* and *glyptothorax dikrongensis* - were spotted by staffers Lakpa Tamang and Shivaji Chaudhry at Senkhi stream and Dikrong River in Papum Pare district," said the institute's northeast unit in-charge Prasanna K Samal on Monday.

Besides publishing about the discovery of *balitora brucei*, *glyptothorax telchitta* and *pseudolaguvia shawi*, 88 species of freshwater fishes have been assessed and evaluated by the institute for the red data book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), added Samal.

According to Samal, the *erethistoides senkhiensis* species was captured from Senkhi stream during samplings carried out between March and June 2006.



After consultation of standard literature and compilation of morphometric data, the species was placed in the catfish genera.

This genus had 6 species and all the taxonomic and morphometric descriptions were cross-checked. It was found that it does not have over-

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hanging snouts.

"This property brought it close to its congener *erethistoides infuscatus*, but it differed from *E infuscatus* in having 3 black to light brown cross

bars, fewer vertebrae (29-30), concave caudal fin, in having more serrae on the anterior margin of the pectoral spine (18-29 vs 7-19), in having the serrae of the posterior edge of the pectoral spine short, more convex anteriorly and distantly placed, thus making it unique from other members of the genera," he said.

The *Glyptothorax* species was captured from the Dikrong river during samplings carried out in June 2009 and the species has been placed in catfish genera *glyptothorax*.

"This genus had 72 valid species and it was found that the species has additional unculiferous striae patch on the posterior region of lower lip in between inner mandibular barbel base transversely and longitudinally," added Samal.

He said this character brought it closer to its nearest congeners *glyptothorax indicus*, *glyptothorax rugimentum* & *glyptothorax obliquimaculatus*," he added.

Glyptothorax dikrongensis is differentiated from all congeners except *G indicus*, *G rugimentum* and *Gobliquimaculatus* by the presence of an unculiferous patch on the posterior region of the lower lip in between the inner mandibular barbel bases and unculiferous striae of the thoracic adhesive apparatus extending anteriorly onto the gular region.

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