

Betta kuehnei, a new species of fighting fish (Teleostei, Osphronemidae) from the Malay Peninsula

Betta kuehnei, eine neue Kampffischart (Teleostei, Osphronemidae)
von der Malaisischen Halbinsel

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Summary: *Betta kuehnei* sp. n. is described from the Malay Peninsula. The new species belongs to the *B. pugnax*-group and can be distinguished from the other species by a combination of the following characters: a round caudal fin both in males and females, absence of a second postorbital stripe and a comparatively short second central stripe (joined with central stripe above anterior part of anal fin).

Key words: *Betta kuehnei* sp. n., *Betta* sp. "Satun", fighting fishes, Malaysia, Thailand

Zusammenfassung: *Betta kuehnei* sp. n. wird von der malayischen Halbinsel beschrieben. Die neue Art gehört zur *B. pugnax*-Gruppe. Sie unterscheidet sich von den übrigen Arten durch die Kombination einer runden Schwanzflosse bei Weibchen und Männchen, dem Fehlen des zweiten Postorbitalstreifens und einem vergleichsweise kurzen zweiten Zentralstreifens, der sich mit dem Zentralstreifen in Höhe des vorderen Teil der Afterflosse verbindet.

Schlüsselwörter: *Betta kuehnei* sp. n., *Betta* sp. „Satun“, Kampffische, Malaysia, Thailand

1. Introduction

Fighting fishes of the genus *Betta* are widely distributed in Southeast Asia. With more than 60 valid species described the genus *Betta* has the highest number of species within the family Osphronemidae. According to their mode of parental care the genus is traditionally divided into mouthbrooding and bubble nesting species (SCHMIDT 1996). The mouthbrooding species from the Malay Peninsula were the subject of two recently published taxonomic studies (TAN & NG 2005a, SCHINDLER & SCHMIDT 2006). The aim of the present paper is to describe a new mouthbrooding species, not included as yet. It occurs in the most northern region of Malaysia (province Kelantan) and the most southern part of peninsular Thailand (province Narathiwat).

2. Material and methods

Methods for taking measurements follow SCHINDLER & SCHMIDT (2006). Measurements are taken as straight lines (to 0.1 mm accuracy) between two landmarks (see figure 1 in SCHINDLER & SCHMIDT 2006) with a digital caliper. Counts were made as described in WITTE & SCHMIDT (1992) except for the number of predorsal scales which were counted continuously. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of specimens examined. Terminology of color patterns follows TAN & NG (2005a) with modifications after SCHINDLER & SCHMIDT (2006; fig. 2). The description follows the general format used by TAN & NG (2005a) and SCHINDLER & SCHMIDT (2006). Beside the data obtained from material examined, data from previously described and redescribed species (KOTTELAT 1994, 1995a, KOTTELAT & NG 1994,