

Record of *Pillaia indica* Yazdani 1972, an endangered earthworm eel (Teleostei: Chaudhuriidae) from the streams of Brahmaputra drainage in Northeast India

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ABSTRACT:

Pillaia indica Yazdani 1972, a threatened earthworm eel under Synbranchiformes, is recorded from Langkhar (26°46'N and 90°32'E) and Teklai (26°47' N and 90°35'E) streams near Assam-Bhutan border of Chirang District, Assam, India. *Pillaia indica* is distinguished from its congeners in having dorsal soft rays 34–36, anal soft rays 34–36, vertebrae 66 and unpaired fins continuous. The head length 15.1–15.2% SL, dorsal fin base length 43.6–44.8% SL, anal fin base length 44.8–46.3% SL, anus to anal fin distance 2.9–3.1% SL, eye diameter 5.2–5.7% HL and head depth 36.8–37.9% HL.

Keywords:

Chaudhuriid, earthworm eel, new distributional record, Assam-Bhutan streams

Abbreviation:

IUCN-International Union for Conservation of Nature, MSUMNH-Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Museum of Natural History, USNM-US National Museum of Natural History