

Batasio flavus, a new catfish species (Siluriformes: Bagridae) from Kerala, India

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ABSTRACT:

Batasio flavus, a new species of the family Bagridae, is described from Manimala River of Kerala, India. It is distinguished from its relative species by the following combination of characters: body slender, dorsal profile nearly straight; body and fins yellow; median longitudinal groove on head narrow, single and extending to base of occipital process; occipital process very short, equal to the length of orbit and never reach basal bone of dorsal fin; orbits are widely set; dorsal fin spine very weak, feebly ossified and its anterior and posterior edges smooth; considerable distance between base of last rayed dorsal fin and origin of adipose dorsal fin and the second dorsal fin with a straight margin for entire length. The new fish species is described and compared with its related species.

Keywords:

Bagrids, New species, Manimala river, *Batasio travancoria*, *B. Sharavatiensis*.