

Pathteera Sithtananan 2010: Taxonomic Review of the Anabantoid Fish Genus

*Trichopsis* Canestrini, 1860 from Indochina (Perciformes: Osphronemidae).

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The Anabantoid fishes of the genus *Trichopsis* (Perciformes: Osphronemidae) are widely distributed in southeast Asia (Thailand, Lao, Cambodia, Southern of Vietnam, Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra and Java). The genus is characterized by a tip of pectoral fins which do not reach an origin of a dorsal fin but reach an origin of an anal fin; a dorsal fin origin opposite of soft rays of an anal fin; lateral line absent, 1-4 dark brown longitudinal band on body side and concave head. Although its wide distribution, morphological comparisons between local populations including examination of type specimens of nominal species for testing real taxonomic diversity of the species has never been done so far. Morphological comparisons between local populations based on totally 1,455 specimens from 15 river basins within its distributional range, have been conducted. A result indicated that the examined local populations can be separated into three major groups. The first group possessing a dark brown longitudinal band under the eye, lower jaw scales 1-6 (mean 4), longitudinal rows of scales 28-32 (mean 30) and preorbital denticulations 5-27 (mean 15) and was distributed in Indochina through Sunda Islands. The second group possessing a dorsal fin with light brown back ground and alternate dark brown and transparent spots on membranes between rays, preorbital denticulation 0-10 (mean 3), anal fin spines 4-8 (mean 6) and cephalic sensory pores (right side) 0-2 (mean 0) The third group possessing a dorsal fin with brown back ground and transparent spots scattered on membrane between rays, preorbital denticulations 7-18 (mean 13), anal fin spines 4-11 (mean 8) and cephalic sensory pores (right side) 0-2 (mean 2). The second and third groups were distributed only in Indochina (the lower middle Mekong, the upper lower Mekong, Mekong Delta, Eastern, the upper Chao Phraya, the lower Chao Phraya and Maeklong basins). Comparisons with the original descriptions and type specimens of all nominal species of genus *Trichopsis* indicated that the first, second and third groups were *T. vittata* (Cuvier, 1831), *T. pumila* (Arnold, 1936) and *T. schalleri* Ladiges, 1962, respectively.

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