

A new record of Dasyatid fish in China: *Dasyatis laosensis*

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Abstract: One specimen was collected from the main course of Lancangjiang River (upper reach of Mekong) in Guanlei Port, Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China in April, 2008. It is identified as *Dasyatis laosensis*, a new record of Dasyatidae species in China. It could be distinguished from other *Dasyatis* species by a combination of the following characteristics: one enlarged venomous spine on the tail, ventral surface of body with orange marginal coloration, tail length greater than body length.

Key words: *Dasyatis laosensis*; Fish; New species record; Lancangjiang River; China

中国魟科鱼类一新纪录——老挝魟

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摘要: 2008年4月在云南省西双版纳澜沧江干流关累段采集到鱼类标本1尾, 经鉴定为中国魟科鱼类的新纪录——老挝魟(*Dasyatis laosensis* Roberts and Karnasuta, 1987)。本种的主要鉴别特征为: 尾部具有一根较大的毒刺, 腹部圆盘边缘为橘黄色, 尾长大于体长。

关键词: 老挝魟; 鱼类; 新纪录; 澜沧江; 中国

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In April 2008, a fish specimen was collected from the main course of Lancangjiang River in Guanlei Port, Xishuangbanna, Yunnan province. It is identified as *Dasyatis laosensis* Roberts and Karnasuta, 1987, a new record of Dasyatidae species in China. The specimen is deposited in the museum of the School of Life Science, Yunnan University, the catalogue number of this specimen is YNU200804001.

1 Morphological characteristics

YNU200804001, collected from the main course of Lancangjiang River in Guanlei Port, Xishuangbanna, Yunnan province, total length 1449.0 mm, body length

866.0 mm, disc length 471.2 mm, disc width 537.9 mm, tail length 955.1 mm. Weight about 7000 g.

Disc length 1.1 in disc width. Preorbital snout length 3.9 in disc length. Eye diameter 6.7 in preorbital snout length, interorbital width 1.3 in preorbital snout length. Disc length 2.0 in tail length.

Disc thick and diamond-shaped, disc width a little broader than disc length; snout tip obtuse; anterior margin of disc slightly convex, posterior margin of disc rounded; outer angles of disc and posterior angles rounded. Preorbital snout length 4.5 in disc width, preoral snout length 4.1 in disc width, preorbital snout length longer than interorbital width. Eyes small, smaller

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than spiracle, slightly prominent, eye diameter 6.7 in preorbital snout length, 5.3 in interorbital width. Mouth small, weakly arched, mouth width 2.0 in preoral snout length; mouth with small teeth, floor of mouth with papillae. spiracle large, oval or a little rhombus. 5 pairs of gill opening, the distance between the former four of each side is about equidistant, and the last is a little far away from the fourth. Cloaca longitudinal split.

No dorsal fin. Pectoral fins wide, becoming the edge of body, the front of pectoral fin stretching up to tip of snout. Pelvic fins located rearward of the body, triangular and its corner slightly angular. Tail slender, long and whip-like; tail length 1.5 in total length; tail with one spine (the spine lost in this specimen).

A vertical line of spines from the head to the front of the spine, latter 15 relatively larger, spine-like; shoulder area with tubercles, inner side of eyes and spiracles with small tubercles cluster.

Color of frozen specimen: dorsal surface of disc

brown with orange margin, interorbital and nuchal region dark brown, the edge meat-red. Ventral surface of disc white with orange margin. Dorsal surface of pelvic fin brown with orange margin; ventral surface of pelvic fin white with orange margin. Dorsal surface of tail including keel dark brown, ventral tail white, distal half of tail blackish.

2 Habitat and ecology

Dasyatis laosensis lives in freshwater, the habitat is large rivers with sand substrate, and it feeds on the benthic invertebrates (Rainboth, 1996).

3 Distribution

Dasyatis laosensis is usually found in the Mekong waters of Laos and Cambodia, (Rainboth, 1996; Kottelat, 2001). This study indicates that this species occasionally enter the lower reaches of the Lancangjiang River in China.

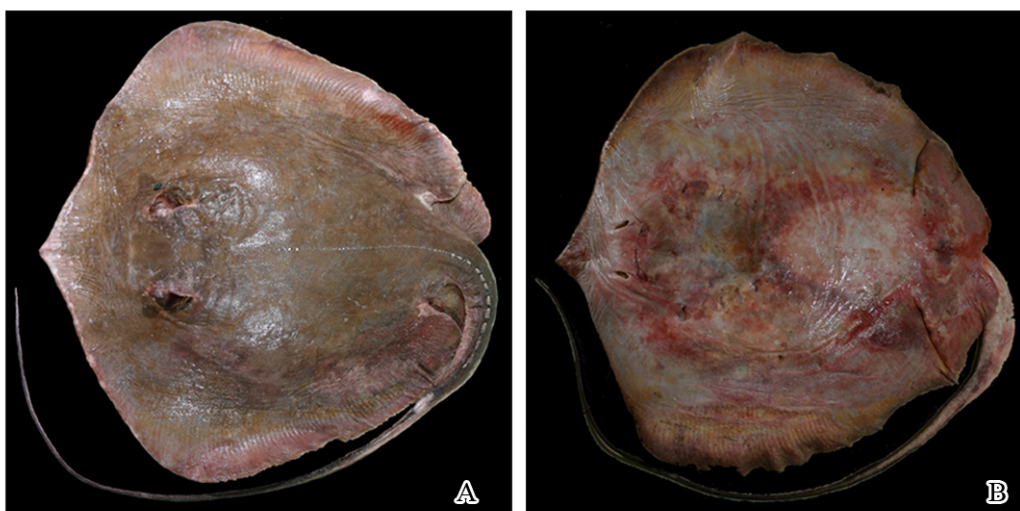


Fig. 1 *Dasyatis laosensis* Roberts and Karnasuta, 1987, Total length 1449.0 mm

A: Dorsal view; B: Ventral view.

4 Discussion

At present, China has recorded 13 species of *Dasyatis* fish (Zhu et al, 2001). Only one kind *Dasyatis*

akajei can migrate along West River to Nanning, and lives in fresh water. The remaining 12 species are marine fish. *Dasyatis laosensis* is currently the only *Dasyatis* species that lives only in the fresh waters in China.

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