

# Researchers find new species of Nemacheilidae fish in Putao, Northern Myanmar

August 2 2022, by LIU Jia

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A new species of loach described as [Mustura yangi](#) was discovered in northern Myanmar by researchers from Kunming Institute of Zoology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, National University of Singapore and Forest Research Institute of Myanmar. The study was published online in *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters*.

Putao, located in northern Myanmar, has special [species](#) diversity. During a series of field surveys in the Mali Hka River drainage around the vicinity of Putao, North Kachin, Myanmar, some unusual specimens of Nemacheilidae fish were collected by researchers, and they were identified to be new species.

According to the diagnostic characters of genus *Mustura* in [morphological characteristics](#) and molecular phylogenetic evidence, researchers suggested that most species of *Physoschistura* and a few species of *Schistura* from Southeast Asian region should be moved to the genus *Mustura*. Up till now, 16 valid species were included in the genus *Mustura*.

*Mustura yangi* is distinguished from its congeners of *Mustura* based on the following combination of characteristics: 6–7 dark gray bars on the flank often dissociated into a blotch and a saddle, numerous and irregular spots on the head, extremely dorsally situated eyes, well-formed axillary pelvic lobe, prominent air-bladder with a minute posterior

chamber in [abdominal cavity](#), males with suborbital flap, lateral line complete, and a slender caudal peduncle. It is known only in Mali Hka drainage on Putao plain, a tributary of Irrawaddy River in northern Myanmar.

**More information:** Mustura yangi, a new species of loach (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae) from Putao, Irrawaddy drainage, northern Myanmar. *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters*. [DOI: 10.23788/IEF-1181](https://doi.org/10.23788/IEF-1181)

Provided by Chinese Academy of Sciences

Citation: Researchers find new species of Nemacheilidae fish in Putao, Northern Myanmar (2022, August 2) retrieved 7 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2022-08-species-nemacheilidae-fish-putao-northern.html>

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