

A new species of *Opsariichthys* (Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae)
from Taiwan and notes to the systematic status of the
genus *Zacco* Jordan and Evermann, 1902

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The Taiwanese ichthyologists Chen I-Shiung, Wu Jui-Hsien and Huang Shih-Pin describe a new species of the genus *Opsariichthys* Bleeker (1863) from southern Taiwan, viz. *Opsariichthys koapingensis* Chen & Wu, 2009. Aside *O. pachycephalus* Günther, 1868 from northern and western and *O. evolans* (Jordan and Evermann, 1902) from northern Taiwanese waters the new species is the third species of the genus *Opsariichthys* in Taiwan.

Opsariichthys koapingensis sp. nov. is morphologically and genetically close to *O. pachycephalus*. Both species can be therefore considered sibling species. Genetically a clade consists of *O. koapingensis* and *O. pachycephalus* is closer to the *O. uncirostris* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1846) species complex including both *O. uncirostris* and *O. bidens* (Günther, 1868) than to the species of the *Zacco* complex.

The authors pointed out, that the actual validity of the genus *Zacco* Jordan and Evermann, 1902. is questionable. It probably will go into synonymy of the elder *Opsariichthys* Bleeker (1863). The genus *Zacco* should be redefined. It can be recognized by diagnostic features as follows:

- (1) The so-called breeding tubercles along the cheeks in nuptial males are united basically on a plate.
- (2) The light green cross bars along the flanks are fused into fewer large blotches.

Zacco should occur from Japan southwards to northern Zhejiang Province, SE China. From southern Zhejiang Province to Fujian Province, China mainland, and northern Taiwan occurs *O. evolans*.



Figure 1: *Opsariichthys uncirostris*, EWW-CN 55-09, 2009-04-12, caught with E-shocker, freshly dead, Jiayue Zhen, ZhuCheng City, Weifang County, Shandong Province, PR China.



Figure 2: *Opsariichthys bidens*, EZ-CN 30-06, caught 2006-07-31, subadult, Shao Ji Wan (笕箕湾), Zhejiang Province, PR China.



Figure 3: *Zacco platypus*, EZ-CN 30-06, caught 2006-07-31, adult, nuptial male, Shao Ji Wan (笕箕湾), Zhejiang Province, PR China.

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References:

Chen I-S., Wu J-H. & Huang S-P. 2009: The taxonomy and phylogeny of the cyprinid genus *Opsariichthys* Bleeker (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from Taiwan, with description of a new species. - Springer Science + Business Media B.V.