

Project Update: May 2011

Samples from tributaries of the Punatshang Chu (Chu = River) and a small tributary of Mangde Chu at Tingtibi (central Bhutan) confirm that this study of fish diversity in Bhutan is a new arena. So far, four species of catfishes were collected, along with some common cyprinids like *Garra* and *Schizothorax* species, although these present some taxonomic confusion. Of these catfishes, *Pseudecheneis sulcata* and *Glyptothorax* cf. *striatus* seem to be widely distributed. One of the two other catfishes could be *Exostoma* sp. which would be new for Bhutan, and the other *Parachiloganis* sp. which is probably new to science. One species, *Psilorhynchus balitora*, has been erroneously reported as *Balitora brucei*. The taxonomic problems with cyprinids arise from a large number of Indian publications that cross-reference each other in the absence of any in-depth taxonomic verification studies. If funds become available, we would try to disentangle this confusion with molecular analysis.

