

# *Capoeta mauricii* n. sp., a new species of cyprinid fish from Lake Beyşehir, Turkey

(Osteichthyes: Cyprinidae)

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**Abstract:** *Capoeta mauricii* n. sp. is described from the Lake Beyşehir drainage, in Central Anatolia, Turkey. It is distinguished from other Anatolian *Capoeta* by having the lips somewhat fleshy and lower lip with developed lateral lobes; a few irregular small black spots on the dorsal and lateral body, dorsal and caudal fins in individuals approximately smaller than 170 mm SL, and body, head and fins plain and without black spots in larger individuals (SL >200 mm); 80-87 total lateral line scales, 18-22 scales between dorsal fin origin and lateral line, 11-14 scales between the anal-fin origin and the lateral line, 16-18 gill rakers on outer side of first gill arch, and small black spots on head, body, and fins.

**Key words.** *Capoeta mauricii*, *Capoeta*, new species, Lake Beyşehir.

## Introduction

Turkey appears to have one of the most diverse and species-rich freshwater ichthyofaunas in the Western Palaearctic. Nowhere else in Western Asia or in Europe is there such a high amount of local endemic species. However, this high fish diversity is still linked with a high number of unresolved taxonomic problems. From the perspective of modern conservation concepts, taxonomic problems are a major stumbling block. Following the IUCN criteria for red listing (SMITH & DARWALL 2006), a significant part of Turkey's highly endemic fish fauna must actually be listed as Data Deficient because of unresolved taxonomic problems. These problems should not simply be vaguely addressed and then ignored, because there is an urgent need to resolve them by accumulating data from field surveys and from modern taxonomic studies.

The western Palaearctic genus *Capoeta* Valenciennes, 1842 is an excellent example of this problem. The species diversity of *Capoeta* was last revised by KARAMAN (1969). While textbooks such as GELDIAY & BALIK (2007) recorded 7 species in *Capoeta* (plus five subspecies) from Turkey, ÖZULUĞ & FREYHOF (2008) recorded 17 species from this area. In the last years, five new *Capoeta* species have been described from Turkey (TURAN et al. 2006a-b; TURAN et al. 2008, ÖZULUĞ & FREYHOF 2008). Turkey is clearly the centre of diversity of this genus which comprises about 23 species.

One of the well known Anatolian endemic species is *C. pestai* (Pietschmann, 1933), originally described from Lake Eğirdir by PIETSCHMANN (1933: 21) where it was a commercial species until 1961 (BALIK et al. 2006). KARAMAN (1969) also recorded it from Lake Beyşehir where it was also very abundant until 1984 (BALIK 1997). This species is of special concern for the conservation of the Turkish freshwater fish fauna as it is listed as Critically Endangered by SMITH & DARWALL (2006) and KÜÇÜK (2006). SMITH & DARWALL (2006)