Alburnus zagrosensis n.sp., a new species of fish from the Zagros Mountains of Iran

(Actinopterygii: Cyprinidae)

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Abstract. *Alburnus zagrosensis* n. sp. is described from a stream in the Karun River basin of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province in the Zagros Mountains of Iran. The new taxon is distinguished from other members of the genus *Alburnus* by a combination of characters including a low anal fin branched ray count (9-10), high frequencies of 7 branched rays in both the dorsal and pelvic fins, other meristic characters such as a high lateral line scale count (67-83), absence of a prominent mid-flank stripe, and small size.

Keywords. *Alburnus*, Cyprinidae, freshwater fish, new species, Iran.

Introduction

The cyprinid genus *Alburnus* Rafinesque, 1820 has seven confirmed species recorded from Iranian waters. Three species are in the Caspian Sea basin of Iran (*A. alburnus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *A. chalcoides* (Güldenstädt, 1772) and *A. filippii* Kessler, 1877), one species in the Lake Orumiyeh basin of northwest Iran (*A. atropatenae* Berg, 1925), and two species of uncertain provenance and validity from central Iran (*A. doriae* de Filippi, 1865 from Shiraz (but not collected since) and *A. maculatus* Keyserling, 1861 from northeast of Esfahan (but not collected since). *A. maculatus* is preoccupied by *A. maculatus* Kessler, 1859 (= *Alburnoides bipunctatus* (Bloch 1782)) of the Crimea.

The Zagros Mountains in Iran have a series of rivers draining westward and southward to the Tigris River or to the head of the Persian Gulf. Previously, only *A. mossulensis* Heckel, 1843 has been recorded from these rivers although *A. caeruleus* Heckel, 1843, known from Iraq, may also occur there.

The purpose of this paper is to describe a new species of *Alburnus* from the Zagros Mountains of Iran in the Persian Gulf drainage and provide a key to species in the Tigris-Euphrates basin.

Methods

Counts and measurements follow HUBBS & LAGLER (1958). Measurements are to the nearest 0.1 mm. Head length and interorbital width were measured to their bony margins. Fin ray counts separate unbranched and branched rays. The last two branched rays of the dorsal and anal fins were counted as one when proximally close together.

The type series is deposited in the Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa (CMNFI). Comparative material is from the Natural History Museum, London (BM(NH)), the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (NMW) and the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt (SMF).

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