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***MACROGNATHUS FASCIATUS* (SYNBRANCHIFORMES; MASTACEMBELIDAE) - A NEW FISH SPECIES FROM KERALA, INDIA**

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ABSTRACT – Taxonomic analysis of four specimens of *Macrognahtus* collected from Manimala River in Kerala reveals that they present several meristic and morphological differences from their relative species. The new species is diagnosed by a combination of the following characters: 28- 30 dorsal spines; 26- 27 distinct, yellow, vertical lines present on lateral sides, originating from mid dorsal line to ventral side; between every two yellow lines 8- 9 small whitish yellow round spots in a row; spinous part of dorsal fin originating at the level or slightly behind the end of pectoral fin; a small round black spot present at the base of pectoral and caudal fin; the latter with 10- 13 rays. *Macrognahtus fasciatus*, the new species, is described and compared with its congeners.

Key words : New species, *Macrognahtus fasciatus*, *Macrognahtus guentheri*, vertical stripes.