

A NEW SPECIES OF TELEOSTEI: *PUNTIUS POOKODENSIS* (CYPRINIDAE)  
FROM WAYANAD, KERALA, INDIA<sup>1</sup>

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*Puntius pookodensis* is described as a new species of *Puntius* from Pookode Lake, Wayanad, Kerala. It is characterised by the combination of the following characters: serrated, spiny dorsal ray, incomplete lateral line, 22-23 scales in lateral series, lateral transverse rows  $4/3 \frac{1}{2}$ , 18 circumferential scales, a shoulder spot and one or two spots on the caudal peduncle. The species is compared with its closest relatives, the widespread *Puntius ticto* and *P. punctatus* found in southern India, and with a look-alike *P. shalynius* from north-east India.

**Key words:** Cyprinidae, *Puntius pookodensis* sp. nov., *Puntius ticto*, *Puntius punctatus*, Kerala