



FIGURE 5. Color in life of adult females: (A) *C. striata striata*, Yoshii River system, Okayama Pref., 7 VI 2010; (B) *C. striata fuchigamii* subsp. nov., Onga River system, Fukuoka Pref., 12 VI 2007; (C) *C. striata hakataensis* subsp. nov., Tatara River system, Fukuoka Pref., 13 VI 2007; (D) *C. kaibarai* sp. nov., Rokkaku River system, Saga Pref., 28 VI 2007; (E) *C. magnostriata* sp. nov., near Biwa Lake, Shiga Pref., 13 VI 2007; (F) *C. minamorii minamorii* sp. nov., Yoshii River system, Okayama Pref., 7 VI 2007; (G) *C. minamorii oumiensis* subsp. nov., near Biwa Lake, Shiga Pref., 17 VI 2007; (H) *C. minamorii tokaiensis* subsp. nov., Iride-ota River system, Shizuoka Pref., 13 VI 2007; (I) *C. minamorii saninensis* subsp. nov., Hii River system, Shimane Pref., 1. VI 2008; (J) *C. minamorii yodoensis* subsp. nov., Yodo River system, Kyoto Pref., VIII 1996, collected by Fumitoshi Mori, photographed by Ryu Uchiyama.

Karyotype. Diploid ($2n = 50$) (Ueno & Ojima 1976; Ueno *et al.* 1980; Ueno 1981; Saitoh *et al.* 1984, 2000; Kimizuka 1987)

Distribution. Rivers flowing into the Seto Inland Sea in Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, and rivers flowing into the Japan Sea in Honshu: Kyoto, Osaka, Wakayama, Hyogo, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Kagawa, Tokushima, Ehime, and Fukuoka Prefectures (Saitoh & Aizawa 1987; Nakajima *et al.* 2008).

Habitat and biology. This species inhabits sandy-mud bottoms of the middle and lower reaches of rivers. Saitoh (1990) described the spawning ecology of this species as the middle form of *Cobitis striata*.

Remarks. Although this loach had been previously described as a subspecies of *C. taenia* Linnaeus, 1758, some recent genetic analysis refuted this designation (Šlechtová *et al.* 2008; Nakajima *et al.* 2011a). It has been confused what is the true *C. striata* described by Ikeda (1936) because the original description of this loach has ambiguous information on the type locality, and the type series is missing and feared lost (Saitoh & Aizawa 1987). However, the author, Dr. Hyoji Ikeda, had stated that the type locality of *C. striata* is ‘near Takamatsu, Kagawa’ in his other literature (Okada & Ikeda 1939; Aoyagi 1957) (Ikeda and Aoyagi are names of the same person). The results obtained in my field and literature surveys confirm that there is only one species, *Cobitis* sp. 3 subsp. 1 (*sensu* Nakajima *et al.*