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Redescription of *Apteronotus mariae* (Eigenmann & Fisher, 1914) and the taxonomic status of *Apteronotus jurubidae* (Fowler, 1944) (Gymnotiformes: Apteronotidae)

CARLOS DAVID DE SANTANA[1]* & JAVIER A. MALDONADO-OCAMPO[2]

[1] *Laboratório de Biologia Evolutiva de Peixes Eletrosensitivos, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus AM, Brazil*

[2] *Instituto Alexander von Humboldt, Inventories program, Claustro de San Agustín, Villa de Leyva, Boyacá, Colombia*

** Corresponding author; Email: apteronotidae@ig.com.br*

Abstract

A detailed examination of the types of the poorly known nominal gymnotiform apteronotid species *Sternarchus mariae* Eigenmann & Fisher and *Sternarchus jurubidae* Fowler, both described from localities in the Trans-Andean region of Colombia, was performed. This investigation resulted in a redescription of the former species, as well as a reevaluation of specific status of the latter. It is concluded that both taxa are valid within the currently recognized genus *Apteronotus*. The presence of *A. eschmeyeri*, *A. mariae* and *A. magdalenensis* supports the previous hypotheses of the Rio Magdalena Basin as a region of endemism.

Key words: *Apteronotus*, electric organ discharges, alpha-taxonomy, biodiversity, Rio Magdalena Basin, endemism

Introduction

Apteronotus Lacépède is the most diverse genus in Apteronotidae (Mago-Leccia, 1994; Albert & Campos-da-Paz, 1998; Campos-da-Paz, 1999; Albert, 2001; Albert, 2003; de Santana, 2003; de Santana et al., 2004). Albert (2003) lists 16 nominal species of *Apteronotus*. De Santana (2003) and de Santana et al. (2004) described two more species, bringing the total number of species to 18. In earlier papers, Albert & Campos-da-Paz (1998) and Albert (2001) divided *Apteronotus* into a putatively monophyletic *Apteronotus* "sensu stricto" clade differing from previous concepts of *Apterontous* (e.g., Mago-Leccia 1994), and several additional species of *Apteronotus* "sensu lato" whose phylogenetic relationships are unclear. This division was, however, not maintained in the catalog of alpha-taxo-

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