

A new species of *Notarius* (Siluriformes: Ariidae) from the Colombian Pacific

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Abstract

Notarius armbrusteri n. sp. is described from specimens purchased in the fish market of Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca, Colombia. The species is distinguished from other eastern Pacific species of *Notarius* by the following combination of features: mouth small, width 11.1–11.8% SL; eye large, diameter 4.3–4.9% SL; distance between anterior nostrils 6.1–6.9% SL, distance between posterior nostrils 5.9–6.9% SL; short maxillary barbels, length 20.5–22.2% SL; and gill rakers on first arch 3–4+8–9 (total 11–13). Based on mitochondrial evidence (cytochrome *b* and ATP synthase 8/6, total 1937 base pairs), the new species is closely related to *N. insculptus*, from the Pacific Panama. An updated key to identify the eight described species of *Notarius* from the eastern Pacific is provided.

Key words: *Notarius armbrusteri* n. sp., Ariidae, sea catfishes, eastern Pacific

Introduction

The amphiamerican sea catfish genus *Notarius* Gill was recently revised by Betancur-R. and Acero P. (2004). *Notarius* includes at least 14 species, with seven distributed in the eastern Pacific (EP). The monophyly of the genus is strongly supported by molecular evidence obtained from the sequences of five mitochondrial genes and one nuclear gene [3900 base pairs (bp)] (Betancur-R., 2003; Betancur-R. and Acero P., 2004). This claim was not supported by Kailola (2004), who placed the species of *Notarius sensu* Betancur-R. and Acero P. (2004) in the genera *Hemiarius* Bleeker, *Ariopsis* Gill, *Aspistor* Jordan & Evermann, and *Sciades* Müller & Troschel, as well as two species recognized as *incertae sedis* (Table 1). It is noteworthy, however, that none of the species assigned by Betancur-R.