



## A new species of *Trichomycterus* (Siluriformes: Trichomycteridae) from the Andean Cordillera of Perú, with comments on relationships within the genus

LUIS FERNÁNDEZ<sup>1,3</sup> & ROBERTO QUISPE CHUQUIHUAMANÍ<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Vertebrate Zoology, Department of Ichthyology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024-5192, USA. Telephone (212) 769-5797; E-mail: lfernandez2@amnh.org

<sup>2</sup>Departamento de Ictiología, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Av. Arenales 1256, Jesús María, Apdo 14-0434, Lima 14, Perú. E-mail: rquispe@yahoo.com.mx

<sup>3</sup>Corresponding author

### Abstract

*Trichomycterus megantoni*, new species, is described from several localities on the Andes of Perú at 1,360 to 2,200 m elevation. The new species differs from all congeners in the possession of autapomorphic characters: ventral interopercle with thickened integument and a reduced foramen in the frontal-supraoccipital. It is further distinguished by the following combination of characteristics: the tip of the pelvic fin when depressed does not reach the anus, the presence of a premaxilla rectangle, the first dorsal fin pterygiophore insertion at or posterior to vertebra 19 to 21, the supraorbital canal with pore 3, the outer tooth row with conic teeth, the head muscles not hypertrophied, the first pectoral fin ray prolonged as thin short filament, the possession of 17 pairs of ribs on each side, and 37 to 40 vertebrae.

**Key words:** Trichomycterinae, South America, catfish, Perú, Andean

### Introduction

The genus *Trichomycterus* is a non-monophyletic assemblage with more than 100 recognized species (Arratia, 1990, 1998; de Pinna, 1998). *Trichomycterus* is present throughout South and Central America, from Costa Rica in the North to Patagonia in the South, and from the lowland Atlantic rainforest in the East to the Andean streams in the West, where it is among the few, or sometimes the only, fish occupying water bodies at middle to higher elevations (Arratia, 1990; Ortega, 1992; Fernández & Vari, 2004).

There are approximately sixteen described species in *Trichomycterus* (Eigenmann, 1918; Fowler, 1945; Arratia, 1983b; Fernández 2000a, 2001), present in Bolivia, Perú, and northern Chile. The Andean and pre-andean regions are characterized by the presence of several endorheic drainage basins, which have evolved a characteristic fish fauna that is poorly known or hitherto inaccessible (Arratia & Menu-Marque, 1984; Fernández & Schaefer, 2003). *Trichomycterus* species inhabit small courses of clear water with stony substrates, strong currents, and high oxygen levels (Arratia, 1983a, Casatti, 2003). We describe a new species of *Trichomycterus* from several localities of southeastern Perú at elevation 1,360 to 2,200 m.

### Materials and methods

Measurements follow Tchernavin's (1944) and de Pinna's (1992) methods. Measurements were taken on the left side of each specimen with digital calipers under a stereomicroscope. Osteological preparations of com-