



***Peckoltia compta*, a new species of catfish from the Brazilian Amazon, rio Tapajós basin (Siluriformes: Loricariidae)**

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Abstract

The loricariid genus *Peckoltia* currently encompasses 13 valid species ranging throughout the Amazon basin in Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and Guyanas. *Peckoltia* is included in the tribe Ancistrini, but its relationships with other taxa within the tribe are not well established. In this paper we describe a new species of *Peckoltia* from the rio Tapajós drainage, Pará State, Brazil. *Peckoltia compta*, new species, is characterized by a bold color pattern consisting of large dark transversal bars on body and thick longitudinal dark stripes on snout and head. The new species is most similar in color pattern to *P. vittata* but can be distinguished from all its congeners by the presence of a pale line inside each dark stripe running from the snout tip to anterior margin of eyes (vs. absence of such clear lines and a mottled appearance in *P. vittata*, and a mix of vermiculations and spots on the head of the remaining congeners). A brief discussion on the taxonomic status of the nominal species *Peckoltia vittata* is also presented.

Key words: Hypostominae, Ancistrini, armored catfishes, taxonomy, Jamanxim River

Introduction

The loricariid genus *Peckoltia* currently encompasses 13 valid species ranging throughout the Amazon basin in Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and Guyanas (Armbruster 2008). *Peckoltia* is included in Ancistrini (Armbruster & Werneke 2005) but its relationship with other taxa within the tribe are not well established. This genus has also been considered a synonym of *Hemiancistrus*, but both genera remain not properly diagnosed and do not represent monophyletic assemblages (Armbruster 2008).

The genus *Peckoltia* has been characterized by a combination of features, none of them unique. Species that exhibit dorsal saddle marks and dark bars on fins have been often referred to *Peckoltia* whereas those with spots over the body or uniform color pattern have been included in *Hemiancistrus* (Armbruster 2003; Armbruster & Werneke 2005). Recently, Armbruster (2008) recognized nine valid species, proposed new synonyms and described two new species. *Peckoltia arenaria*, *P. filicaudata* and *P. ucayalensis* were considered to be junior synonyms of *P. bachi*, and *P. kuhlmanni* was included in the synonymy of *P. vittata*. *Peckoltia snethlageae* and *P. sabaji* were allocated by Armbruster (2008) in *Hemiancistrus*, however, no diagnostic features nor a clear explanation was presented by the author justifying his decision.

The most recently described species of *Peckoltia* (Armbruster 2003; 2008; Armbruster & Werneke 2005) have been discovered in river drainages of Venezuela in the Guyana shield, and did not encompass Brazilian drainages. A detailed analysis of specimens obtained from the Brazilian Amazon and conducted by one of us (RRO) allowed the recognition of a new species of *Peckoltia* from the rio Tapajós basin in Brazil, which we describe herein. The new species is similar in color pattern to *P. vittata*, and a brief discussion on the taxonomic status of that nominal species is presented.