



## ***Apteronotus eschmeyeri*, a new species of ghost knifefish from the Magdalena Basin, Colombia (Gymnotiformes: Apteronotidae)**

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### **Abstract**

*Apteronotus eschmeyeri* n. sp. is described here from the Magdalena Basin in Colombia and distinguished from congeners by the following combination of features: blotchy coloration on body, clear band from chin to the beginning of dorsal mid-sagittal electroreceptororgan, two clear bands surrounding the caudal peduncle in specimens up to 165 mm TL, mouth rictus passing the posterior margin of orbit. The present work demonstrates that the Trans-Andean apteronotids may be more diverse than previously supposed.

**Key words:** Trans-Andean, biodiversity, taxonomy, classification

### **Introduction**

Apteronotidae Jordan is the most species-rich gymnotiform family, with 45 species currently recognized as valid (Mago-Leccia, 1994; Albert, 2001; Albert, 2003; de Santana, 2003). This family is widely distributed through South America and is most diverse in the Amazon Basin (Albert and Campos-da-Paz, 1998). Seven endemic species of Apteronotidae have been described from Trans-Andean drainages (de Santana, 2002). Meek and