

## Revision of the South American freshwater genus *Plagioscion* (Teleostei, Perciformes, Sciaenidae)

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### Abstract

The South American freshwater sciaenid genus *Plagioscion* is reviewed. Five of the 15 nominal species assigned to the genus are considered to be valid: *Plagioscion squamosissimus*, widely distributed in Atlantic drainages east of the Andes; *P. auratus* from the Río Orinoco and Río Amazonas basins; *P. magdalenae* from the Río Magdalena and Río Amazonas basins; *P. ternetzi* from the lower Río Paraná, Río Paraguay and Río Uruguay basins; and *P. montei* from the Río Amazonas basin.

**Key words:** taxonomy, *Plagioscion*, freshwater Sciaenidae, South America

### Introduction

The sciaenid genus *Plagioscion* Gill 1861 is endemic to South American fresh waters, where its members were originally distributed in the Río Magdalena, Río Amazonas, Río Orinoco, lower Río Paraná basins and rivers of the Guianas (Casatti, 2003). Members of the genus have also been introduced into the upper Río Paraná and Río São Francisco basins and in artificial reservoirs of northeastern Brazil. The monophyly of *Plagioscion* is supported by two characters (intercalar projecting downward and modified lateral-line scales [Sasaki, 1989]), and it is currently included in the subfamily Cynoscioninae. The systematics of *Plagioscion* is poorly understood, an unfortunate situation given the importance of the genus in subsistence and commercial fisheries. In this paper, the valid species of *Plagioscion* are revised and diagnosed, and an identification key is provided.