

A new species of *Farlowella* Eigenmann and Eigenmann (Siluriformes: Loricariidae), a stickcatfish from Bolivia

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Abstract

Farlowella altocorpus is described from six specimens from a single locality on the Río Coroico, a tributary of the Río Beni in Bolivia. *Farlowella altocorpus* is a member of the *Farlowella nattereri* Steindachner species group and can be distinguished from other members of that group by a unique combination of characters: snout tip to mouth length 73–87% of pectoral fin length in adults, body depth 69–79% of pelvic fin length, body depth 49–53% of distance between pelvic and pectoral fins, head length 1.94–2.28 times length of snout tip to mouth, mid-ventral plates keeled, pectoral fins reach origins of pelvic fins, not having first anal and dorsal fin spines entirely darkly pigmented, anterior median lateral plates 14–16, posterior median lateral plates 16–18, post-anal plates 22–23, and abdominal plates 22–31.

Key words: Loricariidae, *Farlowella*, Río Coroico, Bolivia, new species

Introduction

Retzer and Page (1996) identified six species groups within the genus *Farlowella* Eigenmann and Eigenmann. Within the *Farlowella nattereri* species group, they recognized five species: *F. isbruckeri*, *F. hasemani*, *F. jauruensis*, *F. nattereri*, and *F. odontotumulus*. The *F. nattereri* species group has a wide distribution in the Amazon River and upper Paraguay River basins and in the Essequibo River of Guyana. Recent collections from Bolivia revealed a new species of *Farlowella*. The new species has the unique combination of diagnostic characters (3 rows of abdominal dermal plates, 5 rows of trunk lateral dermal plates, diamond-shaped second row of lateral dermal plates, and short breeding odontodes forming patches on head and body) of the *F. nattereri* species group and is described herein and is contrasted with the other species of the *F. nattereri* species group.