



Three new species of *Ancistrus* Kner, 1854 (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) from the Rio Iguaçú basin, Paraná State, Brazil

ALESSANDRO GASPARETTO BIFI¹, CARLA SIMONE PAVANELLI^{1,2}
& CLÁUDIO HENRIQUE ZAWADZKI²

¹Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ecologia de Ambientes Aquáticos Continentais (PEA), Av. Colombo, 5790, 87020-900 Maringá, Paraná, Brazil. E-mail: agbifi@hotmail.com, carlasp@nupelia.uem.br

²Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Núcleo de Pesquisas em Limnologia, Ictiologia e Aqüicultura (Nupélia), Av. Colombo, 5790, 87020-900 Maringá, Paraná, Brazil. E-mail: chzawadzki@nupelia.uem.br

Abstract

The Rio Iguaçú basin, a tributary to the left bank of the Rio Paraná, is characterized by high endemism of fish species. Several specimens of *Ancistrus*, family Loricariidae, were recently caught in that river and they were attributed to three new species that are described herein. They can be diagnosed from their congeners by having short maxillary barbels which are not free from the lower lip, by lacking pre-anal fin plate and also by morphometric and meristic traits. Comments on the geographic distribution of those species and congeners are also provided, in addition to a key to the species from the Río de La Plata and coastal basins from southern Brazil.

Key words: Ancistrini, armored catfish, endemism, Neotropical fishes, taxonomy

Resumo

A bacia do rio Iguaçú, um tributário da margem esquerda do rio Paraná, é caracterizada por um elevado endemismo de peixes. Muitos espécimes de *Ancistrus*, família Loricariidae, foram recentemente capturados neste rio e foram atribuídos a três espécies novas que são descritas aqui. Elas podem ser diagnosticadas de suas congêneres por apresentarem o barbilhão maxilar curto e aderido ao lábio inferior, por não apresentarem placa pré-nadadeira anal e ainda por caracteres morfométricos e merísticos. Comentários sobre a distribuição geográfica dessas espécies e de congêneres são igualmente fornecidos, assim como uma chave para as espécies das bacias do rio da Prata e costeiras do sul do Brasil.

Introduction

Ancistrus Kner, 1854 is an armored catfish genus widespread in the Neotropical region, from Panama to Río de La Plata in Argentina. It currently includes 59 valid species, since *A. mattogrossensis* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1912 has been excluded, probably due to its uncertain type-locality, misleading original description, and missing type-material (Ferraris Jr., 2007). According to Fisch-Muller (2003), seven species of *Ancistrus* have been described and are valid from the Río de La Plata drainage: *A. cirrhosus* (Valenciennes, 1840), *A. claro* Knaack, 1999, *A. cuiabae* Knaack, 1999, *A. formoso* Sabino & Trajano, 1997, *A. pirareta* Muller, 1989, *A. piriformis* Muller, 1989 and *A. taunayi* Miranda-Ribeiro, 1918. Species of *Ancistrus* can be diagnosed from other Loricariidae by lacking plates and odontodes on the anterior margin of the snout, where there are only fleshy tentacles, in addition to well-developed interopercular spines.

Abell *et al.* (2008) classified the Rio Iguaçú basin as an ecoregion that presents few fish species, but with 51 to 71% of endemic species. The Rio Iguaçú flows through the three Paranean plateaus, which delimitate