



A new species of *Microcaecilia* (Amphibia: Gymnophiona: Caeciliidae) from Guyana

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Abstract

A new species of caeciliid caecilian, *Microcaecilia iyob* **sp. nov.**, is described based on a single specimen from Guyana that was previously assigned to *M. unicolor* (Duméril, 1864), a species known with certainty only from French Guiana. The new species differs from other *Microcaecilia* in its pattern of annulation and/or major features of the dentition.

Key words: Guyana, caecilians, new species, South America, systematics, taxonomy

Introduction

Species of the genus *Microcaecilia* Taylor, 1968, are mostly small (< 350 mm) Neotropical caecilians with heavily ossified skulls and closed orbits. Taylor (1968) established the genus for three previously described species, and soon after described a fourth (Taylor 1969). Nussbaum & Hoogmoed (1979) described a fifth species from Suriname and referred several other specimens from Suriname to *M. unicolor* the type locality of which is “Cayenne”, French Guiana. Recently, Wilkinson *et al.* (2009) described an additional species from Suriname based on part of the material previously referred to *M. unicolor*. In addition, they argued that confusion over the identity of *M. unicolor* is partly a result of Taylor (1968) having relied for his account of *M. unicolor* upon a specimen from Guyana that, based on this account, was most unlikely to be a *M. unicolor* and most probably represents an undescribed species. We have recently examined this Guyanese specimen and here describe a new species based upon it.

Material and methods

Following Kamei *et al.* (2009) we use the following abbreviations for anatomical features and ratios of measurements: AG = annular groove; CM = corner of the mouth; C1 = first collar; C2 = second collar; NG1 = first nuchal groove (between head and collars); NG2 = second nuchal groove (between first and second collars); NG3 = third nuchal groove (between collars and anteriormost annulus); ST = snout tip; TA = tentacular aperture; TG = transverse groove (on dorsal surface of collar); L/H = total length divided by head length (the latter = distance between ST and NG1 directly behind CM); L/W = total length divided by midbody width. Additionally, we use AM = anteromedial limit of the mouth on the upper jaw; PA = primary annulus; PAG = primary annular groove; SAG = secondary annular groove. Abbreviations of Institutions are as follows: BMNH—The Natural History Museum, London; FMNH—Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; MBUCV—Museo de Biología, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas; MNHNP—Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris; RNHM—Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum Naturalis, Leiden; ZMB—Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin. All measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1 mm using dial callipers except total length and circumference, which were measured to the nearest mm with ruler and string.