



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3986.5.5>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:6B9B9B26-C1AD-4807-917E-6EAB1BD72048>

A new species of *Aspidoras* Ihering (Siluriformes: Callichthyidae: Corydoradinae) from the Rio Xingu Basin, Pará, Brazil

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Abstract

A new species of *Aspidoras* is described from an unnamed stream in the Rio Xingu Basin, Castelo de Sonhos municipality, Pará State, representing the northernmost record of the genus along the edge of the Brazilian Shield in the Amazon Basin. *Aspidoras marianae* is easily distinguished from all congeners in having minute odontode-bearing platelets scattered over the surface of the snout region, minute platelets between the parieto-supraoccipital process and the nuchal plate, and other shared features related to color pattern, morphometrics, meristics and morphological data. Comments about exclusive and shared features are presented.

Key words: *Aspidoras brunneus*, *A. microgaleus*, Endemism, Rio Iriri, Amazon basin

Introduction

The genus *Aspidoras* Ihering (1907) is currently composed of 21 valid species distributed among several river basins of Central, Northern and Northeastern Brazil (Britto, 2000; Eschmeyer, 2015). The largest taxonomic revision of the genus was presented by Nijssen & Isbrücker (1976), who analyzed the species known at that time, providing redescriptions and describing nine new species. According to Reis (1998) and Britto (2003), the genus is a natural group, based on morphological structures analyzed in a phylogenetic paradigm. Some estimates of alleged relationships between subgroups have been proposed (Britto, 1998; Lima & Britto, 2001; Britto *et al.*, 2005; Wosiacki *et al.*, 2014) based on shared characters, but without a more comprehensive parsimony analysis, and by Alexandrou *et al.* (2011) based on maximum likelihood and bayesian analyses of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences.

Nine species of *Aspidoras* are known from the Amazon Basin, all but one of which [*A. cf. pauciradiatus* (Weitzman & Nijssen)] is restricted to headwater and middle portions of rivers of the Brazilian Shield. A number of recent surveys have revealed an increasing number of new species that have been described in the last two decades (Britto, 1998; Britto *et al.*, 2002; Wosiacki *et al.*, 2014), demonstrating that knowledge about the diversity of the fish fauna in this region remains limited. A collecting trip to the Castelo de Sonhos municipality in the Rio Xingu basin, Pará State, revealed a new species of *Aspidoras* that is described in this paper, constituting the northernmost record of the genus for the Amazon Basin in the Brazilian Shield.

Material and methods

Morphometric and meristic data were taken following Reis (1997), with the addition of the length of the ossified portion of pectoral spine, which was measured from the articulation between the spine and pectoral girdle to its distal tip. Measurements were obtained with calipers to 0.1 mm. Teeth and vertebrae counts were taken from