

***Peckoltia cavatica*, a new loricariid catfish from Guyana and a redescription of *P. braueri* (Eigenmann 1912) (Siluriformes)**

JONATHAN W. ARMBRUSTER¹ & DAVID C. WERNEKE²

¹ Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University, 331 Funchess, Auburn, AL 36849, USA; Telephone: (334) 844-9261, FAX: (334) 844-9234, e-mail: armbrjw@auburn.edu.

² Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University, 101 Cary Hall, Auburn, AL 36849, USA; Telephone: (334) 844-9227, FAX: (334) 844-9234, e-mail: wernedc@auburn.edu

Abstract

Peckoltia cavatica is described as a new species and *P. braueri* is redescribed. *Peckoltia cavatica* and *P. braueri* differ from all other *Peckoltia* by having distal orange bands on the dorsal and caudal fins when alive and by having the plates and bones of the head and nape outlined in black. *Peckoltia cavatica* is found in the Essequibo River basin, and *P. braueri* is found in the Takutu River basin. The species differ in that *P. cavatica* has weaker dorsal saddles, the plates and bones of the head and nape are completely outlined in black (vs. partially outlined in *P. braueri*), lacks vermiculate lines on the pterotic-supracleithrum, lacks at least one, broken band in the caudal fin, and has wider orange bands.

Key words: Ancistrini, Hypostominae, Neotropics, South America, suckermouth armored catfishes

Introduction

On two recent expeditions to southern Guyana, a team from Auburn University, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development, and the University of Guyana Center for the Study of Biodiversity collected three species of *Peckoltia*. *Peckoltia* currently has 13 species that are found in the Amazon and Orinoco River drainages and in the coastal drainages of the Guyanas (Armbruster, 2003). *Peckoltia braueri* and *P. sabaji* are the only species of *Peckoltia* that have been described from around the Guyana Shield; however, there are many undescribed species (pers. obs.).

Of the species of *Peckoltia* found in Guyana, one was described as *Hemiancistrus braueri* by Eigenmann (1912) based on specimens collected by Richard Schomburgk and originally reported by Müller and Troschel (1849), one was described as *Peckoltia sabaji*