

Description of a new species of *Acestridium* (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) from Colombia

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Abstract

Acestridium colombiensis is described from a single series of specimens from the Río Inirida, Colombia. *Acestridium colombiensis* can be distinguished from its congeners by a unique combination of characters: two unpaired median pre-dorsal plates, body width 10.0–13.0% of post-dorsal fin length, inter-orbital distance between 10.6–13.0% of post-dorsal fin length, inter-orbital distance between 25.0–29.0% of eye-to-dorsal fin length; low number of jaw teeth (12–15 teeth in upper left jaw, 9–13 teeth in lower left jaw), pre-dorsal fin body pigmentation not formed into distinct lines between longitudinal rows of odontodes.

Key words: Loricariidae, *Acestridium*, Río Inirida, Colombia, new species

Introduction

The Neotropical catfish genus *Acestridium* (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) is currently represented by three species with general distributions in the middle and upper Orinoco, Casiquiare, and Rio Negro basins of Venezuela and Brazil (Retzer et al., 1999). Recently, a previously unknown collection of *Acestridium* was discovered at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Further examination of these specimens in a single lot revealed the specimens to represent an undescribed species and the first record of *Acestridium* in Colombia. The new species is described herein.

Materials and Methods

This study is based on counts and measurements from 38 specimens of *Acestridium dichromum*, 63 *Acestridium martini*, and 10 specimens of the new species. An additional 5