



A new species of *Pimelodus* LaCépède, 1803 (Siluriformes: Pimelodidae) from rio Itacaiunas, rio Tocantins basin, Brazil

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Abstract

Pimelodus luciae is described from rio Itacaiunas, rio Tocantins basin. The new species exhibits a unique spotted pigmentation pattern for Pimelodidae. *Pimelodus luciae* differs further from remaining valid *Pimelodus* species by the following combination of characters: the relatively short distance between the posterior nostril and the anterior orbital border; dorsal surface of the supraoccipital process rounded; horizontal orbital diameter greater than interorbital distance; and distal portion of dorsal fin hyaline. *Pimelodus luciae* is known only from the type-locality.

Key words: Taxonomy, Catfish, Neotropical

Resumo

Pimelodus luciae é descrita do rio Itacaiunas, bacia do rio Tocantins. A nova espécie exibe um padrão de pigmentação único entre seus congêneres. *Pimelodus luciae* difere ainda das espécies de *Pimelodus* consideradas válidas pela seguinte combinação de caracteres: curta distância entre a narina posterior e a margem anterior da órbita; superfície dorsal do processo supraoccipital arredondada; diâmetro horizontal do olho maior que o espaço interorbital; e porção distal da nadadeira dorsal hialina. Até o momento, *P. luciae* é conhecida apenas de sua localidade tipo.

Palavras-chave: Taxonomia, Bagre, Neotropical

Introduction

Pimelodus LaCépède, 1803 is the most species rich genus of the family Pimelodidae with 32 valid species. The genus has a broad distribution throughout freshwater drainages of the Neotropical Region, ranging from cis- and trans-Andean drainages of Panama in Central America south to northern Argentina in South America (Lundberg and Littmann, 2003; Ferraris, 2007).

A review of *Pimelodus* species from the Amazon Basin revealed the existence of an undescribed species from rio Itacaiunas, a clear water tributary of the rio Tocantins. The Tocantins basin remains incompletely known, but it contains a rich freshwater fish fauna including endemic species (Ribeiro *et al.*, 2008), and a variety of habitats including several lotic, with rapids and falls, and lentic areas (Zuanon *et al.*, 1993).

Material and methods

Measurements are straight-line distances taken point-to-point with digital calipers on the left side of the fish whenever possible, and recorded to the nearest 0.1 mm. Measurements and counts follow Lundberg and McDade (1986) and Lundberg *et al.* (1991) with the modifications of Lundberg and Parisi (2002). We add the