

Taxonomy of the South American genus *Pachypops* Gill 1861 (Teleostei: Perciformes: Sciaenidae), with the description of a new species

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Abstract

Pachypops is a South American freshwater sciaenid genus characterized by having two anal-fin spines, three mental barbels, an inferior mouth, a swimbladder with a pair of short appendages anteriorly and a pair of longer appendages projected posteriorly, and the haemal spine of the first caudal distinctly expanded. Three valid *Pachypops* species are recognized herein. Of the six nominal species previously assigned to *Pachypops*, two are herein recognized as valid (*Perca fourcroyi* and *Micropogon trifilis*), two are assigned to other sciaenid genera (*Pachypops adspersus* and *Pachypops cevegei*) and two are considered junior synonyms (*Corvina biloba* and *Pachypops camposi*). A seventh nominal species, *Pachyurus nattereri*, formerly considered a valid species of *Pachyurus*, is determined to be a junior synonym of *Pachypops fourcroyi*, and lectotype and paralectotypes are designated for it. *Pachypops fourcroyi* occurs in the Orinoco, Amazonas, Essequibo, Corantijn, and Approuague River basins, and *Pachypops trifilis* in rivers of Guyana and middle and lower reaches of the Rio Amazonas basin. A third valid species, *Pachypops pigmaeus* n. sp., is herein described from tributaries of the Rio Amazonas, Brazil.

Key words: *Pachypops*, South America, freshwater, Sciaenidae, taxonomy

Introduction

The species of *Pachypops* Gill are small to moderate size (largest with about 180 mm SL), occurring in South America throughout the Orinoco, Amazonas, Essequibo, Corantijn, and Approuague drainages. The genus, proposed for *Micropogon trifilis* Müller and Troschel (1848), was described based on material that originated in Guyana, and was first characterized by having three barbels, small pores on the chin, and a small, inferior, horizontal mouth.