

## A new species of *Pachyurus* Agassiz 1831 (Teleostei: Perciformes: Sciaenidae) from the Río Napo basin, Eastern Ecuador

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### Abstract

A new species of Neotropical freshwater sciaenid, *Pachyurus stewarti*, is described from the Río Napo basin, Ecuador. The new species is readily distinguishable from its congeners by having a unique coloration pattern of about twelve brownish vertical oval blotches and bars on the lateral surface of the body from the opercle to the caudal peduncle, and a longitudinal stripe which starts below the soft dorsal-fin base and extends along the mid-line of the caudal peduncle to the base of the caudal fin.

**Key words:** *Pachyurus stewarti*, new species, South America, freshwater, Sciaenidae

### Introduction

The Sciaenidae (croakers, drums, pescadillos, pescadas, and corvinas) is one of the largest perciform families, including more than 78 genera and 287 species worldwide, mostly in coastal and brackish waters of warm temperate and tropical regions (Chao 1986). The South American endemic genera *Pachypops*, *Pachyurus*, and *Plagioscion* inhabit freshwater, with some species occasionally found in estuaries (Chao 1978). *Pachyurus* is the most speciose of these genera, with nine species distributed in the Río Orinoco, Rio Amazonas, Rio Tocantins, Rio São Francisco, Rio Paraíba do Sul, Rio Doce, Rio Mucuri, Rio Uruguay, and lower Rio Paraná basins (Casatti 2001).

The western portion of the Rio Amazonas basin has been considered an endemic area (Kullander 1986), in which the Río Napo basin is characterized by a great complexity of aquatic habitats that are reflected in the remarkable diversity of the fish fauna of that basin