

***Myoglanis aspredinoides* (Siluriformes: Heptapteridae), a new catfish from the Río Ventuari, Venezuela**

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Abstract

Myoglanis aspredinoides n. sp. is described from the Río Ventuari, upper Orinoco in Venezuela. The new species is distinguished from the other species of the genus by its elongated body with 56 to 57 vertebrae, long anal fin with 32 to 35 fin rays, lanceolate caudal fin and distally serrated anterior margin of pectoral spine.

Resumen

Se describe *Myoglanis aspredinoides* n. sp. proveniente del Río Ventuari, alto Orinoco en Venezuela. La nueva especie se diferencia de las otras especies del género por poseer un cuerpo alargado con 56 a 57 vértebras, aleta anal larga con 32 a 35 radios, aleta caudal lanceolada y margen anterior de la espina pectoral aserrado distalmente.

Key words: catfish, Heptapteridae, *Myoglanis*, species description, Venezuela

Introduction

In 1987 and 1991 ichthyologists from the Universidad Central de Venezuela, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and Field Museum of Natural History explored the lower Río Ventuari in southern Venezuela. Among the notable fishes collected (e.g. Chernoff *et al.* 2001; Fink & Machado-Allison 1992; Toledo-Piza *et al.* 1999) are a few specimens of a distinctively depressed and elongated catfish that represent an undescribed heptapterid species. In its possession of well developed subcutaneous eyes, strong pectoral spines and hypertrophied jaw musculature covering the skull roof this new catfish is at once compara-