



## Description of *Cathorops manglarensis*, a new species from the Colombian Pacific, with redescription of *Cathorops multiradiatus* (Siluriformes; Ariidae)

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### Abstract

Since it was described, *Cathorops multiradiatus* has been differentiated from congeners through the large number of anal-fin rays (25–27). In this study, *C. multiradiatus* is redescribed and a new sympatric species with similar number of anal-fin rays is described and intersexual differences of both species evaluated. *Cathorops manglarensis* differs from *C. multiradiatus* by possessing few gill rakers on the first arch (13–16 vs. 16–19), a longer maxillary barbel (28.4–38.2 vs. 22.9–27.7% SL), longer pectoral-fin spine (18.5–22.5 vs. 16.9–18.7% SL), posterior margin of pectoral-fin spine with short and inconspicuous serrations (vs. posterior margin of pectoral-fin spine with long and conspicuous serrations), dorsal-fin spine shorter than pectoral-fin spine (vs. dorsal-fin spine longer than pectoral-fin spine), and large accessory tooth plates with large and numerous molariform teeth (vs. small accessory tooth plates with small and few molariform teeth). The nominal species *Tachysurus emmelane* and *Tachysurus equatorialis* are considered junior synonyms of *C. multiradiatus* and a key to species of *Cathorops* from the Pacific coast of Central and South America is provided.

**Key words:** *Cathorops manglarensis*, *C. multiradiatus*, Colombia Pacific, new species, redescription

### Introduction

The genus *Cathorops* Jordan & Gilbert, 1882 includes species of small size, reaching a maximum length 360 mm TL, that occur mainly in estuarine and freshwater habitats from southern Mexico to Central and South America (Kailola & Bussing, 1995; Marceniuk & Ferraris, 2003). The species assigned to *Cathorops* can be easily distinguished from the species belonging to the remaining genera of Ariidae by the absence of vomerine tooth plates (with the exception of *C. dasycephalus*), presence of one pair of oval-shaped accessory tooth plates, molariform teeth on accessory plates, adipose-fin remarkably short, and lateral line not bifurcated on caudal region. *Cathorops* constitutes a natural group, with its monophyletic condition well defined (Marceniuk, 1997; Betancur-R., 2003; Marceniuk, 2003; Betancur-R. *et al.*, 2004). Recently, Marceniuk & Menezes (2007) presented a revision for the genera of the family Ariidae, redefining *Cathorops* through six exclusive and eleven non-exclusive anatomical characters, whereas Betancur-R. *et al.* (in press) supported its monophyly by ten morphological and two amino acid synapomorphies. The genus *Cathorops* comprises 13 species (Marceniuk & Ferraris, 2003; Betancur-R. *et al.*, in press), of which seven occur exclusively in the Pacific portion of America: *Cathorops dasycephalus* (Günther, 1864), *C. fuerthii* (Steindachner, 1877), *C. hypophthalmus* (Steindachner, 1877), *C. multiradiatus* (Günther, 1864), *C. steindachneri* (Gilbert & Starks, 1904), *C. taylori* (Hildebrand, 1925), and *C. tuyra* (Meek & Hildebrand, 1923).

The great similarity in external morphology and coloration, and lack of knowledge of ontogenetic and intersexual differences, often hinders correct identification of *Cathorops* species (Marceniuk, 1997; Marceniuk, in press). Since its description, *Cathorops multiradiatus* (Günther, 1864) has been recognized and differ-