



Cordylancistrus santarosensis (Siluriformes: Loricariidae), a new species with unique snout deplation from the Río Santa Rosa, Ecuador

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Abstract

Cordylancistrus santarosensis is described based on five specimens from the Río Santa Rosa, Ecuador. This species can be distinguished from all other members of the *Chaetostoma* group by having plates on the tip of the snout (except for a central region at the extreme anterior edge), but lacking plates laterally on the head. This snout plating condition is intermediate between the fully plated snout of other *Cordylancistrus* and the unplated snout of *Chaetostoma*.

Keywords: Ancistrini, suckermouth armoured catfish, Ecuador, South America, Neotropics

Introduction

Cordylancistrus is a genus of loricariid catfish that includes fish similar to *Chaetostoma* Tschudi. *Cordylancistrus* was first described as a monotypic genus by Isbrücker (1980), with *Cordylancistrus torbesensis* (Schultz) as the type species. Pérez and Provenzano (1996) described a second species to the genus, *Co. perijae*. Isbrücker (2001) expanded the genus with three additional species: *Co. daguae* (Eigenmann), *Co. platycephalus* (Boulenger), and *Co. platyrhynchus* (Fowler). Armbruster (2004) found no characters that supported the monophyly of *Cordylancistrus*, but found that *Cordylancistrus* was part of a monophyletic group along with *Chaetostoma*, *Dolichancistrus* Isbrücker, and *Leptoancistrus* Meek and Hildebrand. Additionally, *Co. platyrhynchus* was moved to *Chaetostoma* because it only differs from other *Chaetostoma* by the presence of snout plates (vs. unplated snout) (Armbruster 2004). Provenzano and Milani (2006) tentatively placed *Ch. platyrhyncha* back into *Cordylancistrus* and described a new species, *Cordylancistrus nephelion*. Armbruster (2008) found that *Cordylancistrus*, excluding *Ch. platyrhyncha*, was still polyphyletic.

With the exclusion of *Chaetostoma platyrhyncha* from *Cordylancistrus*, *Co. platycephalus* is the only species in the genus found in Ecuador, and is known from cis-Andean streams. *Cordylancistrus santarosensis* is described here from specimens collected in the trans-Andean Río Santa Rosa (Gulf of Guayaquil drainage) in southern Ecuador. This new species differs from all other *Cordylancistrus* by its unique snout plate distribution. It is superficially similar in external morphology to *Chaetostoma platyrhyncha*, but these two species can be distinguished by meristics and morphometrics as well as the snout deplation of *Co. santarosensis*.

Methods

Measurements and meristics follow Armbruster (2003). A specimen was cleared and stained according to procedures derived from Taylor and Van Dyke (1985). Institutional abbreviations are as listed in Sabaj Pérez (2010); MECN-DP stands for Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales. Phylogenetic data for *Cordylancistrus santarosensis* were collected based on Armbruster (2004, 2008) and presented in Appendix I. The phylogenetic data was analyzed with the traditional methods search of TNT (Goloboff 2006) with ten trees saved per replication in 100 replications.