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Description of *Loraxichthys lexa*, new genus and species (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) from the Río Huallaga Basin, central Peru, with notes on the morphology of the enigmatic *Lipopterichthys carrioni* Norman, 1935

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Abstract

A new genus and species of armored catfish, *Loraxichthys lexa*, collected in 1955 by the Catherwood Foundation Peruvian-Amazon Expedition from the vicinity of Tingo María, Huánuco, is described herein. *Loraxichthys* is diagnosed by two uniquely derived characters: two to four robust evertible posterior cheek odontodes with hooked tips, longer than odontodes anterior to them but no more than twice their length; and skin folds on dorsal border along first pelvic-fin ray crenulated in mature males. *Loraxichthys lexa*, new species, is only known from clear water tributaries of the Río Huallaga in the vicinity of Tingo María. Additionally, notes on the morphology of the enigmatic species *Lipopterichthys carrioni* are included, and an artificial key for the genera *Chaetostoma*, *Cordylancistrus*, *Dolichancistrus*, *Leptoancistrus*, *Lipopterichthys*, and *Loraxichthys* is provided.

Key words: Ancistrinae, Andes, biodiversity, conservation, endemic

Resumen

Un nuevo género y especie de carachama, *Loraxichthys lexa*, colectada en 1955 por la Catherwood Foundation Peruvian-Amazon Expedition en los alrededores de Tingo María, Huánuco, es descrita. *Loraxichthys* se diagnostica en base a dos características derivadas únicas: dos a cuatro odontodes evertibles de la mejilla robustos, con extremos ganchudos, más largos que los odontodes anteriores a ellos, pero no más de dos veces el largo de estos; y, pliegues carnosos en el borde dorsal del primer radio de la aleta pélvica festoneados, en especímenes machos maduros. *Loraxichthys lexa*, especie nueva, sólo se conoce de tributarios de aguas claras del Río Huallaga en los alrededores de Tingo María. Adicionalmente, se incluyen notas sobre la morfología de la enigmática especie *Lipopterichthys carrioni* y se provee una clave artificial para identificar a los géneros *Chaetostoma*, *Cordylancistrus*, *Dolichancistrus*, *Leptoancistrus*, *Lipopterichthys*, y *Loraxichthys*.

Introduction

While studying the morphological variation of extensive series of specimens from the Río Huallaga tentatively identified as *Chaetostoma marmorescens* Eigenmann and Allen, I came across several specimens that externally resembled a *Chaetostoma* species (naked snout with no tentacles) without an adipose fin, but with evertible cheek odontodes unlike any other *Chaetostoma* Tschudi species I had seen (Figs. 1–2). A closer look at these specimens revealed that characteristics common to *Chaetostoma* species are not present. Among these traits the presence of nuchal plate and dorsal-fin spinelet, both absent in the new species, *Lithogenes* Eigenmann, and *Pareiorhaphis nudulus* (Reis & Pereira); and the wide lateral anterior process of the basipterygia of *Chaetostoma* species, narrow in the new species, resembling the lateral anterior process of *Lasiancistrus heteracanthus* (Günther) and some species of *Ancistrus* Kner.

Lipopterichthys carrioni Norman, 1935 is another species without adipose fin that exhibits a naked snout and resembles some *Chaetostoma* species. *Lipopterichthys* Norman is a monotypic genus scarcely represented in