



***Pseudacanthicus pitanga*: a new species of Ancistrini (Siluriformes: Loricariidae: Hypostominae) from rio Tocantins Basin, North Brazil**

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Abstract

The genus *Pseudacanthicus* comprises five valid species distributed in the Amazon, Guyana and Suriname basins: *P. serratus*, *P. fordii*, *P. histrix*, *P. spinosus* and *P. leopardus*. A new species of *Pseudacanthicus* from the Tocantins river basin is described. The new species is distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of characters: presence of dark blotches anastomosing to form continuous zigzag bands alongside longitudinal keels; absence of blotches on ventral surface of body; faint blotches on head; all fins with orange to red color on unbranched ray and sometimes on subsequent branched rays; and sphenotic and sixth infraorbital not in contact. Brief comments on the phylogeny of the genus, ornamental fisheries activities, threats and conservation of the new species are also provided.

Key words: Acari, Amazon Basin, Ornamental fishery, Neotropical, taxonomy

Resumo

O gênero *Pseudacanthicus* compreende cinco espécies válidas distribuídas nas bacias Amazônica, das Guianas e Suriname: *P. serratus*, *P. fordii*, *P. histrix*, *P. spinosus* e *P. leopardus*. Uma nova espécie de *Pseudacanthicus* descrita para o baixo, médio e alto rio Tocantins. A nova espécie diferenciada de suas congêneres pela combinação dos seguintes caracteres: presença de manchas escuras anastomosadas e formando faixas em zig-zag ao longo das laterais do corpo; ausência de manchas na superfície ventral do corpo; manchas fracas na cabeça; todos os raios não ramificados das nadadeiras com padrão de colorido laranja a vermelho, e às vezes nos raios ramificados subsequentes; e ausência de contato do esfenótico com o sexto infra-orbital. Breves comentários sobre a sistemática do gênero, as atividades de pesca ornamental, ameaças e conservação da nova espécie são também fornecidos.

Introduction

The Loricariidae is the largest family of the Siluriformes and includes more than 900 species (Eschmeyer & Fong, 2015), which represents about 25% of the diversity of catfishes (Reis *et al.*, 2003; Ferraris, 2007). The family is widely distributed in the Neotropical region, from southeastern Costa Rica to northeastern Argentina (Isbrücker, 1980), and can be found in a large variety of freshwater environments.

The genus *Pseudacanthicus* is included in the *Acanthicus* group (Ancistrini *sensu* Armbruster, 2004), with the genera *Acanthicus*, *Megalancistrus* and *Leporacanthicus* (clade 73). The *Acanthicus* group can be easily diagnosed among other loricariids by the presence of rows of keels formed by hypertrophied odontodes along the body, and by a dorsal fin with eighth or more rays (except *Pterygoplichtys* and *Chaetostoma*). In the *Acanthicus* group, *Pseudacanthicus* can be diagnosed from the remaining genera by the presence of two small plates in the posterior area of pterotic-supracleithrum (instead of one median plate or plate absent); several other features also distinguish it from other genera (detailed in Discussion).

Pseudacanthicus comprises five valid species distributed in the Amazon basin and costal drainages of Guyana and Suriname. The type species was described as *Hypostomus serratus* Valenciennes *in* Cuvier & Valenciennes