

Marcusenius wamuinii
(Teleostei: Mormyridae),
a new elephantfish from the Mangroves National Park,
Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Marcusenius wamuinii, a new large-scaled *Marcusenius* species, is described from the Mangroves National Park (MNP), a protected area situated at the mouth of the Lower Congo basin and its surroundings in the DR Congo. It can be distinguished from all its congeners based on the following unique combination of characteristics: 8 circumpeduncular scales, 27–31 anal-fin rays, 22–25 dorsal-fin rays, 19–22 scales between dorsal and anal fin, 46–53 lateral line scales, and a slender caudal peduncle (depth 4.4–5.9 % SL). Its status as a distinct species is additionally confirmed by genetic data from the mitochondrial cytochrome b gene. This is the first new fish species discovered in the MNP, highlighting the importance of freshwater conservation in this area in which the fish fauna is still poorly known.

Marcusenius wamuinii, une nouvelle espèce de *Marcusenius* à grandes écailles est décrite du Parc Marin des Mangroves (PMM), une zone protégée située dans l'embouchure du Bas Congo et ses environs en RD Congo. Elle se distingue de tous ses congénères sur la base de la combinaison unique des caractères suivants: 8 écailles circumpédonculaires, 27–31 rayons à la nageoire anale, 22–25 rayons à la nageoire dorsale, 19–22 écailles entre les nageoires dorsale et anale, 46–53 écailles en ligne latérale et un pédoncule caudal mince (hauteur 4.4–5.9 % SL). Son statut d'espèce distincte est également confirmé à base de résultats génétiques sur le gène mitochondrial cytochrome b. Ceci est la première nouvelle espèce de poisson découverte dans le PMM, soulignant l'importance de la conservation des eaux douces dans cette Zone, dont la faune de poissons est encore largement méconnue.

Introduction

Fishes of the family Mormyridae are endemic to African freshwaters, notable for their ability to generate weak electric fields used for spatial

electrolocation and intraspecific communication (Turner et al., 1999; Baker et al., 2013; Hoffmann et al., 2013). Mormyridae are diverse morphologically, having a range of body forms from elongated to deep and laterally compressed, and

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