

Hypostomus fuscomaculatus (Teleostei: Loricariidae), a new armored catfish from the upper Rio Paraguay basin, Brazil

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Since 1996, in field monitoring for the construction of the Manso Reservoir in the Rio Manso basin, a peculiar black-blotched morphotype of *Hypostomus* was found that differed from several congeners from the region. This species is already used to aquarium trade being labeled *Hypostomus* sp. L233. The aim of the present work is to describe L233 as a new species to science, *Hypostomus fuscomaculatus*. The new species is distinguished from congeners by having conspicuous, large (usually larger than eye diameter) and widely spaced black blotches on living specimens. In preserved specimens, the blotches usually fade to brown but keep still evident for a long time under proper fixation and storage. Other important diagnostic traits are the flattened head, large eyes, absence of keels on lateral series of plates, robust and moderate number of teeth, and plates covering most part of abdominal region.

Introduction

Loricariidae, with about 1020 valid species (Reis et al., 2003; Fricke et al., 2022), represents one of the largest fish families in the world. Six subfamilies of Loricariidae are currently recognized: Delturinae, Hypoptopomatinae, Hypostominae, Lithogeninae, Loricariinae, and Rhinelepinae (Reis et al., 2006; Chiachio et al., 2008; Lujan et al., 2015). The subfamily Hypostominae was surveyed by Lujan et al. (2015), who found Hypostomini nested within Ancistrini. Queiroz et al. (2020) in a multilocus phylogeny of *Hypostomus* confirmed

the monophyly of the genus retrieving four well-supported main lineages: *H. auroguttatus*, *Hypostomus cochliodon*, *H. hemiurus*, *H. nematopterus*, and *H. plecostomus* super-groups.

Hypostomus with about 140 species (Zawadzki et al., 2019), is the most species-rich genus of this group and it is one of the largest genera in the Neotropical region. Species of *Hypostomus* occur almost everywhere in tropical East Andean and southern temperate regions of South America colonizing nearly any aquatic habitat, although preferring running waters (Montoya-Burgos, 2003).

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