

A new blunt-headed species of *Hypostomus* (Teleostei: Loricariidae) from the Rio Tocantins basin

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A new species of *Hypostomus* with blunt head is described from the medium and upper portions of the Rio Tocantins basin in Central Brazil. The new species inhabits rocky-bottom, small to large rivers of the Rio Tocantins basin and reaches moderate full size. The new species can be distinguished from all its congeners mainly by having teeth crowns with ellipsoidal medial cusp, deep and moderate body size, large eyes, absence of keels on lateral series of plates, large and faded dark blotches over a clearer body background, and by having a flap-shaped median buccal papilla.

Introduction

Fish represent the largest group of vertebrates on Earth with about 36500 species (Fricke et al., 2023) and nine thousand species were estimated to occur in the Neotropical region (Reis et al., 2016; Birindelli & Sidlauskas, 2018). Among the Siluriformes from the Neotropical region, the Loricariidae harbors a huge diversity summing up to now 1041 species (Fricke et al., 2023). The descriptions of new species of *Hypostomus* over

the last decades have greatly contributed to an abrupt increase of our knowledge on the diversity of loricariid fishes. Queiroz et al. (2020) recorded the rate of 2.3 species by year being described from 2001 to 2020.

Eight species of *Hypostomus* were described based on specimens from the Rio Tocantins basin, five of which were described during the last two decades. *Hypostomus ericae*, *H. faveolus*, *H. delimai*, *H. krishnamurtii*, and *H. cafuringa* (Hollanda Carvalho & Weber, 2005; Zawadzki et al., 2008,

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