

**FIRST RECORD OF *Bunocephalus larai* (IHERING, 1930)
(SILURIFORMES, ASPREDINIDAE) IN THE RIO IVAÍ BASIN, UPPER
PARANÁ RIVER, BRAZIL**

Luciano Lazzarini Wolff ¹
José Lucas Toscano Aggio ²
Renan Borges dos Reis ³
Rosilene Luciana Delariva ⁴

ABSTRACT

Representatives of Aspredinidae are popularly known as banjo catfish due to their body shape. This family contains 13 recognized genera, all endemic to the Neotropical region. *Bunocephalus* Kner 1855 is the genus with the largest number of Aspredinidae species. This study reports the occurrence of *Bunocephalus larai* (Ihering, 1930) for the first time in the Ivaí river basin, as well as the expansion of distribution to south latitudes of the Paraná river basin. Four individuals were captured through electrofishing in a 50-meter stretch of the Muquilão River, a tributary of the Corumbataí River, that flows into the Ivaí River, Paraná, Brazil. The records were obtained through an ichthyofaunistic inventory in the region in a Conservation Unit in the municipality of Iretama. The Muquilão River in this stretch has a continuous riparian forest protecting its left margin by the Ecological Station Dama do Abismo. However, the right margin shows a degraded riparian zone with agricultural land use. The four individuals were sampled in January 2022 (one individual), January (two individuals) and March (one individual) 2023. These specimens were cathered in a 20-meters-wide runs mesohabitat, characterized by cobbles, pebbles, sand/clay and leaf litter as predominate bottom substrates. The previous distribution of the species was recorded in the river basins of the Upper Paraná River, in the Paranaíba, São Marcos, Capivari, Paraná rivers and Tibagi, the latter being the southernmost limit in the state of Paraná. Therefore, this study expands the distribution of *B. larai* to the Ivaí River basin and demonstrates the importance of ichthyofaunistic studies in headwater rivers to expand the distribution of this and other species.

¹ Doutor pelo Curso de Ecologia de Ambientes Aquáticos Continentais da Universidade Estadual de Maringá - UEM, luciano.lazzarini.wolff@gmail.com;

² Mestre pelo Curso de Conservação e Manejo de Recursos Naturais da Universidade Estadual do Oeste do Paraná - UNIOESTE, jucasaggio@gmail.com;

³ Doutorando pelo Curso de Ecologia de Ambientes Aquáticos Continentais da Universidade Estadual de Maringá - UEM, reis.renanb@gmail.com;

⁴ Rosilene Luciana Delariva, Doutora em Ecologia de Ambientes Aquáticos Continentais, Universidade Estadual de Maringá - UEM, rosilene.delariva@hotmail.com;

Key-words: Inventory, Muquilão River, Banjo catfish.