

TAXONOMIC REVISION OF THE GENUS *CHAETOSTOMA* (FAMILY LORICARIIDAE) FROM PERU

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ABSTRACT

The suckermouth armored catfish genus *Chaetostoma* is distributed mainly in Andean foothills habitats from Panama to southern Peru. There are 49 species belonging *Chaetostoma*, of which two inhabit the Guiana Shield (*C. jegui* and *C. vasquezii*) and one from the Brazilian Shield (*C. orientalis*). In Peru, *Chaetostoma* is distributed in the Marañón, Ucayali and Madre de Dios rivers basins. *Chaetostoma* is distinguished from other sister genera by having short cheek odontodes and a snout without plates on the edge. Recent molecular studies revealed potential new species of the genus in these different basins. In addition to this diversity, the identification is often confused with other genera of Loricariidae. We examined 100 lots, belonging to the Ichthyological Collection of the Museo de Historia Natural, UNMSM, Peru. In our ongoing taxonomic revision of this group, we recognized 14 species of *Chaetostoma* in Peru, where the most important characters to distinguish between congeners were color patterns, morphometric measurements, meristic variation in pectoral and lateral plates, and tooth shapes. We also present an update of the geographical distribution and an identification key for all species distributed in Peru.

Keywords: Andes, armored catfish, taxonomy, neotropical.

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