

***Corydoras ortegai*, a new species of corydoradine catfish from the lower río Putumayo in Peru (Ostariophysi: Siluriformes: Callichthyidae)**

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A new species of *Corydoras*, *C. ortegai*, is described from tributaries of the lower course of río Putumayo in Peru, close to the border with Brazil and Colombia. The new species seems to be related to *Corydoras reynoldsi*, *C. weitzmani*, *C. panda*, and *C. tukano*, all of which share a pattern composed of uniform light ground color on body, dark bar ("mask") across orbit, and one or two large rounded blotches midlaterally on trunk. *Corydoras ortegai* is easily distinguished from these species, except *C. panda*, mainly by the absence of a midlateral trunk blotch at the dorsal-fin level, and the rounded shape of the midlateral trunk blotch at the adipose-fin level. *Corydoras ortegai* differs from *C. panda* by its greater number of lateral body plates, lack of dorsal-fin blotch, scattered chromatophores surrounding midregion of cleithrum, caudal fin with series of small blotches restricted to rays, slenderer body, and narrower intercleithral area. *Corydoras ortegai* belongs to a putatively monophyletic assemblage of *Corydoras* that occurs mainly in the Western Amazon basin, *C. tukano* excepted. The occurrence of *Corydoras tukano* in the rio Tiquié (upper Negro basin) and its putative sister species, *C. ortegai*, in the western Amazon, together with similar distribution patterns shared by other groups of fishes, suggest a biogeographic relationship between these areas.

Uma nova espécie de *Corydoras*, *C. ortegai*, é descrita de afluentes do baixo curso do rio Putumayo no Peru, próximo a fronteira com o Brasil e Colômbia. A nova espécie parece estar relacionada a *Corydoras reynoldsi*, *C. weitzmani*, *C. panda* e *C. tukano*, as quais compartilham um padrão de colorido claro e uniforme no corpo, uma faixa escura ("máscara") através da órbita, e uma ou duas manchas grandes e arredondadas no corpo. *Corydoras ortegai* é facilmente distinta destas espécies, exceto *C. panda*, principalmente pela ausência de uma mancha lateral no corpo na altura da nadadeira dorsal, e a forma arredondada de uma mancha lateral na altura da nadadeira adiposa. *Corydoras ortegai* difere de *C. panda* pelo maior número de placas laterais no corpo, ausência de uma mancha dorsal, cromatóforos espalhados ao redor da região mediana do cleitro, nadadeira caudal com séries de pequenas manchas restritas aos raios, corpo mais delgado, e área entre os cleitros mais estreita. *Corydoras ortegai* é assinalada a um possível agrupamento monofilético de *Corydoras* que ocorrem principalmente na bacia amazônica ocidental, exceto *C. tukano*. A ocorrência de *Corydoras tukano* no rio Tiquié (alto curso da bacia do rio Negro) e sua possível espécie irmã, *C. ortegai*, na Amazônia ocidental, associada a um padrão de distribuição semelhante compartilhado por outros grupos de peixes, sugerem uma relação biogeográfica entre estas áreas.

Key words: *Corydoras ortegai*, río Putumayo, Callichthyidae, Western Amazon.

Introduction

The genus *Corydoras* La Cépède is a large assemblage, currently including more than 150 valid species (Reis, 2003; Fuller & Evers, 2005). *Corydoras* is widely distributed in Cis-Andean South America, occurring in a variety of habitats, such as shallow, marginal areas of rivers and associated

flooded areas, and smaller tributaries. Species assigned to *Corydoras* display a broad diversity of body shapes, coloration, and behavior (for a general account on the group, see Fuller & Evers, 2005) and much taxonomic work remains to properly assess its diversity.

Thirty species of *Corydoras* are currently known from Peru (Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1986; Burgess, 1993, 1997). The

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new species of *Corydoras* was discovered during a recent ichthyological survey conducted by the third author (MH) in small terra firme streams of the lower río Putumayo basin (known as río Içá in Brazil), in a remote area of the Amazonian lowland rainforest of Loreto, Peru, close to the border with Colombia and Brazil. This undescribed species is similar to *Corydoras* (i.e. *C. reynoldsi* Myers & Weitzman, *C. weitzmani* Nijssen, *C. tukano* Britto & Lima, and *C. panda* Nijssen & Isbrücker) that share a pattern composed of light, uniform ground color on body, dark bar (“mask”) across orbit, and one or two dark rounded blotches, the first (present or absent) at the dorsal-fin level, and the second (always present) at the adipose-fin level.

Material and Methods

Morphometric and meristic data were taken following Reis (1997). Length of the ossified portion of pectoral spine was measured from the spine-pectoral girdle articulation to distal tip of spine. Measurements were obtained with 0.1 mm precision calipers. Teeth and vertebral counts were taken only from cleared-and-stained (cs) specimens, prepared according to Taylor & Van Dyke (1985). Vertebral counts include only free centra, with the compound caudal centrum (preural 1 + ural 1) counted as a single element. Lateral plate counts include all dorsolateral and ventrolateral plates, except for a pair of small, irregular platelets on caudal-fin base. In the description, numbers assigned with an asterisk represent counts from the holotype. Nomenclature of latero-sensory canals follows Schaefer & Aquino (2000), and that of preopercular pores follows Schaefer (1988). Osteological terminology follows Reis (1998a), except by “parieto-supraoccipital” instead of “supraoccipital” (Arratia & Gayet, 1995), “compound pterotic” instead of “pterotic-supracleithrum” (Aquino & Schaefer, 2002), and “scapulocoracoid” instead of “coracoid” (Lundberg, 1970). Homology of barbels follows Britto & Lima (2003). Institutional abbreviations are according to Reis *et al.* (2003).

Results

Corydoras ortegai, new species

Figs. 1-3

Holotype. MUSM 28000, 32.7 mm SL, Peru, Departamento Loreto, Provincia Maynas, río Putumayo basin, Quebrada Coronel Díaz, tributary to río Yaguas, 2°51'13"S, 71°27'02"W (UTM 19M 0231999/9683442), altitude 92 m, 5 Aug 2003; M. Hidalgo & R. Oliveira.

Paratypes. 102 specimens. All from Peru, Departamento Loreto, Provincia Maynas, río Putumayo basin: MNRJ 29404, 8, 3 cs, 18.9-28.9 mm SL (5, 25.0-28.9 mm SL); MUSM 26961, 23, 12.5-25.8 mm SL (12, 21.8-25.8 mm SL); MUSM 27154, 27, 17.0-28.2 mm SL (5, 25.0-28.2 mm SL); MZUSP 91411, 8, 18.4-28.3 mm SL (1, 28.3 mm SL), collected with the holotype. FMNH 117263, 8,

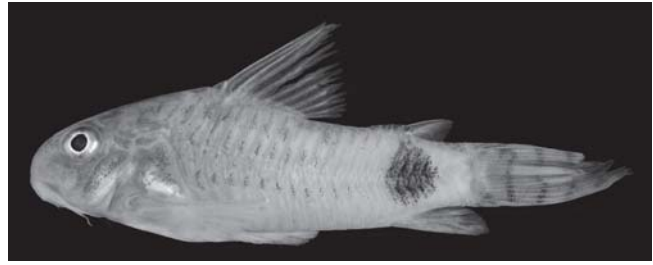


Fig. 1. *Corydoras ortegai*, MUSM 28000, holotype, 32.7 mm SL: Peru, Depto. Loreto, Quebrada Coronel Díaz, tributary of río Yaguas.

16.6-18.3 mm SL; MUSM 27155, 28, 18.4-31.2 mm SL (4, 25.9-31.2 mm SL), río Yaguas, 2°51'41"S, 71°24'38"W (UTM 19M0231996/9683445), altitude 99 m, 7 Aug 2003; M. Hidalgo & R. Oliveira.

Diagnosis. *Corydoras ortegai* is distinguished from all other species of *Corydoras*, except *C. panda*, *C. reynoldsi*, *C. weitzmani*, and *C. tukano*, by having a transverse, dark bar (“mask”) across the orbit, and ground color of body uniform with large, dark rounded blotch midlaterally on trunk below adipose fin. The new species is distinguished from *C. reynoldsi*, *C. weitzmani*, and *C. tukano* by the absence of a midlateral trunk blotch at the dorsal-fin level, and the rounded shape of the trunk blotch at adipose-fin level. *Corydoras ortegai* differs from *C. panda* by its greater number of lateral body plates (24 dorsolateral/ 21-22 ventrolateral vs. 22-23/20), dark brown dorsal-fin blotch absent (vs. present), several scattered chromatophores surrounding yellowish white area on midregion of cleithrum (vs. chromatophores absent or nearly absent on cleithrum), caudal fin with narrow series of dark brown blotches restricted to rays (vs. caudal fin hyaline), a slenderer body (depth of body 28.3-35.1% SL vs. 40.0% SL), and a narrower intercleithral area (maximum cleithral width 10.7-15.5% SL vs. 18% SL).

Another feature helpful to distinguish the new species from its congeners is the unique condition of its inner mental barbels, which are distinctly separated only at their distal tips (vs. barbels distinctly separated along their entire lengths). Although an exclusive character-state among corydoradine catfishes, this condition is variable among *Corydoras ortegai* specimens.

Description. Morphometric data presented in Table 1. Head compressed, roughly triangular with rounded apex in dorsal view; dorsal profile slightly convex, nearly straight, rising moderately from nares to tip of parieto-supraoccipital process (Fig. 3). Snout profile rounded from upper lip to horizontal through anterior nares. Dorsal profile of body slightly convex from tip of parieto-supraoccipital process to last dorsal-fin ray, then slightly concave to adipose-fin spine and descending straight downwards from this point to caudal-fin base. Ventral profile of body slightly convex from isthmus to

Table 1. Morphometric data of holotype and paratypes of *Corydoras ortegai*.

	Holotype	Paratypes	
		Mean (n=27)	Range
Standard length (mm)	32.7	25.9	21.8 - 31.2
Percents of standard length			
Depth of body	32.0	31.6	28.3 - 35.1
Predorsal distance	46.4	46.6	39.5 - 49.9
Prepelvic distance	47.7	46.6	44.2 - 49.1
Preanal distance	84.3	81.9	76.7 - 84.4
Preadipose distance	85.4	82.5	80.1 - 84.0
Length of dorsal spine	29.1	30.9	27.6 - 34.0
Length of pectoral spine	32.3	32.4	27.4 - 36.8
Length of adipose-fin spine	10.9	10.8	5.9 - 12.6
Depth of caudal peduncle	14.1	14.8	13.6 - 15.9
Dorsal to adipose distance	24.7	22.0	19.4 - 24.0
Length of dorsal-fin base	19.9	19.3	17.5 - 21.4
Maximum cleithral width	14.7	12.6	10.7 - 15.5
Head length	39.8	40.7	37.5 - 43.6
Length of maxillary barbel	15.6	14.0	10.1 - 18.7
Percents of Head length			
Head depth	79.2	78.4	73.0 - 88.4
Least interorbital distance	26.0	29.0	26.4 - 31.3
Horizontal orbit diameter	24.9	26.1	21.3 - 30.4
Snout length	29.7	29.7	25.3 - 34.7
Least internareal distance	16.6	18.5	14.4 - 23.5

anal-fin origin, mainly in pectoral- and pelvic-girdle region. Profile markedly straight, ascending obliquely from first anal-fin ray to caudal-fin base. Body roughly triangular in cross section at pectoral girdle, gradually becoming more compressed toward caudal fin.

Eye round, located dorso-laterally on head; orbit delimited dorsally by frontal and sphenotic, ventrally by infraorbitals. Anterior and posterior nares proximal, only separated by flap of skin. Anterior naris tubular; its free tip with minute, roughly lanceolate, fleshy flap. Posterior naris close to anterodorsal margin of orbit, separated from it by distance slightly smaller than naris diameter. Mouth small, subterminal, width nearly equal to bony orbit diameter. Maxillary barbel elongate, usually reaching anteroventral limit of gill opening (Fig. 3). Outer mental barbel slightly shorter than maxillary barbel. Inner mental barbels short, fleshy and depressed; proximal for much of their lengths, separated only at distal tips in most examined specimens. Small rounded papillae covering entire surface of all barbels, upper and lower lips, and isthmus. Gill membranes united to isthmus. Four branchiostegal rays covered by thin layer of skin; lateralmost two rays united at their distal tips by branchiostegal cartilage. Teeth on upper pharyngeal tooth plate 46 (1), or 50 (1), and on fifth ceratobranchial 31 (1), or 38 (1). Tooth plate rounded.

Nasal, frontal, sphenotic, compound pterotic, and parieto-supraoccipital visible externally, all covered by thin layer of skin and bearing minute scattered odontodes. Frontal fontanel elongate, ellipsoid, covered by thin layer of skin; posterior tip extending into parieto-supraoccipital. Nasal slender, slightly curved laterally, mesial border contacting frontal. Fron-

tal roughly rectangular; anterior expansion in contact with nasal bone, posterior portion contacting sphenotic and parieto-supraoccipital. Sphenotic trapezoid in shape, contacting parieto-supraoccipital dorsally, compound pterotic posteriorly, second infraorbital ventrally. Compound pterotic roughly pipe-shaped, with slender posterior expansion contacting first dorsal body plate and first lateral-line ossicle. Contact region between compound pterotic and first dorsal body plate covered by area of thick skin. Ventral margin of compound pterotic contacting opercle and cleithrum. Parieto-supraoccipital quadrangular with posterior process notched at its tip, sutured with nuchal plate.

Two infraorbital bones, externally visible, covered by thin layer of skin. First infraorbital with slender anterior expansion. Opercle exposed, compact in shape, with free border angular. Preopercle externally visible, slender and covered by thin layer of skin.

Trunk lateral-line with two laterosensory canals, reduced to small ossicles. Two specimens (MUSM 26961, 22.3-24.6 mm SL) with one perforated dorsolateral body plate. Lateral-line canal entering neurocranium through compound pterotic, splitting into two branches, pterotic and preoperculomandibular, each with single pore, before entering sphenotic. Sensory canal continuing through compound pterotic, entering sphenotic as temporal canal, which splits into two branches: infraorbital canal, and supraorbital canal entering through frontal bone. Supraorbital canal with two branches: epiphyseal, opening in frontal bone, and anterior, running through nasal bone. Nasal canal with single opening at each end. Infraorbital canal running through entire second infraorbital, extending to infraorbital 1 and opening into two pores. Preoperculomandibular branch giving rise to preoperculomandibular canal, which runs through entire preopercle with three openings, leading to pores 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

Body plates with minute odontodes restricted to posterior margins. Nuchal plate exposed. Cleithrum and mesial process of scapulocoracoid exposed. Minute odontodes scattered over area between scapulocoracoids. Body plates not touching counterparts in specimens up to 24.0 mm SL, leaving narrow naked groove on medial dorsal and ventral surfaces; gap more conspicuous between dorsal body plates. Dorsolateral body plates 24* (n=27), one specimen (MUSM 27155, 26.9 mm SL) with 23 plates; ventrolateral body plates 21* (25), or 22 (3); dorsolateral body plates along dorsal-fin base 6 (3), 7* (10), or 8 (15); dorsolateral body plates from adipose fin to caudal-fin base 8* (27), one specimen (MUSM 27155, 26.9 mm SL) with seven plates; preadipose platelets 3* (17), or 4 (11). Precaudal vertebrae 8, caudal vertebrae 14, in all cleared-and-stained specimens; five pairs of ribs, first pair conspicuously larger than others.

Dorsal fin roughly triangular; its origin just posterior to second or third dorsolateral body plate. Dorsal spine shorter

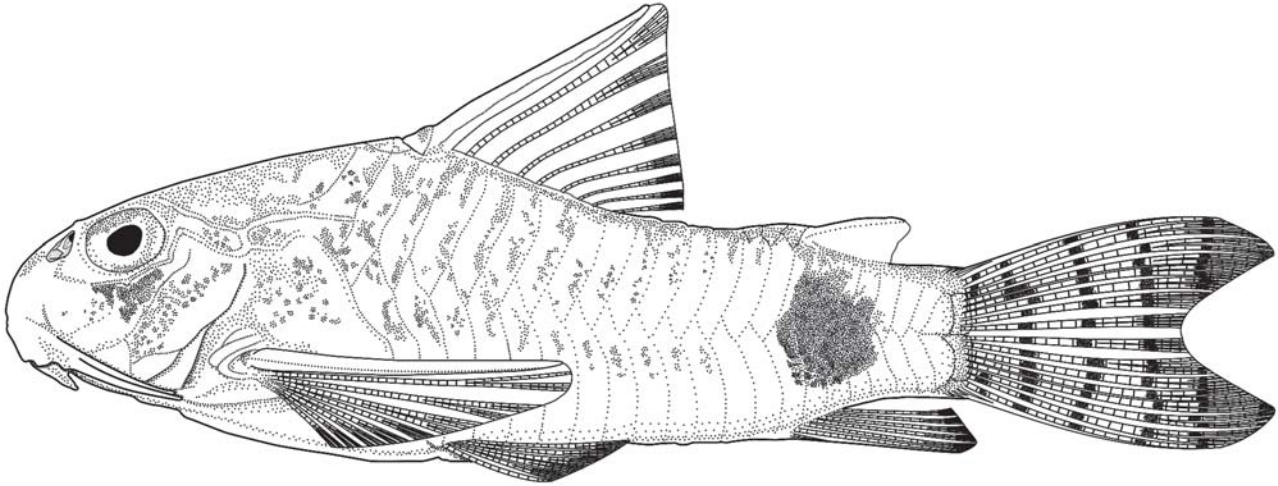


Fig. 2. *Corydoras ortegai*, MUSM 28000, holotype, 32.7 mm SL: Peru, Depto. Loreto, Quebrada Coronel Díaz, tributary of río Yaguas. Caudal fin reconstructed after MUSM 27154, 27.7 mm SL.

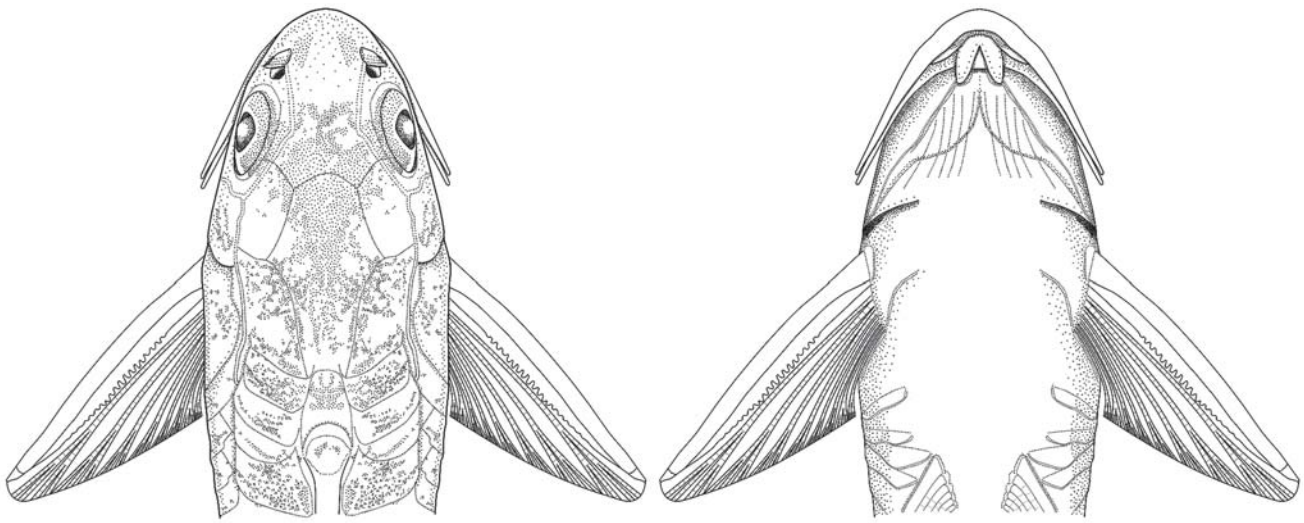


Fig. 3. Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) views of head and pectoral fins of *Corydoras ortegai*, MUSM 28000, holotype, 32.7 mm SL: Peru, Depto. Loreto, Quebrada Coronel Díaz, tributary of río Yaguas.

than first branched ray. Anterior margin of dorsal spine smooth; posterior margin with minute serrations. Dorsal-fin rays II,8* (27); II,9 in one specimen (MUSM 26961, 27.0 mm SL). Adipose fin roughly triangular; its origin separated from base of last dorsal-fin ray by 6-8 dorsolateral body plates. Anal fin roughly triangular; its origin located posterior to 12th or 14th ventrolateral body plates, at vertical through posterior margin of last preadipose platelet. Anal-fin rays ii,5 in all specimens. Pectoral fin triangular; its origin located just posterior

to gill opening. Ossified portion of pectoral spine shorter than first branched ray. Distal tip of spine with minute segmented unossified portion. Pectoral spine flattened with smooth anterior margin and small serrations along entire posterior margin, less conspicuous distally; serrations more developed than in dorsal fin spine. Pectoral-fin rays I,8* (23), or I,7 (5). Pelvic fin ellipsoid; its origin just below first ventrolateral body plate, at vertical through intermembrane between second and third branched dorsal-fin rays. Pelvic-fin rays i,5

in all specimens. Caudal fin bilobed, weakly forked; lower lobe slightly longer. Principal caudal-fin rays i,6/6,i; upper and lower procurrent caudal-fin rays 4 and 5, respectively. Total number of caudal-fin rays 23. All fins with minute odontodes scattered over all rays.

Color in alcohol. Ground color of head yellowish light brown. Wide, slightly oblique dark brown vertical blotch (“mask”) from top of head across anterior and posterior margins of eye to ventral anterior corner of opercle. Scattered chromatophores over snout and outer mental barbel; remaining barbels yellowish light brown. Scattered chromatophores on posterior process of parieto-supraoccipital; more concentrated on its midline. Surfaces of opercle and preopercle with several, relatively large, scattered chromatophores; chromatophores more concentrated on contact region between both bones.

Ground color of trunk uniform light brown. Large, yellowish white area on midregion of cleithrum, surrounded by several scattered chromatophores concentrated posteriorly. All body plates anterior to adipose and anal fins with irregular, short, narrow patches of scattered chromatophores; patches more concentrated just above and below junction of dorsal and ventral-body plates, forming two faint, broken longitudinal stripes that fade posteriorly (Figs. 1, 2). Large, roughly rounded, dark brown blotch midlaterally below adipose fin; blotch fading dorsally and ventrally towards adipose- and anal-fin bases, respectively (Figs. 1, 2). Region of body plates junction between both blotches without chromatophores. Body plates at caudal peduncle with few chromatophores, some concentrated on dorsolateral plate just posterior to adipose fin. Several chromatophores scattered over preadipose platelets, extending to adipose spine.

Dorsal and pectoral fins hyaline, with few chromatophores concentrated on spines. Adipose-fin membrane hyaline, with few scattered chromatophores. Anal fin hyaline, with few chromatophores concentrated on first ray. Pelvic fin hyaline. Caudal fin with small, dark brown blotches restricted to rays and arranged into three or four, roughly vertical, narrow bands.

Sexual dimorphism. No sexually dimorphic characters found. Corydoradine catfishes often have dimorphic genital papillae (see, e.g. Britto, 2003), but specimens of *C. ortegai* display no modifications.

Distribution. *Corydoras ortegai* is only known from tributaries of the Río Yaguas, a tributary of the lower Río Putumayo, in Departamento Loreto, Peru, very close to the border with Colombia and Brazil (Fig. 4).

Habitat and ecological notes. *Corydoras ortegai* was mostly found inhabiting lotic habitats in the Río Yaguas basin, a whitewater tributary of Río Putumayo. The Río Yaguas has a muddy-brown color, with soft bottom of clay and sand where

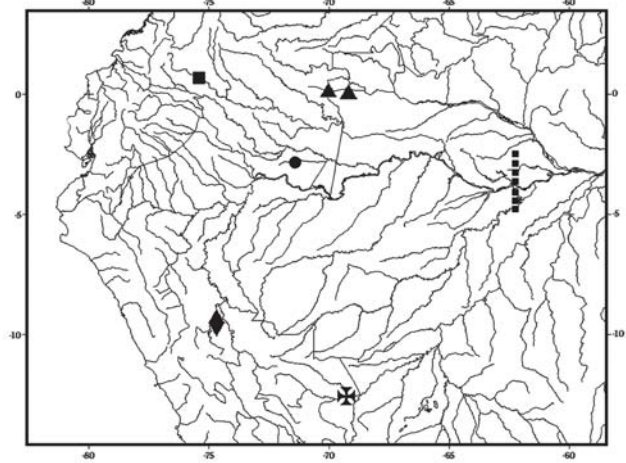


Fig. 4. Northern South America, showing the distribution of *Corydoras ortegai* (dot), *C. panda* (diamond), *C. reynoldsi* (square), *C. tukano* (triangles), and *C. weitzmani* (cross). Distribution of *C. weitzmani* is depicted with its center at Puerto Maldonado, capital of the Departamento Madre de Dios in Peru, since precise localities for the species are not known (see text). Segmented line: Purus structural arch.

C. ortegai was relatively abundant. No individuals were captured in the small black or clearwater forest streams, nor lagoons that were also present in the area. The only congener found living syntopically with *C. ortegai* at the type locality was *C. pastazensis*. The region where *C. ortegai* was discovered has a high diversity of fishes (207 species recorded), and it is being proposed as a new protected area in Peru (Hidalgo & Olivera, 2004).

Etymology. After Hernán Ortega Torres, curator of the fish collection of the Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, in recognition of his deep interest in the freshwater fish fauna of Peru and his contributions to our knowledge of its diversity.

Discussion

Interrelationships within *Corydoradine* are poorly known. Britto (2003) published the most comprehensive phylogenetic study of Corydoradine catfishes to date. In this work the monophyly and limits of *Corydoradine* were hypothesized, and monophyletic units within it established; however, interrelationships remained poorly resolved among most of the 82 species examined. Inclusion of *Corydoradine ortegai* and *C. tukano* in the data matrix compiled by Britto (2003) recovered both as sister species. This relationship is based on two character-states: presence of small inner expansion on second infraorbital, leaving a naked area in the posterior wall of ocular cavity (Britto, 2003: character 17), and dorsal lamina on anguloarticular triangular in shape (Britto, 2003: character 37).

In addition, both species, were placed in a small assemblage that has *Corydoras panda* as its most basal taxon. This assemblage is supported by absence of odontodes on infraorbitals and opercle (Britto, 2003: characters 13 and 44). The monophyly of this assemblage, however, is not well supported, because it is defined by highly homoplastic characters, with optimizations depending on tree topology.

Color pattern provides additional evidence for a close phylogenetic relationship between *Corydoras ortegai* and *C. tukano*. In the original description of *Corydoras tukano*, Britto & Lima (2003) indicated the presence of a unique color pattern shared between this species, *Corydoras reynoldsi*, and *C. weitzmani*. That pattern is composed of light ground coloration on body, presence of a dark bar (“mask”) across the orbit, and two large, dark blotches midlaterally on trunk, one at the level of dorsal fin, and a second at the level of adipose fin. Britto & Lima (2003) used this color pattern to propose a close relationship among these three species. Considering that *Corydoras ortegai* lacks the anterior trunk blotch and is, according to the information available, the sister species of *C. tukano*, its discovery poses doubts about the recognition and interpretation of this color pattern when it is treated as a whole. Furthermore, *Corydoras panda*, which possesses a color pattern similar to *Corydoras ortegai*, and is closely related to this species and *C. tukano* at a more inclusive level, reinforces the question as to how this color pattern should be evaluated. Treating the components of the color pattern (dark “mask” and trunk blotches) as independent characters (states absent/present), and including them in Britto’s (2003) data matrix sheds some light on this question. Accordingly, the presence of a dark mask across the orbit is interpreted as a highly homoplastic character, occurring in several lineages of *Corydoras* (for a partial list of *Corydoras* species possessing a mask, see Britto & Lima, 2003: 89). The same is true for the presence of a caudal-peduncle blotch (which was already present in Britto, 2003: character 78). The trunk blotch at the dorsal-fin level is present in *Corydoras tukano* and it is homoplastic with several *Corydoras* species, such as *C. ellisae* Gosline and *C. paleatus* Jenyns. The paucity of preserved material of *Corydoras reynoldsi* and *C. weitzmani* did not allow their inclusion in the analysis. Inclusion of both species, as well as other *Corydoras* species that show “masks” and/or “body blotches”, are necessary for a clear understanding about the evolution of that color pattern, and whether, in some cases, “masks” and trunk blotches evolve together or not.

Although still uncertain at this time, the purported monophyly of an assemblage containing *Corydoras ortegai*, *C. tukano*, *C. reynoldsi*, *C. weitzmani*, and *C. panda* is suggestive of a pattern of western Amazon endemism. A “Western Amazonian” area of endemism for fishes has been suggested by other authors (e.g. Kullander, 1986; Reis, 1998b; Wilkinson *et al.*, 2006; Hubert & Renno, 2006) and is here equated to the

sedimentary basins situated west of the Purus Arch (see Räsänen *et al.*, 1992: fig. 1), the eastern divide of the Amazon basin prior to the late Miocene (see Lundberg *et al.*, 1998, and references therein). Four of the five *Corydoras* belonging to this putatively monophyletic group occur in this region: *Corydoras reynoldsi* is only known from its type locality in the upper río Caquetá basin, Colombia (Myers & Weitzman, 1960), *C. panda* in the upper río Ucayali basin, Peru (Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1971), *C. ortegai* in the lower río Putumayo basin, Peru, and *C. weitzmani* in the rio Madre de Dios Basin, Peru (type locality mistakenly reported as Cuzco on the upper rio Villcabamba/Ucayali at the Andean cordillera; see Fuller & Evers, 2005: 266). The only exception is *C. tukano*, in the rio Tiquié, a tributary of the rio Uaupés in the upper rio Negro basin (Britto & Lima, 2003). The rio Uaupés drains the westernmost portion of the Guianan Shield (Brasil, 1976), an area distinct in its geological evolution (see, e.g. Lundberg *et al.*, 1998) (see Fig. 4 for a distribution map encompassing all referred species). The rio Tiquié is one of the westernmost tributaries of the rio Negro basin, and shares an extensive divide with the Río Caquetá/Japurá basin (more specifically, the Río Pira-Paraná, tributary of Río Apaporis) that drains into the upper Amazon. The occurrence of two additional species, *Creagrutus tuyuka* (Characidae) and *Cetopsis parma* (Cetopsidae) in the rio Tiquié further suggest a biogeographical relationship between this river and rivers draining the Western Amazon. The sister taxa of *Creagrutus tuyuka* (Characidae), are *C. kunturus* and *C. amoenus*, both of which occur in the upper Amazon basin in Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia (Vari & Harold, 2001; Vari & Lima, 2003), whereas *Cetopsis parma* (Cetopsidae) is only known from the upper Amazon basin and rio Tiquié (Vari *et al.*, 2005).

Comparative material. A list of the comparative material is available in Britto & Castro (2002) and Britto (2003). In addition, the following material was studied: *Corydoras panda* (all from Peru, Estado Huanuco, Aguas Amarillas, tributary of Río Pachitea, Río Ucayali system) BMNH 1969.7.15.8, holotype; BMNH 1969.7.15.9, 1, paratype. *C. reynoldsi* CAS-SU 50702, 2, Colombia, Provincia Caquetá, small stream tributary to the Río Orteguaza opposite the town and a air base known as Tres Esquinas, paratypes. *C. tukano* (all from Brazil, Estado do Amazonas) MNRJ 25355, 2, 24.4-32.0 mm SL, Igarapé Cabari, comunidade de Coração de Maria, paratypes; MZUSP 64096, 4, 28.2-38.0 mm SL, rio Tiquié, comunidade de Boca do Sal, paratypes; MZUSP 65689, 2, 33.2-38.5 mm SL, rio Tiquié, one hour by boat below comunidade de Cunuri, below Cachoeira do Tucano, paratypes; MZUSP 81153, 9, 6 cs, 35.4-37.2 mm SL, 6 cs, 20.9-38.3 mm SL, rio Tiquié, between the comunidades de Caruru and Boca de Sal, paratypes; MZUSP 81179, 2, 34.0-36.1 mm SL, rio Tiquié, comunidade de Boca do Sal, paratypes; MZUSP 81194, 5, 34.5-40.3 mm SL, rio Tiquié, comunidade de Caruru, beaches in pool below the fall, paratypes; MZUSP 81216, 2, 17.1-21.3 mm SL, rio Tiquié, between the comunidades de São Domingos Sávio and Jabuti, paratypes; MZUSP 81244, 16, 20.3-41.4 mm SL, Igarapé Cabari, comunidade de Coração de

Maria, paratypes; MZUSP 82100, 40.9 mm SL, rio Tiquié, comunidade de Caruru, beaches in pool below the fall, holotype.

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