

***Corydoras tukano*, a new species of corydoradine catfish from the rio Tiquié, upper rio Negro basin, Brazil (Ostariophysi: Siluriformes: Callichthyidae)**

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A new *Corydoras* species from the rio Tiquié, upper rio Negro system, Amazonas, Brazil, is described. This taxon was previously referred to as “*Corydoras* species ‘Asher’”, “*Corydoras cf. reynoldsi*”, and “*Corydoras aff. reynoldsi*” in the aquarist literature. The new taxon can be distinguished from all its congeners, except *Corydoras reynoldsi* and *C. weitzmani*, by its color pattern, consisting of three large, dark blotches, the first one (“mask”) on the head, across the eye; the second one on the trunk at the level of dorsal fin; and the third one on the trunk at the level of the adipose fin. It can be distinguished from *Corydoras reynoldsi* mainly by the development of trunk blotches; and from *C. weitzmani* by the presence of a dusky saddle between the dorsal and adipose fins, the second trunk blotch extending vertically from the adipose-fin base to the anal-fin base, and the presence of four dark stripes in the caudal fin.

Uma nova espécie de *Corydoras* do rio Tiquié, bacia do alto rio Negro, estado do Amazonas, Brasil, é descrita. Este táxon foi anteriormente citado na literatura aquarista como “*Corydoras* species ‘Asher’”, “*Corydoras cf. reynoldsi*” e “*Corydoras aff. reynoldsi*”. O novo táxon pode ser distinguido de todos seus congêneres, exceto *Corydoras reynoldsi* e *C. weitzmani*, por seu padrão de colorido, que consiste em três grandes manchas pretas, a primeira (“máscara”) na cabeça, através do olho; a segunda no tronco, no nível da nadadeira dorsal; e a terceira no tronco, no nível da nadadeira adiposa. Ele pode ser distinguido de *Corydoras reynoldsi* principalmente pelo desenvolvimento das manchas do tronco, e de *C. weitzmani* pela presença de uma mancha escura na porção dorsal das placas dorsolaterais, entre a nadadeira dorsal e a nadadeira adiposa, pela segunda mancha estender-se verticalmente da base da nadadeira adiposa até a base da nadadeira anal, e pela presença de quatro listras pretas na nadadeira caudal.

Key words: *Corydoras reynoldsi*, *Corydoras weitzmani*, Neotropical, Amazon.

Introduction

Corydoras Lacepède is one of the most speciose catfish genera, currently comprising 176 nominal species, of which 143 species are presently considered valid (Reis, 2003). The genus 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 streams. Despite several significant contributions during the course of the extensive taxonomic history of *Corydoras* (e.g. Gosline, 1940; Nijssen, 1970; Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1980, 1983a, 1986), and recent attempts to define its limits (Reis,

1998; Britto & Castro, 2002), the status of most species as well as their phylogenetic relationships are still poorly understood.

During two recent ichthyological surveys in the rio Tiquié, a tributary of the rio Uaupés, in the upper Rio Negro system in Estado do Amazonas, Brazil, one of the authors (FCTL) collected an unusual corydoradine catfish, which resembled *Corydoras reynoldsi* Myers & Weitzman in its color pattern. We found later that this taxon was previously referred to in the aquarist literature as “*Corydoras* species ‘Asher’”, “*Corydoras cf. reynoldsi*”, and “*Corydoras aff. reynoldsi*” (Anonymous, 1998; Finley, 1998; Lucanus, 1998). Comparisons

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