

First record of the hypoptopomatine genus *Eurycheilichthys* Reis & Schaefer, 1993 (Siluriformes, Loricariidae) from Argentina

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ABSTRACT: The hypoptopomatine genus *Eurycheilichthys* was so far considered to be endemic to the South of Brazil. One of its species, *E. pantherinus*, was described from the upper Uruguay river basin. We inform about the finding of this species within the Garibaldi creek, headwater of the arroyo Yabotí Guazú. This is the first record for Argentina which is found in a tributary of the middle Uruguay river.

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The Neotropical family Loricariidae is the largest within the Siluriformes and contains six subfamilies. The species included in the subfamily Hypoptopomatinae have a wide distribution from the Orinoco basin to the Rio de la Plata, with the largest number of small bodied hypoptopomatine genera distributed in Southeastern Brazil. Among the genera present in Southern Brazil, *Eurycheilichthys* Reis & Schaefer, 1993 is considered until now endemic to mountain rivers of Rio Grande do Sul State, occurring above 600 m of altitude. *Eurycheilichthys pantherinus* (Reis & Schaefer, 1992) lives in the Uruguay River basin and *E. limulus* Reis & Schaefer, 1998 inhabits the upper basin of the Jacuí River. Recent samples revealed the presence of *E. pantherinus* in a small stream of the Uruguay River basin, in the province of Misiones. Thus, this is the first record of the species in the middle Uruguay of Argentina.

The specimens examined were collected in the arroyo Garibaldi near San Pedro City (approx. 26°53'00" S, 54°05'01" W), a headwater of the arroyo Yabotí Guazú which flows into the Uruguay river (Figures 1 and 2). The stream has very clear, rapidly streaming water and stony bottom. The specimens were collected only in the rapids.

Reis and Schaefer (1992) described *E. pantherinus* by the possession of several characteristics: an apomorphic character seven branched pectoral-fin rays; presence of greatly expanded lower lip (Figure 3); accessory ceratobranchial flange reduced to a slender uncinat process; loss of filamentous gill rakers from the oral surfaces of the hyoid skeleton; and very wide body, with cleithral width 27.5–31.8% SL. The collected specimens have these characteristics, although, one of the two cleared and stained specimens has a large accessory flange in the ceratobranchial. The males have a fleshy flap along the posterior margin of the thickened first pelvic-fin rays. *Eurycheilichthys pantherinus* also has an accessory series of unicuspid teeth in the maxilla and dentary not associated with the common bicuspid teeth. Reis and Schaefer (1992) commented that this type of unicuspid teeth appears in

Parotocinclus collinsae Schmidt & Ferraris 1985; some years after, the accessory teeth were also observed by many authors in different genera and species: Reis & Schaefer



FIGURE 1. Habitat where *Eurycheilichthys pantherinus* was collected: Arroyo Garibaldi, Misiones, Argentina.

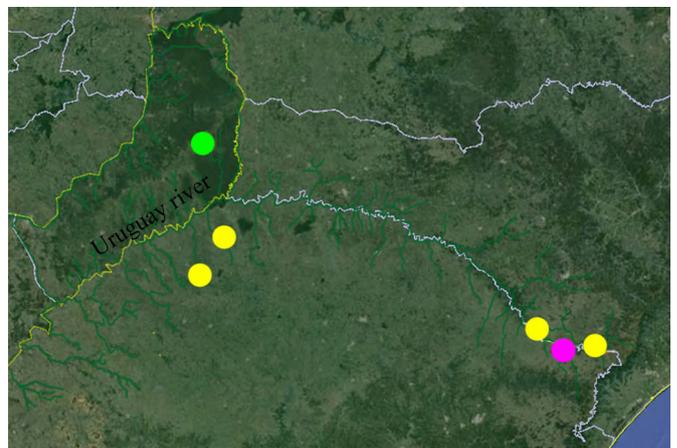


FIGURE 2. The new locality in the arroyo Garibaldi, Misiones, Argentina, is indicated with a green dot; the other dots indicate the previously known localities in Brazil. Pink dot is the type locality: Rio Grande do Sul, creek tributary of rio dos Touros (Reis & Schaefer, 1998).

(1998) in *Epactionotus*; Schaefer & Provenzano (1998) in *Niobichthys*; Gauger & Buckup (2005) in *Parotocinclus bidentatus* and *P. muriaensis*; Lehmann (2006) in juveniles of *Parotocinclus maculicauda*, and Martins & Langeani (2011) in *Rhinolekos schaeferi* (see also Martins *et al.*, 2014).

Measurements and counts of 10 specimens are provided in Table 1. Measurements were taken following Reis and Schaefer (1992). The examined specimens of *E. pantherinus* (Figure 3) have lower number of lateral plates; the counts of all remaining plates agree with those of Reis and Schaefer (1992). The specimens have been deposited



FIGURE 3. *Eurycheilichthys pantherinus*, lateral, dorsal, and ventral views. CI-FML 5875, 31.2 mm SL.



FIGURE 4. Live *Eurycheilichthys pantherinus* recently collected.

in the following collections: CI-FML 5875 (6), CI-FML 5876 (2 c&s), and MCP 48035 (2). Institutional abbreviations follow Sabaj-Pérez (2012).

The ground color in live specimens is pale brown with numerous dark brown blotches irregularly arranged on head and dorsum (Figure 4). The blotches on the head are roundish and smaller than those of the body, which are completely irregular in size and shape. The blotches usually form four conspicuous dorsal bands, first located at the base of the anterior dorsal-fin rays, second at the end of the dorsal-fin base, third after the length of the addressed dorsal fin, and the last near the origin of the caudal-fin rays. All fins have brown blotches, but membranes are hyaline. Sometimes, the blotches form faint bands in the dorsal, pectoral, and caudal fins.

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TABLE 1. Measurements and counts of 10 specimens of *Eurycheilichthys pantherinus* from the arroyo Garibaldi, Misiones, Argentina. Length and width measurements in mm.

	MEAN	MIN	MAX
Standard length		29.72	33.61
Percentage of SL			
Head length	36.0	33.2	37.6
Predorsal length	47.4	45.6	48.4
Unbranched dorsal-fin length	47.4	45.6	48.4
Unbranched anal-fin length	17.2	15.2	18.7
Pectoral-spine length	25.3	23.9	26.5
Unbranched pelvic-fin length	9.6	17.3	22.3
Trunk length	16.0	14.2	17.3
Abdominal length	24.3	23.0	25.5
Cleithral width	31.0	30.1	32.0
Body depth at dorsal-fin origin	16.1	15.2	18.4
Width at anal-fin origin	14.7	13.2	15.3
Caudal-peduncle length	31.6	29.8	32.0
Caudal-peduncle depth	8.7	7.2	8.8
Percentage of Head			
Snout length	53.3	51.9	56.9
Orbital diameter	16.3	14.4	18.2
Interorbital width	33.2	31.8	36.1
Head depth	44.2	41.5	48.7
Left mandibula width	13.0	12.7	15.8
Counts			
Branched dorsal-fin rays	7	7	7
Branched pectoral-fin rays	7	7	7
Branched pelvic-fin rays	5	5	5
Branched caudal-fin rays	14	14	14
Left lateral plates	23	21	23
Right lateral plates	23	22	24

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