

## Presence of *Pterobunocephalus depressus* (Haseman, 1911) (Siluriformes, Aspredinidae) in freshwaters of Argentina.

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### Abstract

*Pterobunocephalus depressus* is registered for the first time from the lower río Paraná in the Pre-Delta National Park, Argentina. The specimens were collected in the arroyo La Azotea (32°07'17.8"S - 60°38'04.3" W).

### Resumen

*Pterobunocephalus depressus* es registrada por primera vez para el río Paraná inferior en el Parque Nacional Pre-Delta, Argentina. Los ejemplares fueron colectados en el arroyo La Azotea (32°07'17.8"S - 60°38'04.3" W).

### Introduction

The genus *Pterobunocephalus* has been erected by Fowler (1943). This genus is distinguished from *Bunocephalus* by having a longer anal fin with eleven rays and its origin placed nearer the tip of snout than the base of caudal fin. At present only two species of *Pterobunocephalus* are recognized: *P. dolichurus* (Delsman, 1941) from Amazon river basin, and *P. depressus* (Haseman, 1911) from Amazon, Orinoco and Paraguay river basins (Friel, 2003; Ferraris, 2007).

During the year 2007, the first two authors collected 3 specimens of *P. depressus* in the Pre-Delta National Park situated on the left bank of the lower río Paraná in Entre Ríos province.

The aim of this paper is to register the finding of this species in freshwaters of Argentina and to give a brief description of its morphology and colour pattern.

### *Pterobunocephalus depressus* (Haseman, 1911)

#### Material examined

*Pterobunocephalus depressus*: AI 236, 3 ex., 34.4-52.5 mm SL, Argentina, Entre Ríos province, Pre-Delta National Park, río Paraná basin, arroyo La Azotea, 32°07'17.8"S - 60°38'04.3"W. coll: L. Ciotek and P. Giorgis, April 2007.

#### Description

This species can reach 80 mm of SL. Morphometry of the three specimens of *P. depressus* are provided in table 1. Body elongated and very depressed, depth 9.2 to 11.9 times in SL. Caudal peduncle slightly compressed and narrow. Body with papillae forming longitudinal and parallel lines on caudal peduncle; one line on the dorsum and five on each side. Head depressed bearing low ridges, covered with papillae especially on ridges and anterior nostrils. Eyes small and dorsal. Mouth small and terminal; patches of villiform teeth in both jaws. Maxillary barbels reaching or surpassing the pectoral fin base origin. Mental barbels reaching or surpassing the post-mental ones. Ventrally, the coracoid processes are very short, less than three times in the distance between their tips. Dorsal fin with 5 rays, its origin is nearer snout tip than caudal fin base. Six pectoral fin rays, pectoral spine with strong serrae on anterior and posterior edges. Anal fin with 11 rays.

#### Colour in life

Ground colour dark brown (Fig. 1). Head and anterior region of the body pale brown. Caudal peduncle dark brown with three pale brown transverse bars, the first one just behind the dorsal fin, the second one about half length of caudal peduncle and the third one at the caudal fin base. Pectoral and pelvic fins pale brown with scattered chromatophores on their margins. The remaining fins, dark brown with their distal tips hyaline.



Fig.1. Dorsal view of an alive specimen of *Pterobunocephalus depressus*.



Fig. 2. Arroyo La Azotea in Pre-Delta National Park, where *Pterobunocephalus depressus* was collected.

### **Behaviour in aquarium**

Most of the time *P. depressus* is found on the bottom, however sometimes they can be seen feeding among the floating plant roots. When the fish want to return to the bottom, they just passively glide down in a zig-zag movement, like a leaf falling from a tree.

### Distribution

*Pterobunocephalus depressus* (Haseman, 1911) seems to have a wide distribution that includes Amazon, Orinoco and Paraguay river basins (Friel, 2003; Ferraris, 2007). The specimens of this species considered herein was found in the arroyo La Azotea, 32°07'17.8"S - 60°38'04.3"W, río Paraná basin, Entre Ríos province, Pre-Delta National Park (Figs. 2, 3)

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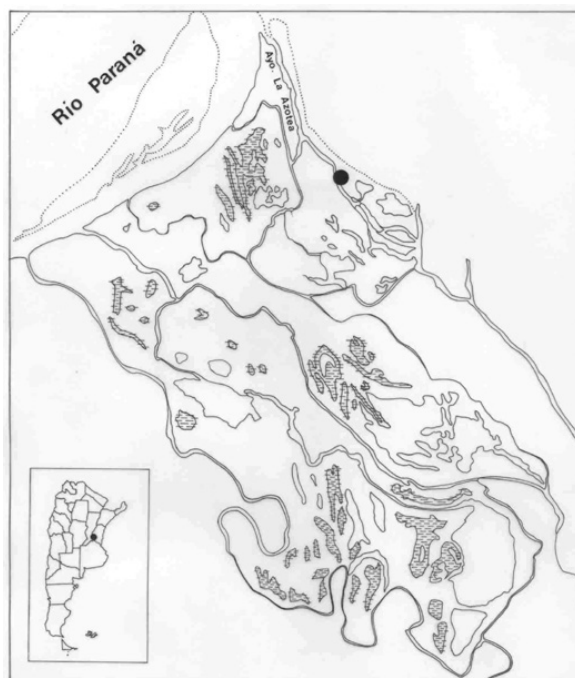


Fig. 3. Map showing the collecting site of *P. depressus*.

**Table 1**

Morphometry of three specimens of *Pterobunocephalus depressus*. (SD: standard deviation)

	Range	Mean	SD	Mees (1989) Range
SL (mm)	34.4-52.5			44-79
<b>% of standard length</b>				
Predorsal length	35.5-36.9	36.3	0.71	35.4-37.0
Prepectoral length	19.6-20.8	20.2	0.58	
Body width	25.3-25.4	25.3	0.06	25.0-29.3
Body depth	9.0-10.9	9.9	0.92	8.8-10.9
Pectoral spine length	19.7-22.1	20.9	1.21	
Caudal peduncle length	25.9-29.3	27.9	1.84	
Snout-post pectoral distance	22.7-22.9	22.7	0.10	
Dorsal-caudal distance	61.0-64.5	62.6	1.74	
Head length.	13.6-14.7	14.1	0.69	
% of head length				
Head depth	52.6-55.3	53.9	1.38	
Snout length	33.3-36.0	34.5	1.38	
Orbital diameter	14.9-16.0	15.4	0.55	
Mental barbels length	19.2-21.2	20.2	1.03	
Coracoids processes length / distance between coracoid tips	3.2-3.6	3.4	0.20	> 3

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