

First record of *Pimelodus britskii* Garavello & Shibatta, 2007 (Siluriformes: Pimelodidae) in freshwaters of Argentina.

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Abstract

Pimelodus britskii is registered for the first time from the Iguazú basin in Argentina. The specimens were captured in the Arroyo Verde (25°40'15.7"S-53°55'58.7"W) an affluent of the río Iguazú in Misiones province, Argentina.

Resumen

Pimelodus britskii es registrada por primera vez para la cuenca del río Iguazú en Argentina. Los especímenes fueron capturados en el Arroyo Verde (25°40'15.7"S-53°55'58.7"W) un afluente del río Iguazú en la provincia de Misiones, Argentina.

The genus *Pimelodus* is one of the most specious of the family Pimelodidae. Inhabiting tropical, subtropical and temperate environments in the Neotropical region, from Panamá to Argentina (Garavello & Shibatta, 2007).

Six species of *Pimelodus* were registered from Argentina: *P. absconditus* Azpelicueta, 1995; *P. albicans* (Valenciennes, 1840); *P. argenteus* Perugia, 1891; *P. maculatus* La Cépède, 1803; *P. mysteriosus* Azpelicueta 1998, and *P. ornatus* Kner, 1858. In this country, the genus *Pimelodus* is found in the Paraná, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Río de la Plata basins. *Pimelodus maculatus* and *P. albicans* are the only species found in the Río de la Plata, the southernmost limit of the genus (Azpelicueta, 1998) and occasionally can reach as far south as the río Salado basin in Buenos Aires Province (López et al., 2001).

Only two species of *Pimelodus* were described from the río Iguazú basin: *Pimelodus ortmanni* (Haseman, 1911) and *Pimelodus britskii* Garavello & Shibatta, 2007. Both species were described with material collected at the right margin of the río Iguazú in Brazilian localities.



Fig.1. Lateral view of *Pimelodus britskii*, specimen not preserved

The río Iguazú is a tributary of the río Paraná that originates in the Serra do Mar in Brazil, then flows in an east-west direction, forming in its lowest 115 km the border between Argentina and Brazil. The Iguazú falls, few kilometers upstream from the confluence with the río Paraná, has been an impassable fish-fauna barrier since its origin.

Pimelodus britskii (fig 1) was captured in the Arroyo Verde (figs 2, 3), which here has a variable depth averaging about 80 cm, the bottom is composed of mud, sand and mostly stones, and the stream has falls and pools with clear rapidly flowing water. Some areas have scarce submerged vegetation.

Pimelodus britskii is easily distinguished by having circular dark brown blotches usually smaller than one orbital diameter regularly scattered along the trunk, body depth at posterior cleithral process greater than head length, and maxillary barbels reaching or surpassing vertical drawn through median of adipose fin. All these characters are present in the specimen captured in the Arroyo Verde (MACN-Ict 9265), Argentina, Misiones province, río Iguazú basin, Arroyo Verde, (25°40'15.7"S-53°55' 58.7"W, coll: Rican et al., November 2007).

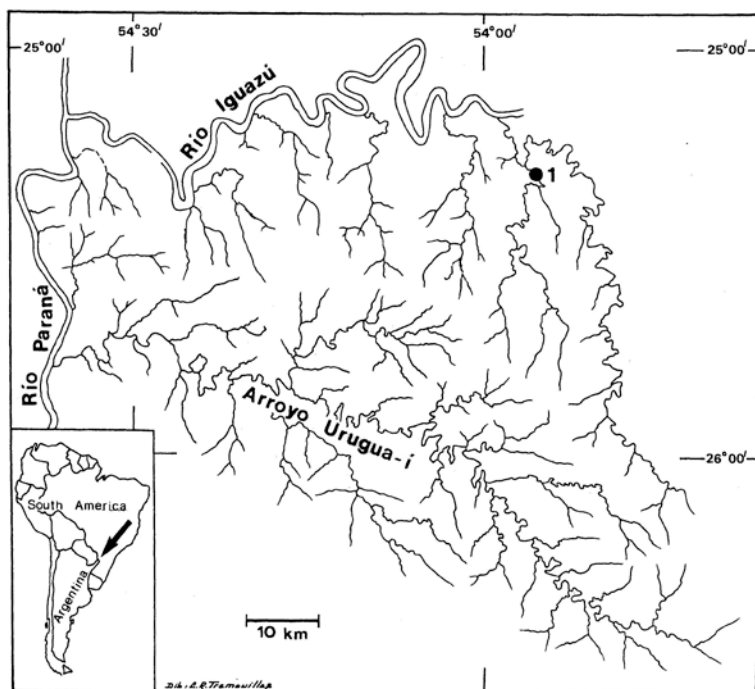


Fig 2. Map showing the collecting site (1) of *P. britskii*



Fig 3. Arroyo Verde, Iguazú basin, Misiones province, Argentina, where *Pimelodus britskii* was collected

References

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Almirón, A., J. Casciotta, L. Pialek & O. Rican (2009): First record of *Pimelodus britskii* Garavello & Shibatta, 2007 (Siluriformes: Pimelodidae) in freshwaters of Argentina. *Ichthyological Contributions of PecesCriollos* 12: 1-2 available as pdf-file at www.pecescrilloos.de since 22.iii.2009