

# Fishes from the Lower Urubamba river near Sepahua, Amazon Basin, Peru

Tiago P. Carvalho<sup>1</sup>, Jéssica Espino<sup>2</sup>, Emmanuel Máxime<sup>1</sup>, Roberto Quispe<sup>2</sup>, Blanca Rengifo<sup>2</sup>, Hernán Ortega<sup>2</sup> and James S. Albert<sup>1\*</sup>

- 1 University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Department of Biology. Lafayette, LA 70504, USA.
- 2 Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. Avenida Arenales 1256. Lima 11, Peru.
- \* Corresponding author E-mail: jalbert@louisiana.edu

ABSTRACT: We report results of an ichthyological survey of the Lower Urubamba river, a tributary of the Ucayali river located in the southwestern portion of the Amazon Basin in southeastern Peru. Collections were made at low water (July, 2009) from 280 - 310 m elevation, near the town of Sepahua within the Fitzcarrald Arch, an upland associated with Pliocene (c. 4 Ma) uplift of the Peruvian Andes. This is the second of four planned expeditions to the region with the goal of comparing ichthyofaunas across the headwaters of the largest tributary basins in the western Amazon (Juruá, Ucayali, Purús and Madre de Dios). Twenty-one sites were sampled using seine nets, hook lines, cast nets and dip nets. A total of 98 species in 22 families and eight orders were captured and identified. The most diverse families are Characidae (40 spp.) and Loricariidae (20 spp.), and 12 families are represented by a single species. These data suggest that the fish fauna of the Lower Urubamba river near Sepahua is distinct from, and less diverse than, adjacent areas of lowland Amazonia.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Peru has one of the richest continental biotas on Earth, with exceptional levels of species richness and endemism in many groups of terrestrial vertebrates, insects, and flowering plants (Rodriguez and Young 2000). The aquatic fauna is also highly diverse, with about 1,000 fish species currently recorded in Peruvian freshwaters, the majority of which inhabit the Amazon Basin, and with many new species described every year (Ortega and Hidalgo 2008; Ortega et al. 2011). The Amazon Basin as a whole contains more than 2,600 fish species (currently about 2,200 valid species as of April 2010), a number that represents about one quarter of the freshwater fishes of the world, and about one in 20 of all known vertebrate species (Lundberg et al. 2000; Albert et al. 2011). How so many distinct evolutionary lineages have come to inhabit the Amazon Basin remains one of the great unanswered questions in tropical biology, and the reader is referred to the following references for an introduction to this literature (Albert et al. 2006; Albert and Crampton 2010; Albert et al. 2011).

The Lower Urubamba drainage is included within the Ucayali-Urubamba Piedmont ecoregion (Freshwater Ecoregion of the World; Abell et al. 2008), a transition zone between the lowlands and the Andean mountain ecoregions. The Urubamba is a white water (sediment rich) river that rises in the Andes southeast of Cuzco, Peru, where it is called Río Vilcanota. The river flows northwest for more than 700 kilometers before joining the Río Tambo to form the Ucayali river near the city of Atalaya. The Lower and Upper portions of the Urubamba are divided by the Pongo de Mainique, a deep canyon about 3 km long and as narrow as 45 meters wide, and with cliffs reaching to 900 meters. The Lower Urubamba also receives tributaries from the east, from rivers draining the Fitzcarrald Arch.

The fish fauna of the Urubamba basin remains poorly studied. Between 1996 and 1999, the Smithsonian Institution's Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program coordinated a large-scale, multi-taxa assessment of the flora and fauna of the Lower Urubamba Region (Ortega et al. 2001). In this study they collected in three sites in the lower Urubamba basin. They recorded 69 fish species at Atalaya, 116 species at Sepahua and 118 species at Camisea. In total 156 species, 121 genera, 25 families and nine orders were reported from the Lower Urubamba.

Here we report the result of an expedition to the Lower Urubamba as part of a four-year survey project funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation called "Proyecto Alto Purús". The goal of this project is to compare the ichthyofaunas of headwaters across four major basins of the Fitzcarrald Arch: the Ucayali, Yuruá, Purús and Madre de Dios Basins.

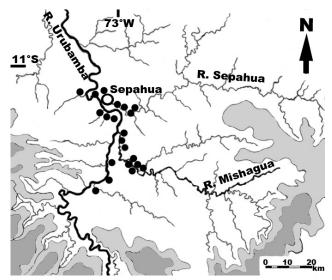


FIGURE 1. Map of study area showing the collecting sites (black dots) in the lower Río Urubamba, close to the city of Sepahua (9°32' S 72°45' W), Peru. Light gray represents 500 m.a.s.l. and dark gray represents 1000 m.a.s.l.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Twenty-one localities where sampled in the lower portion of Río Urubamba close to the town of Sepahua (11°08' S, 73°02' W) in Peru (Table 1, Figure 1). Collections were made on about 300 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l.), on three major types of environments: river channels ands beaches (Ríos), streams (quebradas), and oxbow lakes (cochas; Figure 2). Ríos are major rivers (i.e. Urubamba, Sepahua, Mishahua), quebradas are small tributary streams, and cochas are oxbow lakes located on the floodplain. All collecting stations were georeferenced (latitude, longitude, altitude) using GPS (specify map datum used), and habitats were documented with high resolution digital photographs and written descriptions. Abiotic attributes such as, water temperature, pH and electrical conductivity were measured using a HI 98129 tester (Hanna Instruments). Collections were made using standard ichthyological gear, including seine nets (5 and 10 m, 5 mm between knots), dip nets, cast nets, and hook and line. Electric fishes were located with the aid of a portable amplifier (Crampton et al. 2007).

A reference collection was accumulated in Sepahua, including one or more representative of all morphospecies encountered. Tissue samples were excised using a sterilized scalpel and preserved in 100% ethanol in 1.8 ml vials, and then stored in a cool location at the base camp before transport to the laboratory. All specimens

fixed in 10% formalin for at least 48 hours in a closed Nalgene container or covered flat plastic tray (for larger specimens), and later transferred to 70°GL ethanol.

Fishes were identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible, using available literature and help of specialists' photo identifications. The classification presented here is based on Reis et al. (2003), and Ferraris (2007) for Siluriformes. Voucher specimens were deposited in the fish collection of the Museo de Historia Natural da Universidad Mayor de San Marcos (MUSM), Lima, Peru. The fishes were collected under permit from the Peruvian Ministry of the PRODUCCION; Resolucion Directoral No. 546-2009-PRODUCE/DGPP.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 98 species were collected and identified, representing 22 families and eight orders (Table 2). The families with highest species richness were Characidae (40 spp.), Loricariidae (22 spp.), and Pimelodidae and Crenuchidae (6 spp.). More than half of the families (12) were represented by a single nominal species. The most abundant orders were Characiformes (53 spp.) and Siluriformes (33 spp.), representing 54% and 33%, respectively, of the total fish species captured. Less diverse were the orders Gymnotiformes (5 spp.) and Perciformes (3 spp.). The species accumulation curve (Figure 3) shows that the actual total number of species on that region was



FIGURE 2. Examples of sampled localities in the lower Río Urubamba basin. A. Río Urubamba downstream mouth of Río Paquiria. B. Quebrada Gavilan. C. Quebrada Shimbillo. D. Cocha Ashacuya.

not sampled. A complete list of the fish species collected is provided in Appendix 1, and a photographic album of these species can be accessed online at: <a href="http://www.ucs.">http://www.ucs.</a> louisiana.edu/~jxa4003/Alto%20Purús.html.

Comparing our species list with those presented in Ortega et al. (2001), on the lower Urubamba, we identify at least 26 species that were not present in the previous study and were captured in our survey. With this, we estimate that the ichthyofauna in the lower Urubamba has a minimum of 180 species. The inventory presented by Ortega et al. (2001) from the same locality (Sepahua) shows 116 species. The difference of 18 species is due mostly to species recorded in local village market by Ortega et al. (2001). Therefore, species such as the big pimelodid genera Pseudoplatystoma, Brachyplatystoma (including), Phractocephalus, and Hemisorubim were present in the former list and were not recorded in our expedition. Because these large-bodied catfish species inhabit large

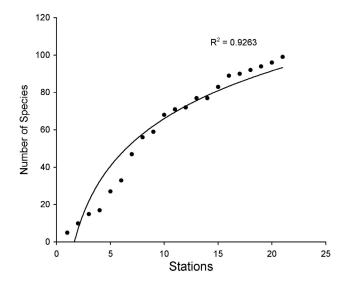


FIGURE 3. Species accumulation curve from lower Urubamba River.

TABLE 1. Descriptions of sites sampled in the lower Urubamba river, Ucayali, Peru.

| LOCALITY             | COORDINATES              | ELEV. | DESCRIPTION  |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Quebrada Anandaya    | 11°09'10"S<br>72°57'42"W | 305m  | Small clear water stream (width 6 m), slow running waters over argillite bottom. Water temperature 25 $^{\circ}$ C.                                |
| Río Sepahua          | 11°09'10"S<br>72°57'42"W | 292m  | Sand beach at river curve on inner side, slow to medium flowing clear to white waters.   |
| Quebrada Pona        | 11°08'59"S<br>72°59'05"W | 290m  | Small clear water stream (width 5 m), argillite and sand in the bottom.  |
| Río Sepahua          | 11°09'10"S<br>72°59'29"W | 289m  | Sand beach in an island in the river (width 20 m), clear to white water, medium to fast flowing waters.  |
| Cocha Ashacuya       | 11°11′39"S<br>72°59'54"W | 286m  | Ox bow lake (width 60 m), no flow, muddy bottom; water temp. 29.5 °C, pH 7.4, conductivity 497 $\mu s.$  |
| Quebrada Ashacuya    | 11°11′09"S<br>73°01′08"W | 284m  | Stream (width 10) with white and slow flowing waters, muddy or sandy bottom. Water temp. 28.5 °C, pH 7.48, cond. 220 $\mu$ s,                      |
| Quebrada Lazaro      | 11°14'22"S<br>72°58'19"W | 298m  | Small clear water stream, with medium flowing waters over a rocky, sandy bottom. Water temp. 24.9 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , pH 8.3, cond. 216 $\mu s$ . |
| Río Mishahua         | 11°14′06″S<br>72°58′26″W | 296m  | Sandy beach, (river width 40m) slow flowing white waters. Water temp. 28.3 °C, pH 8.04, cond. 176 $\mu s$ .  |
| Quebrada Ocote       | 11°13′09″S<br>72°58′02″W | 294m  | Slow flowing white water stream (width 4m), mud, sand and gravel in the bottom. Water temp. 28.0 °C, pH 7.1, cond. 305 $\mu$ s.                    |
| Quebrada Kumarillo   | 11°11′09"S<br>73°02'06"W | 286m  | Stream (Width 15m), clear waters with slow to medium flowing speed over gravel. Water temp. 26.1, pH $8.1^{\circ}$ C, cond. 153 $\mu$ s.           |
| Quebrada Gavilan     | 11°07′32″S<br>73°04′20″W | 280m  | Small white water stream (width 4m), no flow, with litter and mud in the bottom. Water temp. 26.8 °C, pH 7.59, cond 330 $\mu$ s.                   |
| Quebrada Pulerja     | 11°07′33″S<br>73°06′51″W | 280m  | Wide (25 m) and shallow stream with clear waters over sand, gravel, and argillite. Water temp. 27.5 °C, pH 8.3, cond 298 $\mu$ s.                  |
| Río Paquiria         | 11°26′33″S<br>73°00′25″W | 310m  | Wide stream (35 m), with white medium flowing waters over mud and gravel. Water temp. 25 °C, 8.2 pH, cond 147 $\mu$ s.                             |
| Río Urubamba         | 11°25′00"S<br>72°58′29"W | 303m  | Sand beach in a river island, medium flowing waters over sand and gravel bottom. Water temp. 25.5 $^{\circ}$ C, pH 8.2, cond. 235 $\mu$ s.         |
| Quebrada Shimbillo   | 11°21′44″S<br>73°00′04″W | 300m  | Small stream (width 5m) with clear waters, sand and gravel on bottom. Water temp. 24.9 °C, 7.71 pH, cond. 135 $\mu$ s.                             |
| Quebrada El Dorado   | 11°22'25"S<br>72°49'25"W | 315m  | Stream (width 20 m) with slow flowing white waters, sand and argilite bottom. Water temp. 20.4 °C, pH 8.26, cond. 264 $\mu$ s.                     |
| Quebrada Capirona    | 11°21'38"S<br>72°53'11"W | 305m  | Stream (width 15 m), slow flowing clear to white waters sandy and muddy bottom. Water temp. 20.1 $^{\circ}$ C, 8.0 pH, cond. 165 $\mu$ s.          |
| Quebrada Raya        | 11°20'46"S<br>72°53'15"W | 304m  | Small stream (width 10m), with clear waters over sandy bottom. Water temp. 21.2 °C. pH 8.07, cond 227 $\mu$ s.                                     |
| Río Mishahua         | 11°19'37"S<br>72°57'08"W | 305m  | Sandy beach, (river width 30 m), white and medium flowing waters. Water temp. 22.5 °C., pH 8.08, cond. 180 $\mu$ s.                                |
| Quebrada Las Piedras | 11°16'06"S<br>72°57'06"W | 307m  | Small clear water stream (width 5), slow to fast flowing over sand and gravel. Water temp. 21.3 °C., 8.3 pH, cond. 214 $\mu$ s.                    |
| Quebrada Huayashi    | 11°07′59″S<br>73°03′08″W | 285m  | Small stream (width 4 m) inside urban area of Sepahua, clear waters running over sand and gravel.  |

river channels in the lowlands, their presence in the local markets may be due to importation from locations further downstream. On the other hand, we caught more gymnotiform species (5 spp. vs. 2 spp.) than did Ortega et al. (2001). For the first time Apteronotus albifrons, Gymnotus carapo, G. ucamara and Sternarchorhynchus sp. are reported from this region. Probably the use of an electrical fish portable amplifier (Crampton et al. 2007) was the reason for collecting a larger number of electric fish in our expedition. In addition, some species of other groups are for the first time referred for the Lower Urubamba region; Acestrocephalus boelkhei, Geryichthys sterbai, Leptagoniates steindachneri, Panaque changae, Farlowella kneri, Centromochlus perugiae, and Batrochoglanis raninus.

TABLE 2. List of fish species collected in the lower Río Urubamba and their respective capture habitat S = stream, R = river, L = lake.

| ORDER/FAMILY/SPECIES                                   | S | R | L |
|--|---|---|---|
| CLUPEIFORMES   |   |   |   |
| Engraulididae  |   |   |   |
| Anchoviella carrikeri Fowler, 1940                     | X | X |   |
| CHARACIFORMES  |   |   |   |
| Parodontidae   |   |   |   |
| Parodon pongoensis (Allen, 1942)                       | X | X |   |
| Curimatidae  |   |   |   |
| Steindachnerina guenteri (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1889) |   |   | X |
| Steindachnerina hypostoma (Boulenger, 1887)            | X | X |   |
| Prochilodontidae                                       |   |   |   |
| Prochilodus nigricans Agassiz, 1829                    | X | X |   |
| Anostomidae  |   |   |   |
| Leporinus friderici (Bloch, 1794)                      |   | X |   |
| Leporinus trifasciatus Steindachner, 1876              |   | X |   |
| Crenuchidae  |   |   |   |
| Characidium cf. purpuratum Steindachner, 1882          | X |   |   |
| Characidium cf. steindachneri Cope, 1878               | X |   |   |
| Characidium cf. zebra Eigenmann, 1909                  | X | X |   |
| Characidium sp. 1                                      |   | X |   |
| Characidium sp. 2                                      | X |   |   |
| Geryichthys sterbai Zarske, 1997                       | X |   |   |
| Characidae   |   |   |   |
| Acestrocephalus boehlkei Menezes, 1977                 | X | X |   |
| Astyanacinus multidens Pearson, 1924                   | X | X |   |
| Astyanax abramis (Jenyns, 1842)                        | X | X |   |
| Astyanax bimaculatus (Linnaeus,1758)                   | X | X | X |
| Astyanax maximus (Steindachner, 1876)                  | X | X |   |
| Astyanax sp.   | X |   |   |
| Attonitus ephimeros Vari & Ortega, 2000                | X |   |   |
| Bryconamericus pachacuti Eigenmann, 1927               | X |   |   |
| Bryconamericus sp. 1                                   | X |   |   |
| Bryconamericus sp. 2                                   | X |   |   |
| Ceratobranchia obtusirostris Eigenmann, 1914           | X |   |   |
| Charax sp.   | X |   |   |
| Clupeacharax anchoveiodes Pearson, 1924                |   | X |   |
| Creagrutus changae Vari & Harold, 2001                 | X | X |   |

TABLE 2. CONTINUED.

| ORDER/FAMILY/SPECIES                                    | S | R  | L  |
|---|---|----|----|
| Creagrutus pila Vari & Harold, 2001                     | X | X  |    |
| Creagrutus sp.  | X | X  |    |
| Ctenobrycon hauxwellianus (Cope, 1870)                  | X |    | X  |
| Gephyrocharax sp.                                       | X | X  |    |
| Hemibrycon jeltskii (Steindachner, 1877)                | X |    |    |
| Hemigrammus marginatus Ellis, 1911                      | X | X  |    |
| Knodus hypopterus (Fowler, 1943)                        | X | X  |    |
| Knodus orteguasae (Fowler, 1943)                        | X | X  |    |
| Knodus smithi (Fowler, 1913)                            | X | X  | X  |
| Knodus sp. 1  | X |    |    |
| Knodus sp. 2  | X |    |    |
| Leptagoniates steindachneri Boulenger, 1887             | Х | X  |    |
| Microgenys sp.  | X | •• |    |
| Moenkhausia dichroura (Kner, 1858)                      | X | X  | X  |
| Moenkhausia oligolepis (Günther, 1864)                  | X | Λ  | Λ  |
|   |   |    |    |
| Odontostilbe euspilura (Fowler, 1945)                   | X | v  |    |
| Odontostilbe fugitiva Cope, 1870                        | v | X  |    |
| Odontostilbe sp. 1                                      | X | X  | ., |
| Odontostilbe sp. 2                                      | X |    | X  |
| Paragoniates alburnus Steindachner, 1876                | X | X  |    |
| Phenacogaster capitulatus (Malabarba & Malabarba, 2010) | X | X  |    |
| Prodontocharax melanotus Pearson, 1924                  |   | X  |    |
| Scopaeocharax cf. rhinodus (Bohlke, 1958)               | X |    |    |
| Serrasalmus rhombeus (Linnaeus, 1766)                   |   |    | X  |
| Triportheus angulatus (Spix & Agassiz, 1829)            |   | X  |    |
| Xenurobrycon heterodon Weitzmann & Fink, 1985           | X | X  |    |
| Erythrinidae  |   |    |    |
| Hoplias malabaricus (Bloch, 1794)                       | X |    | X  |
| SILURIFORMES  |   |    |    |
| Aspredinidae  |   |    |    |
| Bunocephalus coracoideus (Cope, 1874)                   | X |    |    |
| Trichomycteridae  |   |    |    |
| Acanthopoma annectens Luetken, 1892                     | X | X  |    |
| Loricariidae  |   |    |    |
| Ancistrus sp. 1   | X |    |    |
| Ancistrus sp. 2   | X |    |    |
| Ancistrus sp. 3   | X |    |    |
| Ancistrus sp. 4   | X | X  |    |
| Chaetostoma lineopunctatum Eigenmann & Allen, 1942      | X |    |    |
| Farlowella knerii (Steindachner, 1882)                  | X |    |    |
| Farlowella nattereri Steindachner, 1910                 |   | X  |    |
| Farlowella smithi Fowler, 1913                          | X |    |    |
| Hemiodontichthys acipenserinus (Kner, 1853)             | X |    | X  |
| Hypostomus aff. emarginatus Valenciennes, 1840          | X | X  |    |
| Hypostomus pyrineusi (Miranda Ribeiro, 1920)            | X | X  |    |
| Hypostomus unicolor (Steindachner, 1908)                | X | X  |    |
| Hypostomus sp. 1  | X | X  |    |
| Hypostomus sp. 2  | X | Λ  |    |
|   |   | v  |    |
| Lasiancistrus schomburgki (Günther, 1864)               | X | X  |    |

TABLE 2. CONTINUED.

| ORDER/FAMILY/SPECIES                              | S | R | L |
|---|---|---|---|
| Loricaria sp.                                     | Х | Х |   |
| Panaque albomaculatus Kanazawa, 1958              |   | Х |   |
| Panaque changae Chockley & Armbruster, 2002       |   | Х |   |
| Rineloricaria lanceolata (Gunther, 1868)          | X |   |   |
| Sturisoma nigrirostrum Fowler, 1940               | X | X |   |
| Pseudopimelodidae                                 |   |   |   |
| Batrochoglanis raninus (Valenciennes, 1840)       | X |   |   |
| Heptapteridae                                     |   |   |   |
| Cetopsorhamdia phantasia Stewart, 1985            | X |   |   |
| Chasmocranus sp.                                  | X |   |   |
| Imparfinis stictonotus (Fowler, 1940)             | X |   |   |
| Pimelodidae                                       |   |   |   |
| Calophysus macropterus (Lichtenstein, 1819)       |   | X |   |
| Megalonema platycephalum Eigenmann, 1912          |   | X |   |
| Pimelodus blochii Valenciennes, 1840              | X | X | X |
| Pimelodus pictus Steindachner, 1877               |   | X |   |
| Pimelodus sp. 1                                   |   |   | X |
| Pimelodus sp. 2                                   |   |   | X |
| Auchenipteridae                                   |   |   |   |
| Centromochlus perugiae Steindachner, 1882         | X |   |   |
| GYMNOTIFORMES                                     |   |   |   |
| Gymnotidae  |   |   |   |
| Gymnotus carapo Linnaeus, 1758                    | X |   |   |
| Gymnotus ucamara Crampton, Lovejoy & Albert, 2003 | X | X |   |
| Sternopygidae                                     |   |   |   |
| Eigenmannia virescens (Valenciennes, 1842)        | X | Х |   |
| Apteronotidae                                     |   |   |   |
| Apteronotus albifrons (Linnaeus, 1766)            | X |   |   |
| Sternarchorhynchus sp.                            | X | X |   |
| CYPRINODONTIFORMES                                |   |   |   |
| Rivulidae   |   |   |   |
| Rivulus sp.                                       | X |   |   |
| BELONIFORMES                                      |   |   |   |
| Belonidae   |   |   |   |
| Pseudotylosurus angusticeps                       | X | X |   |
| Cichlidae   |   |   |   |
| Bujurquina robusta Kullander, 1986                |   |   | X |
| Crenicichla sedentaria Kullander, 1986            | X | X |   |
| Crenicichla proteus Cope, 1872                    | X |   | X |
| PLEURONECTIFORMES                                 |   |   |   |
| Achiridae   |   |   |   |
| Apionichthys finis (Eigenmann, 1912)              |   | Х |   |

The fish fauna of the Lower Urubamba Basin is similar in overall species richness to that of other major Amazonian drainages of the Fitzcarrald Arch (Jurua, Purús, and Madre de Dios), but is substantially different in terms of its species composition; i.e. the names of the actual species themselves (e.g. Maxime and Albert, 2009). The estimated total of 180 species now recorded for this region is slightly lower than the estimate of 200 species for the Upper Jurua (Carvalho et al. 2009), or the approximately 287 species referred to the Madre the Dios (Barthem et al. 2003). The Lower Urubamba is slightly more diverse than 86 species reported for the Upper Purús in Brazil (Anjos et al. 2008), although this later number is almost certainly an under estimate given the different methodologies employed.

To conclude, the results reported here are consistent with the conclusions of Ortega et al. (2001) that the fish fauna of the Lower Urubamba river near Sepahua is distinct from that of lowland Amazonia. Many conspicuous lowland floodplain species are not present, including all members of Osteoglossidae, Pristigasteridae, Hemiodontidae and Sciaenidae. Only two species of Curimatidae were found, whereas this family is represented by more than 40 species in the adjacent ecoregions of lowland Amazonia (Vari, 1988). Although absent from our collections, Potamotrygonidae is known from other reaches of the Urubamba Basin (Ortega et al. 2001), and is likely present near Sepahua. The absence of these species in collections to date may be a collection artifact, arising from the sampling methods employed, or may reflect the relative rarity of these taxa during the periods of low water when most of the sampling was conducted. Alternatively, these absences may reflect real differences in the ecological conditions of upland vs. lowland floodplain sites. Further investigations into the rich aquatic fauna of the Ucavali basin will be needed to resolve the actual geographic distributions of these taxa.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: We thank J. Fredieu and J. Tang for curatorial assistance, F. Meyer and A. Takako for access to rare literature, and J. Armbruster, V. Bertaco, P. Buckup, C. Bührnheim, A. Cardoso, F. Carvalho, W. Costa, K. Ferreira, M. Hidalgo, C. Lucena, J. Lundberg, C. Nascimiento, R. Ramos, R. Reis, M. Rocha, M. Loebb and O. Shibatta for help with species identifications. We also acknowledge two anonymous reviewers for helpful comments. This research was supported by NSF-DEB 0741450 to ISA.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Abell, R., M.L. Thieme, C. Revenga, M. Bryer, M. Kottelat, N. Bogutskaya, B. Coad, N. Mandrak, S.C. Balderas, W. Bussing, M.L.J. Stiassny, P. Skelton, G.R. Allen, P. Unmack, A. Naseka, R. Ng, N. Sindorf, J. Robertson, E. Armijo, J.V. Higgins, T.J. Heibel, E. Wikramanayake, D. Olson, H.L. Lopez, R.E. Reis, J.G. Lundberg, M.H.S. Perez and P. Petry. 2008. Freshwater ecoregions of the world: A new map of biogeographic units for freshwater biodiversity conservation. Bioscience 58(5): 403-414.

Albert, J.S. and W. G. R. Crampton. 2010. The geography and ecology of diversification in Neotropical freshwaters. Nature Knowledge 1: 13-

Albert, J.S., N. R. Lovejoy and W.G.R. Crampton. 2006. Miocene tectonism and the separation of cis- and trans-Andean river basins: Evidence from Neotropical fishes. Journal of South American Earth Sciences 21:

Albert, J.S., P. Petry and R.E. Reis. 2011. Major biogeographic and phylogenetic patterns; p. 21-57 In J.S. Albert and R.E. Reis (ed.) Historical Biogeography of Neotropical Freshwater Fishes. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Anjos, H.D.B, J. Zuanon, T.M.P. Braga and K.N.S. Souza. 2008. Fish, upper Purús River, state of Acre, Brazil. Check List 4(2): 198-213.

Barthem R., M. Goulding, B. Forsberg, C. Canas and H. Ortega. 2003. Aquatic Ecology of the Rio Madre de Dios. Lima: Biblos. 117 p.

Carvalho, T.P., S.J. Tang, J.I. Fredieu, R. Quispe, I. Corahua, H. Ortega and J.S. Albert. 2009. Fishes from the upper Yuruá river, Amazon Basin, Peru. Check List 5(3): 673-691.

Crampton, W.G.R., J.K. Wells, C. Smyth and S.A. Walz. 2007. Design and construction of an Electric Fish Finder. *Neotropical ichthyology* 5(3): 425-42

 $Ferrar is Jr., C.\,J.\,2007.\,Check list of cat fishes, recent and fossil (Osteich thyes:$ Siluriformes), and catalogue of siluriform primary types. Zootaxa 1418: 1-168.

Lundberg, J.G., M. Kottelat, G.R. Smith, M.L.J. Stiassny and A.G. Gill. 2000. So many fishes, so little time: an overview of recent ichthyological discovery in continental waters. Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 87(1): 26-62.

Maxime, E. L., and J. S. Albert. 2009. A new species of *Gymnotus* (Gymnotiformes, Gymnotidae) from the Fitzcarrald Arch of southeastern Peru. Neotropical Ichthyology 7:579-586.

Ortega, H. and M. Hidalgo. 2008. Freshwater fishes and aquatic habitats in Peru: Current knowledge and conservation. Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management 11(3): 257-271.

Ortega, H., M. Hidalgo, N. Salcedo, E. Castro and C. Riofrio. 2001. Diversity and conservation of fish of the lower Urubamba region, Peru; p. 143-150 In A. Alonso, F. Dallmeier and P. Campbell (ed.). Urubamba: The biodiversity of a Peruvian rainforest. Washington: Smithsonian Institution.

Ortega, H., M. Hidalgo, E. Correa, J. Espino, L. Chocano, G. Trevejo, V. Meza, A. M. Cortijo, and R. Quispe. 2011. Lista Anotada de los Peces de Aguas Continentales del Peru. Estado actual del conocimiento, distribución, usos y aspectos de conservación. Lima: Museo de Historia Natural, UNMSM, Ministerio del Ambiente, Dirección General de Diversidad Biológica.

Reis, R.E., S.O. Kullander and C.J. Ferraris. 2003. Introduction; p. 1-9 In R.E. Reis, S.O. Kullander and C.J. Ferraris (ed.). Checklist of the Freshwater Fishes of South and Central America. Porto Alegre: Edipucrs.

Rodriguez L.O. and K.R. Young. 2000. Biological diversity of Peru: Determining priority areas for conservation. Ambio 29(6): 329-337.

Vari, R. P. 1988. The Curimatidae, a lowland Neotropical fish family (Pisces: Characiformes); Distribution, endemism, and phylogenetic biogeography; p. 313-348 In P.E. Vanzolini and W.R. Heyer (ed.). Neotropical Distribution Patterns. Rio de Janeiro: Academia Brasiliera de Ciências.

RECEIVED: March 2010 LAST REVISED: March 2011 ACCEPTED: March 2011 Published online: July 2011

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Marcelo Loureiro

APPENDIX 1. Pictures of fishes from the lower Río Urubamba basin, Sepahua, Ucayali, Peru. Measurements are presented as standard length.

#### **CLUPEIFORMES**

#### Engraulididae



Anchoviella carrikeri 28.6 mm MUSM 35661

# **CHARACIFORMES**

#### Parodontidae



Parodon pongoensis 81.2 mm MUSM 35660

#### Curimatidae



Steindachnerina guentheri 56.5 mm MUSM 35626



 $\textit{Steindachnerina hypostoma} \ 97.9 \ \text{mm} \ \text{MUSM} \ 35707$ 

# Prochilodontidae



Prochilodus nigricans 210 mm MUSM 35404

#### Anostomidae



 $Le por inus friderici~210~\rm mm~MUSM~35546$ 



Leporinus trifasciatus~200~mm~MUSM~35545

# Crenuchidae



 $\textit{Characidium} \; \text{cf.} \; \textit{purpuratum} \; 43.8 \; \text{mm} \; \text{MUSM} \; 35486$ 



Characidium cf. steindachneri 43.5 mm MUSM 35389



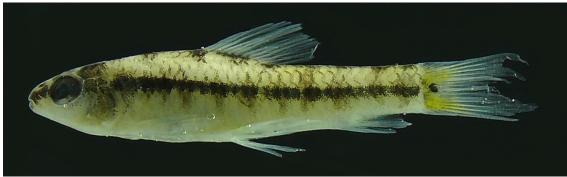
Characidium aff. zebra 40.3 mm MUSM 35602



Characidium sp. 1 38.4 mm MUSM 35503



 ${\it Characidium}~{\rm sp.}~2~33.9~{\rm mm}~{\rm MUSM}~35525$ 



Geryichthys sterbai 26.7 mm MUSM 35485

#### Characidae



 $A cestrocephalus\ boehlkei\ 79\ mm\ MUSM\ 35741$ 



 $A styanacinus\ multidens\ 44.7\ mm\ MUSM\ 35474$ 



Astyanax abramis 77 mm MUSM 35556



Astyanax bimaculatus 79.2 mm MUSM 35557



Astyanax maximus 46.1 mm MUSM 35477



*Astyanax* sp. 75.7 mm MUSM 35475



Attonitus ephimeros 48.2 mm MUSM 35694



 ${\it Bryconamericus pachacuti~27.2~mm~MUSM~35695}$ 



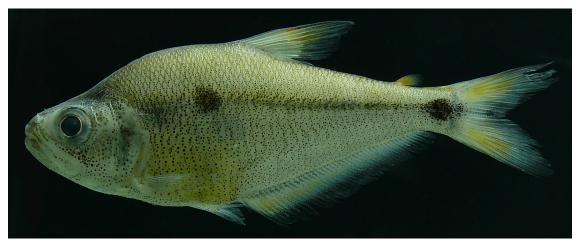
Bryconamericus~sp.~1~53.6~mm~MUSM~35479



Bryconamericus sp. 2 42.2 mm MUSM 35478



Ceratobranchia obtusirostris 26.5 mm MUSM 35619



*Charax* sp. 54.6 mm MUSM 35481



 ${\it Clupeacharax\ anchoveoides\ 67\ mm\ MUSM\ 35727}$ 



Creagrutus changae 34.4 mm MUSM 35620



Creagrutus pila 37.9 mm MUSM 35649



Creagrutus sp. 26.5 mm MUSM 35725



Ctenobrycon hauxwellianus 36.4 mm MUSM 35428



Gephyrocharax sp. 40.3 mm MUSM35620



Hemibrycon jelskii 54 mm MUSM 35492



Knodus hypopterus 41.7 mm MUSM 35671



Knodus orteguasae 46.4 mm MUSM 35414



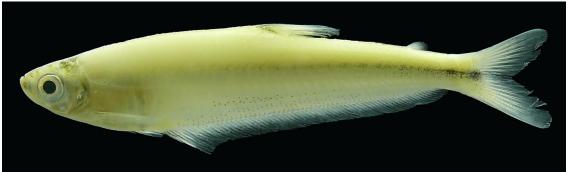
Knodus smithi 41.2 mm MUSM 35753



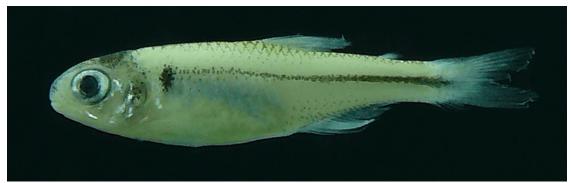
Knodus sp. 1 40.6 mm MUSM 35422



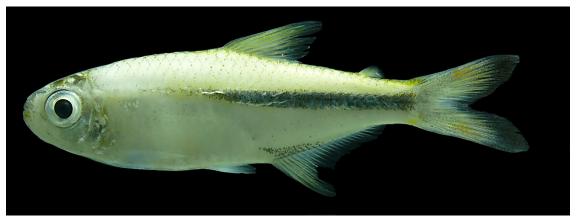
 $\mathit{Knodus}\, \mathrm{sp.}\, 2\, 33.9\ \mathrm{mm}\, \mathrm{MUSM}\, 35752$ 



Leptagoniates steindachneri 60.3 mm MUSM35754



Microgenys sp. 17.5 mm MUSM 35775



 ${\it Hemigrammus\ marginatus\ 36\ mm\ MUSM\ 35755}$ 



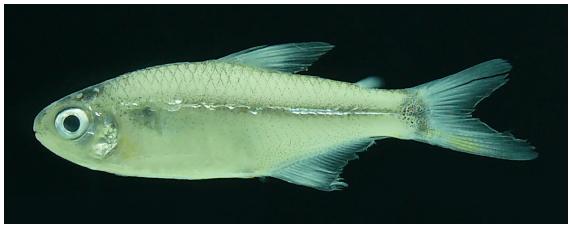
Moenkhausia dichroura 62.9 mm



Moenkhausia oligolepis 34.8 mm MUSM 35407



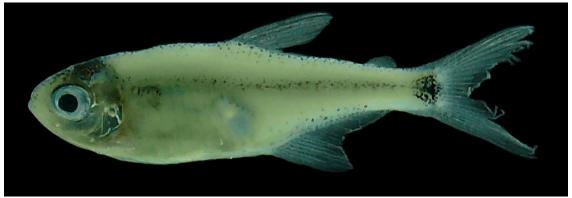
 ${\it Odontostilbe\ euspilura\ 39.9\ mm\ MUSM\ 35758}$ 



Odontostilbe fugitiva, 24.5 mm MUSM 35500



 ${\it Odontostilbe}~{\rm sp.1}~39.8~{\rm mm}~{\rm MUSM}~35426$ 



 ${\it Odontostilbe}~sp.2~20.7~mm~MUSM~35597$ 



Paragoniates alburnus 76.2 mm MUSM 35656



 ${\it Phenacogaster\ pectinatus\ 27.9\ mm\ MUSM\ 35581}$ 



Prodontocharax melanotus 20 mm MUSM 35434



 $\textit{Scopaecharax} \ \text{cf.} \ \textit{rhinodus} \ 12.5 \ \text{mm} \ \text{MUSM} \ 35638$ 



Serrasalmus rhombeus 23.8 mm MUSM 35437



Triportheus angulatus 132 mm MUSM 35659



 $\it Xenurobrycon\ heterodon\ 15.6\ mm\ MUSM\ 35502$ 

# Erythrinidae



Hoplias malabaricus 141 mm MUSM 35759

# **SILURIFORMES**

#### Aspredinidae



 ${\it Bunocephalus\ coracoideus\ 48\ mm\ MUSM\ 35556}$ 

# Trichomycteridae



Acanthopoma annectens 24.7 mm MUSM 35722

# Trichomycteridae



Ancistrus~sp.~1~92.1~mm~MUSM~35468



Ancistrus sp. 2, MUSM 35469



*Ancistrus* sp. 3 43.8 mm MUSM 35470



Ancistrus sp. 4 85.7 mm MUSM 35765



Chaetostoma lineopunctata 52 mm MUSM 35736



Farlowella knerii 87.9 mm MUSM 35530



Farlowella nattereri 133 mm MUSM 35396



Farlowella smithi 139 mm MUSM 35872



 ${\it Hemiodontichthys\ acipenserinus\ 100\ mm\ MUSM\ 35737}$ 



Hypostomus aff. emarginatus 92 mm MUSM 35721



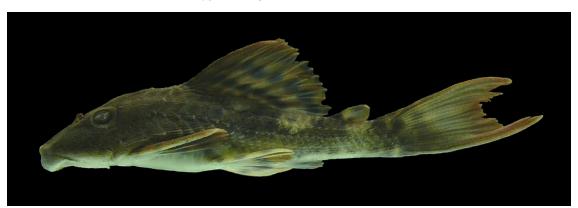
*Hypostomus pyrineusi* 77.5 mm MUSM 35528



Hypostomus unicolor 90.7 mm MUSM 35718



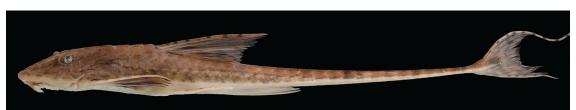
Hypostomus sp. 172.2 mm MUSM 35397



Hypostomus sp. 2 43.5 mm MUSM 35739



Lasiancistrus schomburgki 82 mm MUSM35643



Loricaria sp. 108 mm MUSM 35570



Panaque albomaculatus 43.8 mm MUSM 35400



Panaque changae~45.7~mm~MUSM~35401



Rineloricaria lanceolata 91 mm MUSM 35766



Sturisoma nigrirostrum 77 mm MUSM 35509

# Pseudopimelodidae



Batrochoglanys raninus 26 mm MUSM 35778

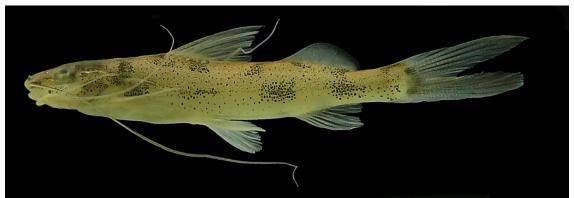
# Heptapteridae



Cetopsorhamdia phantasia 23.5 mm MUSM 35639



Chasmocranus sp. 35.6 mm MUSM 35764



*Imparfinis stictonotus* 33.7 mm MUSM 35568

# Pimelodidae



Calophysus macropterus 290 mm MUSM 35585



Megalonema platycephalum~61~mm~MUSM~35410



Pimelodus blochii 112 mm MUSM 35442



Pimelodus pictus 78 mm MUSM? E19



Pimelodus~sp.1,~103~mm~MCP~35441



Pimelodus sp. 2, 117 mm

# Auchenipteridae



 ${\it Centromochlus perugiae}~20~{\rm mm}~{\it MUSM}~35633$ 

# **GYMNOTIFORMES**

#### Gymnotidae



Gymnotus carapo 180 mm MUSM 35859



Gymnotus ucamara 170 mm MUSM 35860

# Sternopygidae



Eigenmannia virescens 126 mm MUSM 35761

#### Apteronotidae



Apteronotus albifrons 139 mm MUSM 35762



Sternarchorhyncus sp. 77 mm MUSM 35600

# CYPRINODONTIFORMES

#### Rivulidae



*Rivulus* sp. 32.7 mm MUSM 35489

# **BELONIFORMES**

# Belonidae



Pseudotylosurus angusticeps 82 mm MUSM 35510

#### **PERCIFORMES**

#### Cichlidae



Bujurquina robusta 81.1 mm MUSM 35445



Crenicichla proteus 110 mm MUSM 35447



Crenicichla sedentaria 85.3 mm MUSM 35734

# **PLEURONECTIFORMES**

#### Achiridae



 $A pionich thys finis \ 66.3 \ mm \ MUSM \ 35511$