

# Green Phantom Pleco (*Baryancistrus demantoides*)

## Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, March 2014  
Revised, December 2015, March 2017, April 2017  
Web Version, 6/13/2018



Photo: Anne Blindheim. Licensed under Creative Commons BY-SA 3.0 Unported. Available: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Baryancistrus\\_demantoides.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Baryancistrus_demantoides.jpg).

## 1 Native Range and Status in the United States

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### Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“South America: upper Rio Orinoco drainage in Venezuela.”

From Werneke et al. (2005):

“*Baryancistrus demantoides* is known from the río Orinoco at its confluence with the río Ventuari and the lower río Ventuari upstream into the río Guapuchi (Fig. 3 [in source material]).”

## Status in the United States

*Baryancistrus demantoides* has not been reported as introduced or established in the United States. This species is in trade in the United States.

From Pet Zone:

“L200 Green Phantom Pleco – *Baryancistrus demantoides* [...] \$48.99”

## Means of Introductions in the United States

*Baryancistrus demantoides* has not been reported as introduced or established in the United States.

## Remarks

*Baryancistrus demantoides* was recently described for science in Werneke et al. (2005).

## 2 Biology and Ecology

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### Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing

According to Eschmeyer et al. (2017), *Baryancistrus demantoides* Werneke, Sabaj Pérez, Lujan & Armbruster 2005 is the valid name for this species; it is also the original name for the species.

From ITIS (2014):

“Kingdom Animalia  
Subkingdom Bilateria  
Infrakingdom Deuterostomia  
Phylum Chordata  
Subphylum Vertebrata  
Infraphylum Gnathostomata  
Superclass Osteichthyes  
Class Actinopterygii  
Subclass Neopterygii  
Infraclass Teleostei  
Superorder Ostariophysi  
Order Siluriformes  
Family Loricariidae  
Subfamily Hypostominae  
Genus *Baryancistrus* rapp Py-Daniel, 1989”

### Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Max length: 15.1 cm SL male/unsexed; [Werneke et al. 2005]”

## **Environment**

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Freshwater; demersal.”

## **Climate/Range**

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Tropical”

## **Distribution Outside the United States**

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“South America: upper Rio Orinoco drainage in Venezuela.”

From Werneke et al. (2005):

“*Baryancistrus demantoides* is known from the río Orinoco at its confluence with the río Ventuari and the lower río Ventuari upstream into the río Guapuchi (Fig. 3[in source material]).”

Introduced

No records of *Baryancistrus demantoides* introductions were found.

## **Means of Introduction Outside the United States**

No records of *Baryancistrus demantoides* introductions were found.

## **Short Description**

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Dorsal spines (total): 2; Dorsal soft rays (total): 7. Distinguished from all other ancistrins by having the dorsal and adipose fins connected by an expanded posterior section of the dorsal-fin membrane, golden-yellow spots confined to the anterior portion of the body and greater than 30 teeth per jaw ramus [Werneke et al. 2005].”

## **Biology**

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Occurs exclusively among granite rocks in flowing water [Werneke et al. 2005].”

## Human Uses

From SeriouslyFish (2015):

“This species is very similar to *Hemiancistrus subviridis* in appearance and the two occur sympatrically in nature, though *B. demantoides* is less common and tends to be more expensive in the aquarium trade. Both have been marketed under the DATZ code L200, with *B. demantoides* sometimes referred to as ‘L200 high-fin’ or ‘L200a’, the former name in reference to its comparatively long dorsal-fin spine (average length in the type series 42.1 mm vs. 34.3 mm in *H. subviridis*).”

## Diseases

No records of diseases of *Baryancistrus demantoides* were found.

## Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Harmless”

## 3 Impacts of Introductions

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No records of *Baryancistrus demantoides* introductions were found.

## 4 Global Distribution

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**Figure 1.** Known global distribution of *Baryancistrus demantoides*. Locations are in Venezuela. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2015). Additional locations are given in Werneke et al. (2005).

## 5 Distribution Within the United States

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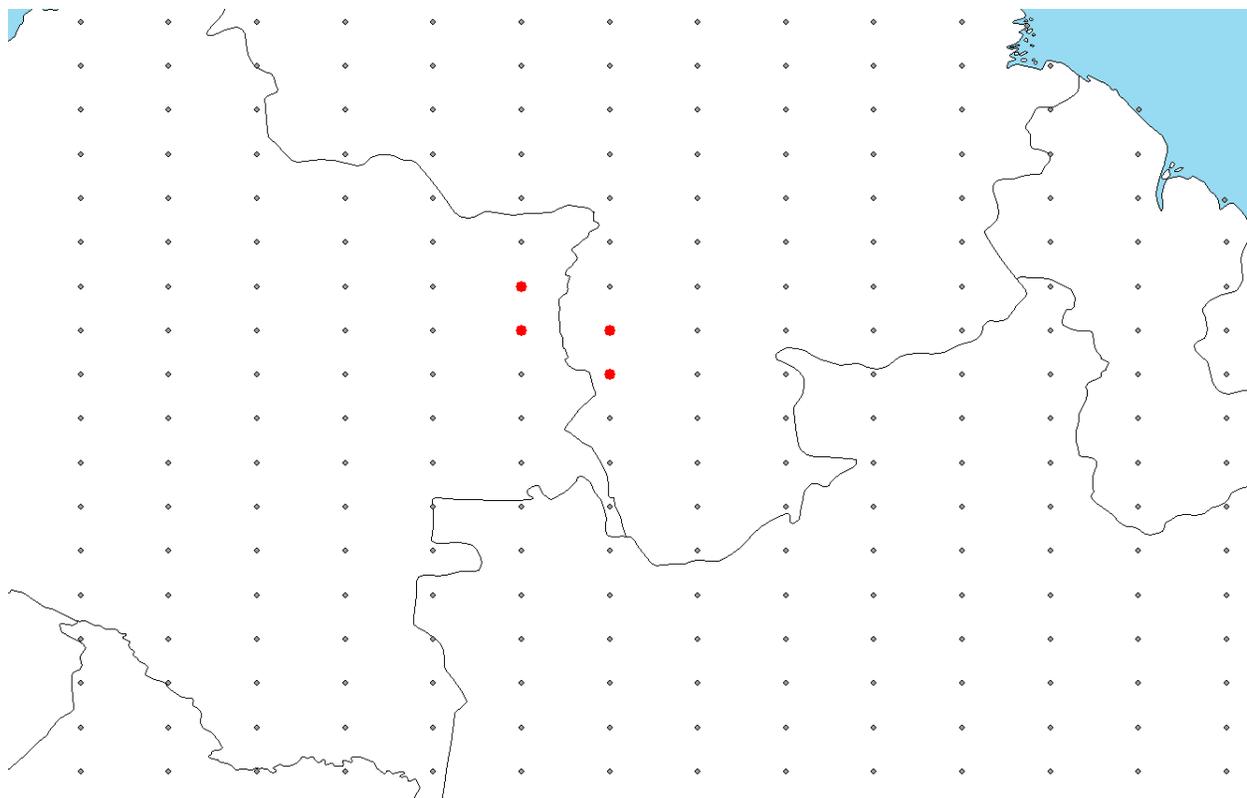
*Baryancistrus demantoides* has not been reported as introduced or established in the United States.

## 6 Climate Matching

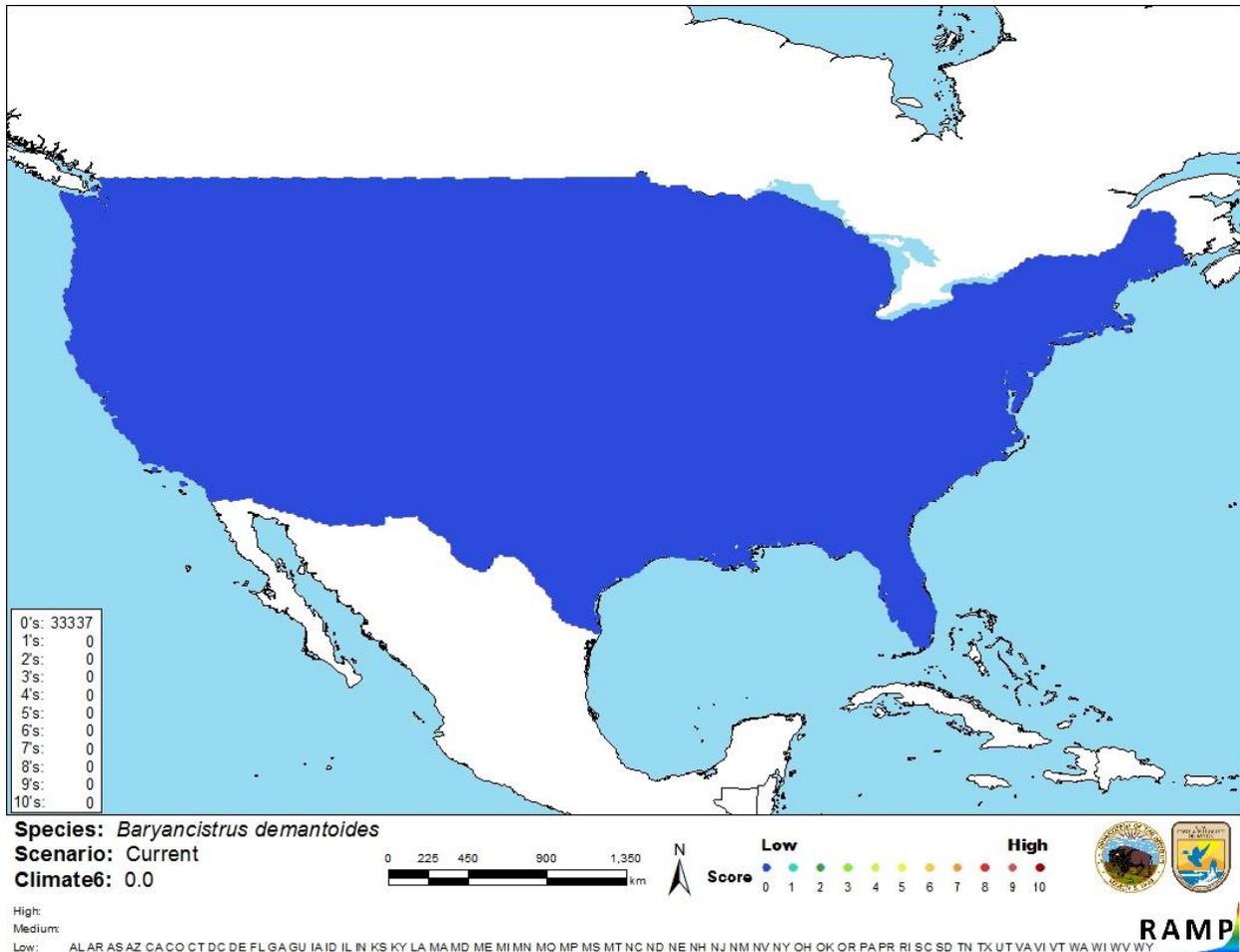
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### Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match for *Baryancistrus demantoides* was low for the entire United States. The Climate 6 score (Sanders et al. 2018; 16 climate variables; Euclidean Distance) for the contiguous United States was 0.000, low, and no states had an individually high climate match.



**Figure 2.** RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) source map showing weather stations selected as source locations (red; Venezuela) and non-source locations (grey) for *Baryancistrus demantoides* climate matching. Source locations from Werneke et al. (2005) and GBIF Secretariat (2015).



**Figure 3.** Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) climate matches for *Baryancistrus demantoides* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported by Werneke et al. (2005) and GBIF Secretariat (2015). 0 = Lowest match, 10 = Highest match. Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left side of the map.

The High, Medium, and Low Climate match Categories are based on the following table:

Climate 6: Proportion of (Sum of Climate Scores 6-10) / (Sum of total Climate Scores)	Climate Match Category
$0.000 \leq X \leq 0.005$	Low
$0.005 < X < 0.103$	Medium
$\geq 0.103$	High

## 7 Certainty of Assessment

The certainty of this assessment is medium. There is some information available about *Baryancistrus demantoides*. It was first described to science in 2005 by Werneke et al. (2005); this paper is the source of all scientific information found for this species. Some information about trade in this species was available. There were no records of introductions found but the

information available would indicate that it is from a lack of introductions in general and not just a lack of information.

## 8 Risk Assessment

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### Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

The history of invasiveness is uncertain. There were no records of introduction for *Baryancistrus demantoides* but it is present in the pet trade. *B. demantoides* is sometimes marketed under a variety number which can also be applied to another species, thus it would be difficult to determine the length of time that *B. demantoides* has been in trade. The climate match is categorically low; all matched points had a score of 0. The certainty of assessment is medium. The overall risk assessment category is uncertain.

### Assessment Elements

- **History of Invasiveness (Sec. 3): Uncertain**
- **Climate Match (Sec.6): Low**
- **Certainty of Assessment (Sec. 7): Medium**
- **Remarks/Important additional information:** This species is in trade in the United States.
- **Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain**

## 9 References

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**Note: The following references were accessed for this ERSS. References cited within quoted text but not accessed are included below in Section 10.**

- Eschmeyer, W. N., R. Fricke, and R. van der Laan, editors. 2017. Catalogue of fishes: genera, species, references. Available: <http://www.calacademy.org/scientists/projects/catalog-of-fishes>. (March 2017).
- Froese, R., and D. Pauly, editors. 2014. *Baryancistrus demantoides* Werneke, Sabaj Pérez, Lujan & Armbruster, 2005. FishBase. Available: <http://www.fishbase.org/summary/Baryancistrus-demantoides.html>. (March 2014).
- GBIF Secretariat. 2015. GBIF backbone taxonomy: *Baryancistrus demantoides* Werneke, Sabaj, Lujan & Armbruster, 2005. Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Copenhagen. Available: <http://www.gbif.org/species/2339924>. (December 2015).
- ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System). 2014. *Baryancistrus* Rapp Py-Daniel, 1989. Integrated Taxonomic Information System, Reston, Virginia. Available: [http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search\\_topic=TSN&search\\_value=679411](http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=679411). (March 2014).

Pet Zone. 2018. L200 Green Phantom Pleco – *Baryancistrus demantoides*. Pet Zone Tropical Fish, San Diego, California. Available: <http://www.petzonesd.com/l200-green-phantom-pleco-baryancistrus-demantoides/>. (June 2018).

Sanders, S., C. Castiglione, and M. Hoff. 2018. Risk assessment mapping program: RAMP, version 3.1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SeriouslyFish. 2015. *Baryancistrus demantoides*. Available: <http://www.seriouslyfish.com/species/baryancistrus-demantoides/>. (December 2015).

Werneke, D. C., M. H. Sabaj, N. K. Lujan, and J. W. Armbruster. 2005. *Baryancistrus demantoides* and *Hemiancistrus subviridis*, two new uniquely colored species of catfishes from Venezuela (Siluriformes: Loricariidae). *Neotropical Ichthyology* 3(4):533–542.

## 10 References Quoted But Not Accessed

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**Note: The following references are cited within quoted text within this ERSS, but were not accessed for its preparation. They are included here to provide the reader with more information.**

No references in this section.