

# Guitarrita (*Bunocephalus coracoideus*)

## Ecological Risk Screening Summary

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



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[http://eol.org/data\\_objects/26103853](http://eol.org/data_objects/26103853).

## 1 Native Range and Status in the United States

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### Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“South America: Amazon River basin.”

### Status in the United States

No records of *Bunocephalus coracoideus* in the United States were found.

### Means of Introductions in the United States

No records of *Bunocephalus coracoideus* in the United States were found.

### Remarks

No additional remarks.

## 2 Biology and Ecology

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### Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing

According to Eschmeyer et al. (2017), *Bunocephalus coracoideus* (Cope 1874) is the valid name for this species. *Bunocephalus coracoideus* was originally described as *Dysichthys coracoideus* Cope 1874.

From ITIS (2014):

“Kingdom Animalia  
Subkingdom Bilateria  
Infrakingdom Deuterostomia  
Phylum Chordata  
Subphylum Vertebrata  
Infraphylum Gnathostomata  
Superclass Osteichthyes  
Class Actinopterygii  
Subclass Neopterygii  
Infraclass Teleostei  
Superorder Ostariophysii  
Order Siluriformes  
Family Aspredinidae  
Genus *Bunocephalus* Kner, 1855  
Species *Bunocephalus coracoideus* (Cope, 1874)”

### Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Max length: 11.0 cm SL male/unsexed; [Friel 2003]”

### Environment

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Freshwater; demersal; pH range: 6.0 - 8.0; dH range: 5 - 19. [...]; 25°C - 28°C [assumed to be recommended aquarium temperature] [Schliewen 1992]”

### Climate/Range

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Tropical; [...]”

## **Distribution Outside the United States**

### **Native**

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“South America: Amazon River basin.”

### **Introduced**

No records of *Bunocephalus coracoideus* introductions were found.

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

No records of *Bunocephalus coracoideus* introductions were found.

## **Short Description**

A short description of *Bunocephalus coracoideus* was not available.

## **Biology**

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Occurs in ponds [Cordiviola de Yuan and Pignalberi de Hassan 1985] and forest creeks rich in plant debris [Le Bail et al. 2000]. Benthic fish which feeds on a wide range of food, including organic debris from the bottom. Spawns eggs on sandy substrate, in groups. Unlike the other species of Aspredinidae, the female does not carry her eggs (4,000 to 5,000 per spawning) in bags (cotylophores). It swims with undulating motion of its body and tail, rhythmically ejecting water from its opercles, thus resulting in a forward propulsion [Le Bail et al. 2000].”

From Ries and Lima (2009):

“*B. coracoideus* is a demersal (living at or near the bottom of the water body) species that occurs in ponds, forest creeks and small rivers rich in plant debris.”

## **Human Uses**

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Fisheries: of no interest; aquarium: commercial”

From Reis and Lima (2009):

“Although it is a common pet, it is bred in captivity and the wild populations appear unharmed by this trade.”

## Diseases

No records of OIE reportable diseases were found.

From Baska et al. (2009):

“[...] *Myxobolus brasiliensis* (Casal et al. 1996), a parasite of an Amazonian silurid fish *Bunocephalus coracoideus* [...]”

## Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2014):

“Harmless”

## 3 Impacts of Introductions

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No records of *Bunocephalus coracoideus* introductions were found.

## 4 Global Distribution

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**Figure 1.** Known global distribution of *Bunocephalus coracoideus*. Locations are in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2017).

## 5 Distribution Within the United States

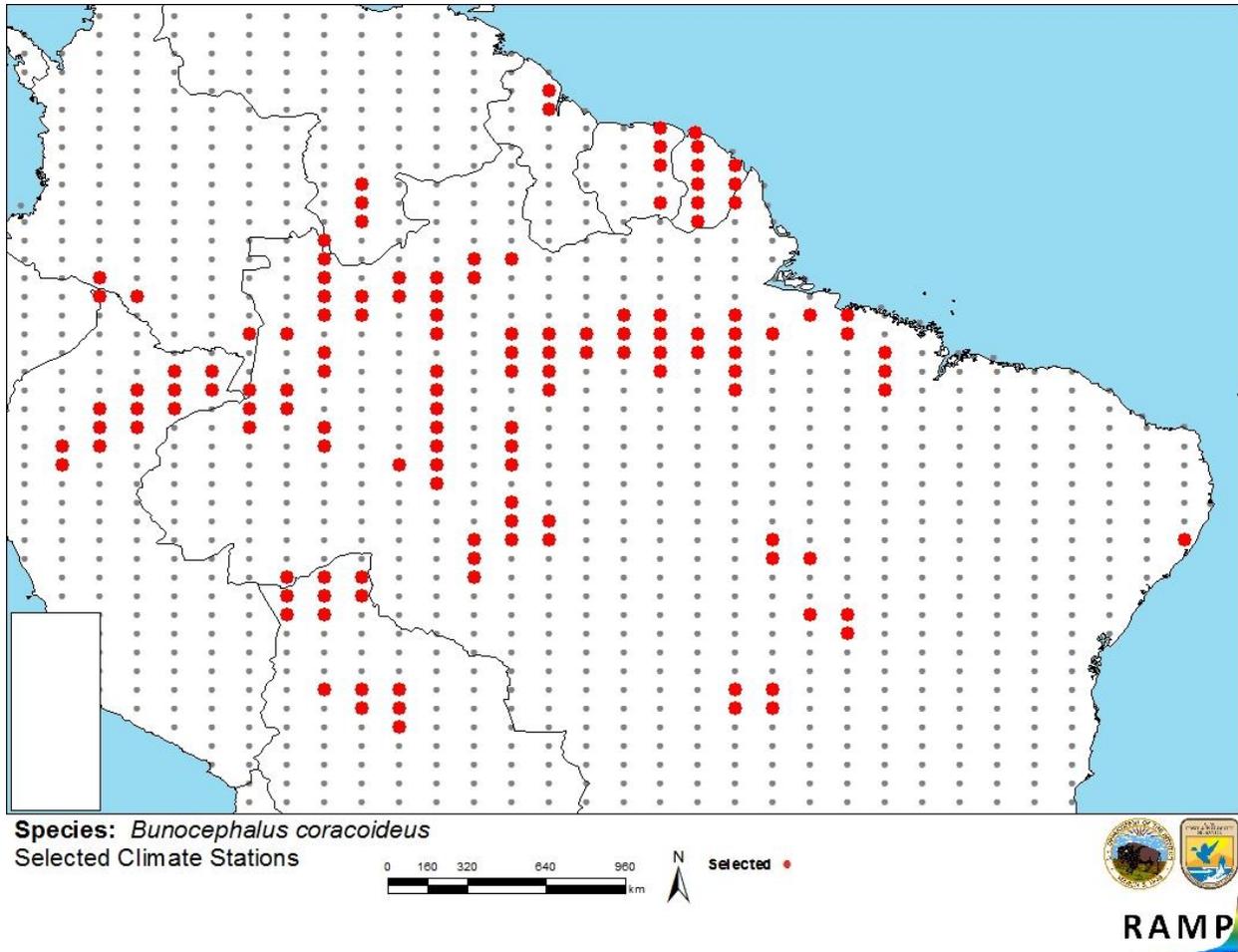
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No records of *Bunocephalus coracoideus* in the United States were found.

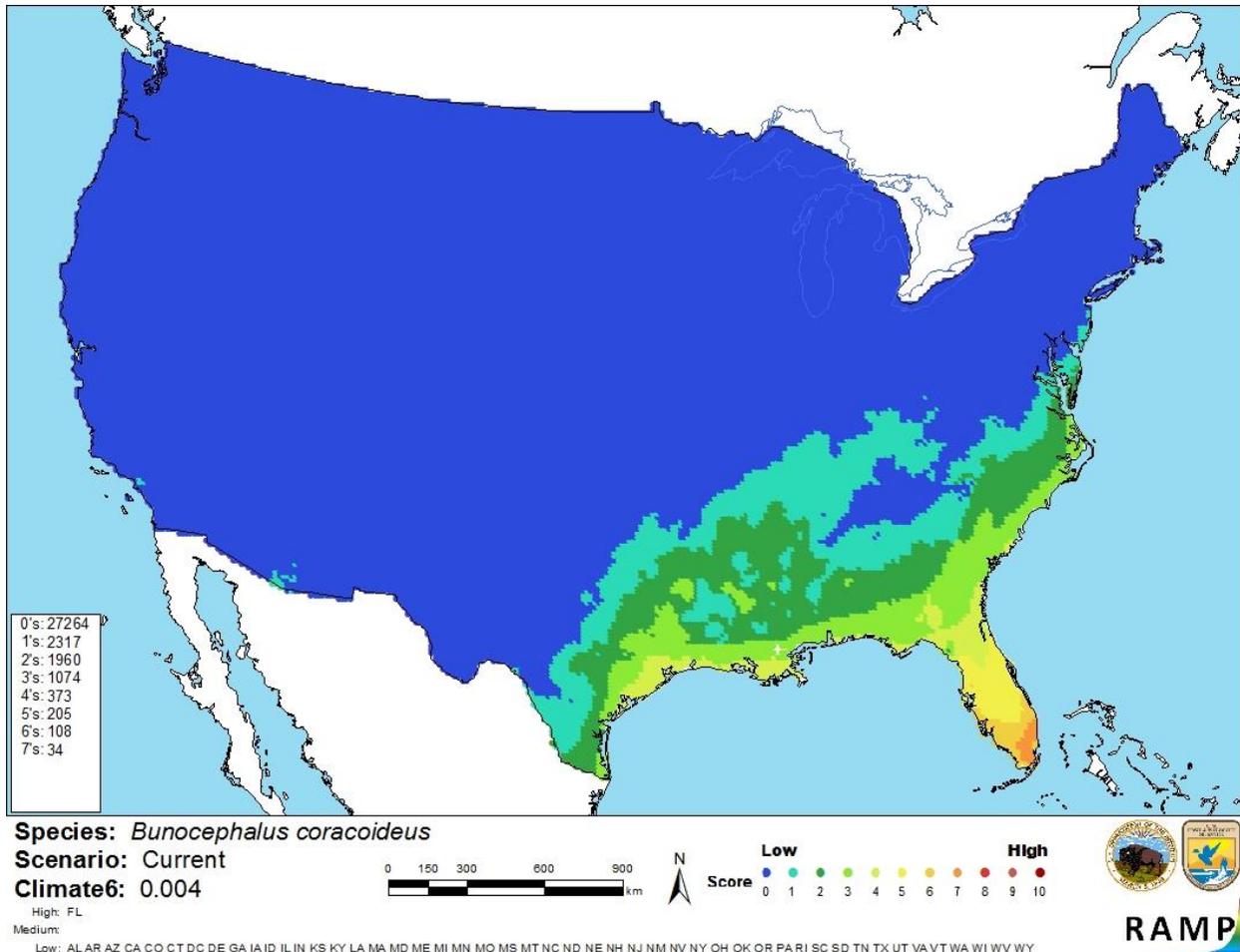
## 6 Climate Matching

### Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match for *Bunocephalus coracoideus* was high for the southern tip of Florida; the rest of Florida and parts of the Gulf Coast had a medium match. The rest of the country had a low climate match. The Climate 6 score (Sanders et al. 2014; 16 climate variables; Euclidean distance) for the contiguous United States was 0.004, low. Florida had a high individual climate score.



**Figure 2.** RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) source map showing weather stations selected as source locations (red; Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela) and non-source locations (grey) for *Bunocephalus coracoideus* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF Secretariat (2017).



**Figure 3.** Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) climate matches for *Bunoecephalus coracoideus* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported by GBIF Secretariat (2017). 0 = Lowest match, 10 = Highest match. Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left side of the figure.

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

| Climate 6: Proportion of<br>(Sum of Climate Scores 6-10) / (Sum of total<br>Climate Scores) | Climate<br>Match<br>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 low. There was minimal information available about *Bunoecephalus coracoideus*. No records of introductions were found. *B. coracoideus* is popular in the pet trade and bred in captivity.

## 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 introductions found but *Bunocephalus coracoideus* has been popular in the pet trade for some time. Specific information on length of time in trade and at what volume was not available. The climate match is low with the southern tip of Florida having a high climate match. The certainty of assessment is low. 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): Low**
- **Remarks/Important additional information** No additional remarks.
- **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.**

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## 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.**

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Schliewen, U. K. 1992. *Aquarium fish*. Barron's Education Series.