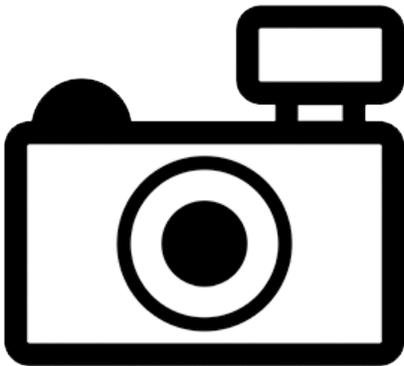


# ***Hypostomus albopunctatus* (a catfish, no common name)**

## **Ecological Risk Screening Summary**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, January 2013  
Revised, September 2018  
Web Version, 2/1/2019



No Photo Available

## **1 Native Range and Status in the United States**

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### **Native Range**

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“South America: Rio Paraná-Paraguay basin including rio Iguazu.”

From Fricke et al. (2018):

“Upper Paraná River basin: Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.”

### **Status in the United States**

This species has not been reported as introduced or established in the United States. However, unidentified members of the genus are established in the country.

From Nico et al. (2018):

“Several morphologically distinct but unidentified *Hypostomus* species have been recorded as established in the United States: these included populations in Indian Springs in Nevada; Hillsborough County in Florida; and the San Antonio River and San Felipe Creek in Texas

(Courtenay and Deacon 1982; Courtenay et al. 1984, 1986; Courtenay and Stauffer 1990; Page and Burr 1991; López-Fernández and Winemiller 2005). A population of an unidentified *Hypostomus* species is firmly established in Hawaii (Devick 1991a, b). Reported from Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania. Failed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.”

This species was not found for sale from U.S.-based online aquarium retailers and it does not appear to be in trade in the United States.

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

This species has not been reported as introduced or established in the United States. However, unidentified members of the genus are established in the country.

From Nico et al. (2018):

“Members of this genus have been introduced through a combination of fish farm escapes or releases, and aquarium releases (Courtenay and Stauffer 1990; Courtenay and Williams 1992). In Texas, the initial introduction occurred when *Hypostomus* entered local streams after escaping from pool and canal systems of the San Antonio Zoological Gardens in or before 1962 (Barron 1964); the Comal County introduction was probably due to an aquarium release (Whiteside and Berkhouse 1992).”

## **Remarks**

From Nico et al. (2018):

“The genus *Hypostomus* contains about 116 species (Burgess 1989). Highlighting the serious need for additional taxonomic and systematic work, Armbruster (1997) concluded that it is currently impossible to identify most species in the genus. Several apparently different *Hypostomus* species have been collected in the United States but not definitively identified to species level (Page and Burr 1991; Courtenay and Stauffer 1990). Distinguishing characteristics of the genus and a key to loricariid genera were provided by Burgess (1989) and Armbruster (1997). Photographs appeared in Burgess (1989) and Ferraris (1991). *Hypostomus* has officially replaced the generic name *Plecostomus*. The genus was included in the key to Texas fishes of Hubbs et al. (1991) and several identifying traits were also given by Page and Burr (1991).”

According to Fricke et al. (2018), the original name of this species was *Plecostomus albopunctatus*. Information searches for this report were conducted using both the original name and the currently accepted scientific name.

## 2 Biology and Ecology

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### Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing

From ITIS (2018):

“Kingdom Animalia  
Subkingdom Bilateria  
Infrakingdom Deuterostomia  
Phylum Chordata  
Subphylum Vertebrata  
Infraphylum Gnathostomata  
Superclass Actinopterygii  
Class Teleostei  
Superorder Ostariophysi  
Order Siluriformes  
Family Loricariidae  
Subfamily Hypostominae  
Genus *Hypostomus*  
Species *Hypostomus albopunctatus* (Regan, 1908)”

“Current Standing: valid”

### Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Max length : 40.0 cm SL male/unsexed; [Freitas-Souza et al. 2016]; max. published weight: 991.00 g [Freitas-Souza et al. 2016]”

### Environment

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Freshwater; demersal.”

### Climate/Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Tropical”

### Distribution Outside the United States

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“South America: Rio Paraná-Paraguay basin including rio Iguazu.”

From Fricke et al. (2018):

“Upper Paraná River basin: Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.”

### Introduced

No introductions of this species have been reported.

### Means of Introduction Outside the United States

No introductions of this species have been reported.

### Short Description

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Dorsal spines (total): 2; Dorsal soft rays (total): 7; Anal soft rays: 6. Diagnosed from all other congeners except *Hypostomus heraldoi* by the pelvic-fin unbranched ray length equal to or greater than pectoral-fin unbranched ray (vs. pelvic-fin unbranched ray shorter than pectoral-fin unbranched ray). Differs from *H. heraldoi* by having pale dots over body and fins (vs. dark dots over body and fins) [Garavello et al. 2012].”

### Biology

No information available.

### Human Uses

No information available. This species was not found for sale from U.S.-based online aquarium retailers and it does not appear to be in trade in the United States.

### Diseases

No OIE-reportable diseases have been documented in this species.

From Zago et al. (2013):

“With regard to *R[aphidascaris] (Sprentascaris) hypostomi*, there have been few studies reporting the occurrence of this parasite species in fishes. Moravec et al. (1990) reported its occurrence in the intestine and stomach of *Hypostomus albopunctatus* Regan, 1908 (= *Plecostomus albopunctatus* Regan, 1908), *H. commersoni* Valenciennes, 1836 (= *P. commersoni* Valenciennes, 1836), *H. derbyi* Haseman, 1911 (= *P. derbyi* Haseman, 1911) and *Ancistrus cirrhosus* Valenciennes, 1836, in Salto Osório, Paraná State, Brazil and Passo Fundo, Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil.”

Lopes et al. (2017) report *H. albopunctatus* as the type host of *Procamallanus (Procamallanus) annipetterae*.

## Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2011):

“Harmless”

## 3 Impacts of Introductions

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No introductions of *H. albopunctatus* have been reported as introduced outside its native range so no impacts of introduction are known. However, unidentified members of the genus are established in the United States.

From Nico et al. (2018):

“The effects of these loricariid catfish is largely unknown. In Texas, Hubbs et al. (1978) reported possible local displacement of algae-feeding native fishes such as *Campostoma anomalum* by *Hypostomus*, and López-Fernández and Winemiller (2005) suggest that reductions in *Dionda diaboli* abundance in portions of San Felipe Creek are due to population increases of *Hypostomus*. Because of their abundance in Hawaii, introduced *Hypostomus*, *Pterygoplichthys*, and *Ancistrus* may compete for food and space with native stream species (Devick 1989; Sabaj and Englund 1999).”

## 4 Global Distribution

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**Figure 1.** Known global distribution of *H. albopunctatus*, reported from southern Brazil. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2017). No georeferenced occurrences are available for parts of the species range in Paraguay and Argentina.

## 5 Distribution within the United States

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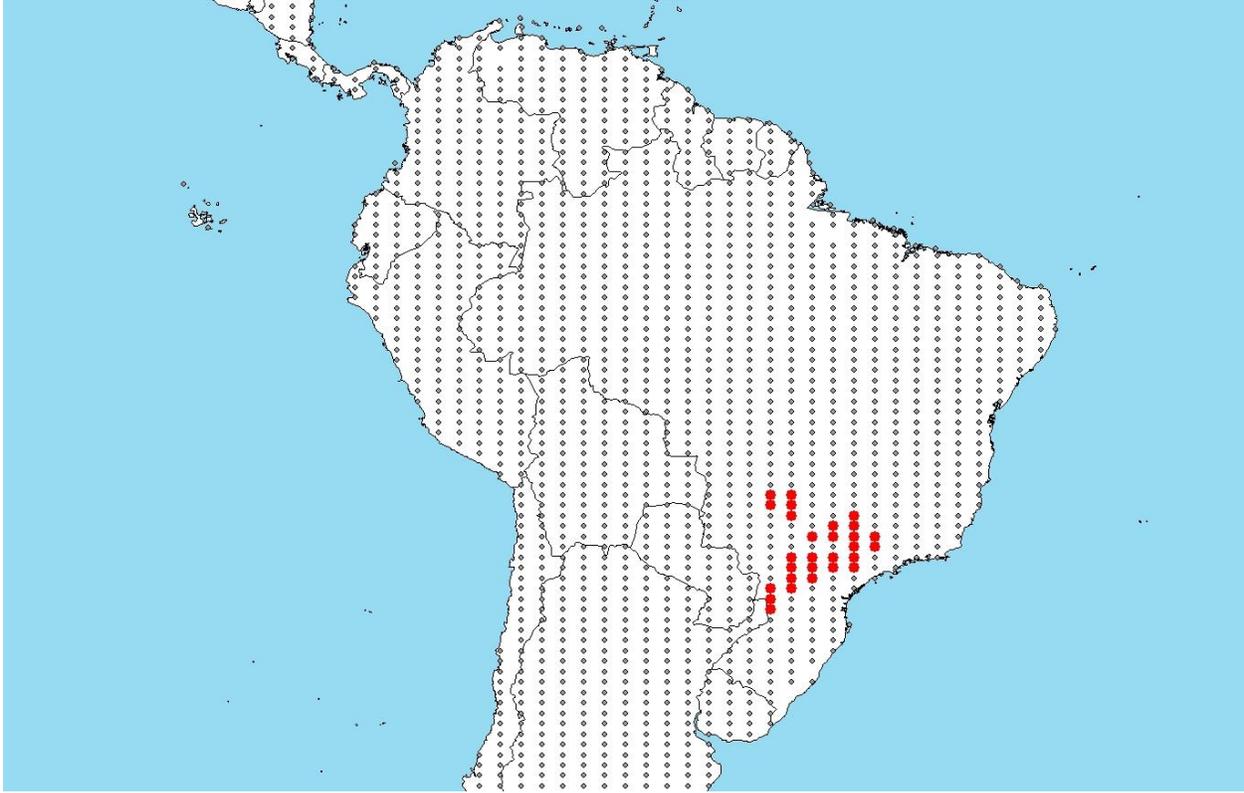
There is currently no known distribution of *Hypostomus albopunctatus* within the United States; however, unidentified species of *Hypostomus* are established in Nevada, Florida, Texas, and Hawaii.

## 6 Climate Matching

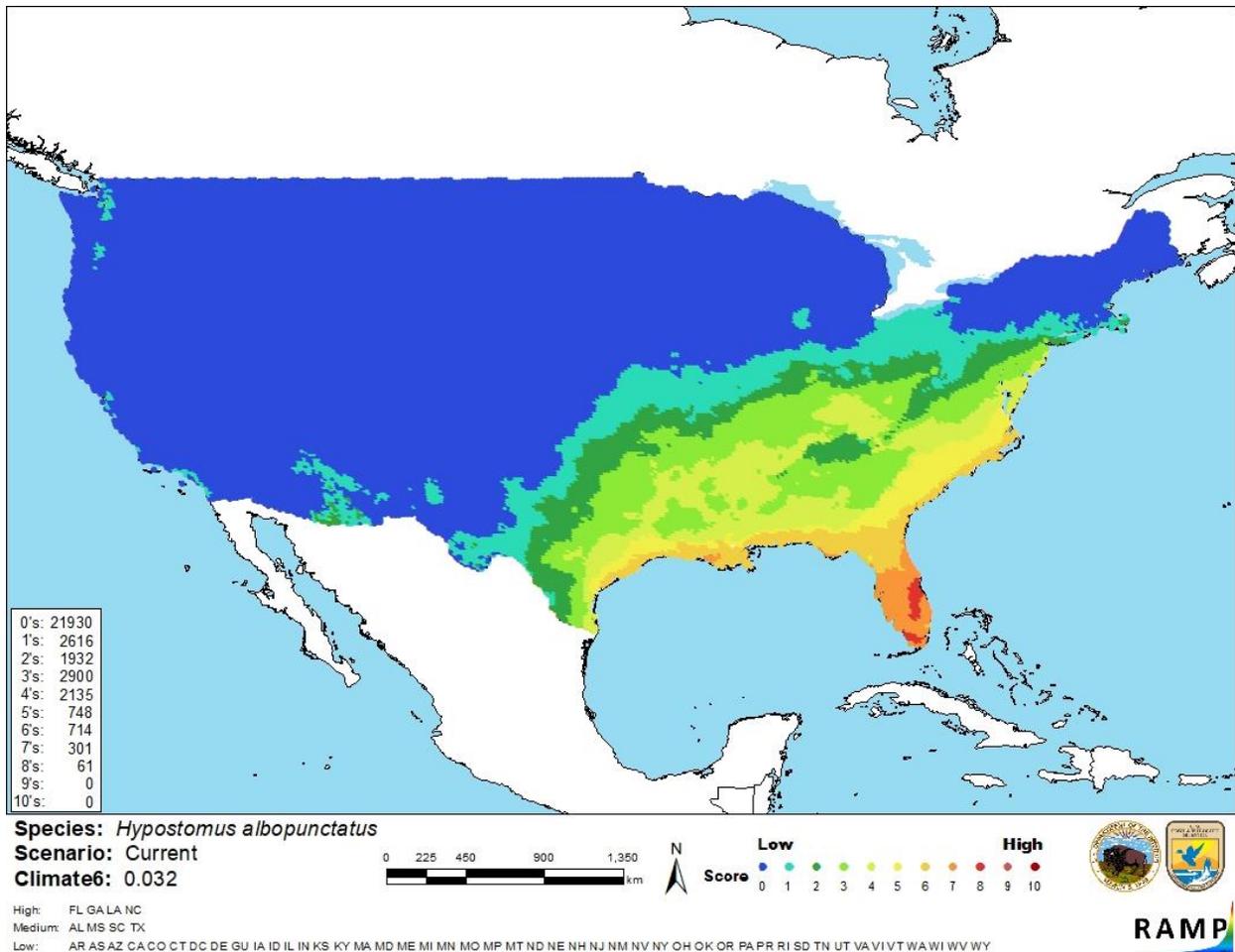
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### Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match (Sanders et al. 2018; 16 climate variables; Euclidean Distance) was high in peninsular Florida and medium across much of the Southeast, particularly coastal areas. Medium match extended along the coast from New Jersey to southern Texas. The remainder of the contiguous United States had a low climate match. Climate 6 score indicated that the contiguous United States has a medium climate match overall. The range of scores indicating a medium climate match is between 0.005 and 0.103; Climate 6 score for *H. albopunctatus* was 0.032.



**Figure 2.** RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) source map showing weather stations selected as source locations (red; Brazil) and non-source locations (gray) for *H. albopunctatus* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF Secretariat (2017).



**Figure 3.** Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) climate matches for *H. albopunctatus* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported by GBIF Secretariat (2017). Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left. 0= Lowest match, 10= Highest match.

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
$0.000 \leq X < 0.005$	Low
$0.005 < X < 0.103$	Medium
$\geq 0.103$	High

## 7 Certainty of Assessment

Limited information was available on the biology and ecology of *H. albopunctatus*. It has not been reported as introduced outside its native range, so no impacts of introduction are known. However, unidentified species of *Hypostomus* have become established in the United States, and it is possible that one or more of those populations could be identified later as *H. albopunctatus*. There is considerable uncertainty about the taxonomy of this genus and about species-level identification. Certainty of this assessment is low.

## 8 Risk Assessment

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### Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

*Hypostomus albopunctatus* is a catfish native to the Paraná-Paraguay river basin in Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. This species has no documented history of introduction in the United States or elsewhere outside its native range, and it is not known to be in trade. However, unidentified species of *Hypostomus* are established in the United States. Climate match to the contiguous United States was medium overall, with high match in peninsular Florida. Because of the lack of documented introduction history and substantial taxonomic uncertainty, certainty of this assessment is low and overall risk is uncertain.

### Assessment Elements

- **History of Invasiveness (Sec. 3): Uncertain**
- **Climate Match (Sec.6): Medium**
- **Certainty of Assessment (Sec. 7): Low**
- **Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain**

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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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**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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