

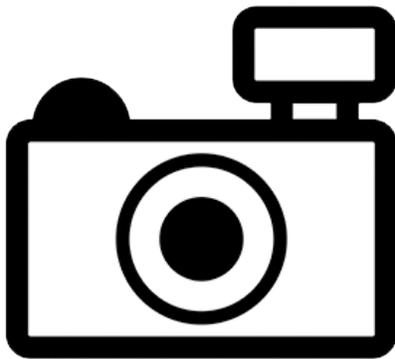
# ***Hypostomus obtusirostris* (a catfish, no common name)**

## **Ecological Risk Screening Summary**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, March 2012

Revised, September 2018

Web Version, 4/2/2019



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: coastal drainages of southeastern Brazil.”

### **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 United States.

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 United States.

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 obtusirostris*. 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 obtusirostris* (Steindachner, 1907)”

From Fricke et al. (2018):

“**Current status:** Valid as *Hypostomus obtusirostris* (Steindachner 1907). Loricariidae: Hypostominae.”

### **Size, Weight, and Age Range**

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Max length : 5.9 cm TL male/unsexed; [Weber 2003]”

### **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: coastal drainages of southeastern Brazil.”

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

Information not available.

## Biology

Information not available.

## Human Uses

Information not available.

## Diseases

Information not available. No OIE-reportable diseases (OIE 2019) have been documented in this species.

## Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Harmless”

## 3 Impacts of Introductions

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No introductions of *H. obtusirostris* have been reported 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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No georeferenced occurrences were available for *H. obtusirostris* (GBIF Secretariat 2017).

## 5 Distribution within the United States

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

## 6 Climate Matching

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Because of the lack of georeferenced occurrences combined with the vaguely defined range of the species, no climate matching analysis could be conducted.

## 7 Certainty of Assessment

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Extremely limited information was available on the biology and ecology of *H. obtusirostris*. No georeferenced occurrences or precise descriptions of collection locations were available for the climate matching analysis. *H. obtusirostris* 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. obtusirostris*. 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 obtusirostris* is a catfish native to the coastal river drainages of southeastern Brazil. 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. History of invasiveness is uncertain. No climate matching analysis was possible because of the lack of occurrence information, whether in the form of geographic coordinates or verbal description. Because of the lack of documented introduction history, georeferenced occurrence data, and substantial taxonomic uncertainty, certainty of this assessment is low and overall risk is uncertain.

### Assessment Elements

- **History of Invasiveness: Uncertain**
- **Climate Match: --**
- **Certainty of Assessment: Low**
- **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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