

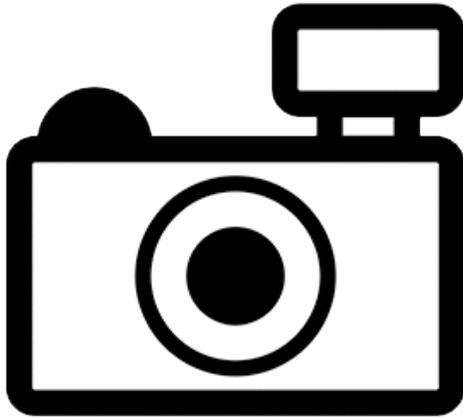
***Trichomycterus giganteus* (a catfish, no common name)**

Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, January 2017

Revised, May 2018

Web Version, 8/19/2019



No Photo Available

1 Native Range and Status in the United States

Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“South America: Upper Rio Guandu basin in southeastern Brazil.”

Status in the United States

This species has not been reported as introduced in the United States. There is no evidence that this species is in trade in the United States, based on a search of the literature and online aquarium retailers.

From Arizona Secretary of State (2006):

“Fish listed below are restricted live wildlife [in Arizona] as defined in R12-4-401. [...] South American parasitic catfish, all species of the family Trichomycteridae and Cetopsidae [...]”

From Dill and Cordone (1997):

“[...] At the present time, 22 families of bony and cartilaginous fishes are listed [as prohibited in California], e.g. all parasitic catfishes (family Trichomycteridae) [...]”

From FFWCC (2016):

“Prohibited nonnative species are considered to be dangerous to the ecology and/or the health and welfare of the people of Florida. These species are not allowed to be personally possessed or used for commercial activities.

[The list of prohibited nonnative species includes:]

Parasitic catfishes [...]

Trichomycterus giganteus”

From Louisiana House of Representatives Database (2010):

“No person, firm, or corporation shall at any time possess, sell, or cause to be transported into this state [Louisiana] by any other person, firm, or corporation, without first obtaining the written permission of the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, any of the following species of fish: [...] all members of the families [...] *Trichomycteridae* (pencil catfishes) [...]”

From Mississippi Secretary of State (2019):

“All species of the following animals and plants have been determined to be detrimental to the State's native resources and further sales or distribution are prohibited in Mississippi. No person shall import, sell, possess, transport, release or cause to be released into the waters of the state any of the following aquatic species or hybrids thereof.

[The list includes all species of] Family Trichomycteridae”

From Legislative Council Bureau (2018):

“Except as otherwise provided in this section and NAC 504.486, the importation, transportation or possession of the following species of live wildlife or hybrids thereof, including viable embryos or gametes, is prohibited [in Nevada]: [...]

All species in the families Cetopsidae and Trichomycteridae”

From Utah DNR (2012):

“All species of fish listed in Subsections (2) through (30) are classified [in Utah] as prohibited for collection, importation and possession [...]

Parasitic catfish (candiru, carnero) family Trichomycteridae (All species)”

Means of Introductions in the United States

This species has not been reported in the United States.

2 Biology and Ecology

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 Trichomycteridae
Subfamily Trichomycterinae
Genus *Trichomycterus*
Species *Trichomycterus giganteus* Lima and Costa, 2004”

From Fricke et al. (2019):

“**Current status:** Valid as *Trichomycterus giganteus* Lima & Costa 2004. Trichomycteridae: Trichomycterinae.”

Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Max length : 20.4 cm SL male/unsexed; [Lima and Costa 2004]”

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: Upper Rio Guandu basin in southeastern Brazil.”

Introduced

This species has no known reported introductions.

Means of Introduction Outside the United States

This species has no known reported introductions.

Short Description

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Dorsal soft rays (total): 12-13; Anal soft rays: 10 - 11; Vertebrae: 36 - 37. Distinguishable from the other species of the genus by having a broad dark bluish gray stripe along lateral midline of body, restricted to inner layer of tegument, overlapped by superficial dark brown spots. Also distinguished from the remaining species of the southeastern Brazil by having nine pectoral-fin rays, high number of odontodes (interopercular 59-70 vs. 30-52, opercular 23-30 vs. 10-20), anal-fin origin at vertical posterior to dorsal-fin base and a dark gray opercular patch of odontodes vs. light yellow [*sic*]. Differs from *T. nigricans* and *T. immaculatus* by a combination of longer nasal and maxillary barbels (nasal reaching pectoral fin base, vs. between orbit and opercular patch of odontodes; maxillary reaching anterior third of pectoral fin, vs. to interopercular patch of odontodes) and a single median third supraorbital pore vs. third supraorbital pore paired [Lima and Costa 2004].”

Biology

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Although the type locality is a clear water stream with strong current, all specimens were found in still water between 50 and 200 cm deep, hidden under rocks [Lima and Costa 2004].”

Human Uses

No known uses.

Diseases

No information available. No OIE-listed diseases (OIE 2019) have been documented in this species.

Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Harmless”

3 Impacts of Introductions

No introductions of *Trichomycterus giganteus* have been reported outside its native range so no impacts of introduction are known.

The importation, possession, or trade of the parasitic catfish *T. giganteus* is prohibited or restricted in the following states: Arizona (Arizona Secretary of State 2006), California (Dill and Cordone 1997), Florida (FFWCC 2016), Louisiana (Louisiana House of Representatives Database 2010), Mississippi (Mississippi Secretary of State 2019), Nevada (Legislative Council Bureau 2018), and Utah (Utah DNR 2012).

4 Global Distribution



Figure 1. Known global established locations of *Trichomycterus giganteus*, reported from southeastern Brazil. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2019). No documentation of an established population was found for the northernmost reported occurrence, so it was excluded from the climate matching analysis.

5 Distribution Within the United States

This species has not been reported in the United States.

6 Climate Matching

Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match (Sanders et al. 2018; 16 climate variables; Euclidean Distance) for the contiguous United States was low overall, reflected in a Climate 6 score of 0.004. Scores between 0.000 and 0.005, inclusive, are classified as low. Locally, the climate match was medium in peninsular Florida and in isolated locations along the Georgia coast. Elsewhere in the contiguous United States, the climate match was low. The State of Florida had a high climate score and all other States had low climate scores.

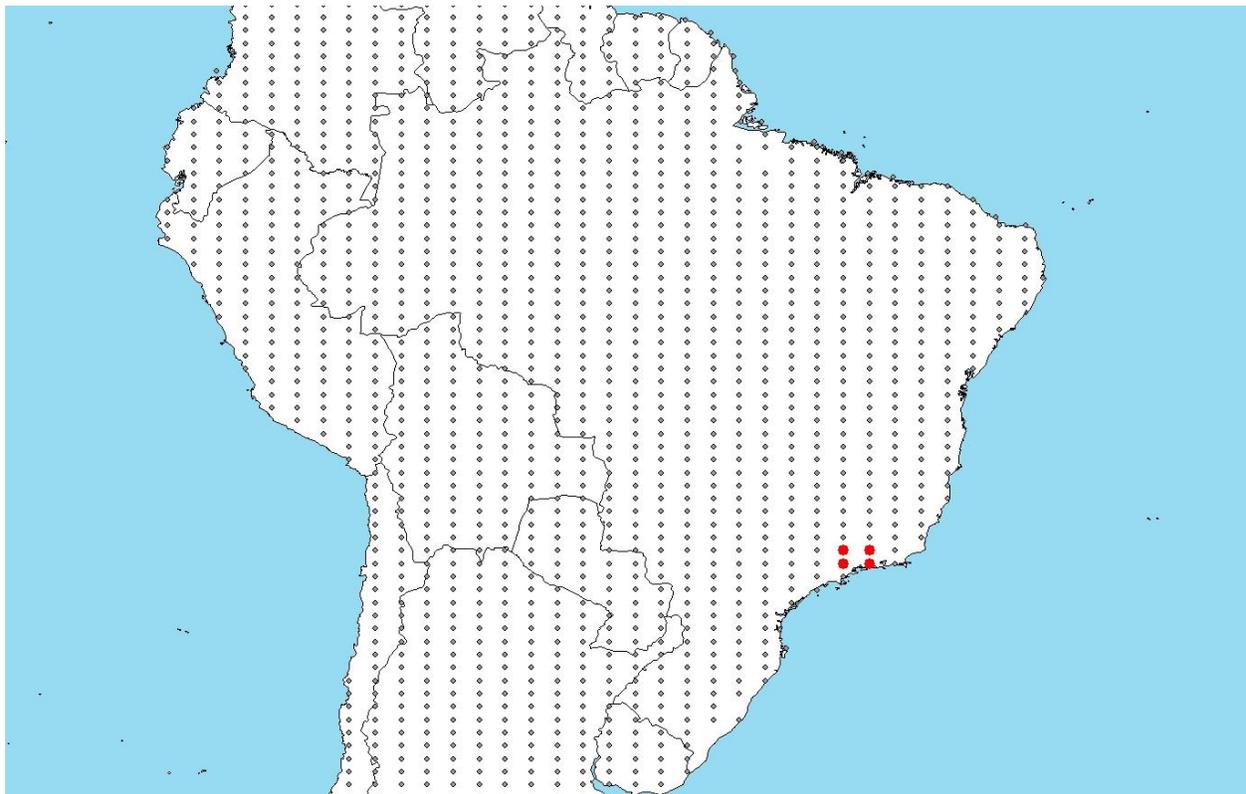


Figure 2. RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) source map showing weather stations in South America selected as source locations (red; southeastern Brazil) and non-source locations (gray) for *Trichomycterus giganteus* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF Secretariat (2019).

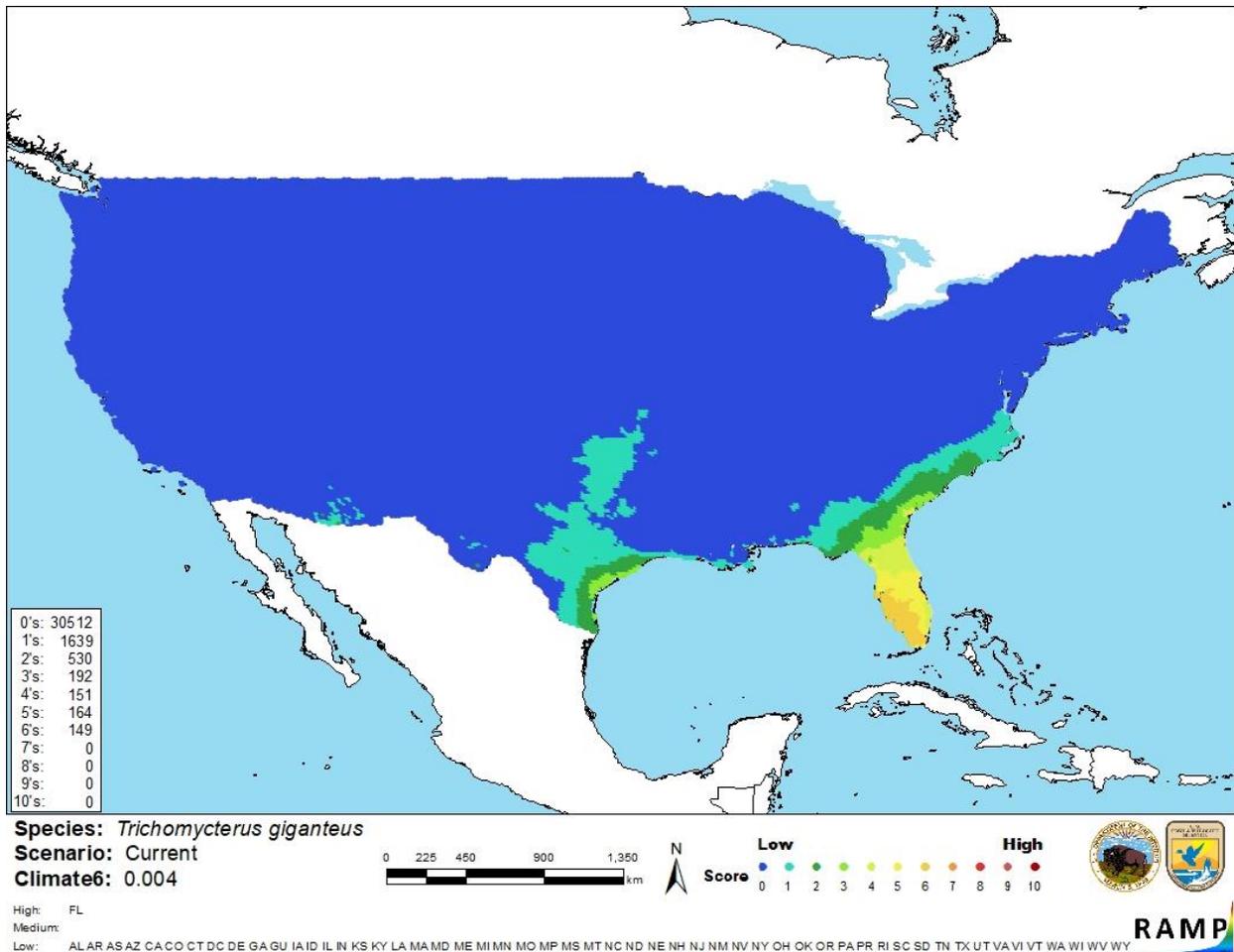


Figure 3. Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) climate matches for *Trichomycterus giganteus* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported by GBIF Secretariat (2019). 0=Lowest match, 10=Highest match. Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left.

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
≥ 0.103	High

7 Certainty of Assessment

There is some knowledge on the biology and ecology of *Trichomycterus giganteus*. There are no records showing introductions of this species outside of its native range. Little information is known to conclude what kind of effect it could have if it were introduced. Due to lack of information, the certainty of assessment is low.

8 Risk Assessment

Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

Trichomycterus giganteus is a freshwater parasitic catfish from South America. It has not been reported outside of its native range of the Upper Negro River basin in Brazil. Due to the lack of introduction history, the history of invasiveness is uncertain. This species has a low climate match to the contiguous United States overall, with medium match in peninsular Florida. Due to the lack of information about potential impacts of introductions, the certainty of assessment is low. The overall risk posed by *T. giganteus* is uncertain.

Assessment Elements

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

9 References

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

Arizona Secretary of State. 2006. Restricted live wildlife. Arizona Administrative Code, R12-4-406.

Dill, W. A., and A. J. Cordone. 1997. History and status of introduced fishes in California, 1871-1996. California Department of Fish and Game. Fish Bulletin 178.

FFWCC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). 2016. Prohibited species list. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida. Available: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/regulations/prohibited/>. (December 2016).

Fricke, R., W. N. Eschmeyer, and R. Van der Laan, editors. 2019. Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes: genera, species, references. Available: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>. (August 2019).

Froese, R., and D. Pauly, editors. 2018. *Trichomycterus giganteus* Lima & Costa, 2004. FishBase. Available: <https://www.fishbase.de/summary/Trichomycterus-giganteus.html>. (May 2018).

GBIF Secretariat. 2019. GBIF backbone taxonomy: *Trichomycterus giganteus* Lima & Costa, 2004. Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Copenhagen. Available: <https://www.gbif.org/species/2343152>. (August 2019).

- ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System). 2018. *Trichomycterus giganteus* Lima and Costa, 2004. Integrated Taxonomic Information System, Reston, Virginia. Available: https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=682209#null. (May 2018).
- Legislative Council Bureau. 2018. Restrictions on importation, transportation and possession of certain species. Nevada Administrative Code, Section 503.110.
- Louisiana House of Representatives Database. 2010. Exotic fish; importation, sale, and possession of certain exotic species prohibited; permit required; penalty. Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 56, Section 319.
- Mississippi Secretary of State. 2019. Guidelines for aquaculture activities. Mississippi Administrative Code, Title 2, Part 1, Subpart 4, Chapter 11. Regulatory and Enforcement Division, Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State, Jackson, Mississippi.
- OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health). 2019. OIE listed diseases, infections and infestations in force in 2019. Available: <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2019/>. (August 2019).
- Sanders, S., C. Castiglione, and M. H. Hoff. 2018. Risk Assessment Mapping Program: RAMP, version 3.1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Utah DNR. 2012. R657-3 – collection, importation, transportation, and possession of animals. Utah Division of Natural Resources, Salt Lake City, Utah. Available: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/hunting-in-utah/guidebooks/46-rules/rules-regulations/940-r657-3--collection-importation-transportation-and-possession-of-animals.html>. (May 2018).

10 References Quoted But Not Accessed

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.

- Lima, S. M. Q., and W. J. E. M. Costa, 2004. *Trichomycterus giganteus* (Siluriformes: Loricarioidea: Trichomycteridae): a new catfish from the Rio Guandu basin, southeastern Brazil. *Zootaxa* 761:1–6.