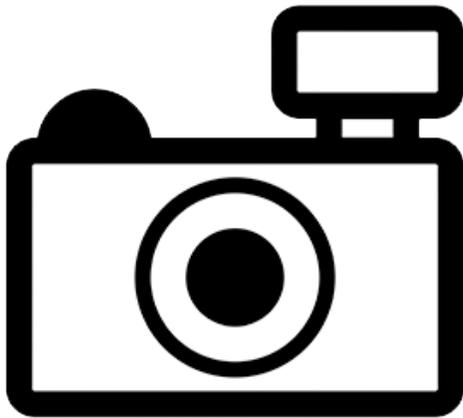


Trichomycterus spelaeus (a catfish, no common name)

Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, December 2016
Revised, February 2018
Web Version, 2/25/2020



No Photo Available

1 Native Range and Status in the United States

Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“South America: Punto Fijo Cave, upper Guasare River basin in Venezuela.”

Status in the United States

This species has not been reported as introduced or established in the United States. There is no indication that this species is in trade in the United States.

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 (2019):

“Nonnative Conditional species (formerly referred to as restricted species) and Prohibited species are considered to be dangerous to Florida’s native species and habitats or could pose threats to the health and welfare of the people of Florida. These species are not allowed to be personally possessed, but can be imported and possessed by permit for research or public exhibition; Conditional species may also be possessed by permit for commercial sales. Facilities where Conditional or Prohibited species are held must meet certain biosecurity criteria to prevent escape.”

Trichomycterus spelaeus is listed as a Prohibited species in Florida.

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 [Nevada Administrative Code] 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 as introduced or established in the United States.

2 Biology and Ecology

Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing

From ITIS (2016):

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 Trichomycteridae
Subfamily Trichomycterinae
Genus *Trichomycterus*
Species *Trichomycterus spelaeus*

From Eschmeyer et al. (2016):

“Current status: Valid as *Trichomycterus spelaeus* DoNascimento, Villarreal & Provenzano 2001. Trichomycteridae: Trichomycterinae.”

Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“Max length : 5.4 cm SL male/unsexed; [de Pínna and Wosiacki 2003]”

Environment

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“Freshwater; demersal.”

Climate/Range

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“Tropical”

Distribution Outside the United States

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“South America: Punto Fijo Cave, upper Guasare River basin in Venezuela.”

Introduced

This species has not been reported as introduced or established outside of its native range.

Means of Introduction Outside the United States

This species has not been reported as introduced or established outside of its native range.

Short Description

From DoNascimento et al. (2001):

“The new species presents as distinctive character that distinguish it of [*sic*] all the known species of the genus *Trichomycterus*, the absence of eyes.”

Biology

No information reported for this species.

Human Uses

No information reported for this species.

Diseases

No OIE-reportable diseases (OIE 2020) have been documented for this species.

Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“Harmless”

3 Impacts of Introductions

This species has not been reported as introduced or established outside of its native range.

The importation, possession, or trade of the catfish *T. spelaeus* is prohibited or restricted in the following states: Arizona (Arizona Secretary of State 2006), California (Dill and Cordone 1997), Florida (FFWCC 2019), 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 distribution of *Trichomycterus spelaeus*, reported from Venezuela. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2017).

5 Distribution Within the United States

This species has not been reported as introduced or established in the United States.

6 Climate Matching

Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match (Sanders et al. 2014; 16 climate variables; Euclidean Distance) was medium in southern peninsular Florida and the southern tip of Texas. Low matches occurred throughout the remaining contiguous United States. The Climate 6 score indicated that the contiguous United States has a low overall climate match. (Scores between 0.000 and 0.005, inclusive, are classified as low.) The Climate 6 score of *Trichomycterus spelaeus* was 0.0. Florida had a medium climate score; all other States had a low climate score.

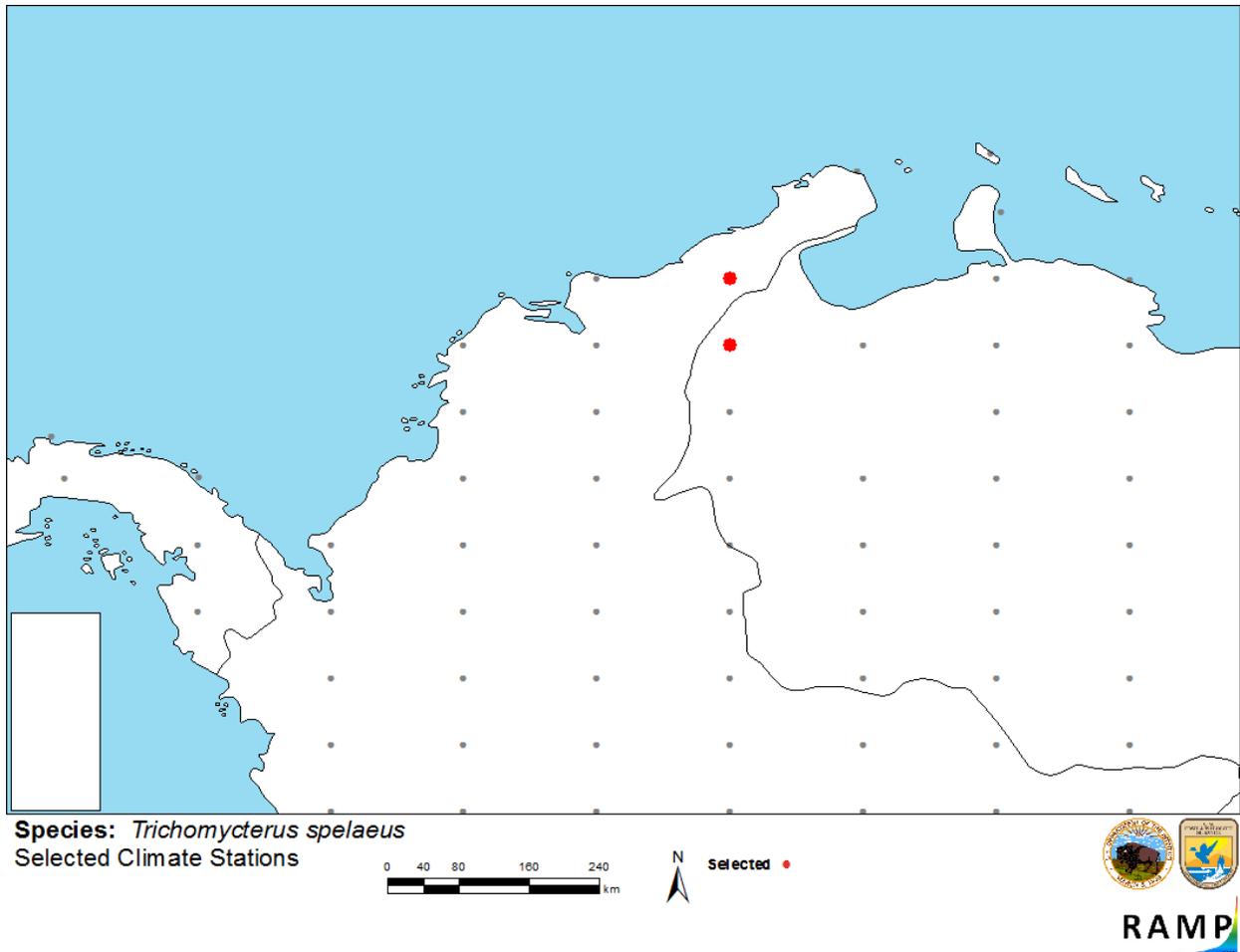


Figure 2. RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) source map showing weather stations selected as source locations (red; Venezuela, Colombia) and non-source locations (gray) for *Trichomycterus spelaeus* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF Secretariat (2017). Selected source locations are within 100 km of one or more species occurrences, and do not necessarily represent the locations of occurrences themselves.

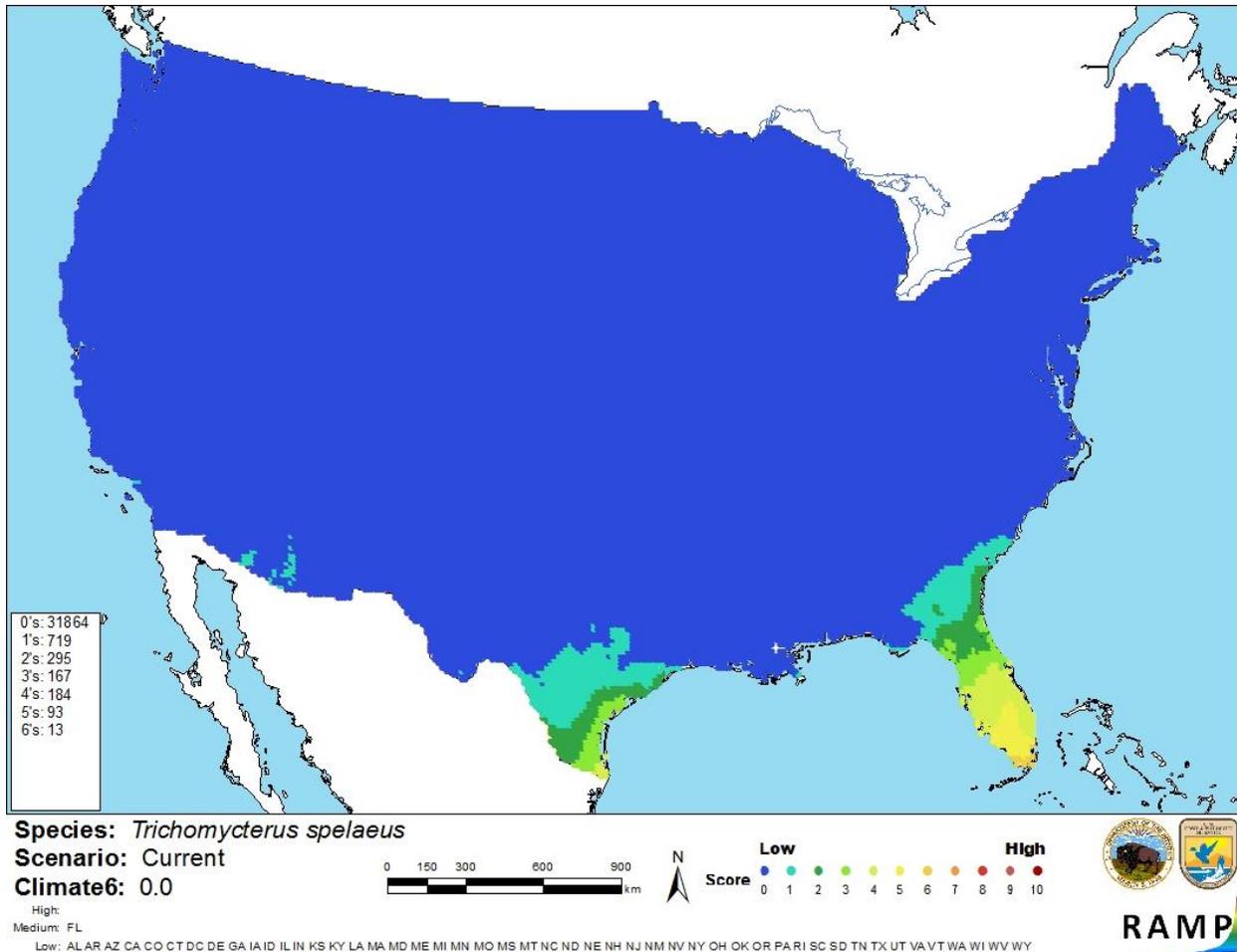


Figure 3. Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) climate matches for *Trichomycterus spelaesus* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported by GBIF Secretariat (2017). 0=Lowest match, 10=Highest match. Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left.

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
≥ 0.103	High

7 Certainty of Assessment

Information on the biology of *T. spelaesus* is not widely available. This species has not been documented as introduced outside its native range, so no information is available on impacts of introductions. Certainty of this assessment is low.

8 Risk Assessment

Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

Trichomycterus spelaesus is a small catfish native to a single cave in Venezuela. There are no documented introductions of this species outside of its native range. History of invasiveness is uncertain. Several U.S. States prohibit or restrict the possession, transport, or trade of this species along with other members of the family Trichomycteridae. The certainty of this assessment is low due to lack of information. *T. spelaesus* has a low overall climate match with the contiguous United States, although southern peninsular Florida and the southern tip of Texas have a medium match. Overall risk posed by this species 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.

DoNascimento, C., O. Villarreal, and F. Provenzano. 2001. Descripción de una nueva especie de bagre anoftalmo del género *Trichomycterus* (Siluriformes, Trichomycteridae), de una cueva de la Sierra de Perijá, Venezuela. Boletín de la Sociedad Venezolana de Espeleología 35:20-26. [In Spanish with English abstract.]

Eschmeyer, W. N., R. Fricke, and R. van der Laan, editors. 2016. Catalog of fishes: genera, species, references. Available: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>. (December 2016).

FFWCC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). 2019. Florida's nonnative fish and wildlife. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, Florida. Available: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/>. (November 2019).

Froese, R., and D. Pauly, editors. 2016. *Trichomycterus spelaesus* (DoNascimento, Villarreal, and Provenzano 2001). FishBase. Available: <http://www.fishbase.se/summary/Trichomycterus-spelaesus.html>. (December 2016).

GBIF Secretariat. 2017. GBIF backbone taxonomy: *Trichomycterus spelaeus* (DoNascimento, Villarreal, and Provenzano 2001). Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Copenhagen. Available: <http://www.gbif.org/species/2343207>. (February 2018).

ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System). 2016. *Trichomycterus spelaeus* (DoNascimento, Villarreal and Provenzano 2001). Available: https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=682261#null. (December 2016).

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). 2020. OIE-listed diseases, infections and infestations in force in 2020. World Organisation for Animal Health, Paris. Available: <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2019/>. (February 2020).

Sanders, S., C. Castiglione, and M. Hoff. 2014. Risk Assessment Mapping Program: RAMP. 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.

de Pínna, M. C. C., and W. Wosiacki. 2003. Trichomycteridae (pencil or parasitic catfishes). Pages 270-290 in R. E. Reis, S. O. Kullander, and C. J. Ferraris, Jr., editors. Checklist of the freshwater fishes of South and Central America. EDIPUCRS, Porto Alegre, Brazil.