

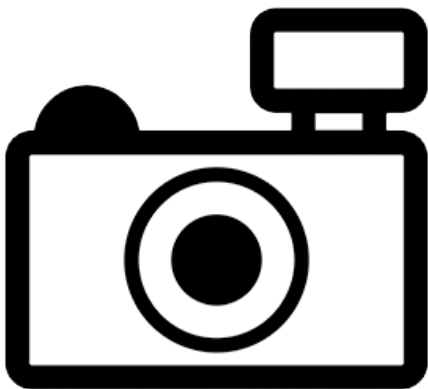
***Hypostomus niger* (a catfish, no common name)**

Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, February 2012

Revised, September 2018

Web Version, 4/1/2019



No Photo Available

1 Native Range and Status in the United States

Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“South America: rivers 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 Reis et al. (2003):

“Only known from the holotype.”

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 niger*. Information searches for this report were conducted using both the original name and the currently accepted scientific name.

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 Loricariidae
Subfamily Hypostominae
Genus *Hypostomus*
Species *Hypostomus niger* (Marini, Nichols and La Monte, 1933)”

From Fricke et al. (2018):

“**Current status:** Valid as *Hypostomus niger* (Marini, Nichols & La Monte 1933). Loricariidae: Hypostominae.”

Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Max length : 24.5 cm SL male/unsexed; [Weber 2003]”

Environment

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Freshwater; demersal.”

Climate/Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Subtropical”

Distribution Outside the United States

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“South America: rivers 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

From Marini et al. (1933):

“Length to base of caudal about 245 mm.; depth in this length, 6; head (to margin of temporal plate), 3. Width of head in its length, 1.2; its height, 2; eye in head, 9.5; snout, 1.4; interorbital, 3; mandibular ramus, 5.8; depth of peduncle, 3; its length 1.4; pectoral spine, 1.4; ventral spine, 1.4; dorsal spine, 1.5; lower caudal lobe, 1; dorsal base, 1.6; dorsal interspace, 1.6; height of anal, 3. Length of mandibular ramus in interorbital, 1.9. Barbel in eye, 2.5.”

“Teeth on mandibular ramus, about 26.”

“Adipose fin present, well developed. Opercle and interopercle not margined with bristles. Scutes practically keelless, except for the first three or four in the lateral series above the pectoral. Supraoccipital and temporal plates slightly raised centrally. Supraoccipital bordered by two plates or a single plate imperfectly divided in the middle. Snout somewhat more than twice as long as postorbital part of head. Orbital rim somewhat raised. Peduncle rounded below. Pectoral spine curved, enlarged and with hooked spinules at the end, reaching to middle of ventral base. Ventral reaching just past anal axil. Dorsal when depressed not nearly reaching adipose. Caudal obliquely lunate, the lower lobe much the longer. Lower surfaces well covered with small rough scales, a narrow scaleless area before the ventral bases. Tip of snout and upper lip scaleless.”

“Body and fins mostly blackish. Faint pale spots regularly arranged on the temporals and the front of the sides. Lower lip pale. Belly dusky with pale spots and streaks. Pectoral and ventral spines and lower caudal ray are pale. Dorsal and anal, and lower surfaces of pectoral and ventral with rather faint pale spots.”

Biology

No information available.

Human Uses

No information available.

Diseases

No information 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

No introductions of *H. niger* 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 *Camptostoma 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

No georeferenced occurrences were available for *H. niger* (GBIF Secretariat 2017).

5 Distribution within the United States

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

6 Climate Matching

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

Limited information was available on the biology and ecology of *H. niger*. No georeferenced occurrences or precise descriptions of collection locations were available for the climate matching analysis. *H. niger* 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. niger*. There is considerable uncertainty about the taxonomy of this genus and about species-level identification. Certainty of this assessment is low.

8 Risk Assessment

Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

Hypostomus niger is a catfish native to the rivers 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 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

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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