

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

Ecological Risk Screening Summary

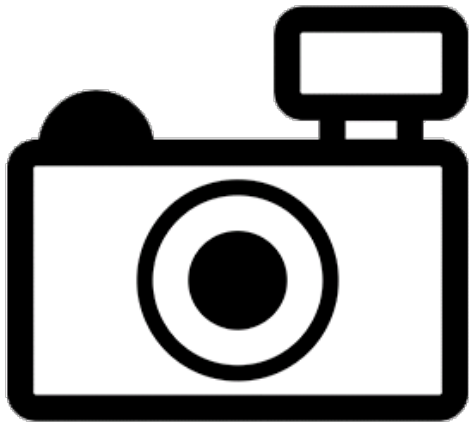
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, December 2016

Revised, June 2018

Web Version, 9/1/2021

Organism Type: Fish

Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain



No Photo Available

1 Native Range and Status in the United States

Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“South America: Rio Iguaçu, rio Paraná Basin in southern Brazil.”

Status in the United States

This species has not been reported in the wild or in trade in the United States.

From Arizona Office of the Secretary of State (2013):

“I. Fish listed below are considered restricted wildlife: [...]”

9. All species of the family Cetopsidae and Trichomycteridae. Common name: South American catfish.”

From California Department of Fish and Wildlife (2019):

“It shall be unlawful to import, transport, or possess live animals restricted in subsection (c) below except under permit issued by the department. [...] Family Trichomycteridae (Pygidiidae)-Parasitic Catfishes.: All species”

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has listed all species in the family Trichomycteridae as prohibited species. Prohibited nonnative species (FFWCC 2021), “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.”

From Georgia DNR (2020):

“The exotic species listed below, except where otherwise noted, may not be held as pets in Georgia. This list is not all inclusive. [...]

Parasitic catfishes; all species”

From Louisiana State Legislature (2019):

“No person, firm, or corporation shall at any time possess, sell, or cause to be transported into this state 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: freshwater electric eel (*Electrophorus* sp.); rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*); all members of the families Synbranchidae (Asian swamp eels); Channidae (snakeheads); Clariidae (walking catfishes); 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. However, species listed as prohibited may be allowed under a permitting process where environmental impact has been assessed. [...]

Pencil or parasitic catfishes Family Trichomycteridae **** [indicating all species within the family are included in the regulation]”

From State of Nevada (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: [...]

South American Parasitic Catfish.....All species in the families Cetopsidae and Trichomycteridae”

From Oklahoma Secretary of State (2019):

“Until such time as is necessary for the Department of Wildlife Conservation to obtain adequate information for the determination of other harmful or potentially harmful exotic species, the importation into the State and/or the possession of the following exotic fish or their eggs is prohibited: [...]

Parasitic South American Catfish group (Candiru), genera & species of the Trichomycteridae family. *Vandellia* spp., *Tridens* spp., and *Pygidium* spp.”

From Texas Parks and Wildlife (2020):

“The organisms listed here are legally classified as exotic, harmful, or potentially harmful. No person may possess or place them into water of this state except as authorized by the department. Permits are required for any individual to possess, sell, import, export, transport or propagate listed species for zoological or research purposes; for aquaculture (allowed only for Blue, Nile, or Mozambique tilapia, Triploid Grass Carp, or Pacific White Shrimp); or for aquatic weed control (for example, Triploid Grass Carp in private ponds). [...]

South American Parasitic Candiru Catfishes, Family Trichomycteridae All species”

From Utah Office of Administrative Rules (2019):

“All species of fish listed in Subsections (2) through (30) are classified 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.

Remarks

No additional remarks.

2 Biology and Ecology

Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing

According to Eschmeyer et al. (2018), *Trichomycterus plumbeus* Wosiacki and Garavello 2004 is the current valid name for this species; it is also the original name for this species.

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 plumbeus* (Wosiacki and Garavello, 2004)

Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“Max length : 8.2 cm SL male/unsexed; [Wosiacki and Garavello 2004]”

Environment

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“Freshwater; benthopelagic.”

Climate

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“Tropical, [...]”

Distribution Outside the United States

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“South America: Rio Iguaçu, rio Paraná Basin in southern Brazil.”

Introduced

No known introductions outside of its native range.

Means of Introduction Outside the United States

No known introductions outside of its native range.

Short Description

From Wosiacki and Garavallo (2004):

“*Trichomycterus plumbeus* is distinguished from all other members of the family by the combination of pectoral-fin length, distance between pelvic-fin base and, color pattern uniformly gray, except on ventral surface of head, caudal truncate, and first pectoral-fin ray not prolonged.”

Biology

No information available.

Human Uses

No information available.

Diseases

No information available. No records of OIE-reportable diseases (OIE 2021) were found for *Trichomycterus plumbeus*.

Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2016):

“Harmless”

3 Impacts of Introductions

This species has not been reported outside of its native range, therefore no impacts of introductions have been documented.

Trichomycterus plumbeus is regulated in multiple states.

4 History of Invasiveness

This species has not been reported outside of its native range, therefore the history of invasiveness is classified as No Known Nonnative Population.

5 Global Distribution



Figure 1. Known global distribution of *Trichomycterus plumbeus*. Location is in southern Brazil. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2021).

6 Distribution Within the United States

This species has not been reported in the United States.

7 Climate Matching

Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match for *Trichomycterus plumbeus* was generally low. There was an area of medium match along the Gulf Coast from Louisiana to the Florida panhandle. There are smaller areas of medium match along the Atlantic Coast from Virginia to South Carolina, and inland in the southern Appalachian range. Everywhere else had a low match and there were no areas of high match. The Climate 6 score (Sanders et al. 2018; 16 climate variables; Euclidean Distance) for the contiguous United States was 0.000, low (scores between 0.000 and 0.005, inclusive, are classified as low). All States had low individual Climate 6 scores.

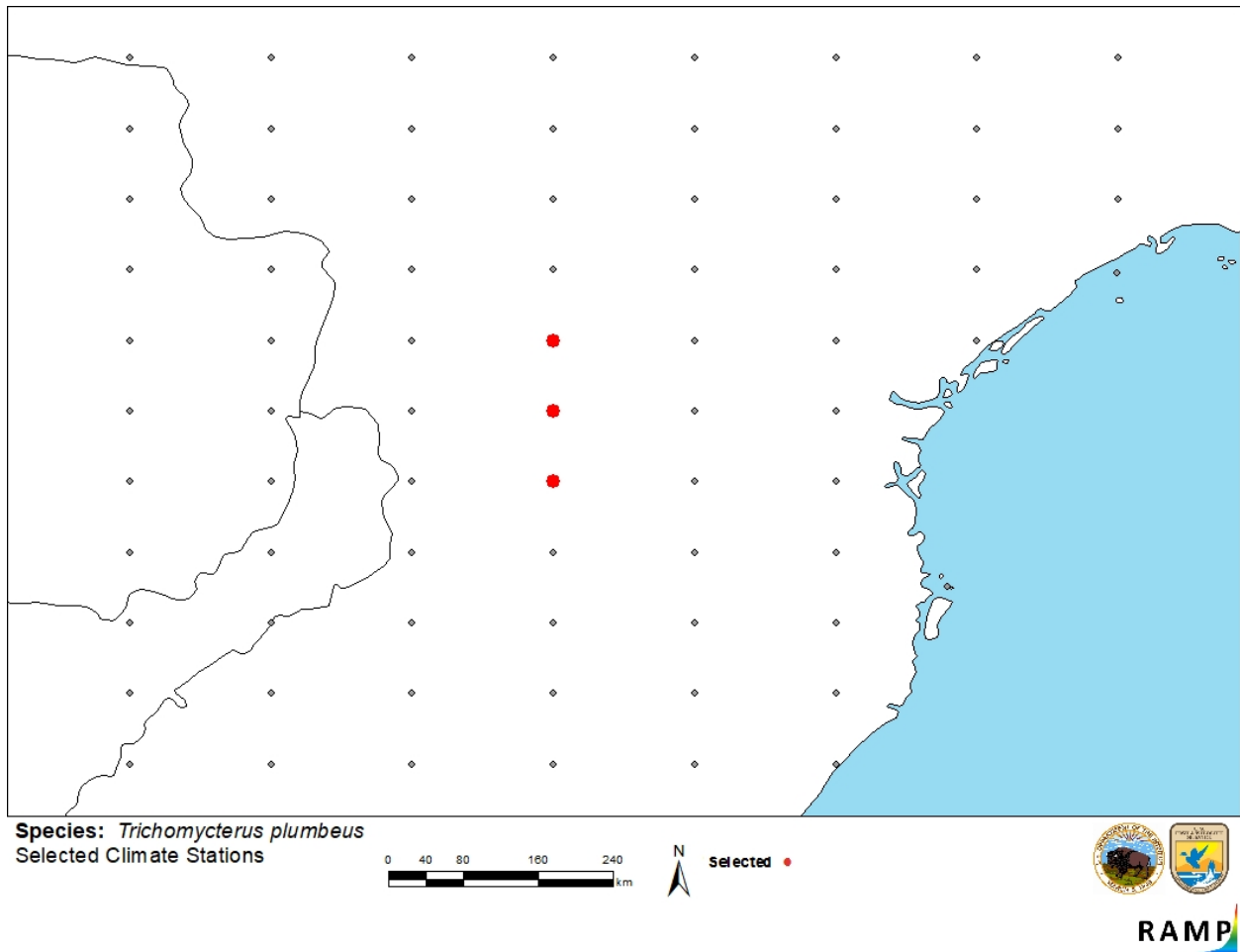


Figure 2. RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) source map showing weather stations in South America selected as source locations (red; Brazil) and non-source locations (gray) for *Trichomycterus plumbeus* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF Secretariat (2021). Selected source locations are within 100 km of one or more species occurrences, and do not necessarily represent the locations of occurrences themselves.

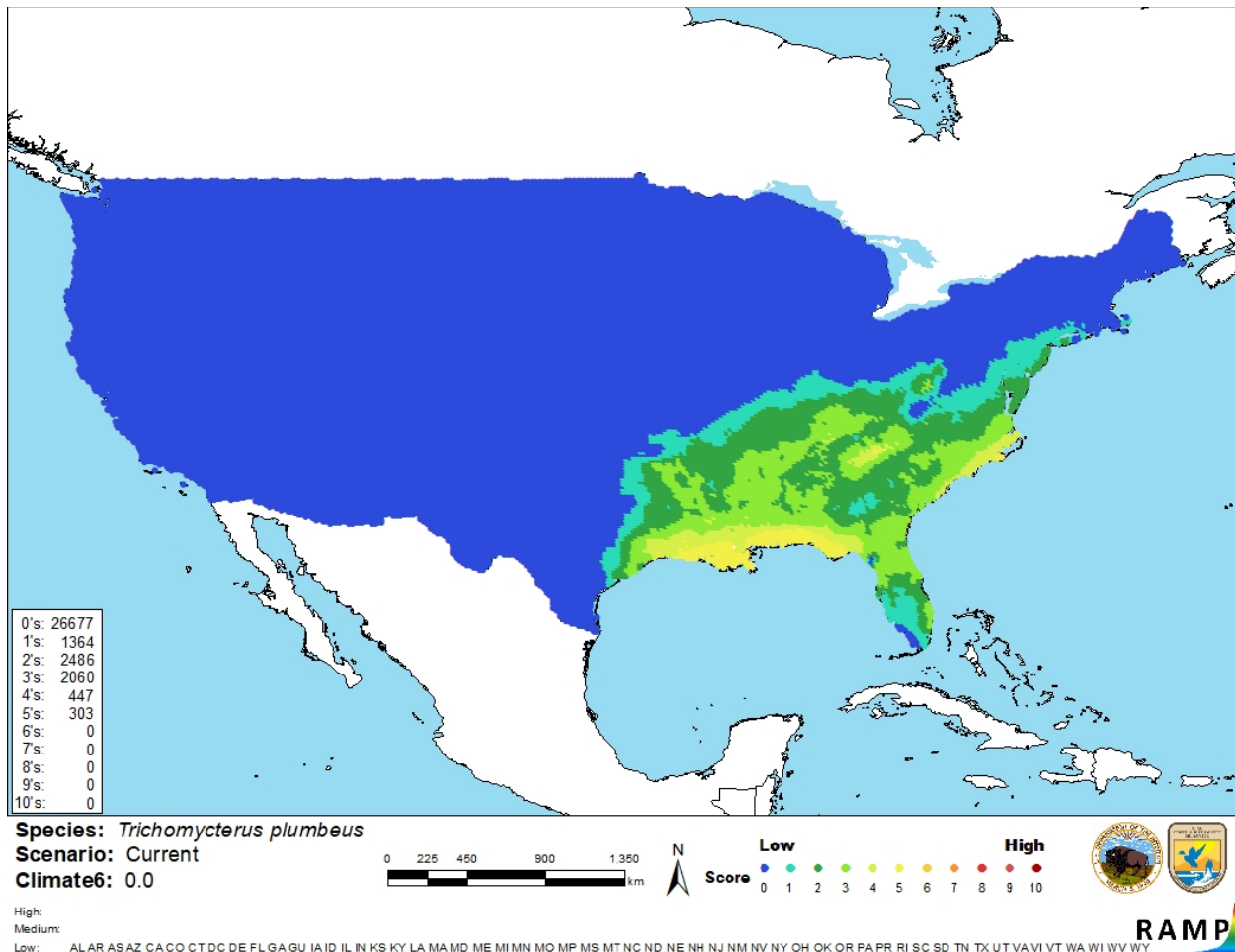


Figure 3. Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) climate matches for *Trichomycterus plumbeus* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported by GBIF Secretariat (2021). Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left. 0/Blue = Lowest match, 10/Red = Highest match.

The High, Medium, and Low Climate match Categories are based on the following table:

Climate 6: (Count of target points with climate scores 6-10)/ (Count of all target points)	Overall Climate Match Category
$0.000 \leq X \leq 0.005$	Low
$0.005 < X < 0.103$	Medium
≥ 0.103	High

8 Certainty of Assessment

There was very little information available on the species *Trichomycterus plumbeus*. *T. plumbeus* is not known to have been introduced outside of its native range, so no information was available on invasiveness. With such little information available, the certainty of this assessment is low.

9 Risk Assessment

Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

Trichomycterus plumbeus is a species of catfish that has been subject to very limited study. Its known distribution is southern Brazil. There is little information on the biology of the fish.

Trichomycterus plumbeus is regulated in multiple states. The history of invasiveness is classified as No Known Nonnative Population. There have been no reports of the species outside of its native range. The climate match to the contiguous United States is low, with areas of medium match found primarily along the Gulf and southern Atlantic coasts. The certainty of assessment is low due to lack of information. The overall risk for this species is uncertain.

Assessment Elements

- **History of Invasiveness (Sec. 3): No Known Nonnative Population**
- **Climate Match (Sec. 6): Low**
- **Certainty of Assessment (Sec. 7): Low**
- **Remarks/Important additional information: No additional remarks**
- **Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain**

10 Literature Cited

Note: The following references were accessed for this ERSS. References cited within quoted text but not accessed are included below in Section 11.

Arizona Office of the Secretary of State. 2013. Live wildlife. Arizona Administrative Code, Game and Fish Commission, Title 12, Chapter 4, Article 4.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2019. Restricted species laws and regulations manual. Available: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Regulations> (November 2020).

Eschmeyer WN, Fricke R, van der Laan R, editors. 2018. Catalog of fishes: genera, species, references. California Academy of Science. Available: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp> (June 2018).

[FFWCC] Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2021. Prohibited nonnative species list. Tallahassee: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Available: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/prohibited-species-list/> (August 2021).

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- GBIF Secretariat. 2021. GBIF backbone taxonomy: *Trichomycterus plumbeus* Wosiacki and Garavello, 2004. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Available: <http://www.gbif.org/species/2342988> (September 2021).
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- [ITIS] Integrated Taxonomic Information System. 2018. *Trichomycterus plumbeus*, Wosiacki and Garavello, 2004. Reston, Virginia: Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Available: https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=682246 (June 2018).
- Louisiana State Legislature. 2019. 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. Jackson: Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State, Regulatory and Enforcement Division.
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- Sanders S, Castiglione C, Hoff M. 2018. Risk Assessment Mapping Program: RAMP. Version 3.1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- State of Nevada. 2018. Restrictions on importation, transportation and possession of certain species. Nevada Administrative Code, Chapter 503, Section 110.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife. 2020. Invasive, prohibited and exotic species. Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife. Available: https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/exotic/prohibited_aquatic.phtml (November 2020).
- Utah Office of Administrative Rules. 2019. Classification and specific rules for fish. Utah Administrative Code, Rule R657-3-23.
- Wosiacki BW, Garavello JC. 2004. Five new species of *Trichomycterus* from the rio Iguaçu (rio Paraná Basin), southern Brazil (Siluriformes: Trichomycteridae). Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwater 15:1–16. (Abstract only).

11 Literature Cited in Quoted Material

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.

No additional references.