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REDISCOVERY OF THE HOLOTYPE OF *CHARACIDIUM SANCTJOHANNI* DAHL 1960 (CHARACIFORMES: CRENUCHIDAE) FROM THE COLOMBIAN PACIFIC SLOPE

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ABSTRACT

We report the rediscovery of the holotype of Characidium sanctjohanni Dahl, previously considered as lost in the ICN collections. We present counts, measurements and photographs, also offering a comparison between the holotype and the original description.

KEY-WORDS: San Juan River; ICZN; South America; Fish.

INTRODUCTION

Characidium sanctjohanni Dahl was described from the Río San Juan, western Colombia, based on a single specimen. Until now however, the lot containing the holotype had not been found in the ICNMHN type collection (Cala, 1981; Mojica & Castellanos, 2007, 2009; Maldonado-Ocampo, 2009), and neither had a neotype been designated for that species (Buckup, 2003), which was considered valid by Buckup (1993). In the course of a revisionary study of the species of *Characidium* from Colombia, the holotype of *Characidium sanctjohanni*, which had hitherto gone unnoticed among the non-type lots of the fish collection, was found. The discovery is reported herein, but the issue of its taxonomic status is not fully resolved. Our measurements of the specimen were taken following Buckup (1993).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characidium sanctjohanni Dahl was described in *Caldasia* 8(39): 477-480, as the only known species of the genus from the Pacific slope of Colombia. When designating the holotype the author wrote: "One specimen of 46.5 mm. skeletal length, collected at Noanamá, Río San Juan, November 3rd, 1959. This is the only specimen as yet known". The description published by Dahl (1960) presented few details on scale counts and other features of the holotype, and its sex was not stated. The specimen found in lot ICNMHN 211, identified as *Characidium sanctjohanni* should be considered as the holotype described by Dahl, in conformance with Article 72, condition 72.4.1.1, and also taking into account Recommendation 73F of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature for the follow-

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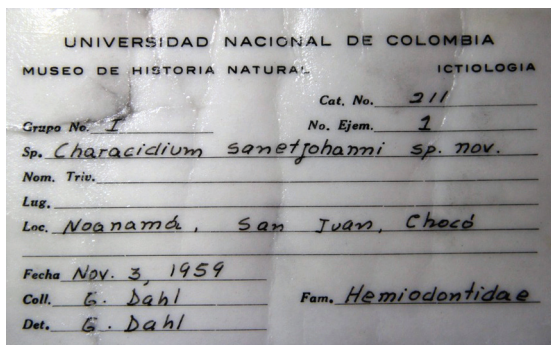


FIGURE 1: Lot label of ICNMHN 211.

ing reasons: Dahl mentioned a single specimen in the original material he used to describe this species; the data on the label found in this lot coincides with the original description (Fig. 1); measurements match in general those reported by Dahl, with some minor differences (Table 1). It is important to note that Dahl (1960) did not report measurements (*i.e.*, snout length, orbital diameter) as proportions of head length but instead gave them as percentages of Standard Length. We have recalculated these as % HL to permit better comparison but it is not the aim of this paper to present a complete redescription of this species.

Historical records indicate that the fishes collected and described by Dahl (holotypes and paratypes) in Caldasia all have low catalog numbers of just two or three digits, indicating that these were the first lots incorporated by Dahl into the fish collection of ICNMHN (Andrade-C & Lynch, 2007); as examples of this we have *Brycon medemi* Dahl (Holotype ICNMHN 41; Paratype ICNMHN 73), *Dolichancistrus atratoensis* (Dahl, 1960) (Holotype ICNMHN 51; Paratype ICNMHN 46), *Brycon tovari* Dahl (Holotype ICNMHN 110; Paratype ICNMHN 67), and *Parastremma pulcra* Dahl, (Holotype ICNMHN 204; Paratype ICNMHN 204a), all of which were collected from the Chocó biogeographic region (Cala, 1981, Mojica & Castellanos, 2007, 2009).



FIGURE 2: Photo of the Holotype of *Characidium sanctjohanni* Dahl, 1960.

TABLE 1: Some comparative morphometric measures of *Characidium sanctjohanni* from Dahl (1960) and the current measures of the lot ICNMHN 211.

Character	<i>Characidium sanctjohanni</i> Dahl 1960	
	Original description	ICNMHN 211
TL	—	50.14
SL	46.50	42.51
Head length	23.76	23.15
Pectoral Distance	20.72	22.96
Predorsal distance	45.79	47.89
Prepelvic distance	53.35	54.18
Preanal Distance	74.44	75.98
Body Depth at DO	29.16	30.98
Body Depth at AO	19.44	21.62
Caudal Peduncle Depth	12.10	15.18

Figure 2 shows the current condition of the holotype of *Characidium sanctjohanni* Dahl 1960. Life colors were provided by Dahl (1960), who indicated that this species is similar in coloration to *C. caucanum*, but photographs of live specimens are not available. In the illustration made by Octavio Bernal no vertical bars are shown (see Buckup & Reis, 1997 for color description), however, a horizontal stripe is still visible from the snout across the head.

RESUMEN

Presentamos el redescubrimiento de la especie *Characidium sanctjohanni* descrita por Dahl (1960), lote que se encontraba perdido en el ICN. Tomamos conteos, medidas y fotografías para comparar los datos del holotipo con la descripción original.

PALABRAS-CLAVES: Río San Juan, ICZN, Sur América, Pez.

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