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## TWO NEW FISHES FROM MT. DUIDA, VENEZUELA

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The specimens described below were collected by Mr. G. H. H. Tate, leader of the Tyler Duida Expedition, in two localities of the Mt. Duida neighborhood. Both streams are part of the upper Orinoco drainage: Burned Mountain Creek lying about five miles northeast of Caño Pescado, at 350 feet elevation, and Caño Pescado, about five miles north of Esmeralda, at an elevation of 325 feet.

### **TATEICHTHYS**, new genus

A genus of gymnotid fishes with frontal and parietal fontanels present, lower jaw included, head and body well compressed, teeth absent, no dorsal filament or caudal fin, no filaments in the mental region. The caudal filament is exerted and compressed, the sides of the entire body scaled, snout short and blunt and the orbital margin adnate.

### **Tateichthys duidæ**, new species

#### Figure 1

The type, No. 9599, American Museum of Natural History, was taken in Burned Mountain Creek, November 25, 1928.

Body compressed, thickest immediately behind head; highest at origin of anal. Head rather chubby. Dorsal profile of head and body outline convex, ventral profile almost straight, slanting to anal origin and horizontal back of it. Body tapers rapidly to caudal filament, becoming very narrow over the last two-sevenths of the anal and passing into a well-developed caudal filament which is compressed and ends beyond the anal at a distance of about three times the length of the head. Body completely scaled; scales flimsy, cycloid, large anteriorly, growing smaller posteriorly.

Snout blunt, lower jaw included. Premaxillary and maxillary meeting at angle, maxillary curving backward and downward, not entirely exposed, reaching below eye. Anal with about 160-175 rays (fin mutilated in this and cotypes). No teeth, mental filament, dorsal filament, or caudal fin. Orbital margin not free. Eye not covered by membrane. Lateral line complete and conspicuous.

Total length to end of caudal filament, 149 mm.; length to end of anal fin, 95 mm. Greatest depth, 21 mm.; greatest thickness, 8 mm.; length of head, 15 mm.; thickness, 8 mm.; height, 17 mm. Eye small, 2 mm. Pectoral not as long as head and reaching slightly beyond origin of anal. Interorbital, 3.8 mm. Vent slightly in advance of the margin of the preopercle. Gill rakers (in a cotype), 4, close together in the center of arch. Fontanels present.

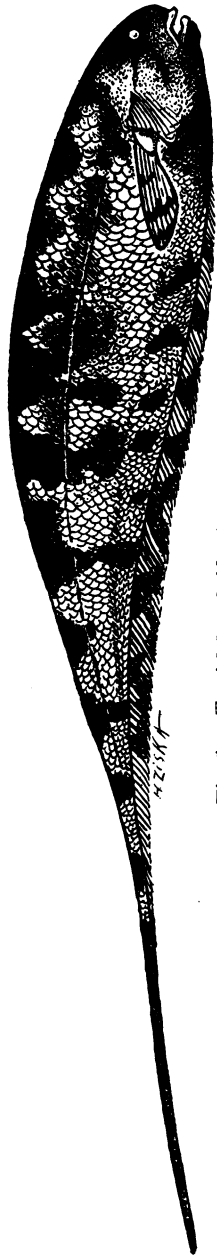


Fig. 1. *Tateichthys duvidæ*, type.

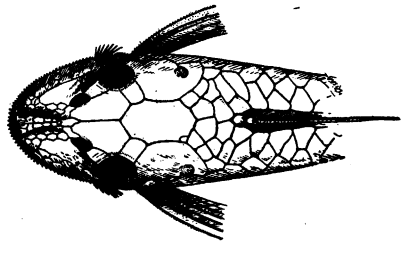


Fig. 3. *Plecostomus niveatus*, head.



Fig. 2. *Plecostomus niveatus*, type.

Color, in preservative: ground color, silvery buff. Dorsal ridge dark, saddled with unevenly triangular dark blotches, their base on ridge, straggling across lateral line. These blotches are more distinct in young. Another set of similar blotches, their base on the ventral body edge, extends upward, passing apex of descending set. A similar set on anal fin, base on the outer edge. Body covered with minute dark specks which are also present between the blotches on anal. Pectorals banded with spots. The body marking extends to the end of the caudal filament. Confused blotches and specks on head.

Comparative measurements of three specimens, 94 mm. to 103 mm. long to end of anal fin are as follows: depth in this length, 4.5-5; head in same, 6.3-6.5; eye in head, 7-7.5; interorbital, 3.9-5; thickness of head and body, 1.9-2.5.

This gymnotid is easily recognized by its blunt head, well-compressed body which tapers rather abruptly behind and is more convex above than below, and sharply and regularly blotched color pattern. The type and one cotype were taken at the above locality; another cotype and two smaller ones, evidently young of the same species, were taken in Caño Pescado, on March 9, 1929.

#### ***Plecostomus niveatus*, new species**

Figures 2 and 3

One example, No. 9601, American Museum of Natural History, collected by Mr. G. H. H. Tate, in Caño Pescado, on March 9, 1929.

Total length, 105 mm.; length to base of caudal fin (used in measurements), 82 mm.

The head length is measured from tip of snout to posterior margin of temporal plate.

Depth in length, 6.8; head in length, 2.9. Depth of head in its length, 2.8; eye in head, 5.6; interorbital in head, 2.5; mandibular ramus in interorbital (across the arc), 1.6; (one side) 2. Dorsal, I, 7; anal, I, 4. Last ray of dorsal not adnate. Adipose present. Caudal short, obliquely truncate; caudal peduncle flat below. Pectorals to first third of ventrals; ventrals to first third of anal; last ray of dorsal, when depressed, two scutes from adipose; base of dorsal equals its own distance from adipose.

Maxillary barbel very small. Premaxillaries and dentaries about equal in length. Teeth in one row in each jaw, long, very slender, bifid, thick-set. Approximately 70 in upper and 68 in lower jaw.

Slight median ridge on snout before nostrils; supraorbital distinctly raised; supraoccipital flat, six-sided, bordered posteriorly by a pair of scutes. Behind this pair, another pair and a single median scute before dorsal spine. Top and sides of body covered with spiny scutes in five keeled series; 25 in lateral series; 7 between dorsal and adipose, 12 behind anal. Ventral surface of head and abdomen naked. Second scute of next to lowest series separated from temporal plate by a small scute of the series above. Snout covered to margin with small granular plates.

Opercle and interopercle connected tightly by membrane, not independently movable. Bunch of spines on interopercle, the longest not quite as long as diameter of eye; bristles on opercle and on sides of head and snout.

Color, in preservative, medium brown with conspicuous light spots everywhere except under surface of caudal peduncle which is plain buff. These spots smaller and more numerous on head. The naked ventral surface is darker but shows spotting.