

Threatened fishes of the world: *Batrochoglanis mathisoni* Fernández-Yépez 1972 (Siluriformes: Pseudopimelodidae)

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Common names: Bagre manchado, sapo (VEN), giant bumblebee catfish (US). *Conservation status:* Not protected (Rodríguez and Rojas-Suárez 1999; IUCN 2007). *Identification:* D I, ii (6)7; A 8; P I, ii 6. Reaches 160 mm SL. Head depressed, large, wider than long, mouth wide, eyes small. Body short, robust, caudal peduncle compressed. Body black or dark brown with light band from dorsal fin onto pectoral fins and scattered irregular black spots, ventrum light. All fin margins whitish. Caudal fin



cream with diffuse, black subterminal band. Maxillary barbels dark, mental barbels whitish. Juveniles have more obvious white spots. Originally described as *Zungaro mathisoni* (Fernández-Yépez 1972). All types lost. Listed as “species inquerenda” by Shibatta (2003), requires new description. *Distribution:* Aroa, Yaracuy and Tocuyo drainages, Venezuela (Rodríguez-Olarte et al. 2006b; 2007). *Abundance:* Extremely low; only four specimens found during five years of sampling (day and night) using electrofishing, hook and line, nets and traps). *Habitat and ecology:* Known from clearwater piedmont and lowland streams of moderate flow over rocks, near submerged structure (pH 6.4–7.6; conductivity 120–470 $\mu\text{S}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$). Benthic, nocturnal. Probably carnivorous. *Reproduction:* Unknown. One female ripe just before rainy season (April–May), which is when most species spawn. *Threats:* Affected by deforestation, agriculture and urban development; which are intense and have notably affected the regional ichthyofauna; this species

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has not been recorded from heavily impacted areas (Rodríguez-Olarte et al. 2006a). *Conservation action*: Existing protected areas are only in highlands, leaving mid and lower reaches, where this species occurs, unprotected. *Conservation recommendations*: Streams still in relatively good condition have been proposed as conservation areas. (Rodríguez-Olarte et al. 2007). A population monitoring program is urgently needed to assess conservation status. Captive propagation could protect this species until new protected areas are created.

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