

Taxonomic status of *Imparfinis borodini* Mees & Cala, 1989 (Siluriformes: Heptapteridae)

Maridiesse Morais Lopes, Marcia da Silva Anjos, Paulo Roberto Antunes de Mello Affonso, Luisa Maria Sarmiento Soares

(MML, LMSS) Instituto Nacional da Mata Atlântica Santa Teresa, ES, Brasil.
Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Vitória, ES, Brasil.
maridiesse@hotmail.com, luisa@nossosriachos.net.

(MSA) Universidade Federal da Bahia, Salvador, BA, Brasil. anjo.ms@hotmail.com.

(PRAMA) Universidade Estadual do Sudoeste da Bahia, Jequié, BA, Brasil.
paulomelloaffonso@yahoo.com.br

The Neotropical genus *Imparfinis* Eigenmann & Norris, 1900 was erected based solely on *I. piperatus*. In 1974, the genus *Imparfinis* was re-evaluated by Mees, and rearranged into 13 species. Nowadays, *Imparfinis* corresponds to the largest assemblage in *Nemuroglanis* clade, with 21 valid species of controversial taxonomy because of weak diagnostic features. The inclusion of *Imparfinis borodini* is one of the unsolved problems in the genus. Mees and Cala proposed the name *I. borodini* in face of a homonymy case, in substitution of *I. longicauda* Borodin, 1927, preoccupied by its senior homonym *I. longicauda* Boulenger, 1887. The inclusion of *I. borodini* Mees & Cala, 1989 in *Imparfinis* was based on the orbital margin free, although the authors consider this species as quite different from congeners. An attempt to provide a phylogenetic diagnosis in *Imparfinis* was carried out by Bockmann by combining four apomorphic features, and within the apomorphic features pointed out in that study only the caudal processes of last vertebrae is shared with *I. borodini*. Nonetheless, *Imparfinis* is still considered a poorly diagnosed genus, with generic recognition based on an array of osteological features, and by the presence of a dark band along lateral line. Morphological examination of *Imparfinis borodini* specimens from the São Francisco River (Ondas River) and coastal basins (Contas River) in Bahia, Northeastern Brazil, suggests that this species does not fit on *Imparfinis* generic diagnosis sensu Bockmann, as evidenced by comparisons with *I. piperatus*, type species of *Imparfinis* as: plain mesial surface of ascendent portion of Meckel's cartilage in suspensorium (*vs.* extremely concave in *I. piperatus*); the posterior margin of the first epibranchial segment with no process covering epibranchial 2 on brachial arch (*vs.* process present); absence of dark stripe along lateral line (*vs.* presence); and long adipose fin representing 28.13% in relation to standard length, SL (*vs.* comparatively short adipose fin, 20.9-21.6% in SL). The uncertainties regarding *I. borodini* generic assignment are more evident when comparing its dorsal positioned eyes (*vs.* lateral eyes in all *Imparfinis*); falcate caudal fin (*vs.* bifurcated); and variable adipose fin, separated or almost contiguous to caudal fin (*vs.* separated from caudal). Although well distributed throughout the Neotropical region, little is known about the phylogenetic and systematic position of this catfish group. The monophyly of *Imparfinis* was tested, revealing issues in the current systematic arrangement of this genus that might hinder proper inferences about species interrelationships.

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