

Trichomycterus meridae (a catfish, no common name)

Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, January 2017

Revised, May 2018

Web Version, 10/12/2021

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 (2017):

“South America: Albirregas River basin in Venezuela.”

Status in the United States

T. meridae 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 *Trichomycterus meridae* as a prohibited species. Prohibited nonnative species (FFWCC 2017), "are considered to be dangerous to the ecology and/or the health and welfare of the people of Florida. These species are not allowed to be personally possessed or used for commercial activities.

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

T. meridae 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 meridae* Regan 1903 is the current valid name for this species and is the original name for this species.

From ITIS (2017):

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 meridae* Regan, 1903

Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“Max length : 9.9 cm male/unsexed; [de Pinna and Wosiacki 2003]”

Environment

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“Freshwater; benthopelagic.”

Climate

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“Tropical”

Distribution Outside the United States

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“South America: Albirregas River basin in Venezuela.”

Introduced

This species has not been reported as introduced outside of its native range.

Means of Introduction Outside the United States

This species has not been reported as introduced outside of its native range.

Short Description

No information available.

Biology

From Baskin et al. (1980):

“*T. meridae* feed only on benthic insects”

Human Uses

No information available.

Diseases

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

Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“Harmless”

3 Impacts of Introductions

This species has not been reported as introduced outside of its native range, so impacts of introductions are unknown.

Trichomycterus meridae is regulated in multiple States.

4 History of Invasiveness

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

5 Global Distribution



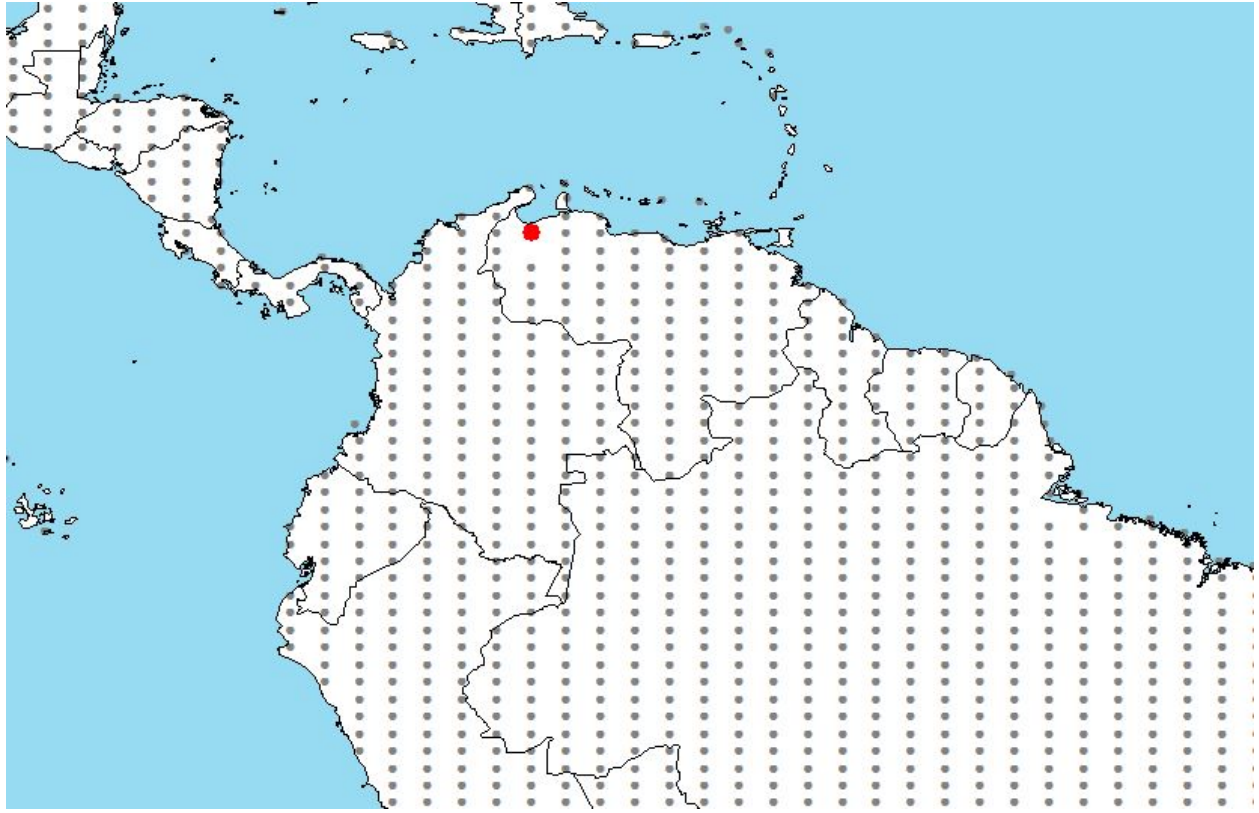
6 Distribution Within the United States

This species has not been reported within the United States.

7 Climate Matching

Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The majority of the contiguous United States had a low climate match. Medium climate match occurred in peninsular Florida and southern Texas. There were no areas of high match. The overall Climate 6 score (Sanders et al. 2014; 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.



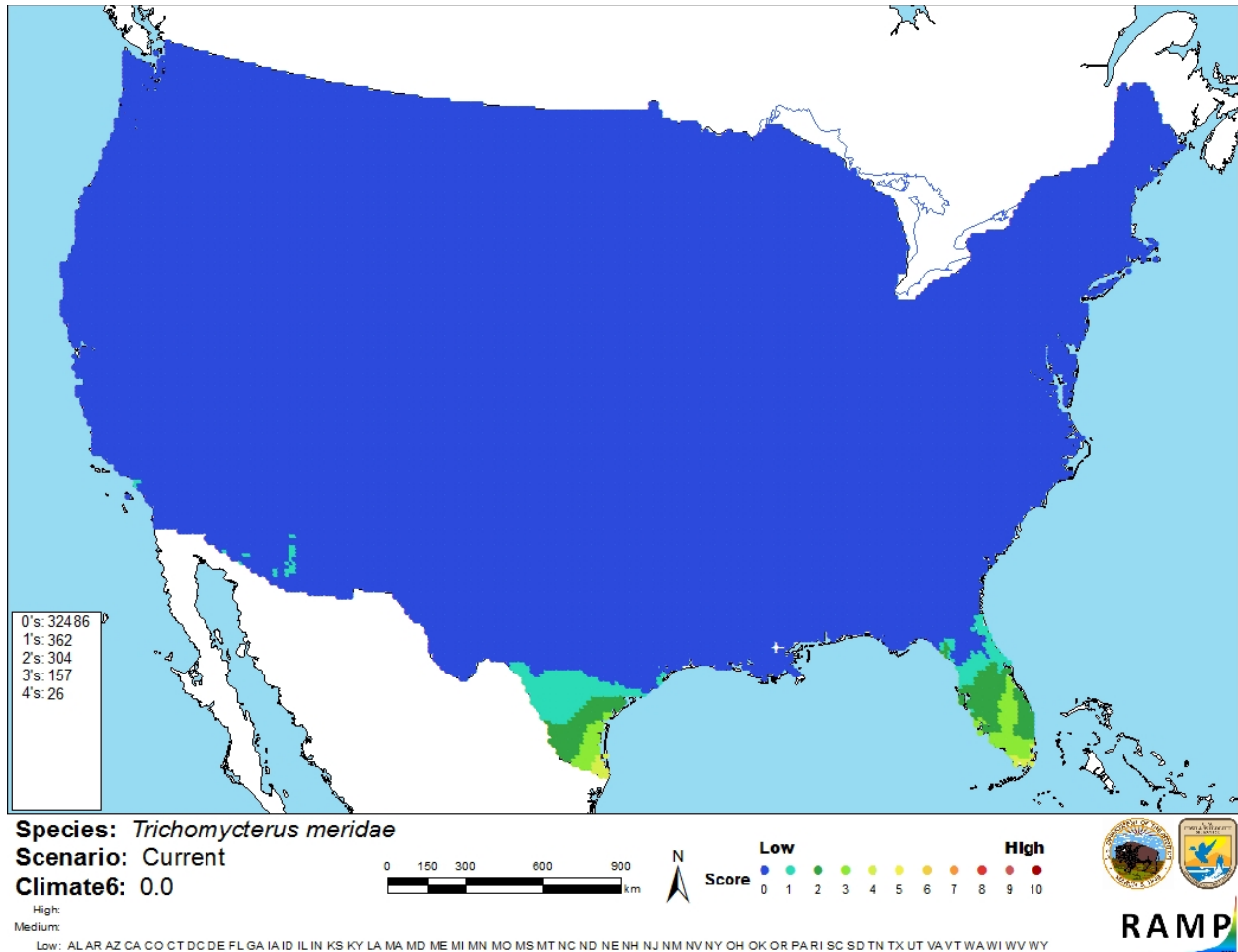


Figure 3. Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) climate matches for *Trichomycterus meridae* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported by GBIF Secretariat (2018). Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left. 0/Blue = Lowest match, 10/Red = Highest match.

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 limited information available on the species *Trichomycterus meridae*. This species has not been reported outside of its native range so impacts of introduction are unknown. With such little information known on this species the certainty of this assessment is low.

9 Risk Assessment

Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

Trichomycterus meridae is a South American, trichomycterid catfish found in the Albirregas River basin in Venezuela. *T. meridae* feeds on benthic insects. There were no records of this species in trade or other human uses. *T. meridae* is regulated by multiple States. There have been no reports of this fish outside of its native range. The history of invasiveness is classified as No Known Nonnative Population. The overall climate match was Low. There were areas of medium match in peninsular Florida and southern Texas and no areas of high match. The certainty of assessment is Low due to a general lack of information. The overall risk for this species is Uncertain.

Assessment Elements

- **History of Invasiveness (Sec. 4): No Known Nonnative Population**
- **Overall Climate Match (Sec. 7): Low**
- **Certainty of Assessment (Sec. 8): 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.

Baskin JN, Zaret TM, Mago-Leccia F. 1980. Feeding of reportedly parasitic catfishes (Trichomycteridae and Cetopsidae) in the Rio Portuguesa Basin, Venezuela. *Biotropica* 12:182–186.

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> (May 2018).

[FFWCC] Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 2017. Prohibited species list. Tallahassee: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Available: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/regulations/prohibited/#nogo> (January 2017).

- Froese R, Pauly D, editors. 2017. *Trichomycterus meridae* Regan, 1903. FishBase. Available: <http://www.fishbase.org/summary/Trichomycterus-meridae.html> (January 2017).
- GBIF Secretariat. 2018. GBIF backbone taxonomy: *Trichomycterus meridae* Regan, 1903. Copenhagen: Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Available: <http://www.gbif.org/species/2343099> (May 2018).
- Georgia [DNR] Department of Natural Resources. 2020. Wild animals/exotics. Social Circle: Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division. Available: <http://gadnrle.org/exotics> (November 2020).
- [ITIS] Integrated Taxonomic Information System. 2018. *Trichomycterus meridae* Regan, 1903. Reston, Virginia: Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Available: https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=682232#null (May 2018).
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- 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.
- [OIE] World Organisation for Animal Health. 2021. Animal diseases. Available: <https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-diseases/> (September 2021).
- Oklahoma Secretary of State. 2019. List of restricted exotic species. Oklahoma Administrative Code, Title 800, Chapter 20-1-2.
- Sanders S, Castiglione C, Hoff M. 2014. Risk Assessment Mapping Program: RAMP. Version 2.81. 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.

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.

de Pinna MCC, Wosiacki W. 2003. Trichomycteridae (pencil or parasitic catfishes). Pages 270–290 in Reis RE, Kullander SO, Ferraris CJ Jr, editors. Checklist of the freshwater fishes of South and Central America. Porto Alegre, Brazil: EDIPUCRS.

Regan CT. 1903. Descriptions of new South-American fishes in the collection of the British Museum. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* 12:621–630.