

## REVIEW OF THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FISH FAUNA OF THE XINGU RIVER BASIN, BRAZIL

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**Abstract.** This study is a comprehensive review of fish fauna data for the Xingu River system. Information was compiled from seven field surveys (conducted between 2001 and 2002), bibliographic references, and museum collection records. To provide data on the spatial distribution of fish species, the river basin was divided into six areas according to geographical and hydrological characteristics. Fish species from 14 orders and 47 families were recorded; the most diverse orders were Characiformes (210 species), Siluriformes (146 species), Perciformes (62 species) and Gymnotiformes (20 species). Of the 467 species identified, 69 were common to the whole river basin. Based on these results, two priority conservation areas were identified: 1) headwater rivers, which are characterized by a diverse range of small characid and cichlid species and intense anthropogenic disturbance, and 2) middle section of the Xingu, from its confluence with the Iriri River to its downstream waterfalls near Belomite village. This region is characterized by a high diversity of Cichlidae, particularly *Teleocichla*, Anostomidae and Loricariidae families. Conserving these areas will help to maintain hydrological connectivity of the Xingu River system. *Accepted 17 October 2004.*

**Key words:** Amazonian biogeography, fish diversity, Xingu River.

### INTRODUCTION

Of all Brazil's regions, the Amazonian biome has suffered most from political turmoil. While numerous projects promoted economic development and land use, parallel measures were taken to protect the biodiversity of Amazonian fauna and flora (Capobianco *et al.* 2001). However, these activities were hampered by a shortage of concise data indicating key areas of ecological value, such as regions of hydrological connectivity, and a deficiency of pertinent criteria and recommendations to define suitable areas for regional development.

The Xingu River basin is a classic example of “unplanned development”. Incentives initiated by the state government in the 1970s and 1980s led to uncontrolled land use, road construction, and the establishment of various hydroelectric projects (Kohlhepp 2001). However, the presence of indigenous communities inhabiting the banks of the Xingu (Vieira & Andrade 1989), together with protests by ecological organizations, succeeded in minimizing the extent of some of these activities in favor of natural landscape protection.

Along its 1800 kilometers, the Xingu River basin drains different geochronological units (RADAM-Brasil 1978). In contrast to Andean Amazon tributaries, the Xingu River is characterized by stable processes of erosion and sedimentation (Sioli 1984). A series of geological events occurred from the upper to the lower Xingu estuary, which led to the formation of numerous waterfalls and rapids. These landscape features favored biodiversity and greatly influenced the distribution patterns of aquatic fauna. It is estimated that close to 600 species of fish inhabit the Xingu basin, most of them frugivores and rheophiles (Camargo *et al.* 2002, Isaac *et al.* 2002).

The results of various surveys conducted along the Xingu River and its tributaries have already been published (Lowe-McConnell 1991, Bergleiter 1999, Zuanon 1999, Camargo *et al.* 2002, Isaac *et al.* 2002). However, to properly understand the ecological value of the river basin and its fish fauna for regional biodiversity, a synthesis of available data and discussion of fish species distribution throughout the river basin is necessary. This information will enable the definition of conservation priorities, and highlight knowledge gaps so that future research may be conducted in unexplored areas. In addition, it will provide data to test the hypothesis of a biogeographical relation-

ship between the Guianas and the Central Brazilian Shield (Géry 1969, Amorim & Pires 1996). This study therefore, compiles all available data on the fish species of the Xingu River and its major tributaries, giving special emphasis to the spatial distribution of different taxa, to help establish conservation priorities.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

**Data collection.** Data on the fish fauna of Xingu River, including fish identification and location, were based on: 1) results of seven field surveys conducted between October 2001 and June 2002 in the middle and lower sections of the Xingu River; 2) a bibliographic review of taxonomic descriptions and species listings, and 3) records from collections of national and international museums, available in NEODAT II (2002) and FishBase (Froese & Pauly 2003) databases. Rainy season sampling took place in December, February and May, while the dry season collections occurred during July, August, October and November. Eleven locations, along a 189 kilometer stretch between the confluences of the Xingu and Iriri Rivers, and the town of Senador José Porfírio, were sampled bimonthly. Over 24 hours, 116 fishing procedures were completed; gillnets of eight different mesh sizes, 54 m in length and 2.5 m in height were used. Additionally, field sampling with cast nets and hand nets were conducted in two tributaries of the Iriri River during a “rapid assessment program” (RAP) carried out in the dry season of 2002. Taxonomic fish identification was made using various keys, such as Géry (1979), Vari (1989a, b, c; 1991; 1992a, b; 1995), Ploeg (1991), Planquette *et al.* (1996) and Le Bail *et al.* (2000). A list with fish species scientific names and geographical coordinates was produced.

Based on 1) geomorphologic features, 2) hydrological characteristics, and 3) the forest classification of “International Conservation of Brazil” along the Xingu River basin, the basin was subdivided into six areas (fig. 1):

- 1) Xingu headwaters: A geomorphological unit of fluvial plain deposition, with a pioneer phytosociological unit. Waters in this area are usually clear, as vegetation cover supplies relatively few organic compounds.
- 2) Iriri River microbasin: This area drains a denuded pediplain and zones of dissected structures, with a continual ombrophilous open forest. This is an area of distinct geographical heterogeneity, generated mainly by the waterfalls of the Curuá and

Iriri Rivers, which also act as natural barriers for many aquatic organisms.

- 3) Upstream Xingu: This drains geomorphologically different areas, such as the denuded pediplain and zones of dissected structures, before joining the Iriri River. The vegetation cover is relatively heterogeneous and characterized mainly by small patches of seasonal savannas dispersed in larger areas of ombrophilous dense and open forest.
- 4) Middle Xingu: This extends from the Xingu-Iriri confluence to the Belomonte waterfalls, an area with a rather uniform profile characterized by a geomorphologically dissected unit, occasionally interrupted by strongly dissected units and uniformly covered by ombrophilous open forests. Currently suffering from strong anthropogenic disturbance. Numerous rapids and waterfalls are responsible for a high water flow and well-oxygenated waters.
- 5) Bacajá River microbasin: An area of dissection that sustains a dense ombrophilous forest. Its “U-shaped” well-defined watershed drains water from a large rocky area that is characterized by high particle levels, in contrast to Xingu River water.
- 6) Lower Xingu: Downstream of the Belomonte falls to the mouth of the Xingu, is included in the geomorphological unit of the alluvial Amazon plain, which acts as a border between two dissection units. Ombrophilous open forest predominates in the whole area, joining up with the pioneer herbaceous communities near the mouth of the Xingu. Here the river is wider and the effects of the Amazon waters are pronounced.

## RESULTS

**Fish fauna diversity.** In the Xingu River basin 467 fish species, belonging to 14 orders and 47 families, were identified (Appendix 1). The most diverse orders were: Characiformes (210 species), Siluriformes (146 species), Perciformes (62 species) and Gimnotiformes (20 species). Other groups with a notably high biodiversity were the Clupeiformes (10 species) and Rajiformes (6 species). The richer families, in terms of species number, were: Characidae (118 species), Cichlidae (57 species), Loricariidae (55 species), Anostomidae (33 species), Pimelodidae (21 species), Curimatidae (18 species), Doradidae (17 species), Auchenipteridae (16 species) and Hemiodontidae and Heptapteridae (12 species each).

Of all of these, small rheophilous fish were the most common. The replacement of those species with

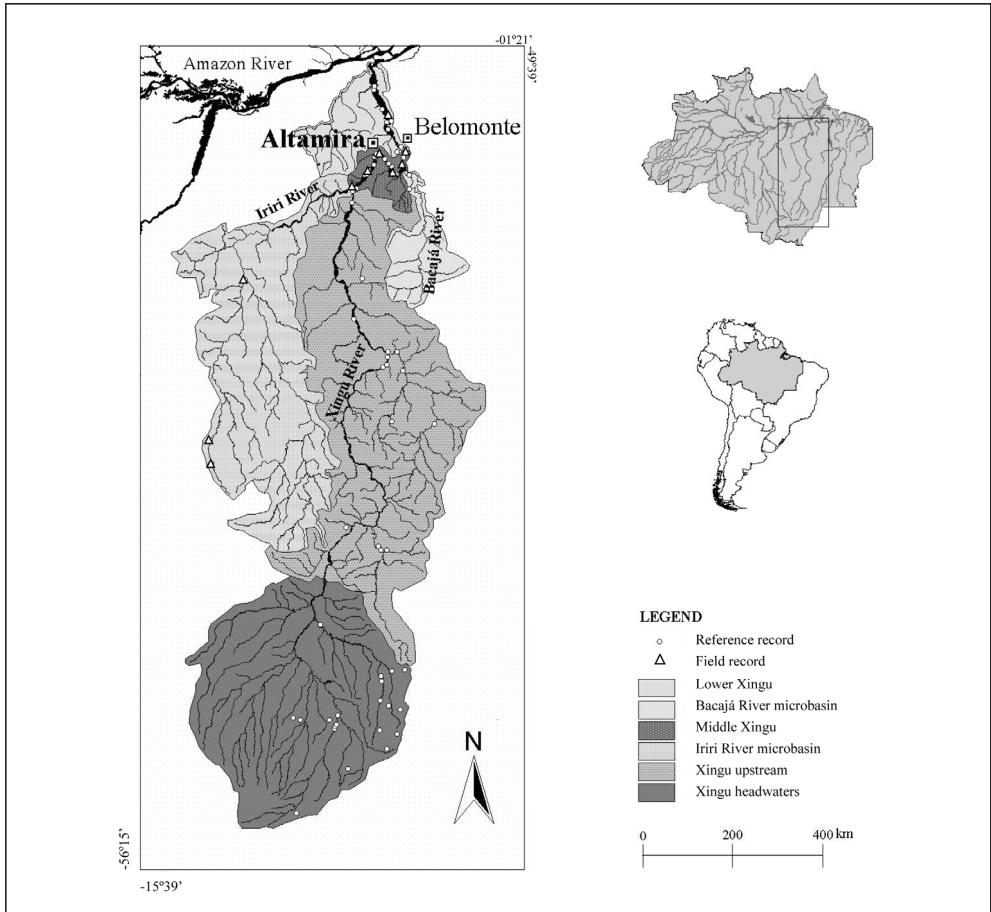


FIG. 1. Hydrographic areas of the Xingu River basin.

opportunistic and allochthonous feeding habits (common in the headwaters), by species which feed on autochthonous food sources, such as bottom feeders, perilithon suckers, and grazers of the seasonal floodplain, was recorded.

*Regional fish fauna similarities.* Although fish records for the Xingu depend on fishing equipment, fishing effort, seasonality and the heterogeneity of habitats, factors that reduce the reliability of data on the geographic distribution of organisms, it is still possible, based on taxonomic stability and known natural history of the fish, to understand the differing geographical distribution patterns of the hydrographic areas defined. Taxa widely dispersed along the Xingu

River usually include organisms with high ontogenetic plasticity, capable of dealing with sudden environmental change. This group of fish includes the pacus – Serrasalmidae *Myleus rubripinnis*, *M. schomburgkii*, *M. torquatus*; piranhas – *Serrasalmus humeralis*, *S. rhombeus*, *S. serrulatus*; the trairas and jejús – Erythrinidae *Hoplosternum unitaeniatus*, *Hoplias malabaricus* and *H. macrostomus*, and the cachorras – Characidae *Hydrolicus tatauaia* and *Rhaphiodon vulpinus*.

Headwaters were characterized by a relatively large number of endemic species of small size, such as Doradidae *Rhynchodoras xingui*; Characidae *Macropodus xinguensis*, *Hypessobrycon mutabilis* and *H. lowae*, other Characiformes like *Astyianax saltator*, *A.*

*scintillans*, *A. symmetricus*, *Myleus arnoldi*, *Exodon paradoxus* and *Hemigrammus* cf. *iota*, *H. cf. levis*, *H. cf. marginatus*, *H. cf. tridens*, *H. rodwayi* and *Hyphessobrycon agulha*, *H. macrolepis*, *H. pulchripinnis*, and a number of *Moenkhausia* such as *M. cotinho* and *M. gracilima*. Fish fauna similarity between the river headwaters and the upstream Xingu was mainly attributed to the wide geographical distribution of some Cichlids, such as *Aristogramma commbrae* and *Mesonauta acora*.

Similarities observed between the middle Xingu and lower Xingu sections are indicated by the fish fauna that inhabits the main river channel of deeper or shallow waters, and greater spatial heterogeneity. These living environments sheltered large predators such as *Phractocephalus hemimaculatus*, *Zungaro zunaro* and *Brachyplatystoma filamentosum*, and fish inhabitants of stagnant and shallow waters such as *Hemiodus unimaculatus* and *Bivibranchia foulisi*. However, it has to be noted that some fish, such as *Teleocichla gephyrogramma*, *Anostomus ternetzi* and *Pseudanos trimaculatus*, inhabit areas of rapids.

The middle Xingu includes endemic species of Gymnotiformes, including *Magadontognathus kaitunaensis*, *Porotergus* sp., *Sternarchogiton* sp., *Sternarchorhynchus curvirostris*, *Brachyhypopomus beebei*, and Characiformes such as *Roeboexodon geryi*, *Bryconops giacopinii*, and two *Creagrutus* species.

The current geographical distribution of endemic species that are rare in terms of population abundance, and so have a restricted distribution area, showed a taxa continuum from the headwaters to the waterfalls, upstream of Belomite village, before the Xingu is influenced by the Amazon waters. These fish assemblages include organisms typical of small and shallow waters with slow currents, such as Callichthyidae – *Corydoras xinguensis*, Characidae – *Moenkhausia xinguensis*, Cichlidae – *Crenicichla rosaemariae*, *C. vittata* and *Hypseleotris temporalis*, Sternopygidae – *Sternopygus xingu*, and Aspredinidae – *Bunocephalus coracoideus* and *B. knerii*.

## DISCUSSION

The creation of interactive databases such as FishBase (Froese & Pauly 2003) and NEODAT II (2002) facilitates access to Neotropical fish systematics and geographical distribution. Unfortunately, the quantity of information available is still limited, as various scientific publications and museum records have yet to be incorporated into these databases. We believe

that by updating records in the museum collections consulted, to include recent systematic revisions and descriptions of new species, it would be possible to bring knowledge on both distribution areas and taxonomic stability of various species up to date.

A greater understanding of the taxonomic stability and natural history of fish species is fundamental to understanding geographical distribution patterns and similarities within the ichthyofauna in the geographical areas defined. The wide distribution of fish groups within the Xingu system, also largely distributed in the Amazonian basin, the Guianas systems, the Orinoco basin, and the São Francisco and Paraná basins, usually includes fish taxa with a high degree of adaptability, capable of inhabiting a range of different habitats.

Species widely distributed in the Xingu system and neighboring basins reveal long dispersal processes that must have begun before the formation of the current hydrographic basins. The upper Xingu, where small streams characterized by strong water column seasonal variations predominate, is inhabited by small characids and cichlids (Lowe-McConnell 1991). The high diversity of these small endemic fish species, widely dispersed between the Xingu River and other neighboring rivers like Tapajós and Araguaia, and in the Guianas systems, indicates radiation and diversification processes. These processes occurred before the geological formation of the current basins, from the early Cretaceous (120 mya) up to vicariant processes during the middle Miocene (11 mya), confirming a high biogeographical affinity between the Guianas and the Central Brazilian Shield (Géry 1969, Amorim & Pires 1996).

Typical examples of these dispersal and vicariant processes are shown in the actual distribution of fish species with taxonomic stability. For instance, fish dispersal from the headwaters is reported in callichthids, such as *Corydoras*, differentiated at the end of the Paleocene (43 mya) (Reis 1998). The fact that these fish are better adapted to small streams indicates a headwater differentiation and a subsequent downstream dispersal process. Another example is given by the genus *Teleocichla*, which shows a high diversity (nine species) upstream of the Belomite falls. Current distribution patterns of this genus indicate a dispersal process from the Tocantins River towards the neighboring systems like the Xingu and the Guianas that occurred during the Miocene (Ploeg 1991).

The great diversification of Loricariidae in the rapids is indicated by the overlap of niches of sub-

families such as Hypostominae, Ancistrinae and Loricariinae (Montoya-Burgos *et al.* 1998). This overlap indicates that a differentiation at the family level occurred before the actual Amazonian basin drainage genesis, and that subsequent vicariance processes by rivers like the Xingu isolated present-day endemic species such as *Hypancistrus zebra*, and another congeneric taxon, and *Glyptoperichthys xinguensis*.

Distribution patterns of fish groups confirm the hypothesis of biogeographical affinities between the Guianas and the East Amazon drainage systems, indicated also by some amphibians and lizards (Ron 2000), and birds (Prum 1988), with distribution patterns in the Guianas, Orinoco, and upper Tapajós, Xingu and Tocantins Rivers. Current knowledge on the biodiversity of the Xingu River fish fauna shows that more efforts should be deployed to provide data on the estimated 600 species (Camargo *et al.* 2002) that have not yet been properly studied. We have a detailed knowledge of the main channel fish fauna, but studies in small Xingu tributaries are rare. Questions such as why the genus *Parodon*, recorded in the Tapajós and Tocantins Rivers is absent from the Xingu, have yet to be elucidated. Similarly, the absence of *Creagrus* in previous phylogenetic analyses (Vari & Harold 2001) demonstrates gaps in the knowledge of the Xingu River ichthyofauna.

We conclude that the present geographical distribution of the fish fauna is a response to the various geological and environmental processes that led to the formation of the Xingu system. We expected a general diversification of fish fauna from the headwaters, which probably took place before the actual drainage of the Xingu basin, and subsequent processes of successive dispersal along the river. Recent groups probably dispersed after the formation of the Amazonian drainage system.

Despite great collection efforts in some areas of the Xingu basin, little is known about the fish fauna of small tributaries, which are surely important contributors to the expected diversity. In order to fill this gap, a research priority should be the careful study of all small streams. More surveys should be made of the headwaters of the Xingu River, where degradation due to anthropogenic activity is high around protected indigenous Xingu reserves, and similarly in the middle Xingu region, where the negative effects of anthropogenic activity are high. A final point is that even along the Xingu River large areas of natural landscape are found where it is not possible to ascertain whether or not aquatic resources have been altered. Events of a-

quatic defaunation, as a consequence of uncontrolled human activities such as fishing and gold washing, are often imperceptible.

According to the hydrological connectivity theory (Pringle 2001), when aiming to secure a longitudinal natural process, such as the linkage between the headwaters and the lower Xingu, it appears to be of prime importance to make the headwaters area a priority area for conservation, based on the relatively numerous anthropogenic disturbances occurring in that area. Another priority area for conservation would be the large river bend (cotubelo) downstream of the town of Altamira, as present fish records from this area show a relatively high percentage of endemic species.

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Appendix I. Fish species of the Xingu River basin.

Order / Family Species	Iriti River micro- basin	Xingu head- waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Bacajá River	Lower Xingu	Xingu River	Main reference
<b>Batrachoidiformes / Batrachoididae</b>								
<i>Thelodusopryne amazonica</i> Steindachner, 1876								Collette 2003
Belontiformes / Belontiidae								
<i>Potamorhaphis guianensis</i> (Jardine, 1843)	X		X					INPA4199
<i>Pseudoryasurus angusticeps</i> (Günther, 1866)								Lovejoy & Collette 2003
<i>Pseudoryasurus micros</i> (Günther, 1866)								This study
Carcharhiniformes / Carcharhinidae								
<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i> (Muller & Henle, 1839)	X	X	X	X				Bergleiter 1999
Characiformes / Acestrorhynchidae								Lowe-McConnell 1991 /
<i>Acestrorhynchus falcirostris</i> (Bloch, 1794)								Bergleiter 1999 /
<i>Acestrorhynchus falcirostris</i> (Cuvier, 1819)		X		X		X		This study
								Lowe-McConnell 1991 /
<i>Acestrorhynchus lacustris</i> (Lütken, 1875)		X	X	X				Bergleiter 1999 /
<i>Acestrorhynchus microlepis</i> (Schomburgk, 1841)	X							This study
Anostomidae								Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Anostomoides laticeps</i> (Eigenmann, 1912)								Toledo-Piza & Meneses
<i>Anostomus intermedius</i> Winterbottom, 1980	X							1996 / INPA4182
<i>Anostomus</i> sp.								
<i>Anostomus teretizi</i> Fernández-Yépez, 1949	X							
<i>Anostomus trimaculatus</i> (Kner, 1858)								This study
<i>Laemophyla garnmani</i> (Borodin, 1931)								Winterbottom 1980 /
<i>Laemophyla petite</i> Géry, 1964								
<i>Laemophyla proxima</i> (Garman, 1890)								
<i>Laemophyla taeniata</i> (Kner, 1859)	X							
<i>Laemophyla varia</i> (Garman, 1890)								Géry 1977 /
<i>Leporellus vittatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1850)								Zuanon 1999
<i>Leporinus affinis</i> Günther, 1864								INPA4194
<i>Leporinus brunneus</i> Myers, 1950								Géry 1977
								This study
								This study
								This study
								This study
								This study
								Garavello & Britski 2003
								INPA3975
								Garavello 1979
								This study / Zuanon 1999

## Continued Appendix

Order / Family Species	Irití River micro- basin	Xingu head- waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Bacajá River microbasin	Lower Xingu	Xingu River	Main reference
<i>Leporinus cylindroformis</i> Borodin, 1929						X		MCZ 20430 / Garavello & Britski 2003
<i>Leporinus desmotes</i> Fowler, 1914	X	X		X		X	X	This study
<i>Leporinus elongatus</i> Valenciennes, 1849	X	X	X			X	X	Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Leporinus fasciatus</i> (Bloch, 1794)		X		X		X	X	Garavello 1979
<i>Leporinus friderici</i> (Bloch, 1794)				X		X	X	INPA4150
<i>Leporinus granii</i> Eigenmann, 1912				X		X	X	INPA4211
<i>Leporinus julii</i> Santos, Jégu & Lima, 1996				X		X	X	INPA4042
<i>Leporinus maculatus</i> Müller & Troschel, 1844				X		X	X	INPA10987
<i>Leporinus megalopterus</i> Gunther, 1863				X		X	X	INPA3976
<i>Leporinus paranae</i> Eigenmann, 1908				X		X	X	Zuanon 1999
<i>Leporinus pellegrini</i> Steindachner, 1910				X		X	X	Garavello 1979
<i>Leporinus</i> sp.	X	X						INPA4192
<i>Leporinus</i> sp. “pa”						X	X	MNRJ5600 / INPA9504 / NRML19542
<i>Leporinus</i> sp. “psi”						X	X	Zuanon 1999 / This study
<i>Leporinus</i> sp. “verde”						X	X	Zuanon 1999 / This study
<i>Leporinus tigrinus</i> Borodin, 1929						X	X	Zuanon 1999 / This study
<i>Pseudanodus trimaculatus</i> (Kner, 1858)						X	X	INPA4099
<i>Sairius respectus</i> (Kner, 1858)								This study
<i>Schizodon vittatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1850)								Myers & Carvalho 1959 / INPA4195
<i>Synaplochilus cingulatus</i> Myers & Fernandez-Yepes, 1950	X			X		X	X	This study
				X				Mendes dos Santos & Jegé 1987
Characidae								
<i>Astrocephalus sardina</i> (Fowler, 1913)				X			X	This study
<i>Aenodon normani</i> Gosline, 1951		X		X			X	Géry 1979 / INPA4076
<i>Agoniates anchoria</i> Eigenmann, 1914				X			X	This study
<i>Agoniates halcerinus</i> Müller & Troschell, 1845							X	Froese & Pauly 2003
<i>Ariyanax bimaculatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)							X	Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Ariyanax gracilior</i> Eigenmann, 1908							X	Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Ariyanax longior</i> (Cope, 1878)								This study
<i>Ariyanax sahar</i> Travassos, 1960							X	MNRJ1919



## Continued Appendix

Order / Family Species	Irití River micro- basin	Xingu head- waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Bacajá River	Lower Xingu	Xingu River	Main reference
<i>Hypothessobrycon pulchripinnis</i> Ahl, 1937	X				X			Bergleiter 1999
<i>Hypothessobrycon scholzei</i> Ahl, 1937					X			This study
<i>Hypothessobrycon</i> sp. "rose"	X	X						Bergleiter 1999
<i>Hypothessobrycon</i> sp. 2								This study
<i>Iguanodectes af. parvus</i> (Steindachner, 1908)								Géry 1992
<i>Iguanodectes spluritus</i> (Günther, 1864)				X	X			Bergleiter 1999
<i>Iguanodectes</i> sp.								INPA4308
<i>Jupiaba atramoides</i> (Eigenmann, 1909)	X							This study
<i>Jupiaba anteroidea</i> (Géry, 1965)	X	X						Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Jupiaba aff. minor</i> (Travassos, 1964)			X	X				MZUSP236800
<i>Jupiaba polylepis</i> (Günther, 1864)		X			X	X		MZUSP46857 /
<i>Knodus heterolepis</i> (Eigenmann, 1908)				X				Lima et al. 2003
<i>Knodus moenkhausii</i> (Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1903)	X		X					Zuanon 1999
<i>Macropsobrycon xinguensis</i> Géry, 1973		X		X				This study
<i>Meyennius hypostachen</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1844)		X						Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Meyennius lippincottianus</i> (Cope, 1870)		X						Géry 1979 / Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Meyennius maculatus</i> (Kner, 1858)		X						Géry 1979 / Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Microsphenobrycon elongatus</i> Géry, 1973		X		X				Géry 1979 / Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Moenkhausia aff. comma</i> Eigenmann, 1909			X	X				Lowe-McConnell 1991 / Bergleiter 1999
<i>Moenkhausia colletti</i> (Steindachner, 1882)		X						Lowe-McConnell 1991 / Bergleiter 1999
<i>Moenkhausia cotinho</i> Eigenmann, 1908		X						Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Moenkhausia gracilima</i> (Eigenmann, 1908)		X						Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Moenkhausia grandisquamis</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1845)	X			X				Lowe-McConnell 1991 / Bergleiter 1999 / This study
<i>Moenkhausia intermedia</i> Eigenmann, 1908				X				This study
<i>Moenkhausia cf. justae</i> Eigenmann, 1908		X		X				Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Moenkhausia lepidura</i> (Kner, 1858)		X		X				MCP16951
<i>Moenkhausia megalops</i> (Eigenmann, 1907)		X		X				MZUSP30718
<i>Moenkhausia oligolepis</i> (Günther, 1864)	X		X					Lowe-McConnell 1991



## Continued Appendix

Order / Family Species	Irití River micro- basin	Xingu head- waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Bacajá River microbasin	Lower Xingu	Xingu River	Main reference
<i>Tetragonopterus chalcenes</i> Spix & Agassiz, 1829		X	X					MZUSP36814 / USNM120436 / INPA4268
<i>Thayeria boehlkei</i> Weitzman, 1957		X	X	X				INPA4200
<i>Tomeodus</i> sp. "Xingu"				X	X	X		INPA11742
<i>Triportheus albus</i> Cope, 1872				X	X	X		INPA4140
<i>Triportheus elongatus</i> (Günther, 1864)				X	X	X		INPA4156
<i>Triportheus rotundatus</i> (Jardine, 1841)			X	X	X	X		This study
<i>Triportheus</i> sp.			X	X				INPA4230
Chilodontidae								
<i>Caenoropis labyrinthicus</i> (Kner, 1858)		X	X	X		X		MZUSP36839
Crenuchidae								
<i>Characidium</i> sp.	X	X	X	X				
<i>Characidium zebra</i> Eigenmann, 1909			X					
<i>Melanocharcidium depressum</i> Buckup, 1993				X				
<i>Melanocharcidium displomma</i> Buckup, 1993				X				
Ctenoluciidae								
<i>Boulengerella cuvieri</i> (Agassiz, 1829)				X		X		Vari 1995 / This study
<i>Boulengerella lucius</i> (Cuvier, 1816)		X		X				Lowe-McConnell 1991 /
<i>Boulengerella maculata</i> (Valenciennes, 1850)				X				This study
Curimatidae								
<i>Curimata cyprinoides</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)				X		X		Vari 1989a / This study
<i>Curimata inornata</i> Vari, 1989				X		X		Vari 1989b / MZUSP28650 /
<i>Curimata ocellata</i> (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1889)				X		X		INPA4145
<i>Curimata vittata</i> (Kner, 1858)				X				This study
<i>Curimata</i> sp.				X				Vari 1989b
<i>Curimatella immaculata</i> (Fernández-Yépez, 1948)				X				INPA4237
<i>Curimatopsis cryptica</i> Vari, 1982				X				Vari 1992b / This study
<i>Cyphocharax abbreviatus</i> (Kner, 1859)				X				Bergleiter 1999
<i>Cyphocharax festivus</i> Vari, 1992				X				Vari 1992a
<i>Cyphocharax goldingi</i> Vari, 1992				X				This study
<i>Cyphocharax tecostictus</i> (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1889)				X				Vari 1992a
								Vari 1992a / This study



## Continued Appendix

Order / Family	Species	Irití River micro-basin	Xingu head-waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Bacajá River	Lower Xingu microbasin	Xingu River	Main reference
Lebiasinidae									Bergeriter 1999
	<i>Nannostomus eques</i> Steindachner, 1876	X				X			Bergeriter 1999
	<i>Nannostomus unifasciatus</i> Steindachner, 1876					X			Lowe-McConnell 1991
	<i>Pyrhulina australis</i> Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1903	X							Bergeriter 1999
	<i>Pyrhulina</i> sp.			X					
Parodontidae									MZUSP35999
	<i>Parodon</i> sp.	X							
Prochilodontidae									Bergeriter 1999
	<i>Prochilodus nigricans</i> Agasiz, 1829				X				This study
	<i>Somaprochilodus brama</i> Spix & Agasiz, 1829		X		X				This study
Clupeiformes / Engraulidae									This study
	<i>Amazonaprattus scintilla</i> Roberts, 1984					X			This study
	<i>Cetengraulis</i> sp.					X			This study
	<i>Anchoania chapeoides</i> (Swainson, 1839)					X			This study
	<i>Anchoaria surinamensis</i> (Bleeker, 1866)					X			This study
	<i>Anchoriella vaillantii</i> (Steindachner, 1908)					X			Bergeriter 1999
	<i>Lycengraulis batessii</i> (Günther, 1868)					X			This study
Pristigasteridae									
	<i>Ilisha amazonica</i> (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1920)								
	<i>Pellona castelnaeana</i> (Valenciennes, 1847)								
	<i>Pellona flavipinnis</i> (Valenciennes, 1836)								
	<i>Pterengraulis atherinoides</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)								
Cyprinodontiformes / Poeciliidae									
	<i>Micropanchax parae</i> Eigenmann , 1894					X			This study
	<i>Panamphorichthys anguineus</i> Costa, 1991							X	Lucinda 2003
	<i>Panamphorichthys hollandi</i> (Henn, 1916)	X							Lowe-McConnell 1991
	<i>Panamphorichthys minor</i> (Garman, 1895)	X							Lowe-McConnell 1991 / Bergeriter 1999
Rivulidae									
	<i>Rivulus</i> sp.							X	This study
	<i>Rivulus zygonectes</i> Myers, 1927							X	Costa 2003



## Continued Appendix

Order / Family Species	Irití River micro- basin	Xingu head- waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Bacajá River microbasin	Lower Xingu	Xingu River	Main reference
<i>Aequidens tetramerus</i> (Heckel, 1840)		X	X	X				USNM257698 / MZUSP 36879 / NRM24316
<i>Apistogramma commbrae</i> (Regan, 1906)	X							This study
<i>Apistogramma geophyra</i> Kullander, 1980						X		Bergerleiter 1999
<i>Apistogramma regani</i> Kullander, 1980				X		X		Bergerleiter 1999
<i>Apistogramma</i> sp.	X			X		X		This study
<i>Caquetaia spectabilis</i> (Steindachner, 1875)				X		X		MZUSP31610
<i>Chacabranapensis orbicularis</i> (Steindachner, 1875)				X		X		Bergerleiter 1999
<i>Chaeobranchus flavescens</i> Heckel, 1840						X		Bergerleiter 1999
<i>Cichla ocellaris</i> Bloch & Schneider, 1801						X		Bergerleiter 1999
<i>Cichla</i> sp. nov. “Xingu”	X	X	X	X		X		This study / Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Cichlasoma araguaiense</i> Kullander, 1983		X						Kullander 2003
<i>Crenicichla acutirostris</i> Günther, 1862				X		X		MZUSP32771
<i>Crenicichla cameana</i> Steindachner, 1911				X		X		MZUSP32775
<i>Crenicichla inpa</i> Ploeg, 1991				X		X		Ploeg 1991 / This study
<i>Crenicichla johnniana</i> Heckel, 1840				X		X		Ploeg 1991
<i>Crenicichla labrina</i> (Spix & Agassiz, 1831)				X		X		INPA4008
<i>Crenicichla lugubris</i> Heckel, 1840				X		X		MZUSP50840 / INPA 4082
<i>Crenicichla macrophthalmus</i> Heckel, 1840				X		X		NRM 44596
<i>Crenicichla mammora</i> Pellegrini, 1904	X							Ploeg 1991 / MZUSP 50841
<i>Crenicichla peruviana</i> Kullander, 1991				X		X		Kullander 1991a /
<i>Crenicichla phaenostictus</i> Kullander, 1991		X						Zuanon 1999
<i>Crenicichla</i> cf. <i>regani</i> Ploeg, 1989				X				Kullander 1991a /
<i>Crenicichla reticulata</i> Heckel, 1840				X				NRM 12029
<i>Crenicichla rosamariae</i> Kullander, 1997								NRM 32141
<i>Crenicichla saccatilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)								This study
<i>Crenicichla</i> cf. <i>temerzi</i> Norman, 1929								Kullander 1997 /
<i>Crenicichla</i> sp.								NRM 23663
<i>Crenicichla</i> sp. “laranja”								Bergerleiter 1999
<i>Crenicichla</i> sp. “preta”								Zuanon 1999
								MZUSP36881 /
								INPA4176 / NRM14843
								Zuanon 1999
								This study

<i>Crenicichla strigata</i> Gunther, 1862	X		Ploeg 1991 / This study
<i>Crenicichla nittata</i> Heckel, 1840		X	This study
<i>Geophagus altifrons</i> Heckel, 1840		X	Stawiowski 1989 / INPA4168 / NRM 18472
<i>Geophagus proximus</i> (Castelnau, 1855)		X	Kullander 1991b
<i>Heros severus</i> Heckel, 1840	X	X	INPA4256 / MZUSP 32906 / NRM13981
<i>Hypselecaria temporalis</i> (Günther, 1862)	X	X	This study
<i>Krobia guianensis</i> (Regan, 1905)	X	X	MZUSP29782
<i>Lacustracara</i> sp. "bandas"	X	X	Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Mesonauta acron</i> (Castelnau, 1855)	X	X	Kullander & Nijssen 1989
<i>Mesonauta festinus</i> (Heckel, 1840)	X	X	Lowe-McConnell 1991
<i>Pterophyllum scalare</i> (Schultze, 1823)		X	Kullander & Slijpergrip 1991
<i>Retroculus xinguensis</i> Gosse, 1971	X	X	USNM331331
<i>Satanopercajurupari</i> (Heckel), 1840	X	X	Bergleiter 1999
<i>Sympodus aquifasciatus</i> Pellegrin, 1904		X	Gosse 1971 / INPA4282
<i>Tetraocheila centiquama</i> Zuanon & Sazima, 2002	X	X	NRM24319 / USNM199197 /
<i>Tetraocheila centrarchus</i> Kullander, 1988		X	MZUSP36877 / INPA4213 / CAS67473
<i>Tetraocheila gephyrogramma</i> Kullander, 1988	X	X	Pellegrin 1904 / MZUSP23061
<i>Tetraocheila monogramma</i> Kullander, 1988	X	X	Zuanon & Sazima 2002.
<i>Tetraocheila sp. nov.</i>		X	Kullander 1988 / INPA4175 / NRM31787
<i>Tetraocheila prosdixius</i> Kullander, 1988	X	X	Kullander 1988 / INPA4174 / NRM25932
<i>Tetraocheila</i> sp. "LS"		X	NRM13366 / INPA4177
<i>Tetraocheila</i> sp. "PR"		X	NRM24315 / MZUSP31609
<i>Uaru amphiacanthoides</i> Helckel, 1840		X	Zuanon 1999
Polycentridae		X	Bergleiter 1999
<i>Monopterus polyacanthus</i> Heckel, 1840		X	MNHN0000-4549

## Continued Appendix

Order / Family Species	Irití River micro- basin	Xingu head- waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Lower Xingu	Xingu River	Main reference
Sciænidæ							
<i>Pachyurus junki</i> Soares & Casatti, 2002				X	X	X	Casatti 2002
<i>Peritilapius grunniens</i> (Jardine, 1843)				X	X	X	Casatti 2001
<i>Plagioscion magdalenae</i> (Steindachner, 1878)	X			X	X	X	This study
<i>Plagioscion squamosissimus</i> (Heckel, 1840)			X	X	X	X	MZUSP34132 / INPA4048
Pleuronectiformes / Achiridæ							
<i>Hypacanthus menadi</i> (Günther, 1862)		X		X			This study
Pristiformes / Pristidae					X		Bergleiter 1999
<i>Pristis</i> sp.							
Rajiformes / Potamotrygonidae							
<i>Pantrygon aterba</i> (Muller & Henle, 1841)			X		X	X	Zuanon 1999
<i>Potamotrygon</i> aff. <i>hystrix</i> (Muller & Henle, 1834)			X		X	X	This study
<i>Potamotrygon leopoldi</i> Castex & Castello, 1970		X		X		X	This study
<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i> (Muller & Henle, 1841)			X		X	X	This study
<i>Potamotrygon orbignyi</i> (Castelnau, 1855)			X		X	X	This study
<i>Potamotrygon</i> sp.							INPA 4065
Siluriformes / Aspredinidae							
<i>Bunocephalus conoides</i> (Cope, 1874)			X				INPA4117
<i>Bunocephalus kerri</i> Steindachner, 1882	X						This study
<i>Parapterinus copelandii</i> Bloch, 1794			X				This study
Auchenipteridae							
<i>Ageniaspis internis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)			X		X	X	This study
<i>Ageniaspis</i> sp. nov.				X		X	This study
<i>Ageniaspis ucuvalensis</i> Castelnau, 1855				X		X	This study
<i>Ageniaspis vitianus</i> Steindachner, 1908				X		X	INPA4132
<i>Auchenipterichthys</i> sp.				X		X	This study
<i>Auchenipterichthys thoracatus</i> (Kner, 1858)				X		X	This study
<i>Auchenipterus nachalis</i> (Spix & Agassiz, 1829)				X		X	This study
<i>Centromochlus heckelii</i> (De Filippi, 1853)				X		X	Soárez-Porto 1998 /
<i>Centromochlus schultzi</i> Rössel, 1962	X			X		X	MNRJ9417
<i>Pseudopeltierius basmani</i> (Steindachner, 1915)				X		X	This study



## Continued Appendix

Order / Family	Species	Irití River micro-basin	Xingu head-waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Bacajá River	Lower Xingu	Xingu River	Main reference
Heptapteridae									
	<i>Cetopsorhamdia</i> sp.				X				MZUP30813
	<i>Chasmocranus longior</i> Eigenmann, 1912			X	X				MZUSP30804
	<i>Hepapterus</i> sp.		X		X				INPA10733
	<i>Imparfinitis prisca</i> Mees & Cala, 1989								Zuanon 1999 /
	<i>Leporhamdia shultzii</i> (Miranda Ribeiro, 1964)	X							Lowe Mc-Connell 1991
	<i>Myoglanis</i> sp.				X				MNRJ9549 / Bockmann & Guazzelli 2003
	<i>Ptenacorhamdia</i> sp.				X				INPA4342
	<i>Ptenodella cristata</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1848)	X		X	X				MZUSP48352
	<i>Ptenodella ditispinis</i> (Steindachner, 1864)				X				This study
	<i>Ptenodella</i> sp.				X				This study
	<i>Rhamdella</i> sp.				X				INPA4197
	<i>Rhamdia</i> sp.	X		X	X				Zuanon 1999
									MZUSP36860 / INPA 4073
Loricariidae									
	<i>Acanthicus histrix</i> Spix & Agassiz, 1829				X				Montoya Burgos et al. 1988
	<i>Ancistrus</i> sp. “bola branca”				X				This study
	<i>Ancistrus ramunculus</i> Muller, Rapp Py-Daniel & Zuanon, 1994				X				Muller et al. 1994 / INPA 4227 / ANSP172621 / NRM19544 / MZUSP 34176
	<i>Ancistrus</i> sp. “pinta branca”					X			This study
	<i>Ancistrus</i> sp. “preto”					X			This study
	<i>Baryancistrus niveatus</i> (Castelnau, 1855)					X			INPA4062
	<i>Baryancistrus</i> sp.					X			INPA4058
	<i>Baryancistrus</i> sp. “aba”					X			Zuanon 1999 / This study
	<i>Baryancistrus</i> sp. “amarello”					X			Zuanon 1999
	<i>Baryancistrus</i> sp. “pg”					X			This study
	<i>Baryancistrus</i> sp. “pp”					X			This study
	<i>Baryancistrus</i> sp. “preto”					X			This study
	<i>Catilidianus</i> sp. “pinta”					X			This study



## Continued Appendix

Order / Family Species	Irití River micro- basin	Xingu head- waters	Xingu upstream	Middle Xingu	Bacajá River microbasin	Lower Xingu	Xingu River	Main reference
" <i>Reganella</i> " <i>depressa</i> (Kner, 1853)						X		This study Lowe-McConnell 1991 /
<i>Rineloricaria lancedata</i> (Günther, 1868)	X	X			X			This study INPA4157 / MZUSP34311
<i>Rineloricaria</i> sp.					X	X		This study INPA4035
<i>Sobrinancistrus aureatus</i> Burgess, 1994					X			MZUSP36017
<i>Sobrinancistrus parolispos</i> Isbrücker & Nijssen, 1989					X			Zuanon 1999
<i>Spatuloricaria</i> sp.								
<i>Spectracanthicus</i> sp.								
<i>Pimelodidae</i>								
<i>Brachyplatystoma filamentosum</i> (Lichtenstein, 1819)				X				This study
<i>Calophysus macropterus</i> (Lichtenstein, 1819)				X				This study
<i>Golindia platynema</i> (Boulenger, 1898)				X				This study
<i>Hemisorubim platyrhynchos</i> (Valenciennes, 1840)				X				INPA4023
<i>Hoplophilodinus edentatus</i> Spix & Agassiz, 1829				X				This study
<i>Hoplophilodinus fimbriatus</i> Kner, 1858				X				This study
<i>Hoplophilodinus marginatus</i> Valenciennes, 1840				X				This study
<i>Megalostoma</i> sp.				X				INPA4023
<i>Phractocephalus hemiolopterus</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)				X				MZUSP36853
<i>Pimelodina flavipinnis</i> Steindachner, 1877				X				This study
<i>Pimelodus ornatus</i> Kner, 1858				X				Zuanon 1999 / This study
<i>Pimelodus</i> sp.				X				Lowe-McConnell 1991 /
<i>Pimelodus</i> sp. "olhudo"				X				This study
<i>Pinirampus pirinampu</i> (Spix & Agassiz, 1829)				X				Zuanon 1999 / This study
<i>Platynematichthys notatus</i> (Jardine, 1841)				X				This study
<i>Platystomatichthys strigio</i> (Kner, 1858)				X				This study
<i>Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)				X				Lowe-McConnell 1991 /
<i>Pseudoplatystoma tigrinum</i> (Valenciennes, 1840)							X	This study
<i>Sorubim lima</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)							X	This study
<i>Zungaropis multimaculatus</i> Steindachner, 1908							X	Burgess 1989
<i>Zungaro zungaro</i> (Humboldt, 1821)	X	X					X	This study

Pseudopimelodidae						
<i>Batracoglanis nainus</i> (Valenciennes, 1840)	X					
<i>Microglanis</i> sp.	X					
<i>Pseudopimelodus</i> sp.	X					
Scolopacidae						
<i>Scolopax distolothrix</i> Schaefer, Weitzman & Britski, 1989	X	X	X			
Trichomycteridae						
<i>Hemomaster venezuelae</i> Myers, 1927	X					
<i>Henonemus punctatus</i> (Boulenger, 1887)	X					
<i>Inglanis gracilis</i> (Eigenmann, 1912)		X				
<i>Ochmacanthus</i> sp.		X				
<i>Plectrochilus</i> sp.		X				
<i>Segophilius</i> sp.		X				
<i>Trichomycterus</i> sp.		X				
<i>Isthlobelus</i> sp.			X			
<i>Vandellia cirrhosa</i> Valenciennes, 1846		X				
Synbranchiformes / Synbranchidae						
<i>Synbranchus marmoratus</i> Bloch, 1795	X	X	X			
<i>Synbranchus</i> sp.			X			
Tetraodontiformes / Tetraodontidae						
<i>Colomesus asellus</i> (Müller & Troschell, 1849)		X				
<i>Colomesus pitatus</i> (Schneider, 1801)			X			

## Museum codes

- ANSP – Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, USA.  
 BMNH – British Museum of Natural History, London, UK.  
 CAS – California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA.  
 INPA – Museu Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Brazil  
 MCP – Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul - Porto Alegre, Brazil  
 MCZ – Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA  
 MNHN – Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.  
 MNRJ – Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.  
 MZUSP – Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.  
 NRM – Naturhistoriska riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden.  
 USNM – National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA.