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REDISCOVERY OF THE HOLOTYPE OF *CHARACIDIUM SANCTJOHANNI* DAHL 1960 (CHARACIFORMES: CRENUCHIDAE) FROM THE COLOMBIAN PACIFIC SLOPE

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ABSTRACT

We report the rediscovery of the holotype of Characidium sanctjohanni Dahl, previously considered as lost in the ICN collections. We present counts, measurements and photographs, also offering a comparison between the holotype and the original description.

KEY-WORDS: San Juan River; ICZN; South America; Fish.

INTRODUCTION

Characidium sanctjohanni Dahl was described from the Río San Juan, western Colombia, based on a single specimen. Until now however, the lot containing the holotype had not been found in the ICNMHN type collection (Cala, 1981; Mojica & Castellanos, 2007, 2009; Maldonado-Ocampo, 2009), and neither had a neotype been designated for that species (Buckup, 2003), which was considered valid by Buckup (1993). In the course of a revisionary study of the species of *Characidium* from Colombia, the holotype of *Characidium sanctjohanni*, which had hitherto gone unnoticed among the non-type lots of the fish collection, was found. The discovery is reported herein, but the issue of its taxonomic status is not fully resolved. Our measurements of the specimen were taken following Buckup (1993).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characidium sanctjohanni Dahl was described in *Caldasia* 8(39): 477-480, as the only known species of the genus from the Pacific slope of Colombia. When designating the holotype the author wrote: "One specimen of 46.5 mm. skeletal length, collected at Noanamá, Río San Juan, November 3rd, 1959. This is the only specimen as yet known". The description published by Dahl (1960) presented few details on scale counts and other features of the holotype, and its sex was not stated. The specimen found in lot ICNMHN 211, identified as *Characidium sanctjohanni* should be considered as the holotype described by Dahl, in conformance with Article 72, condition 72.4.1.1, and also taking into account Recommendation 73F of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature for the follow-

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