

Order SILURIFORMES

Chiapas Catfish

Family LACANTUNIIDAE

Rodiles-Hernández, Hendrickson & Lundberg 2005



Lacantunia enigmatica, holotype, 427 mm SL. From: Rodiles-Hernández, R., D. A. Hendrickson, J. G. Lundberg and J. M. Humphries. 2005. *Lacantunia enigmatica* (Teleostei: Siluriformes) a new and phylogenetically puzzling freshwater fish from Mesoamerica. *Zootaxa* 1000: 1–24.

Lacantunia

Rodiles-Hernández, Hendrickson & Lundberg 2005

-ia (L. suffix): belonging to: Río Lacantún, Chiapas, México, type locality

***Lacantunia enigmatica* Rodiles-Hernández, Hendrickson & Lundberg 2005** Latin for baffling or inexplicable, referring to its unexpected discovery in 1996 (a large fish commonly caught and eaten by locals yet overlooked by ichthyologists in a relatively well-explored river system) and obscure relationships and origin (at time of description, it could not be placed within or as a basal sister lineage to any known catfish family; subsequent studies based on molecular evidence has shown it to be the sister group to Claroteidae, an African family¹)

¹Lundberg, J. G., J. P. Sullivan, R. Rodiles-Hernández and D. A. Hendrickson. 2007. Discovery of African roots for the Mesoamerican Chiapas catfish, *Lacantunia enigmatica*, requires an ancient intercontinental passage. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 156: 39–53.