

## Dimorphism in Loricariinae: A Morphological Analysis

Sara Maria Blasques<sup>1</sup>

Ilana Fichberg<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

Sexual dimorphism can be defined as any difference between same-specie-genders. In the subfamily Loricariinae, it is possible to observe a secondary sexual dimorphism occurrence in sexually mature males, this being, morphologic features in males that are unregarded to the sexual organ. The main dimorphic character in Loricariinae is the presence of hypertrophied odontodes along the side of the head, and over the pectoral fins. Besides, there are records of some genera presenting lip enlargement and teeth morphology. This research aimed to observe these traits in the Loricariinae collection deposited in the Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo (MZUSP). About four thousand specimens were seen. In this analysis, we have searched dimorphic traits that were both described and undescribed in the literature. As result, 11 out of 27 genera had dimorphic males identified. One of them never described, in *Limatulichthys*. Also, in dimorphic it was found intraspecific differences between the odontodes arrangement in *Farlowella* and morphometric relations within *Harttia kronei*. Besides, as expected, it was observed that there is a low proportion between dimorphic males and the total of the specimens that were analyzed. That could mean there may be a reproductive strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> Majored in **Science** at UNIFESP - SP, [sara.blasques@unifesp.br](mailto:sara.blasques@unifesp.br)

<sup>2</sup> Advisor Professor: Doctor, UNIFESP - SP [ilanafic@gmail.com](mailto:ilanafic@gmail.com)