

Apteronotus albifrons (Otophysi: Gymnotiformes): limitations of pigmentation patterns for the taxonomy of a species complex

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INTRODUCTION & AIM

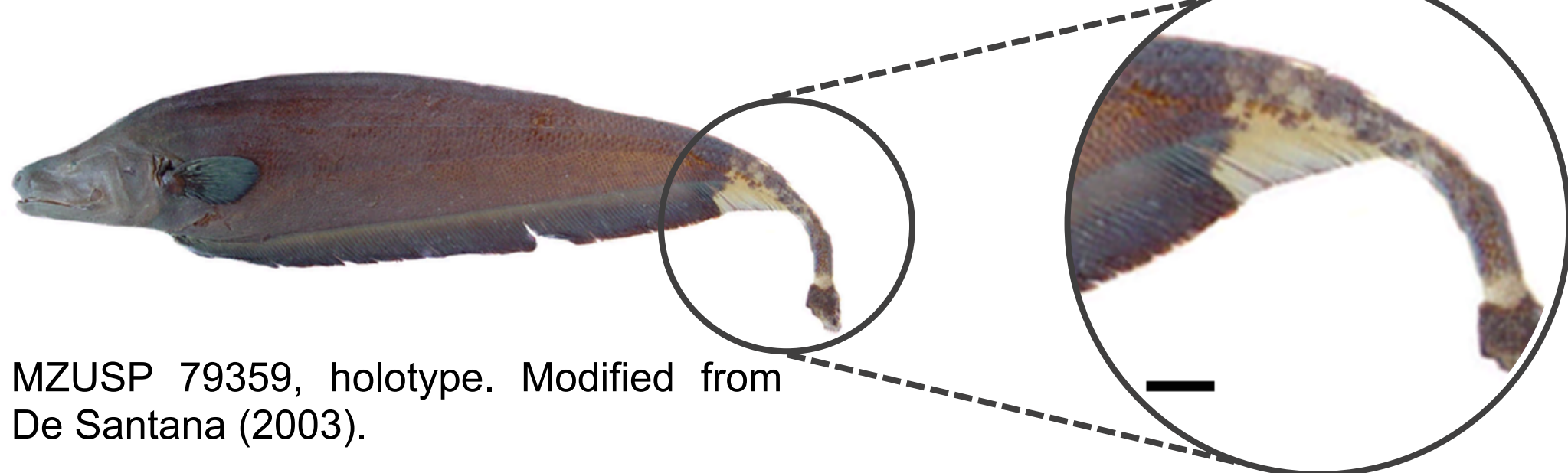
- ◆ A Neotropical freshwater electric fish of the family Apteronotidae;
- ◆ Synapomorphy of the species complex: presence of two clear bands encircling the caudal region;
- ◆ No type material designated for *A. albifrons*!!!!

A. albifrons (Linnaeus, 1766)



MZUSP 30080

A. caudimaculosus de Santana, 2003



MZUSP 79359, holotype. Modified from De Santana (2003).

A. camposdapazi de Santana, 2007



MCP 16062, paratype. Modified from de Santana (2007).

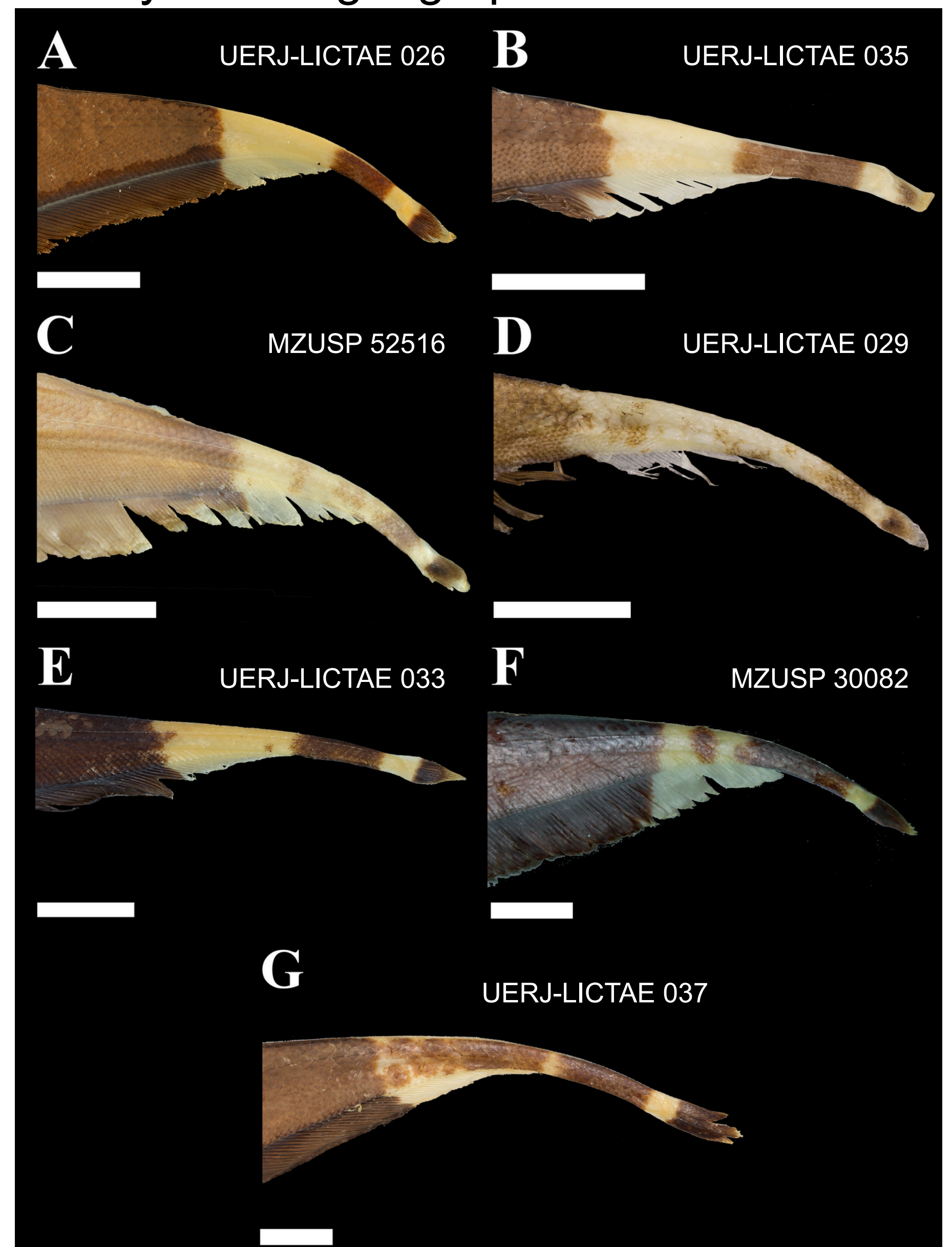
AIM: to revisit *A. albifrons sensu stricto* to confirm the absence of dark spots and uniformly dark body pigmentation as diagnostic features.

METHOD

- ◆ 80 specimens from Brazilian collections previously identified as *A. albifrons*;
- ◆ Assessment and comparison to confirm they all share pigmentation patterns;
- ◆ Comparison with *A. caudimaculosus* and *A. camposdapazi*.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Variation within *A. albifrons* seems unrelated to either body size or geographic distribution.



Caudal region of some of the *A. albifrons* specimens examined. Scale = 1cm

- ◆ Molecular data confirms *A. albifrons* and *A. caudimaculosus* as different species.
- ◆ Osteology remains incompletely described.

CONCLUSION & FUTURE WORK

Probably distinct taxa, but pigmentation patterns alone are not enough to delimitate *A. albifrons* species complex. Further data are needed to better understand their taxonomy.

REFERENCES



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

