Ichthyological collection in the Macarena Region, Colombia, 2014

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The Macarena in Central Colombia, of which the central part is a low table mountain, has not been explored since more than 50 years, due to the civil war in this country and the block of the region by guerilla troops. Since 2013, opening of these territories occurred in cause of an ongoing peace process in the country. The field survey and collection presented herein, which has been organized via a cooperation with an ichthyologist of the Javiera University of Bogota, is the first one after all these years and it presents an overview about the region as well as the diversity of fishes in waters within the Macarena and surrounding regions.

Water parameters have been taken, showing the rivers and creeks originating in the Macarena being different in some chemical characters from Andean rivers. 551 different samples (species per locality) of fish have been collected, with a total of 132 different species, of which a number of about 37–49 seem to be undescribed, what indicates a high number of endemism for the region. Additional collections of terrestrial invertebrates, mainly spiders and scorpiones, have shown similars result of new and possibly endemic species.

Hopefully following works, focussed on descriptions of new species and general biodiversity of the region, will lead to an ongoing cooperation with Colombia.