

Will the real *Corydoras bondi* please stand up

By Steven Grant

I am sure that you are aware now that (some of) the fish that we in the hobby had given the name *Corydoras bondi* to has been identified by Isaac Isbrücker (2000) as *Corydoras sipaliwini*. Because this work has been covered in Cat Chat before I will only give a summary of the facts.

In 1965 J. J. Hoedeman published a short description of *Corydoras punctatus sipaliwini*. In 1967 Nijssen & Isbrücker declared *C. punctatus sipaliwini* as a nomen nudum (an unavailable name that fails to comply with the relevant articles of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature), but also that *C. punctatus sipaliwini* was the same fish as *Corydoras bondi* Gosline, 1940. This has remained the case until Dr. Isbrücker (2000) reconsidered the description of *C. punctatus sipaliwini* and in the light of recent similar cases and information, decided that Hoedeman's description did meet the relevant criteria of the ICZN, and that there were slight differences in pigmentation and meristics between *bondi* and *sipaliwini*, therefore making Hoedeman's species *Corydoras sipaliwini* Hoedeman, 1965. Dr. Isbrücker found Hoedeman's original specimens which came from Nickerie District, Sipaliwini River, Suriname, whereas *C. bondi* was described from the Río Yuruari, 3 km east of El Callao, Venezuela (although it is likely that the species are distributed in some way across Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana, according to Le Bail, Keith and Planquette, 2000).

Here is an excerpt from Gosline's original description of *bondi* (also see image of SU 35065 holotype of *bondi*):

"Ground colour yellowish. Sides with a median trilineate pattern formed of a central dark stripe bordered on either side by an unpigmented band, these in turn delimited by the brown spotting of the remainder of the body. Central stripe extending from the fourth scute to the caudal, becoming more intense posteriorly. All three bands about equal to the diameter of the eye in width. Head darker than body, with rather indefinite markings. Fins also without definite markings, except that there may be small spots on the central caudal rays of some specimens."

The fish shown in Seuß (1997) as *bondi* (reproduced here), matches *sipaliwini* exactly, so have we seen *bondi* in the hobby after all?

I feel that it is likely that we may have seen the true *bondi*, so until Dr. Isbrücker provides us with a positive identification of living *bondi* specimens, here is a line-up of some of the suspects:



Corydoras sipaliwini Photo: Werner Seuß

Corydoras sp. 'common bondi'



Corydoras bondi 'common' Photo: Dave Speed



Holotype of *Corydoras bondi*, specimen number SU 35065. Copyright: California Academy of Sciences.

Origin unknown for all but Julian Dignall's specimen. This fish is similar to *coppenamensis* but is not as orange in base colour, and does not have the dorsolateral spots as distinct. It is also similar to *sipaliwini* but does not have the prominent bars in the caudal fin, and the dark vertical band in the dorsal fin is not as distinct as in *sipaliwini*. The specimen in Dave Speed's photo does appear to match Gosline's description of *bondi*, especially relating to the pigment on the caudal fin. The specimen photographed by Julian Dignall was caught and photographed by Julian in Venezuela. **Verdict:** Very likely to be the true *bondi*.



C. bondi 'common' Photo: Julian Dignall



C. bondi 'common' male Photo: Ian Fuller



C. bondi 'common' female Photo: Ian Fuller

Corydoras sp. 'granti'



Corydoras sp. 'granti' Photo: Danny Blundell

Origin unknown. This fish appeared in the Northern Area Catfish Group Newsletter of May 1996, jokingly captioned as 'Corydoras granti', and also in All Corydoras Aqualog Supplement as *Corydoras* sp. aff. *nattereri* "GRANTI" S19441-4. It also likely that this is the same fish as S19440-4 of page 94 in All Corydoras. Its base colour and body pattern seem to match Gosline's description of *bondi* but the finnage pattern seems different. **Verdict:** Quite possible.

Corydoras coppenamensis Nijssen, 1970



From the Coppename River System, Saramacca, Suriname. This was originally described as a sub species of *bondi* but was later elevated to full species status (hence Gosline's species sometimes being called *bondi bondi*). Its dorsolateral pattern seems too bold and distinct to be *bondi*. It is thought to hybridise with other species in the wild (Nijssen, 1970). **Verdict:** Possible.

C. coppenamensis Photo: Danny Blundell

Corydoras sp. 'bondi trilineate'



C. 'bondi trilineate'

photo: unknown

Origin unknown. This fish has a white base colour and a very densely patterned body and finnage. Perhaps too much pattern on the finnage for *bondi*. **Verdict:** Possible.



From the Corantijn River System, Suriname. This species has a similar body shape to *bondi*, but the distinct trilineate pattern is not present in *breei*.

C. breei Photo: Ken Kawamoto



Corydoras breei

Photo: Ian Fuller

Verdict: Possible to unlikely.



Corydoras nattereri Steindachner, 1876
(including *triseriatus* & *juquiaae*)

From the Rio Parahyba, Rio de Janeiro; Rio Juquiá R., Poço Grande, State of São Paulo; and Rio Doce, Espírito Santo areas of Brazil. This species tends not to have the same dorsolateral body pattern as *bondi*. **Verdict:** Unlikely.



Corydoras prionotos Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1980

From Rio Doce system, Espírito Santo, Brazil.

This species has a longer body profile than *bondi*. **Verdict:** Unlikely.

C. prionotos Photo: Ken Kawamoto



Corydoras sp. 'Crystal Azure'

Originates from 'Brazil'. Possibly a young or variant of *prionotos*. Appears to have too long a body shape. **Verdict:** Unlikely.

C. 'Crystal Azure' Photo: Ken Kawamoto

Corydoras boesemani Nijssen & Isbrücker, 1967

From Brokopondo, Surinam. The pattern on this species is very bold in comparison to *bondi*. *C. boesemani* appears superficially very similar to *sipaliwini*. **Verdict:** Unlikely.



Corydoras baderi Geisler, 1969
(including *oelamariensis*)

From Pará, Brazil & Marowijne, Suriname. This species is devoid of pattern, other than the mid lateral stripe. Is found with and thought to hybridise with *sipaliwini* (Isbrücker, 2000). **Verdict:** Unlikely.

C. baderi Photo: Ian Fuller



Corydoras sp. 'Peru Bondi' Photo: Ken Kawamoto



Corydoras sp. 'Peru Bondi III' Photo: Aqua Forest

Corydoras sp. 'Peru Bondi' & 'Peru Bondi III'

These apparently un-described species from Peru, appear to have too high a body shape for *bondi*. They are more similar to *Corydoras acrensis* Nijssen, 1972. **Verdict:** Unlikely.



Corydoras sp. 'Purus Bondi'

This species which is being caught in the Rio Purus and Rio Acre in Brazil, appears to have a too high a body shape for *bondi*. It may represent a form of *C. acrensis*. **Verdict:** Unlikely.

Corydoras sp. 'Purus Bondi' Photo Ken Kawamoto



Corydoras sp. 'Pricilla'

This species is being caught in the Rio Madeira System, Brazil. The body shape appears too elongated for *bondi*. **Verdict:** Unlikely.

Corydoras sp. 'Pricilla' Photo Ken Kawamoto



Corydoras sp. 'mazaruni'

Origin unknown. This does not have the ventrolateral body markings of *bondi*. This could be the young of *boesemani* or *sipaliwini*. **Verdict:** Unlikely.

Corydoras sp. 'mazaruni' Photo: Ken Kawamoto

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