Among caecilian amphibians (Gymnophiona) of the family Siphonopidae Bonaparte, 1850 resurrected by Wilkinson et al. (2011), Microcaecilia Taylor, 1968 is the most speciose genus, currently containing 15 species of small caecilians, including the recently described Microcaecilia savagei Donnelly and Wake, 2013; M. dermatophaga Wilkinson, Sherratt, Starace, and Gower, 2013; and M. marvaleewakeae Maciel and Hoogmoed, 2013. The genus is so far known from the eastern Amazonian slopes in Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, as well as in Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil (Frost, 2014). Three species, M. pricei Dunn, 1944, M. nicefori Barbour, 1924, and M. albiceps Boulenger, 1882 have been found closest to Peru. Microcaecilia nicefori is known from the central part of the Magdalena River Valley, between Honda (Tolima), Girardot (Cundinamarca), Santander, and northeast Antioquia at 225-400m asl (Frost, 2014; Castro et al. 2004b); and M. pricei, is known from the high elevations of the Cauca River Valley, in the Department of Quindio, from the eastern region of the Department of Antioquia (Río Claro), and also from the Department of Santander (El Centro), occurring between 200 and 2000m asl (Frost, 2014, Castro et al 2004c), both native to Colombia. Microcaecilia albiceps has a previously recorded distribution along the Amazonian slopes of the Cordillera Oriental of Ecuador (Napo Province) and Colombia (Caquetá) at 300 and 800m asl (Castro et al., 2004a; Amphibian web, 2012; Frost, 2014), and a specimen was observed by Paul Freed in 1994 at Cuenca, Ecuador (Freed, 2012).

During herpetological surveys at the Reserva Forestal Santa Cruz, district of Mazán, 30 km NE of Iquitos, Maynas Province, Department of Loreto, Peru (03°32’01” S, 73°10’30” W, 110 m asl), two similarly-sized individuals of Microcaecilia sp. were observed; one specimen was measured at 76 mm total length (Figure 1), the second individual was not measured. They were found by Segundo Rios Ramirez on 2 February 2008 at 10:00 a.m., and were subsequently photographed and released. Both were found in terra firme (upland) forest, beneath deep leaf-litter at a depth of about 15 cm on an approximately 30-degree slope. A group accompanying Mr. Rios Ramirez disturbed the leaf-litter while hiking up the slope, exposing the soil surface below. The disturbance revealed the presence of the two Microcaecilia sp, which were observed on the soil surface itself.

Abstract. We report the first record of the genus Microcaecilia in Peru from lowland, primary rainforest in Loreto, adding to its previously known geographic range from northwestern Colombia; Ecuador through southern Venezuela to the Guianas and São Paulo, Brazil. Two individuals of a species of this genus of small caecilians were found in deep leaf litter at the Reserva Forestal Santa Cruz, located approximately 30 km northeast of the city of Iquitos. We refer to these specimens as Microcaecilia sp. because of the current difficulty in confidently determining their identity.

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First record of the genus Microcaecilia Taylor, 1968 (Amphibia, Gymnophiona: Siphonopidae) from Peru

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The caecilians are referable to the genus *Microcaecilia* based primarily on the position of the tentacle, the presence of secondary annuli and similarity to other species of the genus. Visibility of the eye is variable within the genus (Wilkinson et al., 2013). According to M. Wilkinson (pers. comm.), counting the number of annular grooves from a photograph may be too difficult to obtain definitive counts, and from our photographs it was only possible to make rough approximations of the primary annuli and it was not feasible to speculate about the number of secondary annuli. Based on his estimations it is quite possible that the specimens are *Microcaecilia albiceps* but appear to perhaps have too few primary annuli and possibly too few secondary annuli to make a positive identification. In addition, their body coloration appears to be very dark, whereas the overall coloration of *M. albiceps* is usually more purplish (although this is based on preserved specimens). It is possible that our observation may actually be an undescribed species. Due to the difficulties of being able to provide a more specific diagnosis especially to the difficulty of finding these species being cryptic habits, we restrict ourselves to merely assign them to a generic status as: *Microcaecilia* sp.

The present individuals provide the first record of a species of *Microcaecilia* in Peru. It is important to point out that none of these specimens were collected and we hope that this observation will encourage other researchers to be attentive and perhaps rediscover this species at other locations in the Loreto region of Peru, particularly in areas north of the Amazon River itself. Any additional data on *Microcaecilia* sp. in the Peruvian Amazon is thus very important to obtain.

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**Literature Cited**


Figure 1. *Microcaecilia* sp. (photos of live individuals) from the Reserva Forestal Santa Cruz, Loreto, Perú. A: dorsal view; B: lateral view.


