

Freshwater fishes of the Río de la Plata: current assemblage structure

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Few studies have addressed the composition of fish assemblages of the freshwater Río de la Plata (RdLP) and have only been limited to species lists gathered over the last two centuries. As such inventories have never been reviewed or validated by fish sampling, the richness and structure of RdLP fish assemblage are poorly known. Hence, we conducted an exhaustive literature review and a fieldwork in six coastal points of Argentina to update the species composition and determine the hierarchical structure of the fish assemblage. From the 206 species registered in the literature, 48 were not confirmed, 13 were absent, five were taken as synonymized species, 29 were supported by literature and 107 were confirmed; one was an established exotic species, and three were a non-established exotic species. The findings reported here suggest that the fish assemblage currently comprises 141 species, including four new records. Analysis of fieldwork data in number and weight of fish captured resulted in an assemblage hierarchical structure of five dominant, 22 frequent, and 45 rare species; 16 dominant, 11 frequent, and 45 rare taxa, respectively. These results could be used as baseline to monitor, manage, and preserve neotropical fish species in their southern distribution boundary.

Keywords: Biodiversity, Conservation, Ichthyofauna, Neotropics, Richness.

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El conocimiento de los ensambles de peces del sector dulceacuícola del Río de la Plata (RdlP) es escaso y limitado a listas de especies de compilaciones realizadas en los últimos dos siglos. Como esos inventarios nunca han sido revisados o validados mediante muestreos de peces, el conocimiento respecto de la riqueza y la estructura de los ensambles del RdlP resulta deficiente. Para ordenar y mejorar la información acerca de la riqueza y estructura de los ensambles de peces del área se realizó una revisión bibliográfica y un muestreo de campo para actualizar la composición de especies y determinar la estructura jerárquica del ensamble de peces. De las 206 especies colectadas de acuerdo a la bibliografía 48 se categorizaron como no reconfirmadas, 13 como ausentes, cinco como especies sinonimizadas, 29 como soportadas por la literatura, 107 como confirmadas, una exótica establecida y tres exóticas no establecidas. Los resultados sugieren que el ensamble de peces actualmente está compuesto por 141 especies, incluyendo cuatro nuevos registros. El análisis de los datos en número y en peso de los peces colectados mostró 5 especies dominantes, 22 frecuentes y 45 raras; y 16 dominantes, 11 frecuentes y 45 raras, respectivamente. Los resultados de este trabajo pueden ser usados como línea de base para el monitoreo, manejo y conservación de las especies de peces neotropicales en su límite de distribución sur.

Palabras clave: Biodiversidad, Conservación, Ictiofauna, Neotrópico, Riqueza.

INTRODUCTION

Freshwater ecosystems such as rivers, ponds, lakes, and streams are essential for human survival. Yet, they are among the most degraded habitats of the world (Dudgeon *et al.*, 2006), making freshwater species the most threatened on Earth. Alarmingly, loss of freshwater biodiversity is mounting fast (Kumar, 2000; Sala *et al.*, 2000) due to anthropogenic activity such as habitat alteration, water pollution, introduction of exotic species, and overexploitation of natural resources (Dudgeon *et al.*, 2006; Arthington *et al.*, 2010; Liermann *et al.*, 2012; Pelicice *et al.*, 2021).

Vitule *et al.* (2016) stated that loss of freshwater fish biodiversity cannot be measured simply by the number of threatened species or of species that became extinct, arguing that a decrease in freshwater fish populations, threatened or not, may drastically alter the ecosystem functioning. Moreover, research into the biological diversity of freshwater ecosystems is yet limited (Stiassny, 2002). As inventories allow assessing the presence of species or infer their absence within an area (Morrison *et al.*, 2008), greater insights are required to develop the basis for measuring the biodiversity of species. Green *et al.* (2009) claimed that inventories made from compendiums of information previously collected from an area show all the inherent limitations associated with non-quantitative methodologies. From studies of the vulnerability of freshwater fish diversity (Tedesco *et al.*, 2017) derived the need to generate updated quali-quantitative ichthyological research used as a basis to evaluate species conservation and extinction risk, particularly in South America (Baigún *et al.*, 2012). For instance, Jaureguizar *et al.* (2015) on the

basis of the abundance and relative frequency of each species, typified the components of fish assemblage on the Argentinean estuarine-marine coast. Such approach had led to a thorough understanding to improve or develop integral conservation policies, strategic management decisions, and/or accurate environmental impact assessments.

The Río de la Plata (RdlP) is the collector of the La Plata River basin, the second largest watershed in South America, draining a surface of almost three million km² (Pasquini, Depetris, 2007) and representing the third most diverse basin of the continent with more than 900 fish taxa (Reis *et al.*, 2016). Although ichthyological studies have been conducted on freshwater RdlP and neighboring streams scattered on the space and time scales, most are related to governmental reports centered on the relevant species for local fisheries (CARP-INIDEP-INAPE, 1990; CARU, 1992; CARU-CARP, 2012; 2016); hence, fish assemblages are still being poorly understood (Llompart *et al.*, 2012). According to Baigún *et al.* (2012), 26% of the fish found in the lower La Plata River basin are classified as Data Deficient (IUCN), due to lack of information on their population and distribution. RdlP is the meridional edge of the Lower Paraná Ecoregion (Abell *et al.*, 2008), which constitutes the distribution boundary for the most representatives of freshwater Neotropical fish (Ringuelet, 1975).

Bibliographic compilations describing the composition of the freshwater fish of RdlP were provided by Nion (1998), López *et al.* (2003), and Volpedo *et al.* (2010), recording approximately 170 species in the area. However, one of the main issues arising from these inventories is that compilers used the exhaustive work of Ringuelet *et al.* (1967) as a reference. This pioneer study represents the first Argentinean fish species list based on specimens collected in field samplings and on bibliographic compilations. Over the last twenty years, extensive reviews have been made for the freshwater ichthyofauna of Argentina and Uruguay, and several species have been synonymized or disregarded as part of the fish fauna of those countries (Litz, Koerber, 2014; Koerber *et al.*, 2016a,b; 2020; Mirande, Koerber, 2020). However, the validity of fish records, the actual number of species, their frequency of occurrence, and abundance in the area have not been reviewed nor have they been contrasted with current surveys. This indicates a need to review and updated lists of current freshwater fish living in the RdlP, based on a quantitative approach.

In addition, freshwater RdlP is subject to environmental pollution due to the large urban and industrial centers located on its coast (AA-AGOSBA-OSN-SHN, 1992; FREPLATA, 2004), threatening the fish biodiversity inhabiting this ecosystem. Thus, the revision and characterization of the composition, distribution and community of fish species present in this area and their hierarchical structure within the assemblage will provide the foundation for assessing the conservation status of species, assemblages, and fisheries.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study area. The RdlP system is located on the western South American Atlantic coast (35°S 58°W) and can be defined as a funnel coastal plain tidal river with a semi-closed shelf at the mouth (Baigún *et al.*, 2016). This extensive environment is divided into two main areas by the submersed shoal known as Barra del Indio that crosses the

river transversally (Fig. 1): the riverine zone (< 5 Practical Salinity Units: PSU) and the estuarine zone (> 5 PSU) (Guerrero *et al.*, 1997; Baigún *et al.*, 2016). The riverine zone is a shallow area not exceeding 5 m deep, characterized by a silty sand bottom that gradually turns to silt into the estuarine zone (Wells, Daborn, 1998). The main tributaries of the riverine RdLP are the Paraná and Uruguay rivers, providing 97% of the freshwater inflow (Guerrero *et al.*, 1997), together with several streams draining its coasts. Despite its main fluvial regime, this area also exhibits tidal influence (Balay, 1961), allowing a dynamic interaction between freshwater-brackish waters that can be highly affected by the wind action (Simionato *et al.*, 2007).

From an ichthyogeographical approach, Ringuelet (1975) argued that La Plata city (Fig. 1), and its surroundings, should be considered as the boundary where most freshwater fish fauna of La Plata River basin lives, due to a pauperization of taxa related to the saline gradient towards the estuary. However, López *et al.* (2002, 2008) extended the area of freshwater fish downstream, closer to the estuarine zone. For the present work, the study area comprised the Río de la Plata stretch from the mouth of Paraná (downstream the “Delta”) and Uruguay rivers (downstream the locality of “Punta Gorda”) to the imaginary line from La Balandra (Argentina) to Juan Lacaze (Uruguay) in opposite banks, hereinafter referred to as “freshwater RdLP” (Fig. 1). Such places were defined as limit because the last two stable freshwater fisheries of RdLP are placed in their banks, in the middle of the limits proposed by Ringuelet (1975) and López *et al.* (2002; 2008).

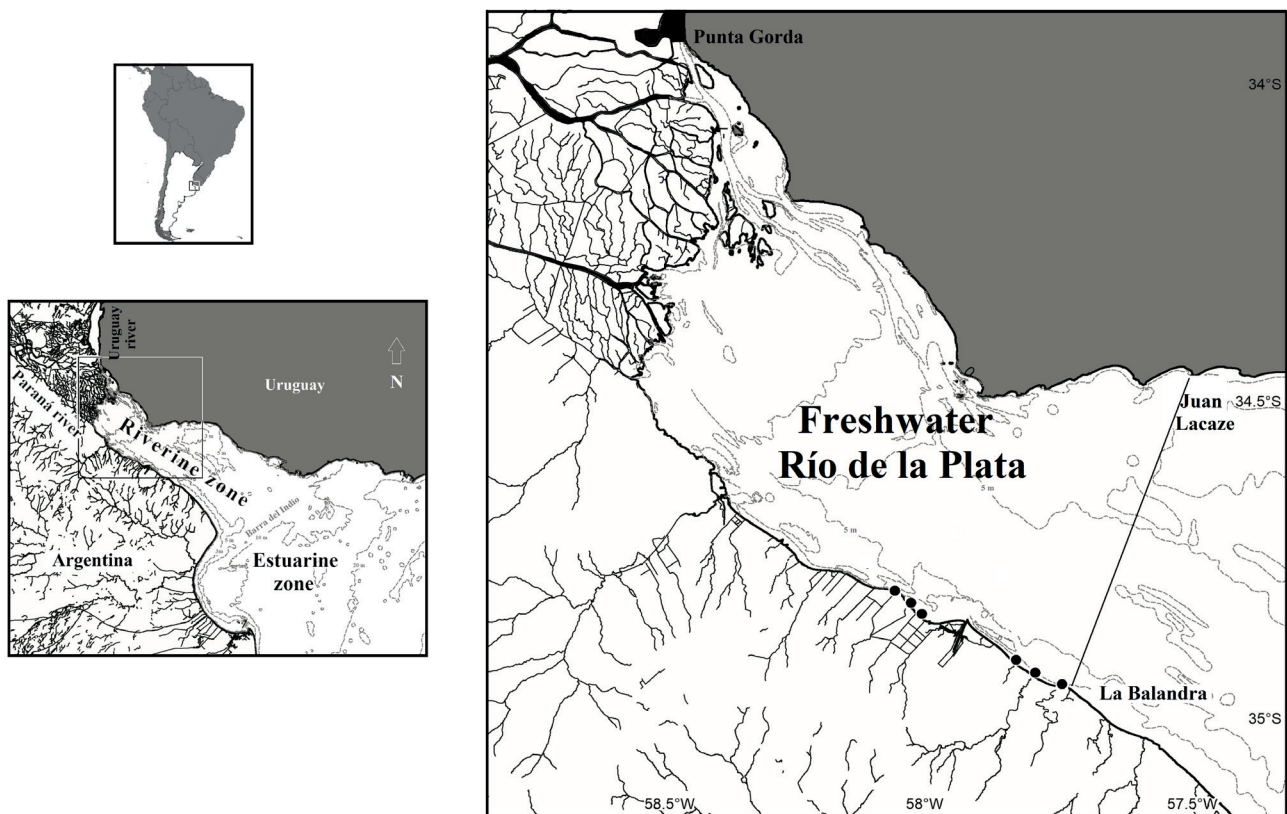


FIGURE 1 | Division of the Río de la Plata (RdLP) by the Barra del Indio shoal, in a riverine zone and an estuarine zone (FREPLATA, 2005), showing the sampled sites (black circles) and the limits of the area of freshwater RdLP considered for this study.

Literature review. Based on the list of freshwater fishes performed by López *et al.* (2003), species mentioned for the area in scientific literature, and our own fieldwork, a review of the species recorded for the freshwater RdlP was performed. The mention of each species was revised through the geographical distribution database of freshwater fishes from Argentina (Liotta, 2020). This online data source compile georeferenced information published in around 690 scientific publications on the distribution of inland fishes of the country. Furthermore, we conducted a systematic search in the Web of Science (WOS – in all fields) and Google Scholar database on Jan-2022, using the keywords: “scientific name” of each species and “rio de la Plata” (*i.e.*, *Prochilodus lineatus* Río de la Plata). After these searches, around 1000 ichthyological documents were obtained including journal papers, governmental technical reports, books, conference presentations, and PhD theses. Then, we reviewed titles, abstracts and in many cases the full text of each document retaining only the surveys with actual fieldwork and capture location inside the delineated study area, obtaining 119 documents. The species were sorted in a list of fish species mentioned for the freshwater RdlP, following the classification of Nelson *et al.* (2016) and changes in taxonomy were reviewed and updated following Fricke *et al.* (2022). Each species was analyzed to confirm the number of records, defined as the number of times that the species were registered in field studies in the literature. Also, to this figure we added the species registered in our fieldwork as one more record. To solve old metadata replication from Ringuelet *et al.* (1967), species registered once with collection date before this work or older, and taxa without first record traceable were considered as “not confirmed”. Such timeframe in the history of ichthyological studies of RdlP was defined considering the publication date of the study of the distribution of fish species in Argentina conducted by Ringuelet *et al.* (1967). The review of the list also included the analysis of species included in the last lists of freshwater fish species from Argentina (Mirande, Koerber, 2015; Koerber *et al.*, 2016a, 2020) and Uruguay (Teixeira de Mello *et al.*, 2011; Litz, Koerber, 2014; Koerber, Litz, 2016b; Koerber *et al.*, 2020, 2021). The species previously mentioned for the study area, but not included in these lists, were categorized as “absent” for the freshwater RdlP and excluded from further analysis. In addition, species currently considered junior synonyms of other species those documented in the study area were referred to as “synonymized species”. The remaining taxa, cited for Argentina and Uruguay within the study area, were categorized based on the absence or existence of specimens in ichthyological collections as “supported by literature” or “confirmed”, respectively. The non-native species were grouped as “established exotic species” and “non-established exotic species”, following Maiztegui *et al.* (2016), García Romero *et al.* (1998), and Liotta, Giacosa (2017).

Fieldwork. A fish sampling was carried out in freshwater RdlP at six sampling sites, along 35 km of the coastline between 34°46'56.0"S 58°00'39.9"W and 34°55'43.2"S 57°42'45.6"W (Fig. 1). Four seasonal fish samplings were performed from April 2016 to May 2017, using two fyke net with a rectangular mesh 10 x 5 mm (Colautti, 1998) and two trammel nets at each site, 25 m length and 1.9 m height each, with an inner mesh of 19 mm and 21 mm bar for one net, and 27 mm and 30 mm bar for the other net. The external mesh was 130 mm bar for both trammel nets. Fishing gears were arranged for one night, with a standardized effort at each site (16h). Fish were identified, counted,

and weighed (g). During fieldwork, some fish were identified and released alive; others were euthanized with an overdose of benzocaine solution, fixed in 10% formaldehyde, and stored in 70% ethanol for laboratory identification. Fish were identified following Azpelicueta, Braga (1991), López, Miquelarena (1991), Braga (1993, 1994), Aquino (1997), Casciotta *et al.* (2005), Miquelarena, Menni (2005), Miquelarena *et al.* (2008), and Rosso *et al.* (2018). Changes in taxonomy were reviewed and updated following Fricke *et al.* (2022). Voucher species were deposited in the ichthyology collection of the Fundación de Historia Natural Félix de Azara, Buenos Aires, Argentina (CFA-IC). In addition, species collected for the first time in the area were indicated as “new records”.

Taking into account the categories supported by literature, confirmed, established exotic species, and new records showed in the list of fish species mentioned for the freshwater RdLP, we obtained the current fish assemblage of the freshwater RdLP with their respective number of records. Meanwhile, the taxa categorized as not confirmed, absent, and synonymized species were considered as not current components.

Literature and fieldwork. Comparison and representativeness. The relative distribution of species richness within each taxonomic order was compared between the current fish assemblage from the literature and that from our fieldwork using the test of goodness fit of *Kolmogorov-Smirnov* ($p < 0.05$). In turn, we calculated the frequency distribution of species and ratio between number of species captured in our fieldwork and number of species mentioned in the literature as function of number of records.

Hierarchical structure of fish assemblage. To describe the hierarchical structure of fish species, an Olmstead-Tukey (OT) diagram (Sokal, Rohlf, 1981) was drawn from the fieldwork sampled area, categorizing each species as “dominant”, “frequent”, “occasional” or “rare”. Such classification was made according to the arrangement of species in a two-dimensional space defined by the percentage frequency of occurrence of species (occurrence %) and their catch per unit effort in fish number (CPUE_n) and in fish weight (CPUE_w). In both cases, values were standardized to 16h of fishing and, log transformed ($\ln X+1$). The category obtained for each species was indicated in the list of fish species mentioned for the freshwater RdLP.

RESULTS

From the literature, 206 native and four exotic fish species were mentioned in freshwater RdLP (Tab. 1). From the analysis of each species, the following number by categories were defined: 48 not confirmed, 13 absent, five synonymized species, 29 supported by literature, 107 confirmed, one established exotic species, and three non-established exotic species.

A total of 28,147 individuals that weighted 912,723 g, encompassing 72 species distributed in 11 orders and 28 families were captured during fieldwork (Tab. 1). This figure represents half of the fish assemblage species reported in the literature, including four new records. These taxa, together with supported by literature, confirmed, and established exotic species categories found in the literature, define a list of 141 species that should be considered as current fish assemblage of the freshwater RdLP (Tab. 1). The

remaining categories: not confirmed, absent, synonymized species, and non-established exotic species, accounted 66 taxa and were considered as not current components.

The comparison between literature and sampling taxa composition showed no differences in the relative number distribution of species by order (*Kolmogorov Smirnov*, $D = 0.38$; $p = 0.29$). It also showed that Siluriformes and Characiformes were equally prevalent, representing around 80% of the taxa (Fig. 2), followed by Gymnotiformes, Atheriniformes, and Clupeiformes with 4–3%. Cichliformes, Acanthuriformes,

TABLE 1 | List of fish species mentioned for the freshwater Río de la Plata (RdLP) with their taxonomic position, discriminating between species categorized as current and not current component of the fish assemblage. Number of records (N°Rec), references, and category provided after literature review (Cat.: NC, not confirmed; Ab, absent; SS, synonymized species; SL: supported by literature; Co, confirmed; NR, new records; EEx, established exotic species; NEx, non-established exotic species). The species captured in the sampling were classified according to Olmstead-Tukey (OT CPUEn and CPUEw: D, dominant; F, frequent; R, rare; O, occasional) and their voucher number (VN) in ichthyology collections. Museo de La Plata, Instituto de Limnología, La Plata (MLP); Museo Argenino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Buenos Aires (MACN); Laboratorio de Evolución of Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República Uruguay, Montevideo (EVP); Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre (MCP); Museo Nacional de Historia Natural y Antropología, Zoología, Montevideo (MHNM).

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
Current components of the fish assemblage						
CHONDRICHTHYES						
MYLIOBATIFORMES						
Potamotrygonidae						
<i>Potamotrygon brachyura</i> (Günther, 1880)	3	CARU (2012); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Lucifora <i>et al.</i> (2015).	SL			
OSTEICHTHYES						
Sciaenidae						
<i>Pachyurus bonariensis</i> Steindachner, 1879	8	Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); CARU (2012, 2016); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	F		CFA8064
<i>Plagioscion ternetzi</i> Boulenger, 1895	8	Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); CARU (2012, 2016); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	R		CFA8049
ATHERINIFORMES						
Atherinopsidae						
<i>Odontesthes argentinensis</i> (Valenciennes, 1835)	1	D´Anatro <i>et al.</i> (2020)	Co			EVP150
<i>Odontesthes humensis</i> de Buen, 1953	1	Bogan <i>et al.</i> (2015).	Co			CFA4800
<i>Odontesthes retropinnis</i> (de Buen, 1953)	1	Cuello (2020).	Co			MLP9670



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Odontesthes bonariensis</i> (Valenciennes, 1835)	14	Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Paracampo (2013); Avigliano, Volpedo (2013a,b); Avigliano <i>et al.</i> (2015a); Valdés <i>et al.</i> (2015); Valencia <i>et al.</i> (2017); Villanova <i>et al.</i> (2018); Colautti <i>et al.</i> (2019); Scarabotti <i>et al.</i> (2021), This study.	Co	F		
<i>Odontesthes perugiae</i> Evermann & Kendall, 1906	1	This study.	NR	R		CFA8087
CICHLIFORMES						
Cichlidae						
<i>Australoheros facetus</i> (Jenyns, 1842)	8	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1978); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020).	Co			MLP12-XII-32-18
<i>Cichlasoma dimerus</i> (Heckel, 1840)	1	CARU-CARP (2016).	SL			
<i>Crenicichla lepidota</i> Heckel, 1840	1	Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012).	SL			
<i>Crenicichla scottii</i> (Eigenmann, 1907)	2	Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013).	Co			CFA2191
<i>Gymnogeophagus meridionalis</i> Reis & Malabarba, 1988	8	Escalante (1984); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Yorojo Moreno <i>et al.</i> (2017); This study.	Co	R		CFA8038
CLUPEIFORMES						
Pristigasteridae						
<i>Pellona flavipinnis</i> (Valenciennes, 1837)	4	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016).	Co			MLP2-VII-54-11
Engraulidae						
<i>Lycengraulis grossidens</i> (Spix & Agassiz, 1829)	7	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP(2012, 2016); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Scarabotti <i>et al.</i> (2021); This study.	Co	R		CFA8089
<i>Platanichthys platana</i> (Regan, 1917)	1	CARU-CARP (2012).	SL			
<i>Ramnogaster melanostoma</i> (Eigenmann, 1907)	5	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón (1989); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	F		CFA8088
CYPRINIFORMES						
Cyprinidae						
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i> Linnaeus, 1758	13	Mac Donagh (1945); Candia (1989); Fabiano <i>et al.</i> (1992); Colautti (1997); Colombo <i>et al.</i> (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Guerrero <i>et al.</i> (2017); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	EEx	F	D	CFA8096



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
CYPRINODONTIFORMES						
Anablepidae						
<i>Jenynsia lineata</i> (Fowler, 1940)	10	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1978); Escalante (1983); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompart <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020).	Co			
Poeciliidae						
<i>Cnesterodon decemmaculatus</i> (Jenyns, 1842)	9	Escalante (1983); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompart <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020).	Co			CFA2163
<i>Phalloceros caudimaculatus</i> (Hensel, 1868)	4	Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Callicó Fortunato <i>et al.</i> (2010); Llompart <i>et al.</i> (2012).	SL			
Rivulidae						
<i>Austrolebias bellottii</i> (Steindachner, 1881)	6	Escalante (1984); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Calviño (2007); Llompart <i>et al.</i> (2012); Calviño (2016).	Co			MLP6847
<i>Austrolebias elongatus</i> (Steindachner, 1881)	2	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Calviño (2016).	Co			MLP6408
<i>Austrolebias nigripinnis</i> (Regan, 1912)	4	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Calviño (2007); Calviño (2016); Llompart <i>et al.</i> (2012).	Co			MLP7889
CHARACIFORMES						
Acestrorhynchidae						
<i>Acestrorhynchus pantaneiro</i> Menezes, 1992	7	Almirón, García (1992); Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); This study.	Co	R		CFA8060
Anostomidae						
<i>Abramites hypselonotus</i> (Günther, 1868)	1	Braga (1993).	Co			MLP17-XII-32-12
<i>Leporinus acutidens</i> (Valenciennes, 1837)	1	Almirón (1989)	SL			
<i>Megaleporinus obtusidens</i> (Valenciennes, 1837)	11	Candia (1989); Almirón (1989); Braga (1993); Penchaszadeh <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); García, Protogino (2005); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Paracampo (2013); Rojo <i>et al.</i> (2021); This study.	Co	F	D	CFA8082
<i>Pseudanos trimaculatus</i> (Kner, 1858)	1	Braga (1993).	Co			MACN6207
<i>Schizodon borellii</i> (Boulenger, 1900)	2	CARU-CARP (2012, 2016).	SL			
<i>Schizodon platae</i> (Garman, 1890)	6	Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Llompart <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	F		CFA8086



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
Characidae						
<i>Aphyocharax dentatus</i> Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1903	1	López <i>et al.</i> (1984).	SL			
<i>Astyanax abramis</i> (Jenyns, 1842)	5	Almirón (1989); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	R		CFA8099
<i>Astyanax alleni</i> (Eigenmann & McAtee, 1907)	3	Almirón (1984); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013).	SL			
<i>Astyanax lacustris</i> (Lütken, 1875)	4	Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	F		CFA8072
<i>Brycon orbignyana</i> (Valenciennes, 1850)	5	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Guerrero <i>et al.</i> (2017); This study.	Co	R		MLP30-V-33-43
<i>Bryconamericus exodon</i> Eigenmann, 1907	1	Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012).	SL			
<i>Bryconamericus iheringii</i> (Boulenger, 1887)	7	Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	R		CFA8044
<i>Bryconamericus rubropictus</i> (Berg, 1901)	1	Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000).	SL			
<i>Charax stenopterus</i> (Cope, 1894)	7	Escalante (1984); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020).	Co			CFA2168
<i>Cheirodon interruptus</i> (Jenyns, 1842)	11	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Miquelarena <i>et al.</i> (1981); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	R		CFA8043
<i>Cynopotamus argenteus</i> (Valenciennes, 1837)	7	Almirón (1989); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	F		CFA8062
<i>Cynopotamus kincaidi</i> (Schultz, 1950)	1	This study.	NR	R		
<i>Deuterodon luetkenii</i> (Boulenger, 1887)	1	Paracampo (2013).	SL			
<i>Diapoma terofali</i> (Géry, 1964)	3	Miquelarena <i>et al.</i> (1981); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Paracampo (2013).	Co			MLP19-XII-79-1
<i>Galeocharax humeralis</i> (Valenciennes, 1834)	3	CARU-CARP (2012); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); This study.	Co	R		
<i>Heterocheirodon yatai</i> (Casciotta, Miquelarena & Protogino, 1992)	1	Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000).	SL			
<i>Hyphessobrycon meridionalis</i> Ringuelet, Miquelarena & Menni, 1978	5	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1978); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Paracampo (2013).	Co			CFA2181



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Hyphessobrycon togoi</i> Miquelarena & López, 2006	1	Miquelarena, López (2006).	Co			CFA1246
<i>Moenkhausia intermedia</i> Eigenmann, 1908	1	This study.	NR		R	CFA8052
<i>Odontostilbe pequirá</i> (Steindachner, 1882)	2	Almirón (1984); This study.	Co		R	CFA8069
<i>Oligosarcus jenynsii</i> (Günther, 1864)	8	Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); CARU-CARP (2012); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co		R	CFA8090
<i>Oligosarcus oligolepis</i> (Steindachner, 1867)	7	Escalante (1984); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); CARU-CARP (2016); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co		F	CFA8055
<i>Piabarchus stramineus</i> (Eigenmann, 1908)	1	Azpelicueta, Braga (1980).	SL			
<i>Psalidodon anisitsi</i> (Eigenmann, 1907)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1978); Almirón (1989); Paracampo (2013).	Co			CFA2186
<i>Psalidodon eigenmanniorum</i> (Cope, 1894)	7	Escalante (1982); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020).	Co			CFA2175
<i>Psalidodon erythropterus</i> (Holmberg, 1891)	2	Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); This study.	Co		R	CFA8066
<i>Psalidodon rutilus</i> (Jenyns, 1842)	13	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Escalante (1984); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	D	F	CFA8070
<i>Pseudocorynopoma doriae</i> Perugia, 1891	7	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020).	Co			MLP22-XI-34-9
<i>Roeboides descalvadensis</i> Fowler, 1932	1	Lucena (2007).	Co			MCP10148
<i>Roeboides microlepis</i> (Reinhardt, 1851)	6	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón (1989); Remes Lenicov, Colautti 2000; Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co		R	CFA8050
<i>Salminus brasiliensis</i> (Cuvier, 1816)	14	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Bonetto <i>et al.</i> (1971); Escalante (1984); Sverlij, Espinach Ros (1986); Candia (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Paracampo (2013); Guerrero <i>et al.</i> (2017); Rojo <i>et al.</i> (2021); Scarabotti <i>et al.</i> (2021); This study.	Co	F	D	CFA8085
Crenuchidae						
<i>Characidium rachovii</i> Regan, 1913	6	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1978); López <i>et al.</i> (1980); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Paracampo (2013).	Co			MLP24-IV-79-2
Curimatidae						



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Cyphocharax platanus</i> (Günther, 1880)	7	Almirón (1989); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompарт et al. (2012); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	D	F	CFA8053
<i>Cyphocharax saladensis</i> (Meinken, 1933)	3	Almirón (1990); Llompарт et al. (2012); This study.	Co	R		
<i>Cyphocharax spilottus</i> (Vari, 1987)	5	Almirón (1989); Azpelicueta, Almirón (1991); Llompарт et al. (2012); CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	R		
<i>Cyphocharax voga</i> (Hensel, 1870)	9	Almirón, García (1992); Almirón et al. (2000); Remes Lenicov et al. (2005); López et al. (2009); Llompарт et al. (2012); Paracampo (2013); CARU-CARP (2016); Paracampo et al. (2020); This study.	Co	D		CFA8054
<i>Potamorhina squamoralevis</i> (Braga & Azpelicueta, 1983)	2	CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	R		
<i>Psectrogaster curviventris</i> Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1903	2	CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	R		
<i>Steindachnerina biornata</i> (Braga & Azpelicueta, 1987)	5	Braga, Azpelicueta (1987); Almirón et al. (2000); López et al. (2009); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	R		CFA8078
Cynodontidae						
<i>Rhaphiodon vulpinus</i> Spix & Agassiz, 1829	7	Ringuelet et al. (1967); Almirón (1989); Almirón et al. (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Llompарт et al. (2012); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	R		CFA8057
Erythrinidae						
<i>Hoplias argentinensis</i> Rosso, González-Castro, Bogan, Cardoso, Mabragaña, Delpiani & Díaz de Astarloa, 2018	12	Ringuelet et al. (1967); Escalante (1984); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón et al. (2000); Remes Lenicov et al. (2005); López et al. (2009); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llamazares Vegh et al. (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo et al. (2020); This study.	Co	F	D	CFA8042
Parodontidae						
<i>Apareiodon affinis</i> (Steindachner, 1879)	3	Almirón (1989); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	R		CFA8068
Prochilodontidae						
<i>Prochilodus lineatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1837)	32	Ringuelet et al. (1967); Almirón (1989); Candia (1989); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón et al. (2000); Colombo et al. (2000, 2011); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Villar et al. (2001); Remes Lenicov et al. (2005); Colombo et al. (2007); Speranza, Colombo (2009); Lombardi et al. (2010a,b); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llamazares Vegh et al. (2012); Llompарт et al. (2012); Speranza et al. (2012, 2013, 2016, 2020); Paracampo (2013); Cappelletti et al. (2015); Avigliano et al. (2017b, 2019b,c, 2020); Paracampo et al. (2020); Rojo et al. (2021); Scarabotti et al. (2021); This study.	Co	F	D	CFA8063
Serrasalminidae						
<i>Metynnis otuquensis</i> Ahl, 1923	1	Braga (1994).	Co			MACN5700



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Mylossoma duriventre</i> (Cuvier, 1818)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2016).	Co			MLP7-XII-32-40
<i>Pygocentrus nattereri</i> Kner, 1858	4	Almirón (1989); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016).	SL			
<i>Serrasalmus maculatus</i> Kner, 1858	5	Almirón (1989); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012).	SL			
<i>Serrasalmus marginatus</i> Valenciennes, 1837	1	Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000).	SL			
Triporthidae						
<i>Triporthus nematurus</i> (Kner, 1858)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2016).	Co			MLP5-VI-35-15
GYMNOTIFORMES						
Apterodontidae						
<i>Apterodontus albifrons</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	2	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); CARU-CARP (2016).	Co			MLP20-X-32-32
Gymnotidae						
<i>Gymnotus inaequilabiatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1839)	1	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967).	Co			MLP4-IV-61-48
Rhamphichthyidae						
<i>Rhamphichthys hahni</i> (Meinken, 1937)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	R		
Sternopygidae						
<i>Eigenmannia trilineata</i> López & Castello, 1966	4	López, Castello (1966); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	F		CFA8056
<i>Eigenmannia virescens</i> (Valenciennes, 1836)	5	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); This study.	Co	R		
MUGILIFORMES						
Mugilidae						
<i>Mugil liza</i> Valenciennes, 1836	7	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Colombo <i>et al.</i> (2000); Paracampo (2013); CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	R		CFA8059
SILURIFORMES						
Ariidae						
<i>Genidens barbatus</i> (Lacepède, 1803)	5	CARU-CARP (2012); Avigliano <i>et al.</i> (2015b, 2017a, 2019a); Maciel <i>et al.</i> (2021).	SL			
Aspredinidae						
<i>Bunocephalus doriae</i> Boulenger, 1902	1	Paracampo (2013).	Co			CFA2162
<i>Pseudobunocephalus iheringii</i> (Boulenger, 1891)	2	Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); This study.	Co	R		CFA8079



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
Auchenipteridae						
<i>Ageneiosus inermis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012).	Co			MLP1-III-60-1
<i>Ageneiosus militaris</i> Valenciennes, 1835	8	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Paracampo (2013); Guerrero <i>et al.</i> (2017); This study.	Co	R		CFA8041
<i>Auchenipterus osteomystax</i> (Miranda Ribeiro, 1918)	5	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012).	Co			MLP1-V-41-19
<i>Trachelyopterus albicrux</i> (Berg, 1901)	1	Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000).	SL			
<i>Trachelyopterus cf. galeatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	5	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Guerrero <i>et al.</i> (2017); This study.	Co	F		CFA8058
<i>Trachelyopterus lucenai</i> Bertoletti, da Silva & Pereira, 1995	1	CARU-CARP (2016).	SL			
Callichthyidae						
<i>Callichthys callichthys</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967) Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012).	Co			MLP2-III-59-4
<i>Corydoras paleatus</i> (Jenyns, 1842)	9	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Escalante (1983); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	F		CFA8039
Doraridae						
<i>Oxydoras kneri</i> Bleeker, 1862	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Scarabotti <i>et al.</i> (2021).	Co			MLP30-V-33-2
<i>Pterodoras granulosus</i> (Valenciennes, 1821)	12	Candia (1989); Amestoy, Fabiano (1992); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Ferriz <i>et al.</i> (2000); Villar <i>et al.</i> (2001); Cataldo (2002); Garcia, Protogino (2005); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Scarabotti <i>et al.</i> (2021); This study.	Co	R		CFA8076
<i>Rhinodoras dorbignyi</i> (Kner, 1855)	6	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Garcia, Protogino (2005); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); This study.	Co	R		CFA8074
Heptapteridae						
<i>Heptapterus mustelinus</i> (Valenciennes, 1835)	2	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Fuster (2017).	Co			MLP10-VIII-32-24
<i>Pimelodella gracilis</i> (Valenciennes, 1835)	6	Almirón (1989); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); This study.	Co	R		CFA8075
<i>Pimelodella laticeps</i> Eigenmann, 1917	8	Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Almirón, García (1992); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Paracampo (2013); García <i>et al.</i> (2017); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	R		CFA8081
<i>Rhamdia aff. quelen</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)	8	Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); CARU-CARP (2012); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	R		CFA8067
Loricariidae						



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Ancistrus cirrhosus</i> (Valenciennes, 1836)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); This study.	Co	R		CFA8061
<i>Brochiloricaria chauliodon</i> Isbrücker, 1979	2	Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Garcia, Protogino (2005).	SL			
<i>Hisonotus maculipinnis</i> (Regan, 1912)	1	Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000).	SL			
<i>Hoplosternum littorale</i> (Hancock, 1828)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); This study.	Co	R		CFA8091
<i>Hypostomus aspilogaster</i> (Cope, 1894)	3	Cardoso <i>et al.</i> (2011); CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	R		CFA8093
<i>Hypostomus borellii</i> (Boulenger, 1897)	1	CARU-CARP (2012).	SL			
<i>Hypostomus commersoni</i> Valenciennes, 1836	12	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	F	D	CFA8040
<i>Hypostomus laplatae</i> (Eigenmann, 1907)	3	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Cardoso <i>et al.</i> (2019); This study.	Co	R		CFA8097
<i>Hypostomus microstomus</i> Weber, 1987	1	López, Miquelarena (1991).	Co			MHNM1524
<i>Hypostomus roseopunctatus</i> Reis, Weber & Malabarba, 1990	1	CARU-CARP (2016).	SL			
<i>Hypostomus uruguayensis</i> Reis, Weber & Malabarba, 1990	1	This study.	NR	R		CFA8094
<i>Loricaria simillima</i> Regan, 1904	1	CARU-CARP (2016).	Co			
<i>Loricaria apeltogaster</i> Boulenger, 1895	2	López (1970); CARU-CARP (2016).	SL			
<i>Loricariichthys anus</i> (Valenciennes, 1835)	10	López (1970); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	F	D	CFA8083
<i>Loricariichthys melanocheilus</i> Reis & Pereira, 2000	2	Rodríguez (2003); CARU-CARP (2012).	Co			MLP755
<i>Otocinclus arnoldi</i> Regan, 1909	7	Almirón, García (1992); Schaefer (1997); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020).	Co			CFA2170
<i>Otocinclus vittatus</i> Regan, 1904	1	Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000).	SL			
<i>Paraloricaria vetula</i> (Valenciennes, 1835)	7	López (1970); Rodríguez (2003); Garcia, Protogino (2005); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); This study.	Co	R		CFA8077
<i>Pterygoplichthys ambrosettii</i> (Holmberg 1893)	2	CARU-CARP (2016); This study.	Co	R		CFA8036

TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Rhinelepis strigosa</i> Valenciennes, 1840	3	CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); This study.	Co	F		CFA8095
<i>Ricola macrops</i> (Regan, 1904)	5	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); López (1970); Rodríguez (2003); García, Protogino (2005); CARU-CARP (2016).	Co			
<i>Rineloricaria catamarcensis</i> (Berg, 1895)	1	Rodríguez (2003).	Co			CFA1680
<i>Rineloricaria lima</i> (Kner, 1853)	2	López (1970); Almirón, García (1992).	SL			
Pimelodidae						
<i>Hypophthalmus oremaculatus</i> Nani & Fuster de Plaza, 1947	1	López <i>et al.</i> (1980).	Co			MLP2-VIII-73-13
<i>Iheringichthys labrosus</i> (Lütken, 1874)	7	Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	F		CFA8073
<i>Luciopimelodus pati</i> (Valenciennes, 1835)	11	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967), Sverlij, Espinach Ros (1986); Candia (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Scarabotti <i>et al.</i> (2021); This study.	Co	F		CFA8084
<i>Pinirampus argentina</i> (MacDonagh, 1938)	1	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967).	Co			MLP30-V-33-3
<i>Pimelodus maculatus</i> Lacepède, 1803	17	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Candia (1989); Almirón, García (1992); Gutiérrez, Martorelli (1999); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); García, Protogino (2005); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); Rojo <i>et al.</i> (2021); This study.	Co	D		CFA8071
<i>Parapimelodus valenciennis</i> (Lütken, 1874)	13	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón (1989); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); Scarabotti <i>et al.</i> (2021); This study.	Co	D		CFA8047
<i>Pimelodus albicans</i> (Valenciennes, 1840)	13	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón (1989); Candia (1989); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Gutiérrez, 2001; Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); Vergara <i>et al.</i> (2008); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo, 2013; This study.	Co	F	D	CFA8098
<i>Pimelodus argenteus</i> Perugia, 1891	3	Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); This study.	Co	R		CFA8048
<i>Pseudoplatystoma corruscans</i> (Spix & Agassiz, 1829)	6	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); CARU-CARP (2012, 2016); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	F		CFA8035
<i>Sorubim lima</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)	5	Almirón (1989); Remes Lenicov, Colautti (2000); Volpedo, Fuchs (2010); Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); This study.	Co	R		CFA8092
<i>Zungaro jahu</i> (Ihering, 1898)	3	Llompарт <i>et al.</i> (2012); CARU-CARP (2016); Guerrero <i>et al.</i> (2017).	SL			
Pseudopimelodidae						



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Microglanis malabarbai</i> Bertaco & Cardoso, 2005	5	Castello (1971); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); This study.	Co	R		CFA8080
SYNBRANCHIFORMES						
Synbranchidae						
<i>Synbranchus marmoratus</i> Bloch, 1795	11	Ringuelet <i>et al.</i> (1967); Almirón, García (1992); Almirón <i>et al.</i> (2000); Remes Lenicov <i>et al.</i> (2005); López <i>et al.</i> (2009); Llamazares Vegh <i>et al.</i> (2012); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); Paracampo (2013); Guerrero <i>et al.</i> (2017); Paracampo <i>et al.</i> (2020); This study.	Co	R		CFA8046
PLEURONECTIFORMES						
Achiridae						
<i>Catathyridium jenyinsii</i> (Günther, 1862)	4	Candia (1989); Lunaschi (2003); Llompert <i>et al.</i> (2012); This study.	Co	R		CFA8065
Not current components of the fish assemblage						
PETROMYZONTIDA						
PETROMYZONTIFORMES						
Geotriidae						
<i>Geotria macrostoma</i> (Burmeister, 1868)	1	Burmeister (1868).	NC			
CHONDRICHTHYES						
MYLIOBATIFORMES						
Potamotrygonidae						
<i>Potamotrygon histrix</i> (Müller & Henle, 1839)	1	Pozzi (1945).	NC			
<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i> (Müller & Henle, 1841)	1	Pozzi (1945).	NC			
OSTEICHTHYES						
ACIPENSERIFORMES						
Acipenseridae						
<i>Acipenser baerii</i> Brandt, 1869	2	Azpelicueta, Almirón (1999); Liotta, Giacosa (2017).	NEx			
<i>Acipenser gueldenstaedtii</i> Brandt & Ratzeburg, 1833	1	Demonte <i>et al.</i> (2017).	NEx			
ANGUILLIFORMES						
Muraenidae						
<i>Gymnothorax ocellatus</i> Agassiz, 1831	1	Marelli (1924).	NC			
ACANTHURIFORMES						



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
Sciaenidae						
<i>Plagioscion macdonaghi</i> Daneri, 1954		Junior synonym of <i>Plagioscion ternetzi</i> Boulenger, 1895 by Casatti (2003).	SS			
CLUPEIFORMES						
Clupeidae						
<i>Brevoortia aurea</i> (Spix & Agassiz, 1829)	1	Lahille (1895).	NC			
<i>Brevoortia pectinata</i> (Jenyns, 1842)	1	Berg (1895).	NC			
<i>Ramnogaster arcuata</i> (Jenyns, 1842)	1	De Buen (1950) collected outside the study area (Montevideo, Uruguay)	NC			
CHARACIFORMES						
Anostomidae						
<i>Leporinus striatus</i> Kner, 1858	1	Devincenzi, Teague (1942) collected outside the study area (middle Uruguay River).	NC			
Characidae						
<i>Aphyocharax pusillus</i> Günther, 1868	1	Pozzi (1945).	NC			
<i>Astyanax orbignyanus</i> (Valenciennes, 1850)	1	Cuvier, Valenciennes (1850).	NC			
<i>Diapoma speculiferum</i> Cope, 1894	1	Myers (1942) collected outside the study area (Río Cebollatí, Uruguay).	NC			
<i>Hyphessobrycon bifasciatus</i> Ellis, 1911	1	Messner (1962).	NC			
<i>Markiana nigripinnis</i> (Perugia, 1891)	1	Perugia (1891).	NC			
<i>Odontostilbe microcephala</i> Eigenmann, 1907	1	Ringuelet (1975) without traceable record.	NC			
<i>Poptella paraguayensis</i> (Eigenmann, 1907)	1	Günther (1880).	NC			
<i>Roeboides affinis</i> (Günther, 1868)	1	Ringuelet, Arámburu (1957).	NC			
<i>Serrapinnus piaba</i> (Lütken, 1875)	1	Nion (1998) without traceable record.	NC			
<i>Tetragonopterus argenteus</i> Cuvier, 1816	1	Lahille (1895).	NC			
Curimatidae						
<i>Steindachnerina brevipinna</i> (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1889)	1	Berg (1897).	NC			



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
Gasteropelecidae						
<i>Thoracocharax stellatus</i> (Kner, 1858)	1	Pozzi, Bordalé (1936).	NC			
Lesbiasinidae						
<i>Pyrrhulina australis</i> Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1903	1	Pozzi (1945).	NC			
Parodontidae						
<i>Parodon suborbitalis</i> Valenciennes, 1850	1	De Buen (1950).	NC			
Serrasalminae						
<i>Mylossoma paraguayensis</i> Norman, 1929		Junior synonym of <i>Mylossoma duriventre</i> (Cuvier, 1818) Jégu (2003)	SS			
<i>Piaractus mesopotamicus</i> (Holmberg, 1887)	1	Pozzi (1945).	NC			
<i>Serrasalmus spilopleura</i> Kner, 1858	1	Norman (1929).	Ab			
Trichomycteridae						
<i>Pseudostegophilus maculatus</i> (Steindachner, 1879)	1	Stigchel (1947).	NC			
<i>Scleronema minutum</i> (Boulenger, 1891)	1	Devincenzi, Teague (1942) collected outside the study area (middle Uruguay River).	NC			
CICHLIFORMES						
Cichlidae						
<i>Crenicichla lacustris</i> (Castelnau, 1855)	1	Marelli (1924).	Ab			
<i>Gymnogeophagus australis</i> (Eigenmann, 1907)	1	Pozzi (1945).	NC			
<i>Gymnogeophagus labiatus</i> (Hensel, 1870)	1	Pereyra, García (2008) without traceable record.	NC			
<i>Gymnogeophagus rhabdotus</i> (Hensel, 1870)	1	Nion (1998) without traceable record.	NC			
CYPRINIFORMES						
Cyprinidae						
<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> (Valenciennes, 1844)	1	García Romero <i>et al.</i> (1998).	NEx			
CYPRINODONTIFORMES						
Poeciliidae						
<i>Phalloptychus januarius</i> (Hensel, 1868)	1	Lahille (1923).	Ab			



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Poecilia vivipara</i> Bloch & Schneider, 1801	1	Ihering (1931).	Ab			
GYMNOTIFORMES						
Rhamphichthyidae						
<i>Rhamphichthys rostratus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)	1	Lahille (1910).	Ab			
Hypopomidae						
<i>Hypopomus artedi</i> (Kaup, 1856)	1	Lahille (1921).	Ab			
MUGILIFORMES						
Mugilidae						
<i>Mugil platanus</i> Günther, 1880		Junior synonym of <i>Mugil liza</i> Valenciennes, 1836 by Menezes <i>et al.</i> (2010).	SS			
SILURIFORMES						
Ageneiosidae						
<i>Ageneiosus dentatus</i> Kner, 1858	1	Marelli (1924).	NC			
Auchenipteridae						
<i>Trachelyopterus ceratophysus</i> (Kner, 1858)	1	Perugia (1891).	NC			
<i>Trachelyopterus striatulus</i> (Steindachner, 1877)	1	Mac Donagh, Cabrera (1937).	NC			
Callichthyidae						
<i>Corydoras undulatus</i> Regan, 1912	1	Nijssen, Isbrücker (1980) collected by Wolterstorff in 1912.	NC			
<i>Corydoras aeneus</i> (Gill, 1858)	1	Pozzi (1945).	NC			
Dorariidae						
<i>Megalodoras laevigatulus</i> (Berg, 1901)		Junior synonym of <i>Pterodoras granulatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1821) by Sabaj (2003).	SS			
Loricariidae						
<i>Ancistrus gymnorhynchus</i> Kner, 1854	1	Stigchel (1947) misidentified this species which is distributed in Venezuela (Fricke <i>et al.</i> , 2022).	Ab			
<i>Farlowella hahni</i> Meinken, 1937	1	Almirón <i>et al.</i> (1992) without traceable record.	NC			
<i>Hypostomus punctatus</i> Valenciennes, 1840	1	Angelescu, Gneri (1949).	NC			
<i>Hypostomus robinii</i> Valenciennes, 1840	1	Lopez <i>et al.</i> (1987) misidentified this species which is distributed in Colombia (Fricke <i>et al.</i> , 2022).	Ab			



TABLE 1 | (Continued)

Classification	N°Rec	References	Cat.	OT		VN
				CPUE _n	CPUE _w	
<i>Loricariichthys platymetopon</i> Isbrücker & Nijssen, 1979	1	Roule (1826).	NC			
<i>Otocinclus affinis</i> Steindachner, 1877	1	Schaefer (1997).	Ab			
<i>Paraloricaria commersonoides</i> (Devincenzi, 1943)	1	De Vincenzi (1943) collected outside the study area (middle Uruguay River).	NC			
<i>Rineloricaria felipponei</i> (Fowler, 1943)	1	Fowler (1943).	NC			
<i>Rineloricaria pareiacantha</i> (Fowler, 1943)	1	Fowler (1943).	NC			
<i>Rineloricaria thrissoceps</i> (Fowler, 1943)	1	Fowler (1943).	NC			
<i>Spatuloricaria nudiventris</i> (Valenciennes, 1840)	1	Devincenzi, Teague (1942) collected outside the study area (middle Uruguay River).	NC			
Heptapteridae						
<i>Myoglanis colletti</i> (Steindachner, 1881)	1	Steindachner (1881).	NC			
<i>Rhamdella jenynsii</i> (Günther, 1864)	1	Günther (1880).	NC			
Pimelodidae						
<i>Bergiaria platana</i> (Steindachner, 1908)	1	Steindachner (1908).	NC			
<i>Bergiaria westermanni</i> (Lütken, 1874)	1	Lütken (1874).	NC			
<i>Megalonema platanum</i> (Günther, 1880)	1	Günther (1880).	NC			
<i>Hemisorubim platyrhynchos</i> (Valenciennes, 1840)	1	Nion (1998) without traceable record.	NC			
<i>Hypophthalmus edentatus</i> Spix & Agassiz, 1829	1	Lopez <i>et al.</i> (1980) erroneous record.	Ab			
<i>Pimelodus brevis</i> Marini, Nichols & LaMonte, 1933	1	Junior synonym of <i>Pimelodus argenteus</i> Perugia, 1891 by Mirande, Koerber (2015).	SS			
<i>Paulicea luetkeni</i> (Steindachner, 1876)	1	Haseman (1911).	Ab			
<i>Pseudopimelodus mangurus</i> (Valenciennes, 1835)	1	Marelli (1924).	Ab			
<i>Pseudoplatystoma reticulatum</i> Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1889	1	De Buen (1950) without traceable record.	NC			
PLEURONECTIFORMES						
Achiridae						
<i>Achirus lineatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	1	Pozzi (1945) misidentified this tropical species which is distributed up to northern Argentina (Fricke <i>et al.</i> , 2022).	Ab			

Cypriniformes, Mugiliformes, Pleuronectiformes, and Synbranchiformes ranged between 4–1%. Cyprinodontiformes and Myliobatiformes were found only in the literature, with 4% or less. Considering families, comparison evidenced that Characidae, Loricariidae, and Pimelodidae, in descending order, were the richest taxa.

The category supported by literature, reached the highest value for taxa with a single record, followed by confirmed taxa and new records. Based on the 141 taxa that should be considered as current fish assemblage, the number of species by number of records value (Tab.1) showed that half of these species showed three records or less in the study area, and that the remaining half were recorded up to 32 (Fig. 3). As records increased, the ratio between number of species caught in fieldwork and number of species mentioned in the literature increased, suggesting that the species most frequently cited were also those most commonly captured in the study area.

The Olmstead-Tukey quadrants for occurrence % - CPUE_n (Fig. 4A) were limited by a mean frequency of occurrence of 30.67% and an average CPUE of 8 ind./16 h. Five species were dominant (6.94%), 22 frequent (30.6%) and 45 rare (62.5%) (Tab.1). Dominant species exhibited an occurrence higher than 88%, representing 90% of the total specimens collected (n = 25,311). Frequent species accounted for 8.5% of the total captured fish and rare species, representing 1.5% of the total captured specimens. While for occurrence % - CPUE_w an average 264 g/16h was obtained, with 11 dominant (11.2%), 16 frequent (22.2%), and 45 rare species (62.5%) (Fig. 4B). Summed up, the group of five dominant species exhibited a CPUE_w higher than 90% of the total weight

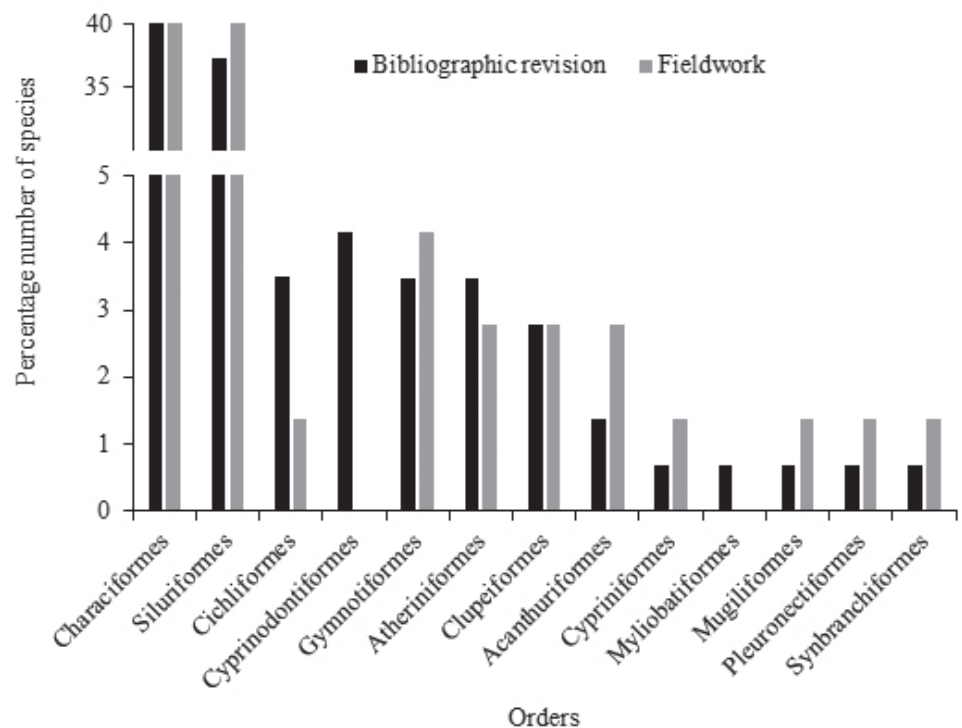


FIGURE 2 | Percentage number of species by order, literature review (black bar) differing from fieldwork (grey bar) in the freshwater Río de la Plata (RdlP).

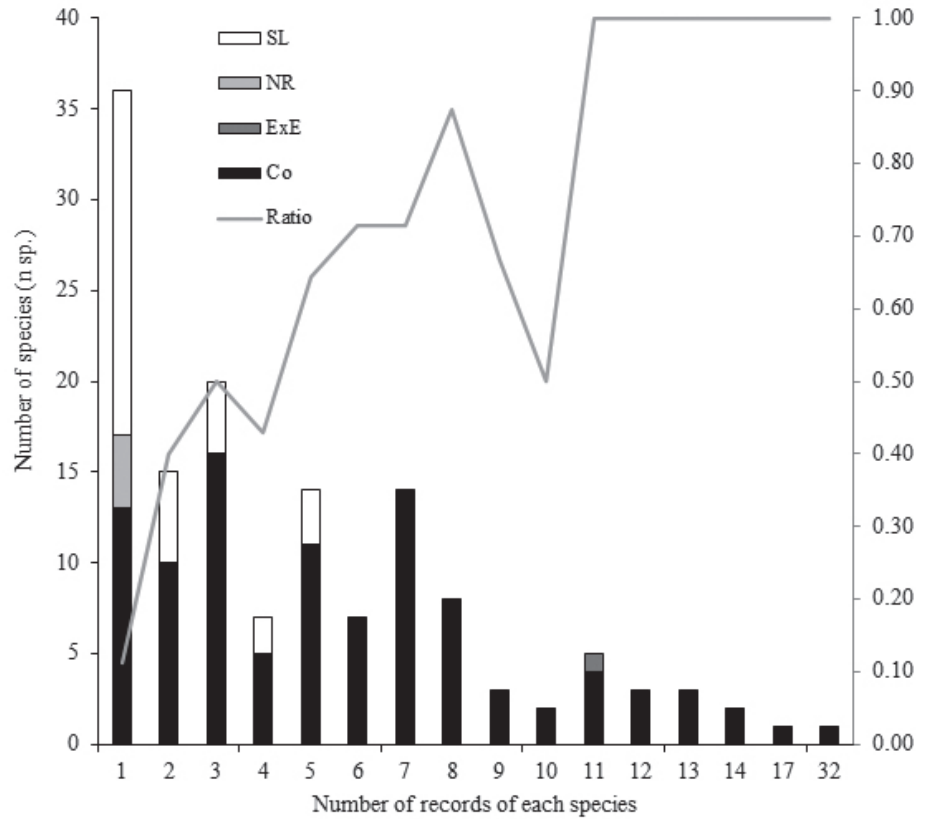


FIGURE 3 | Number of records of each species of the current fish assemblage of the freshwater Río de la Plata (RdLP) (SL, supported by literature; NR, new records; EEx, established exotic species; Co, confirmed) with their respective number of species and ratio between number of species captured in fieldwork and number of species mentioned in the literature.

collected ($g = 828,531$). Frequent species accounted for 6% and rare species 3.2% of the total captured biomass. Occurrence % - CPUE_n and occurrence % - CPUE_w analyses evidenced that *Parapimelodus valenciennis* (Lütken, 1874) and *Pimelodus maculatus* Lacepède, 1803 were dominant taxa, that no occasional species were found, and that the rare species were the same.

In turn, main differences between CPUE_n and CPUE_w were the hierarchy change from dominant to frequent of *Psalidodon rutilus* (Jenyns, 1842) and *Cyphocharax platanus* (Günther, 1880); and the category change from frequent to dominant of *Prochilodus lineatus* (Valenciennes, 1837), *Salminus brasiliensis* (Cuvier, 1816), *Megaleporinus obtusidens* (Valenciennes 1837), *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, 1758, *Hoplias argentinensis* Rosso, González-Castro, Bogan, Cardoso, Mabragaña, Delpiani & Díaz de Astarloa, 2018, *Loricariichthys anus* (Valenciennes, 1835), *Hypostomus commersoni* Valenciennes, 1836, and *Pimelodus albicans* (Valenciennes, 1840).

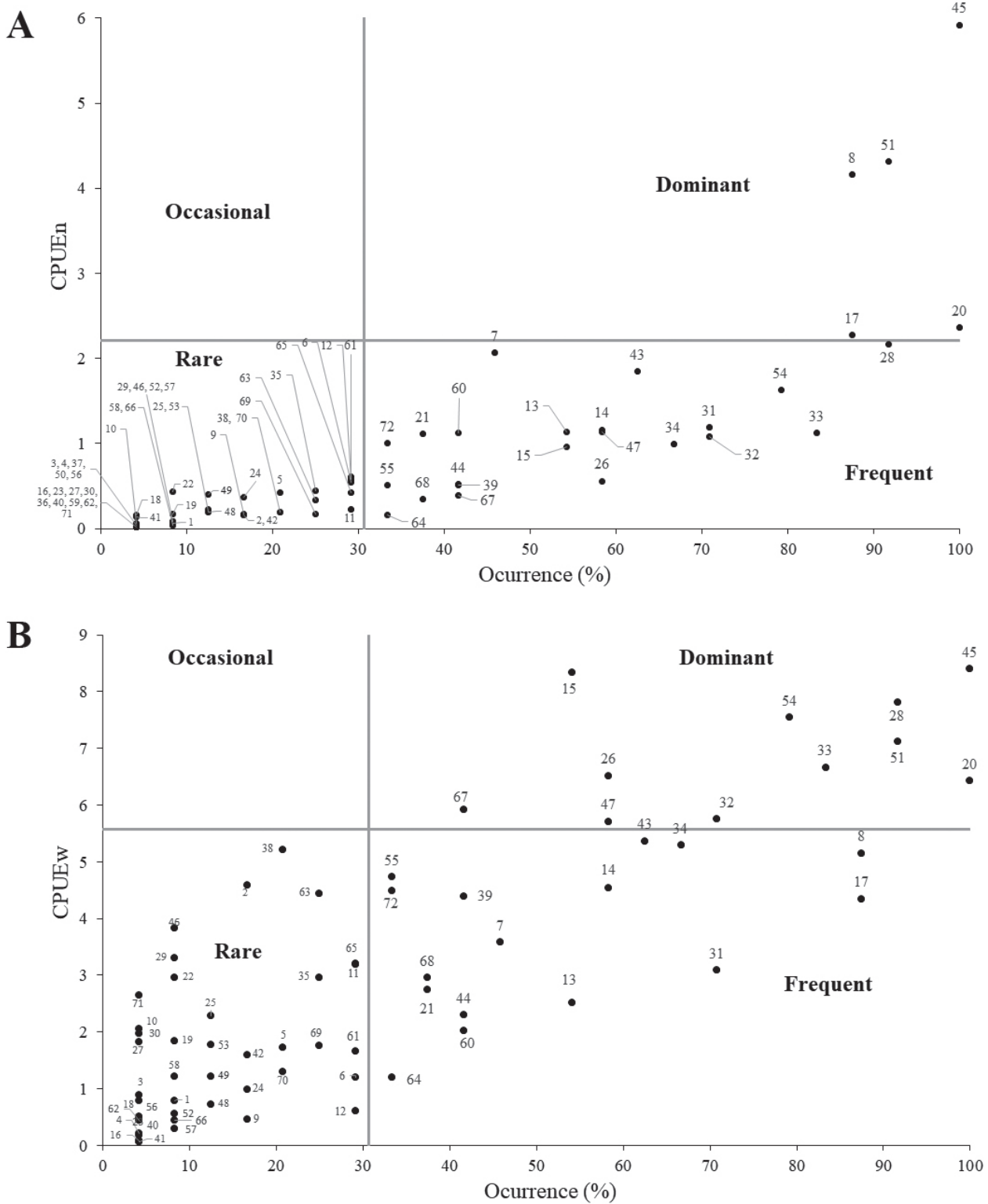


FIGURE 4 | Figure caption on next page.

FIGURE 4 | Olmstead-Tukey diagram showing the relationship between percentage frequency of occurrence of species (occurrence %) and log transformed ($\ln X+1$) fish number and weight captured and standardized to 16h of fishing **A.** CPUE_n and **B.** CPUE_w in the freshwater Río de la Plata (RdLP), respectively. Grey lines correspond to the mean frequency of occurrence % (vertical) and average CPUE_n and CPUE_w (horizontal); they are used to define dominant, frequent, occasional, and rare species (categories are defined in Tab. 1). 1. *Acestrorhynchus pantaneiro*; 2. *Ageneiosus militaris*; 3. *Ancistrus cirrhosis*; 4. *Apareiodon affinis*; 5. *Astyanax abramis*; 6. *Psalidodon erythropterus*; 7. *Astyanax lacustris*; 8. *Psalidodon rutilus*; 9. *Bryconamericus iheringii*; 10. *Brycon orbignyianus*; 11. *Catathyridium jenynsii*; 12. *Cheirodon interruptus*; 13. *Corydoras paleatus*; 14. *Cynopotamus argenteus*; 15. *Cyprinus carpio*; 16. *Cynopotamus kincaidi*; 17. *Cyphocharax platanus*; 18. *Cyphocharax saladensis*; 19. *Cyphocharax spilodus*; 20. *Cyphocharax voga*; 21. *Eigenmannia trilineata*; 22. *Eigenmannia virescens*; 23. *Galeocharax humeralis*; 24. *Gymnogeophagus meridionalis*; 25. *Hoplosternum littorale*; 26. *Hoplias argentinensis*; 27. *Hypostomus aspilogaster*; 28. *Hypostomus commersoni*; 29. *Hypostomus laplatae*; 30. *Hypostomus uruguayensis*; 31. *Iheringichthys labrosus*; 32. *Megaleporinus obtusidens*; 33. *Loricariichthys anus*; 34. *Luciopimelodus pati*; 35. *Lycengraulis grossidens*; 36. *Microglanis malabarbai*; 37. *Moenkhausia intermedia*; 38. *Mugil liza*; 39. *Odontesthes bonariensis*; 40. *Odontesthes perugiae*; 41. *Odontostilbe pequiria*; 42. *Oligosarcus jenynsii*; 43. *Oligosarcus oligolepis*; 44. *Pachyurus bonariensis*; 45. *Parapimelodus valenciennis*; 46. *Paraloricaria vetula*; 47. *Pimelodus albicans*; 48. *Pimelodus argenteus*; 49. *Pimelodella gracilis*; 50. *Pimelodella laticeps*; 51. *Pimelodus maculatus*; 52. *Plagioscion ternetzi*; 53. *Potamorhina squamoralevis*; 54. *Prochilodus lineatus*; 55. *Pseudoplatystoma corruscans*; 56. *Psectrogaster curviventris*; 57. *Pseudobunocephalus iheringii*; 58. *Pterygoplichthys ambrosettii*; 59. *Pterodoras granulosus*; 60. *Ramnogaster melanostoma*; 61. *Rhinodoras dorbigyi*; 62. *Rhamphichthys hahni*; 63. *Rhamdia aff. quelen*; 64. *Rhinelepis strigosa*; 65. *Rhaphiodon vulpinus*; 66. *Roeboides microlepis*; 67. *Salminus brasiliensis*; 68. *Schizodon platae*; 69. *Sorubim lima*; 70. *Steindachnerina biornata*; 71. *Synbranchus marmoratus*; 72. *Trachelyopterus galeatus*.

DISCUSSION

The present study puts forward an updated list of fish species that inhabit the freshwater RdLP; this is also the first proposal of the hierarchical composition of its Argentinean coastal fish assemblage. From the 206 native fish mentioned in the freshwater RdLP, literature showed 66 taxa categorized as not confirmed, absent, or synonymized species. The absence of not confirmed species in fish samplings for at least five decades, when most samplings in the area were developed, does not allow confirming their current inclusion in the fish assemblage under study. Further studies on this topic are therefore needed, whose results can potentially reduce the number of species in this group. However, it is highly probable that the poor water quality and habitat conditions evidenced in freshwater RdLP due to anthropogenic activities (Topalián *et al.*, 1990; Kurucz *et al.*, 1998; Natale, 2005; FREPLATA, 2005; Cirelli, Ojeda, 2008) have been impacting negatively on the richness of the fish assemblage of the area for the last five decades or so. Indeed, the disappearance of certain species in the freshwater coastal surrounding areas of La Plata city has already been correlated with local human pollution in the 70s decade (Ringuelet, 1975). As example, the nonappearance of a relevant species for fisheries in the basin, like *Piaractus mesopotamicus* (Holmberg, 1887) might be associated with this situation, as suggested by Quirós (1990) who linked its abundance declination with human pollution. The species included in the absent and synonymized species categories, based on current taxonomic studies (Litz, Koerber, 2014; Koerber, Litz, 2014; Koerber *et al.*, 2016a,b; 2020), must be excluded from the list of fish species for the area as some correspond to confirmed taxonomic misidentifications (*i.e.*, *Hypostomus robinii* Valenciennes, 1840, *Ancistrus gymnorhynchus* Kner, 1854, and *Achirus lineatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)) or outdated labelling.

The 140 native species that should be considered as current fish fauna of the study area were grouped into supported by literature, confirmed, and new records, reducing

the number of autochthonous species previously compiled (Nion, 1998; López *et al.*, 2003; Volpedo *et al.*, 2010). Despite the historical relevance of previous compilations, our study suggests that the richness of species in freshwater RdLP is overestimated due to outdated old metadata replication. The supported by literature category refers to species that might represent misidentifications or taxa that migrate exceptionally from upper portions of the basin but do not become established. Either way, the lacking voucher number, making impossible to confirm their presence. This assumption is reinforced by the fact that the species in the supported by literature category were restricted to taxa recorded in five or less events, being maximum for species recorded once. Meanwhile, the confirmed group reflects species that undoubtedly are currently present in the study area. Such conclusion was based not only on the fact that these taxa were recently captured with voucher number deposit, but also on the fact that most were collected more than once. Indeed, it is highly probable that the taxa obtained two or more times, in independent fish samplings, represent usual fish fauna of the study area. However, species recently found once, as in the new records category, if not re-captured, could be re-categorized as not confirmed in subsequent research. In general, species recently captured once in the freshwater RdLP are commonly found in the upper parts of the La Plata River basin (Ringuelet, 1975), possibly extending their distribution. Volpedo *et al.*, (2010) reported an increase in the number of taxa of RdLP over the last two decades owing to climate change. The referred mechanism could function as a counterpart of the effects caused by pollution and habitat modification, influencing fish assemblage composition and structure.

In the established exotic species category, the establishment and expansion of *Cyprinus carpio* are common in environments connected with the Río de la Plata system in Argentina and Uruguay (Teixeira de Melo *et al.*, 2011; Maiztegui *et al.*, 2016). This is reinforced by the Olmstead-Tukey analysis outcomes, indicating that this fish is frequently found in the study area. In contrast, non-established exotic species can occasionally appear in freshwater RdLP; yet, their presence is mostly due to their escape from aquaculture facilities within the basin (*i.e.*, *Acipenser baerii* Brandt, 1869, *Acipenser gueldenstaedtii* Brandt & Ratzeburg, 1833, and *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (Valenciennes, 1844)).

The fish fauna of La Plata River basin is mostly characterized by Siluriformes and Characiformes (Reis, 2013; Reis *et al.*, 2016), and by a decreasing gradient of species richness from the north to the south (Ringuelet, 1975; Cussac *et al.*, 2009). Such ichthyogeographical attributes agree with the results obtained in the study area, when the number of species proposed contrasts with environments located in the northern areas of the basin (Teixeira de Melo *et al.*, 2011; Almirón *et al.*, 2015; Bertaco *et al.*, 2016).

Although no statistical differences were found when comparing reported data with samplings, lack of Cyprinodontiformes could result from the small body size (<5 cm) of some taxa of this group common for the area, namely *Jenynsia lineata* (Fowler, 1940), *Cnesterodon decemmaculatus* (Jenyns, 1842), and *Phalloceros caudimaculatus* (Hensel, 1868), not captured with the fishing nets employed. The taxa of Rivulidae family includes species that inhabit coastal temporary ponds (Alonso *et al.*, 2018), environments not sampled in this study. The absence of Myliobatiformes in samplings can be linked to selectivity of fishing gears (Lucifora *et al.*, 2016).

Knowledge of richness and abundance of fish species in a particular area is associated with collecting effort (Bertaco *et al.*, 2016); freshwater RdlP has been sampled for more than five decades by several fishing procedures. Comparison of number of records results with captured/not captured species ratio, clearly evidenced that the more the species were cited in the literature the more they were found in the samplings. Indeed, species with higher values of records, such as *P. lineatus* (32), *S. brasiliensis* (14), and *Odontesthes bonariensis* (Valenciennes, 1835) (14), were linked not only to their occurrence and abundance in the freshwater RdlP, but also due to their importance to local and regional fisheries of the RdlP basin (Baigún *et al.*, 2003; Colautti *et al.*, 2009). Accordingly, these findings provide valuable insights into which species are, historically and at present, usual or unusual fish components of the study area.

The Olmstead–Tukey analysis evidenced, in agreement with the literature for the southern bank of the study area (Llompart *et al.*, 2012; Paracampo *et al.*, 2015, 2020), a predominance of *P. valenciennis* and *P. maculatus*. These findings were documented not only in coastal environments and the neighboring streams of RdlP, but also in deeper environments of the riverine sector of the RdlP (García *et al.*, 2010; CARU-CARP, 2012; 2016). It is important to note that, the target of coastal local artisanal and sport fisheries, *P. lineatus*, *S. brasiliensis*, *M. obtusidens*, *Luciopimelodus pati* (Valenciennes, 1835), and *Pseudoplatystoma corruscans* (Spix & Agassiz, 1829) (Baigún *et al.*, 2003; Colautti *et al.*, 2009) were frequent or dominant in the Olmstead–Tukey analyses. Previous research into these species showed that they displayed a seasonal migration circuit between the freshwater RdlP up to the upper main rivers of La Plata basin during southern warm and colder seasons, respectively (Baigún *et al.*, 2003; Espinach Ros *et al.*, 2011; Avigliano, *et al.*, 2020). However, our results would support the hypothesis that certain individuals of these species do not migrate and remain in the area throughout the entire year cycle.

In the Rio de la Plata, detritus is the most important component in the food web of the system (Lercari *et al.*, 2015) and detritivorous species *P. lineatus* plays a key role in the cycling of nutrients, organic matter, and transferring energy to higher levels (Baigún *et al.*, 2003; Speranza *et al.*, 2013). The CPUEw dominance of *P. lineatus*, in addition the presence of *L. anus* and *H. commersoni* which are strictly detritivorous–alguivorous taxa (Lujan *et al.*, 2012), reinforce the major role of detritus and the mentioned species in the system functioning.

Among the rare species, we can mention *Rhaphiodon vulpinus* Spix & Agassiz, 1829 and *Rhamphichthys hahni* (Meinken, 1937) considered, according to Baigún *et al.*, (2012), as “data deficiency” based on information of their population status. In this category, *Cynopotamus kincaidi* (Schultz, 1950), *Hypostomus uruguayensis* Reis, Weber & Malabarba, 1990, *Hypostomus aspilogaster* (Cope, 1894), *Galeocharax humeralis* (Valenciennes, 1834), and *Pterodoras granulosus* (Valenciennes, 1821) species were not even considered by those authors as species found in the RdlP.

In view of ecological features of the estuary might generate dissimilarities between the fish assemblage of the southern bank (Argentina) respect to the northern one (Uruguay) (Bessonart *et al.*, 2021), the hierarchy structure proposed could exhibit geographical restrictions. Despite such restrains, significant gaps in freshwater species knowledge (Abell *et al.*, 2008) and data deficiency for neotropical fishes (Baigún *et al.*, 2012), the fish structure reported here represent a base line for future research.

Considering the negative impact experienced by South American basins as a result of the rapid anthropogenic changes introduced during the 21st century (Allan *et al.*, 2005; Barletta *et al.*, 2010; Baigún *et al.*, 2012; Reis *et al.*, 2013), the insights into the composition and structure of the fish assemblages of the freshwater RdlP provided in this study could be used as starting point to monitor and develop criteria for the management and conservation of neotropical fish species in their southernmost distribution boundary.

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Tomás Maiztegui: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Funding acquisition, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Resources, Writing–original draft, Writing–review and editing.

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ETHICAL STATEMENT

Care during collection and handling of fish for this study complied with the Buenos Aires Province (Argentina) Wildlife and Fisheries Authority guidelines and policies (Law 11,477).



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