

Eyes wide open: The "eyeless" cave fish of Trinidad, W.I. is not blind. Program Book and Abstracts of the 80th. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. La Paz, B.C.S., México, June 14-20, p. 314 [with J. Creswell] (abstract).

751

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Since described in 1926, *Caecorhamdia urichi* (Pimelodidae) has been consistently listed as a blind cave representative of the ichthyofauna of Trinidad, W.I. Our field and laboratory studies strongly suggest that members of this fish population not only have eyes, but also tapetum lucidum and display strong photophobic responses. Morphological variations in eye development and pigmentation could be the result of either an incipient process of troglomorphy (hypogean adaptation) or introgressive hybridization. We believe that this cave "species" is not a valid species at all but rather a deme of *Rhamdia quelen*. We also propose that the presence of tapetum lucidum in this fish is the result of convergent evolution and discuss the possible significance of this structure in a cave population.

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