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Two genetic stocks of *Steindachneridion melanodermatum* living in sympatry in nature and genetic variability of wild parents and F_1 generation

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ABSTRACT. *Steindachneridion melanodermatum* is a large Brazilian catfish, highly prized for sport fishing and for its meat. Specimens of this species, both caught in nature from Iguacu River and F_1 fish born in captivity, were analyzed with regard to patterns of RAPD molecular markers. Genetic similarity ranged from 0.57 to 0.95; two groups were determined for the wild specimens. The results suggest different genetic lineages in sympatry in nature. Heterozygosity and percentage of polymorphic loci were 0.31 and 79% and 0.23 and 62%, respectively, for the two populations of wild specimens and 0.26 and 66%, respectively, for those born in captivity.

Key words: RAPD; Genetic conservation; Fish; Surubim

