

THE EXOTIC FISH (*Aequidens portalegrensis*) IN THE BIG CYPRESS SWAMP.

On 5 December 1970 the black acara (*Aequidens portalegrensis* (Hensel)) was found in an alligator pond in the Big Cypress Swamp of Monroe County, Florida (Sec. 19, T. 54S., R. 34E) approximately 50 miles west of Miami. A specimen has been deposited in the reference collection of the University of Miami. This exotic fish is well established in the canal system along the southeastern coast of Florida (Lachner, E.A., C.R. Robins, W.R. Courtenay, Jr. *Exotic fishes and other aquatic organisms introduced into North America*. Smith. Cont. to Zool. 1970 No. 59, 29 pages). Although the black acara is abundant in these canals, the present specimens are the first records of its penetration into the marshes and swamps of the interior (C.R. Robins, pers. comm.). The appearance of this species in a natural habitat ten miles from Everglades National Park is a matter of concern. The black acara may be a competitor with native species and have an adverse effect on natural populations of aquatic organisms in the southern Florida wetlands.

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