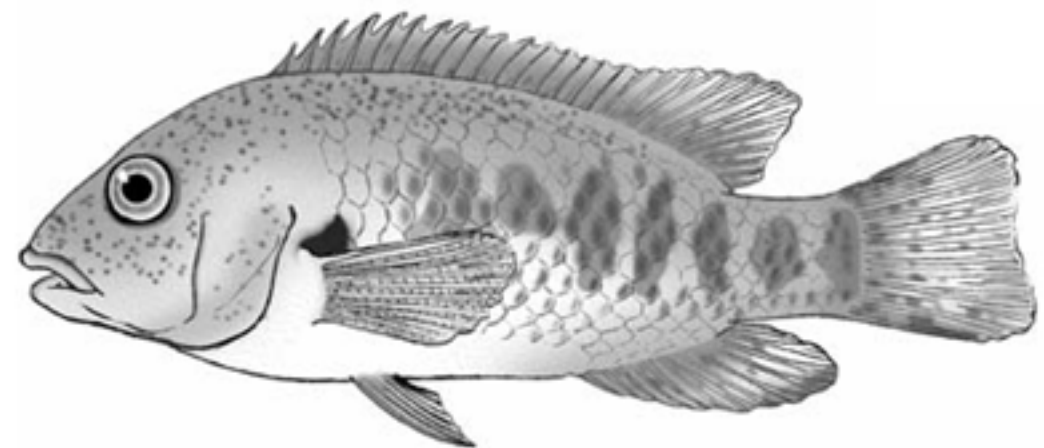


## Threatened fishes of the world: *Herichthys labridens* (Pellegrin, 1903)

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**Common name:** Mojarra huasteca (Mexican), Curvebar or blackcheek cichlid (English). **Conservation status:** Amenazada (Threatened)—Norma Oficial Mexicana NOM-059-ECOL-2001 (NOM 2001). Endangered—IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2007 (Contreras-Balderas and Almada-Villela 1996). **Identification:** D XV–XVII+10–12, A IV–VI+7–10, V I+6, P 15, C 18–20. Body moderately elongated, depth increasing with age. Anterior teeth of jaws are conical, curved canines, each with a posterior cusp. Central pair in upper jaw is the largest, flanked on each side one or two canines, easily visible even in live specimens. Teeth on lower pharyngeal plate are molariform. Body is gray-green dorsally, and cream on the belly. Sides of head and nape speckled with fine, dark spots. Body shows big irregular blotches and blue speckling on flanks. Fishes present a red or magenta spot (in life) in the bottom of the pectoral fin. In breeding adults, a contrasting pattern of an inferior



area intensely black anteriorly and posteriorly, and an area above milky white to yellow is exhibited (Miller et al. 2005). **Distribution:** Headwater areas of Río Verde. This species was erroneously indicated by Taylor and Miller (1983) to be widely spread on the Pánuco basin, where similar cichlids should be considered as undescribed species (Miller et al. 2005). Pending formal taxonomic revision, these other forms should also be considered to represent *H. labridens*, as suggested by Taylor and Miller (1983) and others (Monks et al. 2005; Concheiro-Pérez et al. 2007). **Biology:** There are lentic and lotic populations. Reproduction occurs from November to June (Miller et al. 2005). Euryphagic species, obtaining resources grazing periphyton (Díaz-Pardo et al. 2002). **Conservation actions:** Environmental deterioration, water exploitation and introduction of exotic fishes are the main risks in Central Mexico (e.g. Miranda et al. 2008). Conservation measures should be focused on habitat preservation and prevention of introductions of non-native fishes.

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