

A new and presumably extinct species of *Ptychochromoides* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Cichlidae) from central Madagascar

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Abstract

Ptychochromoides itasy, new species, is described from material collected from Lake Itasy and environs in the central highlands of Madagascar. The new species is distinguished from congeners by the presence of a pronounced occipital hump, regardless of size, sexual maturity, or sex, and also by a shorter predorsal length, more elongate terminal dorsal-fin spine, and shorter snout. Although reportedly once abundant in Lake Itasy, specimens referable to the new species have not been collected from the lake or surrounding region in several decades and the species is presumed to be extinct.

Key words: cichlid, Madagascar, marakely à bosse, new species, ptychochromine, *Ptychochromoides*, taxonomy, trondro mainty

Introduction

The endemic Malagasy cichlid genus *Ptychochromoides* was described by Kiener and Maugé (1966) and was distinguished from members of the closely related genus *Ptychochromis* Steindachner, 1880, based on subtle differences in pharyngeal dentition. Kiener and Maugé (1966) designated *Ptychochromis betsileanus* (Boulenger 1899) as the type species of the new genus. Reinthal and Stiassny (1997: 356) discussed additional characters that distinguish *Ptychochromoides* from *Ptychochromis*, yet were unable to locate any derived features to unite all members of *Ptychochromoides*, concluding that monophyly of the genus remained to be established. Sparks and Reinthal (2001) were likewise unable to locate any apomorphic features to unite all members of the genus and concurred with the assessment regarding *Ptychochromoides* monophyly advanced by Reinthal and Stiassny (1997). Sparks and Reinthal (2001) suggested that a single row of dentition on the second pharyngobranchial toothplate serves to unite all members of the genus, but cautioned that this feature is not restricted to *Ptychochromoides* within Cichlidae. Results of recent stud-