

***Apistogramma eremnopyge*, a new species of cichlid fish (Teleostei: Cichlidae) from Peru**

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Abstract

Apistogramma eremnopyge, new species, is described from the Río Pintuyacu, Río Itaya drainage (Amazon basin) in Peru. *Apistogramma eremnopyge* is unique in the genus in possessing a dark blotch on the lower caudal peduncle. It is otherwise most similar to *A. bitaeniata*, with males possessing extended dorsal fin lappets, and prolonged rays dorsally and ventrally in the caudal fin.

Key words: Amazon basin, Cichlidae, South America, species richness, systematics

Introduction

Species of *Apistogramma* Regan are small South American cichlid fishes, comprising 52 valid species (Kullander, 2003, 2004). Individuals are generally less than 60 mm SL, with males usually larger than females. Sexual dimorphism in both morphology and colour pattern is common in the genus, with males of different species usually more distinct from each other than females. Most species have fairly limited geographical distribution. There have been 11 *Apistogramma* species described from Peru (Kullander, 2003), which represents high species richness for the relative size of the area. However, new collections from the region are still providing material from which new species can be described. Here we describe a new species possessing a unique colour marking shared by both males and females.