



A new species of *Astyanax* (Characiformes: Characidae) from the endorheic Río Salí basin, Tucumán, northwestern Argentina

JUAN MARCOS MIRANDE¹, GASTÓN AGUILERA¹ & MARÍA DE LAS MERCEDES AZPELICUETA²

¹CONICET-Fundación Miguel Lillo, Miguel Lillo 251, 4000 San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina.

E-mail: mcmirande@gmail.com, gastonaguilera@csnat.unt.edu.ar

²CONICET-División Zoología Vertebrados, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, Paseo del Bosque, 1900 La Plata, Argentina.

E-mail: azpeli@museo.fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

Abstract

Astyanax puka, new species from the endorheic Río Salí basin, is diagnosed by the following combination of characters: shallow body (33.5–39.8 % SL), 36–38 perforated scales in lateral line, 6/5 transverse scales, 9–10 gradually decreasing dentary teeth, distally expanded premaxillary teeth, one distally expanded maxillary tooth with 7–9 cusps, short upper-jaw length (34.5–37.8 % HL), short maxilla (20.7–23.3 % HL) expanded abruptly under maxillary tooth position, short postorbital distance (36.6–46.9 % HL), short distance between pelvic and anal-fin origins (17.1–20.6 % SL), 22–27 branched anal-fin rays, long caudal peduncle (13.3–16.5 % SL), bony hooks restricted to pelvic-fin rays 2 to 6 and anterior 6–13 branched anal-fin rays on mature males, and the presence of broad denticles on anterior, lateral, and posterior edges of first ceratobranchial gill rakers.

Key words: Teleostei, Ostariophysi, *Astyanax puka*, fish, systematics, Río Mandolo

Resumen

Astyanax puka, nueva especie procedente de la cuenca endorreica del del Río Salí, es diagnosticada por la siguiente combinación de caracteres: cuerpo bajo (33,5–39,8 % LS), 36–38 escamas perforadas en la línea lateral, 6/5 escamas transversas, 9–10 dientes en el dentario gradualmente decrecientes, dientes premaxilares expandidos distalmente, un diente maxilar expandido distalmente con 7–9 cúspides, quijada superior corta (34.5–37.8 % LC), maxilar corto (20.7–23.3 % LC) expandido abruptamente bajo la posición del diente maxilar, distancia post-orbitaria corta (36.6–46.9 % LC), distancia entre el origen de las aletas pélvica y anal corta (17.1–20.6 % LS), 22–27 radios ramificados en la aleta anal, pedúnculo caudal largo (13.3–16.5 % LS), ganchos óseos restringidos a los radios pélvicos 2 a 6 y los primeros 6–13 radios anales ramificados en machos adultos, y la presencia de dentículos anchos en los bordes anterior, lateral y posterior de los rastrillos branquiales del primer ceratobranchial.

Introduction

In recent years, several species of *Astyanax* with similar counts of scales (33–36 on lateral line, 6–7/5–6 transverse) and anal fin-rays (iv–v + 21–23) to those of *A. eigenmanniorum* were described from eastern Brazil and northern Argentina (Almirón *et al.*, 2002; Azpelicueta & García, 2000; Azpelicueta *et al.* 2002a, 2002b, 2003; Casciotta *et al.*, 2003; Casciotta & Almirón, 2004; Melo, 2001; Miquelarena *et al.*, 2005; Miquelarena & Menni, 2005; Mirande *et al.*, 2006). Several of these species, plus a few others, share the presence of gradually decreasing dentary teeth and variably expanded premaxillary teeth. This group of species is composed by