



## A new characid fish, *Moenkhausia aurantia* (Ostariophysi: Characiformes: Characidae), from the upper rio Tocantins basin in Central Brazil

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### Abstract

A new characid species, *Moenkhausia aurantia*, is described from the upper portions of rio Tocantins basin, in the Chapada dos Veadeiros, Goiás State, central Brazil. The new species differs from its congeners by the combination of 3 or 4 scale rows below and 5 or 6 scale rows above the lateral line, 21–25 branched anal-fin rays, 33–35 lateral line scales, 2–4 maxillary teeth, one diffuse humeral spot, and caudal spot continuous to the longitudinal line which extends posteriorly over the middle caudal-fin rays. A key to identify *Moenkhausia* species describe from the Tocantins-Araguaia basin is provided.

**Key words:** Tocantins-Araguaia basin, Chapada dos Veadeiros, Brazilian Cerrado, *Moenkhausia lopesi*

### Resumo

Uma espécie nova de caracídeo, *Moenkhausia aurantia*, é descrita para a bacia do alto rio Tocantins, Chapada dos Veadeiros, Goiás, Brasil. A espécie nova difere de suas congêneres pela combinação de 3 ou 4 séries de escamas abaixo e 5 ou 6 séries de escamas acima da linha lateral, 21–25 raios ramificados na nadadeira anal, 33–35 escamas na linha lateral, dois a quatro dentes no maxilar, uma mancha umeral difusa, e mancha do pedúnculo caudal contínua à linha longitudinal que se estende posteriormente sobre os raios medianos da nadadeira caudal. É apresentada uma chave para identificação das espécies de *Moenkhausia* descritas para a bacia Tocantins-Araguaia.

### Introduction

The genus *Moenkhausia* Eigenmann is a speciose group of characid fishes comprising 75 valid nominal species widely distributed throughout Neotropical Cis-Andean drainages, except for those in Patagonia (Lima *et al.* 2003, Marinho 2010, Eschmeyer & Fricke 2011, Bertaco *et al.* 2011). Most species inhabit the Amazon basin and other drainages from northern South America, for a total of 60 species *versus* 15 inhabiting the remaining basins from the continent. *Moenkhausia* is traditionally diagnosed by the presence of premaxillary teeth arranged in two rows, five or more teeth on the inner premaxillary row, complete lateral line, and scaled caudal fin (Eigenmann 1917).

Eigenmann (1917) is still the most relevant reference concerning the taxonomy of *Moenkhausia*, and Géry (1977) summarized information on species, presenting a comparative key with a brief diagnosis for most of the species described until then. There is no hypothesis of intrageneric relationships among *Moenkhausia* species at the moment. However the genus was found to be non-monophyletic according to Mirande (2010), whose weighted parsimony phylogenetic analysis of Characidae presented *Moenkhausia* as a paraphyletic genus with *Bario* (Eigenmann), as integrants of the redefined Tetragonopterinae.

In spite of the uncertainty concerning the monophyletic status of *Moenkhausia*, the new characid species herein described fits the traditional definition of the genus proposed by Eigenmann (1917). The new species inhabits small