



***Cyanocharax obi*, a new species (Characiformes: Characidae) and the first record of the genus from tributaries of the río Paraná basin, Argentina**

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Abstract

Cyanocharax obi is described from tributaries of the arroyo Paranay–Guazú, río Paraná basin, Misiones province, Argentina. This new species can be distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of characters: lateral line interrupted or with alternated series of perforated and non perforated scales, 22–24 branched anal-fin rays, body depth at dorsal-fin origin (34.5–40.8% SL), and distal border of anal fin in matures males nearly straight. Validity of the new species is also well supported by a molecular phylogenetic analysis (COI, 12S, 16S). *Cyanocharax obi* represents the first record of the genus in the río Paraná basin.

Key words: freshwater fishes, taxonomy, Misiones province, arroyo Paranay–Guazú

Resumen

Cyanocharax obi es descrita de tributarios del arroyo Paranay–Guazú, cuenca del río Paraná en la provincia de Misiones, Argentina. Esta nueva especie puede ser distinguida de las otras especies del género por la siguiente combinación de caracteres: línea lateral interrumpida o con alternancia de series de escamas perforadas y no perforadas, 22–24 radios anales ramificados, altura del cuerpo en el origen de la aleta dorsal (34.5–40.8 % LE), y borde distal de la aleta anal algo recto en machos maduros. La nueva especie se encuentra también bien fundamentada por un análisis filogenético molecular (COI, 12S, 16S). *Cyanocharax obi* representa el primer registro del género para la cuenca del río Paraná.

Introduction

The genus *Cyanocharax* Malabarba & Weitzman, 2003 is known from the río Uruguay basin in Argentina and Brazil and from the Atlantic coastal drainages in Southern Brazil. *Cyanocharax* includes seven nominal species (Malabarba & Weitzman, 2003); *Cyanocharax alburnus*, *C. dicropotamicus*, *C. itaimbe*, *C. tipiaia*, and one undescribed species (C.S. Pavanelli & A.G. Bifi, unpublished) inhabit Atlantic coastal drainages, whereas the remaining species, *C. alegretensis*, *C. lepiciastus*, and *C. uruguayensis* are distributed in the río Uruguay basin.

Cyanocharax belongs to the characid Clade A, characterized by the presence of ii,8 dorsal-fin rays, and four teeth in the inner row of premaxilla (Malabarba & Weitzman, 2003). In the same paper, *Cyanocharax* was diagnosed by the presence of a small maxillary dentigerous surface consisting of 2–8 teeth occupying less than the anterior half of the bone. Incomplete dentition is a character also present in several other members of clade A. Therefore, it can not be assumed as a synapomorphy for *Cyanocharax* until the relationships among the members of the clade A are better understood (Malabarba & Weitzman, 2003). Recently, Javonillo *et al.* (2010) based on molecular sequence data show the Clade A with *Cyanocharax alburnus* clustering inside the genus *Diapoma*. Thus the monophyly of the genus *Cyanocharax* is still uncertain at this time.