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Teleocichla wajapi, a new species of cichlid from the rio Jari, Brazil, with comments on *T. centrarchus* Kullander, 1988 (Teleostei: Cichlidae)

HENRIQUE R. VARELLA[1] & CRISTIANO R. MOREIRA[2]

[1]*Programa de Pós-Graduação em Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Caixa Postal 42494, 04218-970 São Paulo, SP, Brazil. E-mail: hrvarella@usp.br*

[2]*Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas. Caixa postal 42595, Diadema, SP, Brasil*

Abstract

Teleocichla wajapi, new species, is described from the rio Jari basin, northern Brazil. The new species differs from its congeners by possessing four anal-fin spines, 56–62 scales in E1 series, smaller orbital diameter (24.6–30.2% of head length) and barred or zigzag color pattern on flanks. New information on the morphology and distribution of *T. centrarchus* is provided based on recently collected material.

Key words: Amazon basin, rio Xingu, rapids, taxonomy, geographical distribution

Resumo

Teleocichla wajapi, nova espécie, é descrita para a bacia do rio Jari, norte do Brasil. A nova espécie distingue-se de suas congêneres por possuir quatro espinhos na nadadeira anal, 56–62 escamas na série E1, menor diâmetro orbital (24,6–30,2% do comprimento da cabeça) e padrão de colorido dos flancos barrado ou com manchas escuras em zigue-zague. Novas informações sobre a morfologia e distribuição de *T. centrarchus* são fornecidas com base em material coletado recentemente.

Introduction

Kullander (1988) erected *Teleocichla* including six species of goby-like, rheophilic cichlids: *T. centrarchus*, *T. gephyrogramma* and *T. monogramma*, sympatric in the rio Xingu drainage; *T. cinderella* in the lower rio Tocantins basin, near Tucuruí dam; and *T. prionogenys* and *T. proselytus*, sympatric in the rio Tapajós basin. Despite no explicit phylogenetic analysis, Kullander (1988) proposed the monophyly of the genus based on eleven putative synapomorphies, and a sister-group relationship with *Crenicichla* based on eight putative synapomorphies. Kullander (1988) also discussed character states of uncertain polarity , and provided a diagnosis of *Teleocichla* based on character combination. Ploeg (1991) regarded *Teleocichla* species as forming a monophyletic group, however nested within *Crenicichla*, and for this reason considered it a junior synonym of the latter genus.

A monophyletic *Teleocichla*, as the sister-group to a monophyletic *Crenicichla*, was supported by the analyses of Farias *et al.* (1999; 2000) based on molecular data. Those results were not supported by subsequent molecular analyses, with more intensive sampling within the *Crenicichla* (*i.e.*. Kullander *et al.* 2009; Piálek *et al.* 2012). The results of those analyses point to a more complex scenario, wherein *Teleocichla* would be one of the several lineages within what is presently considered *Crenicichla*. For this reason, those authors delayed any formal nomenclatural decision, until this question is investigated more thoroughly.

The known diversity of *Teleocichla* is fundamentally the same since the description of the genus (Kullander, 1988), with the exception of the recently described *T. centisquama* Zuanon and Sazima (2002) from the rio Xingu drainage. However, at least four new species remain without a formal description. All those species of *Teleocichla*

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