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Redescription of *Astyanax guaporensis* Eigenmann, 1911 (Characiformes: Characidae), a small characid from the rio Madeira basin

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Abstract

During recent expeditions to several localities in the rio Madeira basin, a poorly known species of Characidae described more than a century ago, *Astyanax guaporensis* Eigenmann, was collected. The species is herein redescribed based on the type material and many recently collected specimens. The species seems to occur only in the rio Madeira basin, rio Amazonas drainage. The species is mainly recognized among its congeners by having five to nine maxillary teeth, a series of V-shaped marks on the midlateral line of body, and the absence of a black mark on the caudal peduncle.

Key words: V-shaped marks, Neotropical fish, taxonomy, systematics

Resumo

Durante expedições recentes a diversas localidades na bacia do rio Madeira, uma espécie pouco conhecida de Characidae descrita há mais de um século, *Astyanax guaporensis* Eigenmann, foi coletada. A espécie é aqui redescrita com base no material tipo e em vários exemplares recém coletados. A espécie parece ocorrer apenas na bacia do rio Madeira, drenagem do rio Amazonas. A espécie é reconhecida entre as congêneres principalmente pela presença de cinco a nove dentes no maxilar, marcas em forma de “V” na linha médio-lateral do corpo, e ausência de mácula negra no pedúnculo caudal.

Introduction

With 136 valid species (Eschmeyer & Fricke, 2012), *Astyanax* Baird & Girard is the largest genus in the Characidae, defined by a combination of features including the presence of two rows of teeth in the premaxilla, the inner row with five teeth, complete lateral line, and caudal-fin lobes not covered by small scales (Eigenmann, 1917, 1921). *Astyanax* is probably not a natural assemblage and many taxonomic problems are still pending, including incomplete species descriptions and poorly preserved or lost type material. These problems combined with the large number of names available, and the striking morphological similarity of some widespread species complexes, may render the identification of *Astyanax* species a difficult task.

Recent expeditions to the rio Guaporé and its tributaries, and samples taken in clear water tributaries of the rio Madeira near Porto Velho during the years 2003 to 2011, revealed the presence of *Astyanax guaporensis* Eigenmann, a poorly known species described more than a century ago. Since its original description, the species has only been listed in fish catalogs. In the present paper we better characterize this species, including a diagnosis and proper description based on the holotype, paratypes and recently collected material. In doing so, we hope to contribute to further the knowledge of the diversity of small characids in the rio Madeira.