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A new species of *Astyanax* from headwater streams of southern Brazil (Characiformes: Characidae)

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Abstract

Astyanax pirabitira, new species, is described from the upper portion of the rio das Antas, laguna dos Patos system, and from the rio Pelotas, upper rio Uruguay drainage, Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil. The new species belongs to the *A. scabripinnis* species complex and differs from its congeners by a combination of characters, viz., body depth (27.1–34.0% of standard length), narrow interorbital width (22.2–28.7% of head length), head depth (72.9–97.0% of HL), number of branched anal-fin rays (15–20), number of lateral line scales (37–40), one or two maxillary teeth, two humeral spots and absence of secondary sexual characters (bony hooks in the fins or other differences in the morphology). Comments on the endemic fish fauna of the region are presented.

Key words: Neotropical fish, taxonomy, *Astyanax scabripinnis* species complex, rio das Antas, Rio Grande do Sul

Resumo

Astyanax pirabitira, espécie nova, é descrita da porção superior do rio das Antas, sistema da laguna dos Patos, e do rio Pelotas, drenagem do alto rio Uruguai, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil. A espécie nova pertence a complexo de espécies *A. scabripinnis* e difere das suas congêneres por uma combinação de caracteres: altura do corpo (27,1–34,0% do comprimento padrão), largura interorbital estreita (22,2–28,7% do comprimento da cabeça), altura da cabeça (72,9–97,0% do CC), número de raios ramificados na nadadeira anal (15–20), número de escamas da linha lateral (37–40), um ou dois dentes no maxilar, presença de duas manchas umerais e ausência de caracteres sexuais secundários (ganchos nas nadadeiras ou outras diferenças na morfologia). Comentários sobre o endemismo da ictiofauna na região são discutidos.

Introduction

Astyanax Baird & Girard is a genus of characiform fishes, comprising 138 valid species (Eschmeyer 2013), and occurring in all Neotropical drainages from the Colorado River, Texas and New Mexico, USA (Ornelas-García *et al.* 2008) to río Colorado, northern Patagonia, Argentina (Menni 2004; López *et al.* 2008). According to recent phylogenies *Astyanax* does not represent a monophyletic group (Mirande 2010; Javonillo *et al.* 2010; Oliveira *et al.* 2011), and so far it has been defined by a combination of characters proposed nearly a century ago by Eigenmann (1921, 1927): two rows of premaxillary teeth, five teeth in the inner premaxillary series, lateral line complete, adipose fin present, and caudal fin naked. Nevertheless, all these characters, are also shared by other genera in the family Characidae.

During a revisionary study of the genus *Astyanax* from rio Uruguay and laguna dos Patos drainages, a new species was recognized among 13 other congeners and it is herein described. The new species is endemic of the ecoregion “Campos do Planalto das Araucárias” and fits in the definition of the *Astyanax scabripinnis* species complex proposed by Bertaco and Lucena (2006). In the last few years, several species were described and