



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4018.1.9>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:02018898-014A-4D20-B878-9235540C8583>

Taxonomic status of *Tetragonopterus anomalus* Steindachner, 1891, an *inquirenda* species in Characidae (Teleostei: Characiformes)

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Tetragonopterus anomalus Steindachner was briefly described in July of 1891 (Steindachner 1891a:173) solely based on the holotype, which measured 144 mm (probably SL). Subsequently, in October, Steindachner (1891b:369) illustrated and redescribed the species in more detail. The type specimen was collected in the Paraná River, in the vicinity of Corrientes, Argentina. A few months before, in April of the same year, Perugia (1891:643) described *Tetragonopterus nigripinnis*, from de la Plata River. Ulrey (1895:273) considered *T. anomalus* as a junior synonym of *T. nigripinnis*, but did not justify the reasons for this synonymy, which was later supported by Perugia (1897:25). Eigenmann (1903:145) proposed the genus *Markiana*, with *T. nigripinnis* (= *M. nigripinnis*) as type species (type by monotypy), but did not mention *T. anomalus* in the description of this genus. However, in his later review of *Markiana*, Eigenmann (1918:124) confirmed *T. anomalus* as a junior synonym of *Markiana nigripinnis*, followed also by Fowler (1948:136). Nonetheless, uncertainty about the taxonomic status of *T. anomalus*, a poorly known species, led Lima *et al.* (2003:161) to consider it an *inquirenda* species in Characidae, and this status has been maintained until the present (Eschmeyer 2015).

Herein, we examined the holotype of *T. anomalus* and one specimen of *Markiana nigripinnis* from Beni River, Bolivia (NMW 57677), mentioned by Zarske & Géry (2002:12) as syntype, but this is not a syntype (*cf.* Perugia 1891:643 and Lima *et al.* 2003:146). Morphometric and meristic data (Table 1), including the color pattern, unequivocally confirm that *T. anomalus* is a junior synonym of *M. nigripinnis* (Fig. 1). We also present the updated distribution of *M. nigripinnis* for Brazilian drainages (Fig. 2). Institutional abbreviations follow Fricke & Eschmeyer (2015). Distribution of *M. nigripinnis* in Argentina was presented by Liotta (2005:194).

Markiana nigripinnis was considered *incertae sedis* in Characidae (*sensu* Lima *et al.* 2003), but recently placed in Stevardiinae (*cf.* Baicere-Silva *et al.* 2011, Oliveira *et al.* 2011, Thomaz *et al.* 2015) or in the *Astyanax* clade (*sensu* Mirande *et al.* 2013). This species is easily differentiated among characid species by the lateral line with 37–41 perforated scales, anal-fin with 41–49 rays, no conspicuous black midlateral stripe on body, but with black chromatophores on dorsal and ventral edges of scales delimiting a series of horizontal stripes in zigzag pattern on flank, one dark caudal spot, and anal-fin reddish in life.

Examined material. *Tetragonopterus anomalus* (holotype), NMW 57643, 115.1 mm SL, Argentina, Paraná River in the vicinity of Corrientes. *Markiana nigripinnis*. **Argentina.** MZUSP 10245, 1, 76.0 mm SL, Corrientes, Riachuelo River, 30 km above Corrientes. **Bolivia.** NMW 57677, 1, 113.8 mm SL, Beni River. MZUSP 27847, 1, 83.9 mm SL, Trinidad. ZUEC-PIS 7097, 5, 31.9–36.6 mm SL, Departamento Santa Cruz, Entronco, Grande River drainage. **Brazil. Paraguay River drainage. Mato Grosso State.** CPUFMT 1353, 1, 82.0 mm SL, Poconé, marginal lake of the Cuiabá River. INPA 38146, 1, 58.2 mm SL, Nossa Senhora do Livramento Municipality. INPA 38226, 1, 46.8 mm SL, Nossa Senhora do Livramento Municipality. LBP 7586, 1, 84.6 mm SL, Barão de Melgaço, marginal lake of the Cuiabá River. LBP 663, 3, 64.8–72.4 mm SL, Poconé, Rombado to Poconé region. MCP 14489, 4, 82.2–93.9 mm SL, Poconé, pool under bridge in Transpantaneira road, 70 km south of Poconé. MCP 39011, 3, 71.3–75.2 mm SL, Poconé, stream in the Transpantaneira road, toward Porto Manga, about 16 km of Poconé. MZUEL 5365, 6, 67.4–77.0 mm SL, Poconé, Pixaim River. MZUEL 11118, 2, 67.5–76.2 mm SL, Poconé, pool in the Corixo River. MZUSP 18850, 48, 74.1–92.6 mm SL, Poconé, Cuiabá River. MZUSP 19235, 1, 67.1 mm SL, Poconé. MZUSP 18769, 8, 66.7–89.20 mm SL, Poconé, Jofre’s field. NUP 2128, 8, 63.1–87.2 mm SL, Chapada dos Guimarães, Manso Reservoir. UFRGS 10682, 41, 18.7–36.2 mm SL, Poconé, Transpantaneira road. ZUEC-PIS 1577–1579, 3, 88.5–94.2 mm SL, Poconé, Jofre’s field, near IBDF