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A new species of *Characidium* Reinhardt (Ostariophysi: Characiformes: Crenuchidae) from headwaters of rio Pacaás Novos, rio Madeira basin, Rondônia, Brazil

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Abstract

Characidium summus, new species, is described from rio Pacaás Novos, rio Madeira basin, Rondônia, Brazil. The new species is the unique among congeners for completely lacking an adipose fin and having a complete lateral line. *Characidium summus* can be further distinguished from congeners, including *C. vestigipinne* that also has a complete lateral line and adipose fin absent, vestigial or reduced by the absence of dark bars or spots on head, body or fins, except for a dark blotch on the rear of the opercle, a narrow midlateral dark stripe, and a dark basicaudal spot. In addition, *C. summus* possess a vestigial supraorbital and a remarkably small pseudotympanum. The possible mimetic relationship between the new species with *Erythrinus erythrinus* is discussed.

Key words: Neotropical fish, Characidiinae, pseudotympanum, supraorbital, taxonomy, mimetism

Resumo

Characidium summus, espécie nova, é descrita do rio Pacaás Novos, bacia do rio Madeira, Rondônia, Brasil. A nova espécie é a única entre congêneres completamente sem nadadeira adiposa e com linha lateral completa. *Characidium summus* pode ser ainda distinguida das congêneres, incluindo *C. vestigipinne* que possui linha lateral completa e nadadeira adiposa ausente, vestigial ou reduzida, pela ausência de barras escuras ou manchas na cabeça, corpo ou nadadeiras, exceto por uma mancha escura após o opérculo, uma faixa estreita mediana lateral escura e uma mancha escura na base do pedúnculo caudal. Além disso, *C. summus* possui supraorbital vestigial e pseudotímpano extremamente pequeno. A possível relação mimética entre a nova espécie e *Erythrinus erythrinus* é discutida.

Palavras chave: peixe Neotropical, Characidiinae, pseudotímpano, supraorbital, taxonomia, mimetismo

Introduction

Characidium is the most species-rich genus of Crenuchidae, with 59 valid species (Eschmeyer, 2015) widely distributed in the Neotropical Region, between eastern Panama and northeastern Argentina (Buckup, 2003). Recent field trips and increased study of specimens deposited in fish collections have revealed a number of new species (e.g., Lujan *et al.*, 2013; Netto-Ferreira *et al.*, 2013; Peixoto & Wosiacki, 2013; Leitão & Buckup, 2014; Zanata & Camelier, 2014), usually including forms easily diagnosable. Several other species difficult to diagnose appear in inventories as *Characidium* sp. or are tentatively identified at species level but accompanied by “aff.” or “cf.”, hiding a yet to be described diversity. A recent survey of the fish fauna of the rio Madeira revealed 25 species of Crenuchidae, with nine of them attributed to *Characidium* (Ohara *et al.*, 2013). None of those species were