

***Neolamprologus devosi* sp. n., a new riverine lamprologine cichlid (Teleostei, Cichlidae) from the lower Malagarasi River, Tanzania**

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Abstract

Neolamprologus devosi sp. n., a new species of riverine lamprologine cichlid is described from the lower Malagarasi River, Tanzania. The new species is tentatively placed within the poorly defined genus *Neolamprologus*, though generic reassignment may be necessary once ongoing work on the phylo-geny and classification of lamprologines is completed. Notably, *Neolamprologus devosi* sp. n. does not present characters diagnostic of Congo (ex-Zaire) River lamprologines, and contrary to previous suggestions appears to be phylogenetically distinct from those taxa. This raises questions regarding the number of putative riverine colonizations of lamprologines from a lacustrine source.

Key words: *Neolamprologus*, new riverine species, lamprologines

Introduction

De Vos et al. (2001) provide an up-to-date summary of current knowledge of the ichthyofauna of the Malagarasi River, the largest affluent of Lake Tanganyika in Burundi and Tanzania. They note the mixed origin of the system's fishes, and estimate that, in addition to Congolese and Nilotic elements, about 15% of the fauna is comprised of Malagarasi endemics—a tally which includes a number of undescribed species. Among these is a small lamprologine cichlid, which De Vos et al. posit is closely related to *Lamprologus mocquardi* Pellegrin, 1903 from the Congo River basin. However, results from a revision of the riverine species of *Lamprologus* of the Congo (ex-Zaire) basin including *Lamprologus mocquardi* are at odds with that assessment (Schelly & Stiassny, submitted). The Malagarasi lamprologine does not belong to the clade of riverine *Lamprologus*, and instead is tentatively placed within the genus *Neolamprologus* and described herein.