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Nanochromis sabinae, a new cichlid species (Teleostei, Cichlidae) from the Upper Congo River area and Northeast Gabon

ANTON LAMBOJ

Institut für Zoologie der Universität Wien, Abteilung für Evolutionsbiologie, Althanstrasse 14, A - 1090 Wien, Austria. E-mail: anton.lamboj@univie.ac.at

Abstract

Nanochromis sabinae, a new cichlid species, is described from central and northeast Congo (Brazzaville) and southeast Gabon. It is differs from congeners in a combination of morphological characters and coloration patterns; e.g. anterior region of upper lateral line clearly separated from the dorsal-fin base; posterior nape scaled; one or two rows of cheek scales; a black longitudinal band from the eye to the end of the caudal peduncle, visible in both sexes in some behavioural situations but not extended into the caudal fin; females with some silvery colored scales around the genital papilla.

Key words: Teleostei, Cichlidae, *Nanochromis*, new species, Congo

Introduction

The genus *Nanochromis* was originally erected by Pellegrin (1904) for *Nanochromis nudiceps* (Boulenger, 1899), with the main character of an extremely elevated upper lateral line. In his revision of the genus *Pelmatochromis*, Thys van den Audenaerde (1968) suggested the inclusion of *Nanochromis* as a subgenus of *Pelmatochromis* sensu lato, for species within the genus with 12 scale rows around the caudal peduncle. *Nanochromis* was resurrected as a genus by Trewavas (1973, 1974). Roberts & Stewart (1976) characterized *Nanochromis* sensu stricto as having one half or more of the upper lateral line adjacent to the base of the dorsal fin, rather than separated from it by one or more rows of scales without tubules, and added four new species. Greenwood (1987) recognized two groups within the genus: a smaller group with the two species *N. dimidatus* and *N. squamiceps*, characterised by having about less than the half pored scales of the upper lateral-line contiguous with the dorsal-fin base, a completely scaled belly and nape, a partially scaled chest and cheek, and the presence of a single, reduced and comma-shaped supraneural bone. The

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