

***Anostomoides passionis*, a new fish species from rio Xingu, Brasil (Characiformes: Anostomidae)**

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Abstract

We describe *Anostomoides passionis*, a new species of anostomid fish from rio Xingu. The species attains 306 mm SL and is distinguished from the other two congeneric species by the lateral line scale count (38–39, instead of 39–41 in *A. atrianalis* and 42–44 in *A. laticeps*) and by the color pattern: brownish-grey with two round to heart-shaped, dark blotches on the side (a larger one under the dorsal fin and another above the origin of the anal fin). *Anostomoides passionis* inhabits rocky stretches of the rio Xingu with moderate to high current. Stomach contents of two specimens of *A. passionis* caught during the low water season were composed mainly of fragments of sponges.

Key words: Ostariophysi, ichthyofauna, Amazon basin, riffle habitat, sponge eating

Introduction

Anostomidae currently includes 12 genera and approximately 140 species. It includes small fishes of less than 100 mm standard length and larger species up to 400 mm SL, the latter usually included in commercial and subsistence fisheries (Géry, 1977; Garavello & Britski, 2003). The genus *Anostomoides* has only two valid species: *A. atrianalis*, of small adult size (~200 mm SL), and so far recorded only from río Orinoco, and *A. laticeps*, a larger species that attains ca. 400 mm SL of wide distribution in the Amazon Basin. During ecological studies conducted by one of the authors (JZ) in the lower rio Xingu rapids, Pará State, several specimens of an undescribed species of *Anostomoides* were collected. The fish were readily distinguished by their conspicuous color pattern and are herein described as a new species.