



A new species of *Jupiaba* Zanata, 1997 (Ostariophysi, Characiformes, Characidae) from the rio Tocantins drainage, Brazil

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Abstract

A new characid species, *Jupiaba elassonaktis*, is described from the rio Tocantins drainage. The new species is distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of characters: medial cusps of premaxillary teeth much larger than remaining cusps, dentary teeth decreasing abruptly in size from the fifth tooth backwards, first dorsal- and anal-fin rays not prolonged by an elongate filament, presence of a vertically elongate humeral spot, 33–39 scales on lateral line, 5–7 scales series above lateral line, 9–11 pectoral-fin rays, and an incomplete series of median predorsal scales.

Key words: Neotropical tetras, Biogeography, Systematics

Resumo

Uma nova espécie de caracídeo, *Jupiaba elassonaktis*, é descrita da drenagem do rio Tocantins. A nova espécie distingue-se de suas congêneres pela seguinte combinação de caracteres: cúspides medianas dos dentes premaxilares bem maior que as demais, dentes do dentário decrescendo abruptamente de tamanho a partir do quinto dente em direção posterior, primeiros raios das nadadeiras dorsal e anal não prolongados por um filamento, presença de uma mácula umeral verticalmente alongada, 33–39 escamas na linha lateral, 5–7 séries de escamas acima da linha lateral, 9–11 raios na nadadeira peitoral, e uma série incompleta de escamas medianas pré-dorsais.

Introduction

The definition of the genus *Jupiaba* is based on six putative synapomorphies related to the structures of pelvic girdle and adjacent musculature (Zanata, 1997; Lima & Zanata, 2005). *Jupiaba* was proposed by Zanata (1997) to include 21 characid species primarily described in the genera *Astyanax* Baird & Girard or *Deuterodon* Eigenmann. More recently, Lima & Zanata (2005) described an additional species, *Jupiaba poekotero*, from rio Negro drainage. Therefore, *Jupiaba* currently comprises 22 valid species, widely distributed throughout the rio Amazonas, rio Essequibo, and rio Oiapoque drainages, plus one single species from the rio Paraguay drainage (Lima *et al.*, 2003; Eschmeyer, 2006). However, the study of *Jupiaba* samples deposited at the Fish Collection of the Laboratório de Ictiologia Sistemática da Universidade Federal do Tocantins (acronym UNT) revealed the presence of an undescribed *Jupiaba* species from the rio Tocantins drainage; the description of this species is provided below.