



## ***Hyphessobrycon oritoensis* (Characiformes: Characidae), a new species from the Putumayo River drainage, Colombian Amazon**

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### **Abstract**

*Hyphessobrycon oritoensis* (Characiformes: Characidae) is described from the Putumayo River drainage of the Colombian Amazon. The new species belongs to the *H. heterorhabdus* group and is distinguished from all other known species by the following combination of characters: iii,8 dorsal-fin rays, iv, 26–27 anal-fin rays, 19 teeth on dentary, 35 scales in longitudinal series, 10–11 perforated scales in lateral line, 7 scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin, 14 predorsal scales and a dark lateral band that extends from the posterior border of the humeral spot to the tips of the middle caudal fin rays.

**Key words:** Characid fish, Colombia, South America

### **Resumen**

Se describe *Hyphessobrycon oritoensis* (Characiformes: Characidae) de la cuenca del río Putumayo en la Amazonia colombiana. La nueva especie pertenece al grupo *H. heterorhabdus* y se distingue de las otras especies descritas por la siguiente combinación de caracteres: radios dorsales: iii,8, radios anales: iv, 26–27, 19 dientes en el dentario, 35 escamas en la serie lateral del cuerpo, 10 a 12 escamas con poros en la línea lateral, 7 escamas entre la línea lateral y la aleta dorsal, 14 escamas predorsales y una franja lateral oscura que extiende desde el borde posterior de la mancha humeral hasta los extremos de los radios caudales centrales.

### **Introduction**

The genus *Hyphessobrycon* Durbin in Eigenmann, 1908, contains 110 valid species (Lima *et al.* 2003; Lima & Moreira 2003; Lucena 2003; Almirón *et al.* 2004; Bertaco & Malabarba 2005) distributed from southern Mexico to Argentina. It is artificially defined by the following combination of characters: maxillary teeth few or absent, lateral line incomplete, third orbital bone not in contact with the sensory canal of the preopercle, two series of teeth on the premaxillary, and caudal fin without scales at base, this last character is the only difference separating it from *Hemigrammus* Gill. However, as many authors have pointed out, these characters do not suffice to diagnose the genus, and *Hyphessobrycon* as defined is not monophyletic (Weitzman & Palmer 1997; Moreira *et al.* 2002; Malabarba & Weitzman 2003; Bertaco & Malabarba 2005; Calcagnotto *et al.* 2005).

Eigenmann (1922, 1927) revised *Hyphessobrycon* and proposed that it is a subgenus of *Hemigrammus*, but provided no phylogenetic perspective to support this claim. Géry (1977) created artificial groups of spe-