



***Crenicichla mandelburgeri*, a new species of cichlid fish (Teleostei: Cichlidae) from the Paraná river drainage in Paraguay**

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Abstract

Crenicichla mandelburgeri, new species, is described from the streams Tembey, Pirayuy, Pirapó and Poromoco which are Paraguayan tributaries to the Paraná River. It is similar in particular to *Crenicichla niederleinii*, *C. mucuryna*, and *C. jaguarensis*, distinguished by relatively small size (114 mm SL), low scale counts, and details of the colour pattern.

Key words: PROVEPA, Arroyo Tembey, Arroyo Poromoco, *Crenicichla jaguarensis*, *Crenicichla niederleinii*

Resúmen

Se describe *Crenicichla mandelburgeri*, nueva especie, de los arroyos Tembey, Pirayuy, Pirapó y Poromoco, todos afluentes del río Paraná en el Paraguay. La nueva especie es particularmente similar a *Crenicichla niederleinii*, *C. mucuryna* y *C. jaguarensis*, y es distinguido por su tamaño relativamente pequeño (114 mm LS), bajo número de escamas y detalles del padrón de colorido.

Introduction

The South American cichlid genus *Crenicichla* Heckel is the most speciose genus of the family Cichlidae, with close to 80 valid species (Kullander, 2003; Casciotta *et al.*, 2006; Kullander & Lucena, 2006). Whereas South American cichlid species diversity is highest in the Amazon basin, recent studies have demonstrated a proportionally high number of species of *Crenicichla* in southern and southeastern South America. Lucena & Kullander (1992) reported on 11 species from the Uruguai river basin, of which nine endemic, to which Lucena (2007) added two species, also endemic. Kullander & Lucena (2006) distinguished six species, of which three new, from the coastal rivers of Brazil and eastern Uruguay. Seven endemic species are known from the upper Paraná river drainage (Kullander, 2003; Casciotta *et al.*, 2006).

Only four species of *Crenicichla* have been reported from Paraguay, all of them relatively widespread in the Paraguay-Paraná basin, viz. *Crenicichla vittata* Heckel, *C. lepidota* Heckel (including *C. edithae* Ploeg), and *C. semifasciata* Heckel, mainly distributed in the Río Paraguay drainage, and *C. niederleinii* (Holmberg), from the Paraná river drainage (Kullander, 2003). There are at least two undescribed species in the Paraguayan tributaries of the Paraná River, and this paper describes one of them.

Material and methods

Measurements and counts were taken as described by Kullander (1980, 1986). Specimen lengths are given as