



Revalidation of the genus *Ectreopterus* Fowler (Teleostei: Characiformes), with the redescription of its type species, *E. uruguayensis*

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Abstract

Ectreopterus uruguayensis Fowler 1943 is redescribed based on the holotype and new series of additional specimens from the río Uruguay, río Negro, and small coastal rivers in Uruguay draining to the río de La Plata. Previously proposed synonyms of *Ectreopterus* Fowler 1943 to *Megalamphodus* Eigenmann 1915 and *Hyphessobrycon* Durbin 1908 are tested and refuted. A new diagnosis is presented for the genus based on the following apomorphies: foramen in posterior region of metapterygoid forms an incomplete arch, bordered posteriorly by the hyomandibula; pectoral-fin rays bearing hooks; posterior margin of second infraorbital posteroventrally oblique and second infraorbital ventrally bordering anterior region of third infraorbital; fourth infraorbital more developed longitudinally than dorsoventrally; ascending process of premaxilla reaching just anterior end of nasal; and lateral line interrupted.

Key words: Characidae, *Hyphessobrycon*, *Megalamphodus*, Neotropical fish

Resumo

Ectreopterus uruguayensis Fowler 1943 é redescrita com base na análise do holótipo e séries novas de espécimes adicionais procedentes das drenagens do río Uruguai, río Negro e pequenos rios costeiros afluentes do río da Prata no Uruguai. Propostas anteriores de sinonímia de *Ectreopterus* Fowler 1943 com *Megalamphodus* Eigenmann 1915 e *Hyphessobrycon* Durbin 1908 são testadas e refutadas. Uma nova diagnose é proposta para o gênero com base nas seguintes apomorfias: forame na região posterior do metapterigoide forma um arco incompleto, margeado posteriormente pelo hiomandibular; raios na nadadeira peitoral com ganchos; margem posterior do segundo infraorbital oblíqua posteroventralmente, margeando ventralmente a região anterior do terceiro infraorbital; quarto infraorbital mais desenvolvido longitudinalmente do que dorsoventralmente; processo ascendente da pré-maxila alcançando a extremidade anterior do nasal; e linha lateral ininterrompida.

Introduction

Megalamphodus (*Ectreopterus*) *uruguayensis* Fowler 1943 was described as a new subgenus and species of *Megalamphodus* Eigenmann 1915, based on a single specimen (Fig. 1) collected by Dr. Florentino Felippone in 1935 in Uruguay. Even though the species described by Fowler can be considered valid based on its morphological distinctiveness among characids, the discussion of the status of the generic level name *Ectreopterus* has been neglected in most of the literature on characid relationships, due to the historical lack of specimens for analysis and to the poor diagnosis presented by Fowler to the subgenus.

Characters that lead Fowler (1943) to describe the new species in *Megalamphodus* were briefly described as the “general scalation [sic], size of the scales, long maxillary, longer lower jaw”, without further discussion. The new subgenus *Ectreopterus* was diagnosed by “the absence of maxillary teeth, the postorbital in contact with the preopercle, the occipital fontanel a continuous narrow groove, besides both caudal and anal bases the chest and breast also scaled, and the upper caudal lobe shorter than the lower”.