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***Crenicichla taikyra* (Teleostei: Cichlidae), a new species of pike cichlid from the middle río Paraná, Argentina**

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Abstract

Crenicichla taikyra, new species, is described from the middle río Paraná, Argentina. *Crenicichla taikyra* is distinguished from the other species of the genus by the following combination of characters: lower pharyngeal tooth plate stout, bearing molariform teeth, ascending arm of premaxilla longer than the dentigerous arm, posterior edge of preoperculum serrated, a well developed suborbital stripe, and absence of scattered dark dots on flanks. Molariform teeth on pharyngeal jaws is a derived character among *Crenicichla* species, however this character state has appeared several times in unrelated species.

Key words: taxonomy, Misiones, Corrientes, molariform teeth, pharyngeal tooth plate

Resumen

Crenicichla taikyra, nueva especie, es descripta para el río Paraná medio en Argentina. *Crenicichla taikyra* se distingue de las otras especies del género por la siguiente combinación de caracteres: placa faríngea inferior robusta, llevando dientes molariformes, rama ascendente del premaxilar más larga que la rama dentígera, borde posterior del preopérculo aserrado, banda suborbital bien desarrollada y ausencia de pequeñas manchas oscuras en los flancos. Dientes molariformes en los huesos faríngeos inferiores es un carácter derivado entre las especies de *Crenicichla*. Sin embargo este estado de carácter ha aparecido varias veces en especies no relacionadas.

Introduction

The río Paraná basin with about 2,600,000 km² is the second largest basin of South America. Since 1911, the río Paraná basin was interrupted and modified by about 145 reservoirs, mostly for hydropower generation (Agostinho *et al.* 2008). This cumulative effect of dams generates habitat fragmentation, which may threaten biodiversity (Agostinho *et al.* 2004). One of the largest reservoirs is the Yacyretá Dam, located on the río Paraná between Paraguay and Argentina. During several collecting expeditions between 1997 and 2008 in the río Paraná, as part of intensive studies to assess the effects of Yacyretá Dam above and below it, fishes of a new species of *Crenicichla* were collected.

The genus *Crenicichla* Heckel with more than 85 species, is the most speciose genus within the family Cichlidae (Piálek *et al.* 2012). Fourteen species of *Crenicichla* were listed for the río Paraná basin (Piálek *et al.* 2010) and several are still undescribed (J.C., A.A., L.P. and O.R., pers. obs.). Some of them, like *C. haroldoi*