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***Retroculus acherontos*, a new species of cichlid fish (Teleostei) from the Rio Tocantins basin**

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Abstract

Retroculus acherontos is described from the Rio Tocantins basin, Brazil. It is distinguished from all congeners by the presence of a nuchal hump in large specimens, an irregular black blotch located on the middle of the anterior soft dorsal-fin rays, fewer pectoral-fin rays (15–16), a deeper body, a convex ventral profile, a more transversely convex ventral surface of the body, and by chest scales similar in size to the scales on the side. An expanded diagnosis for the genus *Retroculus* is provided.

Key words: taxonomy, Cichlinae, rheophily, Neotropical

Resumo

Retroculus acherontos é descrita da bacia do rio Tocantins, Brasil. É distinta de todos seus congêneres pela presença de uma protuberância nuchal em indivíduos grandes, uma mancha negra irregular mediana nos raios moles da nadadeira dorsal, por possuir menos raios na nadadeira peitoral (15–16), corpo mais alto, perfil ventral do corpo mais convexo, superfície ventral do corpo comprimida e pela região peitoral ventral com escamas de tamanho similar às escamas do flanco. É apresentada uma diagnose expandida do gênero *Retroculus*.

Introduction

The cichlid genus *Retroculus* currently comprises three rheophilic species occurring in north-central South America, in the Araguaia, Capim, Tocantins, Tapajós, Xingu, Oyapock and Araguari river basins (Kullander, 2003). *Retroculus* was proposed by Eigenmann & Bray (1894) for *R. Boulengeri* Eigenmann & Bray from Brazil. These authors considered it to be related to *Acaropsis* (known at the time by a single species, *A. nassa*, currently *Acaronia nassa*) despite of the remark noting the “high development of the snout and the preorbitals” (Eigenmann & Bray, 1894: 614). Subsequently, Regan (1906) considered *R. Boulengeri* to be a junior synonym of *Chromys lapidifera* Castelnau, 1864 described from “la grande cascade de l’Araguay (Caxoeira grande)” (Castelnau, 1864:459–463), which corresponds to the Cachoeira de Santa Isabel at Santa Isabel do Araguaia, Goiás state, Brazil. The present known distribution of *R. lapidifer* includes the Araguaia, the Tocantins, and the Capim river basins (Kullander, 2003).

Gosse (1971) revised the genus, and redescribed *Retroculus lapidifer* based on additional material. Since the holotype was already lost (Gosse, 1971; M. Desoutter, pers. comm., 2003), Gosse designated a neotype from Xavantina Island, Rio das Mortes, Mato Grosso state, Brazil. Gosse (1971) also described *R. xinguensis* from the Cachoeira von Martius, Xingu River basin, Brazil, and *R. septentrionalis* from the Oyapock River, French Guiana.

Retroculus was long considered to be related to the Geophaginae because of its overall body shape. This