



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4021.1.9>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:007198AD-00F9-4EF7-9105-3C90A918167E>

New species of *Characidium* (Characiformes: Crenuchidae) from the Rio Tapajós and Rio Xingu drainages, Pará, Brazil

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Abstract

Characidium nana is described from the Rio Xingu and Rio Tapajós drainages. The new species is distinguished from all its congeners by the absence of the inner series of dentary teeth, the absence of the parietal branch of the supraorbital laterosensory canal, the incomplete lateral line, the lack of an adipose fin, the presence of a conspicuous dark blotch on caudal peduncle as well as an evident dark, midlateral stripe, and the presence of 12 circumpeduncular scales. The relationships of the new species and its inclusion among the species of clade C4 are discussed.

Key words: Neotropical, Characidiinae, Clade C4

Resumo

Characidium nana é descrita das bacias dos Rio Xingu e Tapajós. A nova espécie pode ser diferenciada das demais congêneres pela ausência da série interna de dentes no dentário, ausência do ramo parietal do canal sensorial supraorbital, pela linha lateral incompleta, ausência de nadadeira adiposa, pela presença de uma mancha conspicua no pedúnculo caudal, assim como uma faixa longitudinal escura evidente, e pela presença de 12 escamas circumpedunculares. As relações da nova espécie e sua inclusão no clado C4 são discutidas.

Palavras-chave: Neotropical, Characidiinae, Clado C4

Introduction

Despite being the most species-rich genus in the Crenuchidae, the systematics of *Characidium* Reinhardt is still poorly resolved (Buckup, 1993a), except for a phylogenetic hypothesis corroborating the monophyly of the genus (Buckup 1993a). Latest contributions on the group have focused on the descriptions of new species (*e.g.* Lujan *et al.*, 2013; Peixoto & Wosiacki, 2013; Leitão & Buckup, 2014; Zanata & Camelier, 2014). Recently, Netto-Ferreira *et al.* (2013) proposed an updated phylogenetic relationships hypothesis of the C4 clade of Buckup (1993a), including characters discussed in Buckup & Reis (1997), Buckup & Hahn (2000), Melo & Buckup (2002), and da Graça *et al.* (2008), and elucidating some aspects of the relationships within that clade. According to that hypothesis, the clade C4 comprises *C. bahiense* Almeida, *C. interruptum* Pellegrin, *C. lagosantense* Travassos, *C. lanei* Travassos, *C. laterale* (Boulenger), *C. mirim* Netto-Ferreira, Birindelli & Buckup, *C. nupelia* da Graça, Pavanelli & Buckup, *C. occidentale* Buckup & Reis, *C. orientale* Buckup & Reis, *C. rachovii* Regan, *C. stigmosum* Melo & Buckup, *C. vestigipinne* Buckup & Hahn and *C. xavante* da Graça, Pavanelli & Buckup.

In a trip to the Serra do Cachimbo, specimens of an undescribed, miniaturized (*sensu* Weitzman & Vari, 1988) species of *Characidium* pertaining to the C4 clade were collected in the Rio 13 de Maio, Rio Xingu basin. Further collection examination detected additional specimens of the species, which is described herein and its relationships within the genus are discussed.