

***Pelvicachromis signatus* and *Pelvicachromis rubrolabiatus*, two new cichlid species (Teleostei, Perciformes) from Guinea, West Africa**

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Abstract

Pelvicachromis rubrolabiatus and *P. signatus* are described from Guinea. They differ from other members of *Pelvicachromis*, except *P. humilis*, in having two contiguous tubular infraorbital ossicles instead of three with a gap between the 2nd and 3rd and in displaying a color pattern of seven to eight dark vertical bars during certain behavioral situations. *Pelvicachromis rubrolabiatus* differs from *P. humilis* and *P. signatus* in having seven instead of eight vertical bars on the body and from *P. signatus* in having a lesser preorbital depth. *Pelvicachromis signatus* differs from *P. humilis* in the presence of characteristic black markings in the dorsal and caudal fin of males, a black spot on the caudal peduncle of females and occasionally one or two black spots in the female's dorsal fin.

Key words: Perciformes, Cichlidae, *Pelvicachromis*, new species, Guinea

Introduction

The West African cichlid genus *Pelvicachromis* comprises six described species, distributed from Guinea to Congo (Brazzaville). Following Thys van den Audenaerde (1968) and Greenwood (1987), the genus belongs to the group of chromidotilapiine cichlids, characterized by (1) a visor-like hanging pad on the roof of the pharynx, (2) outer teeth in both jaws unicuspid, (3) a few teeth situated anterolaterally in the lower jaws with a curvature of the crown directed posteriorly and not buccally, (4) no microbranchiospines and (5) gill rakers on the outer row of the first ceratobranchial pachydermatous, transversely aligned, with a tuberculate and concave upper surface and a protracted distal tip.

In addition to the group characters, the genus *Pelvicachromis* is characterized by a combination of features (Greenwood, 1987): (1) small to very small chest scales, (2) 2nd (sometimes 2nd and 3rd) branched pelvic fin ray of females longer than 1st, giving the distal tip of the fin a rounded rather than pointed appearance, (3) 16 scales around the caudal peduncle, (4) one or more scales between upper lateral line and dorsal fin base.