

A new rainbowfish (Teleostei: Melanotaenioidei: Bedotiidae) from the southeastern highlands of Madagascar, with comments on the biogeography of *Bedotia*

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Abstract

Bedotia albomarginata, a new species of Malagasy rainbowfish, is described from forested habitats in the southeastern highlands of Madagascar. The new species is distinguished from congeners by the presence of broad white margins on the second dorsal fin and anal fin in males, a markedly lanceolate caudal fin in adult males, and in life, by a bright yellow to orangish-red anal fin in both sexes. *Bedotia albomarginata* is known only from small streams and swamps within the upper to middle reaches of the Mananara and Rienana river drainage basins.

Key words: *Bedotia*, Bedotiidae, biogeography, Madagascar, Melanotaenioidei, rainbowfish

Introduction

The melanotaenioid family Bedotiidae is endemic to Madagascar and comprises two genera, *Bedotia* and *Rheocles*. As their common name, Malagasy rainbows or rainbowfishes, implies, bedotiids generally are colorful fishes. Bedotiids are elongate, laterally compressed, and rarely exceed 100.0 mm SL. Most bedotiids exhibit varying degrees of sexual dimorphism, which is quite pronounced in some species. Bedotiids occur exclusively in freshwater environments and are distributed in small to medium-sized forested rivers and streams, occasionally in swamps and marshes, spanning nearly the entire eastern versant of Madagascar. All species of *Bedotia* and *Rheocles* are restricted to eastern drainages, less *R. derhami*, which is endemic to a tributary of the westward draining Sofia River located in the northeast of the island.