



***Caenotropus schizodon*, a new chilodontid fish from the Rio Tapajós drainage, Brazil (Ostariophysi: Characiformes: Chilodontidae)**

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Abstract

Caenotropus schizodon, **n. sp.**, is described from the Rio Tapajós, Rio Amazonas drainage. The new species is readily distinguished from *C. labyrinthicus* and *C. mestomorgmatos* by its bifid premaxillary teeth. *Caenotropus schizodon* differs from *C. maculosus* by its lack of teeth on the lower jaw, the dusky distal portions of the anterior dorsal-fin rays but without a distinct patch of dark pigmentation, and the possession of 28–30 lateral-line scales vs. 27 rarely 28. The hypothesis of a sister-species relationship of *C. schizodon* with *C. labyrinthicus* is supported by three synapomorphies.

Key words: taxonomy, Neotropical region, Brazil, fish

Resumo

Caenotropus schizodon, **sp. nov.**, é descrita do Rio Tapajós, bacia do Rio Amazonas. A espécie é distinta de *C. labyrinthicus* e *C. mestomorgmatos* pela presença de dentes premaxilares bifidos. *Caenotropus schizodon* difere de *C. maculosus*, pela ausência de dentes na mandíbula, nadadeira dorsal escurecida mas sem formar mancha distinta, e possuir 28–30 escamas perfuradas na linha lateral vs 27 raramente 28. Três sinapomorfias indicam que *C. schizodon* é espécie-irmã de *C. labyrinthicus*.

Palavras-chave: taxonomia, região Neotropical, Brasil, peixes

Introduction

The genera *Caenotropus* Günther and *Chilodus* Müller & Troschel are included in the monophyletic family Chilodontidae. These taxa were diagnosed and their monophyly hypothesized by Vari (1983) and Vari *et al.* (1995).

Caenotropus is a small genus with three valid species: *C. labyrinthicus* Kner widely distributed in the Rio Amazonas and Río Orinoco basins, the upper Rio Essequibo, the Saramaca and Suriname Rivers, and the Rio Parnaíba, northeastern Brazil; *C. maculosus* Eigenmann from the Guianas, and *C. mestomorgmatos* Vari, Castro, and Raredon from the middle Rio Negro, Brazil and Venezuela, and upper Rio Orinoco in southern Venezuela (Vari and Raredon, 2003).

During a study of tooth ultrastructure in representative genera of Characiforms by the first author, peculiar bifid teeth in specimens of *Caenotropus* from Rio Tapajós basin were found. Analysis revealed that these samples, rather than representing *C. labyrinthicus*, are instead an undescribed form. The species is described herein, and its phylogenetic placement is analyzed.