



A new species of *Cynopotamus* Valenciennes, 1849 (Characiformes, Characidae) with a key to the species of the genus

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Abstract

Cynopotamus xinguano n. sp. is described from middle-upper tributaries of rio Xingu basin. Among the known species of the genus (Menezes, 1976, 1987) it is more similar to *C. essequibensis* Eigenmann from which it differs by having more developed gill-rakers on first branchial arch and a different arrangement of muscles around muscular hiatus of pseudotympanum. A new key for species identification is provided.

Key words: Freshwater fish, Brazil, Taxonomy, Systematics

Resumo

Cynopotamus xinguano, n. sp. é descrita das partes média e alta da bacia do rio Xingu. Entre as espécies conhecidas do gênero (Menezes, 1976, 1987), é mais semelhante a *C. essequibensis* Eigenmann, da qual difere por possuir mais rastros desenvolvidos no primeiro arco branquial e um arranjo diferente dos músculos que circundam o hiato muscular do pseudotímpano. Uma nova chave para identificação das espécies é fornecida.

Introduction

Among the fishes recently collected from tributaries of the upper rio Xingu basin, a new species of *Cynopotamus* was discovered. Additional material of the new species from a tributary of the middle rio Xingu was found in the fish collection of the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo. The new species is herein described and a new key to species of the genus *Cynopotamus* is provided.

Material and methods

The specimens studied are deposited at the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP) and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP). Methods for taking measurements and counts are described in Fink & Weitzman (1974) and Menezes (2006). Gill rakers were counted on the first branchial arch on the left side of the specimens except when they were damaged, in which case counts were made on the right side. Included were not only well-developed elements, but also short stubs representing rudimentary gill-rakers. The black humeral blotch was always measured at its widest part, regardless of whether it occurs on the left or right side of the specimens. The number of horizontal scale rows counted from anal-fin origin does not include the small scales clustered at the beginning of anal fin base belonging to sheath of scales along base of that fin. To be as accurate as possible, it is important to count not the number of individual scales, but of