



## ***Leporinus britskii*: a new anostomid species from the Tapajós and Jari drainages, Brazil (Characiformes: Anostomidae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of the genus *Leporinus* Agassiz, 1829 (Characiformes, Anostomidae) is described. The new species is similar to *Leporinus amblyrhynchus*, *L. taeniatus*, *L. taeniofasciatus*, *L. geminis*, *L. unitaeniatus*, *L. vanzoi*, by having a dark longitudinal midlateral stripe and dark transversal bars on dorsum. However, the new species is distinguished from *Leporinus amblyrhynchus* by having four teeth on dentary (vs. three); from *L. taeniatus* by having 12 circumpeduncular scale series (vs. 16) and 37 to 39 scales on lateral line (vs. 36 to 37); from *L. taeniofasciatus* by having 12 circumpeduncular scale series (vs. 16); from *L. geminis*, *L. unitaeniatus* and *L. vanzoi* by having three teeth on premaxilla (vs. four), 37 to 39 scales on lateral line (vs. 40 to 43), four or five scale series above lateral line (vs. six), and 12 circumpeduncular scale series (vs. 16). The new species is distributed in the rio Teles Pires and rio Jamanxim, rio Tapajós basin, and rio Jari, clear-water tributaries of the lower portion of the Brazilian Amazon.

**Key words:** Anostomoidea, Aracu, Piau, taxonomy, systematics

### **Resumo**

Uma nova espécie de *Leporinus* Agassiz, 1829 (Characiformes, Anostomidae) é descrita. A nova espécie é semelhante à *Leporinus amblyrhynchus*, *L. taeniatus*, *L. taeniofasciatus*, *L. geminis*, *L. unitaeniatus* e *L. vanzoi*, por ter uma faixa longitudinal escura na porção lateral do corpo e barras transversais escuras no dorso. Entretanto, a nova espécie difere de *Leporinus amblyrhynchus* por ter quatro dentes no dentário (vs. três); de *L. taeniatus* por ter 12 séries de escamas ao redor do pedúnculo caudal (vs. 16) e 37 a 39 escamas na linha lateral (vs. 36 a 37); de *L. taeniofasciatus* por ter 12 séries de escamas ao redor do pedúnculo caudal (vs. 16); de *L. geminis*, *L. unitaeniatus* e *L. vanzoi* por ter três dentes no pré-maxilar (vs. quatro), 37 a 39 escamas na linha lateral (vs. 40 a 43), quatro a cinco séries de escamas acima da linha lateral (vs. seis), e 12 séries de escamas ao redor do pedúnculo caudal (vs. 16). A nova espécie ocorre nos rios Teles Pires e Jamanxim, na bacia do rio Tapajós, e no rio Jari, tributários de água clara da bacia do baixo rio Amazonas no Brasil.

**Palavras-chave:** Anostomoidea, Aracu, Piau, taxonomia, sistemática

### **Introduction**

*Leporinus* Agassiz, 1829 has approximately 90 valid species (Garavello & Britski, 2003; Birindelli & Britski, 2009; Garavello & Santos, 2009; Sidlauskas *et al.*, 2011), distributed in South America, from Trinidad to Argentina, occurring in cis- and trans-Andean rivers. The highest diversity, however, is present in the Amazon basin, from which approximately 45 species are reported.

Recent studies about the fish fauna of the rio Tapajós has revealed a great diversity, which include many species yet undescribed (Buckup & Santos, 2010). On the other hand, the area encompassing the rio Tapajós has been intensely exploited for cattle, soy harvest, gold mining (Castilhos *et al.*, 1998), and is nowadays treated as the next river in the Brazilian Amazon to have large hydroelectric dams, following the Belo Monte dam in the rio Xingu.