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## ***Crenicichla gillmorlisi*, a new species of cichlid fish (Teleostei: Cichlidae) from the Paraná river drainage in Paraguay**

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### **Abstract**

*Crenicichla gillmorlisi*, new species, is described from the río Acaray, a right bank tributary to the río Paraná. It is most similar to *C. mandelburgeri* in proportional measurements and meristics, but differs in colour pattern, adults having the body covered with small spots.

**Key words:** Endemism, freshwater, South America, taxonomy

### **Resúmen**

Se describe *Crenicichla gillmorlisi*, nueva especie, del río Acaray, un afluente del lado derecho del río Paraná. Es más parecido al *C. mandelburgeri* en medidas proporcionales y merísticas, distinguido por su padrón de colorido, con el cuerpo y las aletas dorsal, anal y caudal cubiertos por pequeñas manchas.

### **Introduction**

The South American cichlid genus *Crenicichla* Heckel is the most speciose genus of the family Cichlidae, with close to 85 valid species (Kullander 2003; Casciotta *et al.* 2006b; Kullander & Lucena 2006; Piálek *et al.* 2010; Varella *et al.* 2012). Whereas South American cichlid species diversity is highest in the Amazon basin, recent studies have demonstrated a proportionally high number of species of *Crenicichla* in southern and southeastern South America. Lucena & Kullander (1992) reported on 11 species from the río Uruguay basin, of which nine endemic, to which Lucena (2007) added two species, also endemic. Kullander & Lucena (2006) distinguished six species, of which three new, from the coastal rivers of Brazil and eastern Uruguay. Ten endemic species are described from the río Paraná drainage (Casciotta *et al.* 2010; Kullander 2003, 2009; Piálek *et al.*, 2010), and additional species are suggested by the molecular analysis by Piálek *et al.* (2012)

Six species of *Crenicichla* have been reported from Paraguay (Kullander 2003, 2009). *Crenicichla vittata* Heckel is relatively widespread in the Paraguay and lower Paraná basins and the río Uruguay. *Crenicichla lepidota* Heckel occurs in the Guaporé and Paraguay basins, and also in the middle and lower Paraná basin, the Uruguay basin, coastal rivers in Uruguay and in the Laguna dos Patos basin in Brazil. *Crenicichla semifasciata* (Heckel) is mainly distributed in the río Paraguay drainage, but occurs also in the adjacent lower Paraná. *Crenicichla mandelburgeri* Kullander was described recently from the rivers Poromoco, Pirayuy, Pirapó and Tembey, which are right bank tributaries to the río Paraná (Kullander 2009), and it was subsequently reported by Piálek *et al.* (2012) from Argentinian tributaries from Guaruhapé north to río Urugua-í. Piálek *et al.* (2012) also recognized a species similar to *C. mandelburgeri* from slightly more downstream localities in both Argentina and Paraguay. Kullander (1981) reported one more species from both the Brazilian and the Paraguayan side of the Paraná, within the Itaipú dam, tentatively identified as *C. niederleinii* (Holmberg).