



***Brachyhypopomus gauderio*, new species, a new example of underestimated species diversity of electric fishes in the southern South America (Gymnotiformes: Hypopomidae)**

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Abstract

Brachyhypopomus gauderio **n. sp.** is described here from the central, southern and coastal regions of the Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, from Uruguay, and from Paraguay. It is diagnosed from the congeners on the basis of body coloration, meristic and morphometric characters, such as the number of anal-fin rays, the position of anal-fin origin in relation to pectoral-fin, the morphology of the distal portion of caudal filament of mature males, and body proportions. The new species has been formerly identified as *B. pinnicaudatus* and is herein distinguished from it.

Key words: *Brachyhypopomus pinnicaudatus*, Rio Grande do Sul, Rio Uruguay, Laguna dos Patos, Rio Tramandaí

Resumo

Brachyhypopomus gauderio **n. sp.** ocorrente nas regiões central, sul e costeira do estado do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, no Uruguai e no Paraguai é descrita. Ela é diagnosticada de seus congêneres baseado em coloração do corpo, caracteres merísticos e morfológicos tais como o número de raios da nadadeira anal, a posição da origem da nadadeira anal em relação à nadadeira peitoral, a morfologia da porção distal do filamento caudal de machos maduros, e as proporções corporais. A espécie nova tem sido identificada como *B. pinnicaudatus* e é aqui distinguida da mesma.

Introduction

Diversity of the genus *Brachyhypopomus* Mago-Leccia is clearly underestimated. All recent reviews of the species composition of the genus have resulted in a list of six species in this group of Neotropical electric fishes (Mago-Leccia 1994; Albert 2001; Albert & Crampton 2003), while studies published just in the last five years have increased this number by 50 percent.

The first five species, *B. brevirostris* (Steindachner, 1868), *B. occidentalis* (Regan, 1914), *B. beebei* (Schultz, 1944), *B. diazi* (Fernández-Yépez, 1972), and *B. pinnicaudatus* (Hopkins, 1991), were originally described from the northern and center portions of South America. *Brachyhypopomus janeiroensis* (Costa & Campos-da-Paz, 1992), *B. jureiae* Triques & Khamis 2003, *B. bombilla* Loureiro & Silva 2006, *B. draco* Giora, Malabarba & Crampton 2008, and the species described herein, have their type localities in the southern and southeastern portions of Brazil and Uruguay, clearly denoting a previously unexplored diversity of the genus in that region.

Species of *Brachyhypopomus* previously listed to occur in the Rio Uruguay and Laguna dos Patos drainages were referred as *B. brevirostris*, *B. pinnicaudatus*, *B. beebei* and an undescribed species. Instead,