



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FOURTH SERIES

VOL. XXIII, No. 39, pp. 587-590, 1 text fig.

AUGUST 22, 1944

No. 39

RHINOBYCON NEGRENSIS, A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF CHARACID FISHES FROM THE RIO NEGRO, BRAZIL

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Among the fishes obtained by the late Dr. Carl Ternetz during his ascent of the Rio Negro in 1925, I have found a very interesting little tetragonopterid characin, allied to *Bryconamericus*, and its description is herewith presented.

RHINOBYCON Myers, new genus

Genotype.—*Rhinobrycon negrensis* Myers, new species.

This strange little characin forms one of the most distinctive genera of Tetragonopterinae, and one of the most easily recognized. Only three other genera of the subfamily have a projecting snout and inferior mouth, and two of these (*Creagrutus* and *Piabina*) have a peculiar, massive, three-rowed, premaxillary dentition, as well as a much heavier head. *Piabarchus* is more like a normal *Bryconamericus* in appearance, but is immediately distinguished from all its congeners by its very long anal fin, originating before the dorsal. None of the three is very similar to *Rhinobrycon* in appearance, but I believe that they as well as *Rhinobrycon* originated from *Bryconamericus* or from the same line from which *Bryconamericus* sprang.

Snout pointed in profile, projecting beyond the mouth, which is definitely inferior in position. Seen from below, the edge of the lower jaw is broadly arcuate, becoming somewhat restricted behind the point at which the maxillaries normally cover it, and the lower lip is sharp with its edge projecting horizontally, rather than vertically as in other characins. This lip fits up within the more vertically directed upper lip, which completely hides the premaxillary

teeth. The maxillary is shortened, being especially convex on its anterior margin, which meets the upper jaw at an angle very close to a right angle. The maxillary does not, however, have the strange form of that of *Creatochanes*. The mouth rather forcibly reminds one of those of certain *Scaphiodon*-like Asiatic cyprinids with an inferior mouth and sharp-edged, flaring, horny, lower lip, except that the lip of *Rhinobrycon* is not horny. The mouth, when closed, is almost exactly of the same general form and position as that of *Epalzeorhynchus*.

The pupil of the large eye is distinctly elongate vertically, although broad and not at all slit-like. In this character *Rhinobrycon* differs from nearly all the Tetragonopterinae.

Dentary with a single row of teeth, six or seven on each side, grading down gradually in size to the small posterior ones; the anterior teeth are 7- or 5-pointed, the middle cusp highest, and the cusps arranged in a very slight arc, convex side outward. Premaxillary teeth in two rows. The main, inner row is composed of an even row of four close-set teeth on each side; these are 7- or 5-cusped, the central cusp highest, and the cusps arranged in a much stronger arc, concave side forward. Outer row of premaxillary teeth formed of four or five small conical or faintly tricuspid teeth on each side, spaced widely, the row even or the third tooth set slightly back. Maxillary with two or three close-set, broadly tricuspid teeth at its upper end. All of the teeth are strong, and the larger ones have the sculptured surface common in *Bryconamericus* and other tetragonopterines, but the dentition in general appears to be more reduced and delicate than in most *Bryconamericus*.

Gill-rakers short, weak, setiform. Preventral area rounded, its squamation normal, with a regular median series of scales which are neither reduced nor enlarged. Predorsal line only weakly keeled posteriorly; anteriorly it is flat. Median predorsal scale row regular and complete, the scales equal in size to those on each side. A somewhat enlarged scale on each side of the base of the supraoccipital process. No procumbent predorsal spine. Scales regularly arranged, very little smaller on belly than elsewhere. Lateral line complete, weakly decurved, the lateral line series of scales parallel with the scale rows immediately above and below. Anal fin completely naked, lacking the usual shallow basal sheath of scales, the fin margin weakly concave. A lobe of large scales extending out for a short distance on the base of each lobe of the caudal fin, but these scales are deciduous and easily lost and I am not sure that they are invariably present in fresh specimens. In any case, they are not similar to the scaly covering of those genera said to have "caudal scales", and they do not extend out as far. Technically, this genus is to be placed with those genera which Eigenmann considered to have a naked caudal. Caudal lobes equal. On the body, the scales are not deeply imbricated, the hidden sector of the scale being shallow, the basal border squared with a slight,

evenly curved convexity at its middle. Exposed sector evenly rounded, entire. The circuli are fine and radii, except at the limits of the visible sector, are absent. Adipose fin well developed. Males lack the squamous caudal pouch characteristic of the Glandulocaudinae.

Great suborbital in contact with the preopercular flange along its entire lower and posterior borders, leaving no naked spaces on the cheeks. A small lower and a larger, deeper, upper postorbital, both roughly rectangular in form and reaching the upper limb of the preopercular flange. The cheeks are thus fully armed.

Although the strange appearance of this little fish tends to obscure its relationships and emphasize its distinctiveness, I am certain that it is a close relative of *Bryconamericus*. It is, in fact, *Bryconamericus* with a produced snout; inferior, broadened lower jaw; sharp lower lip; shortened maxillary; weaker dentition; and conical or weakly tricuspid teeth in the front premaxillary row. It resembles such species as *B. eigenmanni*, *B. iheringii* and *B. ternetzi* in the compact, comparatively little-compressed body, short fins, and pale color, and is likely closely related to such species or derived from the same stem. However, the generic characters are very sharply defined, all known species of *Bryconamericus* having the lower jaw prominent and of the comparatively narrow, normal, tetragonopterine type.

Rhinobrycon negrensis Myers, new species

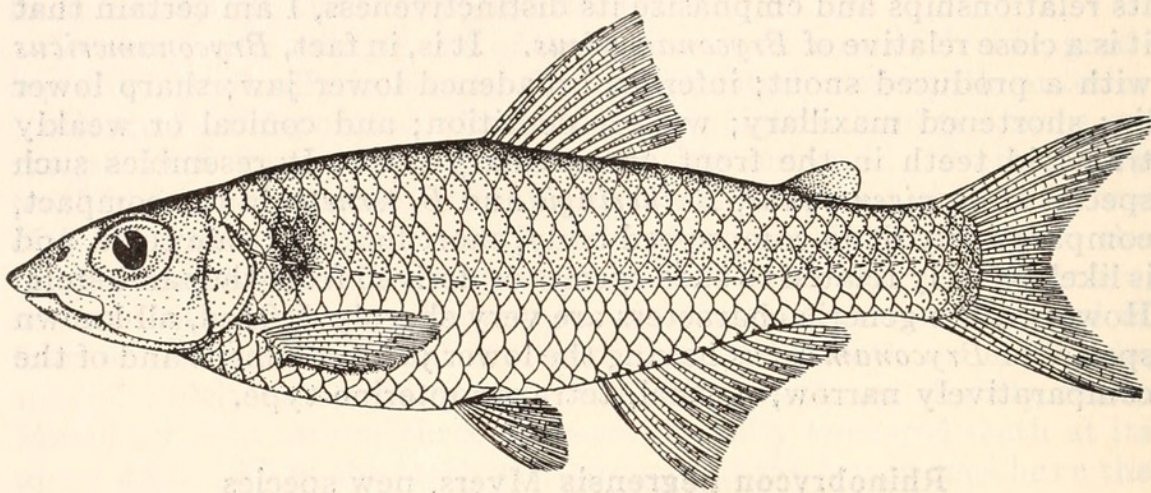
Description.—Head 3.6 to 4 times, depth 3.4 to 4 times in standard length. Dorsal 9 or 10. Anal 13 or 14. Caudal with 19 principal rays, the two outer unbranched. Pectoral 12. Scales 37 or 38 in lateral line, plus one or two on caudal base. Scales from dorsal origin to pelvic origin $4\frac{1}{2}$ -1-2 $\frac{1}{2}$, the halves being small scales at the fin bases. Predorsal scales 11. Eye 2.4 to 2.7 in head, its length about a third longer than width of bony interorbital. Snout 2.8 to 3.4 in head.

Body trim and fusiform, its cross section oval and therefore less compressed than in most Tetragonopterinae. Occipital process triangular, shorter than a tenth the distance from its tip to dorsal fin, bordered on each side by only two scales. Top of cranium smooth, convex; length of the frontal section of the fontanel (to the frontal bridge) three fifths that of the parietal section without the supra-occipital groove. Maxillary-premaxillary angle sharp, the length of the maxillary from the angle to its end equals half length of eye. Dorsal origin midway between snout tip and middle of end of hypural fan, or slightly nearer latter, its height (anterior rays) slightly less than head length. Caudal lobes equal, each somewhat longer than head. Anal emarginate, the longest (anterior) rays considerably shorter than height of dorsal, its origin under the base of the eighth dorsal ray. Pelvics not reaching anus, which is just before anal origin. Pectorals falling short of reaching pelvics by a third the

length of the former. Scales regularly imbricate, none especially elongate vertically; all closely adherent; supra-anal rows regular, not deflected; lateral line slightly decurved.

Pale yellowish, silvery. A faint, vertically elongate humeral spot at the third and fourth lateral-line scales. Scales of dorsum faintly dark edged. Fins clear except for a few melanophores on the basal half or third of each dorsal ray.

For comparison with related genera reference may be made to Eigenmann's *The Americam Characidae* (Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. 43, 1917-1929).



Rhinobrycon negrensis Myers, new species. Holotype. Drawn by Pablo Bravo.

Holotype.—C. A. S. Ichthyology, No. 11089; 35 mm. standard length; **Santa Izabel, Rio Negro, Amazonas, Brazil**; Jan. 14, 1925; Dr. Carl Ternetz.

Paratypes.—C. A. S. Ichthyology, No. 11090; 20 specimens, 33 to 39 mm. standard length; same locality, date and collector.

Note: Paratypes.—Stanford 37076; 9 specimens; same locality, date and collector.



Myers, George S. 1944. "Rhinobryon negrensis, a new genus and species of Characid fishes from the Rio Negro, Brazil." *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, 4th series 23, 587–590.

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