



A new dwarf cichlid genus and species (Teleostei, Cichlidae) from Guinea, West Africa

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Abstract

Enigmatochromis lucanusi, a new cichlid genus and species, is described from Guinea (West Africa). It is a member of the chromidotilapiine cichlid clade, and differs from other genera within the group in a combination of morphological characters and coloration patterns; e.g., twelve circumpeduncular scales; three tubular infraorbital bones in addition to the lachrymal bone; upper lateral-line separated from the dorsal-fin base; first ray of pelvic fin in adult females of equal length or longer than second ray; sexual dimorphism well developed; small juveniles with 3–4 rows of irregular dark dots on body; and breeding coloration of females.

Key words: *Enigmatochromis*, chromidotilapiine

Résumé

Enigmatochromis lucanusi, un nouveau genre et espèce de cichlidé, est décrit de Guinée (Afrique de l'Ouest). C'est un membre du clade des cichlidés chromidotilapiines, et il diffère des autres genres du groupe par une combinaison de plusieurs caractères morphologiques et patrons de coloration; e.g., 12 écailles autour du pédoncule caudal; trois os infraorbitaires tubulaires en plus de l'os lacrymal; ligne latérale supérieure séparée de la base de la nageoire dorsale; premier rayon de la nageoire pelvienne des femelles adultes de longueur égale ou plus long que le deuxième rayon; dimorphisme sexuel bien développé; juvéniles de petite taille avec 3–4 rangées de marques noires irrégulières sur le corps; et livrée nuptiale des femelles.

Introduction

In 2004, a small cichlid species from Guinea was introduced into the aquarium hobby by several commercial importers in Canada, the U.S.A. and Europe. This new cichlid clearly was a member of the chromidotilapiine cichlid assemblage *sensu* Greenwood (1987) as it possessed the characteristic combination of features of this group: (1) a typical, visor-like and well circumscribed projection (“hanging pad”) of the pharyngeal tissues situated anterior to the upper pharyngeal bones of each side; (2) no microbranchiospines; (3) outer-row jaw teeth unicuspid; (4) some anterolaterally positioned teeth in the outer tooth row of the lower jaw, curved directly posteriorly and not buccally as they are in all other tooth rows; (5) tuberculate gill rakers on the first ceratobranchial. Females possessed coloration patterns unknown from any other species within this assemblage, e.g., a bright blue dorsal-fin in females. The species was initially called *Pelvicachromis* sp. “blue fin”, and was thought to be closely related to *P. roloffii*. Further morphological and behavioral observations however revealed differences from the genus *Pelvicachromis*.

In 2006, Canadian importer and aquarist Oliver Lucanus collected specimens of this species in Guinea at a single locality near the village of Fria, and provided the author with a detailed description of the habitat (pers.