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A new species of *Myloplus* Gill 1896 (Teleostei: Serrasalmidae) from the Rio Tocantins basin, Brazil

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A new *Myloplus* is described from the Tocantins-Araguaia basin. The new species is distinguished from its congeners, except from *M. levis*, by having a black marking on the distal portion of the anterior anal-fin rays. It differs from *M. levis* by having 19–21 branched dorsal-fin rays (vs. 23–27). The new species is widely distributed throughout the upper and middle reaches of the Rio Tocantins basin, and also the Rio Araguaia and its tributaries.

Introduction

Myloplus Gill, 1896 is a genus of subfamily Myleinae composed mostly by herbivorous species that reach up to 50 cm SL (Jégu, 2003; Andrade et al., 2016a–c). Species of *Myloplus* occur in both slow and fast flowing rivers and are found in the Amazon, Orinoco, Tocantins-Araguaia, Paraná-Paraguay and coastal drainages of the Guiana Shield (Andrade et al., 2016a–c; Jégu, 2003; Jégu et al., 2003; Jégu & Ingenito, 2007; Nico et al., 2018).

Formerly considered a subgenus of *Myleus* Müller & Troschel, 1844 (e. g. Gosline, 1951; Géry, 1972), the genus *Myloplus* was resurrected by Jégu et al. (2004) from the synonymy of *Myleus*. Currently, with 12 valid species (Fricke et al., 2023), *Myloplus* is the most species-rich genus within Myleinae.

Based in specimens collected in the middle portion of the Rio Tocantins-Araguaia basin, a new species is herein described and named.

Material and methods

Material examined is housed in the following fish collections: Laboratório de Ictiologia Sistemática da Universidade Federal do Tocantins, Porto Nacional (UNT), Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia da

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having a greater number of branched rays in the dorsal fin, 23–27 (vs. 19–21). This feature also distinguishes *M. animacula* from *M. asterias* (24–27), *M. nigrolineatus* (25–29), *M. rubripinnis* (23–24), *M. torquatus* (24–25), and *M. tumukumak* (23–25).

Myloplus rubripinnis is the species that most closely resembles *M. animacula* in general body shape and color pattern. However, *Myloplus animacula* differs from *Myloplus rubripinnis* by the lower number of dorsal-fin rays (19–21 vs. 23–24) and the interdorsal length (12.6–16.8 % of SL vs. 6.8–9.8 % of SL). Although *Myloplus rubripinnis* has been originally described from specimens collected in British Guiana (present-day Guyana), this species is known to be widely distributed throughout the drainages of the Guiana Shield (see Andrade et al. 2018b), and has been recently recorded from the Tocantins-Araguaia basin by Soares (2022). On the other hand, *Myloplus animacula* is restricted to the Tocantins-Araguaia river basins.

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