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Two new species of *Eleotris* from the Amazon River estuary, Northern Brazil (Teleostei: Eleotridae)

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Two new species of spinycheek sleepers, genus *Eleotris*, are described based on specimens collected from the Amazon River estuary in Northern Brazil. One species (*Eleotris irae*, new species) occurs in the innermost portion of the estuary in waters with low salinity, while the second species (*Eleotris schneideri*, new species) was mainly recorded from macrotidal mangrove and intertidal habitats in the outer estuarine sector. Despite the highly similar external morphology of the new species and their congeners, the two new species can be distinguished by a combination of morphological characters, particularly the arrangement of cephalic neuromasts, dentition, and scale counts. *Eleotris irae*, new species, has opercular free neuromast row ot connected to row oi, row oi not connected to row os, and row *os* not reaching the posterior margin of the operculum, and has posterior dentary teeth clearly larger than the anterior dentary and the premaxillary teeth. *Eleotris schneideri*, new species, has neuromast row ot separated from row oi, whereas row oi meets row os near the posterior margin of the operculum and has posterior dentary teeth of similar size to anterior dentary teeth and premaxillary teeth. Dentition provides an additional character for distinguishing the two new species: the posterior portion of the dentary in *E. irae* bears four enlarged teeth at mid-jaw followed by 3–6 thinner and smaller teeth near the junction with the premaxilla, whereas *E. schneideri* has four enlarged canine teeth posteriorly and lacks these smaller, thinner teeth near the corner of the jaw. Molecular analyses of a 572-bp fragment of the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) gene recovered five distinct lineages corresponding to *E. pisonis*, *E. amblyopsis*, *E. perniger*, *E. irae*, and *E. schneideri*, with a well-defined barcode gap between observed intra- and interspecific genetic distances. The present study integrates morphological and molecular evidence supporting the recognition of *E. irae* and *E. schneideri* as distinct species and corroborates the previously identified molecular lineages from the Amazon River estuary. Further studies incorporating broader geographic sampling and additional molecular markers are needed to improve our understanding of relationships among western Atlantic *Eleotris*.

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SL; Río Sixaola, Limón. SURINAME: USNM 226197, 31, 12.0–37.8 mm SL; Lana Creek, West Corantijin River, Nickerie District. — USNM 226199, 5, 34.1–44.7 mm SL; Surinam River.

E. perniger. CUBA. MCZ 13364, 4, 86.0–115.2 mm SL; Atlantic. JAMAICA: MCZ 34030, 9, 66.7–140.0 mm SL; Bog River. — MCZ 58321, 7, 36.9–121.0 mm SL; "waterwheel", 3 miles west of Bluefields Rivulet.

E. picta. COSTA RICA: UCR 130, 2, 7.2–8.7 mm SL; Río San Andres, 6 km N of Villarreal, Nicoya, Guanacaste. — UCR 101, 3, 4.5–7.4 mm SL; Río Nuevo, Puntarenas Coto Pacific.

E. pisonis. BRAZIL: CIUFES 4240, 33, 17.0–98.3 mm SL; Rio Doce estuary, Linhares. — CIUFES 2655, 8, 27.9–37.3 mm SL; Reserva Extrativista Mãe Grande de Curuçá. — MCZ 1196, 1, 60 mm SL; Recife. — MCZ 4627, 1, 76.5 mm SL; Rio de Janeiro. — MCZ 13420, 2, 108.1–108.2 mm SL; Nazaré. — MNRJ 41688, 3, 70.1–85.2 mm SL; Manguezal de Gargau, São Francisco de Itabapoana. — MNRJ 26006, 10, 17.2–85.3 mm SL; Córrego Rosária, Canavieiras. — MNRJ 22736, 8, 85.2–4.8 mm SL; Rio Itamambuca, Ubatuba. — MNRJ 27133, 18, Rio Piraquê-Açu, Aracruz. — MZUSP 111192, 2, 90.4–70.5 mm SL; Santa Catarina. — MZUSP 46178, 2, 90.6–90.4 mm SL; and MZUSP 46273, 3, 40.5–50.6 mm SL; Baraquecaba and Guaecá beaches, São Sebastião. — MZUSP 64992, 2, 70.2–40.4 mm SL; Ilhéus. — MZUSP 64999, 2, 80.2–80.4 mm SL; Lagoa Araruama, Cabo Frio. — NPM 680, 2, 96.1–112.0 mm SL; Lagoa Grussaí, São João da Barra. — NPM 2286, 3, 31.5–52.9 mm SL; Rio Macaé, Macaé. COSTA RICA: UCR 1789, 7, 10.9–80.4 mm SL; Parque Nacional Tortuguero. — UCR 0209, 5, 9.1–7.4 mm SL; Río Suarez, Matina Cahuita. CUBA: MCZ 13360, 2, 94.7–71.1 mm SL; and MCZ 13366, 1, 121.7 mm SL; Cuba. PANAMA: MCZ 88633, 3, 54.0–73.8 mm SL; Rio Cangandi. DOMINICA: MCZ 26075, 10, 51.9–99.5 mm SL; Dominica Island, Lesse Antilles, Caribbean Sea. TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: USNM 22680, 3, 77.2–144.1 mm SL; Tobago. — USNM 170179, 2, 79.8–85.0 mm SL; freshwater stream, Maracas Bay, Trinidad. USA: MCZ 150982, 4, 25.8–53.0 mm SL; Fish Bay Gut, St. John Island, US Virgin Islands. — MCZ 34669, 1, 103.5 mm SL; Puerto Rico.

Eleotris sp. BRAZIL: MZUSP 649891, 60.9 mm SL; Igarapé Mapará, Tocantins River. — MZUSP 46508, 1, 50.4 mm SL; Macapá. — MNRJ 29396, 5, 10.8–13.1 mm SL; Borba, Rio Madeira.

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