

**DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF
CHEIRODONTINAE (CHARACIDAE) FROM THE URUGUAY RIVER
BASIN: PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS BASED ON MORPHOLOGICAL
AND MOLECULAR DATA
(MODALIDADE ORAL)**

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RESUMO

Cheirodontinae is one of the most diverse subfamilies of Characidae, with 63 valid species. Additionally, it has one of the widest geographical distributions within the family, inhabiting a wide variety of environments in the Neotropical region. In this study, a new genus and species of Cheirodontinae are described, based on specimens collected in the lower and upper parts of the Uruguay River basin, between Brazil and Uruguay. To determine the phylogenetic position of the new genus within Cheirodontinae, we reconstructed a phylogeny using morphological and molecular data, incorporating 267 morphological characters, six molecular markers, and 79 taxa, of which 65 belong to Cheirodontinae (57 valid species and 8 undescribed species). Our analysis strongly supports the existence of a close relationship between the new genus and the clade formed by *Cheirodon* and *Heterocheirodon*. The new species of the new genus is characterized by a subterminal mouth, a lateral line that varies between complete and incomplete, and a supraneural structure with lateral projections in the upper part. The new genus differs from *Cheirodon* by having a number of ventral procurrent caudal-fin rays between 9 and 11 (vs. 17 to 30 rays in *Cheirodon*) and by presenting unmodified ventral procurrent caudal-fin rays (vs. the 2, 3, or 4 anteriormost ventral procurrent caudal-fin rays, which are laminar in both sexes of *Heterocheirodon*).

Palavras-chave: DNA, Fishes, Freshwater, Neotropical.

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