

## Two new species of *Leporinus* Agassiz (Characiformes: Anostomidae) from eastern basins of Brazil, and redescription of *L. melanopleura* Günther

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Two new species of *Leporinus* are described from coastal rivers of southern Bahia, Brazil. One of the new species has a bright red blotch immediately dorsal to the pectoral-fin origin in life, three dark blotches along the lateral line that distinctly increase in size posteriorly, and dark longitudinal lines between scale rows on the side of body. The second new species possesses a single broad dark midlateral stripe, encompassing one or two scale rows of depth on the body and centered on the scale row below the lateral line, a dark adipose fin, and a conspicuous dark blotch on the caudal peduncle. The first new species is known only from the rio de Contas and the second from the rio das Almas and rio Jiquiriçá. In addition, *Leporinus melanopleura* is redescribed based on a designated lectotype and additional specimens collected in the rio Una. *Leporinus melanopleura* has a single broad dark midlateral stripe, encompassing one or two scale rows of depth on the body, centered on the scale row below lateral line, a hyaline adipose fin (red in life), and an inconspicuous dark blotch on the caudal peduncle.

Duas espécies novas de *Leporinus* são descritas com base em exemplares de rios costeiros do sudeste da Bahia, Brasil. Uma das espécies novas possui uma mancha vermelho-viva imediatamente dorsal à origem da nadadeira peitoral em vida, três manchas escuras sobre a linha lateral que aumentam de tamanho para trás, e linhas escuras longitudinais entre as séries de escamas na lateral do corpo. A segunda espécie nova apresenta uma única faixa escura sobre o corpo, com altura de uma ou duas fileiras de escamas e centrada na série de escamas da linha lateral, nadadeira adiposa escura, e uma conspícua mancha escura sobre o pedúnculo caudal. A primeira espécie nova é conhecida somente do rio de Contas e a segunda dos rios das Almas e Jiquiriçá. Além disso, *Leporinus melanopleura* é redescrita com base no lectótipo, designado no presente trabalho, e outros exemplares coletados no rio Una. *Leporinus melanopleura* possui uma única faixa escura sobre o corpo, com altura de uma ou duas fileiras de escamas e centrada na série de escamas abaixo à linha lateral, nadadeira adiposa hialina (vermelha em vida), e uma mancha escura inconspicua sobre o pedúnculo caudal.

**Key words:** Anostomoidea, *Leporinus melanostictus*, Neotropics, Ostariophysi, Taxonomy.

### Introduction

*Leporinus* Agassiz is one of the largest genera in the order Characiformes, with approximately 80 valid species (Garavello & Britski, 2003; Eschmeyer, 2012). Recent collecting trips and increasing analysis of specimens deposited in fish collections have revealed a still great number of undescribed species in the genus (e.g., Birindelli & Britski, 2009; Feitosa *et al.*, 2011), as well as many taxonomic problems yet to be investigated (e.g., Britski *et al.*, 2011; Britski *et al.*, 2012).

Ongoing taxonomic studies of the species of *Leporinus* from eastern Brazilian drainages revealed three species with unique color patterns and restricted distributions. The species

are respectively known from the rio Una, rio das Almas and rio Jiquiriçá, and rio de Contas, coastal rivers in the state of Bahia, from which only one species of *Leporinus*, *L. bahiensis* Steindachner, is recognized (Garavello & Britski, 2003; Britski & Garavello, 2007). The preliminary study of the three species indicated that they are distinct from *Leporinus bahiensis* and, in fact, from all congeners, based on our present knowledge on the taxonomy of *Leporinus* (e.g., Géry, 1977; Garavello, 1979; Britski *et al.*, 1988). The study of the syntypes of *Leporinus melanopleura* Günther revealed, however, that the latter include two different species and that two of the syntypes are conspecific with the aforementioned samples from rio Una.

*Leporinus melanopleura* was described by Günther (1864) based on three specimens, two of them collected by

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Otto Wucherer at an unspecified locality in Bahia, and a third collected by Cumberland in the rio Cipó, a tributary of the rio das Velhas, part of the rio São Francisco basin, in Minas Gerais State. Until now, the name *L. melanopleura* has appeared only in fish catalogs (Fowler, 1950; Garavello & Britski, 2003; Britski & Garavello, 2007), or has been applied to specimens of *L. taeniatus* Lütken (Travassos, 1940; Petre, 1989; Teixeira & Gurgel, 2005; Sampaio & Sato, 2009), or incorrectly to other species from Colombia and Venezuela (Lasso *et al.*, 2004; Maldonado-Ocampo *et al.*, 2008; Lasso *et al.*, 2009; Gama, 2011).

The aim of the present contribution is to redescribe *Leporinus melanopleura* based on a designated lectotype and additional specimens recently collected, and to describe two new species of *Leporinus* from eastern Brazilian drainages.

### Material and Methods

Counts and measurements were taken according to Britski & Garavello (1978) and Winterbottom (1980). Standard length (SL) is expressed in mm and all other measurements are expressed as percentage of SL, except subunits of the head, which are expressed as percentages of head length. Meristic data are given in the description, with the frequency of each count provided in parentheses after the respective count, and an asterisk indicating counts of the holotype (or lectotype). The lateral-line scale count included the pored scales extending onto the base of the median caudal-fin rays; counts of the longitudinal scale rows above lateral line exclude the lateral-line scale and the middorsal scale row; counts of the longitudinal scale rows below lateral line exclude the lateral-line scale row and include half a scale row when the pelvic-fin origin is immediately behind the middle of a scale. Weberian-apparatus vertebrae were counted as four elements and included in the vertebral counts; the compound caudal centrum (preural 1 + ural 1) of the caudal region was counted as a single element. The pattern of *radii* was defined on scales immediately above the lateral line row at the vertical through the dorsal-fin origin.

All examined specimens are alcohol preserved, except when indicated by CS, clear and stained according to Taylor & van Dyke (1985), or SK, dry skeleton prepared following generally the methods of Bemis *et al.* (2004). Institutional abbreviations are: ANSP, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia; BMNH, Natural History Museum, London; MCP, Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia da Pontifícia Universidade Católica, Porto Alegre; MZUSP, Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo; NMW, Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna; UFBA, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Salvador; UFPB, Universidade Federal da Paraíba, João Pessoa; UNT, Universidade Federal do Tocantins, Porto Nacional; USNM, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

### Results

#### *Leporinus melanopleura* Günther, 1864 Figs 1 and 2

*Leporinus melanopleura* Günther, 1864: 310 [in part, lectotype (by present designation) and paralectotype from "Bahia", not paralectotype from rio Cipó; type locality: "Bahia" (herein restricted to an indefinite locality within the rio Una drainage, southern Bahia, Brazil)]. - Steindachner, 1876: 110 [citation]. - Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1891: 51 [catalog]. - Eigenmann, 1910: 426 [catalog]. - Fowler, 1950: 238 [catalog]. - Géry, 1960: 283 [citation]. - Géry, 1977: 167 [identification key]. - Garavello & Britski, 2003: 76 [catalog]. - Britski & Garavello, 2007: 25 [catalog].

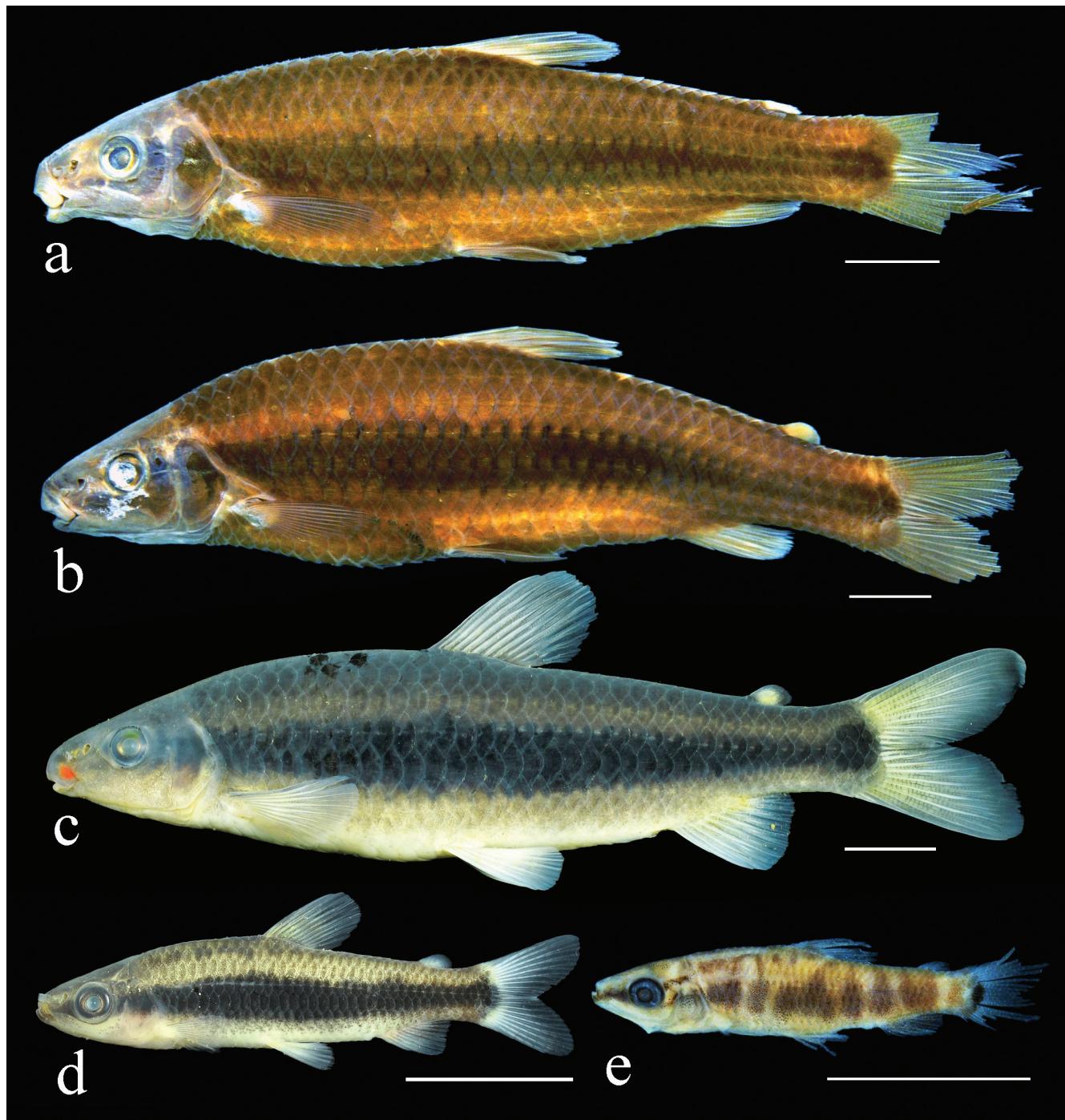
**Diagnosis.** *Leporinus melanopleura* is distinguished from all congeners except *L. melanopleurodes*, by having a single broad dark midlateral stripe on body, encompassing two scale rows of depth and centered on the scale row below lateral line. *Leporinus melanopleura* is further distinguished from congeners except *Leporinus amae* Godoy, *L. arcus* Eigenmann, *L. amblyrhynchus* Garavello & Britski, *L. bistriatus* Britski, *L. britskii* Feitosa, Santos & Birindelli, *L. melanopleurodes*, *L. sexstriatus* Britski & Garavello, *L. striatus* Kner, *L. taeniatus*, *L. taeniofasciatus* Britski, *L. unitaeniatus* Garavello & Santos, and *L. vanzoi* Britski & Garavello, by the presence of a dark midlateral stripe on body. *Leporinus melanopleura* is additionally distinguished from *Leporinus arcus*, *L. amblyrhynchus*, *L. britskii*, *L. sexstriatus*, *L. striatus*, *L. taeniatus*, *L. taeniofasciatus*, *L. unitaeniatus* and *L. vanzoi*, by having three scale rows between dorsal-fin origin and lateral line and three or 3.5 scale rows between lateral line and pelvic-fin origin (vs. four or five). *Leporinus melanopleura* is distinguished from *Leporinus amae* and *L. bistriatus* by having a single dark midlateral stripe on body encompassing two scale rows of depth and centered on the scale row below lateral line (vs. a dark midlateral stripe centered on lateral-line scale row, and a second dark stripe on dorsum); and from *Leporinus amae* by having adipose fin red in life (vs. hyaline). *Leporinus melanopleura* is distinguished from *L. melanopleurodes* by having a subinferior mouth (vs. inferior), hyaline (red in life) adipose fin (vs. dark), and an inconspicuous dark blotch on caudal peduncle (vs. conspicuous).

**Description.** Morphometric data in Table 1. Small size, relative to congeners. Largest examined specimen 104.3 mm SL. Head and body elongate and moderately compressed. Dorsal profile gently convex from snout tip to dorsal-fin origin, somewhat straight along dorsal-fin base, gently convex or straight from terminus of dorsal-fin base to adipose-fin origin, and distinctly concave from adipose-fin origin to base of anteriormost procurent ray of caudal fin. Ventral profile straight to slightly concave from lower jaw to vertical through posterior margin of opercle, gently convex from latter point to anal-fin origin,

somewhat straight along anal-fin base, and concave from terminus of anal-fin base to base of anteriormost procurent ray of caudal fin. Greatest body depth at dorsal-fin origin.

Mouth subinferior, and longitudinally aligned with ventral margin of infraorbital series, in specimens of 50 mm SL or longer (Fig. 1a-c). Mouth terminal in specimens of about 30

mm SL (Fig. 1d) and dorsally oriented in specimens of approximately 15 mm SL (Fig. 1e). Snout rounded, anteriorly blunt. Premaxilla with three incisiform teeth gradually decreasing in size from the symphyseal tooth. Dentary with four incisiform teeth gradually decreasing in size posterolaterally (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 1.** *Leporinus melanopleura*: (a) lectotype, BMNH 1863.3.27.6, 91.2 mm SL, “Bahia”; (b) paralectotype, BMNH 1863.3.27.7, 104.3 mm SL, “Bahia”; (c) MZUSP 111246, 90.9 mm SL, rio Una; (d) MZUSP 111246, 27.3 mm SL, rio Una; (e) MCP 17712, 18.4 mm SL, rio Branco, tributary of rio Una. Scale bars = 10 mm.

Scales cycloid, with 6 (1), 7 (2), or 8 (2) *radii*. Lateral line complete, extending from supracleithrum to base of median caudal-fin rays, with 36 (2), 37 (18), or 38\* (22) perforated scales. Longitudinal scale rows between dorsal-fin origin and lateral line 3 (42). Longitudinal scale rows between lateral line and pelvic-fin origin 3 (23) or 3.5\* (19). Longitudinal scale rows around caudal peduncle 12 (42). Predorsal scales from tip of supraoccipital spine to dorsal-fin origin 10 (2), 11 (21) or 12\* (5).

Dorsal-fin rays ii,9 (3) or ii,10\* (26). Dorsal-fin origin slightly anterior to midpoint of standard length and to vertical through pelvic-fin origin; distal margin of dorsal fin gently convex. Adipose fin small, teardrop-shaped with origin approximately at vertical through base of last anal-fin ray. Pectoral-fin rays i,13\* (8), i,14 (18), i,15 (2), or i,16 (1); tip of adpressed pectoral fin extending to midpoint between origins of pectoral and pelvic fins; distal margin of pelvic fin rounded. Pelvic-fin rays i,8 (29); distal margin of pelvic fin slightly convex. Anal-fin rays ii,8 (29). Anal-fin origin approximately at vertical through posterior margin of fourth scale anterior to adipose-fin origin; adpressed anal fin not reaching base of caudal-fin rays; distal margin of anal fin straight overall or slightly convex. Principal caudal-fin rays i,8,9,i (29). Caudal fin forked, lobes rounded, upper lobe slightly longer than lower lobe. Vertebrae 36 (4), 37 (1), or 38 (3).

**Color in alcohol.** Ground color brown or tan, weakly countershaded. Head and body with conspicuous dark

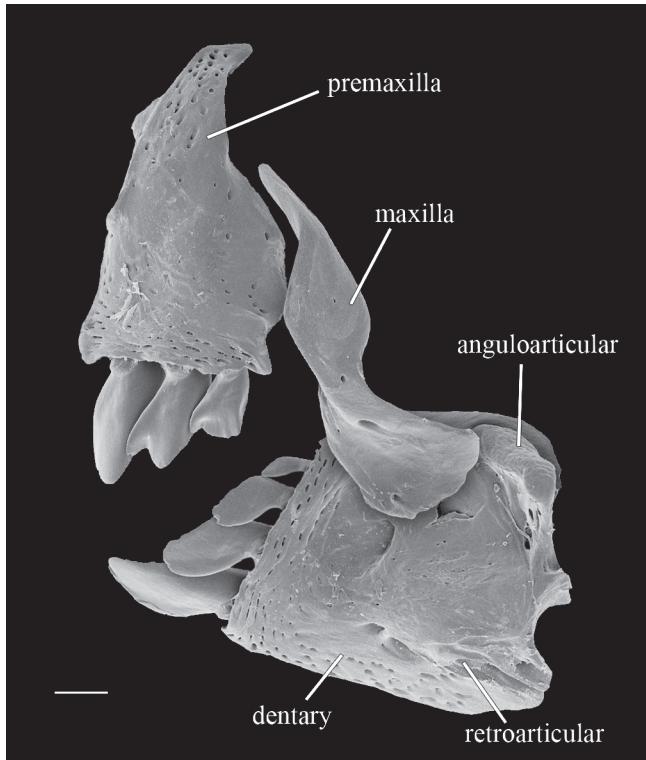
midlateral stripe extending from immediately above posterior nares to end of caudal peduncle. Stripe broad, encompassing two scale rows of depth, and centered on scale row below lateral line, occupying one-half of lateral-line scale row, all of row below it and one-half of adjacent ventral row. Ventral surfaces of head and body pale to cream. Fins generally hyaline, dorsal and caudal fins slightly darkened. Small specimens (up to 20 mm SL) with dark midlateral stripe on head from lower jaw to opercle, dark stripe from posterodorsal portion of eye to supraoccipital spine, eight irregular dark transverse bars forming fragmented midlateral stripe on body, and dark conspicuous spot on base of median caudal-fin rays (Fig. 1e).

**Color in life.** Life coloration similar to that in preserved specimens with addition of bright red spot on clear area of adipose fin, and red pigmentation on dorsal and distalmost portion of upper lip (Fig. 2).

**Distribution.** *Leporinus melanopleura* is apparently endemic of the rio Una, a small coastal river in southern Bahia, Brazil (Fig. 4). The precise collection site of the lectotype of *Leporinus melanopleura* is unknown; however, because of that species has been collected only in rio Una, that basin is likely the type locality. According to Lima (2001), the Wucherer fishes studied by Günther (1864) apparently originated at localities around Salvador and near the cities of Nazaré, Canavieiras and Ilhéus, in Bahia. The fact that the rio Una is



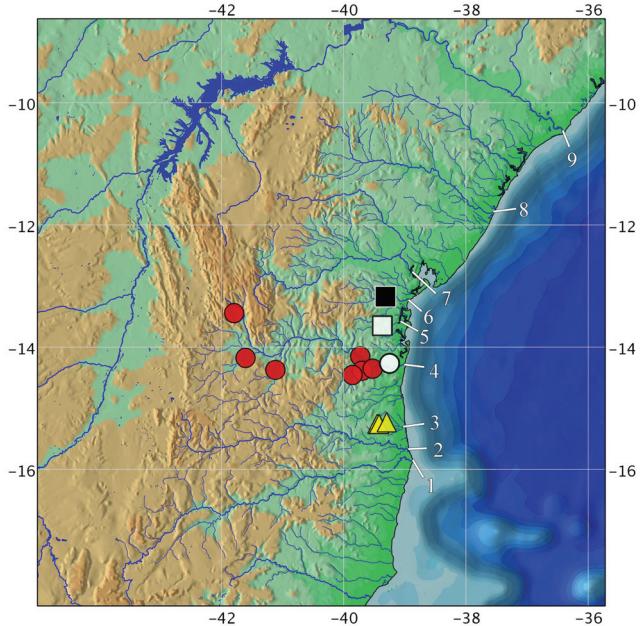
**Fig. 2.** *Leporinus melanopleura*: (a) MZUSP 111246, 27.3 mm SL, rio Una, (b) MZUSP 111246, 90.9 mm SL, rio Una; both photographed live. Scale bars = 10 mm.



**Fig. 3.** Scanning electron image of the upper and lower jaws of *Leporinus melanopleura* in lateral view, MZUSP 100986, 57.6 mm SL.

located between Ilhéus and Canavieiras, strengthens the probability that the type locality of *Leporinus melanopleura* is in that basin.

**Remarks.** Günther (1864) described *Leporinus melanopleura* based on three specimens, two of them (BMNH 1863.3.27.6-7) collected by Wucherer in “Bahia”, and the other (BMNH 1861.5.16.14) collected by Cumberland in the rio Cipó, a tributary of the rio das Velhas, in the rio São Francisco basin, Minas Gerais. We, herein, designate one of the specimens collected in “Bahia” as the lectotype, recognizing this species as possibly endemic to the rio Una, in southern Bahia (Fig. 4). Cumberland’s specimen consists only on the left side of a specimen cut along the sagittal plane and preserved as a dry skin glued to a paperboard (Fig. 5a). The specimen collected from rio Cipó does not belong to *L. melanopleura* since it has 35 lateral-line scales (vs. 36 to 38 in *L. melanopleura*), four scales between the dorsal-fin origin and the lateral line (vs. three) and four scales between the lateral line and the pelvic-fin origin (vs. three or 3.5), and a dark midlateral stripe centered on the lateral-line scale row (vs. a midlateral stripe centered on the scale row below the lateral line). The rio Cipó specimen fits the diagnosis of *Leporinus taeniatus* (Fig. 5b), a species widely distributed in the rio São Francisco, rio Parnaíba and smaller drainages in northeastern Brazil. *Leporinus taeniatus* is diagnosed by having a dark midlateral stripe centered on the lateral-line scale



**Fig. 4.** Distribution of *Leporinus melanopleura* (triangles), *L. melanopleurodes* (square), and *L. brinco* (circles); type localities indicates by white symbols. River basins: (1) rio Jequitinhonha, (2) rio Pardo, (3) rio Una, (4) rio de Contas, (5) rio das Almas, (6) rio Jiquiriçá, (7) rio Paraguaçu, (8) rio Itapecuru, and (9) rio São Francisco.

row, dark bars on the dorsum, three teeth on the premaxilla, four on the dentary, 35 to 38 scales in the lateral line and four or five scale rows above and below the lateral line. The only difference between the paralectotype in question and most examined specimens of *Leporinus taeniatus* is the number of scale rows around caudal peduncle (12 in the paralectotype vs. 16). Nevertheless, some specimens of *L. taeniatus* have 12 irregular scale rows around caudal peduncle, indicating that this feature may vary in *L. taeniatus*, and that the paralectotype of *L. melanopleura* from rio Cipó is *Leporinus taeniatus*.

Various papers report specimens identified as *Leporinus melanopleura*. Most of those papers are likely citations of *Leporinus taeniatus* from the rio São Francisco and rivers of northeast Brazil (Fowler, 1941: fig. 88, 1950: fig. 276; Britski *et al.*, 1988; Petre, 1989), and of *L. striatus* from the río Orinoco basin in Colombia and Venezuela (Lasso *et al.*, 2004; Maldonado-Ocampo *et al.*, 2008; Lasso *et al.*, 2009; Gama, 2011). Although we did not examine all specimens reported on those papers, due to the restricted distribution of *Leporinus melanopleura*, we judge those citations to be erroneous.

**Material Examined. Brazil.** ANSP 173829, 6, 29.2-37.0 mm SL; MCP 17712, 1, 18.4 mm SL; MCP 17872, 4, 37.0-54.8 mm SL; MZUSP 100986, 5, 34.5-87.1 mm SL, 1 CS, 57.6 mm SL, Bahia, Camacã, rio Branco, tributary of rio Una, on road BR-101, near São João da Capelinha, 15°15'16"S 39°27'7"W. BMNH 1863.3.27.6

**Table 1.** Morphometric data for *Leporinus melanopleura*. n = number of specimens; SD = Standard Deviation.

	n	Lectotype	Mean	Range	SD
Standard Length (mm)	41	91.2	66.22	18.40-104.30	
Percents of Standard Length					
Predorsal distance	29	49.34	48.85	46.58-50.54	0.84
Dorsal-fin origin to adipose-fin origin	20	-	84.26	80.18-85.96	1.20
Prepelvic distance	29	50.00	48.72	46.23-52.23	1.30
Body depth	29	24.12	23.32	20.87-25.43	0.98
Caudal peduncle length	22	14.47	15.40	14.38-16.37	0.63
Caudal peduncle depth	29	9.54	10.08	9.40-10.67	0.35
Anal-fin lobe length	29	15.13	13.37	11.00-15.13	1.16
Head length	29	23.36	22.82	21.38-24.13	0.77
Percents of Head Length					
Preopercle length	20	-	76.53	75.14-79.35	1.10
Snout length	29	39.91	39.51	36.43-42.05	1.51
Head depth	22	71.83	75.46	71.13-80.23	2.47
Eye diameter	29	22.07	24.34	20.08-31.30	2.40
Bony interorbital	29	39.91	42.32	39.47-46.96	1.98

91.2 mm SL, Bahia, lectotype of *Leporinus melanopleura* Günther, 1864, by present designation. BMNH 1863.3.27.7, 1, 104.3 mm SL, Bahia, paralectotype of *Leporinus melanopleura* Günther, 1864. MCP 17708, 1, 85.5 mm SL, Bahia, Arataca, rio Branco, on road between road BR-101 and Una, approximately 3 km from BR-101, 15°15'11"S 39°26'37"W. MZUSP 111246, 10, 27.3-90.9 mm SL, Bahia, São José da Vitória, tributary of rio Una, 15°5'52.4"S

39°21'10.4"W. MZUSP 111601, 2, 97.5 and 98.6 mm SL, Bahia, Arataca, rio Aliança, 15°15'3.6"S 39°26'36.6"W. UFBA 4282, 19, 69.0-97.8 mm SL, Bahia, Arataca, rio Aliança, 15°15'28"S 39°25'22"W. UFBA 5103, 8, 33.1-69.0 mm SL, Bahia, São José da Vitória, rio Una, at BR-101. UFPB 1695, 22, 31.9-98.8 mm SL; USNM 300676, 8, 47.8-98.2 mm SL, Bahia, Una, ribeirão das Caveiras, tributary of rio Una, 8 km from São José.



**Fig. 5.** *Leporinus taeniatus*: (a) paralectotype of *Leporinus melanopleura*, BMNH 1861.5.16.14, 102.6 mm SL, rio Cipó, tributary of rio das Velhas, rio São Francisco basin; (b) MZUSP 47459, 96.5 mm SL, rio Verde, tributary of rio São Francisco. Scale bars = 10 mm.

***Leporinus melanopleurodes*, new species**  
**Figs. 6 and 7**

**Holotype.** MZUSP 100987, 99.4 mm SL, Brazil, Bahia, Nilo Peçanha, rio das Almas, approximately 10 km from Nilo Peçanha on road Corredeiras do rio das Almas, 13°36'27.8"S 39°8'38.8"W, 12 Aug 2012, J. L. Birindelli, F. C. Dagosta, and M. V. Loeb.

**Paratypes.** All from Brazil, Bahia. ANSP 199122, 2, 86.8-95.2 mm SL; MZUSP 111242, 8, 83.3-100.5 mm SL, collected with holotype. MCP 36965, 8, 79.8-128.7 mm SL; MZUSP 109769, 1, 116.7 mm SL, 1 CS, 89.5 mm SL; Laje, rio Jiquiriçá, near road BR-101, 13°10'18"S 39°19'15"W, 14 Oct 2004, J. F. Pezzi da Silva. MZUSP 109764, 6, 85.7-112.9 mm SL, Laje, rio Jiquiriçá, near road BR-101, 13°10'18"S 39°19'15"W, 13 Jul 2011, A. M. Zanata, J. L. Birindelli, P. Camelier, R. Burger & B. Sardeiro. MZUSP 111227, 3, 88.9-113.2 mm SL, Laje, rio Jiquiriçá, near road BR-101, 13°10'18"S 39°19'15"W, 11 Aug 2012, J. L. Birindelli, F. C. Dagosta & M. V. Loeb.

**Diagnosis.** *Leporinus melanopleurodes* is distinguished from all congeners, except *L. melanopleura*, by having a single broad dark midlateral stripe on body, encompassing one or two scale rows of depth and centered on the scale row below lateral line. *Leporinus melanopleurodes* is further distinguished from congeners except *Leporinus amae*, *L. arcus*, *L. amblyrhynchus*, *L. bistriatus*, *L. britskii*, *L. melanopleura*, *L. sexstriatus*, *L. striatus*, *L. taeniatus*, *L. taeniofasciatus*, *L. unitaeniatus* and *L. vanzoi*, by the presence of a dark midlateral stripe on body. *Leporinus melanopleurodes* is additionally distinguished from *Leporinus arcus*, *L. amblyrhynchus*, *L. britskii*, *L. sexstriatus*, *L. striatus*, *L. taeniatus*, *L. taeniofasciatus*, *L. unitaeniatus*, and *L. vanzoi*, by having three scale rows between dorsal-fin origin and lateral line and three or 3.5 scale rows between lateral line and pelvic-fin origin (vs. four or five). *Leporinus melanopleurodes* is distinguished from *Leporinus amae* and *L. bistriatus* by having a single dark midlateral stripe on body encompassing two scale rows of depth and centered on the scale row below lateral line (vs. a dark midlateral stripe centered on lateral-line scale row, and a second dark stripe on dorsum), a dark blotch on caudal peduncle (vs. absent), and inferior mouth (vs. subinferior). *Leporinus melanopleurodes* is distinguished from *L. melanopleura* by having an inferior mouth (vs. subinferior), a dark adipose fin (vs. hyaline, red in life), and a conspicuous dark blotch on caudal peduncle (vs. dark blotch inconspicuous).

**Description.** Morphometric data in Table 2. Small size, relative to congeners. Largest examined specimen 128.7 mm SL. Head and body elongate and moderately compressed. Dorsal profile of head and body gently convex from snout tip to dorsal-fin origin, somewhat straight along dorsal-fin base, straight from terminus of dorsal-fin base to adipose-fin origin, and distinctly concave from adipose-fin origin to base of anteriormost procurent ray of caudal fin. Ventral profile of head and body straight to slightly concave from lower jaw to vertical through posterior margin of opercle, gently convex from latter point to

pelvic-fin origin, straight from pelvic-fin origin to anal-fin origin, somewhat straight along anal-fin base, and concave from terminus of anal-fin base to base of anteriormost procurent ray of caudal fin. Greatest body depth at dorsal-fin origin.

Mouth inferior in all examined specimens (smaller specimen examined 79.8 mm SL), and longitudinally aligned with or slightly ventral to ventral margin of opercle. Snout rounded in lateral view, anteriorly blunt or slightly acute. Premaxilla with three incisiform teeth gradually decreasing in size from symphyseal tooth pair. Dentary with four incisiform teeth gradually decreasing in size posterolaterally (Fig. 8).

Scales cycloid, with 8 (1), 9 (1), or 10 (1) *radii*. Lateral line complete with 36 (2), 37\* (17), or 38 (2) perforated scales, extending from supracleithrum to base of median caudal-fin rays. Longitudinal scale rows between dorsal-fin origin and lateral line 3 (20). Longitudinal scale rows between lateral line and pelvic-fin origin 3\* (15) or 3.5 (5). Longitudinal scale rows around caudal peduncle 12 (20). Predorsal scales from tip of supraoccipital spine to dorsal-fin origin 10 (13) or 11\* (7).

Dorsal-fin rays ii,10 (20). Dorsal-fin origin slightly anterior to middle of standard length and to vertical through pelvic-fin origin; distal margin of dorsal fin rounded. Adipose fin small, teardrop-shaped with origin approximately at vertical through base of last anal-fin ray. Pectoral-fin rays i,13\* (4), i,14 (13), or i,15 (3). Tip of pectoral fin almost extending to midpoint between origins of pectoral and pelvic fins; distal margin rounded. Pelvic-fin rays i,8 (20); distal margin of pelvic fin slightly convex. Anal-fin rays ii,8 (20); origin of anal fin approximately at vertical through posterior margin of fourth scale anterior to adipose-fin origin, rear of adpressed fin not reaching base of caudal-fin rays. Distal margin of anal fin approximately straight to slightly convex. Principal caudal-fin rays i,8,9,i (20). Caudal fin forked, lobes rounded, upper lobe slightly longer than lower lobe. Vertebrae 37 (5) or 38 (1).

**Color in alcohol.** Ground coloration of head and body brown or tan; weakly countershaded. Body with conspicuous dark midlateral stripe extending from immediately above posterior nares to end of caudal peduncle, and conspicuous dark oval blotch at posterior of caudal peduncle, encompassing approximately four scale rows of length and two of depth. Stripe broad, encompassing one to two scale rows of depth, and centered on scale row below lateral line, occupying one-half of lateral-line scale row, all of row below it and, sometimes, one-half of adjacent ventral row. Dark midlateral stripe particularly conspicuous in smaller specimens (up to 85 mm SL), and somewhat faded in larger individuals (100 mm SL or more). Ventral surfaces of head and belly pale to cream. Fins generally dusky, pelvic fin somewhat hyaline. Dark blotch on caudal peduncle, alternatively, somewhat inconspicuous in smaller specimens (up to 85 mm SL) but very conspicuous in larger individuals (100 mm SL or more).

**Color in life.** Life coloration similar to that described for preserved specimens, except for bright yellow fins (Fig. 7), and dusky red spot on dorsal and distalmost portion of upper lip.

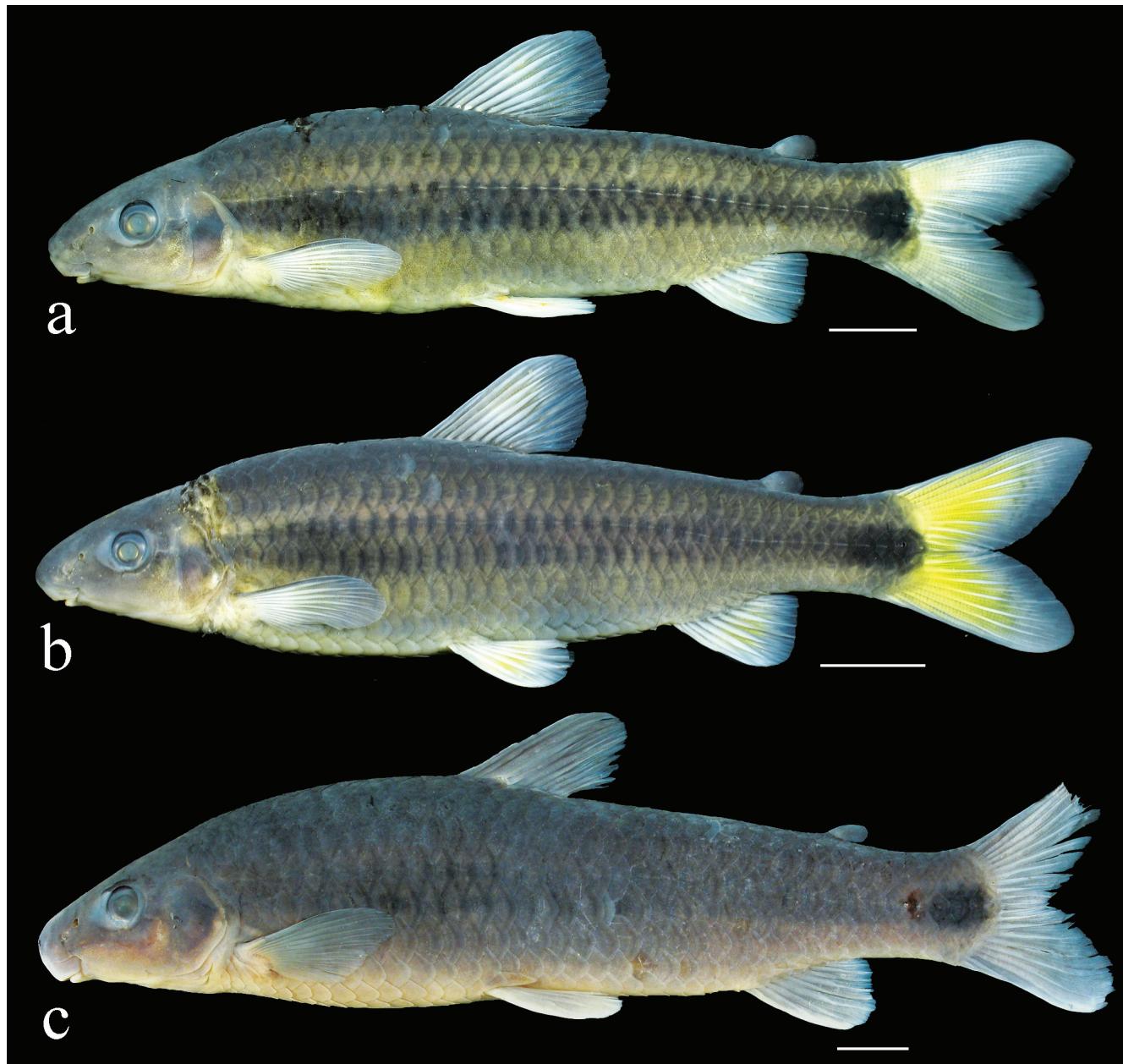
**Distribution.** *Leporinus melanopleurodes* is known from the rio das Almas and rio Jiquiriçá, two small coastal river in southern Bahia, Brazil (Fig. 4). All examined specimens were collected in fast flowing rapids with clear water over a rocky bottom densely covered with Podostemaceae (Fig. 9).

**Etymology.** The species name *melanopleurodes* is from *melanopleura*, in reference to *Leporinus melanopleura*, plus the suffix *odes*, meaning similar to, in allusion to the similarity between this new species and *L. melanopleura*. An adjective.

***Leporinus brinco*, new species**  
**Figs. 10 and 11**

**Holotype.** MZUSP 105166, 128.5 mm SL, Brazil, Bahia, Itajibá, rio Gongogi, tributary of rio de Contas, 14°21'16.5"S 39°46'23.9"W, 13 Aug 2012, J. L. Birindelli, F. C. Dagosta & M. V. Loeb.

**Paratypes.** All from Brazil, Bahia, rio de Contas basin. ANSP 199123, 2, 144.9-154.0 mm SL; MZUSP 110617, 2, 134.2-173.8 mm SL, 1 SK, 139.0 mm SL; UFBA 4843, 12, 132.9-187.2 mm SL, Ipiáu, rio de Contas, approximately 14°9'S 39°44'W, 27 Jan

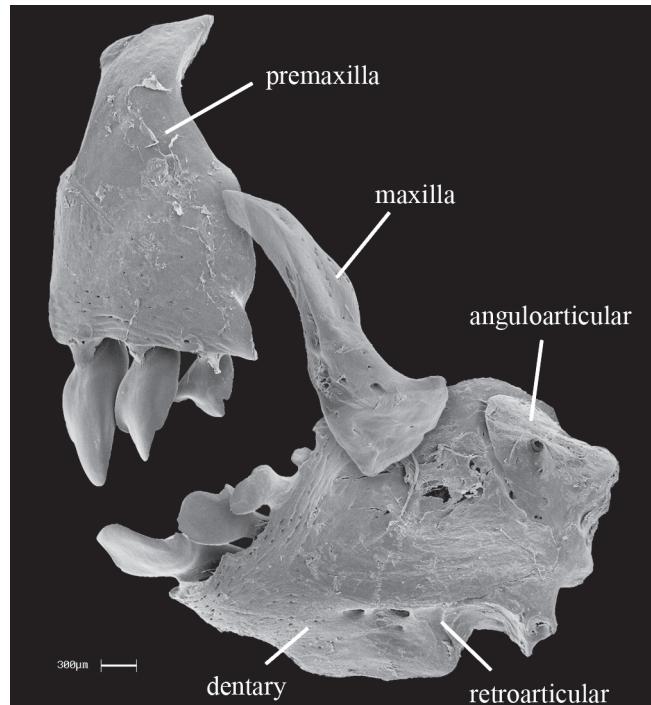


**Fig. 6.** *Leporinus melanopleurodes*: (a) holotype, MZUSP 100987, 99.4 mm SL, rio das Almas; (b) paratype, MZUSP 111242, 83.3 mm SL, rio Jiquiriçá; (c) paratype, MCP 36965, 128.7 mm SL, rio Jiquiriçá. Scale bars = 10 mm.



**Fig. 7.** *Leporinus melanopleurodes*: (a) paratype, MZUSP 111242, 87.4 mm SL, rio das Almas, (b) paratype, MZUSP 111227, 99.2 mm SL, rio Jiquiriçá [specimen lacking adipose fin], photographed live. Scale bars = 10 mm.

2009, F. T. F. Aleluia. MCP 36978, 2, 99.3-173.8 mm SL, Aureliano Leal, rio Gongogi, tributary of rio de Contas, 14°17'09"S 39°12'09"W, 11 Oct 2004, J. F. Pezzi da Silva. MCP 43664, 1, 126.5 mm SL; MZUSP 111257, 4, 74.4-157.0 mm SL, collected with holotype. MZUSP 100989, 1, 73.3 mm SL, Dário Meira, rio do Ouro, tributary of rio Gongogi, between Dário Meira and Gongogi, 14°23'2"S 39°42'2"W, 10 Jul 2008, Consultoria Mineraduto Caetité-Ilhéus. MZUSP 102526, 1, 44.3 mm SL, Caetanos, rio Gavião, at confluence with rio Gado Bravo, 14°15'01"S 41°03'01"W, 8 Feb 2009, P. Hollanda Carvalho, S. M. Q. Lima & D. F. Almeida. MZUSP 102552, 1, 28.8 mm SL, Dário Meira, rio Gongogi, downstream of confluence with rio Novo, 14°26'06"S 39°49'54"W, 11 Feb 2009, P. Hollanda Carvalho, S. M. Q. Lima & D. F. Almeida. MZUSP 102583, 1, 27.4 mm SL, Gongogi, rio do Ouro, between Dário Meira and Gongogi, 14°23'2"S 39°42'11"W, 11 Feb 2009, P. Hollanda Carvalho, S. M. Q. Lima & D. F. Almeida. MZUSP 102596, 1, 124.8 mm SL, Gongogi, rio Pontal do Sul, tributary of rio Gongogi, 14°21'3"S 39°31'46"W, 11 Feb 2009, P. Hollanda Carvalho, S. M. Q. Lima & D. F. Almeida. MZUSP 109762, 1, 38.6 mm SL, Piatã, rio de Contas, on road between Cabralia and Piatã, 13°6'33"S 41°46'53"W, 8 Jul 2011, A. M. Zanata, J. L. Birindelli, P. Camelier, R. Burger and B. Sardeiro. MZUSP 111261, 1 SK, 177.0 mm SL, Ipiraú, rio de Contas, approximately 14°8'S 39°44'W, 14 Aug 2012, J. L. Birindelli, F. C. Dagosta & M. V. Loeb. UNT 9292, 1, 98.2 mm SL, Umburana, rio Brumado, at bridge between Umburana and Cristalândia, ca. 14°10'S 41°36'W, 17 Jan 2009, A. Akama & A. B. Soares.



**Fig. 8.** Scanning electron image of the upper and lower jaws of *Leporinus melanopleurodes*, in lateral view, MZUSP 109769, 89.5 mm SL.



**Fig. 9.** Rio das Almas, Bahia, Nilo Peçanha, at 13°36'27.8"S 39°8'38.8"W, type locality of *Leporinus melanopleurodes*.

**Diagnosis.** *Leporinus brinco* is distinguished from all congeners by having a bright red blotch immediately dorsal to pectoral-fin origin in live specimens (vs. absent), three dark blotches along the lateral line that distinctly increase in size posteriorly (vs. three dark blotches absent or, when present, decreasing in size posteriorly, as in *Leporinus friderici* (Bloch), and dark longitudinal lines between the scale rows on the side of body (vs. longitudinal lines absent in all congeners except *L. cylindriformis* Borodin, *L. macrocephalus* Garavello & Britski, and *L. nattereri* Steindachner).

**Description.** Morphometric data in Table 3. Moderate in size, relative to congeners. Largest examined specimen 187.2 mm SL. Head and body elongate and moderately compressed. Dorsal profile of head and body straight from snout tip to tip of supraoccipital, and gently convex from latter point to dorsal-fin insertion, somewhat straight along dorsal-fin base, straight from terminus of dorsal-fin base to adipose-fin origin, and distinctly concave from adipose-fin origin to base of anteriormost procurent ray of caudal fin. Ventral profile straight to slightly concave from lower jaw to vertical through posterior margin of opercle, gently convex from latter point to

pelvic-fin origin, straight or slightly convex from pelvic-fin origin to anal-fin origin, somewhat straight along anal-fin base, and concave from terminus of anal-fin base to base of anteriormost procurent ray of caudal fin. Greatest body depth at dorsal-fin origin.

Mouth subinferior, and horizontally aligned with ventral margin of infraorbitals, in specimens around 50 mm SL or longer (Fig. 10a-b). Mouth subterminal in specimens around 40 mm SL (Fig. 10c) and slightly upturned in specimens around 25 mm SL (Fig. 10d). Snout round, anteriorly blunt. Premaxilla with three incisiform teeth gradually decreasing in size from the symphyseal tooth; symphyseal tooth bicuspid with median cusp moderately smaller than lateral cusp in all examined specimens. Dentary with three incisiform teeth also gradually decreasing in size posterolaterally (Fig. 12).

Scales cycloid, with 3 (1), 4 (1), or 5 (1) radii. Lateral line complete, extending from supracleithrum to base of median caudal-fin rays, with 36 (8), 37\* (20), or 38 (1) perforated scales. Longitudinal scale rows between dorsal-fin origin and lateral line 4 (29). Longitudinal scale rows between lateral line and pelvic-fin origin 4 (29). Longitudinal scale rows around caudal peduncle 12 (29). Predorsal scales 9 (1), 10 (17), or 11\* (2).

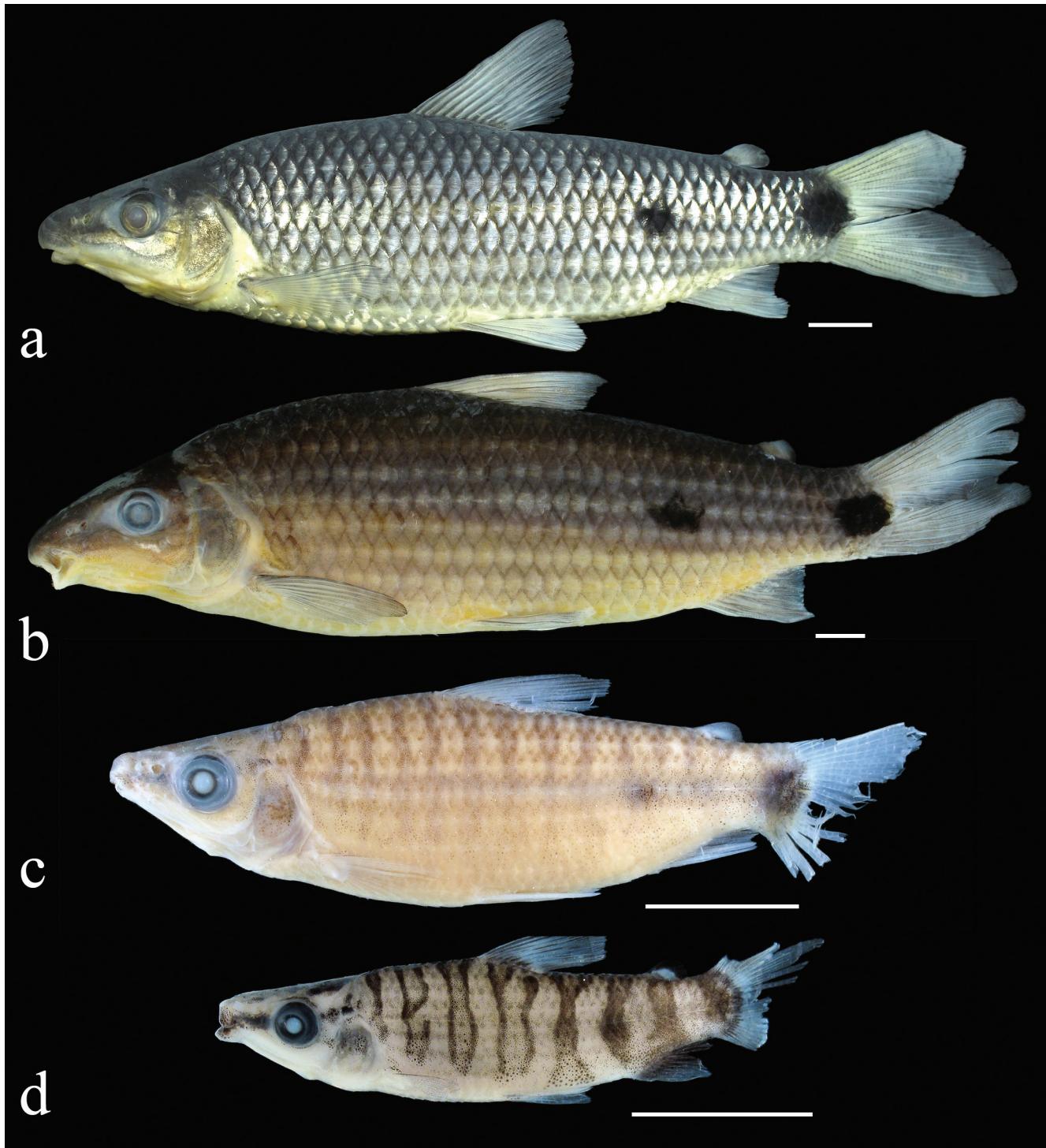
Dorsal-fin rays ii,9 (1), ii,10\* (18). Dorsal-fin origin slightly anterior to midpoint of standard length and to vertical through pelvic-fin origin; distal margin of dorsal fin straight or slightly convex. Adipose fin small, teardrop-shaped with origin approximately at vertical through middle of anal-fin base. Adipose fin lacking in a single specimen. Pectoral-fin rays i,14 (1), i,15 (2), i,16\* (15) or i,17 (1). Tip of pectoral fin extending slightly beyond midpoint between origins of pectoral and pelvic fins; distal margin of pectoral fin rounded. Pelvic-fin rays i,8 (19). Distal margin of pelvic fin slightly convex. Anal-fin rays ii,8 (19). Anal-fin origin approximately at vertical through posterior margin of fourth scale anterior to adipose-fin origin. Tip of adpressed fin almost reaching base of caudal-fin rays; distal margin of anal fin slightly concave. Principal caudal-fin rays i,8,9,i (19). Caudal fin forked, lobes rounded, upper lobe slightly longer than lower lobe. Vertebrae 35 (1) or 36 (2).

**Table 2.** Morphometric data for *Leporinus melanopleurodes*. n = number of specimens; SD = Standard Deviation.

	n	Holotype	Mean	Range	SD
Standard Length (mm)	20	99.4	98.34	79.80-128.70	
		Percentages of Standard Length			
Predorsal distance	20	46.60	47.24	46.14-48.89	0.73
Dorsal-fin origin to adipose-fin origin	20	83.27	83.09	81.21-84.68	0.98
Prepelvic distance	20	47.11	48.11	45.94-51.69	1.51
Body depth	20	24.15	23.08	21.75-24.50	0.87
Caudal peduncle length	20	16.05	15.96	14.91-17.17	0.54
Caudal peduncle depth	20	10.39	10.49	9.61-11.15	0.46
Anal-fin lobe length	20	13.94	13.84	12.19-15.14	0.72
Head length	20	21.87	22.57	21.29-24.89	0.95
		Percentages of Head Length			
Preopercle length	20	76.54	77.28	75.39-81.44	1.57
Snout length	20	45.86	43.59	40.88-45.86	1.42
Head depth	20	72.08	71.98	65.12-77.90	3.23
Eye diameter	20	19.92	20.58	18.12-23.76	1.81
Bony interorbital	20	38.78	39.37	35.23-42.27	2.02

**Color in alcohol.** Ground coloration of head and body tan; weakly countershaded. Body with two or three round dark midlateral blotches, first usually absent but sometimes present as small blotch (smaller than individual scale) along vertical through base of third or second posteriormost rays of dorsal

fin; second blotch small (encompassing three scale rows of length and one of depth), at vertical through anal-fin origin; third blotch large (encompassing approximately five scale rows of length and two of depth) on end on caudal peduncle. Body with dark longitudinal lines between scale rows. Ventral

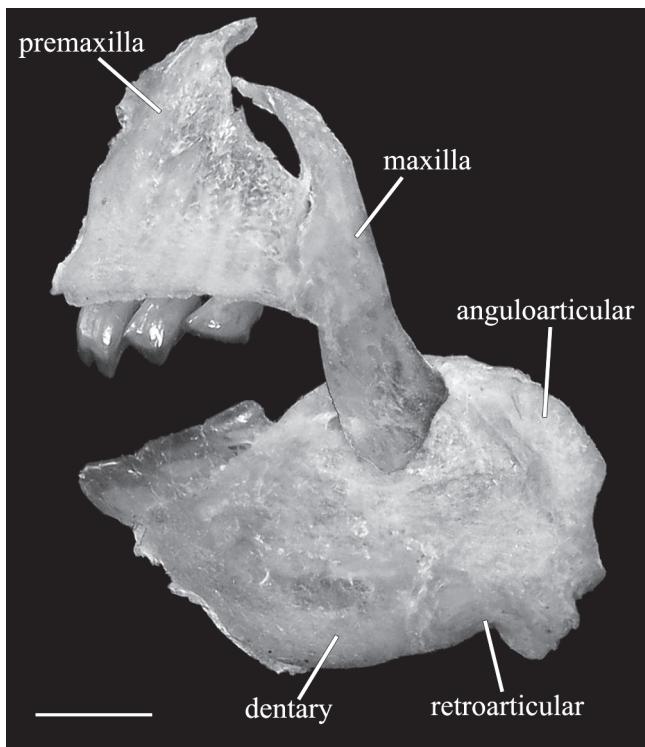


**Fig. 10.** *Leporinus brinco*: (a) holotype, MZUSP 105166, 128.5, rio Gongogi, tributary of rio de Contas; (b) paratype, UFBA 4843, 174.9 mm SL, rio de Contas; (c) paratype, MZUSP 102526, 44.3 mm SL, rio Gavião, tributary of rio de Contas; (d) paratype, MZUSP 102552, 28.8 mm SL, rio Gongogi, tributary of rio de Contas. Scale bars = 10 mm.



**Fig. 11.** *Leporinus brinco*, paratype, MZUSP 111257, 74.4 mm SL, rio Gongogi, tributary of rio de Contas, photographed live. Scale bar = 10 mm.

surfaces of head and belly pale to cream. All fins hyaline overall. Specimens up to 25 mm SL with dark stripe from lower jaw to opercle, with eight dark bars on body, and dark spot on median caudal-fin rays (Fig. 10d). Specimens of approximately 40 mm SL with 14 or 15 dark bars on dorsum and lateral surface of body and two or three midlateral blotches, as described above.



**Fig. 12.** Image of the upper and lower jaws, in lateral view, of *Leporinus brinco*, in lateral view, MZUSP 110617, paratype, 139.0 mm SL.

**Color in life.** Life coloration similar to that of preserved specimens, except head and body greenish silver, bright red blotch immediately dorsal to pectoral-fin origin, and small dusky red pigmentation on dorsal and distalmost portions of upper lip (Fig. 11).

**Distribution.** *Leporinus brinco* is known from the rio de Contas and its tributaries (Fig. 13), a medium size coastal river in the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia, Brazil (Fig. 4).

**Etymology.** The specific name *brinco* is in reference to the vernacular name of the species, “piau-brinco”, which means a species of *Leporinus* (“piau”) with an earring (“brinco” in Portuguese) in allusion to the red blotch behind the head, immediately dorsal to pectoral-fin origin. A noun in apposition.



**Fig. 13.** Rio Gongogi, tributary of rio de Contas, Bahia, Itajibáat  $14^{\circ}21'16.5''S$   $39^{\circ}46'23.9''W$ , type locality of *Leporinus brinco*.

**Table 3.** Morphometric data for *Leporinus brinco*. n = number of specimens; SD = Standard Deviation.

	n	Holotype	Mean	Range	SD
Standard Length (mm)	27	128.5	126.12	26.90-187.20	
Percentages of Standard Length					
Predorsal distance	20	48.83	49.65	48.23-51.57	1.00
Dorsal-fin origin to adipose-fin origin	20	86.25	85.79	83.90-87.41	0.97
Prepelvic distance	20	53.39	51.88	49.34-53.89	1.17
Body depth	20	26.55	27.81	25.26-29.45	1.18
Caudal peduncle length	20	10.97	12.45	10.86-14.00	1.02
Caudal peduncle depth	20	10.97	10.82	9.96-11.46	0.41
Anal-fin lobe length	17	14.61	14.32	12.41-15.30	0.75
Head length	20	26.49	27.09	25.75-29.47	0.99
Percentages of Head Length					
Preopercle length	20	76.88	78.55	76.59-81.02	1.32
Snout length	20	42.13	44.06	41.20-46.75	1.58
Head depth	20	70.48	68.86	62.15-76.13	3.83
Eye diameter	20	22.91	21.51	18.18-25.75	2.15
Bony interorbital	20	32.02	34.16	31.02-37.04	1.62

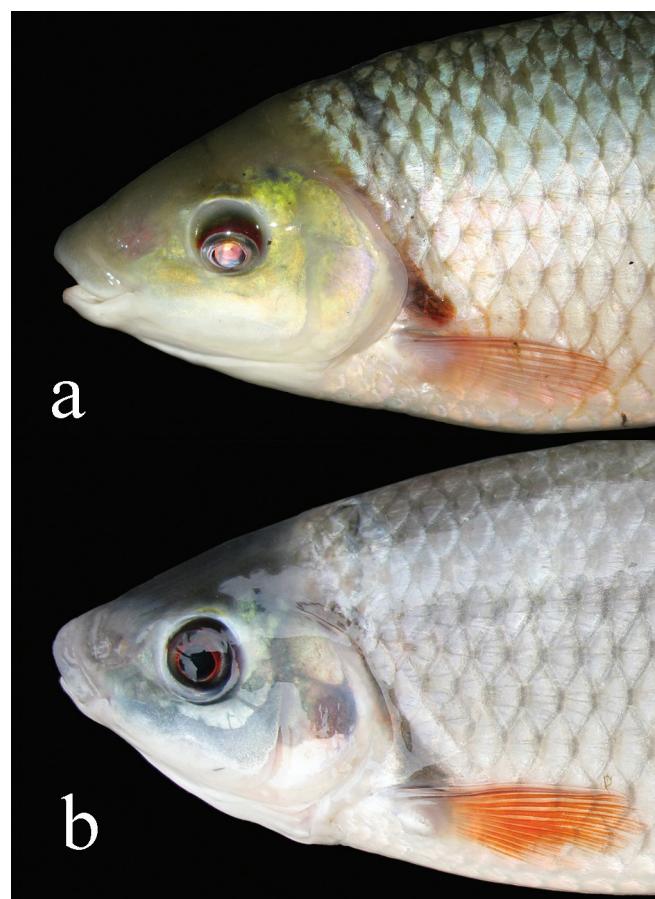
## Discussion

The conspicuous red blotch immediately dorsal to pectoral-fin origin present in *Leporinus brinco* is a unique feature among anostomids. The only anostomid species with somewhat similar pigmentation is *Leporinus melanostictus* Norman, which has a blotch immediately dorsal to the pectoral-fin origin that is dark in preserved (Planquette *et al.*, 1996; Sidlauskas & Vari, 2012) and live specimens collected during day, but becomes red during the night (Fig. 14). Given many other differences between these taxa (*e.g.*, mouth position, body shape), it seems unlikely that *Leporinus melanostictus* and *L. brinco* are closely related.

*Leporinus brinco* is similar to *L. elongatus* Valenciennes in having 36 to 38 scales in lateral line (*L. elongatus* with 36 or 37), 12 scale rows around caudal peduncle, four scale rows above and below the lateral line, three teeth on the premaxilla and dentary, and long snout with subterminal mouth (see Britski *et al.* (2012) for diagnostic features of *L. elongatus*). *Leporinus brinco* is, on the other hand, also similar to *L. conirostris* Steindachner by having three teeth on both the premaxilla and dentary, long snout with subterminal mouth and anteriormost dark blotch of body completely faded in large specimens. These similarities might suggest that these three species are closely related. Interestingly is the fact that *Leporinus elongatus* is endemic to rio Jequitinhonha and rio Pardo, two river basins located close to rio de Contas, and *L. conirostris* is distributed in coastal rivers south of rio Jequitinhonha (Fig. 4).

*Leporinus melanopleurodes* is distinguished from *L. melanopleura* based on differences in mouth position and coloration (see Diagnosis). Although subtle, the difference in mouth position is related to the development of several bones of the anterior portion of head. In *L. melanopleurodes* the anterior margin of the antorbital is aligned with the anteriormost pore of first infraorbital (character 2, state 0 of Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008), the mesethmoid has a well-developed lateral process on its anterior portion (character 16, state 1 of

Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008), and the dorsalmost portion of the ectopterygoid is posterior to its ventralmost portion (character 72, state 1 of Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008). *Leporinus melanopleura*, on the other hand, has the anterior margin of



**Fig. 14.** *Leporinus melanostictus*, (a) MZUSP 103242, 225.0 mm SL, rio Jari; (b) MZUSP 103242, 221.0 mm SL, rio Iratapuru, tributary of rio Jari.

the antorbital anterior to the anteriormost pore of the first infraorbital (character 2, state 1 of Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008), the process on the anterior portion of the mesethmoid absent (character 16, state 0 of Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008), and the dorsalmost portion of ectopterygoid anterior to its ventralmost portion (character 72, state 0 of Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008). These characters could indicate that the two species belong to distinct lineages within anostomid fishes. Nevertheless, *Leporinus melanopleura* and *L. melanopluroides* are indistinguishable in all meristic and morphometric data (see description and Tables 1 and 2) and they share a unique color pattern, which consists of a single dark stripe encompassing one or two scale rows of depth and centered below lateral line. In all other congeners with a dark stripe (*Leporinus amae*, *L. arcus*, *L. amblyrhynchus*, *L. bistriatus*, *L. britskii*, *L. despaxi* Puyo, *L. sexstriatus*, *L. striatus*, *L. taeniatus*, *L. taeniofasciatus*, *L. unitaeniatus*, and *L. vanzoi*), the latter is centered on the lateral-line scale row. In addition, both species have the fourth and fifth infraorbitals fused (character 9, state 1 of Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008). This last character is present in some other species with subinferior mouth (Birindelli & Britski, 2009), and shows some intra-specific variation (Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008: 86), but it is absent in species with inferior mouth (see Sidlauskas & Vari, 2008). Therefore, it is also possible that *Leporinus melanopleura* and *L. melanopluroides* are sister taxa. Interestingly is that both species are restricted to small coastal rivers in Bahia, Brazil, north of rio Pardo and south of rio Paraguaçu. A comprehensive phylogenetic analysis that includes most species of *Leporinus* and *Hypomasticus* Borodin, in addition to the new species described here, is necessary for understanding the phylogenetic relationships among basal anostomids, and therefore an accurate hypothesis of phylogenetic position of *Leporinus brinco*, *L. melanopleura* and *L. melanopluroides*. This study is beyond the present contribution, as it will be tackled in a separate publication.

**Comparative material.** *Leporinus melanostictus*. **Brazil.** Amapá, MZUSP 103242, 4, 77.0-225.0 mm SL, Laranjal do Jari, rio Iratapucu, tributary of rio Jari, 0°33'59"S 52°34'43"W. *Leporinus taeniatus*. **Brazil.** Bahia. MZUSP 83840, 1, 103.0 mm SL, Formosa do Rio Preto, rio São Francisco basin, rio Preto, 11°2'59"S 45°11'31"W. MZUSP 92043, 5, 34.1-42.7 mm SL, Queimadas, rio Itapicuru basin, rio Jacurici, 10°54'46"S 39°37'25"W. Ceará. MZUSP 37583, 3, 79.0-106.9 mm SL, Aiuaba, riacho do Umbuziero. Minas Gerais. BMNH 1861.5.16.14, 102.6 mm SL, paralectotype of *Leporinus melanopluroides* Günther, 1864, rio Cipó, tributary of rio das Velhas, rio São Francisco basin. MZUSP 47459, 3, 65.0-96.5 mm SL, Montes Claros, rio Verde, tributary of rio São Francisco. MZUSP 47464, 1, 139.0 mm SL, Montes Claros, rio São Francisco basin, rio Verde, between Francisco Sá and Montes Claros, 16°44'43"S 43°51'W. MZUSP 73691, 1, 130.2 mm SL; MZUSP 73777, 1, 136.0 mm SL, Augusto de Lima, rio São Francisco basin, rio Curimatá, at Fazenda Vitoria, 18°5'43"S 44°16'15"W. NMW 68040, 2, 77.5 and 125.8 mm SL; NMW 68041, 1, 142.5 mm SL; NMW 68042, 1, 132.6 mm SL; NMW 68182, 1, 154.1 mm SL; NMW 68197, 2, 98.3 and 120.8 mm SL; NMW 70647, 2, 79.3 and 116.4 mm SL, syntypes of *Leporinus taeniatus* Lütken, 1875, rio das Velhas, tributary of rio São Francisco.

## Acknowledgments

For critical review of the manuscript we thank Brian Sidlauskas, Naércio Menezes and two anonymous reviewers. We are grateful to Fabrício T. F. Aleluia, Alberto Akama, Pedro Hollanda Carvalho and Angela M. Zanata for collecting and sending us specimens. We thank Rafael Burger and Pedro Hollanda Carvalho for providing pictures of specimens. For loan and assistances during collection visits we thank Mark Sabaj Pérez and John Lundberg (ANSP), James MacLaine, Oliver Crimmen, Patrick Campbell and Ralf Britz (BMNH), Zilda Margarete de Lucena (MCP), Alberto Akama (UNT), Helmut Wellendorf and Christian Pollman (NMW) and Richard Vari (USNM). For assistance with scanning electron microscopy images we thank Lara Maria Guimarães (MZUSP). For assistance during field trips we thank Angela Zanata, Bianca Moraes, Fernando Dagosta, Marina Loeb, Priscila Camelier and Rafael Burger. Authors were financially supported by FAPESP (grant 10/51250-9 - JLOB) and CNPq (HAB, JCG).

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Submitted May 15, 2012

Accepted September 20, 2012 by Paulo H. F. Lucinda

Published March 31, 2013