

Submission date. 01/09/2025

**Associate editor's decision after peer review (26/10/2025).**

Dear Dr. Sarino-Araújo:

Manuscript ID NI-2025-0154 entitled "A new tetra of the genus *Astyanax* (Characiformes: Acestrorhamphidae) with lateral stripes from lower Amazon basin, Brazil" which you submitted to the Neotropical Ichthyology, has been reviewed. The comments of the reviewer(s) are included at the bottom of this letter.

The reviewer(s) have recommended publication, but also suggest some minor revisions to your manuscript. Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewer(s)' comments and revise your manuscript.

To revise your manuscript, log into <https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/ni-scielo> and enter your Author Center, where you will find your manuscript title listed under "Manuscripts with Decisions." Under "Actions," click on "Create a Revision." Your manuscript number has been appended to denote a revision.

You may also click the below link to start the revision process (or continue the process if you have already started your revision) for your manuscript. If you use the below link you will not be required to login to ScholarOne Manuscripts.

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You will be unable to make your revisions on the originally submitted version of the manuscript. Instead, revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer. Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document by using the track changes mode in MS Word or by using bold or colored text.

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When submitting your revised manuscript, you will be able to respond to the comments made by the reviewer(s) in the space provided. You can use this space to document any changes you make to the original manuscript. In order to expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewer(s). **IMPORTANT:** Your original files are available to you when you upload your revised manuscript. Please delete any redundant files before completing the submission.

Because we are trying to facilitate timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the Neotropical Ichthyology, your revised manuscript should be submitted before 26-Nov-2025. If it is not possible for you to submit your revision by this date, we may have to consider your paper as a new submission.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the Neotropical Ichthyology and I look forward to receiving your revision.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marcos Mirande

Associate Editor, Neotropical Ichthyology  
[mcmirande@gmail.com](mailto:mcmirande@gmail.com), [mcmirande@gmail.com](mailto:mcmirande@gmail.com)

**Anonymous reviewer #1**

**Recommendation.** Minor Revision

**Comments.** (There are no comments.) [Corrections were made directly in the manuscript and were included in the attached file.]

**Anonymous reviewer #2****Recommendation.** Minor Revision**Comments.** Prezados editor e autores,

O manuscrito versa sobre a descrição de uma espécie inequivocamente nova de *Astyanax* da calha norte, uma região relativamente pouco amostrada brasileira. No documento em anexo faço alguns apontamentos para melhoria do manuscrito. Coloco-me à disposição dos colegas para quaisquer esclarecimentos que se fizerem necessários.

Essa é uma revisão assinada.

Fernando Dagosta

**Author's Rebuttal Letter** (17/11/2025).

Dear Editor,

After corrections in accordance with the critiques from the editorial review and from the referees, we believe that this manuscript has greatly increased in quality. All the inquiry points were corrected (and the text was reorganized accordingly), with the exceptions listed and explained below:

Reviewer 1.

Line 72. please cite the direct reference Ej. Almiron et al 2015, not the compiler.

A. I agree, done!

Line 72. *Astyanax abramis* have the type localitie in Rosarion, also this species and what is now consider *Astyanax lacustris* ar in mouth of LA Palata stuary.

A. Done!

Line 75. Also Rossini et al., 2016..

A. We add "Terán et al. 2020"

Line 92. 2005.

A. Done!

Line 99-100. please re writte.

A. We correct "However, the ichthyofauna of this region remains poorly documented, with several species recently described for the area (e.g., Silva-Oliveira et al., 2018; Dutra et al., 2020; Faria et al., 2020) and with several additional undescribed species awaiting formal recognition"

to

"However, the ichthyofauna of this region remains poorly documented, although some fish species have been recently described for the area (e.g., Silva-Oliveira et al., 2018; Dutra et al., 2020; Faria et al., 2020) and with several additional undescribed species awaiting formal recognition."

Line 112; 129; 131. cs in ni.

A. We follow the guidelines of the journal Neotropical Ichthyology.

Line 155. please check.

A. Data consulted in Ruiz-C et al. (2018). "Revision of the *Astyanax orthodus* species-group (Teleostei: Characidae) with descriptions of three new species"

Line 175-176. Circulii absent on posterior field of scales???

are you sure?

All species of *Astyanax* I have analysed have circulli o the posterior field of the scale. please check.

A. We correct "present only proximally" to "present in the anterior and posterior fields of the scales"

Line 176. 36 spcecimens, but 92 paratypes, why excluding this specimens?

A. Counts were performed on the same specimens that underwent morphometric analysis.

We reevaluated the specimens and corrected for “Lateral line complete, slightly curved, with 37 (10), 38\* (11), 39 (13) or 40 (6) perforated scales” totaling 40 specimens, one of which was damaged, with no scales on the caudal peduncle, making it impossible to count the perforated and circum-peduncular scales.

Line 178. 41 specimens.

A. “Longitudinal series of scales between dorsal-fin origin and lateral line, 7\* (32) or 8 (9)” totaling 41 specimens.

Line 179. 39 specimens.

A. We reevaluated and corrected to “Predorsal scales 11 (13), 12 (22) or 13\* (6), arranged in regular series”

Line 180. 38.

A. We corrected “Circumpeduncular scales 16 (9) or 17\* (31)” totaling 40 specimens, one of which had a deteriorated peduncle region without scales.

Line 180. 11.

A. We corrected “Single series of 20\*(29), 21 (8), 22 (2), 23 (1) or 24 (1) scales covering base of anal fin”

Line 195. 15 of 41?

A. We reevaluated the specimens and corrected them to “First branchial arch with 26 (29), or 27 (11) or 28 (1) rakers: 3 (40) or 4 (1) on hypobranchial, 11 (15), 12 (25) or 13 (1) on ceratobranchial, 1 (41) on cartilage between the ceratobranchial and epibranchial and 9 (1), 10 (14), or 11 (25) or 12 (1) on epibranchial”

Line 258–264. After Melo et al. (2024), it is clear that the *Astyanax lineatus* clade is the sister group to the remaining species of *Astyanax*.

Therefore, the statement is confusing, and I suggest removing it.

This species certainly belongs to the *Astyanax lineatus* clade, which is the sister group to the other species of *Astyanax*.

A. We don't understand what the reviewer sees as "confuse" in this statement. Melo et al. (2024) is still a hypothesis, as Téran et al. (2020) is. Further hypotheses will be necessary to evaluate whether Melo et al. (2024) or Téran et al. (2024) (or something else) will be corroborated. We haven't included the new species into a phylogeny to test whether it truly belongs to the *Astyanax lineatus* clade. Do we find it likely? We do, and we state that unambiguously. But we cannot affirm it, as the reviewer is suggesting we should. That is very clear to us. Notice also that Melo et al. (2024) have not included *Astyanax lineatus* in their hypothesis.

Line 278. here you have described it! OK!

A. . We correct “These morphological similarities suggest that *A. pintacua* is more closely related to members of the *A. lineatus* clade” to “These morphological similarities suggest that *A. pintacua* is more closely related to the members of this clade”

Figure 2. this figure lacks of quality.

A. Done!

Reviewer 2 Fernando Dagosta

Line 75. Terán et al. (2020)

A. Realizado!

Line 80. Texto riscado (then)

A. Realizado!

Line 146. No caso das outras espécies eu entendo que o número desses rastros foi extraído do material examinado pelos autores. Mas o número de rastros em *A. superbus*? Como foi obtido? Está na descrição original?

A. O número de dentes no maxilar e de rastros branquiais de *A. superbus* foram obtidos a partir dos trabalhos: Dagosta (2011) [Dissertação de mestrado] e Ruiz-C et al. (2018), devidamente referenciados.

Line 148. Não concordo que seja "narrow". São quase da espessura do diâmetro da órbita, algo muito acentuado para characids.

A. Corrigimos “narrow humeral blotches” para “humeral blotches”

Line 150. diante dessas sutis sobreposições, sugiro indicar a moda de ambas as espécies para mostrar distribuições normais distintas.

A. Revimos os dados de escamas da linha lateral de *A. kullanderi* e verificamos que houve um equívoco e que na verdade *A. kullanderi* apresenta 31 ou 32 escamas perfuradas, de modo que não houve sobreposição dos dados; retiramos os dados do número de raios ramificados na nadadeira anal por se tratar de um caráter diagnóstico adicional e que apresenta sobreposição. Considerando o correto número de escamas de *A. kullanderi* não apresentar sobreposição com *A. pintacua*, e por esse já ser um caráter adicional, optamos por suprimir o número de raios da nadadeira anal por ser um caráter que apresenta sobreposição.

Line 157–158. Esse caráter certamente é variável em *A. lineatus*. Já vi exemplares com o dorso ou o ventre sem as linhas. Tenho a foto de um exemplar em vida bem bonito, sem as linhas dorsais e ventralmente alcançando a base da pectoral.

A. Discordamos da opinião do revisor. Examinamos centenas de exemplares de *Astyanax lineatus* de múltiplas localidades e exemplares da espécie tem consistentemente linhas sinuosas mais conspícuas do que aqueles observados na nova espécie. Acreditamos que a percepção do revisor esteja influenciada por dois motivos: 1 - ele cita um exemplar de *Astyanax lineatus* com poucas faixas, a partir de uma foto de um exemplar vivo. Ora, nossas comparações referem-se à exemplares fixados, aonde as faixas sempre são mais conspícuas. Claro que exemplares vivos de *Astyanax pintacua* tem faixas longitudinais sinuosas ainda menos conspícuas do que exemplares fixados, e apenas exemplares vivos são comparáveis entre si. 2 - o revisor não tem exemplares da nova espécie em mãos e, portanto, não foi capaz de fazer comparações diretas com exemplares de *Astyanax lineatus*, como nós fizemos. Estamos seguros de que ele não teria essa opinião, caso tivesse feito isso.

Line 236–239. Os autores poderiam detalhar melhor essa técnica, indicando a que etnias ela pertence e de qual região se origina. Faço esse comentário porque, ao pesquisar sobre o tema na internet, só encontrei uma banda musical com o mesmo nome. Outros leitores podem se sentir igualmente frustrados por não encontrarem mais informações; portanto, seria útil abordar esses aspectos de forma mais completa nesta seção.

A. Adicionamos como referência o capítulo de livro “Além do olhar: as fontes sobre a apropriação das técnicas e dos materiais das culturas indígenas nas artes da Amazônia Colonial (séculos XVII e XVIII)” Martins (2015) e o livro *Mulheres do Brasil: Artes e Artistas* (Magnani, 2023) destacando o hábito herdado pelos povos indígenas do povoado de Gurupatuba.

Line 267–269. esse é o padrão *Astyanax*. as demais características realmente são mais interessantes para discussões de relacionamento evolutivo.

A. O techo foi suprimido.

Line 270. acho que é relevante tbm mencionar que o padrão de mancha umeral de *A. pirapuan* é o mesmo de *A. lineatus* e de *A. pintacua*.

Inclusive, minha opinião é de que *A. pirapuan* é um *A. lineatus* com a faixa com falhas, embora isso seja apenas uma opinião e não uma informação...

Concordo com os autores que essas espécies possam ser proximamente relacionadas.

A. Não entendemos muito bem essa sugestão feita pelo revisor. *Astyanax lineatus*, *A. pirapuan* e *A. pintacua* apresentam mancha (s) umeral (is) verticalmente alongadas, mas isso é uma condição homoplástica na família. Não achamos que esse caráter possa ser usado como evidência de relação entre essas espécies, à exclusão de tantas outras.

Line 275. sugiro colocar um subtítulo aqui para começar a discorrer sobre outro tópico da discussão.

A. Não achamos isso necessário – seria se fosse uma discussão longa, com subtópicos grandes, mas não é o caso.

Line 281–282. Acho pertinente esse comentário dos autores. *Astyanax* tem muito polimorfismo, vide tamanha variação de de raios e escamas que a espécie tem. Existem diversos trabalhos recentes demonstrando que o ambiente lêntico ou lótico inclusive influencia as proporções corporais de peixes. Inclusive, no EBI pude ver trabalhos apresentando essas diferenças em espécies de *Astyanax*.

A. É preciso notar que esses morfotipos são coletados em sintopia no rio Jauari, portanto, polimorfismo devido à distintas condições de correnteza podem ser descartada. De qualquer forma, como mencionado, o primeiro autor seguirá trabalhando na questão para esclarecer se de fato esse morfotipo constitui-se em uma espécie distinta.

Please do not hesitate in contacting me should any further questions arise. In my name and that of my co-authors I thank you for and the reviewers your effort and time to improve our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Josué Sarino-Araújo

#### **Associate editor's decision after peer review (11/02/2026).**

Dear Dr. Sarino-Araújo:

It is a pleasure to accept your manuscript entitled "A new tetra of the genus *Astyanax* (Characiformes: Acestorhamphidae) with lateral stripes from lower Amazon basin, Brazil" in its current form for publication in the *Neotropical Ichthyology*.

Congratulations for the acceptance of your article, and be aware on the following topics:

##### 1. Publication Fee

NI will charge a publication fee if none of the co-authors is an active SBI member. This measure is essential to strengthen SBI and thus ensure the continuity of our journal, scientific society, and biannual meetings. SBI is not limited to Brazilians but is open to anyone interested in freshwater and marine Neotropical fishes. More details on SBI are available at <https://www.sbi.bio.br/>. Please email [tesouraria.sbi@gmail.com](mailto:tesouraria.sbi@gmail.com) to confirm whether any of your co-authors is a current SBI member and to activate your SBI membership if needed. Otherwise, if you will cover the publication fee of R\$1.000, please inform us at the same email. For authors outside Brazil, the fee will be converted to US dollars based on the official exchange rate on the date of payment. The only exceptions to this fee are invited articles.

##### 2. Science Communication and Social Media

NI actively promotes published articles to both academic colleagues and the general public, including science journalists. To support this, we create social media posts and require images and/or videos of fish related to your work. If your article does not include such images, please send a photo of a representative fish species, preferably alive in its natural habitat. If you do not have your own photo, you may provide a link to an online image, along with the source, author, and, if applicable, authorization for its use. We also publish video summaries of articles in Portuguese on our Instagram (@neoichth). We ask you to designate one author to record a short video using a mobile phone, following the attached instructions. The video should include visual materials (photos, graphics) and a script for subtitles to enhance accessibility. Please email the completed material to our Social Media Editor, Igor Souto-Santos, at [icass.ufrj@gmail.com](mailto:icass.ufrj@gmail.com) within 30 days.

Additionally, if your article is taxonomic in nature and has been submitted to Zoobank, it is your responsibility to update the manuscript's status on Zoobank once it has been published.

All of the above information and materials are mandatory for the publication of your article, including the scientific dissemination component, which is crucial in the current climate of science denial and misinformation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [neoichth@nupelia.uem.br](mailto:neoichth@nupelia.uem.br).

Please send an e-mail to [neoichth@nupelia.uem.br](mailto:neoichth@nupelia.uem.br) within five working days to let us know you are aware of all the important points mentioned above.

Thank you for your fine contribution. On behalf of the Editors of the Neotropical Ichthyology, we look forward to your continued contributions to the Journal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juan Mirande

Associate Editor, Neotropical Ichthyology

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Entire Scoresheet:

Reviewer: 1

Recommendation: Accept

Comments:

Congratulations on your work.

All comments have been incorporated. There may be a missing section on the fish collection in the Materials and Methods.

Cheers,

Guillermo

## Neotropical Ichthyology

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