

Submission date. 02/01/2026

Associate editor's decision after peer review (14/07/2026).

Dear Ms. Chaves:

Manuscript ID NI-2026-0090 entitled "Hidden in the Rapids: a new species of *Leporinus Agassiz, 1829* (Anostomidae) endemic to the Xingu river 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 14-Aug-2026. 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. Marcelo Melo

Associate Editor, Neotropical Ichthyology
melomar@usp.br

Anonymous reviewer #1

Recommendation. Minor Revision

Comments.

Review of ms NI-2026-0090. This is the second time reviewing this manuscript, which incorporated all major suggestions from the previous round. It clearly shows the presence of the new species and provides many details not seen in the majority of

taxonomic publications. The name choice is outstanding! I consider the manuscript suitable for publication after incorporating the suggestions detailed below.

L64: “approximately 150 valid species” – provide the precise current number of species.

L73: Given the most recent phylogenies of Anostomidae, *Leporinus* is paraphyletic rather than polyphyletic.

L141: Unclear if TN+G4 was the best-fit model that resulted from ModelFinder. Clarify.

L121: Exclude “also known as DNA Barcode” – the concept of the DNA Barcode consortium relied on the documentation of global biodiversity using molecular markers (not necessarily *cox1*), so the usage of *cox1* is not synonymous with the DNA Barcode.

L160: Paratypes are usually ordered alphabetically, so museum codes should follow LBP, LIA, INPA, MZUEL, MZUSP, and ZUEC, if not mistaken.

L188: Misspelled MZUSP.

L193: Correct English in Diagnosis. Missing a verb in the sentence starting in L198 and “differs” in 201.

L194: What is the combination? This sentence only indicates that the diagnostic character is the presence of the eight dark blotches.

L216: Do not use verbs (ex. decrease) in telegraphic styles; check it throughout the Description.

L230: Orbital series? instead of infraorbital series.

L307/Table 3: Use decimals to represent genetic distances in all pairwise comparisons (ex. 2.5 instead of 2). This will provide more precise numbers for readers.

L365: Correct “substrates”.

L370: Use “reported” vs. “recorded”.

L384: Correct species name “microphthalmus”, check all species names in the paper.

Merge the last two paragraphs into one.

Table 1: Provide GenBank codes for “Pending”.

Table 2: Something is wrong with percentages of the holotype. I think they are raw data rather than relative numbers. Check it out before resubmission.

Fig. tree: Figure is great; I would only suggest the increase of font sizes for terminals. BFMelo

Author's Rebuttal Letter (21/07/2026).

We thank you for the careful evaluation of our manuscript and for the constructive comments that helped us improve the clarity and quality of the paper. All minor orthographic and stylistic issues mentioned were corrected throughout the manuscript. Below, we provide a response to the remaining suggestions.

Table 1: Provide GenBank codes for “Pending.”

Updated with GenBank accession numbers.

Table 2: Percentages of holotype.

We indicated in the table legend that “the ‘Holotype’ column shows raw values only for SL, and relative values for the other characters.”

Figure (tree): Increase font sizes for terminals.

Figure updated with larger font sizes.

We hope that the revised version addresses all concerns raised by the reviewers. We thank you again for your time and consideration.

Associate editor's decision after peer review (22/07/2026).

Dear Ms. Chaves:

It is a pleasure to accept your manuscript entitled “Hidden in the Rapids: a new species of *Leporinus* Agassiz, 1829 (Anostomidae) endemic to the Xingu river 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 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 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.

Please send an e-mail to 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. Marcelo Melo

Associate Editor, Neotropical Ichthyology
melomar@usp.br

Neotropical Ichthyology

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HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

- Chaves CS, Souza-Shibatta L, Birindelli JLO, Sousa LM. Hidden in the rapids: a new species of *Leporinus* (Characiformes: Anostomidae) endemic to the Xingu River basin, Brazil. Neotrop Ichthyol. 2026; 24(3):e260090. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1982-0224-2026-0090>



Official Journal of the
Sociedade Brasileira de Ictiologia