Order CHARACIFORMES

South American Darters and Sailfin Tetras

Family **CRENUCHIDAE**

Günther 1864

Characidium amaila, paratype, 73.1 mm SL. Photo by Nathan K. Lujan. From: Lujan, N. K., H. Agudelo-Zamora, D. C. Taphorn, P. N. Booth and H. López-Fernández. 2013. Description of a new, narrowly endemic South American darter (Characiformes: Crenuchidae) from the central Guiana Shield highlands of Guyana. Copeia 2013 (3): 454–463.

Sailfin Tetras

Subfamily CRENUCHINAE

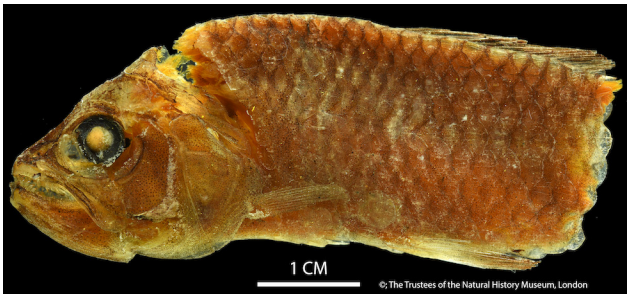
Günther 1870

Crenuchus

Günther 1863

crena (L.), notch; *nuchus*, from *nucha* (Medieval Latin), nape of the neck, allusion not explained not evident, perhaps referring to slight indentation on nape of nuptial males, a character not mentioned by Günther (online claims that name is derived from *krenoychos,* the god of running waters, or means "guardian of the spring," are offered without source or substantiation)

***Crenuchus spilurus* Günther 1863** spot-tailed, from *spílos* (σπίλος), mark or spot, and *ourá* (οὐρά), tail, referring to round black spot at end of caudal peduncle



Crenuchus spilurus, holotype, BMNH 1864.1.21.92. The separation between nape and back may be a damaged remnant of the notch or indentation for which the genus might be named.

Poecilocharax

Eigenmann 1909

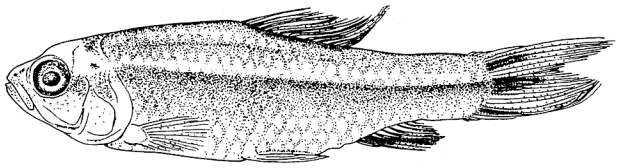
poecilo-, from *poikílos* (ποικίλος), varicolored, here referring to resemblance to some genera of Poeciliidae (Cyprinodontiformes); *Charax*, typical genus of the Characiformes, from *chárax* (χάραξ), a pointed stake of a palisade, referring to densely packed sharp teeth, now a common root-name formation in the order

***Poecilocharax bovalii* Eigenmann 1909** in honor of Edward and Edwin Bovalius, Essequibo Exploration Company, without whose help (providing boats and guides) Eigenmann's trip to the Tumatumari and Kaieteur regions of Guyana "would have been practically impossible" [preferably spelled *bovaliorum* since name honors more than one person, but ICZN 32.5.1 forbids such a correction]

***Poecilocharax callipterus* Ohara, Pastana & Camelier 2022** pretty-winged, from *kállos* (κάλλος) beauty, and *pterón* (πτερόν), wing or fin, referring to vivid coloration of dorsal-fin of adult males

***Poecilocharax rhizophilus* Ohara, Pastana & Camelier 2022** root-loving, from *rhíza* (ῥίζα), root, and *phílos* (φίλος), friend or fond of, referring to its habitat, in between subaquatic roots of riparian vegetation

***Poecilocharax weitzmani* Géry 1965** in honor of American ichthyologist (and characoid expert) Stanley H. Weitzman (1927–2017), National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C.)



Poecilocharax weitzmani. From: Géry, J. 1965. Poissons characoïdes sud-américains du Senckenberg Muséum, II. Characidae et Crenuchidae de l'Igarapé Préto (Haute Amazonie). [Fin]. Senckenbergiana Biologica 46 (3): 195–218, Pls. 18, 18a.

South American Darters

Subfamily CHARACIDIINAE

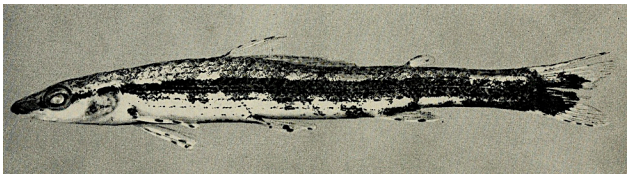
Fowler 1932

Ammocryptocharax

Weitzman & Kanazawa 1976

Ammocrypta, a genus of North American darters (Perciformes: Percidae), referring to superficial resemblance between the genera; *Charax*, typical genus of the Characiformes, from *chárax* (χάραξ), a pointed stake of a palisade, referring to densely packed sharp teeth, now a common root-name formation in the order

***Ammocryptocharax elegans* Weitzman & Kanazawa 1976** Latin for elegant, allusion not explained; according to senior author (pers. comm.), referring to both sexes being elegant fishes



Ammocryptocharax elegans, holotype, male, 32.5 mm SL. From: Weitzman, S. H. and R. H. Kanazawa. 1976. *Ammocryptocharax elegans*, a new genus and species of riffle-inhabiting characoid fish (Teleostei: Characidae) from South America. Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 89 (26): 325–346.

***Ammocryptocharax lateralis* (Eigenmann 1909)** Latin for of the side, presumably referring to broad band, bordered by a light streak above, from tip of snout to base of middle caudal-fin rays

***Ammocryptocharax minutus* Buckup 1993** Latin for small, the smallest member of the genus (up to 19.8 mm SL)

***Ammocryptocharax vintonae* (Eigenmann 1909)** in honor of Mrs. C. Vinton, possibly Josephine Caroline Carstarphen, wife of mining engineer Lindley Vinton, who lived in British Guiana (type locality), "one of the few ladies who have visited the habitat of this species" [originally spelled *vintoni* but gender-correct spelling is in prevailing usage]

Characidium

Reinhardt 1867

diminutive of *Charax*, i.e., a small characoid, perhaps reflecting Reinhardt's description of *C. fasciatum* as a "curious little fish" (translation)

***Characidium alipioi* Travassos 1955** in honor of Brazilian ichthyologist-herpetologist Alípio de Miranda Ribeiro (1874–1939), founder of the fish collection at Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

***Characidium amaila* Lujan, Agudelo-Zamora, Taphorn, Booth & López-Fernández 2013** named for Amaila Falls (downstream of type locality), "a striking feature of the Guiana Shield escarpment in western Guyana that will have altered flow following completion of a dam that is now being planned"

***Characidium bahiense* Almeida 1971** *-ense*, Latin suffix denoting place: Bahia State, Brazil, where it is endemic

***Characidium barbosai* Flausino, Lima, Machado & Melo 2020** in honor of Gerson Natalício Barbosa, a District Attorney from Mato Grosso, Brazil, for his commitment to enforcing environmental laws, and for being one of the conceivers of the project "Água para o Futuro," which is surveying, protecting and restoring springs in the urban area of Cuiabá, the capital of Mato Grosso

***Characidium bimaculatum* Fowler 1941** *bi-*, from *bis* (L.), twice; *maculatum* (L.), spotted, referring to broad black subbasal blotch or band on dorsal fin, and large oval black blotch embracing dark lateral band at caudal peduncle and caudal-fin base

***Characidium boaevistae* Steindachner 1915** of Boa Vista, capital of Brazilian state of Roraima, on western bank of Rio Branco, type locality [often spelled *boavistae*, without the first *e*]

***Characidium boehlkei* Géry 1972** in honor of American ichthyologist James E. Böhlke (1930–1982), Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, who suspected that Ecuadorian specimens of this species, which he reported as *C. fasciatum*, represented a new species

***Characidium bolivianum* Pearson 1924** *-anum* (L.), belonging to: Bolivia, where it is endemic to the Upper Madeira River basin

***Characidium borellii* (Boulenger 1895)** in honor of French-born Italian zoologist Alfredo Borelli (1858–1943), Università di Torino, who led three expeditions to South America and collected many animals, including holotype of this one

***Characidium brevirostre* Pellegrin 1909** *brevis* (L.), short; *rostre*, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of *rostrum* (L.), snout, referring to its shorter snout compared with *C. steindachneri*

***Characidium cacah* Zanata, Ribeiro, Araújo-Porto, Pessali & Oliveira-Silva 2020** in honor of ichthyologist Carlos B. M. Alves, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, known to his friends as "Cacá," for his "great" contribution to the knowledge of fishes of the rio das Velhas basin (Minas Gerais, Brazil, where this species is endemic) and for being one of its first collectors [a noun in apposition, without the genitive "*i*"]

***Characidium caucanum* Eigenmann 1912** *-anum* (L.), belonging to: Cauca River basin, Colombia, where it is endemic

***Characidium chancoense* Agudelo-Zamora, Ortega-Lara & Taphorn 2020** *-ense*, Latin suffix denoting place: Río Chanco, Ansermanuevo, Valle del Cauca, Colombia, type locality

***Characidium chicoi* da Graça, Ota & Domingues 2019** in honor of Francisco Alves Teixeira, nicknamed Chico, retired laboratory assistant (Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Núcleo de Pesquisas em Limnologia, Ictiologia e Aquicultura), with 30+ years' experience in biological material samples and an "excellent partner" in numerous field trips in Brazil, including the collection of this species

***Characidium chupa* Schultz 1944** local name for this species Río Chama at Estanques, Estado de Mérida, Venezuela type locality

***Characidium clistenesi* Melo & Espíndola 2016** in honor of the authors' colleague, Brazilian ichthyologist Alexandre Clistenes de Alcântara Santos, Feira de Santana State University, for his long dedication in researching the natural history of the fishes of Chapada Diamantina, Bahia, Brazil, where this species occurs

***Characidium crandellii* Steindachner 1915** patronym not identified, possibly in honor of geologist Roderic Crandall (1885–?, note spelling), Brazilian Geological Survey, who lived in Boa Vista, Brazil, along the Rio Branco, one of the type localities

***Characidium cricarense* Malanski, Sarmento-Soares, Silva-Malanski, Lopes, Ingenito & Buckup 2019** *-ense*, Latin suffix denoting place: rio Cricaré, Espírito Santo, Brazil, type locality

***Characidium declivirostre* Steindachner 1915** *declivis*, Latin for declining downwards or sloping; *rostre*, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of *rostrum* (L.), snout, referring to obtuse angle of snout, sloping in a straight line from anterior edge of small mouth

***Characidium deludens* Zanata & Camelier 2015** Latin for false or deceitful, referring to "deceitful" vertical bars on body, similar to those on congeners such as *C. fasciatum*

***Characidium dule* Agudelo-Zamora, Tavera, Murillo & Ortega-Lara 2020** named for the Dule (Kuna) ethnic group of Maggilagundiwala or Resguardo de Arquía in Chocó, Colombia, where most of the type specimens were collected (linguistic footnote: the Kuna language is under a high risk of extinction)

***Characidium dumonti* Stabile, dos Reis, Oliveira & da Graça 2025** in honor of Brazilian aeronaut and inventor Alberto Santos-Dumont (1873–1932), regarded by some as the father of aviation; in 1916, Dumont visited the area around the Iguaçu Falls and worked to convince the government to create a natural park there, leading to the establishment of the Iguaçu National Park, type locality of this species and home to many others

***Characidium duplicatum* Armbruster, Lujan & Bloom 2021** Latin for double, referring to two unbranched anal-fin rays

***Characidium etheostoma* Cope 1872** "having much the same coloration of the *Poecilichthys* or *Etheostoma* [Perciformes: Percidae] of North American streams"

***Characidium etzeli* Zarske & Géry 2001** in honor of German veterinarian and killifish aquarist Vollrad Etzel (1944–2012)

***Characidium fasciatum* Reinhardt 1867** Latin for banded, referring to black stripe along body (and perhaps also to its 10–15 dusky vertical bands)

***Characidium fleurdelis* Zanata, Oliveira-Silva & Ohara 2023** named for the similarity of its three-pointed flower-like teeth to a stylized flower called fleur-de-lis

***Characidium geryi* (Zarske 1997)** in honor of French physician and ichthyologist Jacques Géry (1917–2007), for significant contributions to the knowledge of characiform fishes, on the occasion of his 80th birthday

***Characidium gomesi* Travassos 1956** in honor of Alcides Lourenço Gomes (1916–1991), Estacão Experimental de Caça e Pesca (São Paulo, Brazil), who collected many of the paratypes in 1949 and described the similar *C. pterostictum* in 1947

***Characidium grajahuense* Travassos 1944** *-ense*, suffix denoting place: Grajaú, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, type locality

***Characidium hasemani* Steindachner 1915** in honor of American zoologist John D. Haseman (1882–1969), field collector for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, who collected holotype

***Characidium heinianum* Zarske & Géry 2001** *-anum* (L.), belonging to: German freelance ichthyologist Günter Hein, who contributed in many ways to the senior author's collecting trip to Bolivia, including helping to collect holotype

***Characidium heirmostigmata* da Graça & Pavanelli 2008** *heirmós* (εἱρμός), series; *stigmata* (L.), marks or spots, referring to series of black marks on sides

***Characidium helmeri* Zanata, Sarmento-Soares & Martins-Pinheiro 2015** in honor of Brazilian ichthyologist José Luis Helmer, who collected part of the type species, for his pioneer studies on the natural history of the freshwater fishes of Espírito Santo and Bahia (Brazil) since 1976

***Characidium iaquira* Zanata, Ohara, Oyakawa & Dagosta 2020** Tupí word for green, referring to "remarkable iridescent green" coloration of its body in life

***Characidium interruptum* Pellegrin 1909** Latin for interrupted, referring to lateral-line scalation that ends at dorsal-fin origin, comprising only nine scales

***Characidium itarare* Stabile, dos Reis, Frota, da Graça & Oliveira 2024** named for the rio Itararé basin, Paraná, Brazil, where it is endemic; *Itararé* is a Tupí word that means "stone carved by the water," referring to the underground rivers in the region

***Characidium japuhybense* Travassos 1949** *-ense*, Latin suffix denoting place: Japuhyba (Japuíba), Angra dos Reis, Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, type locality

***Characidium jivaro* Zanata, Britzke, Meza-Vargas, Hidalgo, Faustino-Fuster & Oliveira-Silva 2025** named for the Jívaro indigenous people, known for their fight and resistance to the Spanish invasion 500 years ago; nowadays they inhabit mainly the Loreto Department in Peru, where this species occurs

***Characidium kalunga* Melo, Bouquerel, Masumoto, França & Netto-Ferreira 2021** named for the Comunidade Quilombola Kalunga, a "resilient" community of Afro-Brazilians who live in the Chapada dos Veadeiros area of Goiás, Brazil (where this species occurs), helping to protect its natural resources; also, *kalunga* means "sacred place" in the African Bantu language

***Characidium kamakan* Zanata & Camelier 2015** named after the Kamakã indigenous people who originally inhabited lower portion of río Pardo basin, Bahia, Brazil, where this species occurs

***Characidium koerberi* Méttola, Terán, Serra, Aguilera, Montes, Benitez, Alonso, Ruíz Díaz & Mirande 2026** in honor of ichthyologist Stefan Koerber, whose "long-standing contributions to ichthyological systematics, taxonomic databases 'https://pecescriollos.de', and nomenclatural taxonomic rigor advanced the understanding, nomenclatural stability, and distribution knowledge of South American fish taxonomy"

***Characidium krenak* Oliveira-Silva, Santos, Lopes & Zanata 2022** named for the Krenák indigenous people (also known as Aimorés, Grén or Krén) who nowadays inhabit a small area on the left margin of the rio Doce (Minas Gerais State, Brazil), where this species occurs; the Krenák were "victims of constant massacres in the past and are currently impacted by severe environmental alterations"

***Characidium lagosantense* Travassos 1947** *-ense*, Latin suffix denoting place: Lagoa Santa, Minas Gerais, Brazil, type locality

***Characidium lanei* Travassos 1967** in honor of the late John Lane (1905–1963), Brazilian medical entomologist (son of American immigrants), who collected holotype

***Characidium laterale* (Boulenger 1895)** Latin for of the side, referring to black line on side that extends from tip of snout, through eye, to base of caudal fin

***Characidium lauroi* Travassos 1949** in honor of the Travassos' father, helminthologist-entomologist Lauro Travassos (1890–1970), who collected holotype

***Characidium lilloi* Terán, Méttola, Alonso, Montes, Méndez-López, Miranda, Aguilera & Mirande 2026** in honor of Argentine naturalist Miguel Lillo (1862–1931), a "pioneer who recognized the importance of public investment in science and education," donating his "personal assets before his death, ensuring the continuity of his legacy through several key institutions. … all of which have played significant roles in the development of science and education in Argentina"; the name "not only pays tribute to Lillo's contributions but also honors the dedication of public workers in Argentina who promote and contribute to the progress of science, education, and technology"

***Characidium littorale* Leitão & Buckup 2014** Latin for of the seashore, referring to distribution in coastal drainages between the Serra do Mar (Brazil) and the Atlantic Ocean

***Characidium longum* Taphorn, Montaña & Buckup 2006** Latin for long, referring to its extremely elongate body

***Characidium macrolepidotum* (Peters 1868)** *macro-*, from *makrós* (μακρός), long or large; *lepidōtós* (λεπιδωτός), scaly, allusion not explained in Peters' one-paragraph description; perhaps he believed it had larger scales than other *Leporinus* (Anostomidae), the genus to which he had erroneously assigned it

***Characidium mariposita* Méttola, Terán, Serra, Aguilera, Montes, Benitez, Alonso, Ruíz Díaz & Mirande 2026** vernacular name in Argentina and Uruguay (where it occurs) for species of *Characidium*

***Characidium marshi* Breder 1925** in honor of Richard Oglesby Marsh (1883–1953), engineer, American diplomat and amateur ethnologist, for his financial support of the Marsh-Darien Expedition to Panama in 1924

***Characidium mirim* Netto-Ferreira, Birindelli & Buckup 2013** Tupí word for small, being the smallest known species in the genus

***Characidium nambiquara* Zanata & Ohara 2020** named for the Nambiquara Indians who inhabit the Guaporé Valley (Mato Grosso, Brazil), where this species occurs (in Tupí, *nambiquara* means pierced ear, *nambi*, ear; *quara*, hole)

***Characidium nana* Mendonça & Netto-Ferreira 2015** in honor of Mariana Barreira Mendonça, the senior author's sister, known by her family and friends as "Naná" [a noun in apposition, without the genitive "*ae*"]

***Characidium noelkempffi* Oliveira-Silva, Or, Zanata & Schaefer 2026** in honor of Bolivian biologist and environmentalist Noel Kempff Mercado (1924–1986), for his lifelong dedication to the exploration and preservation of Bolivia's natural heritage; he was killed when his research team inadvertently encountered a clandestine narcotics operation

***Characidium nupelia* da Graça, Pavanelli & Buckup 2008** named for of Nupélia (Núcleo de Pesquisas em Limnologia, Ictiologia e Aqüicultura), for its role in the survey and ecological research of fishes from the Manso Reservoir region (Mato Grosso, Brazil), which led to the discovery of this species

***Characidium occidentale* Buckup & Reis 1997** Latin for western, referring to its distribution to the west of *C. orientale*

***Characidium oiticicai* Travassos 1967** in honor of the late José Oiticica Filho (1906–1964), entomologist, photographer and Travassos' colleague at the Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

***Characidium oblivium* Oliveira-Silva, Sabaj, Schaefer, Oliveira & Zanata 2026** Latin for sunk into oblivion, forgotten, referring to the fact that it "remained undescribed for many years despite being preserved in scientific collections, thus highlighting the often overlooked role of museum collections in harboring hidden biodiversity and the importance of revisiting historical material"

***Characidium onca* Melo, Brito Ribeiro & Lima 2021** *onça*, Portuguese name for the jaguar *Panthera onca*, referring to black spots on bright gold-yellow body (pronounced *õ-sa*)

***Characidium orientale* Buckup & Reis 1997** Latin for eastern, referring to its distribution to the east of *C. occidentale*

***Characidium ortegai* Oliveira-Silva, Britzke, Meza-Vargas, Hidalgo, Faustino-Fuster, Oliveira & Zanata 2025** in honor of in honor of Peruvian ichthyologist Hernán Ortega, for his "significant" contributions to the knowledge of Peruvian fishes, and for being among the first to collect this species

***Characidium papachibe* Peixoto & Wosiacki 2013** *papa-chibé*, a name traditionally associated with people from Pará, Brazil (type locality), named in their honor

***Characidium pellucidum* Eigenmann 1909** Latin for translucently clear, described as "pellucid in life" and resembling the North American percid *Ammocrypta pellucida*

***Characidium phoxocephalum* Eigenmann 1912** point-headed, from *phoxós* (φοξός), pointed or tapered, and *kephalḗ* (κεφαλή), head, probably referring to more-pointed snout compared with the similar *C. caucanum*

***Characidium pteroides* Eigenmann 1909** *-oides*, Neo-Latin from *eī́dos* (εἶδος), having the form of: meaning not explained, perhaps alluding to the lionfish genus *Pterois* and/or to the word *pterón* (πτερόν), wing or fin, referring to its long pectoral fins, which reach the ventrals

***Characidium pterostictum* Gomes 1947** *ptero-*, from *pterón* (πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), wing or fin; *stictum*, from *stiktós* (στικτός) spotted, referring to light-brown spots on dorsal fin and variegated caudal fin

***Characidium pumarinri* Teixeira & Melo 2020** named for Pumarinri, a "famous" mountain in the south of the Cordillera Huayhuash in the Departamento de Huánuco, drained by the Río Huallaga on the eastern side of the Peruvin Andes, where this species occurs (from the Quecha *puma*, cougar, and *rinri*, ear, i.e., the puma's ear)

***Characidium purpuratum* Steindachner 1882** Latin for clad in purple, referring to its purple caudal and anal fins

***Characidium rachovii* Regan 1913** in honor of German aquarist Arthur Rachow (1884–1960), who presented holotype to the British Museum (Natural History)

***Characidium roesseli* Géry 1965** in honor of Fritz Rössel, catfish specialist, Naturmuseum Senckenberg (Frankfurt, Germany)

***Characidium samurai* Zanata & Camelier 2014** in honor of the warrior caste of 11th- to 19th-century Japan, specifically their expertise in martial arts, attested today by the term "black belt," referring to the fish's conspicuous midlateral black band

***Characidium sanctjohanni* Dahl 1960** of San Juan (Latinized), referring to Río San Juan, western Colombia, type locality

***Characidium satoi* Melo & Oyakawa 2015** in honor of biologist Yoshimi Sato, Companhia de Desenvolvimento dos Vales do São Francisco e do Parnaíba (CODEVASF), for his contributions to the knowledge and conservation of the fishes of the Rio São Francisco drainage, where this species occurs

***Characidium schindleri* Zarske & Géry 2001** in honor of ichthyologist Otto Schindler (1906–1959), Zoologische Staatssammlung München, who collected holotype in 1953

***Characidium schubarti* Travassos 1955** in honor of German-born myriapodist Otto Schubart (1900–1962), Estação Experimental de Biologia e Piscicultura do Ministério de Agricultura (São Paulo, Brazil), who collected holotype

***Characidium serrano* Buckup & Reis 1997** Portuguese for "inhabitant of the serras," referring to high plateau where rio Uruguay headwaters (where this fish occurs) are located

***Characidium steindachneri* Cope 1878** in honor of Austrian ichthyologist Franz Steindachner (1834–1919), "who has added much to our knowledge of the fishes of the Amazon" and from whom Cope has "derived much instruction in this department from his very full diagnostic analyses"

***Characidium sterbai* (Zarske 1997)** in honor of Czech-born aquarist and zoologist Günther Sterba (1922–2021), University of Leipzig, on the occasion of his 75th birthday

***Characidium stigmosum* Melo & Buckup 2002** Latin for full of marks, referring to vertically oriented black marks on sides of body

***Characidium summum* Zanata & Ohara 2015** Latin for uppermost, highest or topmost, referring to the high altitude where it occurs, near Pico Tracoá, higher than 1100 m above sea level in the Serra dos Pacaás Novos, Rondônia, Brazil

***Characidium tapuia* Zanata, Ramos & Oliveira-Silva 2018** named for the Tapuia people who originally inhabited the area (upper and middle portions of the rio Parnaíba basin, Maranhão and Piauí states, Brazil) where this species occurs; *tapuia* is the Tupí word for barbarous and enemy

***Characidium tatama* Agudelo-Zamora, Tavera, Murillo & Ortega-Lara 2020** named for Tatamá National Natural Park (Chocó, Colombia), where most of the type specimens were collected (*Tatamá* in Embera-Chamí language means "grandfather of the rivers")

***Characidium tenue* (Cope 1894)** Latin for thin or slender, allusion not explained, probably referring to its very slender body

***Characidium timbuiense* Travassos 1946** *-ense*, Latin suffix denoting place: Timbuí River basin, Espírito Santo, Brazil, where type locality (Córrego Valsungana, a tributary) is situated

***Characidium travassosi* Melo, Buckup & Oyakawa 2016** in honor of the late Haroldo P. Travassos (1922–1977), physician-ichthyologist, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), for his contributions to the taxonomy of the genus *Characidium*

***Characidium tupi* Zanata & Oliveira-Silva 2025** named for Tupi, a legendary character from the Tupi-Guarani mythology, the root to many indigenous nations within Brazil (e.g., Tupiniquim, Tupinambá), the language heard by the sailors when Pedro Álvares Cabral's fleet arrived in Brazil around 1500, and one of the most important spiritual and cultural influences in the country

***Characidium urucum* Uzeda, Stabile, Reis, Sartori, Pavanelli, Margarido & da Graça 2026** Tupí common name for *Bixa orellana*, a plant native to tropical America known for the intense red hue of its seeds, which have traditionally been used by South American indigenous peoples as condiments, pigments, and body paint, referring to "intense red hue" on body and head of living adults

***Characidium varii* Zanata, Oliveira & Oliveira-Silva 2024** in honor of Richard P. Vari (1949–2016), National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C., USA), for his "friendship, mentoring, and outstanding contribution" to the systematics of South American freshwater fishes

***Characidium vestigipinne* Buckup & Hahn 2000** *vestigium* (L.), vestige; *pinne*, Neo-Latin adjective of *pinna* (L.), fin, i.e., finned, referring to its reduced adipose fin

***Characidium vidali* Travassos 1967** in honor of geologist-paleontologist Nei Vidal, Travassos' colleague at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

***Characidium wangyapoik* Armbruster, Lujan & Bloom 2021** Patamona (Amerindian people native to the Pakaraima Mountains of Guyana and northern Brazil) name for this species, from *wang*, honey, and *yapoik*,

seated, perhaps (per the authors) referring to its yellowish color (might the *yapoik* part of the name refer to its benthic behavior, i.e., "seated" on the bottom?)

***Characidium xanthopterum* Silveira, Langeani, da Graça, Pavanelli & Buckup 2008** yellow-finned, from *xanthós* (ξανθός), yellow, and *pterón* (πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), wing or fin, referring to its bright-yellow fins in life

***Characidium xavante* da Graça, Pavanelli & Buckup 2008** named for Xavante, an indigenous ethnic group inhabiting the region between Rio das Mortes and Rio Culuene (Mato Grosso, Brazil), where this species occurs; type locality (Córrego Vivanta, a stream) is also named for this group

***Characidium zebra* Eigenmann 1909** referring to its zebra-like markings, ~10 crossbands, sometimes doubling on the sides, giving the appearance of many narrow bands

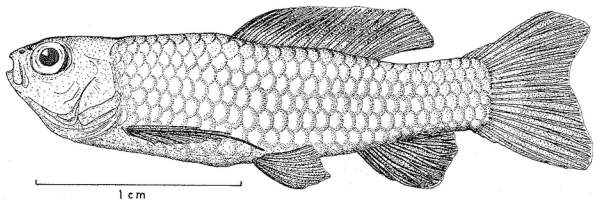
Elachocharax

Myers 1927

élacho (ἐλαχύς), small or insignificant, presumably referring to small size (22 mm) and/or small mouth of *E. pulcher*, "with scarcely any gape"; *Charax*, typical genus of the Characiformes, from *chárax* (χάραξ), a pointed stake of a palisade, referring to densely packed sharp teeth, now a common root-name formation in the order

***Elachocharax geryi* Weitzman & Kanazawa 1978** in honor of French physician and ichthyologist Jacques Géry (1917–2007), "whose enthusiasm for the study of characoid fishes of South America has been especially expressed in his publications on members of the Characidiinae"

***Elachocharax junki* (Géry 1971)** in honor of Amazon-floodplain ecologist Wolfgang Junk (b. 1942), who helped collect holotype



Elachocharax junki, holotype, 23.5 mm SL. From: Géry, J. 1971. Une sous-famille nouvelle de poissons Characoides Sud-Américains: les Geisleriinae. Vie et Milieu, Série C, Biologie Terrestre 22 (1): 153–166.

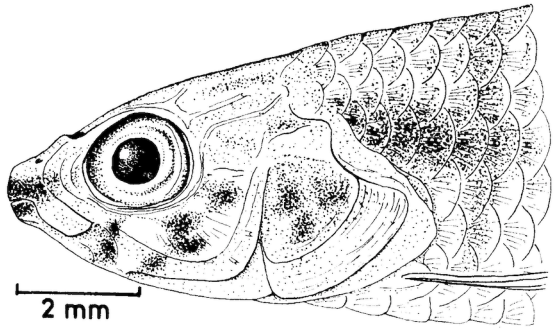
***Elachocharax mitopterus* Weitzman 1986** thread-finned, from *mítos* (μίτος), thread, and *pterus*, from *pterón* (πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), wing or fin, referring to long thread-like rays of pectoral fin

***Elachocharax pulcher* Myers 1927** Latin for beautiful, a "pretty little species"

Klausewitzia

Géry 1965

-ia (L. suffix), belonging to: German ichthyologist Wolfgang Klausewitz (1922–2018), Naturmuseum Senckenberg (Frankfurt), in honor of their friendship



Klausewitzia ritae, head of holotype, 23.4 mm SL. From: Géry, J. 1965. Poissons characoïdes sud-américains du Senckenberg Muséum, II. Characidae et Crenuchidae de l'Igarapé Préto (Haute Amazonie). [Fin]. Senckenbergiana Biologica 46 (3): 195–218, Pls. 18, 18a.

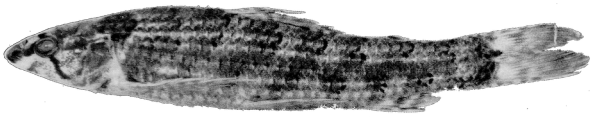
***Klausewitzia ritae* Géry 1965** in honor of Rita Klausewitz (d. 1995), wife of ichthyologist Wolfgang Klausewitz

Leptocharacidium

Buckup 1993

leptós (λεπτός), thin, fine or elegant, referring to relatively elongate snout; *Characidium*, type genus of subfamily

***Leptocharacidium omospilus* Buckup 1993** *hṓmos* (ὦμος), shoulder; *spílos* (σπίλος), mark or spot, referring to dark mark on skin overlaying the cleithrum



Leptocharacidium omospilus, holotype, 65.2 mm SL. From: Buckup, P. A. 1993. Review of the characidiin fishes (Teleostei: Characiformes), with descriptions of four new genera and ten new species. Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters (2): 97–154.

Melanocharacidium

Buckup 1993

mélas (μέλας), black, referring to dark pigmentation of most congeners; *Characidium*, type genus of subfamily

***Melanocharacidium auroradiatum* Costa & Vicente 1994** *auro-*, from *aurum* (L.), gold; *radiatum* (L.), rayed, referring to golden rays on dorsal, anal and caudal fins

***Melanocharacidium blennioides* (Eigenmann 1909)** *-oides*, Neo-Latin from *eĭdos* (εἶδος), having the form of: referring to its blenny-like shape

***Melanocharacidium compressum* Buckup 1993** Latin for squeezed or pressed together, referring to its relatively compressed body form

***Melanocharacidium depressum* Buckup 1993** Latin for pressed down, referring to its relatively depressed body form

***Melanocharacidium dispilomma* Buckup 1993** *di-*, from *dýo* (δύο), two; *spílos* (σπίλος), mark or spot; *ómma* (ὄμμα), eye, referring to two dark marks above orbit, which distinguish it from the superficially similar *M. blennioides*

***Melanocharacidium melanopteron* Buckup 1993** *mélanos* (μέλανος), genitive of *mélas* (μέλας), black; *pterón* (πτερόν), fin, referring to the dark pigmentation of its fins

***Melanocharacidium nigrum* Buckup 1993** Latin for dark or black, referring to the black coloration of its entire body

***Melanocharacidium pectorale* Buckup 1993** Latin for pectoral or of the breast, referring to its disproportionally large cleithra, which ventrally forms a prominent crest across the prepectoral area and extends dorsally considerably beyond the supracleithra

Melanocharacidium pectorale, holotype, 31.5 mm SL. See *Leptocharacidium omospilus* caption for source.

***Melanocharacidium rex* (Böhlke 1958)** Latin for king, presumably referring to its size (102.2 mm SL), large for a characidiine

Microcharacidium

Buckup 1993

micro-, from *mikrós* (μικρός), small, referring to minute size of all species; *Characidium*, type genus of subfamily

***Microcharacidium bombioides* Vieira & Netto-Ferreira 2021** *-oides*, Neo-Latin from *eĭdos* (εἶδος), having the form of: bumblebees of the genus *Bombus*, referring to bee-like color pattern of thick, dark bars, alternated by clear, light areas

Microcharacidium bombioides, holotype, 15.7 mm SL. From: Vieira, L. S. and A. L. Netto-Ferreira. 2021. A new species of *Microcharacidium* (Characiformes: Crenuchidae) from the Central Amazon, Brazil. Canadian Journal of Zoology 99: 57–61.

Microcharacidium eleotrioides **(Géry 1960)** *-oides*, Neo-Latin from *eī́dos* (εἶδος), having the form of: resembling a young sleeper goby (*Eleotris*, Gobiiformes: Eleotridae)

Microcharacidium gnomus **Buckup 1993** Neo-Latin for gnome, a diminutive fabled being, referring to this fish's small size

Microcharacidium weitzmani **Buckup 1993** in honor of American ichthyologist Stanley H. Weitzman (1927–2017), National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C.), "whose interest in miniature fishes led to the description of several small characiforms"; this species is "one of the smallest among these miniatures"

Odontocharacidium

Buckup 1993

odonto, Neo-Latin scientific adjective derived from *odoús* (ὀδούς), tooth, referring to presence of maxillary teeth on only known species; *Characidium*, type genus of subfamily

Odontocharacidium aphanes **(Weitzman & Kanazawa 1977)** *aphanḗs* (ἀφανής), invisible, secret or unknown, referring to its "cryptic qualities" in life (e.g., small size, hiding in vegetation, slowly moving from place to place)

Odontocharacidium aphanes, male, 135 mm SL. From: Weitzman, S. H. and R. H. Kanazawa. 1977. A new species of pygmy characoid fish from the Rio Negro and Rio Amazonas, South America (Teleostei: Characidae). Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 90 (1): 149–160.

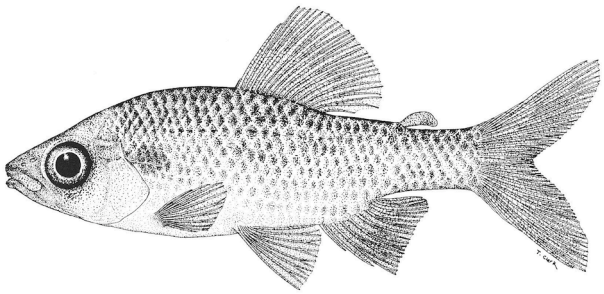
Odontocharacidium varii **Queiroz Rodrigues & Netto-Ferreira 2020** in honor of Richard P. Vari (1949–2016), National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C., USA), who collected holotype in 1985 and was a "constant professional inspiration to the authors"

Skiotocharax

Presswell, Weitzman & Bergquist 2000

skiōtós (σκιωτός), striped in shades (authors say "shaded by gradation in color"), referring to gradation of pigmentation from dorsal (dark) to ventral (pale); *Charax*, typical genus of the Characiformes, from *chárax* (χάραξ), a pointed stake of a palisade referring to densely packed sharp teeth, now a common root-name formation in the order

Skiotocharax meizon **Presswell, Weitzman & Bergquist 2000** *meizōn* (μείζων), comparative of *mégas* (μέγας), i.e., greater or larger, described as "somewhat larger" than another miniature member of its clade, *Odontocharacidium aphanes*



Skiotocharax meizon, paratype, adult male, 30.6 mm SL. Illustration by Tamara Clark. From: Presswell, B., S. H. Weitzman and T. Bergquist. 2000. *Skiotocharax meizon*, a new genus and species of fish from Guyana with a discussion of its relationships (Characiformes: Crenuchidae). Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters 11 (2): 175–192.