

A NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR *ZILCHIOPSIS ORONENSIS*
(PRETZMANN, 1968) (DECAPODA, TRICHODACTYLIDAE)
IN ARGENTINA

BY

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In South America, the freshwater crab genus *Zilchiopsis* is known to be represented by two species, *Z. collastinensis* (Pretzmann, 1968) (restricted to Argentina) and *Z. oronensis* (Pretzmann, 1968) (northern Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil) (Magalhães & Türkay, 1996; Morrone & Lopretto, 2001).

Recent sampling and the detailed examination of a badly classified crustacean collection from the “Florentino Ameghino” Natural Museum of Santa Fe city, Argentina has revealed or confirmed the presence of *Z. oronensis* in the middle Paraná river floodplain. Its distribution has previously been confused by Sørensen, giving wrong references (cf. Magalhães & Türkay, 1996). The holotype corresponds to material from a more austral locality than Magalhães & Türkay (1996) noted, they indicated that, in the Amazon region, the species’ southern-most limit is in Río Apa (22°06’S 57°56’W). However, there are ambiguous data corresponding to Río de Oro, Chaco Argentina (27°S 58°33’W) but the geographic coordinates given do not correspond to that locality (27°S 56°30’W) (Rodríguez, 1992).

The aim of this work is to record the occurrence of *Z. oronensis* and to extend its known southward range to the Paraná river floodplains.

***Zilchiopsis oronensis* (Pretzmann, 1968)**

Diagnosis. — Carapace subcircular, clearly convex in both directions, regions well delimited. Anterolateral borders with 3-4 distinct teeth. Male plp 1 bends following a regular curve, distal end extending beyond subterminal spine field, it is relatively short, about half the length of the spine field (fig. 1). Abdominal somites

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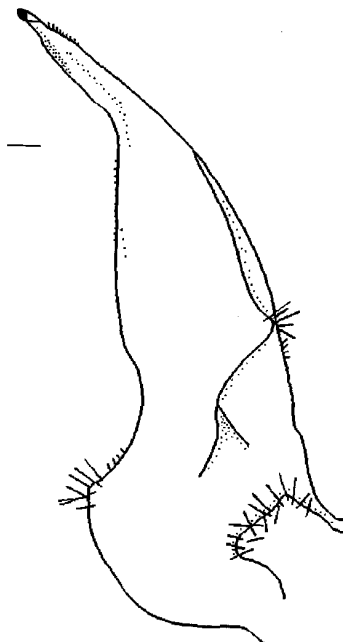


Fig. 1. *Zilchiopsis oronensis* (Pretzmann, 1968) (from the middle Paraná river, Argentina) right male plp I, mesial aspect. Scale 1 mm.

III-VI fused. Thoracic sternum relatively long and narrow; the furrows marking the endosternites do not reach the midline, a median plate occurs exclusively in somites VII and VIII.

Type locality. — Río Paraguay near Riacho del Oro, leg. W. Sørensen.

Previous records. — Brazil: Estado do Amazonas, Estado do Pará, Estado de Rondônia, Estado do Mato Grosso. Bolivia: Departamento Beni, Provincia Yacuma, Río Nareuda, Río Tahuamanu, Río Orthon. Paraguay: Río Apa, Río Paraguay. Unknown locality: Riacho del Oro, Riacho Paloma (Magalhães & Türkay, 1996; Magalhães, 1999) (fig. 2).

Material examined. — Eight male and three female specimens (1 ovigerous female); carapace width 31.0 ± 5.68 mm. Localities: Ubajay stream ($31^{\circ}36'S$ $60^{\circ}34'W$), Setúbal pond ($31^{\circ}35'S$ $60^{\circ}39'W$), Collastiné river ($31^{\circ}37'S$ $60^{\circ}34'W$), Parque del Sur lagoon (Santa Fe city) ($31^{\circ}39'S$ $60^{\circ}42'W$) and Coronda river ($31^{\circ}57'S$ $60^{\circ}54'W$), floodplain Paraná river, Argentina (fig. 2). The material is kept in the reference collection of the Invertebrate Department of the "Florentino Ameghino" Natural Museum of Santa Fe city, Argentina, catalogue N°: MFA - ZI - N°244, 245, 250, 265, and 266, and in the Decapod Laboratory of the "Instituto Nacional de Limnología", Santo Tomé city, Argentina, catalogue N°: B - 5, 6.

New distribution: Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil, and Argentina, southern limit being the Coronda river ($31^{\circ}57'S$ $60^{\circ}54'W$).

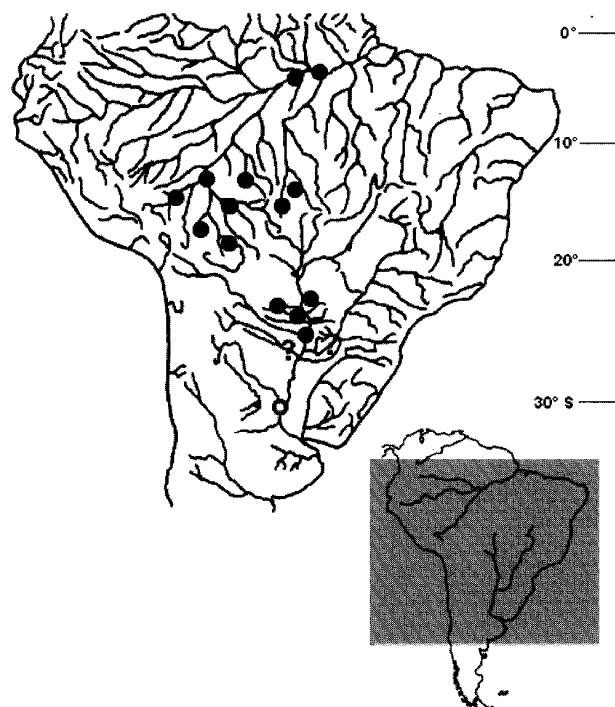


Fig. 2. Distribution map of *Zilchiopsis oronensis* (Pretzmann, 1968). Filled circles: previous records; open circle: new records.

Remarks. — There were a total of eight species of crabs belonging to four families from freshwater environments reported from Argentina, but now it is confirmed that also *Z. oronensis* occurs in the middle Paraná river. The ambiguous data in its distribution due to Sørensen's earlier report, are now trivial, taking into account the newly reported localities to the south of that locality.

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