

A RAY-FINNED FISH (OSTEICHTHYES) FROM THE LATE PERMIAN OF THE STATE OF SANTA CATARINA (PARANÁ BASIN), SOUTHERN BRAZIL

MARTHA RICHTER

Departamento de Geologia, UFRJ, Av. Brigadeiro Trompowski, s/n, Ilha do Fundão,
21.949-900, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil. richter@lead.org.br, richter@vortex.ufrgs.br

ABSTRACT – A new ray-finned fossil fish, *Rubidus pascoalensis* gen. et sp. nov. is described, based on a well-preserved specimen collected from deposits attributed to the Rio do Rasto Formation in northern Santa Catarina. The fish reaches at least 110 mm in length and shows a ‘palaeoniscid’ design. It bears rhomboid scales ornamented with fine longitudinal ridges of ganoin, and minute conical teeth; all fins bear fringing fulcra and there are large sagittal scales dorsally. About five branchiostegal rays are present; the dermosphenotic is interposed between the nasal and the intertemporal bones; intertemporal and supratemporal equivalent in size. There are three suborbitals and a long dermohyal. Opercular slightly larger than the subopercular. Twenty seven scale rows precede the dorsal fin and fourteen the pelvic fin. None of the already described lower actinopterygian fishes from Brazil show the same scale rows count or the same combination of morphological features. This fish shows affinities with the most basal actinopterygians from the Palaeozoic, although it bears a combination of primitive and derived characters.

Key words: Osteichthyes, Actinopterygian, Late Permian, Bacia do Paraná, Brazil.

RESUMO – Um novo peixe actinoptério, *Rubidus pascoalensis* gen. et sp. nov., é descrito com base em um único espécime, bem-preservedo, coletado em rochas atribuídas à Formação Rio do Rasto no Norte de Santa Catarina. O peixe atinge cerca de 110 mm de comprimento e apresenta um padrão morfológico ‘paleoniscóide’. Possui escamas rômbricas ornamentadas com finas estrias longitudinais de ganoina e dentes cônicos diminutos; todas as nadadeiras apresentam fulcras no bordo anterior e grandes escamas sagitais dorsais. Há pelo menos cinco raios branquiostegais; o osso dermosfenótico interpõe-se entre o nasal e o temporal; temporal e supratemporal equivalentes em tamanho; há três suborbitais e o opercular é ligeiramente maior que o subopercular. Vinte e sete fileiras de escamas precedem a nadadeira dorsal e catorze a nadadeira pélvica. Nenhum dos poucos actinoptérios basais paleozóicos descritos para o Brasil mostram a mesma contagem de fileiras de escamas ou a mesma combinação de características morfológicas. O novo peixe mostra afinidades com actinoptérios do Paleozóico médio, embora apresente uma combinação de caracteres primitivos e derivados.

Palavras-chave: Osteichthyes, Actinopterygii, Permiano, Bacia do Paraná, Brasil.

INTRODUCTION

In this paper, it is described a new lower actinopterygian fish contained in a light gray sandstone which has been mapped as the Rio do Rasto Formation (Rosemarie Rohn, personal communication, 2002). The Rio do Rasto Formation further South in the Basin (State of Rio Grande do Sul) was dated in the Late Kazanian-

Early Tatarian (Langer, 1998; Richter & Langer, 1998). The description is based on a specimen, collected by Dr. Henrique Popp (Curitiba) at a quarry in the municipality of São Pascoal, State of Santa Catarina, near the border with the State of Paraná (Figure 1). The Rio do Rasto Formation overlays the Teresina Formation, which originated in an epicontinental shallow sea during the Late Permian. The salinity levels of this sea apparently oscil-