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THE TYPE LOCALITY OF *Laetacara dorsigera* (HECKEL, 1840) AND OTHER SPECIES COLLECTED IN 'VILLA MARIA' IS TODAY KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CÁCERES, BRAZIL

La localidad tipo de Laetacara dorsigera (Heckel, 1840) y otras especies colectadas en 'Villa María' se conoce actualmente como la ciudad de Cáceres, Brasil

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Heckel (1840) described numerous cichlid species collected by Johann Natterer during the Austrian expedition to Brazil. Among those species were *Acara dorsigera* and *Acara crassipinnis* "...from swamps at the río Paraguay near Villa María", the latter also with syntype specimens from other localities. Ever since, this type locality has been cited just as published by Heckel (Kullander, 1983; Casciotta, 1998; Kullander, 2003; Ottoni & Costa, 2009; Eschmeyer *et al.*, 2016). None of these subsequent authors provided details about the whereabouts of Natterer's 'Villa María'. Lanés *et al.* (2010) stated as type locality for *Laetacara dorsigera* "Villa Maria, Paraguay, Paraguay River basin" without justifying why they considered Villa Maria to be located in the country of Paraguay.

More than half a century after Heckel's publication Perugia (1891) reported on specimens shipped to him by Luigi Balzan from "Villa Maria, nella Provincia brasiliana di Matto Grosso, a 15° Lat. S. sul Rio Paraguay". From these specimens, Perugia described *Geophagus balzanii*, *Haplochilus balzanii*, and *Tetragonopterus lineatus* with type locality at 'Villa María'. Modern maps and Google Earth do not show a place called Villa María in the area where the 15°S crosses the río Paraguay. As in the case of Heckel's cichlids no later authors presented further details on the location of Balzan's 'Villa María'.

Another three decades had passed when Miranda Ribeiro (1920) published the description of *Rivulus rondoni*, today considered a junior synonym of *Trigonectes balzanii* (Perugia, 1891), based on specimens "procedentes de Cáceres (antiga Villa-Maria) Matto-Grosso". These data were later repeated by Ihering (1931) and Costa (1990,

2003). Cáceres is located at the left bank of the río Paraguay at 16°04'S (*vide* Google Earth) and thus, very close to the area indicated by Perugia.

Zattar (2015) informed that 'Villa Maria do Paraguai', founded in 1778, has changed its official name four times. In 1780 the village was renamed to 'São Luiz da Villa Maria do Paraguai', then in 1850 to 'São Luiz do Paraguai', in 1874 to 'São Luiz de Cáceres', and finally, in 1938, to the currently valid name of the city of 'Cáceres'. Vanzolini (1993) and Schmutzer (2011) confirmed that Natterer's Villa Maria is the nowadays Cáceres. The latter also informed that from there Natterer shipped 40 fish specimens to Vienna, representing only a small portion of the 1621 fish he collected while travelling during nearly 18 years in Brazil.

With the exception of the authors who commented on *Rivulus rondoni* the aforementioned stepwise name changes from Villa Maria to Cáceres seem to have remained unnoticed by the ichthyological community while it was known early and is currently applied by e.g. ornithologists (Hellmayr, 1923; Tubelis & Tomas, 2003) and herpetologists (Schmidt, 1928).

Future authors might want to follow Miranda Ribeiro (1920) and refer to the type localities of *Laetacara dorsigera* (Heckel, 1840), *Astronotus crassipinnis* (Heckel, 1840), *Astyanax lineatus* (Perugia, 1891), *Gymnogeophagus balzanii* (Perugia, 1891), and *Trigonectes balzanii* (Perugia, 1891) as 'Río Paraguay at Cáceres (formerly Villa María), Mato Grosso, Brazil'. Although 'Villa María' as a type locality was never 'erroneous' but is rather an update than a 'correction', this change is proposed in agreement with recommendation 76A.2. of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999).

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