Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Tatiane C. Mariguela

Unknown affiliation

Google Scholar profile

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement

61	61	24	16
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

Filtering statement — methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper's authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar's known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar's institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar's own circle.

Known limitations — counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight — re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar's own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

83.3% independent of 30 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	25
Self-citation	0
Co-author	5
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total — the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing — how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner's choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim — Contribution 1

The researcher established a robust multilocus phylogenetic framework for the diverse Characidae family, providing a foundational reference for understanding teleost evolutionary relationships through extensive ingroup sampling.

The researcher's primary contribution is the establishment of a comprehensive phylogenetic framework for the speciose Characidae family. This work, anchored by a 2011 publication, utilized multilocus analysis and extensive ingroup sampling to clarify evolutionary relationships within this diverse group of teleost fishes.

This line of work appears to address the challenge of resolving complex phylogenetic histories in highly diverse fish families. By employing multilocus data and broad sampling, the research likely provided a more stable and detailed classification system than previous single-locus or limited-scope studies, offering a critical baseline for subsequent taxonomic and evolutionary inquiries.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation record, with nearly 500 citations indicating widespread adoption by the scientific community. Notably, over 83% of these citations originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has served as a standard reference tool across diverse institutions and research groups, rather than relying on self-citation or local collaboration.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 7 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

Phylogenetic relationships within the speciose family Characidae (Teleostei: Ostariophysi: Characiformes) based on multilocus analysis and extensive ingroup sampling

2011 · 499 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 347 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Biology papers from 2011 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Phylogenetic classification of living and fossil ray-finned fishes (Actinopterygii) (2024)	California Academy of Sciences, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Yale University	United States	—
2	Peixes da planície de inundação do alto rio Paraná e áreas adjacentes: revised, annotated and updated (2018)	Universidade Estadual de Maringá (UEM)	Brazil	—
3	Morphology, molecules and the phylogeny of Characidae (Teleostei, Characiformes) (2019)	Fundación Miguel Lillo	Argentina	Background
4	Opening the Trojan horse: phylogeny of Astyanax, two new genera and resurrection of Psalidodon (Teleostei: Characidae) (2020)	Fundación Miguel Lillo, Instituto de Biología Subtropical (UNaM-CONICET)	Argentina	—
5	Phylogenomics of Characidae, a hyper-diverse Neotropical freshwater fish lineage, with a phylogenetic classification including four families (Teleostei: Characiformes) (2024)	American Museum of Natural History	United States	**Influential**
6	Checklist of the species of the Order Characiformes (Teleostei: Ostariophysi) (2024)	Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Universidade de São Paulo, Uni-	Brazil	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
		versidade Federal da Grande Dourados		
7	Fish Skin and Gut Microbiomes Show Contrasting Signatures of Host Species and Habitat. (2020)	Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), Université Laval	Brazil, Canada	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Contribution 2

Claim — Contribution 2

The researcher advanced the taxonomy of Moenkhausia by describing new species and clarifying the oligolepis complex, establishing a foundational reference for Characidae systematics.

The researcher's contribution centers on the 2009 publication describing new species of Moenkhausia and providing critical comments on the Moenkhausia oligolepis species complex. This work serves as the core reference for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author listed in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address the need for refined taxonomic resolution within the Characidae family. By delineating new species and analyzing the oligolepis complex, the researcher likely provided necessary clarity to a previously ambiguous group, offering a structured framework for identifying and classifying these Characiformes.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 110 citations indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 83.3% of the citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has been widely adopted as a standard reference by peers outside the researcher's immediate circle, thereby validating its broad impact on the field.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3 · **1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar**

CORE PAPER

New species of Moenkhausia Eigenmann, 1903 (Characiformes: Characidae) with comments on the Moenkhausia oligolepis species complex

2009 · 110 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Negative effect of turbidity on prey capture for both visual and non-visual aquatic predators. (2020)	Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Universidade Federal de Goiás, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina	Brazil	—
2	Using Different Methods to Access the Difficult Task of Delimiting Species in a Complex Neotropical Hyperdiverse Group. (2015)	Universidade Estadual Paulista, Universidade Federal de Viçosa	Brazil	—
3	Cryptic species in the Neotropical fish genus Curimatopsis (Teleostei, Characiformes) (2016)	National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Universidade Estadual Paulista	Brazil, United States	**Methodology**

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

Citing-text excerpts — how the field used this work

METHODOLOGY Cryptic species in the Neotropical fish genus Curimatopsis (Teleostei, Characiformes)

"The method has been applied to fishes of multiple genera/families in specific Neotropical river systems (Carvalho et al. 2011; Rosso et al. 2012; Pereira et al. 2013; Escobar-Camacho et al. 2015) as well as studies centred on specific fish families, including the Tetraodontidae (Amaral et al. 2013), Loricariidae (Roxo et al. 2012; Costa-Silva et al. 2015), Lebiasinidae (Benzaquem et al. 2015), Parodontidae (Bellafronte et al. 2013) and Characidae (Benine et al. 2009; Melo et al. 2011; Pereira et al. 2011; Silva et al. 2013; Castro Paz et al. 2014)."

Contribution 3

Claim — Contribution 3

The researcher advanced ichthyological taxonomy by formally describing a new species of Tetragonopterus from northern Brazil, establishing a foundational reference for Characidae biodiversity studies.

The researcher's contribution centers on the formal taxonomic description of a new species of Tetragonopterus from the rio Jari in Amapá, northern Brazil, as detailed in their 2011 publication. This work serves as the primary anchor for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same author expanding directly upon this specific discovery.

This line of work appears to address the need for precise species delineation within the Characidae family, particularly in under-explored regions of northern Brazil. By identifying and characterizing a distinct species, the researcher provided a critical update to the known biodiversity of the Tetragonopterinae subfamily, filling a gap in the regional ichthyological record.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its sustained uptake in the scientific community, with the core paper accumulating 90 citations. Notably, 83.3% of these citations originate from independent researchers, indicating that the work has been widely recognized and utilized by the broader field beyond the researcher's immediate circle, thereby validating its impact on taxonomic and ecological studies.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 3

CORE PAPER

A new species of Tetragonopterus cuvier, 1816 (Characiformes: Characidae: Tetragonopterinae) from the rio Jari, Amapá, northern Brazil

2011 · 90 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	The barcode trap-Description of a new species of Microglanis, with a review of the status of Microglanis cibelae (Siluriformes: Pseudopimelodidae). (2024)	Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (UNISINOS), Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	—
2	Highlighting Astyanax Species Diversity through DNA Barcoding. (2016)	Museu de Ciências Naturais, Fundação Zoobotânica do Rio Grande do Sul, UNESP-Universidade Estadual Paulista, Universidade Estadual de Maringá	Argentina, Brazil	—
3	Species delimitation of neotropical Characins (Stevardiinae): Implications for taxonomy of complex groups. (2019)	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Universidade	Brazil, Colombia	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
		Federal da Integração Latino-Americana-UNILA		

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The **S2** column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Universidade Estadual Paulista	Brazil	THE 601–800	5
Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP)	Brazil	THE 601–800	3
Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	SCImago #99 · THE 201–250 · QS 108	3
Fundación Miguel Lillo	Argentina	SCImago #8943	2
Universidade Federal de São Carlos	Brazil	SCImago #3976 · QS 1001-1200	2
Universidade Estadual de Maringá	Brazil	SCImago #5236 · THE 1501+	2
American Museum of Natural History	United States	SCImago #2740	2
University of Oklahoma	United States	SCImago #1042 · QS =664	2
University of São Paulo	Brazil	THE 201–250	2
California Academy of Sciences	United States	SCImago #7072	2
University of Kansas	United States	SCImago #875 · THE 351–400 · QS =465	2
Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	—	1
Instituto de Biología Subtropical (UNaM-CONICET)	Argentina	—	1
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina	Brazil	SCImago #1945 · THE 1001–1200 · QS 801-850	1
Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	Moçambique	SCImago #7258 · THE 1201–1500	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

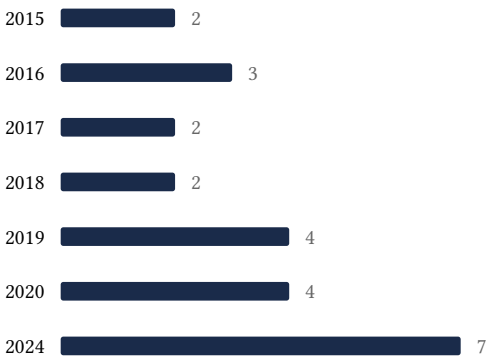
Country	Citing papers
Brazil	21
United States	9
Argentina	5
Spain	3
Germany	3
France	2
Colombia	2
Mexico	1

Country	Citing papers
Moçambique	1
Netherlands	1
Portugal	1
Taiwan	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** — the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- ☐ Self-citations are disclosed and netted out — a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- ☐ Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- ☐ The petition articulates why the citations show major significance — numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- ☐ For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- ☐ Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- ☐ Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- ☐ Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- ☐ Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- ☐ For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- ☐ Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** — persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Phylogenetic relationships within the speciose family Characidae (Teleostei: Ostariophysi: Characiformes) based on multilocus analysis and extensive ingroup sampling	7	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	New species of Moenkhausia Eigenmann, 1903 (Characiformes: Characidae) with comments on the Moenkhausia oligolepis species complex	3	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	A new species of Tetragonopterus cuvier, 1816 (Characiformes: Characidae: Tetragonopterinae) from the rio Jari, Amapá, northern Brazil	3	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)