NEW FISH NAMES AND RECORDS

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(Contribution from The Australian Museum, Sydney.)

In the course of preparing my “Fishes of Australia” the necessity for new names arises from time to time, whilst identification of hundreds of fishes frequently extends the known range of species. Some of the details are mentioned hereunder to clear the way for more general treatment in the main work later. References to literature may be found in Austr. Mus. Memoir v., 1929, in most cases.

The Burramundi (Scleropages) belongs to an order for which no name appears to be available, so that OSTÉOGLOSSOIDEI, ordo nov., is proposed.

The Ocean Silversides (Bathylagus) of Australia should be subgenerically separated. B. (B.) antarcticus (Gunther) has more slender body and more anal rays than B. argyrogaster Norman (Discovery Rept., ii., 1930, p. 273, fig. 4), so Bathylagoides, subg. nov., is proposed for the latter, distinguished by its deeper body and about 13 anal rays.

Neoplotosus waterhousii Castelnau, 1875, and Ostophycephalus duriceps Ogilby, 1899, are evidently synonyms of Cnidoglanis macrocephalus (Cuv. & Val., 1840).

The “Endeavour” trawled a Ladder Conger, Scalano go lateral is Whitley, in South Australia (new record for that State).

Figure 8. Freckled Reef Eel from Queensland.

G. P. Whitley del.

Ophichthys elapsoides Cast. is a new synonym of Chlevastes colubrinus (Boddart).
A small specimen of the eel, Yirrkala chaselingi Whitley, 1940, from Brampton Island, in the National Museum, Melbourne, admits this species to the Queensland fauna.

A Freckled Reef Eel, Lycodontis thysoides (Richardson, 1845), is here figured from a specimen two feet long (No. 307 in the coll. of the Dept. of Harbours and Marine, Brisbane) from off Caloundra, Queensland, Oct., 1950. The general colour is liver-brown with flecks of lighter and darker brown and about four dull brown diffuse patches on posterior portions. Front of head dark purplish brown. A dark grey line above and along anal fin on each side, as shown in middle inset; the dentition of upper jaw is shown to the right of the figure. This eel has a wide Indo-Pacific distribution and is known from eastern and western Australia. It has been named Muraena (Gymnothorax or Lycodontis) thysoides, variously spelt, Thysoides arenata, Muraena griseo-badia and M. prosopheon, the latter form agreeing best with my figured example which was kindly made available by Mr. T. C. Marshall, Government Ichthyologist, Brisbane.

The pipefish called Syngnathus vercoi by Waite & Hale in 1921 is a Parasyngnathus, but deserves a new subgeneric name, Vanacampus, because it has a much shorter snout than the genotype and a very low number of dorsal rays (18 to 20). Rings 16 to 17 plus 41 to 43. Subdorsal rings, 5 to 6, all on tail.

Pipettella, a new subgenus of Stigmatopora, is proposed for S. nigra Kaup, 1856, because it has a shorter snout than S. argus, and there is great sexual dimorphism, females having the body much expanded and keeled at the sides, twice as broad as deep. See also Kaup, Cat. Loph. Fish. Brit. Mus., 1856, p. 53.

In the Order Berycoidei, the new family name Paradiretmidae is proposed for Paradiretmus, a genus with deep maxilla, but differing from Diretmidae in having spines preceding the dorsal and anal fins. Paradiretmus circularis Whitley, 1948, has been found washed up on Narrabeen Beach, near Sydney, N.S.W.; new record for Australia.

The family Trachichthyidae may be split into subfamilies as follows:—

(a) Vent well behind the ventral fins.
(b) Eight dorsal spines. Preopercular spine enlarged. Scales very small. Last dorsal spines decreasing in height—Gephyroberycinae, subf. nov.
(bb) Less than eight dorsal spines, increasing in height backwards.
(c) Anal fin with three spines. Fins not roughened—Hoplostethinae, subf. nov.
(cc) Anal with two spines; dorsal with three. Fins covered with asperities. Body deep—Trachichthyinae.

(aa) Vent between ventral fins.—Paratrachichthyinae, subf. nov.

A new subfamily Centroberycinae may be separated from Berycinae by its six dorsal spines and less than 20 anal rays; Berycinae have 4 dorsal spines and more than 20 anal rays.

The Ribbon Fish, Trachipterus arawatae Clarke, 1881, may be added to the South Australian list, as a specimen was obtained in Port Lincoln on 13th November, 1939.

The Scaldfish, Arnoglossus fisoni Ogilby, 1898, comes down, rarely, to Port Jackson. New record for New South Wales.

In 1935, I collected 38 specimens of Arnoglossus tenius Gunther, 1880, 2½ to 3½ inches long, from about 5 fathoms off Lindeman Island, Queensland. New record for Australia.

The Rev. W. S. Chaseling caught a small Aesop Sole, Aesopia heterorhinos (Bleeker, 1856), at Yirrkala about ten years ago; new record for the Northern Territory. This species may also be added to the Western Australian list, as Dr. Paul Chabanaud has identified one (No. E.2487) from between Cape Naturaliste and Geraldton, W.A.; 20 to 100 fathoms (F.I.V. "Endeavour").
A variety of the Textile Sole (Aseraggodes haackeanus ramsaii Ogilby) from Lord Howe Island also occurs in New South Wales (Pittwater and Port Jackson—new records); it has the upper eye in advance of the lower and slenderer interorbital than the South Australian type of haackeanus Steind., 1883.

The Peacock Sole, Pardachirus pavoninus (Lacepede, 1802), has been collected in the Melville Bay and Cape Arnhem areas; new record for the Northern Territory.

Quirichthys is a new generic name in Melanotaeniidae which I propose to replace my Quiris (Rec. Austr. Mus., xxii., 1950, p. 239) preocc. in Hymenoptera by Quiris Pate. 1946, according to the Zoological Record for that year, just to hand. Monotypic fish species: Quirichthys stramineus (Whitley).

Coming now to the mullets, Mugil gelatinosus Klz., M. occidentalis Cast., M. marginalis De Vis, and, probably, M. mulleri Klz., are synonyms of M. dobula Gunther, our commonest commercial species.

*Mugil splendens* De Vis equals *Oedalechilus cirrostomus* (Bl. Schn.). *Moolgara (Planiliza) ordensis* Whitley, 1945, may be recorded from the Northern Territory, as I have identified small examples from Melville Island and Darwin.

*Mugil convexus* De Vis is Moolgara argentea (Quoy & Gaimard), teeth having wrongly been described as present.

The toothed Mugilidae, such as *Trachystoma*, *Myxus* and *Aldrichetta*, may be separated as Myxinidae, subfam. nov.

A large Rudder Fish, *Centralophus maoricus* Ogilby, 38 inches long, was recently presented to the Australian Museum by C.S.I.R.O. Division of Fisheries from Triabunna. This is a new record for Tasmania.

The Australian Bass, genus *Percolates*, was placed in the family Moronidae in Jordan’s “Classification of Fishes”, 1923, p. 191, but *Morone* Mitchell, 1814, is typically an American fish. Superficially the two genera are surprisingly similar, but there are some fundamental differences as follows:

A. Maxillary long, with distinct supplemental bone. Preorbital narrow serrated. Head mostly naked above. Tongue toothless. Lateral line strongly curved anteriorly—*Percolates*.

AA. Maxillary shorter, without supplemental bone. Preorbital deeper, entire. Head scaly above to nostrils. Tongue with toothed edges. Lateral line almost straight—*Morone*.

*Percolates* seems much nearer *Macquaria* Cuv. & Val., 1830, so, after direct comparison of Australian *Percolates* and American and European *Morone* and checking with literature, I provide the new family name Macquiriidae for the Australian Bass and Macquarie Perch. Otherwise *Percolates* would have to be merged in the unsatisfactorily defined “Oligoridae”, Epinephelidae and Serranidae of authors which, if combined into one family, would be better known as Anthiidae, after *Anthias*, the longest founded genus in any of them. For the purposes of my “Fishes of Australia”, however, I group the perch-like fishes in the following families:

MACQUARIIDAE, nov. for *Percolates* and *Macquaria*.

PECTROPLITUDEAE, nov. for *Plectroplites*.

BOSTOCKIIDAE, nov. for *Bostockia*.

MACCULLOCHELLIDAE for *Maccullochella* (?—*Oligorus*, preocc.).

EPINEPHELIDAE for *Acanthistius*, *Centrogenys*, *Polyprionum*, *Plectroplumus*, *Trachyploma*, *Anypodon*, *Epinephelus* and its allies, and *Promicrops*.

CEPHALOPOHILIDAE, nov. for *Cephalopholis*, *Enneacentrus*, *Allothaloperca* and *Vario*.

CHROMILEPTIDAE, nov. for *Chromileptes*.

GRAMMISTIDAE, nov. for *Grammistis*.

RAINFORCEIDAE for *Rainfordia*.

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Which brings us to NANNOPERCIDAE for Nannoperca and Edelia, and OWSTONIIDAE for Owstonia, before the arrangement of Percomorph families in McCulloch’s Check-List can be again resumed.

The characters separating the members of the above families may be found in Boulenger’s “Catalogue of the Perciform Fishes in the British Museum”, 1895, and in later works by Regan, Starks, Jordan, McCulloch, Weber and Beaufort and other authorities.

Epinephelus sufasciatus De Vis and E. geometricus De Vis are synonyms of E. marginalis Bloch. Enneapterygius aurantius (Cuv. & Val., 1828) and E. leopardus (Lacepede, 1802), may be added to the Australian list. A Queensland example of the former came from Holbourne Island. The Australian Museum has examples of leopardus from Murray Island, Beaver Reef, and other parts of Queensland between 17 and 19 degrees S. Lat.

In reviewing the Soldier Fishes of the family Apogonidae for the “Fishes of Australia”, I have noted more synonyms than novelties. Apogon chrysurus Ogilby, 1889, from Lord Howe Island is to be recorded from Australia on the basis of some Port Jackson specimens. Apogon doryssa Jordan & Scale, 1906, has been identified from Hayman Island, Queensland; another new record for Australia unless it be the opposite sex of Zoramia leptacanthus. Apogon darnleyensis (Alleyne & Macleay, 1877, as Apogonichthys) was based on a small fish now known to be very common in tropical Australia. The type has kindly been made available for study by Mr. J. R. Henry, Curator of the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney. The species is here figured from a half-grown example trawled off Bowen, Q., by the F.I.V. “Endeavour”. It has fewer I. lat. scales than the type and no predorsal scales instead of two. Synonyms of darnleyensis are: Apogon breviceudatus Weber, A. opercularis Macleay (type seen), Amia berthae Ogilby, and probably Apogonichthys roseobrunneus Macleay and Apogon simplex De Vis. I have seen numerous specimens from W.A., Q. and N. Territory.

Figure 9. Soldier Fish, Apogon darnleyensis, from off Bowen, Queensland.

The new name *Apogon regani* is now suggested for *Apogon punctatus* Regan (Trans. Linn. Soc., Lond. (2), Zool. xii., 3, May, 1908, p. 225, pl. 24, fig. 1. Indian Ocean) preocc. by Klunzinger, Sitzungs b. Akad. Wiss. Wien, lxxxi., 1, 1879, p. 345, pl. 3, fig. 3, from Western Australia.

When recently trawling in Moreton Bay with Mr. T. C. Marshall, I obtained several *Apogonichthys poecilopterus* (jCuv. & Val., 1828); years before the “Endeavour” trawled other examples off Gloucester Head and Bowen, farther north in Queensland, but this is the first time the species (identified from Weber and Beaufort’s account) has been recorded from Australia.

I may note that “*Apogonichthys* guttulatus” Alleyne & Macleay is a *Fodifoa*. The types in the Macleay Museum are extremely like *fistulosa* Weber & Beaufort, 1929, but have the I. lat. completely tubed; they show the characteristic internal luminescent canals which were not known in Macleay’s days.

*Adenapogon woodi* McCulloch is evidently conspecific with *cephalotes* (Castelnau, 1875).

The family Howellidae might well be renamed Sphyraenopsidae, nov. *Sphyraenops* (Gill) Poey, 1861, apparently has as synonyms: *Howella* Ogilby, 1899, *Galeagra* Heller & Snodgrass, 1903, *Rhectogramma* Norman, 1930, and *Schistoperca* Fowler, 1943; possibly also the fossil *Praegaleagra* David, 1946?

*Sillago hostockii* Castelnau, 1873, is evidently a synonym of *schomburgkii* Peters, 1865; and *S. fraseri* Whitley equals *bassensis*.

The Whitefish, Queenfish or Skinnyfish, *Chorinemus lyan*, or “Giant Dart” of the Brisbane markets, is common in tropical Australia. The figure shows an 8-inch specimen from Port Curtis, Q. (Austr. Mus. no. IA.4601) with gill-rakers 2/1/9; D. i plus vii/17; A.ii/i, 15; P. 19, small oval scales and ventrals shorter than pectorals. From Darwin I have identified another Queenfish, *Scomberoides tolooparah* (Ruppell, 1829), a new record for the Northern Territory.

Figure 10. Whitefish, *Chorinemus lyan*, from Queensland.

Regificola parilis Whitley is apparently the elongate, adult form of the deep-bodied species called Seriola simpex by Ramsay & Ogilby; it may now be called Regificola simplex.

Melbuanella mulleri (for refs. to which see Mem. Qld. Mus., xi., 1937, p. 132) is evidently generically and specifically synonymous with Latridopsis forsteri Castelnau, 1872.

Devisina quinquedentata (McCulloch, 1926) was dredged off Cane-thamea Point in 1929. New record for Western Australia for this Pseudochromid, which has also been reported from the Riu Ki Islands (Aoyagi, Coral Fishes, i., 1943, p. 102).

Plectorhinchus fangi is a new name for P. cinctus punctatus Fang (Bull. Soc. Zool., France, 67, 1942, p. 81, China) anticipated by Diagramma punctatum Cuv. & Val. (Hist. Nat. Poiss., v., 1830, p. 302), which is a Plectorhinchus according to modern authors.


Two wrasses new to Australia have been determined from Beaufort’s eighth volume of the “Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago”. They were trawled in Moreton Bay, Q., in October, 1950. One, Cheilinus bimaculatus Cuv. & Val. (Hist. Nat. Poiss., xiv., “1839”-Jan., 1840, p. 96, Sandwich Is.), 165mm. in total length, agrees with the figure in Bleeker’s “Atlas Ichthyologique” (i., pl. 28, fig. 4) as ceramensis. The other, 200mm. long, is Lepiscaurus caeruleo-punctatus (Ruppell, 1835).


The yellow-eyed mullet, Aldrichetta forsteri nonpilcharda, subsb. nov. was described and figured in Austr. Zool., xi., 1945, p. 19, fig. 1.

It has fewer gill-rakers (less than 30 instead of more than 40 on lower half of first arch) and fewer scales (about 40 to 50 instead of about 60 between head and hypural) than typical New Zealand forsteri.

The porcupine fish Chilomycterus grandoculis Ogilby, 1910, is synonymous with Tragulichthys jaculiferus (Cuvier, 1818).

Genus Ferdania Jordan, Evermann & Tanaka, 1927.

Ferdania indemanensis, sp. nov.

D. viii./33; A. ii./27; P. t., 22. L. lat. 71 on curved plus 45 on straight portion, of which about 28 are scutes. Gill-rakers 9/20.

Head (52 mm.), 3/7; depth (87), 2.2 in L.C.F. (195). Eye, 13 mm.; postorbital, 23; snout, 16; maxillary, 19; interorbital, 19; preorbital, 8; L. lat. curved part, 74, and straight part, 58; depth between first dorsal origin and ventrals, 76; base of second dorsal, 78; base of anal, 68; length of pectoral, 71; length to middle of caudal peduncle, 165.

General facies as in McCulloch’s figure (Mem. Qld. Mus., viii., 1924, p. 74, pl. xii.) of “Caranx” laticaudis, but that Papuan species has breast more scaly on the sides, no lobe on soft dorsal fin, fewer rays and smaller adipose eyelids than my new species.

Form deep, compressed, upper profile more convex than lower. Prominent scaly sheaths to soft dorsal and anal fins. Scutes occupy more than half straight portion of L. lat., which is feebly arched anteriorly, the straight beginning below 18th dorsal ray. Depth of scutes (4 mm.) deepest near middle of caudal peduncle, nearly half depth of latter. Anal spines vestigial.
Maxillary reaching below anterior third of eye. Lips coriaceous. Pores along each side of chin. Teeth in bands in both jaws, granular to conic; a few outer upper teeth slightly enlarged. Patches of teeth on vomer and palatines. Gill-rakers moderate, not protruding into mouth. Breast, in advance of a C-shaped boundary of scales before the pectoral and ventral fins, naked. Colours faded in spirit to silvery yellow with no markings; edge of caudal dusky.

Described from the holotype specimen, about nine inches long. Austr. Mus., regd. no. IA. 7491.

Loc.—Lindeman Island, Queensland; Capt. A. S. Nicolson, 1937.

Distinguished by its numerical characters, particularly the very high number of fin-rays, also by having a falcate lobe to both soft dorsal and anal fins, deep body, and low curve of lateral line. Nearest Ferdausia laticaudis (Alleyne and Macleay, 1877) from Papua, but differs as described above.

NEW GENERIC NAMES

Further study of Neave's Nomenclator Zoologicus (q.v. for references to literature), especially volume v., indicates the necessity for the ensuing changed names, due to preoccupation of the genera listed more or less alphabetically below. (The dashes signify "equals").


Allophallus Hubbs, 1936 — Carlhubbsia, nov. (Cyprinodontidae, Poecilop- sinae). Type, C. kidderi Hubbs.


Herklotsella Fowler, 1934 — Herklotsichthys, nov. (Clupeidae). Type, Harengula dispilonotus Bleeker.

Pluto Hubbs, 1938 — Furmastix, nov. (Synbranchidae). Type, F. infernalis (Hubbs).

Typhlias Hubbs, 1938 — Typhliasina, nov. (Brotulidae). Type, T. pearsei (Hubbs).

Zelotes Jordan, 1921, was renamed Zelotichthys by Jordan in 1925 before Strand proposed Selota in 1942.

Noriona Strand, 1942, is a synonym of Prodtor Whitley, 1940.

Lobodus Costa, 1866 — Taenarus, nov. (Sparidae). Type, T. pedemontanus (Costa).


Eutromodus White & Moy-Thomas, ibid., p. 400, preocc. — Enniskillen, nov. (Cochliodontidae). Type, E. convexus (Davis).

Imhoffius Chadanaud, 1940, not Imhoffia Heer, 1849 — Imhoffichthys, nov. (Bothidae). Type, I. luetianus Chadanaud.


Sparosoma Sauvage, 1883, non Sparisoma — Rhamnubia, nov. (Sparidae). Type, R. ovalis (Sauvage).

Lobopterus Kramberger, 1893, non Loboptera — Dictynopterus, nov. (Bery- cidae). Type, D. pectinatus (Kramberger).

Lophaspis Brotzen, 1934 — Lophaspiscis, nov. (Heterostraci). Type, L. crenulatus (Brotzen).

Macroburchius Hoffmann, 1916 — Shurcabroma, nov. (Pleiopteraidae, nov. equals Astrolepidae of Jordan’s Classif. Fish., 1923).

Macromastax Beebe, 1933, may be a young Bathylaco.
Marosia Beaufort, 1925 — Marosichthys, nov. (Triacanthidae). Type, M. huismani (Beaufort).
Megalopterus Kner, 1866 — Flugopterus, nov. (Pholidophoridae). Type, F. raibianus (Kner).
Meristodon Sauvage, 1883 — Flugo, nov. (Heterodontidae). Type, F. jurensis (Sauvage).
Micropoeelia Hubbs, 1926 — Recepoeelia, nov. (Cyprinodontidae). Type, R. varae (Eigennann).
Muraenosaurus Osorio, 1909 — Osorina, nov. (Muraenesocidae). Type, O. guentheri (Osorio).
Ninia de Buen, 1931 — Ninigobius, nov. (Gobiidae). Type, Gobius canestrini Ninni.
Oncopterus Steindachner, 1875, not Oncoptera Lacordaire, 1869 — Curioptera, nov. (Rhombosoleidae). Type, C. darwinii (Steind.).
Ophisaurus Valenciennes, 1847, may require a new name. Ref. not seen.
Similarly with Pachyodon Costa and Paralosa Roule.
Pelecyphorus Trautschold, 1890 — Phoebammon, nov. (Coccosteidae). Type, P. obtusus (Trautschold).
Pertica Fowler, 1904 — Victor, nov. (Gerridae). Type, V. filamentosus (Cuv. & Val.).
Platea Steindachner, 1898 — Dadyanos, nov. (Zoarcidae). Type, D. insignis (Steind.).
Prionopleurus Fischer, not Prionopleura — Panteleion, nov. (Semionotidae). Type, P. bronni Fischer.
Psaldostoma Kner, 1865 — Onouphrios, nov. (Characidae). Type, O. caudimaculatus (Kner).
Pseudobatrachus Castelnau — Batrachomoeus Ogilby and Pterophyllum — Platuxoide.
Mr. Tom Iredale recently visited the Mathews Library at Canberra and noted, in S.D.W.’s “Analyst” v. Jan., 1837, amended spellings of fish genera, of which the most important were: (p. 208) Zifias for Xiphias, (209) Lofius for Lophius, (212) Ficis for Phycis [preocc. — G.P.W.], and Ofidion, Amfioxus, etc. Saurus S.D.W. is a Scombresox.