

The *ETY*Fish Project

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COMMENTS: 

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Subcohort PROTACANTHOPTERYGII

protos, first; *acanthus*, spine; *pteron*, fin or wing, ray-finned fishes that lack spines and therefore are presumed to resemble ancestors of spiny rayed fishes

Order ESOCIFORMES

2 families · 4 genera · 15 species/subspecies

Family ESOCIDAE Pikes

***Esox* Linnaeus 1758**

latinized Gaulish word for a large fish from the Rhine, possibly originally applied to a salmon, now applied to pikes

***Esox americanus americanus* Gmelin 1789**

American, distinguishing it from the circumpolar *E. lucius*

***Esox americanus vermiculatus* Lesueur 1846**

referring to “narrow, winding” vermiculations on sides, “closer and more tight” on females (translations)

***Esox aquitanicus* Denys, Dettai, Persat, Hauteceur & Keith 2014**

-icus, belonging to: Aquitaine, region of southwestern France, where it was discovered

***Esox cisalpinus* Bianco & Delmastro 2011**

cis-, on this side; *alpinus*, alpine, referring to its distribution on one side (the Italian) of the Alps

***Esox lucius* Linnaeus 1758**

Latin for pike, referring to its long, pointed snout

***Esox masquinongy* Mitchill 1824**

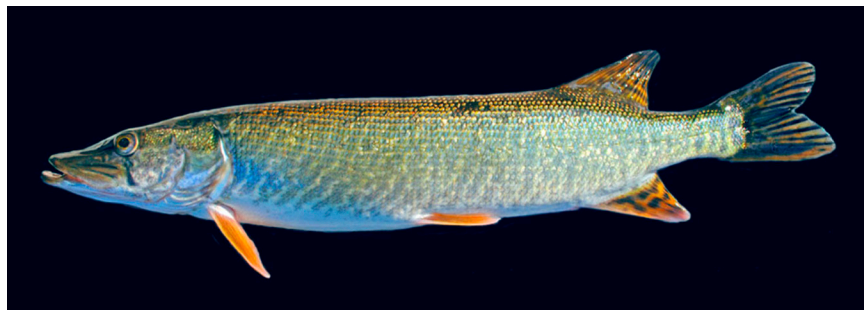
Native American name for this species, from the Ojibway (Chippewa) *mask*, ugly; *kinongé*, fish [due to a bibliographic error, Mitchill’s description had been “lost” since its publication until 2015, when it was rediscovered by Ronald Fricke, upon which it was revealed that Mitchill used a vernacular name instead of proposing a new binomial; Jordan, who searched for Mitchill’s description but never found it, nevertheless treated the name as valid in 1885, a decision accepted by every fish taxonomist ever since; technically, name and/or author and/or date should change depending on first available name (not researched), but prevailing usage may apply]

***Esox niger* Lesueur 1818**

black or dark, referring to its juvenile coloration

***Esox reichertii* Dybowski 1869**

patronym not identified, probably in honor of Dybowski’s anatomy professor Karl Bogislaus Reichert (1811-1883)



Esox aquitanicus. From: Denys, G. P. J., A. Dettai, H. Persat, M. Hauteceur and P. Keith. 2014. Morphological and molecular evidence of three species of pikes *Esox* spp. (Actinopterygii, Esocidae) in France, including the description of a new species. *Comptes Rendus Biologies* 337: 521-534.

Family UMBRIDAE Mudminnows

***Dallia* Bean 1880**

-*ia*, belonging to: malacologist and explorer William Healey Dall (1845-1927), United States Coast Survey, for contributions to the zoology of Alaska

***Dallia admirabilis* Chereshev 1980**

“astonishing or miraculous” (according to published English translation of the original Russian), allusion not explained, perhaps referring to the discovery of *Dallia* in the Amguema River basin (Chukotka, Russia) that differs markedly and occurs a “considerable distance” from the typical *D. pectoralis*, representing the westernmost occurrence of the genus on the Asian continent

***Dallia delicatissima* Smitt 1881**

most delectable; according to Finnish explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld (1832-1901), who led voyage that collected type and made Smitt’s name available in a popular account of the expedition, an “exceedingly delicious” fish, a “veritable delicacy, in taste somewhat resembling eel, but finer and more fleshy” (translations)

***Dallia pectoralis* Bean 1880**

etymology not explained, presumably referring to “rounded and many-rayed” pectoral fins

***Novumbra* Schultz 1929**

novus, new, i.e., a new *Umbra*, or type of mudminnow

***Novumbra hubbsi* Schultz 1929**

in honor of ichthyologist Carl. L. Hubbs (1894-1979), who read Schultz’ manuscript, offered “valuable” suggestions and literature references, and loaned specimens for comparisons

***Umbra* Kramer 1777**

shade or shadow, allusion not explained; according to Valenciennes (1846), name refers to belief among early naturalists that *U. krameri* is rarely seen because it “preferably lives in underground caves where light does not penetrate” (translation) [name first published in 1756 but not available until 1777]

***Umbra krameri* Walbaum 1792**

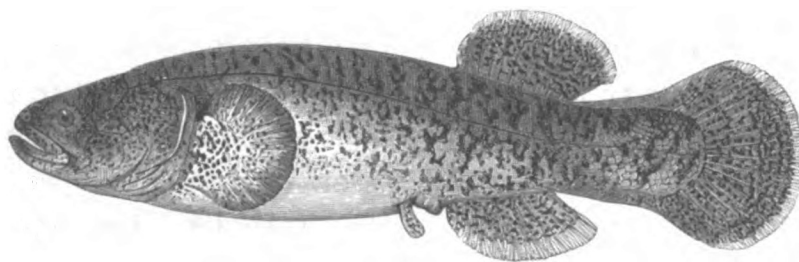
in honor of German physician-naturalist Wilhelm Heinrich Kramer (d. 1765), who proposed genus and this species (as “*Umbra umra*”) in a pre-Linnaean publication (1756)

***Umbra limi* (Kirtland 1840)**

limus, Latin for mud, described from a creek in Ohio (USA), where it “uniformly dwells in soft mud” (it is known to bury itself in mud or sand to avoid capture, hence the vernacular name “mudminnow”)

***Umbra pygmaea* (DeKay 1842)**

dwarf-like, referring to small size (~25.4 mm) of type specimens (now lost), described as a “pigmy dace”



Dallia delicatissima. From: Nordenskiöld, A. E. 1881. *Vegas färd kring Asien och Europa*. Vol. 2. Stockholm: F & G. Beijers Förlag.