

ICHTHYOLOGICAL QUIDDITIES

by G. P. WHITLEY

(Plate XII; Figures 1-2)

Family HEMISCYLLIIDAE

Hemiscyllium hallstromi

Hemiscyllium hallstromi Whitley, Australian Zoologist, 14(2), 1967, p. 178.
New Guinea.

The type-specimens, which are still alive at time of writing (June 1970) in the aquarium at Taronga Zoo, are illustrated on plate xii by permission of the Editor of the *Sun-Herald* (Sydney) newspaper, in whose edition of 20th August, 1967, this photograph first appeared. The holotype male is in the foreground.

Loc.—New Guinea, 1960 (Captain W. Wilding, M.V. "Bulolo").

Family CLUPEIDAE

Genus *Leptogaster* = *Escualosa*.

Leptogaster Bleeker, 1870, Atlas Ichth., 6, pl. 264, fig. 5, published before the text, pp. 102 & 168 (1872). Haplotype, *Clupea argyrotaenia* Bleeker.

Leptogaster Bleeker "has not been used as a senior synonym for over 50 years and is therefore a nomen oblitum", according to Whitehead, Boeseman & Wheeler (1966, Zool. Verhandelingen, 84, p. 70). A more cogent reason for rejecting the name, to my mind, is the fact, shown by Neave's *Nomenclator Zoologicus*, that *Leptogaster* is three times preoccupied by insect names. Bleeker's name is a synonym of my *Escualosa*, hereby reprieved.

Several new generic names appeared for the first time on Bleeker's plates and were missed by later nomenclators. In his *Index Animalium*, Sherborn refused to record names engraved below plates and figures, stating (*Index Animalium*, 1, 1902, p. vii):

"In the case of plates appearing before the text, the date of each is given if ascertainable (e.g., Schreber's 'Saugthiere'), but in no case is the date of a plate accepted in preference to the date of text, for the reasons which follow:-

"The figure depicted on a plate may, or may not, be the drawing intended by the author; it is the work of the artist, who is also responsible for the descriptive legend. In numerous instances the descriptive legend on a plate is quite erroneous, and has been repudiated by the author in his text. Until the text descriptive of a plate appears, the names on the plate must be considered as *nomina nuda*, and it is open to anyone to describe and rename such *nomina nuda*."

Here I diffidently disagree with my old friend. Surely plates and their legends were usually approved before publication by the authors of the books and papers they illustrated. Indeed the fact that P. Bleeker directed the production of his plates is often recorded below the plates themselves, which makes him responsible for the nomenclature thereon. A good figure is often more eloquent than much of the text so that I accept new names on plates. Several such Bleekerian cases are noted here, without upsetting, but rather strengthening, nomenclature.

Genus *Spratella*

Spratella Bleeker, 1870, Atlas Ichth., 6, pls. 266 to 268, figs. and 1871, *ibid.*, pl. 271; Atlas Ichth., 6, text 1872, pp. 110, and 1875, p. 168.

The type-species, by present selection, is *Clupeonia perforata* Cantor, 1850. Bleeker's name is preoccupied by *Spratella* Cuvier & Valenciennes (Hist. Nat. Poiss., 20, 1847, p. 356) and may equal *Fimbriclupea* but final allocation will depend on the current researches of Whitehead and others.

Three genera named *Paralosa*.

(1) Jordan (Genera of Fishes, part 3, 1919, p. 362) wrote, "*Paralosa* Bleeker, —. This name is quoted from Bleeker, but I fail to find it anywhere."

Eureka! References are: *Paralosa* Bleeker, 1868, Versl. Meded. Akad. Amsterd. (2) 2, p. 300 and Atlas Ichth., 6, 1870, pl. 269, fig. 5; 1872, p. 111 *et ibid.*, 1875, p. 168. The type-species is *Clupea melanurus* Bleeker.

(2) *Paralosa* Regan (Ann. Durban Mus., i, 1916, p. 167. Virtual haplotype, *Clupea durbanensis* Regan) was preoccupied by Bleeker, 1868, and was renamed *Hilsa* by Regan, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (8) 19, 1917, p. 303.

(3) *Paralosa* Roule, 1925 (Poiss. eaux douces France, 1925, p. 80—*vide* Neave, Nomencl. Zool., 3, 1940, p. 577). Not listed by Golvan but probably a synonym of *Alosa*.

Family NEMICHTHYIDAE

Genus *Gavialichthys* = *Gavialiceps*

Gavialichthys Golvan (1963, Ann. parasito. hum. et comp., 1962, 37, 6 bis., fasc. suppl. p. 72), nom. nud. is doubtless a lapsus calami for *Gavialiceps* Alcock, 1889, in Nemichthyidae, to the synonymy of which it is hereby consigned.

Family NOTACANTHIDAE

Genus *Gnathacanthonotus* = *Gnathonotacanthus*

Gnathacanthonotus Golvan (1963, Ann. parasito. hum. et comp. 1962, 37, 6 bis., fasc. suppl., p. 73) is an error for *Gnathonotacanthus* Fowler, 1934. The matter may seem too trivial for mention, but when one is compiling an alphabetical list of all fish generic names for a proposed *Genera Piscium* such obstacles require to be demolished.

Family BELONIDAE

Genus *Pomatorrhaphis*

Pomatorrhaphis Bleeker, 1871, Atlas Ichth., 6, p. 43, ex Gunther [MS.]

This generic name is not in Jordan's *Genera of Fishes*, nor in Neave's *Nomenclator Zoologicus*. It was regarded by Mees as a good genus in Belonidae.

Family HOLOCENTHRIDAE

Tuleus, gen. nov.

Paraberyx Casier (1966, Faune ichth. London Clay, p. 182, pl. 24, fig. 2 and text-fig. 34), in the family Holocentridae, is preoccupied by *Paraberyx* David (1946, Carneg. Inst. Publ., 551, p. 103), another genus of fossil fishes. Casier's generic name may be replaced by *Tuleus*, gen. nov., with *Paraberyx bowerbanki* Casier, *loc. cit.*, 1966, as type-species = *Tuleus bowerbanki*, comb. nov.

Genus et species indet.

(Figure 1).

A curious small fish, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, was found years ago in the stomach of a pike (probably *Sphyræna*) from Waterfall Bay, New Britain, South Pacific. C.S.I.R.O. collection (Cronulla, New South Wales) No.A.509. It is not in good condition, is not a true Holocentrid; I have been unable to find anything like it in literature and have not seen a second specimen. It has the following features: D. circa v, 28; A. c. ii, 15; P.?.; V.i, 5. Head about one-third and depth about 2.4 in standard length. Eye $3\frac{1}{2}$ in head. Depth of caudal peduncle about half head. Profiles of head roundly convex. Suborbital very narrow. Mouth undershot. Fine hooked teeth. Maxillary reaches below hind part of pupil of eye. Preoperculum with several serrae, one enlarged at angle. An opercular spine. Two fan-like bones above and slightly behind eyes: from a point over the hinder part of the eye, osseous ridges radiate until the edges of their fans interlock with their fellows along the median dorsal line. Predorsal profile and front of head spinose. Gill-membranes united across narrow isthmus.

Scales minute, about twenty predorsal. Small scales on cheeks, opercles, breast and elsewhere. Lateral line complete, about twelve rows of scales between it and the back. Dorsal spines short, increasing in length backwards. Soft dorsal and anal long-based. Pectoral and ventral fins very small.

Flesh-coloured (in formalin). A few greyish marks near the front arch of the lateral line. Occipital fans yellow. Eye blue.

The *Rhynchichthys* and other stages of Holocentridae have much larger and fewer scales, more dorsal spines, and fewer dorsal and anal rays. Otherwise, the fan-like shields over the head, the large preopercular spine, rugose snout and undershot mouth of the New Britain fish parallel to a remarkable degree those characters in the Holocentrid fishes.

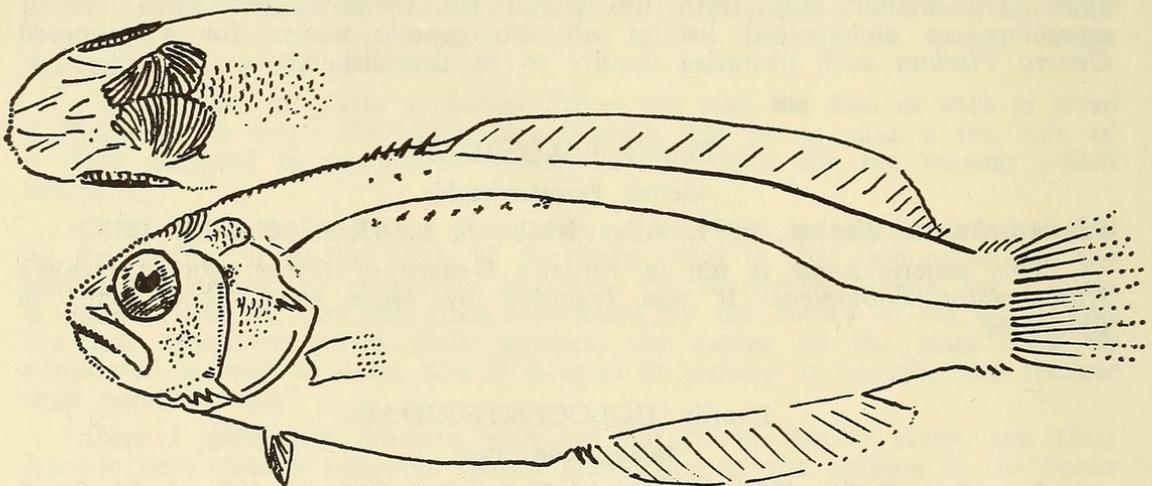


Figure 1.—Gen. et sp. indet., New Britain, South Pacific. Inset: top of head. Sketches, 3 times natural size, by G. P. Whitley.

PROSOSCOPIDAE, fam. nov.

The genus *Prososcopa* Rass (1961, *Zoolog. Zhurnal*, 40 (12), p. 1858. Haplotype, *P. stilbia* Rass from the Java Trench area) evidently requires a new family name, Prososcopidae, as Rass himself suggested (without naming it), "Represents probably a new family, perhaps, of the order Clupeiformes (notwithstanding the high position of P.)".

Eyes cylindrical, directed forwards. Skin naked. Differs from *Gigantura* in the structure of the head, pectorals and unpaired fins; from *Winteria* in the short snout, great width, form of body and absence of adipose fin.

Family POMACENTRIDAE

Machaenichthys and *Mechaenichthys* = *Mecaenichthys*

Machaenichthys Golvan (1963, *Ann. Parasito. hum. & comp.*, 1962, 37 (6 bis), p. 203) and *Mechaenichthys* (*Ibid.*, pp. 120 & 203) are obviously synonyms of my *Mecaenichthys* (Whitley, 1929, *Mem. Qld. Mus.*, 9, pp. 209 & 218).

Family CORIDAE

Coris aygula cyanea

One from Byron Bay in the Australian Museum.
New record for New South Wales.

Family KRAEMERIIDAE

Genus *Kraemicus*

Kraemicus Schultz (1966, *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.*, 202 (3), pp. 4 and 8. Type species, *K. chapmani*) is evidently a synonym of my *Gignimentum* (Whitley, 1933, *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, 19, p. 88) which I placed in the Eleotridae. *Gignimentum* was regarded by Tomiyama (1936, *Jap. J. Zool.*, 7, p. 49) and Koumans (1940, *Zool. Meded.*, 22, p. 170) as congeneric with *Xenisthmus* Snyder (1908, *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, 35, p. 105), originally placed in Gobiidae, but now to be put in the family Kraemeriidae.

Family BLENNIIDAE

My late friend, Henry Weed Fowler (with whom I corresponded on the subject) was going to rename the following two species, but he died in 1965, so I provide new names for them here:

Blennius kossmanni, sp. nov.

New name for *Blennius cyclops* var. *punctatus* Kossman & Ráuber (1877, *Reisen Rothen Meer*, i, Pisces, p. 21. Red Sea), preoccupied by *Blennius punctatus* Quoy & Gaimard (1824, *Voy. Uranie, Zool.*, p. 250) and by Wood (1825, *J. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.*, 4, p. 279).

Salarias fourmanoiri, sp. nov.

New name for *Salarias nitidus* Fourmanoir (1955, *Mem. Inst. Sci. Madagascar* 9A, p. 207, from Comores), preoccupied by *Salarias nitidus* Gunther (1861, *Cat. Fish. Brit. Mus.*, 3, p. 243, from China).

Family SCORPAENIDAE

Yacius, gen. nov.

As foreshadowed in my paper, "Genera Piscium: Work in Progress" (1966, *Austr. Zool.* 13, p. 233), a new name is required for *Acanthodes* Fourmanoir & Crosnier (1964, *Cahiers Orstrom* 6, p. 23) which is preoccupied by *Acanthodes* Agassiz (1846, *Rech. poiss. foss.*, 2, p. 19), a fossil shark. I propose *Yacius* to replace *Acanthodes*, preoccupied, with type-species *Acanthodes fragilis* Fourmanoir & Crosnier = *Yacius fragilis*, comb. nov.

Trachyscorpia (Mesoscorpia) eschmeyeri, nom. nov.

New name for *Scorpaena capensis* Gilchrist & Von Bonde, 1924, preoccupied by Gmelin, 1789 (for refs., see Eschmeyer, 1969, *Occ. Pap. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 79, pp. 50, 100, etc., fig. 5c).

Family TEUTHIDAE

Teuthis xanthopterus

(Figure 2).

Teuthis xanthopterus Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1835, is a commonly seen fish in both northern and southern Papua and is no. 932 of Munro's *Fishes*

of New Guinea, 1967. A painting of it by George Coates reproduced by Halstead (1967, *Pois. Ven. Mar. Anim. World*, 2, pp. 81, 173, 204, 276, pl. xxiv, fig. 4 [the Queensland fish] and pl. xxxi, fig. 1, as *Acanthurus*) indicates that it occurs in north Queensland waters, although it had not before been officially recorded under its proper trivial name from Australia.

The accompanying illustration was drawn from a Norfolk Island example (registered no. IB.6404) in the Australian Museum by Miss Lorraine Carter (now Mrs. L. Zirkzee).

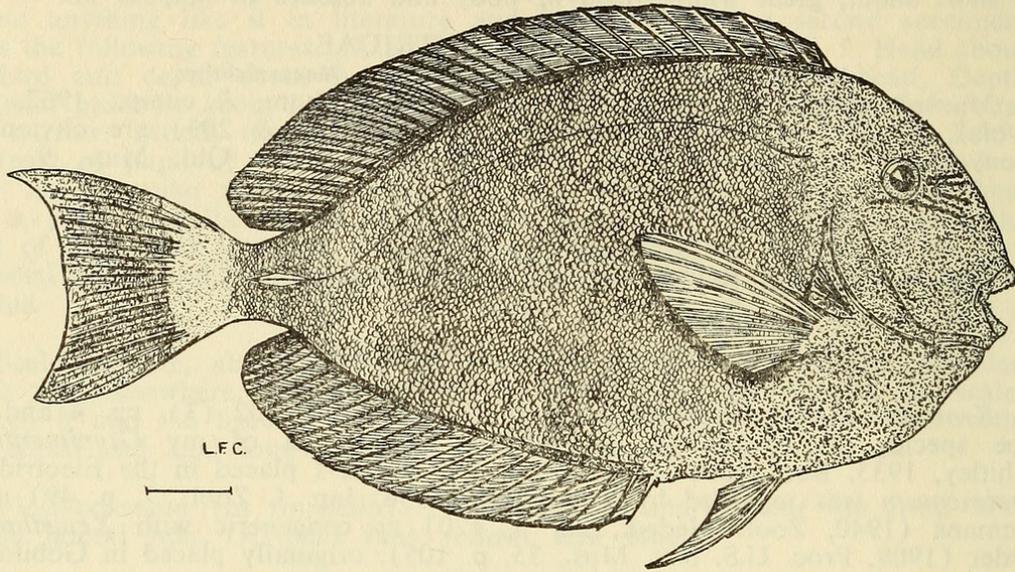


Figure 2.—Surgeon Fish, *Teuthis xanthopterus*. Norfolk Island. Mrs. L. Zirkzee del.

Teuthis maculiceps

Hepatus maculiceps Ahl, 1923, *Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin*, 11, p. 36, fig. 4. New Britain.

D.viii, 27; A.iii, 23 (24); P.ii, 16.

Head (34 mm., measured according to Randall) 3.9, depth (72) 1.8, snout (30) 4.4 in standard length (134). Width of mouth from rictus to rictus (12) 2.8 in head; caudal blade (9 mm.) 3.7 in head. Dental formula 17/17.

Colour in alcohol very dark brown. Traces of light spots on sides of head. A lighter area rings the posterior part of caudal peduncle. Fins dark brown like the body, except distal half or more of pectorals which are pale yellow. A blackish blotch behind uppermost part of gill-opening. Eye blue. Caudal blade with narrow surround of black. A dark blackish band along base of dorsal fins and perhaps a similar one, now faded, for anal fin. Thin white edge to caudal concavity.

Described from a specimen, seven inches long, from Hog Harbour, New Hebrides, collected by the late Professor A. J. Marshall. Australian Museum regd. no. IA.6212.

New record for the New Hebrides.

GALATHEATHAUMATIDAE, fam. nov.

The unique *Galatheathauma* Bruun* (which does not appear, at least to 1965, to have been listed in the *Zoological Record*) requires a new family name, Galatheathaumatidae, in the Order Lophiiformes or Pediculati. It differs from other families of angler fishes in having the luminous lure forked and hanging down from the palate inside the mouth. It has minute eyes near the corner of the mouth and grows to at least 47 cm. in length.

* Bruun, 1953, *Galatheas Jordomsejling*, p. 174, fig. & cover-design of book. Type-species [orthotype], *G. axeli* Bruun from tropical western America. *Id.*, Wolff, 1961, *Galathea Rept.*, 5, p. 137, coloured plate 9. *Id.*, Barry, 1962, *Junior Natural History* (New York), Feb. 1962, pp. 22-23.

Family LAGOCEPHALIDAE

Genus *Uranostoma* (syn. *Contusus*)

Uranostoma Bleeker, 1865, Atlas Ichth., 5, pp. 49, 61 & 63.

Type-species [haplotype], *U. guttata* Bleeker.

Jordan (1919, Gen. Fish. 3, p. 336) says "orthotype not stated" [by Bleeker], but on page 61 of his *Atlas*, Bleeker mentioned *Uranostoma guttata*, his only species, in the synonymy of *Tetraodon hypselogeneion* (Bleeker); both generic and trivial names were from Paris Museum labels, so were evidently from Bibron's manuscripts. Jordan (*loc. cit.*) says, "A synonym of *Spheroides* or of *Tetraodon*", but *T. hypselogeneion* is now considered (*vide* Munro) to be an *Amblyrhynchotes* (vernacular in Bibron, 1855 and latinized by Troschel, 1856, Arch. Naturg., 22(2), p. 88), a preoccupied name discussed by Abe (1952, Jap. J. Ichth., 2 (1), pp. 37 et seq.) and replaced by *Contusus* Whitley (1947, Austr. Zool., 11, p. 147). The orthotype of the latter, *Tetrodon richiei* Freminville 1813 (Nouv. Bull. Sci. Soc. Philom. 3, p. 250, pl. iv, fig. 2), from southern Australia and New Zealand, should now be called *Uranostoma richiei*, comb. nov.



Whitley, Gilbert Percy. 1970. "Ichthyological quiddities." *The Australian zoologist* 15, 242–247.

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