

Case 2595***Anabas oxyrhynchus* Boulenger, 1902 (currently *Ctenopoma oxyrhynchum*; Osteichthyes, Perciformes): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the specific name of the African climbing perch *Ctenopoma oxyrhynchum* (Boulenger, 1902) by the suppression of the senior synonym *C. weeksii* Boulenger, 1896

1. In 1896 Boulenger (p. 310) described *Ctenopoma weeksii*, based on a single specimen from the 'upper Congo' (Zaire) River. I have found that this holotype of *C. weeksii* is a specimen of what has been known as *Ctenopoma oxyrhynchum* (Boulenger, 1902, p. 52), thus making the former name the senior synonym.

2. Subsequent to the description of *C. weeksii* various authors applied the name to specimens of at least five species of *Ctenopoma* whose identities have been verified by me: *C. acutirostre* and *C. ocellatum* (by Boulenger, 1901, p. 337; 1902, p. 51); *C. acutirostre* (by Pellegrin, 1903, p. 220); *C. oxyrhynchum* (by Boulenger, 1901, p. 337); *C. petherici* (by Pellegrin, 1904, p. 311). Boulenger (1916, p. 65) synonymised *C. weeksii* to *C. maculatum* Thomassin, 1886 without making comment.

3. *C. oxyrhynchum* has been widely and correctly used (a list of 10 representative works is held by the Commission Secretariat) whereas *C. weeksii* was frequently incorrectly used and has not to my knowledge been used in any meaningful context since it was synonymised with the wrong species in 1916. No benefit would be gained by resurrecting *C. weeksii* over *C. oxyrhynchum*, and in this case the adherence to the Principle of Priority would result in confusion.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *weeksii* Boulenger, 1896, as published in the binomen *Ctenopoma weeksii*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *oxyrhynchum* Boulenger, 1902, as published in the binomen *Anabas oxyrhynchum*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *weeksii* Boulenger, 1896, as published in the binomen *Ctenopoma weeksii* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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