

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

Steven M. Norris

Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, U.S.A.

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* Thominot, 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.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to D. M. Armitage (MAFF, Pest Infestation Control Laboratory, U.K.) for re-examining the holotype of *C. weeksii* and for providing me with photographs of

the specimen, and to Rudolph J. Miller (Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University) for assistance in this study.

References

- Boulenger, G. A.** 1896. Descriptions of new fishes from the Upper Congo. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, ser. 6, **17**: 309–311.
- Boulenger, G. A.** 1901. *Les Poissons du bassin du Congo*. 532 pp. Publication de l'Etat Indépendant, Bruxelles.
- Boulenger, G. A.** 1902. Additions à la faune ichthyologique du bassin du Congo. *Annales du Musée Royal du Congo Belge* (Zoologie), ser. 1, **2** (2): 19–57.
- Boulenger, G. A.** 1916. *Catalogue of the fresh-water fishes of Africa in the British Museum (Natural History)*, vol. 4, 392 pp. British Museum (Natural History), London.
- Pellegrin, J.** 1903. Cichlidé nouveau de l'Oubanghi appartenant au genre *Lamprologus*. *Bulletin du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris)*, **9**: 220–221.
- Pellegrin, J.** 1904. Poissons du Chari et du lac Tchad récoltés par la mission Chevalier-Decorse. *Bulletin du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris)*, **10**: 309–313.



Norris, S M. 1987. "Anabas oxyrhynchus Boulenger, 1902 (currently *Ctenopoma oxyrhynchum*; Osteichthyes, Perciformes): proposed conservation of the specific name." *The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature* 44, 192–193. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.321>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/44485>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.321>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.