

PENNAHIA FOWLER, 1926 (PISCES: SCIAENIDAE), REQUEST
FOR DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES. Z.N.(S.) 2167.

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Johnius aneus Bloch, 1793, *Naturges. ausländ. Fische*, vol. 7, pl. 357, was wrongly used, as *Sciaena aneus*, by Day (1876, *The fishes of India*, part 2: 189, pl. 45, fig. 5). Examination of Day's description and figure and of several specimens so identified by him in the British Museum (Natural History) and the Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt Universität, Berlin, and of the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, confirms that the *S. aneus* of Day was synonymous with *Otolithus macrophthalmus* Bleeker, 1850, *Verhandel. Batav. Genootsch.* vol. 23: 16, and *Otolithus leuciscus* Günther, 1872, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (4) vol. 10: 398, a species of the Tribe OTOLITHINI.

2. We had assumed that *J. aneus* Bloch, 1793, had been based on a single specimen, and one of us (E.T.) so acted in 1977 (*Trans. zool. Soc. London*, vol. 33: 429) when the full evidence for assigning the species to *Johnius* (*Johnieops*) of the Tribe JOHNIINI was published. Since then Dr. H.J. Paepke, now in charge of the fish collection of the Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt Universität, Berlin, has written to say that two specimens, Nos. 8726 and 8798, had been registered as types of *J. aneus*, but that the former is now lost. The latter - which has been studied by E.T. and by P.K.T. (the latter from photographs) - is therefore a syntype of Bloch's species, and it is here designated lectotype.

3. Among the publications using the name '*aneus* Bloch' in the sense of Day are several comprehensive faunal works (Bleeker, 1877, *Atlas Ichth.* vol. 9, pl. 385, fig. 2; Day, 1889, *Fauna of British India* vol. 2, Fishes: 119; Fowler, 1933, *Bull. U.S. natl Mus.* No. 100, vol. 12: 376; Weber & de Beaufort, 1936, *Fishes Indo-Austr. Arch.* vol. 7: 508; Munro, 1955, *Marine and freshwater fishes of Ceylon*: 154); one special study of the Chinese SCIAENIDAE (Chu, Lo & Wu, 1963, *Study Class. sciaenoid Fishes China*: 58, figs. 33, 59, 85); and an account of a collection of fishes from Bombay by Fowler (1926, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, vol. 31: 776) in which he made the species the type of *Pennahia*, proposed as a subgenus of *Johnius* Bloch. Examination (by E.T.) of the

specimens that Fowler had before him shows them to be *S. aneus* of Day, not of Bloch.

4. It might be considered that the best course would be to advocate the continued misuse of *J. aneus*, but the existence of Bloch's type and its undoubted purtenance to another genus persuade us to ask the Commission to recognise *macrophthalmus* Bleeker as the valid name for the species misidentified by Day with *J. aneus* Bloch.

5. The subgenus *Pennahia* Fowler is, we believe, a valid genus, the four species of which have been recognised by Chu, Lo & Wu (1963) as constituting the Indo-Pacific members of a genus that they mistakenly named *Argyrosomus* (a name that belongs to another genus). *Pennahia* is therefore a name that will be used, and has been used by Mohan (1972, *Indian J. Fish.*, vol. 16 (1969): 82-98), by Fischer & Whitehead (1974, *FAO species identification sheets* (fishing area 57) and (fishing area 71), Rome, FAO, vol. 3), at the prompting of the senior author, who is using it in a review of the Indo-Pacific species of SCIAENIDAE (Trewavas, 1977).

6. The use of the name *macrophthalmus* for this species, which is quite common and widespread, will in our opinion be adopted without too much confusion, since it has by most authors been listed as the oldest synonym of *S. aneus* sensu Day. Moreover, Indian fishery statistics are not collected separately for this species; it is lumped with 'smaller SCIAENIDAE' (Jhingran, 1975, *Fish and fisheries of India*, x + 953 pp., Delhi).

7. We therefore ask the Commission:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species hitherto made for the nominal genus *Pennahia* Fowler, 1926 and, having done so, to designate *Otolithus macrophthalmus* Bleeker, 1850, as type-species of that genus;
- (2) to place the generic name *Pennahia* Fowler, 1926 (gender: feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Otolithus macrophthalmus* Bleeker, 1850, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *macrophthalmus* Bleeker, 1850, as published in the binomen *Otolithus macrophthalmus* (specific name of type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, of *Pennahia* Fowler, 1926) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.



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