REQUEST THAT THE GENERIC NAME "NOTROPIS" RAFINESQUE, 1818 (CLASS OSTEICHTHYES, ORDER CYPRINIDA, FAMILY CYPRINIDAE) BE PLACED ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY": QUESTION OF POSSIBLE USE OF THE COMMISSION'S PLENARY POWERS TO DETERMINE THE GENDER OF THIS GENERIC NAME

By REEVE M. BAILEY and ROBERT RUSH MILLER

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(Commission’s reference Z.N.(S.)663)

The generic name Notropis was introduced by Rafinesque (1818, Amer. Month. Mag. and Critical Review, 2: 204), with N. atherinoides Rafinesque, 1818 (: 204) from Lake Erie as its type species (by monotypy). As indicated by Rafinesque, the name was suggested by the keeled or carinated back (probably an artifact resulting from improper preservation). Although feminine by derivation, the word Notropis was treated as masculine by all authors known to us from 1818 until 1951. Recently, Hubbs (1951, Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich., 530: 14) has noted that Notropis is classically feminine, and he accordingly altered a few adjectival trivial names to agree in gender with the generic name. This procedure conforms with the requirements of the Code.

2. Notropis is known to include some 250 specific names representing well in excess of 100 valid species, making it the largest genus of North American freshwater fishes. In addition to being large, the genus includes many of the most abundant and widespread species on the continent, some of them the subjects of a sizeable non-taxonomic literature. A change necessitating correction of all adjectival specific names (numbering half of the specific names in the genus) would result in misunderstanding and confusion for years, especially by students, editors, and biologists who are not taxonomic ichthyologists. Currently, American ichthyologists are divided in their opinion on the problem: some prefer to continue to treat Notropis as masculine; others wish to be classically correct and to alter the gender of all the adjectival specific names concerned. However, we believe all investigators would welcome an unalterable answer to the problem.

3. Therefore, we request (1) that Notropis Rafinesque, 1818, be placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology (type species, by monotypy: Notropis atherinoides Rafinesque, 1818), (2) that the specific name atherinoides Rafinesque, 1818, as published in the combination Notropis atherinoides, be placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, and (3) that the gender of Notropis be designated by the Commission.

4. Of the New World ichthyologists who have read this petition all are in agreement with the first two points.

5. The following New World ichthyologists prefer that the Commission exercise its Plenary Powers and rule that the generic name *Notropis* be treated as a masculine word:

José Alvarez, Mexico  
Reeve M. Bailey  
William C. Beckman  
William Beebe  
Kelshaw Bonham  
C. M. Breder, Jr.  
Martin R. Brittan  
C. J. D. Brown  
Kenneth D. Carlander  
Wilbert M. Chapman  
Gerald P. Cooper  
Frank B. Cross  
Fernando de Buen, Uruguay  
Martin del Campo, Mexico  
Jack S. Dendy  
J. R. Dymond, Canada  
R. W. Eschmeyer  
W. Harry Everhart  
Agustín Fernandez-Yepez, Venezuela  
Alcides Lourenço Gomes, Brazil  
Myron Gordon  
William A. Gosline  
John R. Greeley  
C. Willard Greene  
Marion Grey  
Gordon Gunter  
Robert W. Harrington, Jr.  
Earl S. Herald  
Clark Hubbs  
Robert F. Inger  
Raymond E. Johnson  
William J. Koster  
Ernest A. Lachner  
Karl F. Lagler  
Francesca R. LaMonte  
Vianney Legendre, Canada  
William M. McLane  
Romeo Mansueti  
John C. Marr  
Nelson Marshall  
Robert Rush Miller  
George A. Moore  
George S. Myers  
John T. Nichols  
A. E. Parr  
Edward C. Raney
6. The following American ichthyologists prefer that the Commission rule that the name *Notropis* be treated as being of the feminine gender:—

W. I. Follett
Harry W. Freeman
David G. Frey
Shelby D. Gerking
Carl L. Hubbs
Frank T. Knapp
William Ralph Taylor

**OBJECTION TO THE BAILEY/MILLER PROPOSAL THAT THE GENERIC NAME “NOTROPIS” RAFINESQUE, 1818 (CLASS OSTEICHTHYES) SHOULD BE TREATED AS BEING OF THE MASculine GENDER AND COUNTER-PROPOSAL THAT THIS NAME BE ACCEPTED AS BEING OF THE FEMININE GENDER**

By CARL L. HUBBS
(Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, U.S.A.)

and

W. I. FOLLETT
(California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.)

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)663)

(Letter dated 3rd August 1953)

For the purpose of identification, we state that the first of the present applicants is the ichthyologist referred to by Dr. Reeve M. Bailey in his letter of 1st December 1949 (1953, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 10 : 228), where he states that “one of my distinguished colleagues, who is in a purist frame of mind, proposed to revert to the classical feminine for *Notropis*” Rafinesque, 1818.
Bailey, Reeve M. and Miller, Robert Rush. 1954. "Request that the generic name Notropis Rafinesque. 1818 (Class Osteichthyes Order Cyprinida, Family Cyprinidae) be placed on the Official list of generic names in Zoology: question of possible use of the commission's plenary powers to determine the." The Bulletin of zoological nomenclature 9, 272–274.
https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.10269.

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