REQUEST FOR A RULING AS TO THE SPECIES TO BE ACCEPTED AS THE TYPE SPECIES OF THE NOMINAL GENUS "BATHYLAGUS" GÜNThER (A.C.L.G.), 1878 (CLASS PISCES)

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The object of the present application is to secure a decision from the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature regarding the species to be accepted as the type species of Bathylagus Günther, 1878 (Class Pisces).

2. The generic name Bathylagus was published by Günther in 1878 (Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. (5) 2 : 248). The nominal genus so established included two nominal species, Bathylagus antarcticus and Bathylagus atlanticus, each of which was originally established in the same publication (: 248). Neither species was designated as the type species of this genus.

3. The earliest action that we have found which might possibly be considered a selection of the type species of the genus Bathylagus is that of Jordan & Evermann (1896a, Bull. U.S. nat. Mus. 47(1) : 528), who published the following under the generic heading "246. BATHYLAGUS, Günther": "Bathylagus, Günther, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, II, 248 (atlanticus)".

4. Jordan & Evermann (1896a) usually placed a single specific name in parentheses immediately after their reference to the original publication of the generic name. However, in several instances they placed two or more specific names within the parentheses (e.g. Mustelus, page 28; Squalus, page 53; Aëtobatus, page 88; Leuciscus, page 228; Carapus, page 340; Heterandria, page 686; Syngnathus, page 774; Polynemus, page 828; Caranx, page 915; Bodianus, page 1143).
5. Nowhere did Jordan & Evermann (1896a) explicitly state whether the single specific name that they usually placed in parentheses immediately after their reference to the original publication of a generic name was intended as their selection of the type species.

6. In several instances Jordan & Evermann (1896a) wrote “no type indicated”, or similar words, in place of (or in addition to) the specific name in parentheses, as follows:

   (Page 228) “Phoxinus, Rafinesque, Ich. Oh., 45, 1820. (No type stated; phoxinus understood.)”

   (Page 228) “Dobula, Rafinesque, Ich. Oh., 45, 1820. (No type mentioned; dobula understood.)”

   (Page 228) “Leuciscus, Rafinesque, l. c. 45. (No type mentioned; leuciscus understood.)”

   (Page 243) “Rutilus, Rafinesque, Ich. Oh., 48, 50, 1820. (rutilus: no type indicated on page 48; on page 50, rutilus mentioned.)”

   (Page 353) “Ariosoma, Swainson, Nat. Hist., Class’n Fishes, I, 220, 1838. (No type mentioned; diagnosis worthless.)”

   (Page 625) “Esox, Artedi, Genera Piscium, 14, 1738 (in part, three species: The Pike, Garfish, and Gar Pike; no type indicated, but the Pike was to Artedi the best-known species).”

   (Page 789) “Membras, Bonaparte, Fauna Italica, 1836 (no type indicated)”.

   (Page 796) “Menidia, Bonaparte, Fauna Italica, about 1836 (no type indicated, menidia doubtless intended)”.

7. Where Jordan & Evermann (1896a) established a new nominal genus (Verma : 374; Tarpon : 409; Jenkinsia : 418; Anchovia : 449; Mitchillina : 453; Nansenia : 528; Vinciguerria : 577; Valenciennellus : 577; Cololabis : 726; Lethostole : 792; Kirtlandia : 794; Eurystole : 802; Bipinnula : 878; Psychromaster : 1099; Copelandellus : 1100; Ocyanthias : 1227), they invariably placed a single specific name in parentheses immediately after the words “new genus”, without explanation.

8. Where Jordan & Evermann (1896a) established a new nominal subgenus (Haustor : 135; Ictiichthys : 228; Opsopoea : 247; Oreella : 254; Yuriria : 314; Soutica : 403; Lile : 428; Spirinchus : 522; Kenoza : 625; Fontinus : 633; Gambusinus : 633; Palometa : 965; Swainia : 1039; Torrentaria : 1066; Nivicola : 1066; Rafinesquellus : 1066; Claricola : 1066; Enneistus : 1143;
Archoperca: 1169; Xystroperca: 1169), with one exception they invariably placed a single specific name in parentheses immediately after the words “new subgenus” or “subgen. nov.”, without explanation. The one exception is that of Azteca (: 254), where they placed two specific names, “vittata = aztecs”, in parentheses immediately after the words “new subgenus”, without explanation.

9. In their preface Jordan & Evermann (1896a : VI) stated, “The present work is, in a sense, a revision of the ‘Synopsis of the Fishes of North America’, published in 1883 by Jordan & Gilbert as Bulletin 16 of the United States National Museum”. In the “Synopsis of the Fishes of North America”, Jordan & Gilbert had invariably written the word “type” before the name of the single species that they cited in their reference to the original publication of each generic name. For example, under the generic heading “118.—Elops Linnaeus”, Jordan & Gilbert (1883 : 261) wrote as follows: “(Linnaeus, Syst. Nat.: type Elops saurus L.)”.

10. In the foregoing circumstances, and bearing in mind the requirement Rule (g) in Article 30 that “The meaning of the expression ‘select the type’ is to be rigidly construed”, we request the International Commission to rule that Jordan & Evermann (1896a : 528) did not select Bathylagus atlanticus as the type species of the nominal genus Bathylagus Günther, 1878.

11. If the International Commission rules as requested in paragraph 10, supra, the next earliest action that we have found which might possibly be regarded as a selection of the type species of the genus Bathylagus must be considered. It is contained in a paper published later in the same year by Jordan & Evermann ([1896]), Rept. U.S. Comm. Fish and Fish. 21 : 295, and is set forth under the generic heading “Genus 247. BATHYLAGUS Günther”, as follows: “Bathylagus Günther, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., II, 1878, 248 (atlanticus)”.

12. In their preface to this later work Jordan & Evermann (1896 : 210) wrote as follows: “The name in parenthesis following the reference to the generic name is that of the species taken by the describer as the type of the genus”.

13. In view of the foregoing statement that the name in parentheses is that of the species “taken by the describer” as the type, we doubt that the parenthetical name atlanticus (when “rigidly construed”) sufficiently demonstrates a selection of type by Jordan & Evermann themselves. Accordingly, we request the International Commission to rule that Jordan & Evermann (1896 : 210, 295) did not select Bathylagus atlanticus as the type species of the nominal genus Bathylagus Günther, 1878.
14. If the International Commission rules as requested in paragraph 13, supra, the next earliest action must be considered. We believe it to be that published by Jordan (1919, Genera of Fishes (33) : 394-395) under the heading “1240. GÜNTHER (1878). Preliminary Notices of Deep-Sea Fishes Collected During the Voyage of H.M.S. Challenger. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, 11, 17-28, 179-187, 248-251”, as follows:

“Bathylagus Günther, 248; logotype B. antarcticus Gthr.”.

15. In part 3 of the work cited in paragraph 14 above, Jordan did not explain his use of the word “logotype”, but he had stated in part 2 of the same work, published earlier in 1919, as follows (page 165): “A logotype is one selected by the ‘First Reviser’.”

16. Although Jordan did not state that in this instance he himself was the “First Reviser”, we doubt that it was necessary for him to do so, since he suggested nothing to the contrary. Accordingly, we request the International Commission to rule that Jordan (1919, Genera of Fishes, (3) : 395) selected Bathylagus antarcticus as the type species of the nominal genus Bathylagus Günther, 1878.

17. If, as we hope that International Commission shares our view that the type species of Bathylagus Günther is Bathylagus antarcticus of the same author, we would ask that this generic name be placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology and that the specific name antarcticus Günther, 1878, as published in the combination Bathylagus antarcticus, should, as the specific name of the type species of the above genus, be placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology. In this connection we should explain that the above is a well-understood and taxonomically valid species. We have considered also whether it is desirable that the specific name atlanticus Günther, 1878, as published in the combination Bathylagus atlanticus, the name of the second of the two nominal species entering into the present case, should also under the “Completeness-of-Opinion” Rule be placed on the above Official List. We are of the opinion, however, that it is not desirable that this should be done, for the nominal species so named was poorly described and has never been figured and we have not had an opportunity of examining its holotype.

18. The nominal genus Bathylagus Günther is currently placed in the family BATHYLAGIDAE or in the family ARGENTINIDAE. The first of these names was published (in the correct form BATHYLAGIDAE) by Gill (T.N.), 1884 (Science 3 : 621), the second (as the name for a subfamily, in the form ARGENTININI) by Bonaparte (C.L.J.L.) in 1846 (Cat. met. Pesci Europ. : 25). We consider it desirable that both these names should now be placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology, since the name ARGENTINIDAE is used for the genus Argentina Linnaeus, 1758 (Syst. Nat. (ed. 10) 1 : 315) by all specialists, irrespective of whether or not they accept also the family
BATHYLAGIDAE. Since the former name was published as the name of a subfamily, it will need to be entered on the Official List as ARGENTININAE; the Invalid Original Spelling ARGENTININI will need to be placed at the same time on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology, with a note that, while this spelling is invalid as the spelling for a subfamily name, it is available as the name for any category within the family-group for which no prescribed termination has been laid down by the International Congress of Zoology. Finally, it will be necessary to place the generic name Argentina Linnaeus on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology and the specific name of its type species on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology. The species concerned, which is the type species by monotypy, is Argentina sphyraena Linnaeus, 1758 (: 315).

19. For the reasons set forth in the present application the request which we make to the International Commission is that it should:

(1) give a Ruling that the type species of the genus Bathylagus Günther (A.C.L.G.), 1878, is the nominal species Bathylagus antarcticus Günther (A.C.L.G.), 1878, by selection by Jordan (D.S.) (1919 : 395);

(2) place the under-mentioned generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) Bathylagus Günther (A.C.L.G.), 1878 (gender: masculine) (type species, by selection by Jordan (D.S.), (1919): Bathylagus antarcticus Günther (A.C.L.G.), 1878);

(b) Argentina Linnaeus, 1758 (gender: feminine) (type species, by monotypy: Argentina sphyraena Linnaeus, 1758);

(3) place the under-mentioned specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) antarcticus Günther (A.C.L.G.), 1878, as published in the combination Bathylagus antarcticus (specific name of type species of Bathylagus Günther (A.C.L.G.), 1878);

(b) sphyraena Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination Argentina sphyraena (specific name of type species of Argentina Linnaeus, 1758);

(4) place the under-mentioned family-group names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

(a) BATHYLAGIDAE Gill (T.N.), 1884 (type genus: Bathylagus Günther (A.C.L.G.), 1878);

(b) ARGENTININAE (correction of ARGENTININI) Bonaparte (C.L.J.L.), 1846 (type genus: Argentina Linnaeus, 1758);
(5) place the under-mentioned family-group name on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:—

ARGENTININI Bonaparte (C.L.J.L.), 1846 (type genus: Argentina Linnaeus, 1758) (an Invalid Original Spelling for argentininae but available as the name for a taxon within the family-group belonging to a category, for names of taxa in which there is no prescribed termination).

SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION REGARDING THE GENERIC NAME "MYSIS" LATREILLE, [1802-1803] (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER MYSIDACEA)

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(Commission Reference: Z.N.(S.) 1319)

(For the application here referred to see Bull. zool. Nomencl. 16: 51–61)

(Letter dated 7th March 1958)

The name Mysis is so generally known and used by marine biologists, both as a generic name and as the basis of family- and ordinal names, that its disappearance for purely technical reasons would certainly be felt by many to constitute a blow to the authority of the Rules of Nomenclature.