Case 2738

Acanthophthalmus van Hasselt in Temminck, 1824 (Osteichthyes, Cypriniformes): proposed conservation, and proposed designation of Cobitis kuhlii Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1846 as the type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to designate Cobitis kuhlii Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1846 as the type species of Acanthophthalmus van Hasselt in Temminck, 1824, a genus of small cobitid fishes from Southeast Asia, commonly known as the coolie loaches, in accordance with accustomed interpretation and usage. The generic name was first published (1823) as Acanthophthalmus but this spelling has not been used and its suppression is proposed.

1. In 1823 van Hasselt (p. 133) proposed the generic name Acanthophthalmus for some of the loaches with an erectile suborbital spine. The genus included Cobitis taenia Linnaeus, 1758, but the three other species, including fasciatus, were nomina nuda, as noted by Kottelat (1987, p. 371). C. taenia is thereby fixed as the type species of Acanthophthalmus by monotypy; its inclusion makes Acanthophthalmus an available name (Article 12b(5) of the Code).

2. The work by van Hasselt consists of parts of letters sent from Java to Temminck at the Leiden museum, two of which contained several new fish names and which were published by the latter in 1823 after van Hasselt’s death. A series of drawings sent by van Hasselt to Temminck, which were subsequently seen by Valenciennes, have never been published and are now presumed to have been lost (Kottelat, 1987, p. 368). A subsequent (1824a, b) French translation of the letters from the original Dutch contained many alterations in the text and ‘corrections’ in the spelling of several of the names which were probably made by Valenciennes (see Alfred, 1962, p. 80). For example, Acanthophthalmus and Acanthopsis, both genera of loaches, are two names spelled differently in the 1823 and 1824 versions. An ‘h’ was added to the ‘Acant-’ prefix
in both names, to produce *Acanthophthalmus* and *Acanthopsis* (van Hasselt in Temminck, 1824b, pp. 376–377). The spellings *Acanthophthalmus* and *Acanthopsis* are unjustified emendations but, under Article 33b(iii), are available names. *Cobitis taenia* remains the type species of the nominal genus *Acanthophthalmus*. The French version of the second communication, in which the name *Acanthophthalmus* appeared, is unsigned; however, van Hasselt's name was published at the end of the first letter (1824a, p. 92), and the name *Acanthophthalmus* (1824) is ascribed to him. The spelling *Acanthophthalmus* was adopted by later authors. Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes (1846, pp. 25–26) attributed authorship of the name *Acanthophthalmus* to Kuhl and van Hasselt but clearly it should be ascribed to van Hasselt alone, and is correctly cited as van Hasselt in Temminck (Recommendation 51B of the Code). (The authorship and dates of publication of the various parts of *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons* by Cuvier & Valenciennes are set out in Opinion 580, December 1959).

3. In the same 1823 Dutch work, van Hasselt (p. 133) also proposed the new generic name *Noemacheilus*, with the single included species *fasciatus*. The binomen was repeated in the 1824 French translation with the spelling unchanged but in both versions it is a nomen nudum. Valenciennes (1846) described the species *fasciatus*, which lacks the suborbital spine, from a specimen and one of van Hasselt's drawings sent to him by Temminck. Valenciennes did not accept *Noemacheilus* as a taxonomically distinct genus, and placed all the loaches in *Cobitis* Linnaeus, 1758.

4. Valenciennes (1846, p. 77) also provided a description for van Hasselt's species *Acanthophthalmus fasciatus* (see para. 1), and renamed it *Cobitis kuhlii* to avoid homonymy within *Cobitis*. Bleeker (1858, p. 304) listed and described the genera of loaches known to inhabit the 'Archipelagi Indici', including *Acanthophthalmus* (attributing the name to van Hasselt). In 1863, Bleeker (p. 364) designated 'Acanthophthalmus fasciatus van Hasselt' (which he listed (p. 367) as ' = *Cobitis kuhlii* Valenciennes') as the type species of *Acanthophthalmus*, although, as pointed out in para. 1, *Cobitis taenia* Linnaeus, 1758 is the type species by monotypy. Bleeker excluded *C. taenia* from *Acanthophthalmus*. Bleeker's concept of the genus has been adopted by subsequent authors and is still current today, although it is illegitimate under the modern Code because of the exclusion of *C. taenia*.

5. Also in 1863, Bleeker (pp. 362, 364) designated *Cobitis taenia* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Cobitis* Linnaeus, 1758 and recently the Commission validated this designation (Opinion 1500, June 1988). *Acanthophthalmus* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 thus became a junior objective synonym of *Cobitis* Linnaeus, 1758 and it was so placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology. It follows that *Acanthophthalmus* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1824 is also a junior objective synonym of *Cobitis*.

6. Blyth (1860, p. 169) described a new genus, *Pangio*, for *Cobitis cinamomea* McClelland, 1839 (p. 304), which McClelland had unnecessarily proposed as a replacement name for *C. pangio* Hamilton, 1822. *C. cinamomea* is currently included among the coolie loaches. Following Bleeker (1863, pp. 363, 364), *Pangio* has consistently been considered as a junior subjective synonym of *Acanthophthalmus* and has had no subsequent use (see Systematic Index of the Pisces sections of *Zoological Record*, 1864 to 1989). It was adopted, however, by Kottelat in 1987 (p. 371), who drew attention to the considerable confusion that the loss of the generic name *Acanthophthalmus* as a junior objective synonym of *Cobitis* would cause. Acceptance of *Pangio* as the name for the

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