Lepomis Rafinesque, 1819 (Osteichthyes, Perciformes): proposed fixation of masculine gender for the name

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to fix as masculine the gender of Lepomis Rafinesque, 1819, for a genus of fish, including important food, game and laboratory research species. This is in accordance with Rafinesque's original intention and almost universal usage until 1988 when the gender was amended to feminine on etymological grounds with which the authors disagree.

1. In 1819 Rafinesque (p. 420) established the generic name Lepomis and designated Labrus auritus Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 283) as the type species; he established two new species which he called Lepomis cyanellus and L. macrochirus. Although he did not state that the gender of Lepomis was masculine, it is clear from the ending of the three specific names that this was his intention.

2. Rafinesque did not specify the derivation of Lepomis, but this can be inferred from his two subgenera, Pomotis and Apomotis. He characterized Pomotis as having 'opercule auricule' (an ear on the opercle) and Apomotis as 'opercule sans auricle'. Since Pomotis and Apomotis both use the Greek poma (n., a lid or cover) to mean the operculum or gill cover, we conclude that the ending of Lepomis stems from the same Greek root. That this interpretation is correct is confirmed in that Rafinesque characterized Lepomis as having 'tete et opercules ecailleux' (head and opercles scaled). Furthermore, in a paper the following year, Rafinesque (1820, p. 30) stated that 'the name means scaly gills'. Jordan & Gilbert (1877, p. 102) also considered Lepomis to be derived from lepis plus poma.

3. Lepomis has almost universally been treated as masculine as in Rafinesque's 1819 paper. A notable early exception was Rafinesque himself who, in his 1820 paper, treated Lepomis as feminine as indicated by his use of the specific names pallida, trifasciata, salmonea and notata. More recently, Bailey & Robins (1988, p. 100) pointed out that Brown (1954, pp. 332, 683) considered the name to be derived from the Greek lepis (f., scale) and omis (f., a fish); in this Brown was not consistent since he gave as an example Lepomis auritus with a masculine ending. Bailey & Robins accepted Brown's derivation and treated Lepomis as feminine, 'correcting' a number of specific names to Lepomis aurita, L. cyanella, L. gibbosa, etc. They added that all these names were (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name rugosa de Blainville, 1825, as published in the binomen Strophomena rugosa, and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

References

HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 (Osteichthyes, Cypriniformes): proposed precedence over BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to give precedence to the commonly used family-group name for the flat loaches HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 over the unused senior synonym BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839.

1. In a study of Indian and Indochinese loaches of the genus Balitora Gray, 1830 Kottelat (1988) reported that although interrelationships among members of the family HOMALOPTERIDAE have been variously interpreted, its type genus Homaloptera van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 has always been considered closely related to Balitora Gray, 1830 and placed in the same family, subfamily and tribe. Thus his rediscovery of the hitherto overlooked family-group name BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839 (p. 190) means the family-group name HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 (p. xxviii) is a junior subjective synonym of BALITORIDAE Swainson, 1839. In accordance with Article 23 of the Code, I am referring this case to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature together with a proposal to preserve nomenclatural stability.

2. The family-group name HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 has been widely accepted by zoologists. All recent publications use this name (e.g. Hora, 1920; Hora, 1931; Hora, 1932; Hora, 1941; Silas, 1953; Jayaram, 1981). The family-group name BALITORIDAE has not been used for any of the homalopterid fishes since Swainson established it (1839) until Kottelat (1988) nearly 150 years later.

3. Kottelat (1988, p. 489) himself admits that the replacement of HOMALOPTERIDAE by BALITORIDAE creates additional confusion in the suborder Cobitoidei. I cannot follow Kottelat in his opinion that an immediate introduction of the family-group name BALITORIDAE, which had been overlooked for about 150 years, would help to create a stable nomenclature (Kottelat, 1988, p. 489).

4. Kottelat (1988, p. 489) expects changes in systematics and nomenclature in the suborder Cobitoidei. Under these circumstances all possible attempts have to be made to stabilize nomenclature.

5. In 1986 Kottelat (BZN 43: 360–362) proposed the designation of Cobitis taenia Linnaeus, 1758 as type species of the genus Cobitis Linnaeus, 1758. He referred (p. 361) to the fact that otherwise the family HOMALOPTERIDAE would become a subfamily of COBITIDAE. In Opinion 1500 (June, 1988) the Commission used its plenary powers to designate Cobitis taenia as type species of Cobitis Linnaeus, 1758 and thus stabilized the family-group name HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859. However, the name remains threatened by the discovery of the unused senior synonym BALITORIDAE.

6. The type genus of HOMALOPTERIDAE Bleeker, 1859 is Homaloptera van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 (p. 133), the type species of which is H. ocellata van der Hoeven, 1833

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by subsequent monotypy. *Homaloptera* is available by description but the two species originally included in it (*H. fasciata* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 and *H. javanica* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823) are both nomina nuda. On p. 132 of van Hasselt’s work, *Homaloptera* is spelt *Homalophra*. Kottelat (1987) acted as first reviser and selected the commonly used spelling *Homaloptera*. The specific name *ocellata* van der Hoeven, 1833 is a nomen nudum in the book *Handboek der Dierkunde* ... (1833a), the description given on p. 211 referring to the genus only. However, in the accompanying atlas (1833b) *Verzameling der Platen* ..., (to which no mention is made in the *Handboek*, although it is referred to in the translation from the 2nd Dutch edition, 1856–1858), p. 8 (Verklaring der platen) states that pl. 13 fig. 12 is ‘*Homaloptera ocellata* v. Hass; eene nieuwe, vroeger nog niet afgebeelde, soort uit Java. Fig. 12b. Kop van dezen visch, van boven gezien. (11. bl. 211)’. Plate 13, figure 12 depicts a whole fish, fig. 12b the head of a fish, so the name is available. The type genus of *Balitoridae* Swainson, 1839 is *Balitora* Gray, 1830 (pl. 88). The type species of this genus is *Balitora brucei* Gray, 1830 (pl. 88) by subsequent designation by Jordan (1919, p. 178).

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to give precedence to the family-group name *HOMALOPTERIDAE* Bleeker, 1859 over the family-group name *BALITORIDAE* Swainson, 1839;

(2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Balitora* Gray, 1830 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Jordan (1919) *Balitora brucei* Gray, 1830 (type genus of *BALITORIDAE* Swainson, 1839);

(b) *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent monotypy *Homaloptera ocellata* van der Hoeven, 1833 (type genus of *HOMALOPTERIDAE* Bleeker, 1859);

(3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *brucei* Gray, 1830, as published in the binomen *Balitora brucei* (specific name of the type species of *Balitora* Gray, 1830);

(b) *ocellata* van der Hoeven, 1833, as published in the binomen *Homaloptera ocellata* (specific name of the type species of *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823);

(4) to place the following names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

(a) *HOMALOPTERIDAE* Bleeker, 1859 (type genus *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823) with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *BALITORIDAE* Swainson, 1839 (type genus *Balitora* Gray, 1830);

(b) *BALITORIDAE* Swainson, 1839 (type genus *Balitora* Gray, 1830) with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *HOMALOPTERIDAE* Bleeker, 1859 (type genus *Homaloptera* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1823).

References

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