Case 2659

Osteoglossum Cuvier, 1829 (Osteichthyes, Osteoglossiformes): proposed fixation of O. bicirrhosum Cuvier, 1829 as the name of the type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name bicirrhosum Cuvier, 1829 for the Brazilian food fish known as the Aruana (Arawana or Arowana). Cuvier published the combination Osteoglossum vandellii, but synonymised this with the unpublished name Ischnosoma bicirrhosum. The name bicirrhosum is available by reason of subsequent adoption, whereas vandellii has been unused for 160 years.

1. Cuvier (1829, p. 328) described the new genus Osteoglossum. He ended his description with the statement ‘On en connaît une espèce assez grande du Brésil (Osteoglossum Vandellii, n., ou Ischnosoma bicirrhosum, Spix, xxv).’ This means Cuvier named the only known (and hence type) species as O. vandellii, and considered that the I. bicirrhosum on Spix’s then unpublished plate 25 was the same species. This makes both specific names available from Cuvier (1829) (bicirrhosum is available under Article 11e of the Code because it has been subsequently adopted as valid). [Dates of publication and authorship of names and acts in ‘Spix’, i.e. Spix & Agassiz (1829–1831), follow the conclusions of Kottelat (1988); in this paper the date of publication of Cuvier is taken as not later than 31 March 1829, the relevant Spix plate as between 22 May 1829 and 4 July 1829; alternative conclusions on authorship and dates might be historically correct but are difficult to support with internal evidence].

2. In 1831 Agassiz (p. 2 of the ‘Conspectus’ of Spix & Agassiz) acted as first reviser and retained Osteoglossum vandellii. The combination Osteoglossum vandellii Cuvier, 1829 has not been used again for this fish. As it is an important food fish (see Goulding, 1980, pp. 36, 211 and 1981, p. 113), the conservation of bicirrhosum is justified.

3. Ischnosoma has been used only once, on plate 25 of Spix & Agassiz (1829; in combination with bicirrhosum), and dates from that publication. All other uses of this name are in synonymies and bibliographies, so no action needs to be taken regarding it.

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

(1) to use its plenary powers:

(a) to set aside all first reviser actions regarding the specific names vandellii Cuvier, 1829, as published in the binomen Osteoglossum vandellii, and bicirrhosum Cuvier, 1829, as published in combination with the manuscript generic name Ischnosoma, and to rule that bicirrhosum Cuvier, 1829 is a senior objective synonym of vandellii Cuvier, 1829;

(b) to confirm Osteoglossum bicirrhosum Cuvier, 1829 as the type species by monotypy of Osteoglossum Cuvier, 1829;
(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Osteoglossum* Cuvier, 1829 (gender: neuter), type species by monotypy *Osteoglossum bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829, as published in combination with the manuscript generic name *Ischnosoma* (specific name of the type species of *Osteoglossum* Cuvier, 1829);

(4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *vandellii* Cuvier, 1829, as published in the binomen *Osteoglossum vandellii*, and as ruled in (1) above to be a junior objective synonym of *bicirrhosum* Cuvier, 1829 as published in the combination *Ischnosoma bicirrhosum*.

References


Spix, J. B. de & Agassiz, L. 1829–1831. *Selecta genera et species piscium quos in itinere per Brasiliam annis MDCCCXVII–MDCCCXX jussu et auspiciis Maximiliani Josephi I. Bavariae regis augustissimi peracto*. Collegit et pingendos curavit Dr J. B. de Spix ... descriptit ... L. Agassiz ... xvi, ii, 6, 138 pp., 98 pls. Wolf, Monachii.

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