

THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE FAMILY PECILIIDÆ OR CYPRINODONTIDÆ.

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IN my "Families and Subfamilies of Fishes" (1893, No. 133) I have adopted *Peciliidæ* instead of *Cyprinodontidæ* for the family at present generally known by the latter name.

It is quite true that Prof. Agassiz was the first to recognize the family so called, but he simply gave the plural form of *Cyprinodon*, and not a name with the patronymic suffix now almost universally used to denote families, and he did not define it, but simply gave it to the residuum left after defining the *Cyprini*. Little later Bonaparte gave a regular family name (*Peciliidæ*) derived from the earliest established name of a genus of the family and that name was several times employed by him and others while the name *Cyprinodontes* remained in abeyance; he also regularly defined it. The first regular use of the latter name with a patronymic suffix (*Cyprinodontidæ*) was by Sir John Richardson in 1856.

Another objection to the name *Cyprinodontidæ* which may reconcile us to its abandonment is that it expresses a taxonomic falsehood and is even now constantly misleading persons. In the part of the great "New English Dictionary," lately published (v. 2, p. 1306), a "*Cyprinodont*" is defined as "a malacopterygious fish of the family *Cyprinodontidæ*, of which the typical genus is *Cyprinodon*; they differ from the Cyprinids in having the jaws more projecting and toothed." In the recent manual of Moreau (1892, p. 479), the "*Cyprinodontides*" and "*Cyprinides*" are approximated in an analytical table and simply contrasted on account of the presence of jaw teeth ("*mâchoires dentées*") in the former and the absence (*mâchoires "non dentées"*) in the latter. It certainly is time for trained ichthyologists to have learned that there is no affinity between the two types, and that they differ so radically in all essential features of organization that they should be referred to different orders. Yet Valenciennes, in the penultimate volume of his great work (*Hist. Nat. Poiss.*, XXI, p. 455), attempted to justify the

retention of the Cyprinodonts in the same *family* with the Cyprinids and their natural allies! The Cyprinodonts or Pæciliids are really related to the Esocids and Umbrids, and to them they should be approximated in the suborder *Haplomi*.

The chief synonymy of the family and the type-containing subfamily is given in the following summary, from which the usage of various naturalists may be learned:

Family PÆCILIIDÆ.

- = *Cyprinodontes*, AGASSIZ, Mem. Soc. d'Hist. Nat. de Neuchatel, t. 1, p. 35, 1834; Poiss. Foss., v. 5, pt. 1, p. 12, pt. 2, p. 47.
- = *Pæcilidæ*, BONAPARTE, Nuovi Annali delle Sci. Nat., t. 2, p. 132, 1838; t. 4, p. 194, 1840.
- = *Pæcilidæ*, BONAPARTE, Trans. Linn. Soc., v. 18, p. 299, 1840-'41.
- = *Pæcilidæ*, BONAPARTE, Cat. Met. Pesci Europei, p. 5, 1846.
- = *Cyprinodontes*, MÜLLER, Archiv Naturgesch., 9. Jahrg., B. 1, p. 320, 1843.
- > *Anablepidæ*, ADAMS, Man. Nat. Hist., p. 107, 1854.
- > *Pæciliidæ*, ADAMS, Man. Nat. Hist., p. 107, 1854.
- < *Cyprinodontidæ*, RICHARDSON, Encyl. Brit., v. 12, p. 252, 1856. (Includes also *Diplopterus* (= *Luciocephalus*) and *Vandellia*.)
- = *Cyprinodontidæ*, GIRARD, Expl. and Surv. for R. R. Route to Pacific Oc., v. 10, Fishes, p. 302, 1858.
- < *Cyprinodontoidæ*, BLEEKER, Enum. Sp. Piscium Archipel. Indico, p. xxix, 1859.
- = *Cyprinodontidæ*, GÜNTHER, Cat. Fishes, Brit. Mus., v. 6, p. 299, 1866.
- = *Cyprinodontidæ*, COPE, Proc. Am. Assoc. Adv. Sci., v. 20, p. 333, 1872.
- = *Cyprinodontes*, FITZINGER, Sitzb. K. Akad. der Wissensch., (Wien), B. 67. 1. Abth., p. 38, 1873.
- = *Pæciliidæ*, GILL, Mem. Nat. Acad. Sc., v. 6, No. 133, 1893.
- Cyprinoïdes gen.*, CUVIER, DUMÉRIL (1856), et al.

Subfamily PÆCILINIÆ.

- < *Pæciliini*, BONAPARTE, Nuovi Annali delle Sci. Nat., t. 2, p. 132, 1838; t. 4, p. 195, 1840.
- < *Pæciliini*, BONAPARTE, Trans. Linn. Soc., v. 18, p. 299, 1840-'41.
- < *Pæciliinæ*, SWAINSON, Nat. Hist. and Class. Fishes, etc., v. 2, pp. 190, 311, 1839.
- < *Pæciliini*, BONAPARTE, Cat. Met. Pesci Eur., p. 5, 1846.
- = *Cyprinodontidæ limnophogæ*, GÜNTHER, Cat. Fishes B. M., v. 6, pp. 300, 339, 1866.
- = *Pæciliinæ*, JORDAN & GILBERT, Syn. Fishes N. Am., p. 327, 1882.