

Bonaparte, in 1832, revived the name *Sparus*—"Sparus N. (Aurata *Risso*, *Chrysophrys C.*)," for the *Sparus aurata*.

For the *Sparus aurata* and its relations, the Linnæan name must therefore be retained and the subsequent applications of the name in no wise affect the legitimacy of this application.

Whether the groups designated as *Pagrus* and *Chrysophrys* are, or are not, generically distinct is not a matter for present consideration. It is certain, however, that the group as proposed by Cuvier, and adopted by later writers (*e. g.*, Günther), is artificial and heterogeneous, and doubtless the typical species of *Chrysophrys* and *Pagrus* are more nearly allied to each other than are such types to forms with which they have been associated. For the present, the genus *Sparus* may be retained as distinct from *Pagrus* and with the eliminations required.

SPARUS.

Synonymy.

- <Sparus *Linnaeus*, Syst. Nat., 10. ed., t. 1, p. 277, 1758; 12. ed., t. 1, p. 467, 1766 Gmelin, ed., t. 1. p. 1270.
- <Sparus *Bloch*, Systema Ichthyologiæ, ed. Schneider, p. 269, 1801.
- <Sparus *Lacépède*, Hist. Nat. des Poissons, t. 4, p. 26, 1803.
- <Les Sbares (Sparus Cuv.) *Cuvier*, Règne Animal, t. 2, p. 271 (genus), 1817.
- <Les Daurades *Cuvier*, Règne Animal, t. 2, p. 272 (subgenus of *Sparus*), 1817.
- <Aurata *Risso*, Hist. Nat. de l'Europe Merid., t. 3, p.—, 1827.
- <Les Daurades (Chrysophrys,) *Cuvier*, Règne Animal, 2. ed., t. 2, p. 181, 1829.
- <Sparus *Bonaparte*, Giorn. Acad. di Scienze, t. 52 (Saggio Distrib. Metod. Animali Vertebr. a sangue freddo, p. 33), 1832.
- =Chrysophrys *Swainson*, Nat. Hist. and Class Fishes, etc., v. 2, pp. 171, 221, 1839.

ON THE PROPER NAME OF THE BLUE FISH.

BY THEODORE GILL.

The propriety of the substitution of the name *Pomatomus* in place of *Temnodon* for the blue-fish of the Americans has been questioned by (1) those who contend that a generally accepted name should not be disturbed, and by (2) those who would go to an extreme in the application of the law of priority. A brief history of the nomenclature of the genus seems therefore to be desirable.

The blue-fish had been referred to genera with which it has little affinity (to *Gasterosteus* by Linnæus and *Scomber* by Bloch) till the close of the last century.

In 1802 Lacépède described as a new species, and as the first of a new genus, a form which was evidently identical with the *Gasterosteus saltatrix* of Linnæus and the blue-fish of the United States, but which was obtained by Commerson in the "Océan Équatorial." With this species

were associated eight others and the including genus was defined as follows :

“ *Cent sixième genre.*

“ LES CHEILODIPTÈRES.

“La lèvre supérieure extensible ; point de dents incisives, ni molares ; les opercules des branchies dénués de piquans et de dentelures ; deux nageoires dorsales.”

In 1828, the genus *Cheilodipterus* was amended by Cuvier and Valenciennes (Hist. Nat. des Poissons, t. 2, p.162), and restricted to the third species of Lacépède (le *C. rayé*) and related species. Inasmuch as (1) the Cuvierian genus had received no previous name, (2) the Lacépédian name and diagnosis were as applicable to it as to any other of the species, and (3) it did not conflict with any other rights, there appears to be no sufficient reason for transferring the name to any other genus. Nevertheless, because the first species of the genus was the Blue-fish, Dr. Bleeker has proposed to revive the name *Cheilodipterus* instead of *Temnodon*, and given a new name (*Paramia*) for the genus *Cheilodipterus* Cuv. & Val. ex Lac. Common usage does not seem to justify such a procedure.

But in 1803 Lacépède described a supposed previously unknown form of fish, the Pomatome skib (*Pomatomus skib*), in the following terms :

[P. 435.]

Cent Vingt-Quatrième Genre.

LES POMATOMES.

L'opercule entaillé le haut de son bord postérieur, et couvert d'écaillés semblables à celles du dos : le corps et la queue allongés ; deux nageoires dorsales ; la nageoire de l'anus très adipeuse.

ESPÈCE.

CARACTÈRES.

LE POMATOME SKIB. (<i>Pomatomus Skib.</i>)	{	Sept rayons aiguillonnés à la première dorsale ; trois entailles à chaque opercule ; la mâchoire inférieure plus avancée que la supérieure ; la caudale très fourchue.
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[P. 436.]

LE POMATOME SKIB.¹

Nous devons la connoissance de ce poisson à notre savant confrère M. Bosc, qui a bien voulu nous communiquer un dessin et une description de cette espèce, dont il a observé les formes et les habitudes, avec son habileté ordinaire, pendant le séjour qu'il a fait dans les États-Unis.

¹ “ *Pomatomus skib.*

Skib jack, dans la Caroline.

Perca skibea pinnis dorsalibus distinctis, secundâ viginti-quatuor radiis, corpore argenteo, cauda bifurcâ.”

Ce pomatome² habite dans les baies et vers les embouchures des rivières de la Caroline. On ne l'y trouve cependant qu'assez rarement.

Il saute et s'élançe fréquemment à une distance plus ou moins grande; et cette faculté ne doit pas surprendre dans un poisson dont la queue est conformée de manière à pouvoir être agitée avec rapidité. La chair du skib est très-agréable au goût.

Les mâchoires sont garnies chacune d'une rangée de dents aplaties, presque égales, et un peu séparées les unes des autres. La seconde dorsale est plus longue que la première, et d'une étendue à peu près égale à celle de la nageoire de l'anüs. Celle-ci est si adipeuse [p. 437] qu'on peut à peine distinguer les rayons qui la composent.

L'animal est verdâtre dans sa partie supérieure, et argenté dans sa partie inférieure. L'iris est jaune; et l'on voit une tache noire sur la base des pectorales, qui sont jaunâtres.*

As this description clearly applies to the ordinary bluefish, and, in fact, is well known to be based on that species, the name *Pomatomus* should have been used for it as the earliest given therefor. But Risso, in 1826, referred to Lacépède's genus, a deep-sea fish, which he considered to be congeneric with the "*P. skib*." Cuvier recognized that Risso's fish was generically distinct, but notwithstanding (1) revived the name *Pomatomus* from Risso for the latter fish, (2) suppressed Lacépède's genus, and (3) proposed a new designation (*Temnodon*) in place of Lacépède's *Pomatomus*. Each step in this procedure was inadmissible. In 1862, I therefore restored the name *Pomatomus* to the bluefish in lieu of *Temnodon* and this revived name has been generally adopted since by American naturalists, as it undoubtedly will be by all others when they have learned that obedience to law (laws formulated by the British and American Associations for the Advancement of Science) is more conducive to stability of nomenclature than deference to the whim or prejudice of any "authority."

The synonymy of the genus is quite voluminous, as will be evident from the following exhibit:

POMATOMUS.

< *Cheilodipterus* Lacépède, Hist. Nat. des Poissons, t. 3, p. 542, 1802.

= *Pomatomus* Lacépède, Hist. Nat. des Poissons, t. 4, p. 436 (yg.), 1803.

= *Gonenion* Rafinesque, Caratteri alc. n. gen. e. n. sp. An. e. Piante Sicilia, p. 53 (pl. 10, f. 3 = yg.), 1810.

² "Ce nom générique désigne la forme de l'opercule: *poma*, en grec, signifie opercule, et *tomé*, incision."

* 7 rayons à la membrane branchiale du pomatome skib.

24 à la seconde dorsale.

15 à chaque pectorale.

6 à chaque thoracine.

26 à la nageoire de l'anüs.

18 à celle de la queue.

- =*Temnodon Cuvier*, Règne Animal, t. 2, p. 346, 1817.
 =*Sypterus Eichwald*, Fauna Caspio-Caucasica, p. —? (fide Bonaparte), ? 1841.
 =*Chromis Gronow*, Systema Ichthyologicum (1780), publ. by J. E. Gray, p. —, 1854.
 =*Pomatomus Gill*, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Phila., [v. 14,] p. 443, 1862.
 =*Cheilodipterus Bleeker*, Nat. Verhandel. Holl. Maatschapij Wetenschappen (3), v. 2, no. 1, p. 74, 1874.
 =*Sparactodon de Rochebrune*, Bull. Soc. Philomathique Paris (7), t. 4? pp. 159-169 (y.g.), 1880 (identified with "*Temnodon*" by *Steindachner*, Denkschr. k. Akad. Wiss., Math.-Nat. Cl., v. 14, p. 51, 1882.

DOES THE PANTHER (*FELIS CONCOLOR*) GO INTO THE WATER TO KILL FISH?

BY LIVINGSTON STONE.

[Letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

My mind has been quite exercised lately on the question whether panthers go into the water to kill fish. They are so numerous and bold here this year, that they come to our very doors and kill pigs and fowls under our windows. We estimate that they have killed a hundred dollars' worth of hogs here this season, besides calves, colts, and full grown cattle and horses. As far as boldness is concerned, they are fully equal to jumping into our trout ponds and killing our trout. And if you think they are likely to do this, we will take special precautions against it. They easily jump over any obstacle not more than 15 feet high, so that our fences are no protection from them.

They frequently swim the river, which made me think that perhaps they might get into the trout ponds sometimes for a meal of fish.

UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION,

Baird, Shasta County, California, September 21, 1882.

ON CERTAIN NEGLECTED GENERIC NAMES OF LA CÉPÈDE.

BY DAVID S. JORDAN AND CHARLES H. GILBERT.

In the *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons* (1799-1803) of La Cépède a considerable number of generic names are proposed, some of them founded on errors of various sorts, others properly defined. About one-fourth of these were adopted by Cuvier and Valenciennes, and have come into general use. A large number are simple synonyms. The remainder, for different reasons, were set aside by Cuvier and Valenciennes, and new names proposed in their places. As the laws of priority are constantly becoming more and more urgent, we find ourselves obliged to go behind Cuvier, and to adopt these earlier names.

The present paper contains a discussion of some of these names, the adoption of which would affect the nomenclature of American fishes.