

THE PROPER GENERIC NAME OF THE TUNNIES.

BY

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It must be conceded that neither of the names generally used till lately for the tunnies can be retained. What is the proper substitute has been a question in dispute.

President Jordan has proposed a new name (*Albacora*) for the true tunny and another (*Germa*) for the long-finned albacore, but referring both as subgenera to a common genus for which he took the name *Albacora*.*

The present writer has accepted the name *Oryzenus*, originally the result of a *lapsus calami*,† but subsequently deliberately adopted for the short-finned tunnies.‡

The reasons given for the revival of the name of *Oryzenus* have not satisfied President Jordan or his disciples, Dresslar and Fesler. The latter have commented on the subject as follows:

The name *Oryzenus* Cooper, it seems to us, is preoccupied by its previous use for another genus or subgenus by Gill. It is therefore ineligible. In other words, a generic name originating in a misprint of a well-known name can not be later used as a name of another genus.§

Oryzenus was not taken by Cooper for another genus or subgenus than that for which it was originally used by Gill. That author, under the caption "*Genus Oryzenus* Cuv.," specified "*Oryzenus secundidorsalis*," the tunny, and that only. For the tunnies only Cooper retained the name, restricting *Oryzenus* to the long-finned Albacores. It seems to me that the course was legitimate. However, a discovery which I made soon after the publication of my paper "On the proper generic name of the tunny and albacore" will settle the question against all of us in accordance with the principles of nomenclature recognized by us.

In 1845 the twenty-fifth volume of the Encyclopædia Metropolitana was published, and in it are zoölogical articles by Dr. J. F. South.

*Jordan (D. S.) A Manual of the Vertebrate Animals of the Northern United States. Fifth edition. Chicago, 1888 (p. 106).

†Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. XI, p. 319, 1888.

‡Proceedings of the California Academy of Natural Sciences, Vol. III, p. 77, 1863.

§Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission, Vol. VII, for 1887 (p. 437). Washington.

Among them is one on "*Thunnus*." After the "generic character" and some comments, a paragraph was devoted to the nomenclature in the following terms:

Cuvier has applied the word *Thynnus* generically to these fish, but as it had been long before used by Fabricius as the title of a genus of hymenopterous insects, it will be better to use the corresponding word *Thunnus* to prevent confusion.

The name *Thunnus* was thus suggested and used as a substitute for *Thynnus* and as sufficiently distinct from the latter; it has classical sanction, the form *Thunnus* being the regular one and preferred by many scholars* to *Thynnus*.† *Thunnus*, it is true, is a mere variant of *Thynnus*, but, being a variant, it is different and, as different, was formally introduced as a substitute for *Thynnus*. By most American ichthyologists it will therefore be accepted.

The essential synonymy of *Thunnus* is as follows:

THUNNUS.

Synonymy.

- × *Thynnus Cuvier*, Règne Animal [1^{re} éd.], t. 2, p. 313, 1817. (*T. thynnus*. Not *Thynnus* of Fab., 1775.)
- > *Oreynus Cuvier*, Règne Animal [1^{re} éd.], t. 2, p. 311, 1817. (*T. alalouga*. Not *Oreynus* of Raf., 1815.)
- < *Thynnus Cur. & Val.*, Hist. Nat. de Poissons, t. 8, p. 57, 1831.
- < *Thunnus South*, Enc. Metrop., v. 25, p. 620, 1815.
- < *Thynnus Günther*, Cat. Fishes in Brit. Mus., v. 2, p. 362, 1860.
- < *Oreynus Gill*, Cat. Fishes E. Coast N. America, p. 35, 1861; Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., [v. 11], p. 125, 1862. (*Lapsus calami*.)
- < *Oreynus Gill*, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., [v. 11], p. 329, 1862.
- × *Oreynus Cooper*, Proc. Cal. Acad. Nat. Sci., v. 3, p. 77, 1863.
- > *Oreynus Cooper*, Proc. Cal. Acad. Nat. Sci., v. 3, p. 77, 1863.
- *Albacora Jordan*, Man. Vert. An. N. U. S., 5th ed., p. 106, 1888. (*T. thynnus*.)
- > *Germo Jordan*, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1888. (*T. alalouga*.)
- Scomber* sp. *Linn. et vet. auct.*

*"Thunnus (also written thynnus), i. m. *thérrog*, the *tunny* or *tunny-fish*, *Scomber Thynnus*, Linn.; Plin. 9, 15, 17, § 41, sq.; Hor. S. 2, 5, 11; Ov. Hal. 98; Mart. 10, 18, 12;" Andrews' Copious and Critical Latin-English Lexicon.

†"Thynnus, i. v. [*i. e.* vide] thunnus." Andrews *op. cit.*