

NOTE ON PLECTROPLITES AND HYPOPLECTRODES,
GENERA OF SERRANOID FISHES.

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MR. BOULENGER, in the first volume of his excellent Catalogue of the Perciform Fishes, has accepted two later names for genera on account of imperfect data respecting earlier ones: these are *Ctenolates* instead of *Plectroplites*, and *Gilbertia* in place of *Hypoplectrodes*. It is not surprising, for the author himself had even forgotten one—*Hypoplectrodes*.

I.

The name *Ctenolates* of Günther (1871) was adopted by Mr. Boulenger, and as a synonym was noted "*Plectroplites*. Gill, Proc. Ac. Philad., 1862, p. 236 (no definition); Bleek. Arch. Néerl. xi, 1876, p. 267."

It is true that at the place cited by Mr. Boulenger "no definition" was given, but one was supplied later in the following terms:

The *Datnia? ambigua* of Richardson, which has been referred by Günther to the genus *Dules*, differs from *Moronopsis*¹ by the shorter convex anal fin, the large second anal spine, the small eyes, and the entire physiognomy. It may be called *Plectroplites ambiguus*.

The characters thus positively given and contrasted with those of *Kuhlia* or *Moronopsis* are sufficient to differentiate and define the genus, although the author, like Günther and all others, was unaware of the trenchant anatomical characters further differentiating the genus from *Kuhlia*. The synonymy of the genus should be amended as follows:

Genus PLECTROPLITES.

Plectroplites, GILL, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1862, p. 236 (with typonym only); 1863, p. 286 (defined).

Ctenolates, GÜNTHER, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1871, p. 320.

Datnia? sp. RICHARDSON.

Dules sp. GÜNTHER (1859) et al.

The *P. ambiguus* is still the only species known.

¹ *Moronopsis* had been previously named by Gill *Kuhlia*, and the latter name has been adopted by Jordan and Boulenger.

II.

The name *Gilbertia* of Jordan and Eigenmann was adopted by Mr. Boulenger¹ in place of *Hypoplectrodes*, because the latter was supposed to have "no definition." On the page referred to by Mr. Boulenger, indeed, no definition was given, but later (in 1871) Professor Poey, to whom I had indicated the characters in response to an inquiry for them, gave them in a memoir entitled "Genres des Poissons de la Faune de Cuba appartenant à la Famille *Percidae*, avec une Note d'introduction par J. Carson Brevoort."² Prof. Poey's diagnosis was as follows:

Le genre *Hypoplectrodes* a été proposé par Mr. Gill, Proc. Acad. Phil., 1862, p. 236, pour le *Pl. nigro-rubrum*, C. et V. Il est plus allongé que le *Pl. serratum*; les dentelures du bord montant du préopercule sont plus fines; il n'y a au bord inférieur que deux pointes dirigées en avant, dont l'une à l'angle. D. 10, 17; A. 3, 8.

I have to confess that I myself had forgotten having named this genus, or at least failed to connect with it the *Plectropoma huntii* of Hector of New Zealand, and consequently adopted the name *Gilbertia* of Jordan and Eigenmann who had overlooked the previous proposition of the genus by Gill and Poey.

The facts of the case, then, are expressible in the following synonymy:

Genus HYPOPLECTRODES.

Hypoplectrodes, GILL, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1862, p. 236 (with typonym only) (1862).—POEY, Ann. New York Lyc. Nat. Hist., X, p. 45, 1871 (defined). *Gilbertia*, JORDAN & EIGENMANN, Bull. U. S. Fish Comm., VIII, p. 346, 1890.

The species of *Hypoplectrodes*, according to Mr. Boulenger's³ views, are four in number, viz:

1. *H. semicinctus*=*Plectropoma semicinctum* CV.=*P. huntii*, Hector. South Australia, New Zealand, Chile.

2. *H. annulatus*=*Plectropoma annulatum*, Günther. South Australia.

3. *H. nigroruber*. South Australia.

4. *H. (?) armatus*=*Serranus armatus*, Castelnau. Australia (Swan River).

It may be added that the name *Gilbertia* was also given in 1891⁴ by Lord Walsingham to a genus of pterophoroid lepidopters.

¹ Vol. I, p. 306.

² Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, X, pp. 27-79.

³ Vol. I, pp. 306-309.

⁴ Ent. Monthly Mag. (2), II, p. 259.