

CHERODON IN PLACE OF CHEROPS FOR A LABROID GENUS OF FISHES.

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President Jordan, of Stanford University, having asked me to ascertain the relative claims of *Cossyphodes* and *Chærops* to priority, I devoted some time to the inquiry. My surprise was great to find that a name unrecorded by late ichthyologists had been the first proposed. The earliest reference to the name *Cossyphodes* that I have been able to find is by Bleeker himself, who mentions it as a synonym of *Chærops*; in his "Conspectus generum Labroideorum Analyticus"^a he merely records "*Chærops* Rüpp.=*Hypsigenys* Günth.=*Cossyphodes* Blkr." No reference is made to *Cossyphodes* by Günther in the following year^b nor by Bleeker in his Atlas Ichthyologique more specific than the "Syn. *Chærodon*^c et *Cossyphodes* Blkr. olim," further than a mention of "*Chærodon* sp." in the synonymy of "*Chærops macrodon*." Nevertheless, in 1847^d Bleeker published his Overzicht der te Batavia voorkomende gladschubbighe Labroëden in the Verhandelingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen (deel XXII). The first two species are "*Cossyphus macrodon* Blkr." (= *Labrus macrodontus* Lacépède) and "*Cossyphus mesothorac* Cuv. Valenc., XIII, p. 93."^e The former has been universally named *Chærops macrodon* or *macrodontus* since 1861. This has been on the assumption that the name *Chærops* was the earliest generic designation for the type. Bleeker, however, in the

^a Proc. Zool. Soc., 1861, p. 415.

^b Cat. Fishes, IV, 1863, p. 93.

^c *Chærodon* was a new form in 1861, the more correct form *Chærodon* having been used in 1845 and 1847.

^d 1847 is the date indicated at the bottom of the page; the monograph is not noticed in the Archiv für Naturgeschichte for any year (1847-1850).

^e Het lijkt dus wel geen' twijfel, dat deze soort moet gerangschikt worden onder het geslacht *Cossyphus*. Vroeger, toen mij het 13de deel van de Histoire naturelle des Poissons nog ontbrak, had ik van deze soort een nieuw geslacht gevormd en hetzelfde *Chærodon* genoemd, naar de groote naar buiten uitstekende kromme buitenste slagstanden van de onderkaak. Dit genus behoort echter buiten gebruik te blijven. Bleeker, p. 10, 11.

memoir cited (p. 10) records that before receiving the thirteenth volume of Cuvier and Valenciennes he had formed for the species a new genus which he called *Choerodon*, and distinguished it on account of the large and much curved front teeth of the lower jaw. This genus, however, he thought should not be retained.^a

Notwithstanding Bleeker's suppression of his own genus, according to modern views the generic name should be revived. Bleeker gave an appropriate name, indicated certain generic characters, and specified a type. The fact that he ignored the name later is immaterial.

The status of the several names proposed is indicated in the following synonymy.

A comparison of species of *Choerodon* and *Harpe* in the U. S. National Museum has convinced the writer of the close relationship of the two, notwithstanding their reference to distinct subfamilies by Doctor Günther.

CHÆRODON.^b

SYNONYMY.

Choerodon BLEEKER, *Ov. gladshub. Labroid.*, 1847, p. 10. (Type, *C. macrodon* Lacépède.)

Choerops RÜPPELL *Verz. Mus. Senckenberg. N. G. Samml.*, IV, 1852, p. 20. (Type, *C. melcagris*.)

Hypsigenys GÜNTHER, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (3) VIII, 1861, p. 383. (Type, *H. macrodon* Lacépède.)

Cossyphodes BLEEKER, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1861, p. 416. (Named as syn. of *Choerops*.)

^a So far as the definition goes, that by Rüppell for *Choerops* has no advantage over *Charodon*. There is no character in his diagnosis which is not equally applicable to *Bodianus* or *Harpe* (= *Cossyphus*) and several other genera. The only reference to a type is "*Choerops* (nov. gen.) *melcagris* Rüpp. Sic. Mare Javanicum." No definition then or later was attached to the name. Bleeker, in 1859, in his *Enumeratio specierum Piscium hucusque in Archipelago Indico observatorum*, enumerates the genus *Choerops* (p. xviii) and the species *Choerops melcagris* (94) but did not recognize the identity of the latter with the species he then called *Cossyphus macrodon* (93). In his *Atlas Ichthyologique* he remarked: "C'est à M. Rüppell qu'est dû l'établissement de ce genre, mais ne le définissant pas suffisamment et n'en décrivant pas l'espèce typique qu'il nomma *Choerops melcagris* [i. e., *melcagris*], il laissa, quant à son type, des doutes, qui ne sont dissipés qu'après que j'ai pu me convaincre, lors de mon séjour à Francfort sur le Main, en l'an 1861, que le *Choerops melcagris* [melcagris] n'est autre que le *Labrus macrodon* Lac."

^b Reference is made by Bleeker, in his *Atlas Ichthyologique des Indes Orientales néerlandaises*, I, 1862, p. 162, to "Bijdr. Geneesk. Topogr. Batavia, p. 513." A search reveals that the publication referred to is in the *Natuur-en-Geneeskundig Archief voor Neerland's-Indië, tweede Jaargang, 1845*; at p. 513 is a list of the "Labroiden," and of them is mentioned "1 [soort] van *Choerodon* (nov. g.)." This is the only indication, and the name is therefore a pure *nomen nudum*.