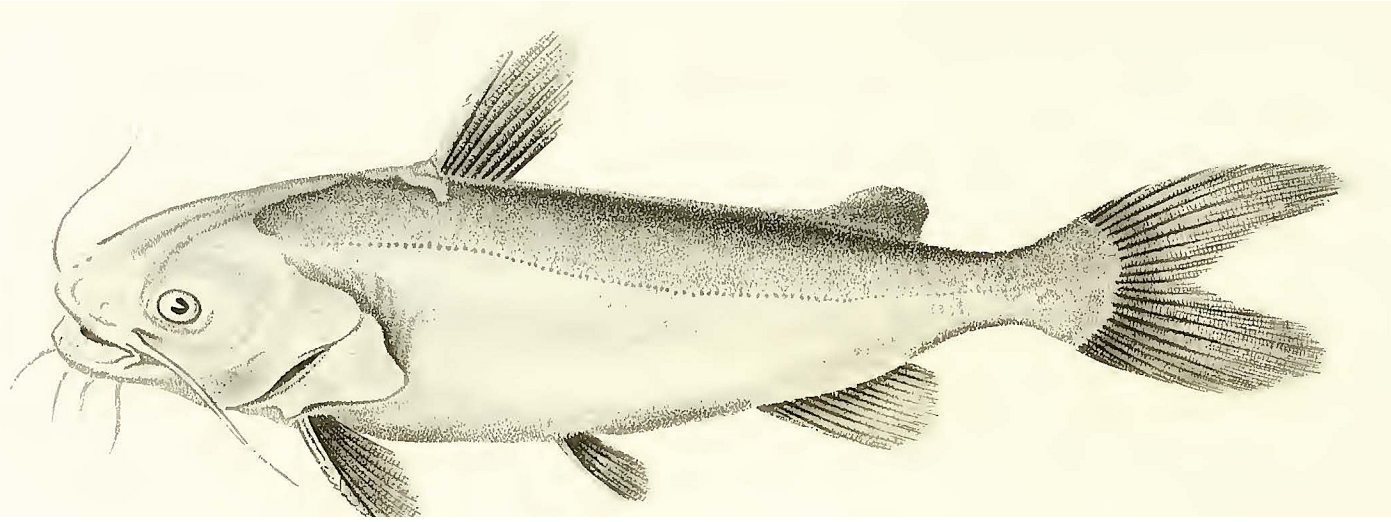
Order SILURIFORMES

Sea Catfishes

Family **ARIIDAE**

Bleeker 1858



Galeichthys feliceps. Illustration by Jacques Reyne Isidore Acarie-Baron. From: Cuvier, G. and A. Valenciennes. 1840. Histoire naturelle des poissons. Tome quinzième. Suite du livre dix-septième. Siluroïdes. v. 15: i–xxxi + 1–540, Pls. 421–455. [Valenciennes authored volume.]

Bearded Sea Catfishes

Subfamily GALEICHTHYINAE

Acero & Betancur-R. 2007

Galeichthys

Valenciennes 1840

galeus, from *galeós* (Γαλεός), weasel; *ichthýs* (ἰχθύς), fish: Valenciennes explained that catfishes get their name from their cat-like whiskers (or barbels) and therefore named this genus after weasels, which also have whiskers

Galeichthys ater **Castelnau 1861** Latin for black, referring to green-black ("vert noir") upper body coloration (compared with bronze-green coloration of *G. feliceps*)

Galeichthys feliceps **Valenciennes 1840** *felis* (L.), cat; *-ceps* (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to the cat-like whiskers (barbels) that give catfishes their name

Galeichthys peruvianus **Lütken 1874** *-anus* (L.), belonging to: Peru, referring to Callao, Peru, type locality

Galeichthys trowi **Kulongowski 2010** in honor of the late Eugene Trow, Jr., a student studying the biology and ecology of *Galeichthys* in South Africa, who recognized the probable distinctiveness of this species, and of his late father, Eugene Trow, Sr., who collected much of the type series [preferably spelled *troworum* since name honors more than one person, but ICZN 32.5.1 forbids such a correction]

Forktail Catfishes

Subfamily ARIINAE

Bleeker 1858

Aceroichthys

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

in honor of Colombian ichthyologist Arturo Acero P. (b. 1954), for his "valuable" contributions to ariid taxonomy; *ichthýs* (ἰχθύς), fish

Aceroichthys dioctes **(Kailola 2000)** from *dioktes* (διωκτες), hunter or pursuer, referring to its "apparent hunting ability, diet and dentition"

Ariopsis

Gill 1861

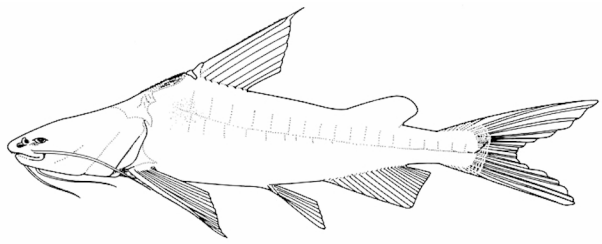
ópsis (ὄψις), appearance, presumably referring to previous placement of *A. milberti* (=*A. felis*) in, and presumed resemblance to, *Arius*

Ariopsis assimilis **(Günther 1864)** Latin for similar, described as "closely allied" to *Hexanematichthys hymenorrhinos* (=*Sciades herzbergii*) and *A. seemanni*

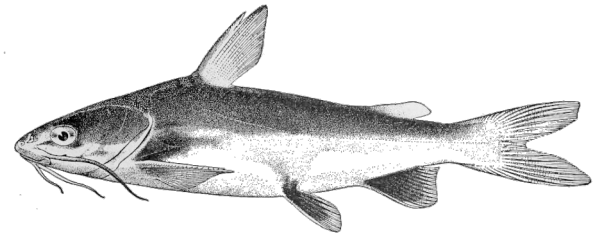
Ariopsis canteri **Acero P., Betancur-R. & Marceniuk 2017** in honor of Diego Canter Ríos (1984–2007), a "young and talented" Colombian ichthyologist who died in a car accident near Santa Marta along with three other biologists; species delimitation in *Ariopsis* was part of Diego's B.Sc. thesis in Marine Biology, which he could not complete due to his untimely death

Ariopsis felis **(Linnaeus 1766)** Latin for cat (i.e., catfish), manuscript name coined by Scottish physician-naturalist Alexander Garden (1730–1791), Charleston, South Carolina (USA), who sent fish skins to Linnaeus

Ariopsis gilberti **(Jordan & Williams 1895)** in honor of American ichthyologist and fisheries biologist Charles H. Gilbert (1859–1928), in whose



Aceroichthys dioctes, paratype, 200 mm SL. From: Kailola, P. J. 2000. Six new species of fork-tailed catfishes (Pisces, Teleostei, Ariidae) from Australia and New Guinea. The Beagle, Records of the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory 16: 127–144.



Ariopsis simonsi, holotype, 255 mm TL. Illustration by Chloe Lesley Starks. From: Starks, E. C. 1906. On a collection of fishes made by P. O. Simons in Ecuador and Peru. Proceedings of the United States National Museum 30 (1468): 761–800, Pls. 65–66.

laboratory the present paper was written, and who provided "much valuable aid in many ways"; in addition, Gilbert had previously collected this catfish, reported as *A. assimilis*

***Ariopsis guatemalensis* (Günther 1864)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Guatemala, where type specimen was purchased

***Ariopsis jimenezi* Marceniuk, Acero P., Cooke & Betancur-R. 2017** in honor of Máximo Jiménez Acosta, zooarchaeology technician at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Panama), who drew attention to the possible existence of a new species based on the examination of osteological characters in specimens formerly reported as *A. seemanni*

***Ariopsis seemanni* (Günther 1864)** in honor of German botanist Berthold Carl Seemann (1825–1871), who collected holotype

***Ariopsis simonsi* (Starks 1906)** in honor of the late Perry Oveitt Simons (1869–1901), American natural history collector in South America, who collected holotype (his guide murdered him while crossing the Andes of Argentina, presumably for his money and gear) [see essay in Astroblepidae for full story]

Arius

Valenciennes 1840

tautonymous with *Pimelodus arius* Hamilton 1822
[see species for explanation]

***Arius acutirostris* Day 1877** *acutus* (L.), sharp or pointed; *rostris*, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of *rostrum* (L.), snout, referring to its "fleshy and elongated" snout, "extending some distance beyond the mouth"

***Arius africanus* Günther 1867** *-icus* (L.), belonging to: Africa, described as an African "variety" of the Asian *A. falcarius* (=*A. arius*)

***Arius arenarius* (Müller & Troschel 1849)** Latin for of or pertaining to sand, probably referring to "strongly granular" head and "highly granular" occipital process (translations)

***Arius arius* (Hamilton 1822)** Latinization of *Ari*, from *Ari gogora*, local Bengali name for this fish in India [note: many sources state that *Arius* is derived from a Greek word meaning warrior, presumably referring to their strong dorsal- and pectoral-fin spines, but this interpretation is incorrect]

***Arius brunellii* Zolezzi 1939** patronym not identified, probably in honor of Italian zoologist Gustavo Brunelli (1881–1960), who led expedition during which holotype was collected

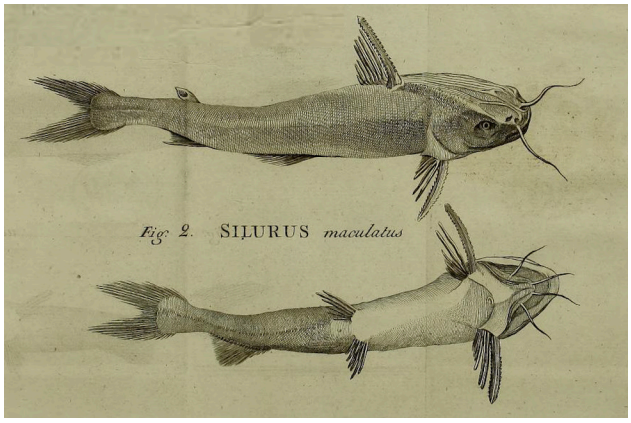
***Arius burmanicus* Day 1870** *-icus* (L.), belonging to: Burma (now Myanmar), where type locality (Salween) is situated

***Arius dispar* Herre 1926** Latin for dissimilar; Herre could "find no similar fish in the literature, the teeth and gill rakers separating it at once from anything described by Bleeker, Günther, Day, Vaillant, Sauvage, or Weber and Beaufort"

***Arius gagora* (Hamilton 1822)** local Bengali name for this fish in India

***Arius jatius* (Hamilton 1822)** Latinization of *Jat* from *Jat gagora*, local Bengali name for this fish in India [a noun in apposition, often incorrectly spelled *jatia*]

***Arius jella* Day 1877** from *Deddi jellah*, its local name at Vizagapatam on the Coromandel Coast of India, as reported by Russell (1803)



Arius maculatus. From: Thunberg, C. P. 1792. Tvånne Japanske fiskar. Kongliga Vetenskaps-Academiens Handlingar, Stockholm 13: 29–32, Pl. 1.

***Arius macronotacanthus* Bleeker 1846** *macro-*, from *makrós* (μακρός), long or large; *nōtos* (νῶτος), back; *acanthus* (L.), from *ákantha* (ἄκανθα), thorn, referring to its thick dorsal spine

***Arius maculatus* (Thunberg 1792)** Latin for spotted, referring to large black spot on adipose fin

***Arius malabaricus* Day 1877** *-icus* (L.), belonging to: Malabar (i.e., southern India), presumably referring to type locality in the Canara region of southwest India

***Arius manillensis* Valenciennes 1840** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Manila, Philippines, type locality

***Arius microcephalus* Bleeker 1855** small-headed, from *mikrós* (μικρός), small, and *kephalḗ* (κεφαλή), head, contained 4-4⅕ times in SL, smaller than *A. arius* and *A. pidada* (=*maculatus* [in part] and *A. utik* [in part])

***Arius subrostratus* Valenciennes 1840** *sub* (L.), less or under (i.e., somewhat); *rostratus* (L)., beaked, referring to its less-elongate snout compared with *A. rostratus* (a junior synonym), described in the same publication

***Arius utik* Bleeker 1846** from *Ikan* (=fish) *Manong utik*, local Jakartan (Batavian) name for this catfish [also spelled *oetik* by Bleeker later in 1846, which is frequently used in modern literature, but *utik* was clearly Bleeker's intent and appears to have priority by a few months]

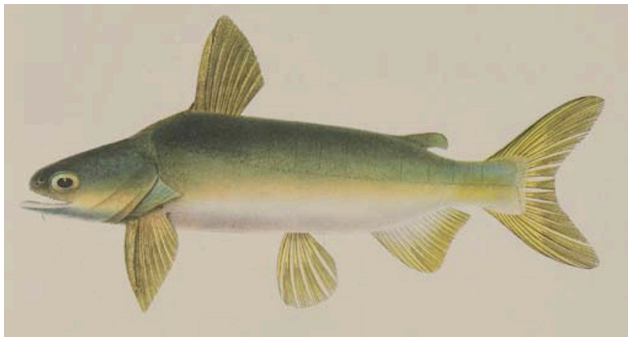
***Arius venosus* Valenciennes 1840** Latin for veiny, venous or full of veins, referring to vein-like latero-sensory canals

Batrachocephalus

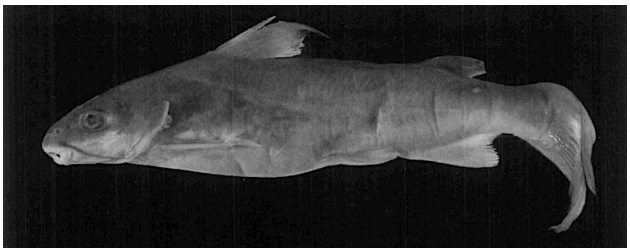
Bleeker 1846

bátrachos (βάτραχος), frog; *cephalus*, from *kephalḗ* (κεφαλή), head, referring to frog-like head of *B. ageneiosus* (=*mino*)

***Batrachocephalus mino* (Hamilton 1822)** presumably a local name for this fish along upper Ganges estuaries in India



Probably first-published image of *Batrachocephalus mino* (as *B. micropogon* Bleeker 1858, a junior synonym). Illustration by Ludwig Speigler. From: Bleeker, P. 1862–63. Atlas ichthyologique des Indes Orientales Néêrlandaises, publié sous les auspices du Gouvernement colonial néêrlandais. Tome II. Siluroïdes, Chacoïdes et Hétérobranchoïdes. F. Muller, Amsterdam. 1–112, Pls. 49–101. 1862:1–32, Pls. 49–72; 1863: 33–112, Pls. 73–101. [Plate published 1862.]



Betancurichthys festinus, holotype, 141.9 mm SL. From: Ng, H. H. and J. S. Sparks. 2003. The ariid catfishes (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Ariidae) of Madagascar, with the description of two new species. Occasional Papers of the Museum of Zoology University of Michigan 735: 1–21.

Betancurichthys

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

in honor of Colombian ichthyologist Ricardo Betancur-R., for his "dedication to the knowledge of the taxonomy, evolution, and biogeography of marine catfishes"; *ichthýs* (ἰχθύς), fish

Betancurichthys festinus **(Ng & Sparks 2003)** Latin for quick or speedy, referring to its habitat, a swift-flowing river

Betancurichthys madagascariensis **(Vaillant 1894)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: western Madagascar, where it is endemic

Betancurichthys uncinatus **(Ng & Sparks 2003)** Latin for barbed or hooked, referring to its curved snout

Bleekeriella

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

-ella (L.), diminutive connoting endearment: in honor of Dutch army surgeon and ichthyologist Pieter Bleeker (1819–1878), who contributed "greatly" to our understanding of the taxonomy of ariids from the Indo-Malaysian archipelago

Bleekeriella leptaspis **(Bleeker 1862)** *leptós* (λεπτός), fine or thin; *aspís* (ἀσπίς), shield, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its triangular occipital process, longer rather than broad at its base

Bleekeriella leptaspis. Illustration by Ludwig Speigler. See *Batrachocephalus mino* caption for source.

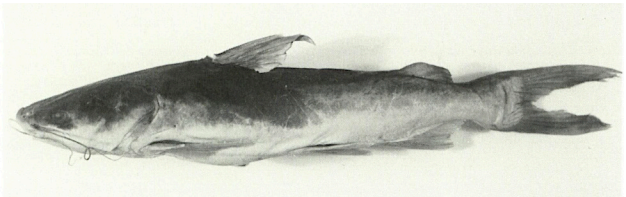
Brustiarius

Herre 1935

brustia, Vulgar Latin for a brush, referring to slender, comb-like gill-rakers, originally proposed as a subgenus of *Arius*

Brustiarius nox **(Herre 1935)** Latin for night, referring to black color above and on sides in alcohol, and all-black fins except the ventrals

Brustiarius solidus **(Herre 1935)** Latin for entire, referring to entire palate "covered by a solid plate of finely granulose teeth"



Brustiarius utarus, paratype, 284.5 mm SL. From: Kailola, P. J. 1990. A review of the freshwater fork-tailed catfishes (Pisces: Ariidae) of northern New Guinea, with descriptions of two new species. Records of the Western Australian Museum Suppl. 34: 1–30.

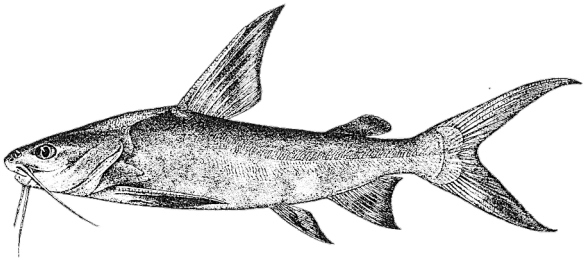
Brustiarius utarus **(Kailola 1990)** Latinization of *utara*, meaning "north" in Bahasa Indonesia (official language of Indonesia), referring to its distribution (northern New Guinea) compared with the similar *Bleekeriella leptaspis* (southern New Guinea and northern Australia)

Carlarius

Marceniuk & Menezes 2007

Carl, in honor of Carl Ferraris, Jr. (b. 1950), Research Associate, California Academy of Sciences, for his contribution to the knowledge of catfishes and continuous support and encouragement throughout the development of the authors' work on ariid systematics; *Arius*, type genus of family

Carlarius gigas **(Boulenger 1911)** *gígas* (γίγας), giant, referring to "the large skeletons which were regarded by Günther as the adults" of *A. latiscutatus*, but which actually belong to this species



Carlarius gigas. From: Boulenger, G. A. 1911. Catalogue of the fresh-water fishes of Africa in the British Museum (Natural History). London. v. 2: i–xii + 1–529.

Carlarius heudelotii **(Valenciennes 1840)** in honor of the late French botanist Jean-Pierre Heudelot (1802–1837), who collected and/or supplied holotype

Carlarius latiscutatus **(Günther 1864)** *latus* (L.), wide or broad; *scutatus* (L.), armed with a long shield, referring to occipital process broader than long

Carlarius parkii **(Günther 1864)** patronym not identified, nor can identity be inferred based on available information; since lectotype was collected from the mouth of the Niger River in Nigeria, perhaps in honor of Scottish explorer Mungo Park (1771–1806), the first European to explore the central part of the Niger River

Cathorops

Jordan & Gilbert 1883

kathoraō (καθοράω), to look down; *ōps* (ὦψ), eye, referring to low eye placement of C. *hypophthalmus*

Subgenus ***Cathorops***

Cathorops agassizii **(Eigenmann & Eigenmann 1888)** in honor of Swiss-born American zoologist-geologist Louis Agassiz (1807–1873), who led expedition during which holotype was collected

Cathorops aguadulce **(Meek 1904)** Spanish for fresh water, where it occurs

Cathorops arenatus **(Valenciennes 1840)** Latin for sandy or sanded, presumably referring to "yellowish gray fins dusted with fine black dust" (translation)

Cathorops belizensis **Marceniuk & Betancur-R. 2008** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Belize City, Belize, type locality

Cathorops festae **(Boulenger 1898)** in honor of Italian naturalist Enrico Festa (1868–1939), who collected holotype

Cathorops fuerthii **(Steindachner 1876)** in honor of Ignatius Fürth, Austrian consul at Panama (type locality), who collected and/or provided holotype

Cathorops higuchii **Marceniuk & Betancur-R. 2008** in honor of Horácio Higuchi, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi (Belém, Brazil), for his contribution to the taxonomy, systematics and morphology of South American ariids

Cathorops higuchii, holotype, 129 mm SL. From: Marceniuk, A. P. and R. Betancur-R. 2008. Revision of the species of the genus *Cathorops* (Siluriformes: Ariidae) from Mesoamerica and the Central American Caribbean, with description of three new species. Neotropical Ichthyology 6 (1): 25–44.

***Cathorops hypophthalmus* (Steindachner 1876)** *hypó* (ὑπό), under or beneath; *ophthalmós* (ὀφθαλμός), eye, referring to low placement of eyes, their middle below level of angle of mouth

***Cathorops kailolae* Marceniuk & Betancur-R. 2008** in honor of Australian biologist Patricia J. Kailola, University of the South Pacific (Suva, Fiji), for her "enormous" contribution to ariid systematics

***Cathorops liropus* (Bristol 1897)** *liro-*, from *leirós* (λειρός), pale; *pus*, from *poús* (πούς), foot (homologous to the ventral fins), referring to pale ventral fins, vs. black pelvic fins on the "allied" *C. melanopus*

***Cathorops manglarensis* Marceniuk 2007** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: off Cape Manglares, Pacific coast of Colombia, type locality; also refers to its habitat (Spanish for mangroves)

***Cathorops mapale* Betancur-R. & Acero P. 2005** from *chivo mapalé*, vernacular for this species among artisanal fishers in most Colombian localities; also the name of a Colombian rhythm of African origin typical of the fishery community of the Colombian Caribbean

***Cathorops melanopus* (Günther 1864)** *mélanos* (μέλανος), genitive of *mélas* (μέλας), black; *poús* (πούς), foot (homologous to the ventral fins), referring to deep black upper (inner) surface of ventral fins

***Cathorops multiradiatus* (Günther 1864)** *multi-* (L.), many; *radiatus* (L.), rayed, referring to long anal fin, with up to 27 rays

***Cathorops nuchalis* (Günther 1864)** Latin for of the neck or nape, presumably referring to elevated occipital process

***Cathorops raredonae* Marceniuk, Betancur-R. & Acero P. 2009** in honor of Sandra J. Raredon (b. 1954), Division of Fishes, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., for her valuable assistance in many curatorial duties

***Cathorops spixii* (Agassiz 1829)** in honor of German biologist Johann Baptist von Spix (1781–1826), who explored Brazil and named this catfish *Pimelodus albidus*, which Agassiz believed was preoccupied by *P. albidus* Lesueur 1819 (=*Ameiurus catus* in Ictaluridae)

***Cathorops steindachneri* (Gilbert & Starks 1904)** in honor of Austrian ichthyologist Franz Steindachner (1834–1919), who noted in 1876 that Panama specimens allied to *C. melanopus* did not agree with Günther's description of that species

***Cathorops taylori* (Hildebrand 1925)** in honor of American botanist and agronomist Frederic W. Taylor (1876–1944), director general of agriculture for the Government of El Salvador, under whose "immediate direction" this catfish was collected

***Cathorops tuyra* (Meek & Hildebrand 1923)** named for the Río Tuyra, mouth of Río Yape, Darien, Panama, type locality

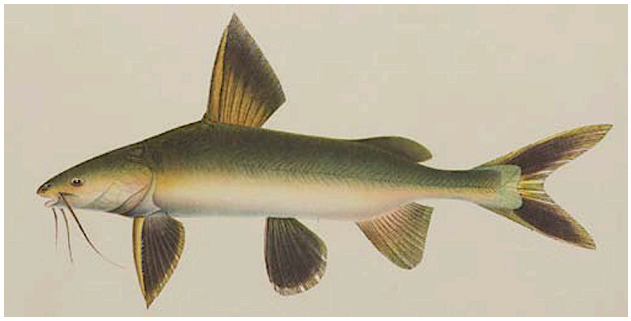
***Cathorops wayuu* Betancur-R., Acero P. & Marceniuk 2012** named for the Wayuu native American ethnic community from La Guajira peninsula (type locality) in northern Colombia and Venezuela

Subgenus *Precathorops*

Betancur-R. & Acero P. 2007

pre- (L.), before, referring to the basal position of *C. dasycephalus*

***Cathorops dasycephalus* (Günther 1864)** coarse-headed, from *dasýs* (δασύς), hairy or shaggy, and *kephalḗ* (κεφαλή), head, referring to "coarsely granulated" crown of head



Probably first-published image of *Cephalocassis melanochir*. Illustration by Ludwig Speigler. See *Batrachocephalus mino* caption for source.

Cephalocassis

Bleeker 1857

cephalo, from *kephalḗ* (κεφαλή), head; *cassis* (L.), metal helmet, presumably referring to the occipital process, which Bleeker (1858) called a "kopschild" (head shield)[1]

***Cephalocassis melanochir* (Bleeker 1852)** *mélanos* (μέλανος), genitive of *mélas* (μέλας), black; *cheír* (χείρ), hand (homologous to the pectoral fin), referring to broad blackish stripe in middle of pectoral fin (in all fins, actually, except anal)

Chinchaysuyoa

Marceniuk, Marchena, Oliveira & Betancur-R. 2019

name of the Inca Empire territory that comprised Ecuador (where *C. labiata* occurs) and Peru (where *C. ortegai* occurs)

***Chinchaysuyoa labiata* (Boulenger 1898)** Latin for lipped, referring to its "very thick lips" (translation)

***Chinchaysuyoa ortegai* Marceniuk, Marchena, Oliveira & Betancur-R. 2019** in honor of Hernán Ortega, "the most important ichthyologist working in Peru"

Chinchaysuyoa ortegai, 315 mm SL. From: Marceniuk, A. P., J. Marchena, C. Oliveira and R. Betancur-R. 2019. *Chinchaysuyoa*, a new genus of the fish family Ariidae (Siluriformes), with a redescription of *Chinchaysuyoa labiata* from Ecuador and a new species description from Peru. Zootaxa 4551 (3): 361–378.

Cinetodus

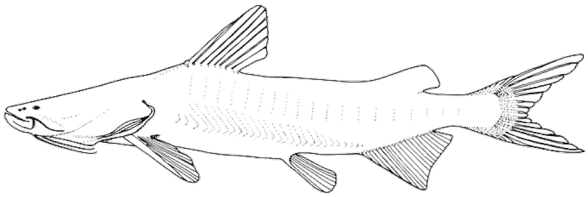
Ogilby 1898

cinet-, from *kinētós* (κινητός), moveable; *odoús* (ὀδούς), tooth, referring to patch of palatine teeth "implanted upon a moveable cushion"

***Cinetodus froggatti* (Ramsay & Ogilby 1886)** in honor of Austrian entomologist Walter Wilson Froggatt (1858–1937), "on whom the whole burden of collecting the zoological specimens obtained during the late expedition of the *Bonito* [to New Guinea] seems to have fallen"

Cinetodus froggatti, holotype, AMS B.9936. Photo by Mark Allen, Australian Museum.

[1] Bleeker, P. 1858. Ichthyologiae Archipelagi Indici Prodromus. Vol. I. Siluri. Acta Societatis Scientarium Indo-Neerlandicae IV: i–xii, 1–370. English translation: van Oijen, M. J. P., G. M. P. Loots and F. J. G. Limburg. 2009. Bleeker, P. A precursor of the fishes of the Indian Archipelago. Part 1: Siluri. Zoologische Mededeelingen (Leiden) 83: iii–xi + 1–317.



Cochlefelis insidiator, holotype, 350 mm SL. See *Aceroichthys dioctes* caption for source.

Cochlefelis

Whitley 1941

cochle, from *cochlearium* (L.), a small Roman spoon with a long tapering handle; *felis* (L.), cat, i.e., "spooncat," referring to spatulate snout of *C. spatula*

***Cochlefelis danielsi* (Regan 1908)** in honor of Maj. William Cooke Daniels (1871–1918), partner in a department store (Daniels and Fishers in Denver, Colorado, USA), who financed and led expedition during which holotype was collected and presented it to the British Museum (his military title dates from his service as a volunteer officer in the Spanish-American War in Cuba, 1898)

***Cochlefelis insidiator* (Kailola 2000)** Latin for ambusher or lurker, referring to dorsally placed eyes and depressed body form (which suggest that it lies half-hidden in sediment) and strong teeth and jaws (which suggest that it is a predator)

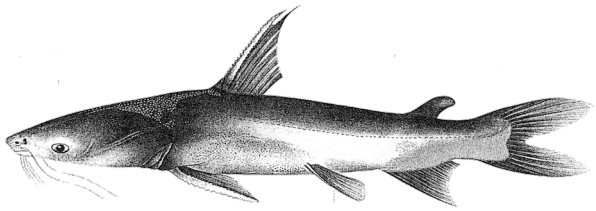
***Cochlefelis spatula* (Ramsay & Ogilby 1886)** Latin for paddle, spoon or broad blade used for stirring, from *spáthē* (σπᾰθη), referring to its spatulate snout (upper jaw much longer than lower jaw)

Cryptarius

Kailola 2004

crypto, from *kryptós* (κρυπτός), hidden or secret, i.e., a cryptic *Arius*, referring to its unique combination of characters having been ignored for a such a long time

***Cryptarius daugueti* (Chevey 1932)** in honor of Paul Dauguet (1883–?), French merchant seaman and commander of the research vessel (*De Lanessan*) from which holotype was collected



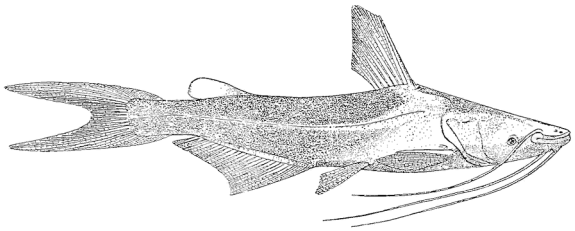
Cryptarius daugueti. From: Chevey, P. 1932. Poissons des campagnes du "de Lanessan" (1925-1929). Ire [1re] partie. Travaux de l'Institut Océanographique de l'Indochine Mémoire 4: 1–155, Pls. 1–50.

***Cryptarius truncatus* (Valenciennes 1840)** Latin for truncate, referring to its spoon-shaped snout

Doiichthys

Weber 1913

doiḗ (δοή), doubt or uncertainty, referring to its uncertain familial relationships at the time (Weber proposed its own family, Doiichthyidae); *ichthýs* (ἰχθύς), fish



Doiichthys novaeguineae. Illustration by Joan François Obbes. From: Weber, M. 1913. Süsswasserfische aus Niederländisch Süd- und Nord-Neu-Guinea. *In*: Nova Guinea. Résultats de l'expédition scientifique Néerlandaise à la Nouvelle-Guinée. Zoologie. Leiden. v. 9 (livr. 4): 513–613, Pls. 12–14.

***Doiichthys novaeguineae* Weber 1913** of New Guinea, where type locality (Varen River, a tributary of Lorentz River) is situated

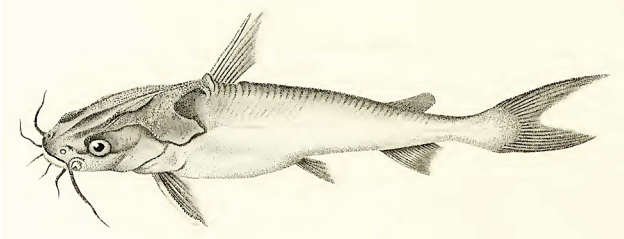
Genidens

Castelnau 1855

from *Pimelodus genidens* Cuvier 1829 (which Castelnau renamed as *G. cuvieri*, apparently to avoid "Strickland tautonymy": *génys* (γένυς), jaw; *dens* (L.), tooth, referring to moveable teeth on palate

***Genidens barbus* (Lacepède 1803)** Latinization of *barbue*, vernacular among French sailors, probably referring to its six barbels (unusual for a marine fish)

***Genidens genidens* (Cuvier 1829)** *génys* (γένυς), jaw; *dens* (L.), tooth, referring to moveable teeth on palate



First-published image of *Genidens genidens*. Illustration by Jacques Reyne Isidore Acarie-Baron. See *Galeichthys feliceps* caption (p. 1) for source.

***Genidens machadoi* (Miranda Ribeiro 1918)** patronym not identified, probably in honor of Rev. Francisco Machado da Silva, who collected for and/or donated specimens to the Museo Urbis of Rio de Janeiro

***Genidens planifrons* (Higuchi, Reis & Araújo 1982)** *planus* (L.), smooth; *frons* (L.), forehead, referring to flat dorsal profile of head

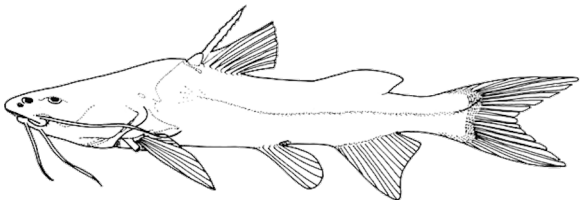
Hemiarius

Bleeker 1862

hemi-, from *hḗmisys* (ἥμισυς), half, referring to similarity and/or close relationship to *Arius*

***Hemiarius bleekeri* (Popta 1900)** in honor of Dutch army surgeon and ichthyologist Pieter Bleeker (1819–1878), who collected holotype and forwarded it to the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (Leiden, Netherlands)

***Hemiarius hardenbergi* (Kailola 2000)** in honor of Dutch biologist Johann Dietrich Frans Hardenberg (1902–1980), Laboratorium voor het Onderzoek der Zee (Batavia), who recognized this as a new species in 1931 and provided an unpublished museum name for it, for his "insightful" contributions to Indo-Australian ichthyology



Hemiarius hardenbergi, paratype, 74.3 mm SL. See *Aceroichthys dioctes* caption for source.

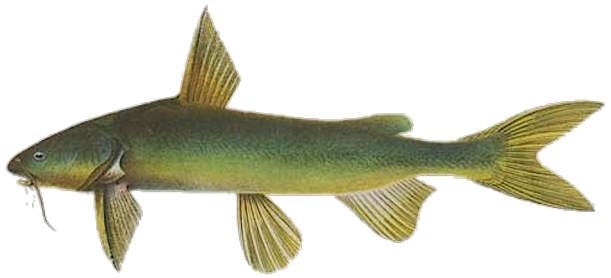
***Hemiarius harmandi* Sauvage 1880** in honor of French Navy surgeon, naturalist and explorer François-Jules Harmand (1845–1921), who collected holotype

***Hemiarius manillensis* (Valenciennes 1840)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Manila, Philippines, type locality

***Hemiarius stormii* (Bleeker 1858)** in honor of Frans Jonathan Pieter Storm van 's Gravesande (1812–1875), Dutch colonial administrator in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia), who provided holotype

***Hemiarius sumatranus* (Anonymous [Bennett] 1830)** *-anus* (L.), belonging to: Sumatra, Indonesia, type locality

***Hemiarius verrucosus* (Ng 2003)** Latin for warty, referring to numerous small bumps on pectoral spines and dorsal surface of neurocranium



Probably first-published image of *Hemipimelodus borneensis*. Illustration by Ludwig Speigler. From: Bleeker, P. 1862–63. Atlas ichthyologique des Indes Orientales Néêrlandaises, publié sous les auspices du Gouvernement colonial néêrlandais. Tome II. Siluroïdes, Chacoïdes et Hétérobranchoïdes. F. Muller, Amsterdam. 1–112, Pls. 49–101. 1862:1–32, Pls. 49–72; 1863: 33–112, Pls. 73–101. [Plate published 1863.]

Hemipimelodus

Bleeker 1857

hemi-, from *hḗmisys* (ἥμισυς), half, referring to previous placement of *H. borneensis* in *Pimelodus* (then a catch-all genus for many catfishes)

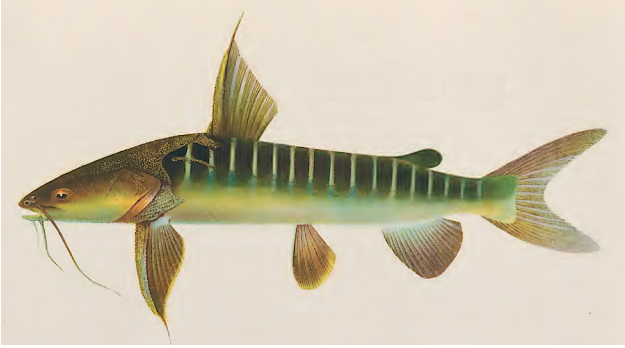
***Hemipimelodus borneensis* (Bleeker 1851)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: western Borneo, Indonesia, where type locality (Sambas) is situated

Hexanematichthys

Bleeker 1858

héx (ἕξ), six; *nḗma* (νῆμα), thread, referring to its six fleshy barbels of *H. sundaicus* (=*sagor*); *ichthýs* (ἰχθύς), fish

***Hexanematichthys sagor* (Hamilton 1822)** local Bengali name for this fish in India



Probably first-published image of *Hexanematichthys sagor* (as *H. sundaicus* Bleeker 1858, a junior synonym). Illustration by Ludwig Speigler. See *Batrachocephalus mino* caption for source.

Jayaramichthys

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

in honor of Indian ichthyologist Kottore Chidambaram Jayaram (1926–2011), who contributed "greatly" to our understanding of the taxonomy, evolution and biogeography of ariids from the Indian subcontinent; *ichthýs* (ἰχθύς), fish

***Jayaramichthys leptonotacanthus* (Bleeker 1849)** *leptós* (λεπτός), fine or thin; *nṓtos* (νῶτος), back; *acanthus* (L.), from *ákantha* (ἄκανθα), thorn, referring to its slender dorsal spine

Probably first-published image of *Jayaramichthys leptonotacanthus*. Illustration by Ludwig Speigler. See *Batrachocephalus mino* caption for source.

Probably first-published image of *Ketengus typus*. See *Hemipimelodus borneensis* caption for source.

Ketengus

Bleeker 1846

Latinization of *Keteng*, Madurese name for this fish in eastern Java, Indonesia

***Ketengus typus* Bleeker 1846** serving as type of genus

Kyataphisa

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

Bengali word meaning catfish

***Kyataphisa nenga* (Hamilton 1822)** from *Nenga gagora*, local Bengali name for this fish in India

Probably first-published image of *Kyataphisa nenga* (as *Arius caelatus* Valenciennes 1840, a junior synonym. Illustration by Ludwig Speigler. See *Batrachocephalus mino* caption for source.

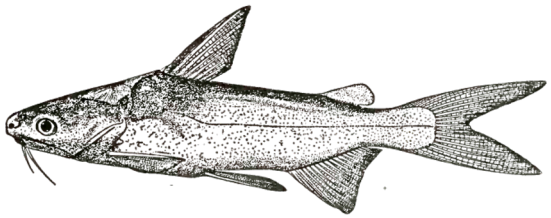
Megalosciades

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

mega, big, referring to "disproportionally" large head compared with those observed in *Sciades* and close relatives

***Megalosciades augustus* (Roberts 1978)** Latin for stately, grand or venerable, allusion not explained; per Tyson R. Roberts (pers. comm.), "I named that species so long ago, I don't really recall for sure why I named it *augustus* but I think because it appeared to be handsome, distinguished, and serene" (originally described as having a "graceful form, and vivid blue coloration in life")

Megalosciades augustus. Photo by Ricardo Betancur-R. From: Marceniuk, A. P., C. Oliveira and C. J. Ferraris, Jr. 2023. A new classification of the family Ariidae (Osteichthyes: Ostariophysi: Siluriformes) based on combined analyses of morphological and molecular data. Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society 200 (2): 426–476. [First published online in 2023; volume, issue and pages added in 2024.] Note: Photos accompanying original 1978 description are too dark to be reproduced here.]



Possibly first-published image of *Nedystoma dayi*. Illustration by Joan François Obbes. From: Weber, M. 1913. Süsswasserfische aus Niederländisch Süd- und Nord-Neu-Guinea. *In*: Nova Guinea. Résultats de l'expédition scientifique Néerlandaise à la Nouvelle-Guinée. Zoologie. Leiden. v. 9 (livr. 4): 513–613, Pls. 12–14.

Nedystoma

Ogilby 1898

nēdýs (νηδύς), womb; *stóma* (στόμα), mouth, presumably referring to mouthbrooding behavior of males, in which they carry eggs in their mouth until they hatch (a behavior found in many ariids)

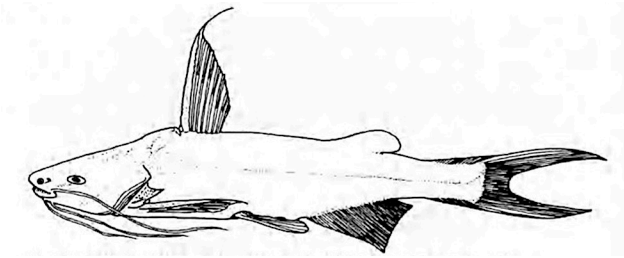
***Nedystoma dayi* (Ramsay & Ogilby 1886)** in honor of Francis Day (1829–1889), Inspector-General of Fisheries in India, "whose magnificent work on the fishes of India is indispensable to every student of Indo-Pacific ichthyology"

Nemapteryx

Ogilby 1908

nḗma (νῆμα), thread; *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), fin, referring to long, filamentous first dorsal-fin ray of *N. stirlingi* (=*armiger*)

***Nemapteryx armiger* (De Vis 1884)** *arma* (L.), weapons; *-iger* (L.), to have or bear, presumably referring to long dorsal spine (longer than head) and perhaps also to its pectoral spines



Possibly first-published image of *Nemapteryx armiger*, 99 years after its description. From: Kailola, P. J. 1983. *Arius graeffei* and *Arius armiger*: valid names for two common species of Australo-Papuan fork-tailed catfishes (Pisces, Ariidae): Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia 107 (3): 187–196.

Neoarius

Castelnau 1878

néos (νέος), new, i.e., a new genus of *Arius*

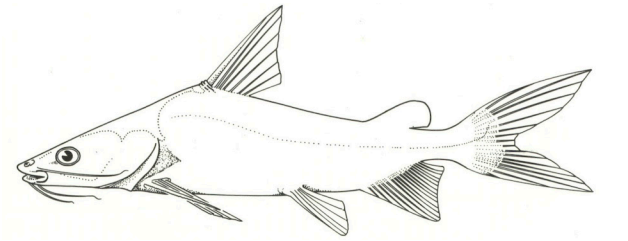
***Neoarius berneyi* (Whitley 1941)** in honor of Australian ornithologist Frederick L. Berney (1865–1949), who "made a valuable collection of fishes in Central Queensland nearly thirty years ago"

***Neoarius graeffei* (Kner & Steindachner 1867)** in honor of Swiss entomologist Eduard Heinrich Gräffe (1833–1916), who, while employed by Johann Cesar VI. Godeffroy, a wealthy shipping magnate, curated a natural history collection that introduced several new species from the South Pacific to science, including this catfish

***Neoarius hainesi* (Kailola 2000)** in honor of fisheries scientist Alan K. Haines, whose 1972–1976 surveys of river systems in Papua New Guinea and his "faithful recording" of ariid biology and ecology made a "significant" contribution to our knowledge of these fishes in the Australian and New Guinea region

***Neoarius midgleyi* (Kailola & Pierce 1988)** in honor of Stephen Hamar Midgley (1918–2014), amateur ichthyologist and limnologist, and his wife Mary, for bringing this catfish to the attention of the senior author, and for their "enthusiastic and dedicated study" of the fresh waters of northern Australia [preferably spelled *midgleyorum* since name honors more than one person, but ICZN 32.5.1 forbids such a correction]

***Neoarius paucus* (Kailola 2000)** Latin for few or scanty, referring to fewer gill rakers and smaller eye compared with *N. midgleyi*



Neoarius midgleyi, holotype, 270 mm SL. From: Kailola, P. J. and B. E. Pierce. 1988. A new freshwater catfish (Pisces: Ariidae) from northern Australia. Records of the Western Australian Museum 14 (1): 73–89.

***Neoarius pectoralis* (Kailola 2000)** Latin for pectoral, referring to strong serrae along inner pectoral-fin spine

Netuma

Bleeker 1858

tautonymous with *Bagrus netuma* Valenciennes 1840 (=*N. thalassina*), derived from *netouma kéléti*, local name for this fish in Pondicherry, India

***Netuma bilineata* (Valenciennes 1840)** *bi-*, from *bis* (L.), twice, two; *lineata* (L.), lined, allusion explained but unclear: "The epithet we give it refers to a kind of faintly marked curvilinear track produced on the skin of its sides at places where the ribs end" (translation), perhaps referring to visibly sloping line of the rib ends, which, when combined with lateral line, creates the appearance of two lines on sides of body[2]

***Netuma patriciae* Takahashi, Kimura & Motomura 2019** in honor of Australian biologist Patricia J. Kailola, University of the South Pacific (Suva, Fiji), for her research on ariid catfishes

Netuma patriciae, holotype, 200.1 mm SL. From: Takahashi, Y., S. Kimura and H. Motomura. 2019. A new sea catfish, *Netuma patriciae* (Siluriformes: Ariidae), from the Philippines. Ichthyological Research 67 (2): 264–273. [First published online in 2019; volume, issue and pages added in 2020.]

***Netuma thalassina* (Rüppell 1837)** *-ina* (L. suffix), pertaining to: *thálassa* (θάλασσα), of the sea, a marine and brackish-water catfish described from the Red Sea

Notarius

Gill 1863

etymology not explained, perhaps *nṓtos* (νῶτος), back, referring to oblong occipital process (as opposed to transverse in *Ariopsis*, proposed in the same publication) of *N. grandicassis*, formerly placed in *Arius*

***Notarius armbrusteri* Betancur-R. & Acero P. 2006** in honor of Jonathan W. Armbruster (b. 1969), Curator of Fishes, Auburn University Museum (Alabama, USA), for his important contributions to the taxonomy of neotropical catfishes

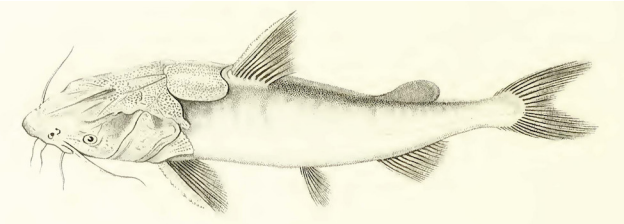
***Notarius biffi* Betancur-R. & Acero P. 2004** in honor Eldredge (Biff) Bermingham, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, for his important contribution to the knowledge of neotropical fish biogeography

***Notarius bonillai* (Miles 1945)** in honor of Colombian veterinarian Heliodoro Bonilla Guzmán (1908–1961), Director of the Department of the Ministry (Colombia) that deals with fishes

***Notarius cookei* (Acero P. & Betancur-R. 2002)** in honor of British archaeologist Richard Cooke (1946–2023), Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, for his contribution to the knowledge of eastern Pacific ariids

---

[2] Patricia J. Kailola, University of the South Pacific (Suva, Fiji), pers. comm.



Notarius grandicassis. Illustration by Jacques Reyne Isidore Acarie-Baron. See *Galeichthys feliceps* caption (p. 1) for source.

(he also provided the type series)

Notarius grandicassis **(Valenciennes 1840)** *grandis* (L.), large; *cassis* (L.), metal helmet, presumably referring to very large bony plate (occipital process) in front of dorsal fin

Notarius insculptus **(Jordan & Gilbert 1883)** Latin for engraved with markings, i.e., sculpted, probably referring to its highly developed, sculptured (grooved and granulated) epioccipital bones

Notarius kessleri **(Steindachner 1876)** patronym not identified, possibly in honor of Russian-German zoologist Karl Fedorovich Kessler (1815–1881)

Notarius lentiginosus **(Eigenmann & Eigenmann 1888)** Latin for freckled ("the sides freckled")

Notarius luniscutis **(Valenciennes 1840)** *luna* (L.), moon; *scutis*, scientific Neo-Latin adjectival form of *scutum* (L.), shield, i.e., moon-shielded, referring to lunate bony plate (occipital process) in front of dorsal fin

Notarius neogranatensis **(Acero P. & Betancur-R. 2002)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: New Granada, oldest name given to Colombia (where it appears to be endemic) by Spanish conquerors

Notarius osculus **(Jordan & Gilbert 1883)** diminutive of *os* (L.), mouth, referring to its small mouth (but with thick lips)

Notarius parmocassis **(Valenciennes 1840)** *parma* (L.), a small round shield; *cassis* (L.), metal helmet, referring to bony plate (occipital process) in front of dorsal fin

Notarius phrygiatus **(Valenciennes 1840)** variant or misspelling of *phrygianus* (L.), belonging to the art of embroidery (i.e., embroidered), derived from *phrýgios* (Φρύγιος), belonging to Phrygia, a kingdom in ancient Greece celebrated for their skill in embroidery, referring to this fish's latero-sensory canals, "which form a sort of embroidery pleasant to the eye" (translation)

Notarius planiceps **(Steindachner 1876)** *planus* (L.), flat or level; *-ceps* (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to forehead, "perfectly flat across, wide, covered with thick skin" (translation)

Notarius quadriscutis **(Valenciennes 1840)** *quadrus* (L.), square; *scutis*, scientific Neo-Latin adjectival form of *scutum* (L.), shield, i.e., square-shielded, referring to square shape of bony plate (occipital process) in front of dorsal fin

Notarius rugispinis **(Valenciennes 1840)** *ruga* (L.), wrinkle or crease; *spinis*, from *spinus* (L.), thorn, referring to granulated sides of dorsal and pectoral spines

Notarius troschelii **(Gill 1863)** in honor of German zoologist Franz Hermann Troschel (1810–1882), who, with Johann Müller, described *Sciades* (in which this species was originally placed)

Occidentarius

Betancur-R. & Acero P. 2007

occidentalis (L.), western, referring to distribution of *O. platypogon* in the Eastern Pacific, the western-most region occupied by ariids; *Arius*, type genus of family

Occidentarius platypogon **(Günther 1864)** *platýs* (πλατύς), flat; *pōgōn* (πώγων), beard, presumably referring to its basally "compressed" maxillary barbels

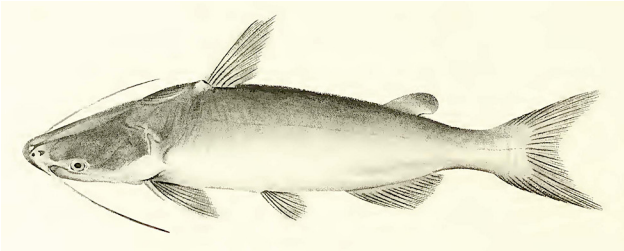
Occidentarius platypogon, syntype. BMNH 1864.1.26.316-319. Photo by Mark Allen.

Osteogeneiosus

Bleeker 1846

ostéon (ὀστέον), bone; *geneiosus*, Latinized adjective from *géneion* (γένειον), chin or beard (i.e., bearded), referring to stiff and bony maxillary barbels

Osteogeneiosus militaris **(Linnaeus 1758)** Latin for of a soldier or warlike, perhaps referring to bony (and hence sharp) maxillary barbels, which can be said to "arm" it like a solider



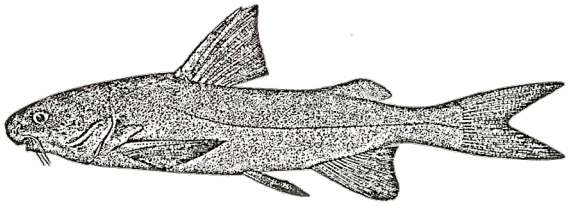
First-published image of *Osteogeneiosus militaris*. Illustration by Jacques Reyne Isidore Acarie-Baron. See *Galeichthys feliceps* caption (p. 1) for source.

Pachyula

Ogilby 1898

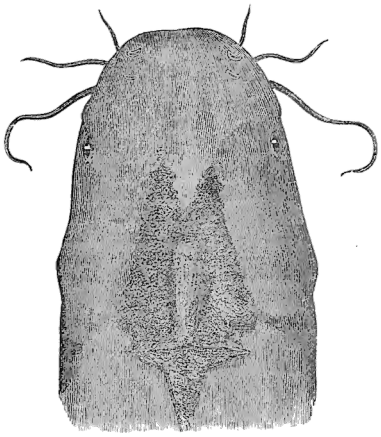
pachýs (παχύς), thick; *oula* (ὀυλα), gums, referring to thick lips of *P. crassilabris*, the upper lip "terminating in a broad free lobe"

Pachyula conorhynchus **(Weber 1913)** *conus*, from *kōnos* (κῶνος), cone; *rhynchus*, from *rhýnchos* (ῥύγχος), snout, referring to its bluntly conical snout



Pachyula conorhynchus. Illustration by Joan François Obbes. See *Doiichthys novaeguineae* caption for source.

Pachyula crassilabris **(Ramsay & Ogilby 1886)** *crassus* (L.), stout or thick; *labris*, plural of *labrum* (L.), lip, referring to its "very thick" lips



The "broadly rounded" snout for which *Papuarius latirostris* is named. From: Macleay, W. 1883. Contribution to a knowledge of the fishes of New Guinea, No. 4. Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales 8 (2): 252–280.

Papuarius

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

Papua, a common element of the names of the six Indonesian provinces as well as the independent country that together compose the island group called New Guinea, where *P. latirostris* occurs; *Arius*, type genus of family

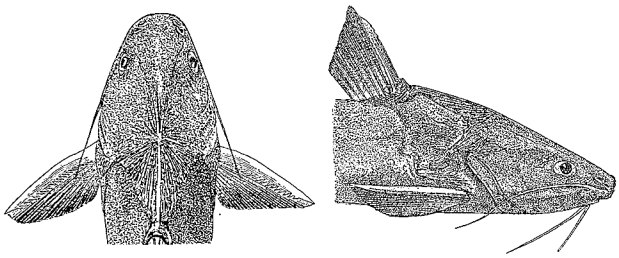
***Papuarius latirostris* (Macleay 1883)** *latus* (L.), wide or broad; *rostris*, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of *rostrum* (L.), snout, referring to its "broadly rounded" snout

Paracinetodus

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

pará (παρά), beside or near, "highlighting its morphological similarity with the genus *Cinetodus*"

***Paracinetodus carinatus* (Weber 1913)** Latin for keeled, referring to "sharply keeled" (translation) occipital process in young specimens, its posterior end broadly truncated



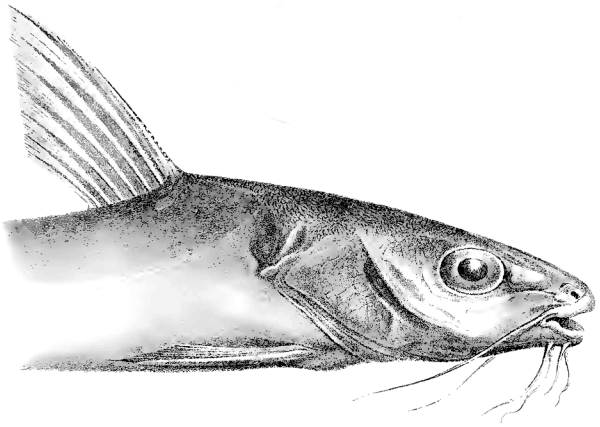
Paracinetodus carinatus. Illustration by Joan François Obbes. See *Doiichthys novaeguineae* caption for source.

Paragenidens

Marceniuk, Ingenito, Lima, Gasparini & Oliveira 2019

pará (παρά), beside or near; *Genidens*, the sister group of this genus, alluding to their close relationship

***Paragenidens grandoculis* (Steindachner 1877)** *grandis* (L.), large; *oculis*, from *oculus* (L.), eye, referring to large eye, the forehead equal to 1⅔ of eye length



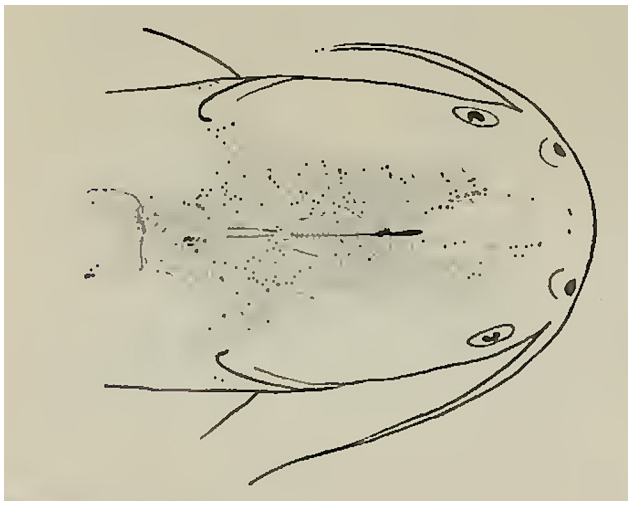
Paragenidens grandoculis. Illustration by Rud. Schönn. From: Steindachner, F. 1877. Die Süsswasserfische des südöstlichen Brasilien (III). Sitzungsberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Classe 74 (1: 559–694, Pls. 1–13.

Pararius

Whitley 1940

pará (παρά), beside or near, presumably referring to how *P. proximus* resembles *Arius australis* (=*Neoarius graeffei*)

***Pararius mastersi* (Ogilby 1898)** in honor of English-born Australian entomologist George Masters (1837–1912), Curator of the Macleay Museum, Sydney University, to whom Ogilby was "indebted for much valuable information on the fine collection under his charge, and whose general knowledge of the Australian fauna is possibly exceeded by none"



Possibly first-published image of *Pararius mastersi* (as *Tachysurus godfreyi*, a junior synonym). Illustration by Gilbert Percy Whitley. From: Whitley, G. P. 1941. Ichthyological notes and illustrations. Australian Zoologist 10 (1): 1–50, Pls. 1–2.

***Pararius proximus* (Ogilby 1898)** Latin for nearest or next, referring to its "outward resemblance" to *Arius australis* (=*Neoarius graeffei*)

Plicofollis

Kailola 2004

plico, from *plica* (L.), a fold or ridge of tissue; *follis* (L.), bellows or windbag, referring to creased or scalloped swim bladder, characteristic of genus

***Plicofollis argyropleuron* (Valenciennes 1840)** *árgyros* (ἄργυρος), white metal (i.e., silver); *pleuron* (L.), rib (i.e., side), referring to silver belly and sides

***Plicofollis crossocheilos* (Bleeker 1846)** *crosso*, from *krossós* (κροσσός), fringe or tassel; *cheílos* (χεῖλος), lip, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to maxillary barbels reaching humeral bone or gill covers

***Plicofollis dussumieri* (Valenciennes 1840)** in honor of Jean-Jacques Dussumier (1792–1883), French voyager and merchant, who reported on this fish from off the Malabar coast of India

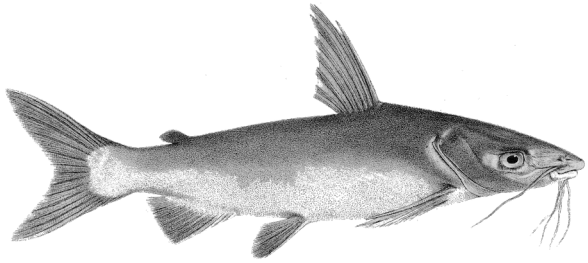
***Plicofollis layardi* (Günther 1866)** in honor of Edgar Leopold Layard (1824–1900), Ceylon Civil Service, who presented holotype to the British Museum

***Plicofollis magatensis* (Herre 1926)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Magat River, Luzon Island, Philippines, type locality

***Plicofollis nella* (Valenciennes 1840)** from *nalla-jella*, local name for this catfish in Vizagapatam, India

***Plicofollis platystomus* (Day 1877)** wide-mouthed, from *platýs* (πλατύς), wide or broad, and *stóma* (στόμα), mouth, width of gape of mouth ⅔ length of head

***Plicofollis polystaphylodon* (Bleeker 1846)** *poly-* (πολύ), many; *staphylo-*, from *staphylḗ* (σταφυλή), a cluster of grapes (i.e., bunched or clustered); *odon*, from *odoús* (ὀδούς), tooth, referring to palatine teeth arranged in four patches: a small ovate patch on each side of the vomer,



Plicofollis layardi. Illustration by George Henry Ford. From: Günther, A. 1866. Description of a new siluroid fish from Ceylon. Annals and Magazine of Natural History (Series 3) 18 (108): 473–474, Pl. 15.

and an elongate patch along each palatine bone

***Plicofollis tenuispinis* (Day 1877)** *tenuis* (L.), thin or slender; *spinis*, from *spinus* (L.), thorn, referring to its "very weak and thin" dorsal-fin spine

***Plicofollis tonggol* (Bleeker 1846)** from *Ikan* (=*fish*) *Manjong tonggol*, local Jakartan (Batavian) name for this fish and similar species [see also *Thunnus tonggol,* Scombridae]

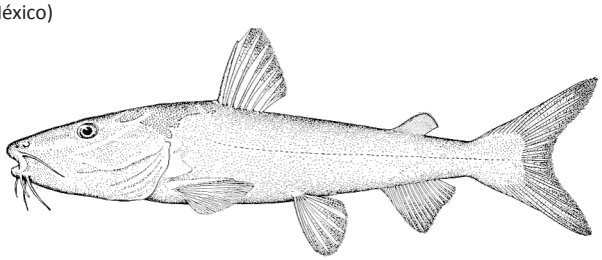
Potamarius

Hubbs & Miller 1960

potamos (ποταμός), river, referring to occurrence in fresh water, i.e., a riverine genus of *Arius* [note: authors erroneously believe that *Arius* is derived from a Greek word meaning warrior]

***Potamarius izabalensis* Hubbs & Miller 1960** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Lago de Izabal, Guatemala, type locality

***Potamarius nelsoni* (Evermann & Goldsborough 1902)** in honor of American naturalist-ethnologist Edward William Nelson (1855–1934), Division of Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, who helped collect holotype (and called it the best freshwater food fish in México)



Potamarius nelsoni. Illustration by Albertus H. Baldwin. From: Evermann, B. W. and E. L. Goldsborough. 1902. A report on fishes collected in Mexico and Central America, with notes and descriptions of five new species. Bulletin of the U. S. Fish Commission 21 [for 1901]: 137–159.

***Potamarius usumacintae* Betancur-R. & Willink 2007** of the Río Usumacinta basin, Guatemala and México, where it is endemic

Potamosilurus

Marceniuk & Menezes 2007

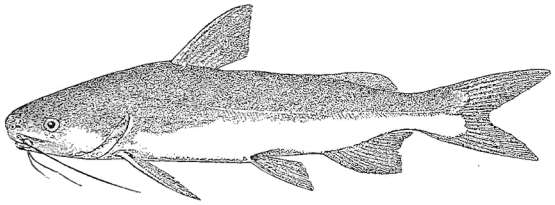
potamos (ποταμός), river, referring to all species occurring in fresh water; *silurus*, from *sílouros* (σίλουρος), a word of uncertain origin historically applied to catfishes

***Potamosilurus coatesi* (Kailola 1990)** in honor of marine biologist and limnologist David C. Coates, formerly of the Department of Fisheries & Marine Resources, Papua New Guinea, who collected most of type series and provided information on its biology

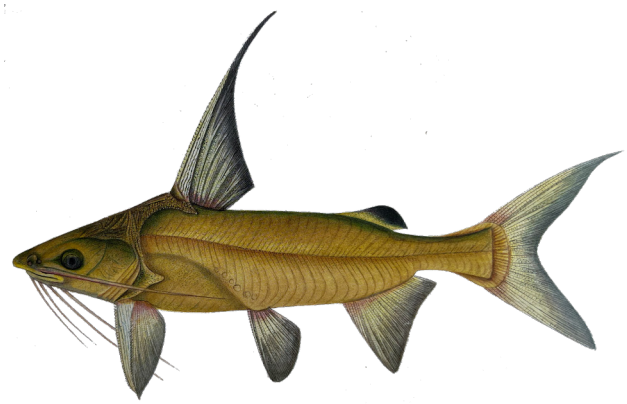
***Potamosilurus macrorhynchus* (Weber 1913)** big-snouted, from *makrós* (μακρός), long or large, and *rhýnchos* (ῥύγχος), snout, referring to its conical snout, which forms a prominent cone

***Potamosilurus taylori* (Roberts 1978)** in honor of American ichthyologist William Ralph Taylor (1919–2004), a student of Ariidae [also known as *P. robertsi* (Kailola 1990), an unneeded replacement name now that *P. taylori* is no longer preoccupied by *Arius* (now *Cathorops*) *taylori* Hildebrand 1925]

***Potamosilurus velutinus* (Weber 1907)** Latin for velvety, referring to its "velvet-like" (translation) premaxillary teeth



First-published image of *Potamosilurus velutinus.* Illustration by Joan François Obbes. See *Doiichthys novaeguineae* caption for source.



Pseudosciades sona. Hamilton's original illustration, unpublished at the time, reproduced in: Britz, R. 2019. Francis Hamilton's Gangetic Fishes in colour. A new edition of the 1822 monograph, with reproductions of unpublished coloured illustrations. Ray Society, London: 1–48, i–vii, 1–405, i–vii, Pls. 1–228.

Pseudosciades

Marceniuk, Oliveira & Ferraris 2023

pseudo-, from *pseúdēs* (ψεύδης), false, referring to its "convergent morphology" with the Neotropical *Sciades*

***Pseudosciades sona* (Hamilton 1822)** presumably a local Bengali name for this fish in India

Sciades

Müller & Troschel 1849

skiádos (σκιάδος), genitive of *skiás* (σκιάς), canopy or umbrella; *-des*, Neo-Latin from *eídos* (εἶδος), having the form of: probably referring to occipital process, described as a "distinct bony helmet" (translation)

***Sciades couma* (Valenciennes 1840)** from *couma-couma*, local name for this fish in French Guiana, onomatopoeic for the sound it makes when pulled from the water

***Sciades dowii* (Gill 1863)** in honor of John Melmoth Dow (1827–1892), Panama Railroad Company, American ship captain and amateur naturalist, who presented holotype to the Smithsonian Institution

***Sciades herzbergii* (Bloch 1794)** patronym not identified, possibly in honor of Count Ewald Friedrich von Herzberg (also spelled Hertzberg, 1725–1795), a Prussian statesman who was one of Bloch's sponsors

Sciades herzbergii. Illustration by Johann Friedrich Hennig. From: Bloch, M. E. 1794. Naturgeschichte der ausländischen Fische. Berlin. v. 8: i–iv + 1–174, Pls. 361–396.

***Sciades parkeri* (Traill 1832)** in honor of Traill's friend Charles Stewart Parker (1800–1868), British merchant who "favoured" the author with a drawing of the catfish and its skin

***Sciades passany* (Valenciennes 1840)** local name for this species at Cayenne, French Guiana, type locality

***Sciades proops* (Valenciennes 1840)** *pro-* (L.), in front of or before; *ṓps* (ὦψ), eye, referring to eye nearer to snout than to preopercle, compared with *Bagrus mesops* (=*S. herzbergii*), on which eye is midway between snout and preopercle

Possibly first-published image of *Bagre marinus*. From: DeKay, J. E. 1842. Zoology of New-York, or the New-York fauna. Part IV. Fishes. W. & A. White & J. Visscher, Albany. i–xv + 1–415, Pls. 1–79.

Whiskered Sea Catfishes
Subfamily BAGREINAE
Schultz 1944

Bagre

Cloquet 1816
tautonymous with *Silurus bagre* Linnaeus 1766 (see species)

***Bagre bagre* (Linnaeus 1766)** per Marcgrave (or Markgraf, *Historia Naturalis Brasiliae*, 1648), a Portuguese word for catfish in Brazil, presumably first applied to this species; another explanation is from the Dutch *bagger*, mud, referring to benthic habits of many catfishes [see essay, below]

***Bagre filamentosus* Swainson 1839** Latin for filamentous, referring to its "dorsal and pectoral fins with the spines serrated, and surmounted by cartilaginous and articulated filaments"

***Bagre marinus* (Mitchill 1815)** Latin for "of the sea," the "Salt-water Catfish" of New York State (USA)

***Bagre panamensis* (Gill 1863)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Panama, presumably referring to type locality although that country is not specifically mentioned (occurs along Pacific coast of Central America and northern South America)

***Bagre pinnimaculatus* (Steindachner 1876)** *pinna* (L.), fin; *maculatus* (L.), spotted, referring to oval blackish spot on anal, ventral and caudal fins

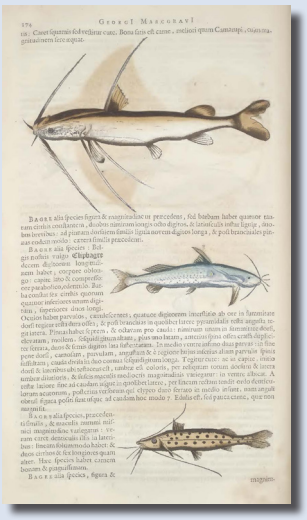
The true meanings of *Bagre* and *Bagrus*?

By Isaäc J. H. Isbrücker

Most sources tell you that the name of the catfish genera *Bagre* (Ariidae) and *Bagrus* (a Latinized spelling of *bagre*, Bagridae) are derived from a Spanish or Portuguese word meaning "catfish." I believe they're from the Dutch *bagger*, meaning "mud" in English.

As a boy in elementary school, and already fond of fishes, I heard stories about exotic fishes told to me by Dutch sailors, fishermen and others who spent time at sea. Sometimes they spoke about catfishes they had encountered in tropical or subtropical areas of Africa, Asia and the Americas, which they called *bagger* or *bagre*. At the time I had no idea what a catfish was all about!

As far as I can tell, the first mention of "*bagre*" is in the famous work of Georg Marcgrave (to use one of the most common spellings of his last name), a German naturalist and astronomer (1610–c.1644), in his *Historia Naturalis Brasiliae*, posthumously published in 1648. Marcgrave and his co-author, the Dutch physician Willem Pies (usually known as Piso, Latinized from Pies), both worked for the Dutch Brazil's governor Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen from early 1638.



Page 174 from Marcgrave (1648) showing three unidentified (and anatomically incorrect) "bagre" catfishes.

"*Bagre*" is mentioned seven times by Marcgrave. On the fifth mention (p. 174) he writes in Latin: "Bagre alia species: Belgis nostris vulgo Clipbagre [= *Cliff bagre* in English] decem digitorum longitudinem habet [etc.]." *Cliff bagre* is, as far as I know, no longer commonly used as a folk name for any catfish. "Belgis" refers to Belgium, an independent country since 1830. But before that Belgium formed a unit with The Netherlands. Both the local names for these countries, België and Nederland, were used as alternate names for these two until 1830. I slowly became aware that *bagre* and *bagger* (still a common Dutch word meaning mud) must be closely associated. The catfish species called "bagre" by Marcgrave have the reputation, at least among the sailors with whom I spoke, to be at home on and near the bottom in the areas where they occur.

"Bagre" is not in modern Dutch dictionaries. "Bagger" is. In some English dictionaries, "bagre" is thought to allude to the back of some catfish, which I doubt is correct.

Even though it is impossible (for me) to prove that this issue is a true history, I strongly believe it is an acceptable explanation. "Bagre" became a Spanish and a Portuguese name for certain catfishes worldwide after Marcgrave's famous book was published. In the Netherlands it is still informally used as a name for a wide array of catfishes, I guess mainly among mariners.