

Order CHARACIFORMES

African Tetras

Family ALESTIDAE

Cockerell 1910



Distichodus kasaiensis, paratype, 125.7 mm SL. From: Moelants, T., J. Snoeks and E. J. Vreven. 2018. *Distichodus kasaiensis* and *D. ingae*, two new distichodontid species (Characiformes: Distichodontidae) from the Congo basin. *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters* 28 (2): 177–192.

Alestes

Müller & Troschel 1844

alestēs (Gr. ἀλεστής), miller or grinder, presumably referring to inner row of premaxillary molariform teeth

***Alestes ansorgii* Boulenger 1910** in honor of British explorer and collector William John Ansorge (1850–1913), who collected holotype

***Alestes baremoze* (Joannis 1835)** Arabic name for this species along the Nile in Egypt

***Alestes dentex* (Linnaeus 1758)** from *dens* (L.), tooth; name coined by Hasselquist (1757) in a work edited by Linnaeus, described as a toothed *Cyprinus*, referring to inner row of premaxillary molariform teeth

***Alestes inferus* Stiassny, Schelly & Mamonekene 2009** Latin for below, lower or southern, referring to its occurrence below a series of rapids in a south-bank tributary on the lower Congo River

***Alestes liebrechtsii* Boulenger 1898** in honor of Belgian army officer and colonial administrator Charles Liebrechts (1858–1938), Secretary-General of Home and Military Affairs of the Congo Free State, and president of the Museum of the Belgian Congo, for his services to science

***Alestes macrophthalmus* Günther 1867** big-eyed, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large, and *ophthalmós* (Gr. ὀφθαλμός), eye, referring to its “very large [eye], scarcely less than one-third of the length of the head, with broad adipose eyelids”

***Alestes stuhlmannii* Pfeffer 1896** in honor of Franz Stuhlmann (1863–1928), German zoologist and explorer of Africa, who collected holotype

Alestion

Roberts 2019

diminutive of *Alestes*, this being a miniature paedomorphic species of alestid



Alestion rapax, holotype, 14.4 mm SL. From: Roberts, T. R. 2019. *Alestion rapax*, a new genus and species of miniature paedomorphic characiform fish with large conical teeth from the Lower Congo basin (Ostariophysi, Alestidae). *aqua*, *International Journal of Ichthyology* 25 (3): 85–102.

***Alestion rapax* Roberts 2019** Latin for voracious, rapacious or predatory, referring to greatly enlarged conical teeth of adults

Alestopetersius

Hoedeman 1951

etymology not explained, presumably a combination of *Alestes* (type genus of family) and *Petersius* (original genus of type species *A. hilgendorfi*)

***Alestopetersius bifasciatus* (Poll 1967)** *bi-*, from *bis* (L.), twice; *fasciatus* (L.), banded, presumably referring to median black band extending to caudal-fin margin and flanked by dense black bands in both upper and lower fin lobes

***Alestopetersius bleheri* (Géry 1995)** in honor of German explorer and ornamental fish wholesaler and supplier Heiko Bleher (b. 1944), who provided most of the specimens for Géry’s study, including holotype of this one

***Alestopetersius brichardi* Poll 1967** in honor of Belgian aquarium-fish exporter Pierre Brichard (1921–1990), who collected one of the paratypes

***Alestopetersius caudalis* (Boulenger 1899)** Latin for of the tail, probably referring to silvery lateral band that becomes blackish on caudal peduncle and extends as a black band on the caudal fin

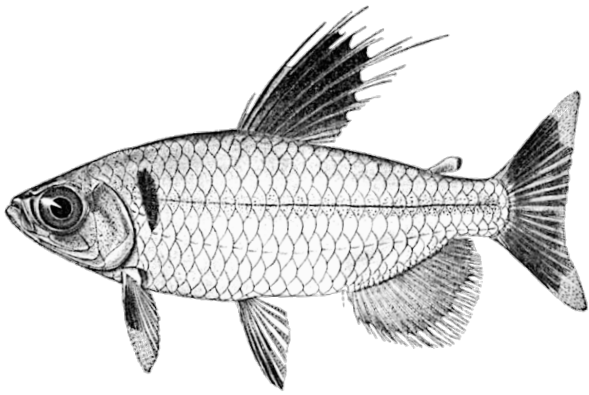
***Alestopetersius compressus* (Poll & Gosse 1963)** Latin for squeezed or pressed together, referring to its more laterally compressed body shape compared with *Petersius modestus* (= *A. hilgendorfi*)

***Alestopetersius conspicuus* Mbimbi Mayi Munene & Stiassny 2012** Latin for conspicuous, referring to conspicuous markings on caudal fin and striking, bright coloration in life

***Alestopetersius hilgendorfi* (Boulenger 1899)** in honor of German zoologist and paleontologist Franz Hilgendorf (1839–1904), who established *Petersius* (original genus for this species) in 1894

***Alestopetersius leopoldianus* (Boulenger 1899)** *-anus* (L.), belonging to: Lake Leopold (now Lake Mai-Ndombe), Democratic Republic of the Congo, type locality

***Alestopetersius nigropterus* Poll 1967** black-finned, from *niger* (L.), black or dark, and *pterus*, from *ptērón* (Gr. πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), fin, referring to intensely black dorsal and caudal fins and blackened



Alestopetersius nigropterus, holotype, 77 mm TL. From: Poll, M. 1967. Révision des Characidae nains Africains. Annales, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Série in 80, Sciences Zoologiques No. 162: 1–158.

pectoral and ventral fins

Alestopetersius smykalai Poll 1967 in honor of E. R. Smykala (no other information available), who collected holotype

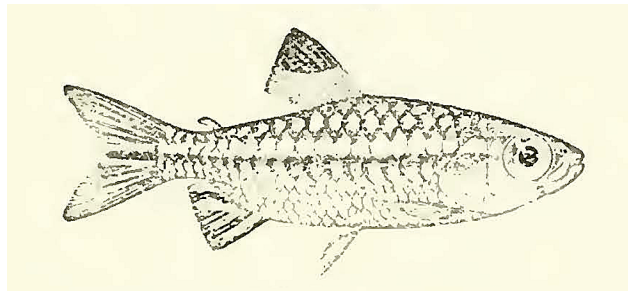
Alestopetersius taeniatus (Géry 1996) Latin for striped or banded, referring to narrow, longitudinal band prolonged into middle caudal rays, a unique coloration in the tribe Petersiini

Alestopetersius tumbensis Hoedeman 1951-*ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Lake Tumba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, type locality

Arnoldichthys Myers 1926

named for German aquarist Johann Paul Arnold (1869–1952), who sent types of *A. spilopterus* to George A. Boulenger; *ichthys* (Gr. ἰχθύς), fish

Arnoldichthys spilopterus (Boulenger 1909) spot-finned, from *spilos* (Gr. σπῖλος), mark or spot; *ptera*, from *pterón* (Gr. πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), fin, referring to large black spot on dorsal fin



Arnoldichthys spilopterus. From: Boulenger, G. A. 1909. Catalogue of the fresh-water fishes of Africa in the British Museum (Natural History). 1: i-xi + 1–373.

Bathyaethiops Fowler 1949

bathys (Gr. βαθύς), deep; *aethiops*, Fowler said “burned or glowing” but a more appropriate translation would be “black or scorched” considering that the “peculiar” color pattern (in alcohol) of the type species *B. greeni* is said to comprise blackish-gray blotches and bars on its sides; while *aethiops* can mean “fiery looking” or “sunburned,” Fowler may have simply repeated the adjective *Aethiops*, Latin for Ethiopian or Negro, possibly referring to Aethiopia, a classical term for Sub-Saharan Africa, which Günther used to form the names of *Bryconaethiops* (see below) and *Nannaethiops* (Distichodontidae)

Bathyaethiops atercrinis Mamonekene & Stiasny 2012 *ater* (L.), black; *crinis*, comet tail (L.), referring to “striking” black markings on caudal peduncle and anal fin of mature males

Bathyaethiops baka Moritz & Schliewen 2016 named after the Baka people, the native hunter-gatherer tribe in southeastern Cameroon, where this species occurs

Bathyaethiops breuseghemi (Poll 1945) in honor of mycologist Raymond



Bathyaethiops baka, male. From: Moritz, T. and U. K. Schliewen. 2016. Description of two new *Bathyaethiops* species (Teleostei: Alestidae) from the Congo basin. Zootaxa 4117 (4): 476–490.

Van Breuseghem, Belgian Institute of Tropical Medicine (Antwerp), who collected holotype

Bathyaethiops caudomaculatus (Pellegrin 1925) *cauda* (L.), tail; *maculatus* (L.), spotted, referring to oval black spot at beginning of caudal peduncle

Bathyaethiops flammeus Moritz & Schliewen 2016 Latin for flaming or fiery, referring to bright-red spot on nape in front of dorsal fin

Bathyaethiops greeni Fowler 1949 in honor of Harold T. Green (1896–1967), Curator of Exhibits, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, who cared for the fish specimens collected by William K. Carpenter during his African expeditions (1946–1948), including holotype of this one

Brachyalestes Günther 1864

brachys (Gr. βραχύς), short, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to shorter body length (16.4–25 cm TL) compared with the two species of *Alestes* (43–55 cm TL) Günther included in his account

Brachyalestes abeli (Fowler 1936) in honor of Henri Abel, Administrator at Fort Sibut, Central African Republic, type locality, “who developed native interest and materially assisted the expedition” during who holotype was collected

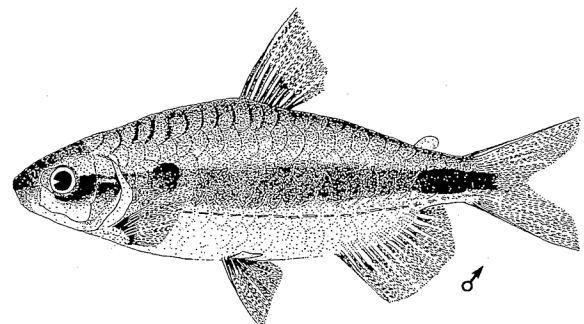
Brachyalestes affinis (Günther 1894) Latin for related, described as “allied to” *B. imberi*

Brachyalestes bimaculatus (Boulenger 1899) *bi-*, from *bis* (L.), twice; *maculatus* (L.), spotted, referring to two large, round, highly reflective and metallic spots on each side of body, one between lateral line and last rays of dorsal fin, other at base of caudal fin

Brachyalestes carolinae (Paugy & Lévêque 1981) matronym not explained but in honor of the senior author’s wife at the time, Caroline¹

Brachyalestes comptus (Roberts & Stewart 1976) Latin for ornamented or adorned, referring to iridescent golden band and iridescent violet and bluish-green bands on sides

Brachyalestes epuluensis (Decru, Vreven, Sadio & Snoeks 2016) -*ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Epulu River, Middle Congo basin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, type locality



Brachyalestes carolinae, holotype, male, 92 mm SL. From: Paugy, D. and C. Lévêque. 1981. Un *Alestes* nouveau du bassin du Niger *Alestes carolinae* n. sp. (Pisces, Characidae). Cybium 3e série. Bulletin de la Société Française d’Ichtyologie 5 (1): 97–101.

¹ Didier Paugy, pers. comm.

***Brachyalestes ferox* (Hopson & Hopson 1982)** Latin for fierce, referring to its large teeth

***Brachyalestes fwaensis* (Géry 1995)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Lake Fwa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, only known area of occurrence

***Brachyalestes humilis* (Boulenger 1905)** Latin for modest or unassuming, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its modest coloration (olive above, silvery below, black spot on caudal peduncle extending to median caudal-fin rays)

***Brachyalestes imberi* (Peters 1852)** etymology not explained, presumably from *imberi* or *mberi*, local name for this species in central and southeast Africa

***Brachyalestes jackiae* Stiassny & Melo 2023** in honor of Jackie Black, for her support and encouragement to the senior author and her Congolese colleagues over many years of work in the Congo basin

***Brachyalestes jacksonii* (Boulenger 1912)** in honor of Frederick John Jackson (1859–1929), English administrator, explorer and ornithologist, who collected holotype

***Brachyalestes kingsleyae* (Günther 1896)** in honor of English writer, explorer and ethnographer Mary Henrietta Kingsley (1862–1900), who “obtained” holotype [see essay in Mormyridae]

***Brachyalestes lateralis* (Boulenger 1900)** Latin for of the side, presumably referring to dark lateral band on sides

***Brachyalestes minutus* (Hopson & Hopson 1982)** Latin for small, referring to its small size, males reaching 3.3 cm SL

***Brachyalestes nigricauda* (Thys van den Audenaerde 1974)** *nigri*, from *niger* (L.), black; *cauda* (L.), tail, referring to black caudal-fin margin

***Brachyalestes nurse* (Rüppell 1832)** etymology not explained, presumably a local name for this species along the Nile River in Egypt

***Brachyalestes opisthotaenia* (Boulenger 1903)** *opisthen* (Gr. ὀπισθεν), behind; *taenia* (L.), from *tainía* (Gr. ταινία), band or ribbon, referring to black lateral band on posterior half of body, extending into middle rays of caudal fin

***Brachyalestes peringueyi* (Boulenger 1923)** patronym not identified but probably in honor of French entomologist Louis Péringuey (1855–1924), director of the South African Museum, where type is housed and in whose publication this species was described

***Brachyalestes sadleri* (Boulenger 1906)** in honor of British Army officer James Hayes Sadler (1827–1910), Commissioner of the Uganda Protectorate when holotype was collected

***Brachyalestes taeniurus* (Günther 1867)** ribbon-tailed, from *tainía* (Gr. ταινία), band or ribbon, and *ourá* (Gr. οὐρά), tail, referring to black streak on posterior part of body that extends into middle rays of caudal fin

Brachypetersius

Hoedeman 1956

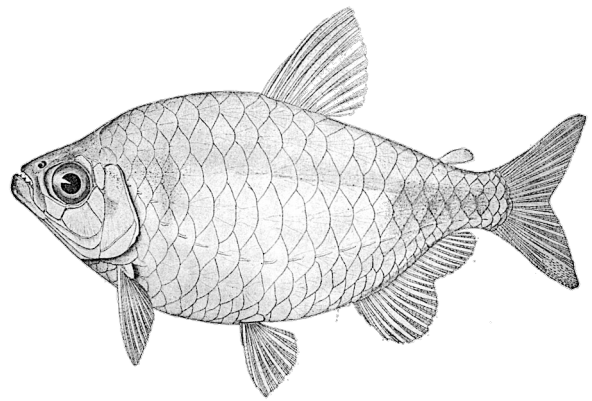
brachýs (Gr. βραχύς), short, allusion not explained nor evident; since genus was originally (but invalidly) proposed by Hoedeman in 1951 as a subgenus of *Alestopetersius*, name could refer to smaller size of *B. altus* (3.9–6.5 cm) compared with *A. hilgendorfi* (10 cm)

***Brachypetersius altus* (Boulenger 1899)** Latin for high, probably referring to concave dorsal profile and subsequent high body depth

***Brachypetersius cadwaladeri* (Fowler 1930)** in honor of amateur ornithologist Charles M. B. Cadwalader (1885–1959), Managing Director, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, to whom Fowler is “indebted for much encouragement in ichthyology”

***Brachypetersius gabonensis* Poll 1967** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Gabon, West Central Africa, where it is endemic

***Brachypetersius huloti* (Poll 1954)** in honor of André Hulot, Institut



Brachypetersius pseudonummifer. See caption of *Alestopetersius nigropterus* for source.

National pour l'Etude Agronomique du Congo, who collected holotype

***Brachypetersius notospilus* (Pellegrin 1930)** back-spotted, from *nótos* (Gr. νότος), back (i.e., rear, or back, portion of fish), and *spílos* (Gr. σπίλος), mark or spot, probably referring to large peduncular spot

***Brachypetersius pseudonummifer* Poll 1967** *pesudo-*, from *pseudēs* (Gr. ψεύδης), false, apparently referring to Poll's 1945 classification of this species as a juvenile *Micralestes nummifer* (= *Phenacogrammus altus*)

Brycinus

Valenciennes 1850

etymology not explained, possibly *-inus* (L.), adjectival suffix, i.e., *Brycon*-like, referring to *Brycon* Müller & Troschel 1844, a Neotropical genus (Bryconidae) considered confamilial at the time, derived from *brychō* (Gr. βρύχω), to bite, gnash teeth or eat greedily, an allusion to well-developed teeth in both jaws

***Brycinus batesii* (Boulenger 1903)** in honor of George Latimer Bates (1863–1940), Cameroon farmer and ornithologist, who collected specimens for the Natural History Museum (London), including holotype of this species [treated as a synonym of *B. macrolepidotus* by some workers]

***Brycinus brevis* (Boulenger 1903)** Latin for short, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its “rather short and thin” gill rakers

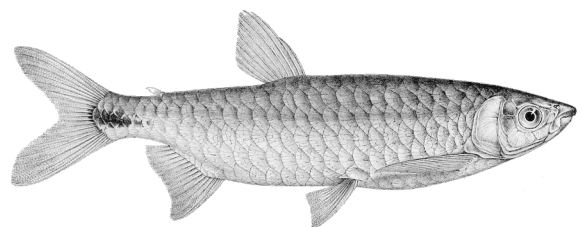
***Brycinus carmesinus* (Nichols & Griscom 1917)** Medieval Latin for crimson, referring to rose-red cheeks and lower sides

***Brycinus grandisquamis* (Boulenger 1899)** *grandis* (L.), large; *squamis*, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of *squama* (L.), scale referring to larger lateral-line scales compared with *B. macrolepidotus*

***Brycinus leuciscus* (Günther 1867)** from *leukískos* (Gr. λευκίσκος), a “white mullet” (often applied to *Alburnus alburnus*, Leuciscidae), diminutive of *leukós* (λευκός), white, referring to its “bright silvery” coloration

***Brycinus luteus* (Roman 1966)** Latin for yellow, referring to lemon-yellow dorsal, anal and adipose fins, caudal fin lobes, and upper part of eye

***Brycinus macrolepidotus* Valenciennes 1850** *macro-*, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large; *lepidótós* (Gr. λεπιδωτός), scaly, referring to its “très-grandes” scales



Brycinus rhodopleura. Illustration by J. Green. From: Boulenger, G. A. 1906. Fourth contribution to the ichthyology of Lake Tanganyika. Report on the collection of fishes made by Dr. W. A. Cunningham during the Third Tanganyika Expedition, 1904-1905. Transactions of the Zoological Society of London 17 (pt 6, no. 1): 537–601, Pls. 30–41.

***Brycinus poptae* (Pellegrin 1906)** in honor of Dutch biologist Canna Maria Louise Popta (1860–1929), Curator of Reptiles, Amphibians and Fishes at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (Leiden, Netherlands), and “ichtyologiste distinguée”

***Brycinus rhodopleura* (Boulenger 1906)** *rhódon* (Gr. ῥόδον), rose; *pleurá* (Gr. πλευρά), side, referring to pink band on sides

***Brycinus schoutedeni* (Boulenger 1912)** in honor of Belgian zoologist Henri Schouteden (1881–1972), who collected many new species in the Belgian Congo (but not this one)

Bryconaethiops Günther 1873

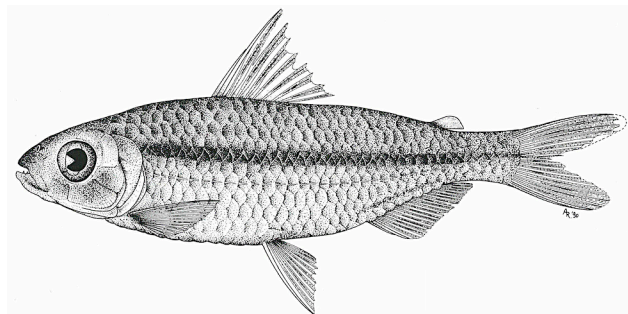
Brycon, described as an “African representative” of this South American genus (Bryconidae); *Aethiops*, Latin for Ethiopian or Negro, from *aíthein* (Gr. αἴθειν), to burn (intransitive), and *óps* (Gr. ὤψ), face or appearance, possibly referring to Aethiopia, a classical term for Sub-Saharan Africa, i.e., a small “Ethiopian”

***Bryconaethiops boulengeri* Pellegrin 1900** in honor of Belgian-born British ichthyologist-herpetologist George A. Boulenger (1858–1937), who provided an illustration of this species in 1899 but considered it a variety of *B. microstoma*

***Bryconaethiops macrops* Boulenger 1920** *macro-*, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large; *óps* (Gr. ὤψ), eye, referring to larger eye compared with *B. microstoma*

***Bryconaethiops microstoma* Günther 1873** *micro-*, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός); *stóma* (Gr. στόμα), mouth, presumably referring to “very small toothless maxillary”

***Bryconaethiops quinquasquamae* Teugels & Thys van den Audenaerde 1990** *quinque* (L.), five; *squamae* (L.), scales, referring to five scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin

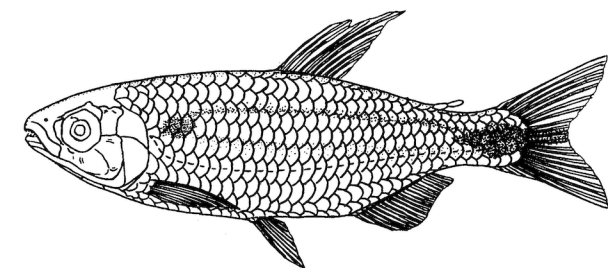


Bryconaethiops quinquasquamae, holotype, 79.7 mm SL (with damaged upper caudal-fin lobe reconstructed). Illustration by Alain Reygel. From: Teugels, G. G. and D. F. E. Thys van den Audenaerde. 1990. Description of a new species of *Bryconaethiops* (Teleostei: Characidae) from Nigeria and Cameroon. Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters 1 (3): 207–212.

***Bryconaethiops yseuxi* Boulenger 1899** in honor of physician-zoologist Emile Yseux (1835–1915), Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)

Bryconalestes Hoedeman 1951

etymology not explained, probably a combination of the Neotropical *Brycon* (Bryconidae) or *Brycinus* and *Alestes*, i.e., a *Brycon-* or *Brycinus-*like alestid



Bryconalestes bartoni, holotype, 89 mm SL. From: Nichols, J. T. and F. R. LaMonte. 1953. A new *Alestes* and little-known *Barbus* from Gaboon. American Museum Novitates No. 1606: 1–3.

***Bryconalestes bartoni* (Nichols & LaMonte 1953)** in honor of Otis Barton (1899–1992), American deepsea diver, inventor and actor, “whose unconquerable spirit of adventure has taken him many places, and who has brought back to the American Museum [of Natural History] various new or little-known fishes from diverse parts of the world,” including holotype of this one

***Bryconalestes derhami* (Géry & Mahnert 1977)** in honor of Swiss ichthyologist and aquarist Patrick de Rham (1936–2022), who collected holotype

***Bryconalestes intermedius* (Boulenger 1903)** Latin for intermediate, described as intermediate between *B. longipinnis* and *B. tholloni*, with smaller scales than the former and fewer anal rays than the latter

***Bryconalestes longipinnis* (Günther 1864)** *longus* (L.), long; *pinnis*, scientific Neo-Latin adjective of *pinna* (L.), referring to filamentous fourth and fifth dorsal-fin rays on adults

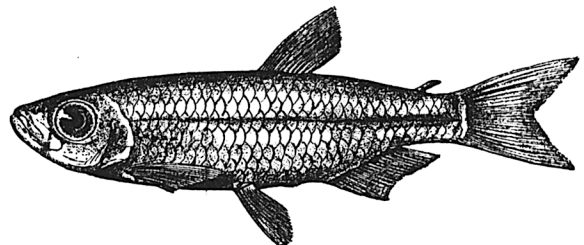
***Bryconalestes tessmanni* (Pappenheim 1911)** in honor of German explorer, ethnographer and plant collector Günter Tessmann (1884–1969), who collected holotype

***Bryconalestes tholloni* (Pellegrin 1901)** in honor of French botanist François-Romain Thollon (1855–1896), Muséum d’histoire Naturelle (Paris), who collected holotype

Clupeocharax Pellegrin 1926

clupea (L.), herring, referring to its herring-like appearance; *Charax*, typical genus of the Characiformes, from *chárax* (Gr. χάραξ), a pointed stake of a palisade, referring to densely packed sharp teeth, now a common root-name formation in the order

***Clupeocharax schoutedeni* Pellegrin 1926** in honor of Belgian zoologist Henri Schouteden (1881–1972), who collected many new species in the Belgian Congo, including holotype of this one



First-published image of *Clupeocharax schoutedeni*. From: Pellegrin, J. 1928. Poissons du Chiloango et du Congo recueillis par l’expédition du Dr. H. Schouteden (1920-1922). (Matériaux pour la faune du Congo.). Annales du Musée du Congo Belge Sér. C (Zoologie) (Sér. 1) 3 (1): 1–49.

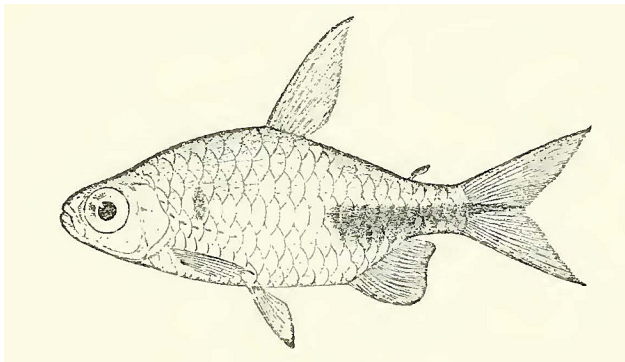
Hemigrammopetersius² Pellegrin 1926

hemi-, from *hémisys* (Gr. ἡμισυς), half; *grammé* (Gr. γραμμή), line or stroke of the pen, i.e., similar to *Petersius* but with an incomplete lateral line

***Hemigrammopetersius barnardi* (Herre 1936)** in honor of UK-born South African marine biologist and museum director Keppel Harcourt Barnard (1887-1964), “whose publications are invaluable to the student of South and East African fishes”

***Hemigrammopetersius pulcher* (Boulenger 1909)** Latin for beautiful, presumably referring to its coloration (greenish-yellow above and silvery below, fins tinged with orange) and markings (oval black spot on shoulder and broad black band on sides of tail)

² Eschmeyer’s Catalog of Fishes (ECoF) treats *Hemigrammopetersius* as a junior synonym of *Phenacogrammus* based on Gery’s (1995) provisional placement of the type species, *H. pulcher*, in that genus. Since this leaves *H. barnardi* without a proper generic home, ECoF provisionally places that species in *Rhabdalestes*. *Hemigrammopetersius*, with two species, is provisionally retained here pending a thorough review of alestid relationships and taxonomy. See: Géry, J. 1995. Description of new or poorly known Alestinae (Teleostei: Characiformes: Alestidae) from Africa, with a note on the generic concept in the Alestinae. aqua, Journal of Ichthyology and Aquatic Biology 1 (4): 37–64.



Hemigrammopetersius pulcher. See caption of *Arnoldichthys spilopterus* for source.

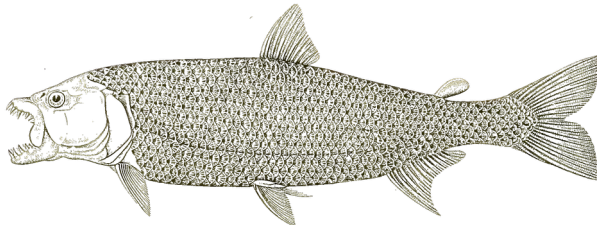
Hydrocynus

Cuvier 1816

hydro, water; *kyon*, dog, transliteration of local Egyptian name *Kelb el bahr*, or water dog, referring to voracious behavior of *H. forskahlii*

Hydrocynus brevis (Günther 1864) Latin for short, referring to its shorter body compared with *H. forskahlii*

Hydrocynus forskahlii (Cuvier 1819) in honor of Swedish explorer and naturalist Peter Forsskål (also spelled Forsskåhl, 1732–1763), who reported this species as *Salmo* (= *Alestes*) *dentex* in 1775



Hydrocynus forskahlii. From: Cuvier, G. 1819. Sur les poissons du sous-genre *Hydrocyn* [sic], sur deux nouvelles espèces de *Chalceus*, sur trois nouvelles espèces du *Serrasalmes*, et sur l'*Argentina glossodonta* de Forskahl, qui est l'*Albula gonorhynchus* de Bloch. Mémoires du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (N. S.) (Série A) Zoologie 5: 351–379, Pls. 26–28.

Hydrocynus goliath Boulenger 1898 the giant slain by David in the biblical book of Samuel, now a synonym for “giant,” presumably referring to its large size, up to 1.5 m and 50 kg

Hydrocynus tanzaniae Brewster 1886 of Tanzania, where it is endemic

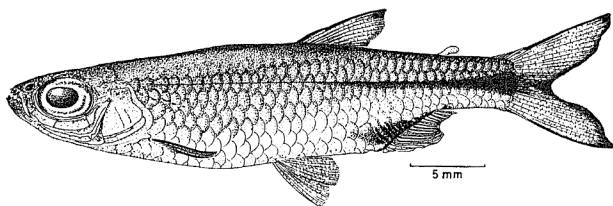
Hydrocynus vittatus Castelnau 1861 Latin for banded, referring to seven bright blue longitudinal stripes on sides

Ladigesia

Géry 1968

-*ia* (L.), belonging to: Werner Ladiges (1910–1984), German ichthyologist, aquarist and director, Zoologisches Staatsinstitut und Zoologischen Museum (Hamburg), who “kindly loaned the type material”

Ladigesia roloffii Géry 1968 in honor of German aquarist Erhard Roloff (1903–1980), who collected holotype

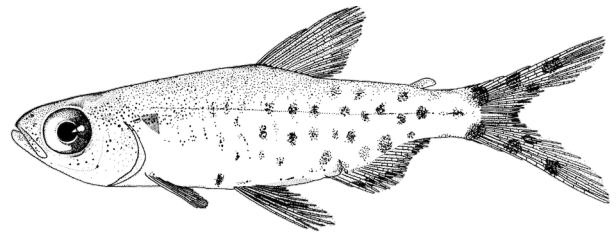


Ladigesia roloffii, holotype, male, 30.8 mm SL. From: Géry, J. 1968. *Ladigesia roloffii*, a new genus and species of African characoid fishes. Tropical Fish Hobbyist 16 (8) [April]: 78–87.

Lepidarchus

Roberts 1966

lepis (Gr. λεπίς), scale; *archós* (Gr. ἀρχός), anus, referring to presence of one cycloid scale on either side of anterior part of anal-fin base [not to be confused with *Lepidarcus* Marshall 1948 in Insecta]



Lepidarchus adonis, holotype, male, 21 mm SL. From: Roberts, T. R. 1966. Description and osteology of *Lepidarchus adonis*, a remarkable new characid fish from West Africa. Stanford Ichthyological Bulletin 8 (3): 209–227.

Lepidarchus adonis Roberts 1966 Adonis, from Greek mythology, a beautiful youth beloved by Venus, “because the males are handsome” (Tyson R. Roberts, pers. comm.)

Lepidarchus adonis signifer Isbrücker 1970 *signum* (L.), mark; -*fer*, from *fero* (L.), to have or bear, referring to horizontal, straight, dark-brown bar and dark-brown spot on anal fin of males, absent on the nominate form

Micralestes

Boulenger 1899

micro-, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small; *Alestes*, type genus of family, referring to smaller size of *N. humilis* compared with other alestid species

Micralestes acutidens (Peters 1852) *acutus* (L.), sharp or pointed; *dens* (L.), tooth, referring to internal row or eight sharp multicuspoid teeth

Micralestes ambiguus Géry 1995 Latin for uncertain, referring to Géry’s difficulty in placing it in the proper genus

Micralestes argyrotaenia Trewavas 1936 *argýreios* (Gr. ἀργύρειος), white metal (i.e., silver); *taenia* (L.), from *tainía* (Gr. ταϊνία), band or ribbon, referring to its silvery lateral band with dark upper edge

Micralestes comoensis Poll & Roman 1967 -*ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Comoe (also spelled Komoé) River, Burkina Faso, type locality

Micralestes congicus Poll 1967 -*icus* (L.), belonging to: Congo River basin, where it is endemic

Micralestes eburneensis Daget 1965 -*ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: *eburneus* (L.), of ivory, referring to Ivory Coast, where type locality (Cavally, near Toulépleu) is situated

Micralestes elongatus Daget 1957 Latin for prolonged, referring to its more elongate body compared with *M. acutidens*

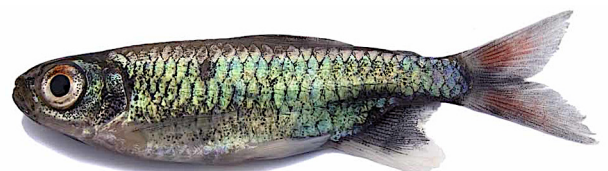
Micralestes fodori Matthes 1965 in honor of “Dr. Fodor,” who collected holotype, possibly Hungarian philologist-linguist István Fodor, who visited the Belgian Congo (type locality) and studied a number of Congolese languages

Micralestes holargyreus (Günther 1873) *hólos* (Gr. ὅλος), whole or entire; *argýreios* (Gr. ἀργύρειος), white metal (i.e., silver), referring to its bright silvery coloration, without spots

Micralestes humilis Boulenger 1899 Latin for modest or unassuming, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its small size (type specimen 48 mm)

Micralestes lualabae Poll 1967 of the Lualaba River, Democratic Republic of the Congo, type locality

Micralestes occidentalis (Günther 1899) Latin for western, described as a western representative of the East African *Petersius*



Micralestes schelleyi, mature male. Photo by Jake Lowenstein. From: Stiassny, M. L. J. and V. Mamonekene. 2007. *Micralestes* (Characiformes, Alestidae) of the lower Congo River, with a description of a new species endemic to the lower Congo River rapids in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Zootaxa 1614: 17–29.

***Micralestes pabrensis* (Roman 1966) -ensis**, Latin suffix denoting place: Reservoir of Pabré, White Volta basin, 22 kilometers northeast of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, type locality

***Micralestes schelly* Stiassny & Mamonekene 2007** in honor of American ichthyologist Robert C. Schelly, American Museum of Natural History, colleague and “intrepid” collector of the type series [presumably a noun in apposition, without the patronymic “i”]

***Micralestes stormsi* Boulenger 1902** in honor of Lieut. Maurice Joseph Auguste Marie Raphael Storms (1875–1941), Belgian Army, who collected holotype and presented it to the Brussels Museum; Boulenger said he is cousin of the late Raymond Storms, “so well known for his important contributions to paleoichthyology”

***Micralestes vittatus* (Boulenger 1917)** Latin for banded, referring to blackish lateral band that widens from gill cover to below dorsal fin

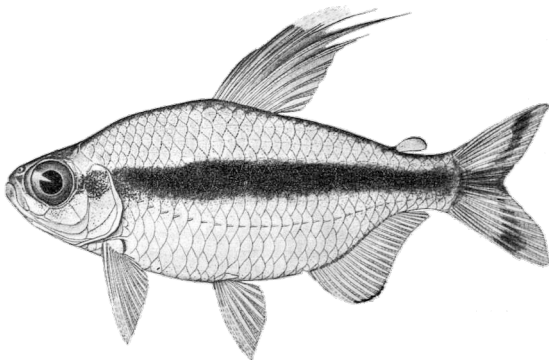
Nannopetersius

Hoedeman 1956

nánnos (Gr. νάννος), dwarf, allusion not explained nor evident, and *Petersius*, original genus of type species *N. ansorgii*; since genus was originally (but invalidly) proposed by Hoedeman in 1951 as a subgenus of *Alestopetersius*, name could refer to smaller size of *N. ansorgii* (3.8–6.0 cm) compared with *A. hilgendorfi* (10 cm)

***Nannopetersius ansorgii* (Boulenger 1910)** in honor of British explorer and collector William John Ansorge (1850–1913), who collected holotype

***Nannopetersius lamberti* Poll 1967** in honor of Poll’s frequent collaborator, Belgian ichthyologist Jacques G. Lambert (1923–2013), who collected holotype



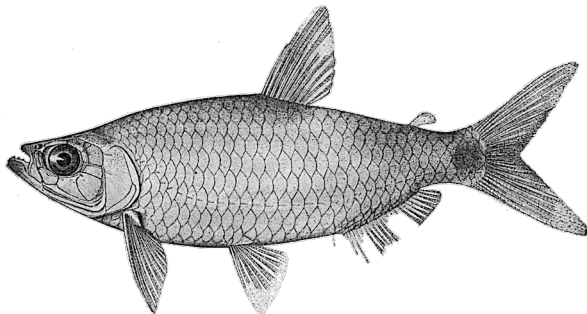
Nannopetersius lamberti, holotype, 73.5 mm TL. See caption of *Alestopetersius nigropterus* for source.

***Nannopetersius mutambuei* Wamuini Lunkayilakio & Vreven 2008** in honor of biologist and aquarist Mutambue Shango, General Academic Secretary, École Régionale post-universitaire d’Aménagement et gestion Intégrée des Forêts et territoires Tropicaux (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo), who collected many fishes from the Inkisi River basin in 1985 and 1986

Petersius

Hilgendorf 1894

-*ius* (L.), pertaining to: Wilhelm Peters (1815–1883), German naturalist who traveled to Africa and returned to Berlin with an enormous collection of natural history specimens; Hilgendorf noted that it was



Possibly first-published image of *Petersius conserialis* (with damaged anal fin), 73 years after it was described. See caption of *Alestopetersius nigropterus* for source.

surprising that Peters had heretofore been honored in botany (*Petersia*) but not zoology

***Petersius conserialis* Hilgendorf 1894 con-** (L. prefix), together or with; *serialis* (L.), rowed, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to two rows of intermaxillary teeth, the anterior row pressed into the gap of the posterior row

Phenacogrammus

Eigenmann 1907

phénakos (Gr. φένακος), genitive of *phénax* (φέναξ), cheat or imposter; *grammus*, scientific Neo-Latin derived from *grammḗ* (Gr. γραμμῆ), line or stroke of the pen, referring to incomplete lateral line of *P. interruptus*

***Phenacogrammus aurantiacus* (Pellegrin 1930)** Latin for orange-colored, referring to its overall body coloration

***Phenacogrammus concolor* Stiassny, Alter, Monsembula Iyaba & Liyandja 2021** Latin for colored uniformly, referring to uniform absence of prominent pattern of black pigmentation along flanks and caudal peduncle (like that of *P. flexus*)

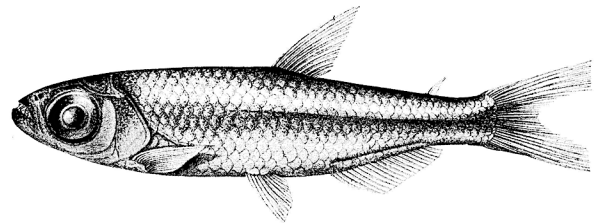
***Phenacogrammus deheyni* Poll 1945** in honor of diplomat-naturalist Jean Jacques Deheyn (1914–2009), Agricultural Officer, Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, who collected holotype

***Phenacogrammus flexus* Stiassny, Alter, Monsembula Iyaba & Liyandja 2021** Latin for winding, zigzag or sharp turn, referring to prominent pattern of black pigmentation along flanks and caudal peduncle

***Phenacogrammus interruptus* (Boulenger 1899)** Latin for interrupted, referring to its incomplete lateral line

***Phenacogrammus major* (Boulenger 1903)** Latin for greater, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to greater number of scales and anal-fin rays compared with *Alestopetersius caudalis*, its presumed congener at the time

***Phenacogrammus polli* Lambert 1961** in honor of Belgian ichthyologist Max Poll (1908–1991), for his help and “friendly advice” (translation)



Phenacogrammus polli, holotype, 24.5 mm SL. From: Lambert, J. G. 1961. Contribution à l’étude des poissons de forêt de la cuvette congolaise. Annales, Musée Royal de l’Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Série in 80, Sciences Zoologiques No. 93: 7–40, Pls. 1–5.

***Phenacogrammus stigmatura* (Fowler 1936) stigma** (Gr. στίγμα), mark or spot; *ourá* (Gr. οὐρά), tail, referring to black spot at base of lower caudal lobe [Fowler treated name as a noun, not an adjective]

***Phenacogrammus urotaenia* (Boulenger 1909) ourá** (Gr. οὐρά), tail; *taenia* (L.), from *tainía* (Gr. ταινία), band or ribbon, referring to blackish streak on caudal part of body, extending to median rays of caudal fin

Rhabdalestes

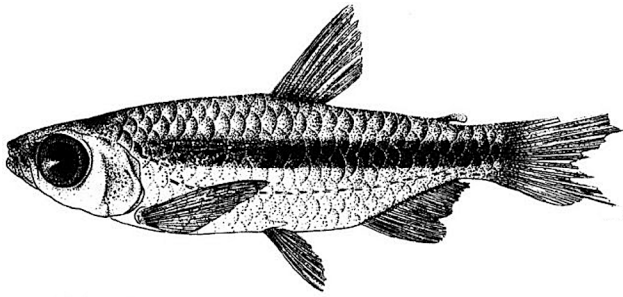
Hoedeman 1951

rhabdos (Gr. ῥάβδος), rod or wand, allusion not explained nor evident from Hoedeman’s brief description within a key; *Alestes*, type genus of family

***Rhabdalestes aeratis* Stiassny & Schaefer 2005** Latin for of copper, bronze or brassy, referring to its bronze flank coloration

***Rhabdalestes brevidorsalis* (Pellegrin 1921) brevis** (L.) short; *dorsalis* (L.), of the back, referring to its shorter dorsal fin compared with *Hemigrammopetersius pulcher*, its presumed congener at the time

***Rhabdalestes maunensis* (Fowler 1935) -ensis**, Latin suffix denoting place: Maun, Botswana, where Thamalakane River (type locality) is



Rhabdalestes yokai, holotype, 38.7 mm SL (with damaged caudal fin). Illustration by Alain Reygel. From: Ibala Zamba, A. and E. J. Vreven. 2008. *Rhabdalestes yokai* (Characiformes: Alestidae), a new species from the Léfini and Sangha River basins (Congo River basin), Africa. Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters 19 (4): 377–384.

situated

***Rhabdalestes rhodesiensis* (Ricardo-Bertram 1943) -ensis**, Latin suffix denoting place: northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), referring to type localities at Chambezi River and swamps and edge of Lake Bangweulu

***Rhabdalestes septentrionalis* (Boulenger 1911)** Latin for northern, being the northernmost species of *Petersius* (original genus)

***Rhabdalestes tangensis* (Lönnberg 1907) -ensis**, Latin suffix denoting place: Tanga, Tanzania, type locality

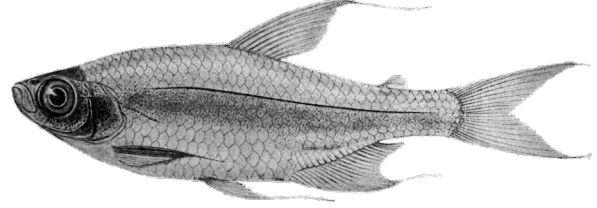
***Rhabdalestes yokai* Ibala Zamba & Vreven 2008** in honor of Paul Yoka, Director of the Institut de Développement Rural at the University of Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo), for his administrative help during the Léfini 2004–2008 Expeditions, during which holotype was collected

Tricuspidalestes

Poll 1967

tri-, from *tres* (L.), three, and *cuspidatus* (L.), pointed; *Alestes*, type genus of family, i.e., an alestid with tricuspid teeth (although some teeth are pentacuspoid)

***Tricuspidalestes caeruleus* (Matthes 1964)** Latin for dark blue (but used here to mean blue in general), referring to brilliant blue reflections on head, back and sides



Tricuspidalestes caeruleus, holotype, 36.5 mm SL. From: Matthes, H. 1964. Les poissons du lac Tumba et de la région d'Ikela. Étude systématique et écologique. Annales, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Série in 80, Sciences Zoologiques No. 126: 1–204, 2 maps, tab. 1, Pls. 1–6.