

Order OSTEOGLOSSIFORMES

Arapaimas

Family ARAPAIMIDAE

Bonaparte 1846



"Vastres géant," illustration upon which description of *Arapaima gigas* was based. From: Cuvier, G. 1816 (but published with 1817 as the date). Le Règne Animal distribué d'après son organisation pour servir de base à l'histoire naturelle des animaux et d'introduction à l'anatomie comparée. Les reptiles, les poissons, les mollusques et les annélides. Edition 1. v. 4: i–viii + 1–255, Pl. 1–15.

Arapaima

Müller 1843

presumably derived from *warapaima*, local (Carib language) name for species of the genus among the Macushi indigenous people of southern Guyana, northern Brazil and eastern Venezuela¹ [predates *Sudis arapaima* Valenciennes 1847 and therefore is not tautonymous with it]

***Arapaima agassizi* (Valenciennes 1847)** in honor of Swiss (later American) zoologist-geologist Louis Agassiz (1807–1873), whose 1829 text and osteological illustrations of the *Pirarucú* were the basis for Valenciennes' description

***Arapaima arapaima* (Valenciennes 1847)** as for genus [treated as a junior synonym of *A. gigas* by some workers]

***Arapaima gigas* (Schinz 1822)** *gigas* (Gr. γίγας), giant, the largest freshwater fish in the Amazon (up to 4.5 m and 200 kg)

***Arapaima leptosoma* Stewart 2013** *leptós* (Gr. λεπτός), thin or slender; *sóma* (Gr. σῶμα), body, referring to its relatively slender body form compared with *A. arapaima*

***Arapaima mapae* (Valenciennes 1847)** of Lago Mapa (now Lago do Amapá), Amapá State, Brazil, type locality

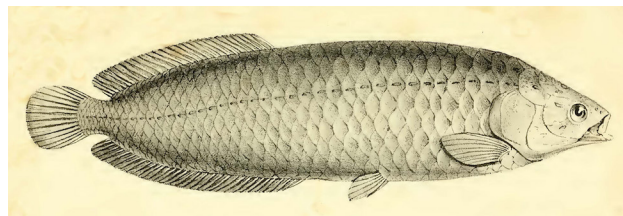
¹ Ichthyologist Heraldo Britski (Museu da Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil), pers. comm. with anthropologist Egon Schaden (São Paulo University), cited in: ICZN. 1979. Opinion 1132. Two works by Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1828, suppressed under the plenary powers; *Heterotis* Rüppell, 1829, ex Ehrenberg MS (Pisces) validated MS (Pisces) validated under the plenary powers and placed on the Official List with *Arapaima* Muller, 1843 (Pisces). Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature 36 (2): 85–90.

Heterotis

Rüppell 1829

héteros (Gr. ἕτερος), different; *ōtós* (Gr. ὠτός), genitive of *oús* (οὐς), ear, referring to helically shaped suprabranchial organ on fourth gill arch [incorrectly dated by some sources to Rüppell's 1828 *Atlas zu der Reise im nördlichen Africa*]

***Heterotis niloticus* (Cuvier 1829)** *-icus* (L.), belonging to: Nile River, type locality



Heterotis niloticus. From: Rüppell, W. P. E. S. 1829. Beschreibung und Abbildung mehrerer neuer Fische, im Nil entdeckt. Brönner, Frankfurt am Main. 1–12, Pls. 1–3. Rüppell and Cuvier independently described this species using the same trivial name (*niloticus*) as proposed by German naturalist Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg, but Cuvier's account apparently came first and therefore has priority.