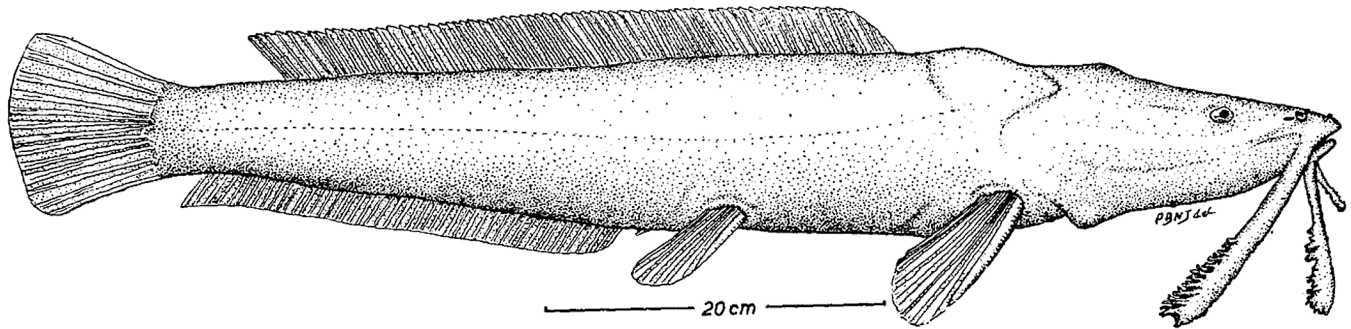


Order SILURIFORMES

Airbreathing or Labyrinth Catfishes

Family CLARIIDAE

Bonaparte 1845



Bathyclarias filicibarbis, holotype, male. Illustration by Peter B. N. Jackson. From: Jackson, P. B. N. 1959. Revision of the clariid catfishes of Nyasaland, with a description of a new genus and seven new species. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London 132 (1): 109–128.

Bathyclarias

Jackson 1959

bathýs (Gr. βαθύς), deep, referring to species flock endemic to Lake Malawi (or Nyasa), “where they occupy a variety of habitats down to the limits of dissolved oxygen”; *Clarias*, type genus of family

***Bathyclarias atribranchus* (Greenwood 1961)** *atri-*, from *ater* (L.), black; *branchus*, from *bránchia* (Gr. βράγχια), gills, referring to dark grayish-black gill filaments

***Bathyclarias euryodon* Jackson 1959** *euryós* (Gr. εὐρύς), wide or broad; *odon*, Latinized and grammatically adjusted from the Greek nominative ὀδοῦς (*odoús*), tooth, referring to very wide vomerine tooth-band, more than twice relative width of endemic congeners

***Bathyclarias filicibarbis* Jackson 1959** *filicis* (L.), fern; *barbis* (scientific Neo-Latin), barbel, referring to cone-shaped nasal barbels, with frilled bifid top (somewhat resembling the leaves of a fern)

***Bathyclarias foveolatus* (Jackson 1955)** Latin for full of pits, referring to numerous flat-bottomed, circular pits or depressions on skin

***Bathyclarias longibarbis* (Worthington 1933)** *longus* (L.), long; *barbis* (scientific Neo-Latin), barbel, referring to its “extremely long barbels”

***Bathyclarias nyasensis* (Worthington 1933)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Lake Nyasa (also known as Lake Malawi), southeastern Africa, where it is endemic

***Bathyclarias rotundifrons* Jackson 1959** *rotundus* (L.), round or circular; *frons* (L.), face or forehead, referring to “round and chubby” head with “smooth curving contours”

***Bathyclarias worthingtoni* Jackson 1959** in honor of British zoologist Edward Barton Worthington (1905–2001), pioneer explorer of African lakes and their fisheries, “whose taxonomic studies on the non-cichlid fishes of the Central African region have proved to be such a valuable foundation on which to base future work”

Channallabes

Günther 1873

Channa, genus of Asian snakeheads (Channidae), many of which, like species of this genus, lack pelvic fins (Günther also named the galaxiid genus *Neochanna*, which also lacks pelvic fins); *allábēs* (Gr. ἀλλάβης), ancient name for a fish from the Nile, believed by Geoffroy St. Hilaire (1809)¹ and other 19th-century naturalists to refer to eel-shaped clariids based on the incorrect assumption that ἀλλάβης means “difficult to

catch” (i.e., elusive or slippery),² referring to elongated and almost cylindrical shape, and abundant mucus coating, of *Heterobranchus* (now *Clarias*) *anguillaris*

***Channallabes alvarezi* (Roman 1971)** in honor of Mario Álvarez (relationship to author not specified), in “gratitude and friendship” (translation)

***Channallabes apus* (Günther 1873)** *α-* (Gr. privative), without; *pus*, from *poús* (Gr. ποῦς), foot, referring to “useless” paired fins: pectoral fins “reduced to a minute rudiment” and ventral fins absent

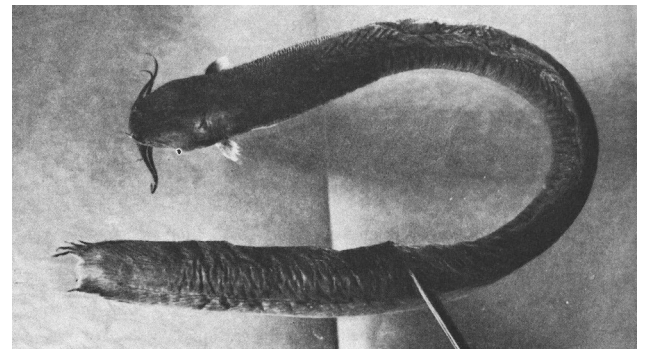
***Channallabes longicaudatus* (Pappenheim 1911)** *longus* (L.), long; *caudatus* (L.), tailed, referring to longer tail compared with *Clariallabes melas*, its presumed congener at the time

***Channallabes ogoensis* Devaere, Adriaens & Verraes 2007** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Ogowé River system, Gabon, where it is endemic

***Channallabes sanghaensis* Devaere, Adriaens & Verraes 2007** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Sangha freshwater region of Africa, where it occurs

¹ Geoffroy St. Hilaire, E. 1809. Poissons du Nil, de la mer Rouge et de la Méditerranée. In: Description de l’Égypte ou recueil des observations et des recherches qui ont été faites en Égypte pendant l’expédition de l’Armée française, publié par les ordres de sa Majesté-L’Empereur Napoléon le Grand. (Imprimerie Impériale). Paris. Histoire Naturelle. 1 (1): 1–52 [141–338], Poissons Pls. 1–17.

² According to Holger Funk (pers. comm.), Greek lexicographers of the Middle Ages mistranslated *Allábēs* (and *Alabēs*, now used for the clingfish genus *Alabes* Cloquet 1816) based on similar-sounding words: alpha (α) privative (=without) + λαμβάνειν, to grasp or seize, that is, a slippery fish that is difficult to catch. However, this view and identification had already been refuted by linguistic Egyptologists in the middle of the 19th century, who proved that the name is not of Greek origin, but rather comes from Coptic (Old Egyptian). Per Thompson’s 1947 *A glossary of Greek fishes* (London: Oxford University Press. vi + 302 pp.), *Allábēs* is the cyprinid *Labes niloticus*.



Channallabes alvarezi. From: Roman, B. 1971. Nuevas especies de peces de Río Muni (Guinea Ecuatorial). Publicaciones del Instituto de Biología Aplicada Barcelona 49 [for 1970]: 5–23.

***Channallabes teugelsi* Devaere, Adriaens & Verraes 2007** in honor of the late Guy Teugels (1954–2003), Belgian ichthyologist and curator of fishes at the Musée Royale de l’Afrique Centrale, “as a tribute to his career and his efforts on African catfish taxonomy, especially Clariidae”

Clariallabes

Boulenger 1900

combination of *Clarias* and *Gymnallabes*, described as intermediate in form between these two genera

***Clariallabes attemsi* (Holly 1927)** patronym not identified but almost certainly in honor of Carl August Graf Attems-Petzenstein (1868–1952), Austrian invertebrate zoologist and Holly’s colleague at the Natural History Museum in Vienna

***Clariallabes brevibarbis* Pellegrin 1913** *brevis* (L.), short; *barbis* (scientific Neo-Latin), barbel, referring to “generally shorter” barbels (translation) compared with *C. melas*

***Clariallabes centralis* (Poll & Lambert 1958)** Latin for central, probably referring to its occurrence in the Central Congo River system

***Clariallabes heterocephalus* Poll 1967** *heteros* (Gr. ἕτερος), different; *cephalus*, from *kephalē* (Gr. κεφαλή), head, allusion not explained, presumably referring to its more elongated head compared with *C. variabilis*, its presumed closest congener

***Clariallabes laticeps* (Steindachner 1911)** *latus* (L.), broad or wide; *-ceps* (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to wider head compared with *C. longicauda*

***Clariallabes longicauda* (Boulenger 1902)** *longus* (L.), long; *cauda* (L.), tail, presumably referring to length of tail, described as $\frac{3}{4}$ length of head

***Clariallabes manyangae* (Boulenger 1919)** of Manyanga, Lower Congo River, Democratic Republic of the Congo, where it is endemic

***Clariallabes melas* (Boulenger 1887)** *mēlas* (Gr. μέλας), black, referring to its uniform black-brown coloration (dorsally)

***Clariallabes mutsindoziensis* Taverne & De Vos 1998** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Mutsindozi River, Lake Tanganyika basin, Burundi, type locality

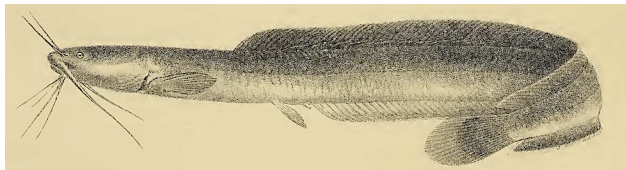
***Clariallabes petricola* Greenwood 1956** *pētra* (Gr. πέτρα), rock or stone; *-cola* (L.), dweller or inhabitant, referring to its presumed habitat consisting of large stones and coarse pebbles, and coarse shingles overlying sandy clay

***Clariallabes pietschmanni* (Güntert 1938)** in honor of Austrian ichthyologist Viktor Pietschmann (1881–1956), for his interest in Güntert’s work and his services to the fish collection of the Natural History Museum in Vienna

***Clariallabes platyprosopos* Jubb 1965** *platýs* (Gr. πλατύς), flat or broad; *prosopos*, adjectival form of *prósōpon* (Gr. πρόσωπον), face visage or countenance, referring to its distinctive “broad flat head”

***Clariallabes simeonsi* Poll 1941** in honor of H. M. Simeons (no other information available), who collected holotype and/or provided the collection of fishes that contained type to the Musée royal d’Histoire naturelle de Bruxelles

***Clariallabes teugelsi* Ferraris 2007** in honor of Guy Teugels (1954–2003), Belgian ichthyologist and late curator of fishes at the Musée Royale de l’Afrique Centrale and authority on *Clarias* taxonomy; replacement name



Clariallabes longicauda, holotype, 210 mm TL. Illustration by Pierre Jacques Smit. From: Boulenger, G. A. 1902. Contributions to the ichthyology of the Congo. I. On some new fishes from the French Congo. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London 1902, 1 (2): 234–237, Pls. 22–24.

for *Clarias* (*Allabenchelys*) *dumerili longibarbis* David & Poll 1937, preoccupied by *C. longibarbis* Worthington 1933

***Clariallabes uelensis* (Poll 1941)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Uélé River, Congo River basin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, type locality

***Clariallabes variabilis* Pellegrin 1926** Latin for variable, allusion not explained, possibly referring to variable number (0, 1 or 2) of ventral fins (not fin rays) on specimens Pellegrin examined

Clarias

Scopoli 1777

latinization of *callariás* (Gr. καλλιάριας), a word of unknown origin and meaning but historically used in reference to cods and the superficially cod-like *C. anguillaris*; oft-repeated claims that *Clarias* is derived from *chlarós* (Gr. χλαρός), said to mean “lively” and referring to the extreme hardiness of clariids and/or their ability to live for a long time out of water (and, in some cases, actually move across land), do not hold up under scrutiny [see essay, next page]

Subgenus *Clarias*

***Clarias anfractus* Ng 1999** Latin for twisted or crooked, referring to irregular outline of pectoral spine

***Clarias anguillaris* (Linnaeus 1758)** Latin for eel-like, referring to its elongate body

***Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus 1758)** from *bátrachos* (Gr. βάτραχος), frog, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its frog-like ability to leave the water and move across land

***Clarias batu* Lim & Ng 1999** Malay word for rock, referring to the rock- and boulder-strewn torrent streams in which it inhabits

***Clarias brachysoma* Günther 1864** *brachýs* (Gr. βραχύς), short; *sōma* (Gr. σώμα), body, perhaps referring to length (12.7–15.2 cm), somewhat small for a *Clarias*

***Clarias cataractus* (Fowler 1939)** from *kataráktēs* (Gr. καταράκτης), waterfall, where type was collected in Trang, Thailand

***Clarias dayi* Hora 1936** in honor of Francis Day (1829–1889), Inspector-General of Fisheries in India, who provisionally identified type specimen as *C. dussumieri* or *C. melanoderma* (= *meladerma*) in 1877

***Clarias dussumieri* Valenciennes 1840** in honor of Jean-Jacques Dussumier (1792–1883), French voyager and merchant, who observed this catfish in India, noting how it can “live long out of water, and crawl great distances” (translation)

***Clarias fuscus* (Lacepède 1803)** Latin for dark or dusky, referring to its brown, unspotted color

***Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell 1822)** *-inus* (L.), belonging to: Gariep (meaning “Great Water”) River (now known as Orange River), the longest river in South Africa, type locality

***Clarias gracilentus* Ng, Hong & Tu 2011** *gracilis* (L.), thin or slender; *-lentus* (L.), full of or abounding in, referring to its slender body compared with *C. nieuhoftii*

***Clarias insolitus* Ng 2003** Latin for unusual or strange, referring to combination of hypertrophied sensory canal pores and a knife-shaped anterior fontanel, not seen in other Southeast Asian *Clarias*

***Clarias intermedius* Teugels, Sudarto & Pouyaud 2001** Latin for intermediate, referring to its external morphology, intermediate between *C. macrocephalus* and *C. meladerma*

***Clarias kapuasensis* Sudarto, Teugels & Pouyaud 2003** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Kapuas River basin, Borneo, Indonesia, where it is endemic

***Clarias leiacanthus* Bleeker 1851** *leíos* (Gr. λείος) smooth; *acanthus* (L.), from *ákantha* (Gr. ἄκανθα), thorn, referring to smooth pectoral spine

Catfishes, cods, donkeys and asses: bringing clarity to *Clarias*

Here's a case of one etymologically mysterious word applying to two markedly different kinds of catfishes: *Clarias*, a genus of air-breathing (or walking) catfishes from Africa and Asia (Clariidae), and *Synodontis clarias*, the Upside-Down, or Squeaker Catfish, of Africa (Mochokidae). There's a reasonable explanation supported by historical evidence for how the genus (*Clarias*) came by its name. There is no satisfactory explanation for the species *S. clarias*.

Let's start with the genus *Clarias*. Perhaps the earliest mention of clariid catfishes in the scientific literature is from *De aquatilibus* (1553) by the Renaissance scholar and traveler Pierre Belon (1517–1564). Among the fishes he included in his book are three given the same forename: “*Claria marina*” (“*Claria* of the sea,” probably the Common Ling *Molva molva*); “*Claria fluviatilis*” (“*Claria* of the river,” probably the Burbot *Lota lota*); and “*Claria nilotica*” (“*Claria* of the Nile”). This Nile species is now known as *Clarias anguillaris*, the type species of the genus.

So, what does “*Claria*” mean? No one knows for sure. It's a latinization of the Greek κάλλαρίας (*callarías*), a word of unknown origin and meaning but often used in synonymy with γάδος (*gádos*), όνος (*ónos*), and the Latin *asellus*, all meaning “donkey” or “ass.” What's more, all these words have been used to name cod-like fishes, e.g., *Gadus*, *Gadus morhua callarias*, three failed attempts to name a new cod genus *Asellus*, and several names that incorporate *ónos* (*Lycopus*, *Macruronus*, *Melanonus*). But why the allusion to donkeys or asses? Again, no one knows for sure. British naturalist Francis Day attempted an explanation in his 1882 book *The Fishes of Great Britain and Ireland*. The allusion, he suggested, referred either to the donkey-like color of the Mediterranean hake *Phycis blennoides* or to the fact that in ancient Greece hakes and other cod-like fishes were “carried to market on the backs of asses.” Neither explanation is convincing.

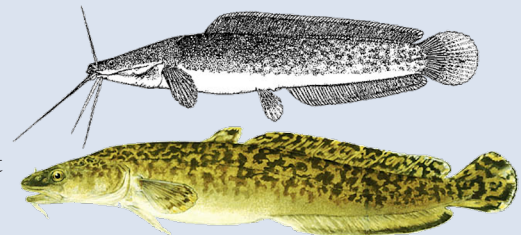
Two centuries later, “*Claria*” became *Clarias*. Gronow introduced this spelling in 1763 as the generic name for air-breathing catfishes. But since Gronow did not follow the principles of binominal nomenclature, he is not considered the author of the name. Instead, *Clarias* officially dates to Scopoli (1777), who republished many of Gronow's names but in a binominally valid way. To confuse matters even more, Scopoli spelled *Clarias* with an “h” — *Chlarias*. Neither author did us the favor of explaining what *Clarias* means. It's likely they did not know themselves.

Some regard Scopoli's *Chlarias* spelling as a typo (e.g., Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes). Others (e.g., FishBase) regard it as evidence that the name derives from the Greek χλαρός (*chlarós*), meaning gaily (but interpreted to mean lively), referring to the ability of *Clarias* species to live for a long time out of water and, in some cases, actually move across land. There might be a semblance of credibility to this claim if Belon, Gronow or Scopoli had mentioned the catfish's non-aquatic “livlieness.” But they did not. The most viable explanation, supported by three centuries of consistent application, is that *Clarias* and its multiple spellings, whatever their provenance, are almost always connected to cod-like fishes. And one can say that *Clarias anguillaris* indeed has a cod-like appearance. (See images below.)

The qualifier “almost always” refers to the conspicuously un-codlike *Synodontis clarias*. The name was coined by Linnaeus' student Fredrik Hasselquist (1722–1752) in a posthumous 1757 publication that Linnaeus edited. The name became officially available for nomenclatural purposes when Linnaeus listed it in the 10th edition of his *Systema Naturae* of 1758 (the official starting point of zoological nomenclature). Hasselquist did not explain why he chose the *clarias* epithet, and neither he nor Linnaeus provided any clue as to what *clarias* means.

Achilles Valenciennes discussed Hasselquist's name in volume 15 of his *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons* (1840). He was confused by how two different catfishes were known by the same name and suggested an explanation, albeit one that's somewhat convoluted. Since both “*Claria nilotica*” (*Clarias anguillaris*) and *Synodontis clarias* were described from specimens that originated from the Nile, he guessed that Hasselquist selected *clarias* for his Nile catfish simply because Belon used the similar “*claria*” name for his. (And, yes, Hasselquist was aware that Belon's “cod” from the Nile was actually a catfish; it's the very next species mentioned in his book.)

Our friend Erwin Schraml (Welt der Fische/World of Fishes) suggested another possible explanation for the *Synodontis clarias* name: that *clarias* is derived from the *clarus*, which usually means bright or clear (e.g., clarity) but can also mean loud or clangorous (e.g., clarion), in which case the name could refer to this catfish's ability to make stridulatory sounds through its pectoral fins when handled or disturbed (hence the vernacular name Squeaker). Like the “lively” explanation mentioned above, this explanation would have more credence if Hasselquist had mentioned the Squeaker's seemingly noteworthy squeaker skills. Alas, he did not.



It's easy to see how a 16th-century naturalist might believe these two fishes are related. Top: *Clarias anguillaris* (courtesy: FishBase). Bottom: *Lota lota* (courtesy: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation)

***Clarias macrocephalus* Günther 1864** big-headed, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large, and *kephalé* (Gr. κεφαλή), head, referring to long head, ¼ of TL

***Clarias magur* (Hamilton 1822)** *magur* and *maghur*, Assamese and Bengali names, respectively, for this catfish (and for *C. batrachus*) along the Ganges River in India

***Clarias meladerma* Bleeker 1846** *mélas* (Gr. μέλας), black; *dérma* (Gr. δέρμα), skin, referring to its blackish or dark body coloration, sometimes variegated with irregular, deeply black spots

***Clarias microspilus* Ng & Hadiaty 2011** *micro-*, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small; *spilus*, from *spilos* (Gr. σπῖλος), mark or spot, referring to very small white spots arranged in a longitudinal and several transverse series on body

***Clarias microstomus* Ng 2001** *micro-*, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small; *stomus*, from *stóma* (Gr. στόμα), mouth, referring to its narrow snout (presumably a noun, not an adjective)

***Clarias nebulosus* Deraniyagala 1958** Latin for cloudy, described as “blotched or clouded with dark olive brown upon a greenish yellow background” [*species inquirenda*, provisionally included here]

***Clarias nieuhofii* Valenciennes 1840** in honor of Johan Nieuhof (1618–1672), Dutch East India Company, who described and illustrated this species in 1682 (but later examination of Nieuhof’s illustration reveals it is a different species)

***Clarias nigricans* Ng 2003** Latin for blackish, referring to its relatively dark color

***Clarias olivaceus* Fowler 1904** Latin for olive-colored, referring to its “blackish-olive” vertical fins and upper body

***Clarias planiceps* Ng 1999** *planus* (L.) flat or level; *-ceps* (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to its flattened head

***Clarias pseudoleiakanthus* Sudarto, Teugels & Pouyaud 2003** *pseudo-*, from *pseudēs* (Gr. ψεύδης), false, i.e., although morphologically similar to *C. leiakanthus*, such an appearance is false

***Clarias pseudonieuhofii* Sudarto, Teugels & Pouyaud 2004** *pseudo-*, from *pseudēs* (Gr. ψεύδης), false, i.e., although similar to, and previously reported as, *C. nieuhofii*, such an appearance is false

***Clarias rennyae* Low, Ng & Tan 2022** in honor of the late Renny Kurnia Hadiaty (1960–2019), Indonesian Institute of Sciences, a “dear friend and colleague who passed away too soon, and a “leading expert” on the taxonomy of Indonesian freshwater fishes

***Clarias serniosus* Ng & Kottelat 2014** Latin for scabby, referring to color pattern of small, irregular dark patches

***Clarias sulcatus* Ng 2004** Latin for grooved or furrowed, referring to its narrow frontal fontanel

Subgenus *Anguilloclarias*

Teugels 1982

anguilla (L.), eel, referring to anguilliform body typical of the subgenus, i.e., an anguilliform *Clarias*

***Clarias alluaudi* Boulenger 1906** in honor of entomologist and explorer Charles A. Alluau (1861–1949), who collected some of the type series

***Clarias cavernicola* Trewavas 1936** *caverna* (L.), cave; *-cola* (L.), dweller or inhabitant, referring to Aigamas Cave, Namibia, type locality

***Clarias ebriensis* Pellegrin 1920** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Ebri lagoon, Ivory Coast, type locality

***Clarias nigromarmoratus* Poll 1967** *nigro-*, from *niger* (L.), dark or black; *marmoratus* (L.), marbled, referring to dense and black marbled color pattern on entire body except belly

***Clarias pachynema* Boulenger 1903** *pachýs* (Gr. παχύς), thick or stout; *néma* (Gr. νῆμα), thread or yarn, presumably referring to longer barbels

compared with *C. laeviceps*

***Clarias salae* Hubrecht 1881** in honor of Dutch sportsman and collector Carolus Franciscus Sala (1839–1881), who helped Swiss zoologist Johann Büttikofer (1850–1927) collect holotype

***Clarias submarginatus* Peters 1882** *sub* (L.), under; *marginatus* (L.), edged or bordered, referring to dark band under light outer band on unpaired fins

***Clarias theodora* Weber 1897** matronym not explained and remained unknown until 1979, when Peter B. N. Jackson³ uncovered that the name honors Theodora Jacoba Sleswijk (née van Bosse, 1874–1953), a Dutch artist and the niece of Weber’s wife, who accompanied him on his visit to South Africa

***Clarias werneri* Boulenger 1906** in honor of Dr. F. Werner, probably Austrian herpetologist Franz Werner (1867–1939), who collected holotype

Subgenus *Brevicephaloides*

Teugels 1982

-oides, Neo-Latin from *eídos* (Gr. εἶδος), form or shape: *brevis* (L.), short, *cephalus*, from *kephalé* (Gr. κεφαλή), head, referring to relatively short head (20–25% of SL) of all species

***Clarias camerunensis* Lönnberg 1895** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Cameroon, type locality

***Clarias dhonti* (Boulenger 1920)** in honor of G. Dhont-De Bie, Belgian East African Expeditionary Force, who collected holotype

***Clarias dialonensis* Daget 1962** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Fouta Dialon (also spelled Djallon), highland region in Lower Guinea, type locality

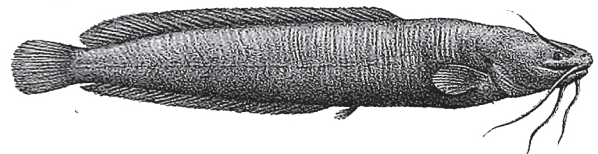
***Clarias dumerilii* Steindachner 1866** patronym not identified but probably in honor of August Duméril (1812–1870), herpetologist and ichthyologist, Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle (Paris)

***Clarias engelseni* (Johnsen 1926)** in honor of Norwegian tropical-disease researcher Harald Engelsen (1883–1954), Merchant Services Division of the Norwegian Red Cross, who collected holotype

***Clarias hillii* Fowler 1936** in honor of Gordon Hill, volunteer assistant in the Department of Fishes and Reptiles, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia

***Clarias laeviceps* Gill 1862** *laevis* (L.), smooth; *-ceps* (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to its smooth surface

***Clarias liocephalus* Boulenger 1898** smooth-headed, from *leĩos* (Gr. λείος), smooth, and *kephalé* (Gr. κεφαλή), head, referring to smooth head, covered with soft skin



Clarias liocephalus. Illustration by J. Green. From: Boulenger, G. A. 1898. Report on the collection of fishes made by Mr. J. E. S. Moore in Lake Tanganyika during his expedition, 1895–96. Transactions of the Zoological Society of London 15 (1): 1–30, Pls. 1–8.

***Clarias longior* Boulenger 1907** Latin for longer, allusion not explained, presumably referring to its relatively long, anguilliform body

Subgenus *Clarioides*

Teugels 1982

-oides, Neo-Latin from *eídos* (Gr. εἶδος), form or shape: *Clarias*, i.e., a second subgenus of *Clarias*; name proposed by David (1937), but since he did not designate a type species, name dates to Teugels, who designated a type species in 1982

***Clarias agboyiensis* Sydenham 1980** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Agboyi Creek, tributary of Ogun River, Lagos State, Nigeria, type locality

³ Jackson, P. B. N. 1979. The specific name of the snake catfish, *Clarias theodora* Weber, 1897. Journal of the Limnological Society of Southern Africa 5 (1): 30.

Clarias albopunctatus Nichols & La Monte 1953 *albus* (L.), white; *punctatus* (L.), spotted, referring to “numerous scattered, rounded, pale specks”

Clarias angolensis Steindachner 1866 *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Angola, where Steindachner bought holotype from a Portuguese merchant for “a not inconsiderable sum of money” (translation)

Clarias angolensis macronema Fowler 1949 *macro-*, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large; *nēma* (Gr. νῆμα), thread or yarn, referring to its long barbels compared with Congo specimens of the nominate subspecies

Clarias buettikoferi Steindachner 1894 in honor of Swiss zoologist Johann Büttikofer (1850–1927), who collected holotype

Clarias buthupogon Sauvage 1879 *buthu*, presumably from *buthós* (Gr. βυθός), depth; *pógōn* (Gr. πώγων), beard, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its long (deep?) barbels (maxillary barbel reaching beyond anal-fin origin) [in 1901, Boulenger changed spelling to *bythipogon* without explanation but original spelling stands]

Clarias gabonensis Günther 1867 *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Gabon, where type locality (Ogowe River) is situated

Clarias macromystax Günther 1864 *macro-*, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large; *mýstax* (Gr. μύσταξ), moustache, referring to its long barbels, “those of the nostrils are as long as the head, and those of the maxillaries extend to the twelfth dorsal ray”

Clarias monsembulai Bernt & Stiassny 2022 in honor of Raoul Monsembula Iyaba (University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo), for collecting the type series, and for his “substantial” contributions to central African ichthyology

Subgenus *Dinotopteroides* Fowler 1930

-oides, Neo-Latin from *eídos* (Gr. εἶδος), form or shape: *Dinotopterus*, from which it differs in having fewer gill rakers

Clarias lamottei Daget & Planquette 1967 patronym not identified but clearly in honor of French biologist Maxime Lamotte (1920–2007), who co-founded the biological research station in the Ivory Coast, where this taxon (probably a natural hybrid between *C. gariepinus* and *Heterobranchus isopterus*) appears to be endemic

Clarias ngamensis Castelnau 1861 *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Lake Ngami, Botswana, type locality

Subgenus *Platycephaloides* Teugels 1982

-oides, Neo-Latin from *eídos* (Gr. εἶδος), form or shape: *platýs* (Gr. πλατύς), flat or broad; *cephalus*, from *kephalḗ* (Gr. κεφαλή), head, referring to broad and flat head

Clarias jaensis Boulenger 1909 *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Ja River at Bitey, Congo system, southern Cameroon, type locality

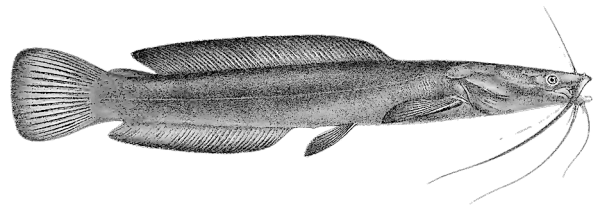
Clarias maclareni Trewavas 1962 in memory Peter Ian Rupert MacLaren (ca. 1919–1956), who used his position as Fisheries Development Officer of Nigeria to collect fishes for the British Museum, including holotype of this catfish (from Cameroon) in 1948 (he died from wounds inflicted by a crocodile in what is now Zambia)

Clarias platycephalus Boulenger 1902 broad-headed, from *platýs* (Gr. πλατύς), flat or broad, and *kephalḗ* (Gr. κεφαλή), head, referring to long and broad head with a wide interorbital space

Clarias stappersii Boulenger 1915 in honor of Belgian physician-biologist Louis Stappers (1883–1916), head of the Belgian colony in the Congo, who led an expedition to central Africa in 1911–1913 and collected holotype

Dinotopterus Boulenger 1906

di- (Gr. prefix), from *dýo* (δύο), two; *notos*, back; *pterus*, from *pterón* (Gr. πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), wing or fin, referring to dorsal fin divided into rayed and adipose portions



Dinotopterus cunningtoni. 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): 537–601, Pls. 30–41.

Dinotopterus cunningtoni Boulenger 1906 in honor of William Alfred Cunningham (1877–1958), British zoologist and anthropologist, who led Tanganyika expedition during which holotype

Dolichallabes Poll 1942

dolichós (Gr. δολιχός), long, referring to extreme eel-like body, the most eel-like clariid catfish; *allábēs* (Gr. ἀλλάβης), ancient name for a fish from the Nile, believed by Geoffroy St. Hilaire (1809)¹ and other 19th-century naturalists to refer to eel-shaped clariids based on the incorrect assumption that ἀλλάβης means “difficult to catch” (i.e., elusive or slippery)²

Dolichallabes microphthalmus Poll 1942 small-eyed, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small, and *ophthalmós* (Gr. ὀφθαλμός), eye, referring to its small eyes



Dolichallabes microphthalmus, holotype From: Poll, M. 1942. Description d'un genre nouveau de Clariidae originaire du Congo belge. Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines 36 (1): 94–100.

Encheloclarias Myers 1937

énehelys (Gr. ἐγγελυς), eel, i.e., an eel-like *Clarias*, referring to shape of *E. tapeinopterus*

Encheloclarias baculum Ng & Lim 1993 Latin for rod, stick or staff, referring to its shape

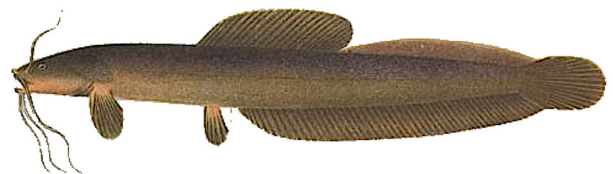
Encheloclarias curtisoma Ng & Lim 1993 *curtus* (L.), short; *sóma* (Gr. σῶμα), body, referring to relatively short appearance compared with the more elongate *E. tapeinopterus*

Encheloclarias kelioides Ng & Lim 1993 *-oides*, Neo-Latin from *eídos* (Gr. εἶδος), form or shape: *Ikan Keli* (*Ikan* = fish), Malay name for species in the genus *Clarias*, which it superficially resembles

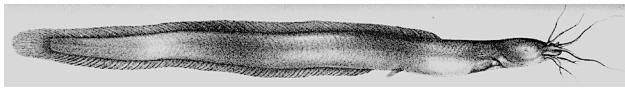
Encheloclarias medialis Ng 2012 Latin for middle, referring to possession of characters intermediate between those of *E. curtisoma* and *E. kelioides*

Encheloclarias tapeinopterus (Bleeker 1853) low-finned, from *tapeinós* (Gr. ταπεινός), low, and *pterus*, from *pterón* (Gr. πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), wing or fin, referring to its adipose fin, lower (but longer) than dorsal fin

Encheloclarias velatus Ng & Tan 2000 Latin for concealed, referring to its being the first species of *Encheloclarias* found on Sumatra after 150 years of ichthyological exploration, and to its secretive nature



Probably first-published image of *Encheloclarias tapeinopterus*. From: Bleeker, P. 1862–63. Atlas ichthyologique des Indes Orientales Néerlandaises, publié sous les auspices du Gouvernement colonial néerlandais. Tome II. Siluroïdes, Chacoides et Hétérobranchoïdes. F. Muller, Amsterdam. 1–112, Pls. 49–101. [Plate published in 1863.]



Gymnallabes typus. Illustration by George Henry Ford. From: Günther, A. 1867. New fishes from the Gaboon and Gold Coast. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History (Series 3)* 20 (116): 110–117, Pls. 2–3.

Gymnallabes Günther 1867

gymnós (Gr. γυμνός), bare or naked, allusion not explained (some online references incorrectly state that *gymnos* means hidden and refers to its secretive habits, a behavior that may not have been known to Günther when he examined his preserved specimen); *allábēs* (Gr. ἀλλάβης), ancient name for a fish from the Nile, believed by Geoffroy St. Hilaire (1809)¹ and other 19th-century naturalists to refer to eel-shaped clariids based on the incorrect assumption that ἀλλάβης means “difficult to catch” (i.e., elusive or slippery)²

Gymnallabes nops Roberts & Stewart 1976 etymology not explained; per Jaeger (1959)⁴, *nōps* (Gr. νωψ), is the genitive of *nōrós* (νωρός), meaning “wholly blind,” which would refer to this fish’s eyelessness, but neither νωψ nor νωρός are actual Greek words; it’s possible that *nops*, which appears to have originated with *Nops* Macleay 1838, a genus of spiders with two instead of eight eyes, is a neologism derived from *amblyōrós* (ἀμβλωρός), meaning “dim-sighted”

Gymnallabes typus Günther 1867 serving as type of the genus

Heterobranchus Geoffroy St. Hilaire 1809

héteros (Gr. ἕτερος), different; *branchus*, from *bránchia* (Gr. βράγχια), gills, referring to its dendritic gill apparatus, which was quite distinctive among fishes known at the time

Heterobranchus bidorsalis Geoffroy St. Hilaire 1809 *bi-*, from *bis* (L.), twice; *dorsalis* (L.), of the back, referring to long dorsal fin divided into rayed and adipose portions

Heterobranchus Boulengeri Pellegrin 1922 in honor of Belgian-born British ichthyologist-herpetologist George A. Boulenger (1858–1937), British Museum (Natural History), who described many fishes from Central Africa and the Congo River system

Heterobranchus isopterus Bleeker 1863 equal-finned, from *isos* (Gr. ἴσος), equal, and *ptéron* (Gr. πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), wing or fin, referring to approximate equal length of dorsal and adipose fins (compared with different lengths among congeners)



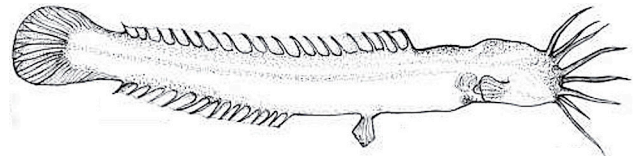
Heterobranchus isopterus. Illustration by Ludwig Speigler. From: Bleeker, P. 1863. *Mémoire sur les poissons de la côte de Guinée*. *Natuurkundige Verhandelingen van de Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen te Haarlem (Ser. 2)* 18 (for 1862): 1–136, Pls. 1–28.

Heterobranchus longifilis Valenciennes 1840 *longus* (L.), long; *filis* (scientific Neo-Latin), thread-like or filiform thread, referring to its long barbels, longer than the similar *Clarias hasselquistii* (= *C. anguillaris*)

Horaglanis Menon 1950

in honor of Indian ichthyologist Sunder Lal Hora (1896–1955), Director, Zoological Survey of India, “under whose inspiring guidance and kind help” Menon’s study was completed; *glánis* (Gr. γλάνις), ancient name for a silurid catfish (probably *Silurus aristotelis*) dating to Aristotle, often used as a general term for catfish

Horaglanis abdukalami Subhash Babu 2012 in honor of Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (1931–2015), physicist, aerospace engineer,



Horaglanis abdukalami. From: Babu, K. K. S. 2012. *Horaglanis abdukalami* a new hypogean blind catfish (Siluriformes: Clariidae) from Kerala, India. *Samagra* 8 (5): 51–56, Pl. 1.

and 11th president of India (2002–2007), “who ignited young minds towards the real world of Science and Technology”

Horaglanis alikunhii Subhash Babu & Nayar 2004 in honor of “distinguished” Indian aquaculturist Kolliyil Hameed Alikunhi (1918–2010), for his contributions to fishery science in general and Indian fisheries in particular

Horaglanis krishnai Menon 1950 in honor of Mr. N. Krishna Pillay, who collected holotype after draining a well in 1948

Horaglanis populi Raghavan, Sundar, Arjun, Ralf Britz & Dahanukar 2023 of *populus* (L.), people, honoring the “invaluable contributions made by interested members of the public in the southern Indian state of Kerala, helping to document the biodiversity of subterranean and groundwater systems, including the discovery” of this catfish

Platyallabes Poll 1977

platýs (Gr. πλατύς), flat, referring to dorsoventrally flattened head and body; *allábēs* (Gr. ἀλλάβης), ancient name for a fish from the Nile, believed by Geoffroy St. Hilaire (1809)¹ and other 19th-century naturalists to refer to eel-shaped clariids based on the incorrect assumption that ἀλλάβης means “difficult to catch” (i.e., elusive or slippery)²

Platyallabes tihoni (Poll 1944) in honor of Mr. L. Tihon, director, Laboratory of Industry and Commerce (Leopoldville, Belgian Congo), who supplied a photograph of a specimen (discovered at a fish market) from which it was described

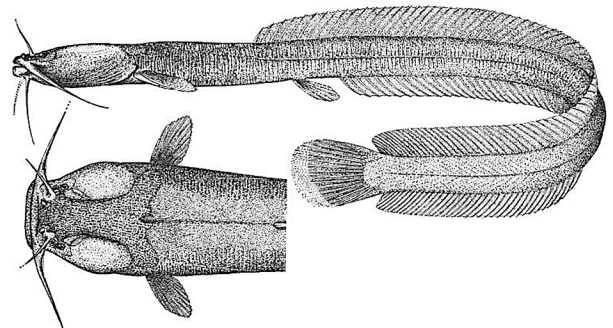


Platyallabes tihoni. Photo by L. Tihon, for whom it is named. From: Poll, M. 1944. *Description préliminaire d’un Clariidae nouveau observé à Léopoldville par M. L. Tihon*. *Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines* 38 (1): 79–82, 1 pl.

Platyclarias Poll 1977

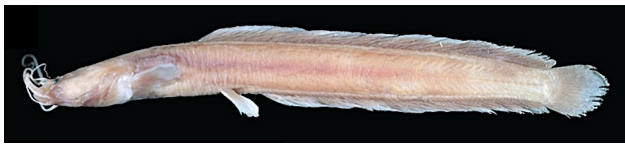
platýs (Gr. πλατύς), flat or broad, referring to very flat head and anterior part of body, i.e., a flat *Clarias*

Platyclarias machadoi Poll 1977 in honor of António de Barros Machado (1912–2002), Portuguese-born zoologist of the Musée de Dundo (Angola), who collected holotype (he relocated from Portugal to Angola because he was unable to find work on account of his anti-Salazar politics)



Platyclarias machadoi, holotype, 201 mm TL. From: Poll, M. 1977. *Les genres nouveaux Platyallabes et Platyclarias comparés au genre Gymnallabes Gthr. Synopsis nouveau des genres de Clariidae*. *Bulletin de la Classe des Sciences, Académie Royale de Belgique (Ser. 5)* 63 (2): 122–149.

⁴ Jaeger, E. C. 1959. *A Source-book of Biological Names and Terms*. 3 ed., 2 rev. printing. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. xxxv + 319 pp.



Pseudotanganikallabes prognatha, holotype, 68 mm TL. From: Wright, J. J. 2017. A new diminutive genus and species of catfish from Lake Tanganyika (Siluriformes: Clariidae). *Journal of Fish Biology* 91 (3): 789–805.

Pseudotanganikallabes

Wright 2017

pseudo-, from *pseúdes* (Gr. ψεύδης), false, i.e., although this genus superficially resembles *Tanganikallabes*, such an appearance is false

Pseudotanganikallabes prognatha Wright 2017 *pro-* (L.), anterior or before; *gnatha*, from *gnáthos* (Gr. γνάθος), jawed, referring to distinctive protrusion of lower jaw

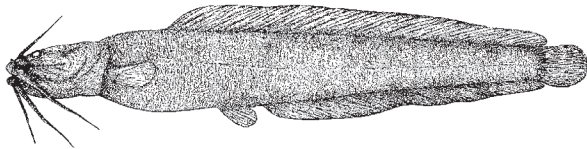
Tanganikallabes

Poll 1943

Tanganika, referring to Lake Tanganyika, where *T. mortiauxi* (and all subsequently described congeners) are endemic; *allábēs* (Gr. ἀλλάβης), ancient name for a fish from the Nile, believed by Geoffroy St. Hilaire (1809)¹ and other 19th-century naturalists to refer to eel-shaped clariids based on the incorrect assumption that ἀλλάβης means “difficult to catch” (i.e., elusive or slippery)²

Tanganikallabes alboperca Wright & Bailey 2012 *alba*, from *albus* (L.), white; *operca*, adjective derived from *operculum* (L.), lid or cover, referring to distinctive depigmented posterior margin of operculum

Tanganikallabes mortiauxi Poll 1943 in honor of T. Mortiaux, a health worker in Albertville (now Kalemie), western shore of Lake Tanganyika, who collected holotype



Tanganikallabes mortiauxi. From: Poll, M. 1943. Description du *Tanganikallabes mortiauxi*, gen. nov., sp. n., de la famille des Clariidae. *Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines* 37 (1–2): 126–133.

Tanganikallabes stewarti Wright & Bailey 2012 in honor of American ichthyologist Donald J. Stewart (b. 1946), who collected much of the type series of *T. alboperca*

Uegitglanis

Gianferrari 1923

Uegit, named for Uegit, El Uegit, Somalia, where type locality (an underground pool) is situated; *glánis* (Gr. γλάνις), ancient name for a silurid catfish (probably *Silurus aristotelis*) dating to Aristotle, often used as a general term for catfish

Uegitglanis zammaranoi Gianferrari 1923 in honor of Vittorio Tedesco Zammarano (1890–1959), Italian Army officer, zoologist, cartographer, geographer and hunter, who collected holotype



Uegitglanis zammaranoi, holotype, 101 mm TL. From: Gianferrari, L. 1923. *Uegitglanis zammaranoi* un nuovo siluride cieco africano. *Atti della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali di Milano* 62: 1–3, Pl. 1.

Xenoclarias

Greenwood 1958

xeno-, from *xenikós* (Gr. ξενικός), strange or foreign (i.e., different), referring to how it differs from *Clarias* “in only one major anatomical character” (greatly reduced suprabranchial organs and cavity)

Xenoclarias eupogon (Norman 1928) *eú-* (Gr. εὖ), well or very; *pōgōn* (Gr. πώγων), beard, referring to much longer nasal and maxillary barbels compared with the similar *Clarias alluaudi*, its presumed congener at the time

Xenoclarias holobranchus Greenwood 1958 *hólos* (Gr. ὅλος), whole or entire; *branchus*, from *bránchia* (Gr. βράγχια), gills, referring to how entire adult branchial region is dedicated to aquatic respiration, unlike those in *Clarias*, which contain both aquatic and aerial respiratory areas



Xenoclarias eupogon, holotype, BMNH 1928.5.24.57. © The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London