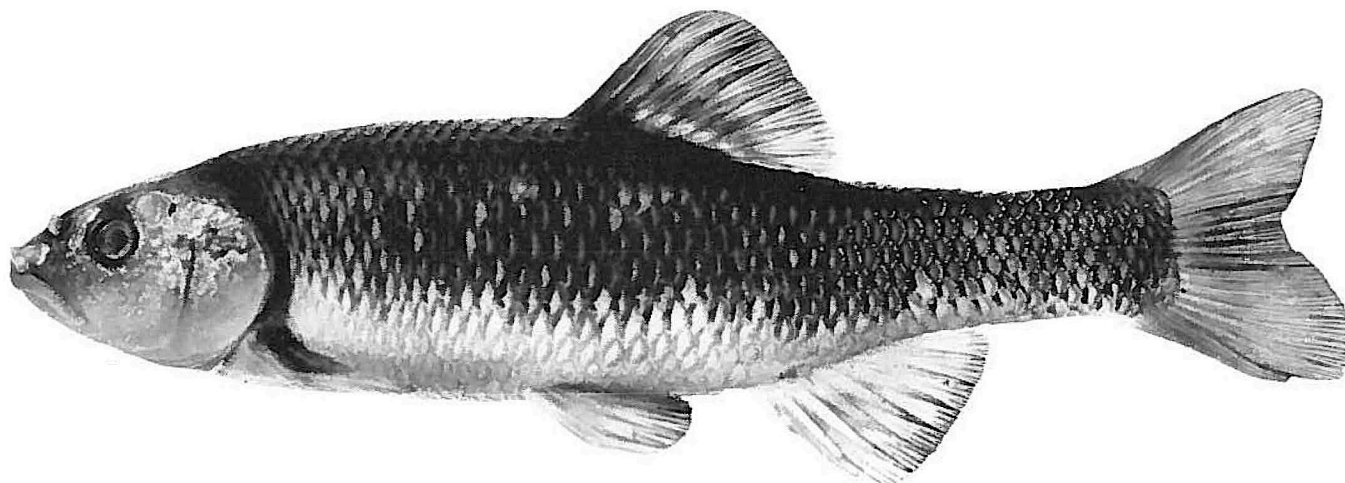


Order CYPRINIFORMES

Creek Chubs

Family **LEUCISCIDAE**

Subfamily **PLAGOPTERINAE** Cope 1874



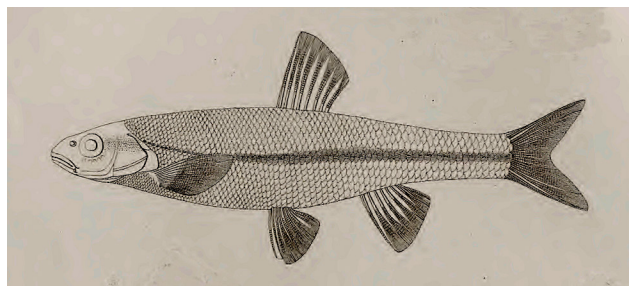
*Semotilus lumbee*, holotype, nuptial male, 151 mm SL. From: Snelson, F. F., Jr. and R. D. Suttkus. 1978. A new species of *Semotilus* (Pisces: Cyprinidae) from the Carolinas. Alabama Museum of Natural History Bulletin No. 3: 1–11.

**Couesius**

Jordan 1878

*-ius* (L.), pertaining to: Army surgeon and ornithologist Elliot Coues (1842–1899, pronounced “cows”), “one of the very foremost of American students of vertebrates,” who collected a series of fishes from Montana and the Dakota Territory, including holotype of *C. dissimilis* (=plumbeus)

***Couesius plumbeus* (Agassiz 1850)** Latin for of or pertaining to lead, referring to a “narrow lead-colored” band extending along upper side of lateral line



Possibly first-published image of *Couesius plumbeus* (as *Ceraticichthys prosthemi*, a junior synonym). Illustration by Edwin Sheppard. From: Cope, E. D. 1867. Synopsis of the Cyprinidae of Pennsylvania. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society (New Series) 13 (3) (art. 13): 351–410, Pls. 10–13.

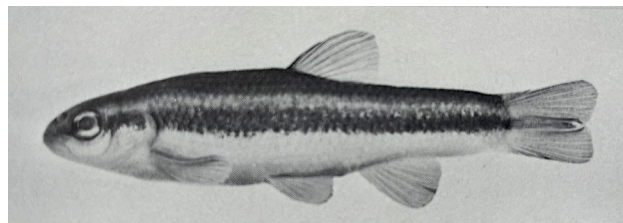
**Hemitremia**<sup>1</sup>

Cope 1870

*hemi-*, from *hēmisys* (Gr. ἡμισυς), half; *tremia*, from *trēma* (Gr. τρήμα), hole, referring to incomplete lateral line, which extends only about halfway across the body with fewer than half of its scales pored

***Hemitremia flammea* (Jordan & Gilbert 1878)** Latin for flaming or fiery, referring to bright-red breeding colors of both sexes (hence the common name “Flame Chub”)

<sup>1</sup> Note that the genus predates the only species. *Hemitremia vittata* Cope 1870, the type species of *Hemitremia*, was synonymized with *Phoxinus flammeus* Jordan & Gilbert 1878 by Jordan & Evermann (1896), who relegated *Hemitremia* as a subgenus of *Leuciscus*. Since *Leuciscus vittatus* (Cope 1870) was preoccupied by *Leuciscus vittatus* DeKay 1842 (now a junior synonym of *Luxilus cornutus*, Pogonichthyinae), Jordan & Evermann used the next available name, *flammeus*. *Hemitremia* was later restored as a full genus, but *vittatus* could not be resurrected and used again in *Hemitremia* since action occurred before 1961 (per ICZN Article 59.3).



Possibly first-published image of *Hemitremia flammea*, 90 years after it was described. 46 mm SL. From: Smith-Vaniz, W. 1968. Freshwater fishes of Alabama. Auburn, AL: Auburn University, Agricultural Experiment Station. vii + 211 pp.

**Lepidomeda**

Cope 1874

*lepidos* (Gr. λεπίδος), genitive of *lepis* (λεπίς), scale, similar to the scaleless *Meda* but with scales

***Lepidomeda albivallis* Miller & Hubbs 1960** *albus* (L.), white; *vallis* (L.), valley, referring to White River Valley, Nevada, USA, where it is endemic

***Lepidomeda aliciae* (Jouy 1881)** in honor of Jouy’s wife Alice (1853–1880), who accompanied her husband on his collecting expeditions in China, Japan, Korea, México, and western USA (where this species was collected in Utah)

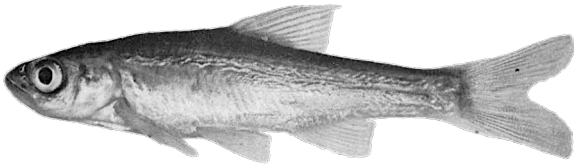
***Lepidomeda altivelis* Miller & Hubbs 1960** *alti-*, from *altus* (L.), high; *velis*, from *velum* (L.), sail, referring to its high, expanded dorsal fin

***Lepidomeda copei* (Jordan & Gilbert 1881)** in honor of American zoologist-paleontologist Edward Drinker Cope (1840–1897), who described dozens of North American minnows

***Lepidomeda mollispinis* Miller & Hubbs 1960** *mollis* (L.), soft; *spinis*, from *spina* (L.), thorn, referring to its relatively weak and soft-tipped main (second) dorsal spine

***Lepidomeda mollispinis pratensis* Miller & Hubbs 1960** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: *pratium* (L.), meadow, referring to meadowlands of Big Spring, Nevada, USA, where it is endemic

***Lepidomeda vittata* Cope 1874** Latin for banded, presumably referring to lead-colored band on upper body and/or a “median dorsal black band from front to dorsal fin”



*Lepidomeda altivelis*, holotype, 56 mm SL. Photo by W. L. Brudon. From: Miller, R. R. and C. L. Hubbs. 1960. The spiny-rayed cyprinid fishes (Plagopterini) of the Colorado River system. Miscellaneous Publications, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan No. 115: 1–39, Pls. 1–3.

### Margariscus

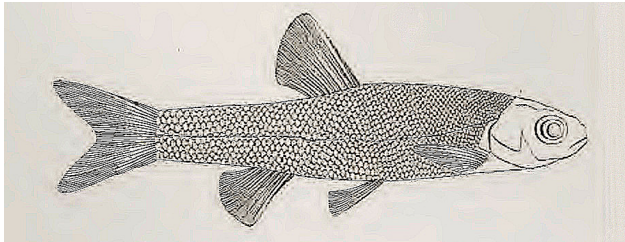
Cockerell 1909

-iscus (L.), a diminutive, presumably referring to *M. margarita*, type species

***Margariscus margarita* (Cope 1867)** Latin for pearl, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to pearly gray sides to half-way above lateral line, described as “plumbeous silvery” (males develop pearl organs, or breeding tubercles, in the spring, but these are not mentioned by Cope)

***Margariscus nachtriebi* (Cox 1896)** in honor of Henry F. Nachtrieb (1859–1942), state zoologist of Minnesota, USA, where Mille Lacs Lake, type locality, is situated

***Margariscus nachtriebi koelzi* (Hubbs & Lagler 1949)** in honor of American fisheries biologist Walter Koelz (1895–1989), for his contribution to the ichthyology of Isle Royale, Michigan, USA, where it is endemic



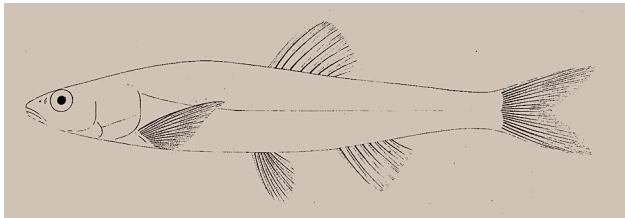
*Margariscus margarita*. Illustration by Edwin Sheppard. See caption of *Couesius plumbeus* for source.

### Meda

Girard 1856

a name from Greek mythology (Μήδα), presumably chosen because Girard like the sound of it

***Meda fulgida* Girard 1856** Latin for shining, “the middle of the flanks as if painted with silver”



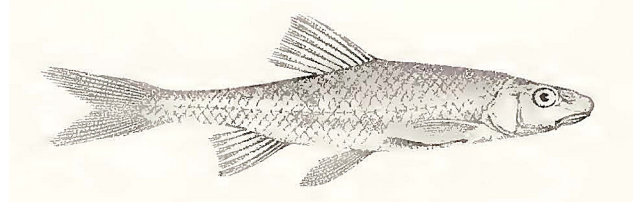
First-published image of *Meda fulgida*. Illustration by John H. Richard. From: Girard, C. F. 1859. Ichthyology of the boundary. In: United States and Mexican boundary survey, under the order of Lieut. Col. W. H. Emory, Major First Cavalry and United States commissioner. v. 2 (pt 2): 1–85, Pls. 1–41.

### Plagopterus

Cope 1874

*plago* (L.), to strike or wound; *pterus*, from *pterón* (Gr. πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), fin, referring to its sharp dorsal-fin spine (hence the common name “Woundfin”)

***Plagopterus argentissimus* Cope 1874** Latin for most silvery, its color a “pure silver for a considerable width above the lateral line”



First-published image of *Plagopterus argentissimus*. From: Cope, E. D. and H. C. Yarrow. 1875. Report upon the collections of fishes made in portions of Nevada, Utah, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, during the years 1871, 1872, 1873, and 1874. Engineer Department, United States Army, Report upon the Geographical and Geological Explorations and Surveys west of the one hundredth Meridian v. 5 (Zoology) Chapter 6: 635–703, Pls. 26–32.

### Semotilus

Rafinesque 1820

etymology not explained; Jordan (1878)<sup>2</sup> offered this explanation: *semo-*, probably derived from *sēmeíon* (Gr. σημεῖον), banner (i.e., dorsal fin), and *teleis*, or a similar word, supposed by Rafinesque to mean “spotted,” referring to black spot at leading edge of dorsal-fin base of *S. dorsalis* (= *atromaculatus*)<sup>3</sup>

***Semotilus atromaculatus* (Mitchill 1818)** *atro-*, from *ater* (L.), black; *maculatus* (L.), spotted, referring to back, sides, belly and fins “marked by black dots, consisting of a soft or viscous matter, capable of being detached by the point of a knife without lacerating the skin”; these dots are likely symptomatic of Black Spot Disease, in which the fish serves as an intermediate host to the larvae of digenean trematodes (flukes) of the families Diplostomatidae and Heterophyidae, causing raised black “spots” (actually nodules) where the parasite has encysted itself in the skin of the fish<sup>4</sup>

***Semotilus corporalis* (Mitchill 1817)** Latin for corporeal or of the body, but in this case a Latinization of *Corporalen* (Corporal), its local name among the Dutch in the Hudson Valley near Albany, New York, USA

***Semotilus lumbee* Snelson & Suttkus 1978** named for the Lumbee Indians who inhabited the Lumber River system in North Carolina, USA, type locality

***Semotilus thoreauianus* Jordan 1877** -anus (L.), belonging to: American writer and philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862), “an excellent ichthyologist, one of the first to say a good word for the study of Cyprinidae”; in 1842, Thoreau wrote: “I am the wiser in respect to all knowledge, and the better qualified for all fortunes, for knowing that there is a minnow in the brook.”

<sup>2</sup> Jordan, D. S. 1878. Manual of the vertebrates of the northern United States, including the district east of the Mississippi River and north of North Carolina and Tennessee, exclusive of marine species. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Company. 2nd. ed., revised and enlarged. 1–407.

<sup>3</sup> Other possibilities (per Holger Funk, pers. comm.): (1) *tilus* may be a latinization of *tilos* (Gr. τίλος), plucked, which obviously doesn’t make any sense here. (2) *tilus* is vaguely reminiscent of *teleios* (Gr. τέλειος) which, however, means the opposite of “spotted” — “perfect” or “without spot or blemish.” (3) *-tilus* is a suffix with no specific meaning of its own, only used in combination with a preceding word component.

<sup>4</sup> See “Spots and Dots” in Welsh, S. A. 2023. Hornyheads, madtoms, and darters: narratives on central Appalachian fishes. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press. 1–320.