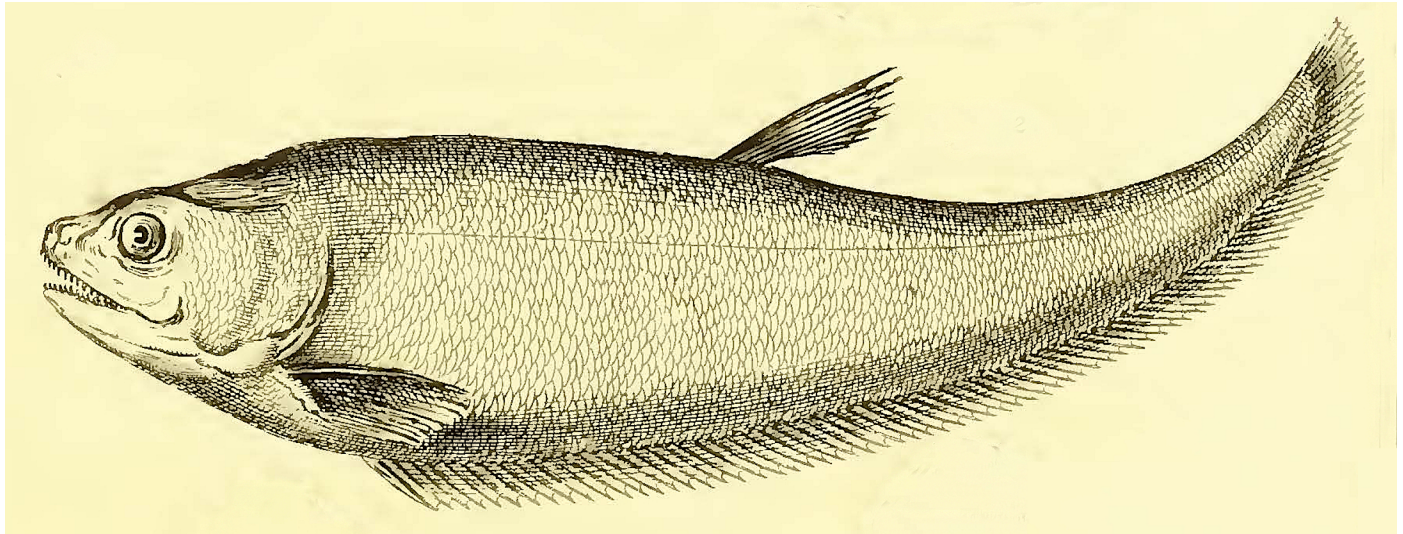


Order OSTEOGLOSSIFORMES

Featherfin Knifefishes

Family **NOTOPTERIDAE**

Bleeker 1851



Notopterus notopterus. From: Pallas, P. S. 1769. Spicilegia Zoologica quibus novae imprimis et obscurae animalium species iconibus, descriptionibus atque commentariis illustrantur. Berolini, Gottl. August. Lange. 1 (fasc. 7): 1–42, Pls. 1–6.

Asiatic Featherbacks
Subfamily **NOTOPTERINAE**
Bleeker 1851

Chitala
Fowler 1934

Bengali vernacular for fishes in this genus,
tautonymous with *Mystus chitala* Hamilton 1822

Chitala blanci (d'Aubenton 1965) in honor of friend and colleague Maurice Blanc (1923–2015), ichthyologist and Deputy Director, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris), in memory of an "especially dangerous" (translation) 1959 fish-collecting trip to the Cambodian Mekong, where this species occurs

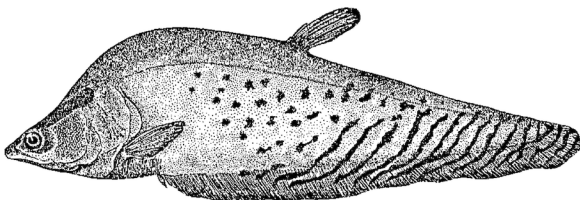
Chitala borneensis (Bleeker 1851) *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Borneo (Kalimantan Barat, Indonesia), where it is endemic

Chitala chitala (Hamilton 1822) Bengali vernacular for this species (and others in the genus)

Chitala hypselonotus (Bleeker 1852) *hypsēlōs* (Gr. ὑψηλός), high; *notus*, from *nōtos* (Gr. νότος), back, probably referring to its strongly concave cranio-dorsal outline (a characteristic of the genus)

Chitala lopis (Bleeker 1851) from *Ikan Lopis*, local name for this fish in Samarang, Indonesia (*ikan* = fish)

Chitala ornata (Gray 1831) Latin for adorned or decorated, referring to large round eyespots on tail



Chitala blanci. From: D'Aubenton, F. 1965. *Notopterus blanci* n. sp., nouvelle espèce de poisson Notopteridae de haut Mékong cambodgien. Bulletin du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Série 2) 37 (2): 261–264.

Notopterus
Lacepède 1800

tautonymous with *Gymnotus notopterus* Pallas 1769

Notopterus notopterus (Pallas 1769) back-finned, from *nōtos* (Gr. νότος), back, and *pterón* (Gr. πτερόν) or *ptéryx* (πτέρυξ), feather or fin, referring to its small, quill-like dorsal fin

Notopterus synurus (Bloch & Schneider 1801) together-tailed, from *syn* (Gr. συν), together or joined, and *ourá* (Gr. οὐρά), tail, presumably referring to its confluent caudal and anal fins

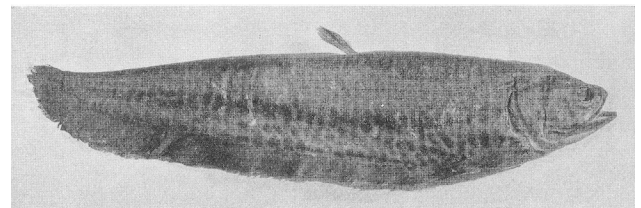
African Knifefishes
Subfamily **XENOMYSTINAE**
Greenwood 1963

Papyrocranus
Greenwood 1963

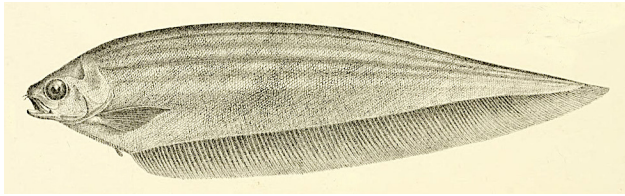
pápyros (Gr. πάπυρος), papyrus, an Egyptian sedge and the paper made from it; *krános* (Gr. κράνος), helmet, referring to the paper-thin roofing bones of the skull

Papyrocranus afer (Günther 1868) Latin for African, being an African representative of a family primarily known from Asia

Papyrocranus congoensis (Nichols & La Monte 1932) *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Congo River basin of west-central Africa, where it is endemic



Papyrocranus congoensis, holotype, 355 mm SL. From: Nichols, J. T. and F. R. LaMonte. 1932. A large *Notopterus* from Lukolela, Congo River. American Museum Novitates No. 515: 1–2.



Possibly first-published image of *Xenomystus nigri* (as *Notopterus* [*Xenomystus*] *nili*, a junior synonym). From: Steindachner, F. 1881. Ichthyologische Beiträge (X). Sitzungsberichte der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Classe 83 (1. Abth.): 179–219, Pls. 1–8.

Xenomystus

Günther 1868

xénos (Gr. ξένος), strange or foreign, perhaps referring to the African distribution of a family primarily known from Asia, and/or to the oddity of *mystus*, from *mýstax* (Gr. μύσταξ), moustache, referring to its “Nasal appendages rather long, forming a pair of barbels as long as the snout”

***Xenomystus nigri* (Günther 1868)** of the Niger River, West Africa, type locality