

Order CYPRINIFORMES

Tiny Carps

## Family PAEDOCYPRIDIDAE

Mayden & Chen 2010



*Paedocypris progenetica*, female, ca. 8.8 mm. From: Kottelat, M., R. Britz, H. H. Tan and K.-E. Witte. 2006. *Paedocypris*, a new genus of southeast Asian cyprinid fish with a remarkable sexual dimorphism, comprises the world's smallest vertebrate. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Section B (Biology)* 273: 895–899. [The claim of “world's smallest vertebrate” is challenged by *Paedophryne amauensis*, a rainforest frog from Papua New Guinea with an average adult size of 7.7 mm, 2 mm smaller than the smallest known specimen of this fish.]

### *Paedocypris*

Kottelat, Britz, Tan & Witte 2006

*paideios* (Gr. παιδειος), boyish or childish (authors say “children”), being a paedomorphic (i.e., neotenic or “larval”) fish; *cypris*, a common suffix for small cyprinoid genera, derived from *Cyprinus* (Common Carp)<sup>1</sup>

*Paedocypris carbunculus* Britz & Kottelat 2008 Latin for the gemstone ruby, referring to this fish's reddish coloration in life

*Paedocypris micromegethes* Kottelat, Britz, Tan & Witte 2006 *micro-*, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός); *megethes*, from *mégethos* (Gr. μέγεθος), size, greatness or magnitude, referring to its small size, up to 11.6 mm SL

*Paedocypris progenetica* Kottelat, Britz, Tan & Witte 2006 Latin for progenetic, referring to how members of genus accelerate sexual maturation relative to the rest of their development, leading to dwarfed adults with larval features

<sup>1</sup>Some, including the authors of *Paedocypris*, believe *Cyprinus* (from the Greek κυπρίνος, *kyprínos*) is derived from Kypris, also known as Venus (or Aphrodite), the goddess of love, referring to the Common Carp's fecundity. Another explanation is that *kyprínos* is derived from *kýpros* (κύπρος), a Greek word for henna, referring to the carp's bronze coloration. See: Guasparri, A. 2022. The Roman classification and nomenclature of aquatic animals: an annotated checklist (with a focus on ethnobiology). *Anthropozoologica* 57 (2): 19–100.