Updated 31 March 2025 

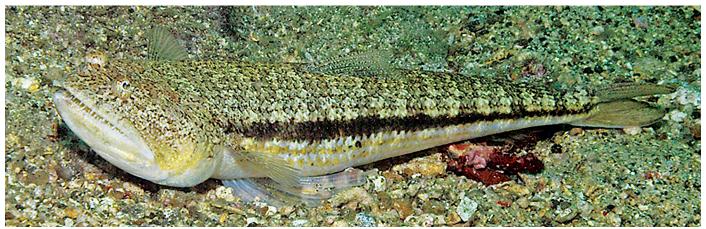
☐ COMMENTS

#### Order AULOPIFORMES

LizardIfishes

# Family **SYNODONTIDAE**

Gill 1861



Synodus nigrotaeniatus. Photograph by Gerald R. Allen. From: Allen, G. R., M. V. Erdmann and T. Peristiwady. 2017. Synodus nigrotaeniatus, a new species of lizardfish (Aulopiformes: Synodontidae) from Indonesia. Journal of the Ocean Science Foundation v. 26: 59-67.

Lizardfishes
Subfamily SYNODONTINAE
Gill 1861

## **Synodus**

### Scopoli 1777

tautonymous with *Esox synodus* (see *S. synodus* for an explanation of this ancient and enigmatic name)

Synodus binotatus Schultz 1953 bi-, from bis (L.), twice; notatus (L.), marked, referring to two black spots at tip of snout

*Synodus bondi* Fowler 1939 in honor of American ornithologist James Bond (1900-1989), Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, who collected holotype [see essay, next page]

Synodus capricornis Cressey & Randall 1978 -is, Latin genitive singular of: Capricorn, referring to type locality near the Tropic of Capricorn

**Synodus dermatogenys Fowler 1912** dérmato- (Gr. δέρματο), combining form of dérma (δέρμα), skin; génys (Gr. γένυς), jaw (usually the cheek or lower jaw in ichthyology), referring to its scaleless lower cheek

*Synodus doaki* Russell & Cressey 1979 in honor of Wade Doak (1940–2019), "pioneer" New Zealand diver and underwater naturalist, who discovered this species at Poor Knights Islands, off eastern Northland, New Zealand

Synodus evermanni Jordan & Bollman 1890 in honor American ichthyologist Barton Warren Evermann (1853–1932), United States Fish Commission, which sponsored expedition that collected holotype

Synodus falcatus Waples & Randall 1989 Latin for curved or sickleshaped, referring to curved shape of flap over anterior nares

Synodus fasciapelvicus Randall 2009 fascia (L.), band; pelvicus (L.), pelvic, referring to broad cross bands on pelvic fins in fresh specimens, with pigment on membranes as well as rays

Synodus foetens (Linnaeus 1766) Latin for smelly or stinking, allusion not explained (Linnaeus examined specimens sent from South Carolina, USA, preserved in rum; perhaps they were in a bad state when he received them)

Synodus fuscus Tanaka 1917 Latin for dark or dusky, referring to dark pectoral fin, dark margin of tail, and/or nine indistinct blotches on sides

*Synodus gibbsi* Cressey 1981 in honor of American ichthyologist Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. (1929–1988), U.S. National Museum, "good friend and colleague and one of the early workers to show the value of peritoneal spots in identifying postlarval lizardfishes"

*Synodus hoshinonis* Tanaka 1917 -is, Latin genitive singular of: Isaburo Hoshino (no other information available), who "procured" (translation) holotype

**Synodus houlti McCulloch 1921** in honor of Captain (forename not given) Hoult of the Queensland Government trawler *Bar-ea-mul*, who secured holotype

*Synodus indicus* (Day 1873) -*icus* (L.), belonging to: referring to type locality off Madras (new Chennai), India, in the Indian Ocean

Synodus intermedius (Spix & Agassiz 1829) Latin for intermediate, allusion not explained, presumably intermediate in characters between Saurus longirostris (species inquirenda) and Saurus truncatus (=Trachinocephalus myops)

Synodus isolatus Randall 2009 Latin for isolated, referring to Easter Island, type locality, "the most isolated island of the Indo-Pacific region"

**Synodus jaculum Russell & Cressey 1979** Latin for javelin, referring to peculiar behavior of launching itself off the bottom and swimming in midwater for prolonged periods

Synodus kaianus (Günther 1880) -anus (L.), belonging to: Kai Islands, Molucca Islands, Indonesia, type locality

**Synodus lacertinus Gilbert 1890** Latin for lizard-like, presumably referring to its lizard-like head and mouth (which give lizardfishes their vernacular name)

**Synodus lobeli** Waples & Randall 1989 in honor of ichthyologist Phillip S. Lobel, Boston University, who discovered this species and suspected it was new

Synodus lucioceps (Ayres 1855) lucius (L.), pike (Esocidae); -ceps (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to "the very close resemblance which the head

# Fishes named after Bond, James Bond

American ichthyologist Henry Weed Fowler named three fishes after a Mr. James Bond: *Ariomma bondi* Fowler 1930, a driftfish from Grenada in the West Indies; *Malacoctenus bondi* Fowler 1930, a labrisomid, also from Grenada, now considered a junior synonym of *Labrisomus guppyi* (Norman 1922); and *Synodus bondi* Fowler 1939, a lizardfish from Kingston, Jamaica.

James Bond (1900–1989) was an ornithologist specializing in the birds of the Caribbean. He served as curator of birds at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where Fowler served as curator of fishes. When he traveled throughout the Caribbean collecting and studying birds, he collected some fishes, too, much to Fowler's delight.

Of course, one cannot encounter the name "James Bond" and not have a certain fictional and cinematic hero come to mind. So it may come as a surprise to learn that ornithologist James Bond was indeed an inspiration for his more famous namesake.

Bond creator Ian Fleming was a keen birdwatcher, lived in Jamaica, and was familiar with Bond's work. He chose the name for his first Bond adventure, *Casino Royale* (1953), because he wanted a name that sounded "as ordinary as possible." As Fleming said in a letter to the real Bond's wife: "It struck me that this brief, unromantic, Anglo-Saxon and yet very masculine name was just what I needed, and so a second James Bond was born."

In 1964, Fleming gave Bond a first-edition copy of *You Only Live Twice* signed, "To the real James Bond, from the thief of his identity."

In the first Bond film *Dr. No* (1962), James Bond, played by Sean Connery, can be seen examining a copy of James Bond's *Birds of the West Indies*, first published in 1936.

bears in form to that of a small Pike" (Esox)

Synodus macrocephalus Cressey 1981 big-headed, from makrós (Gr. μακρός), long or large, and kephalé (Gr. κεφαλή), head, allusion not explained, but this species has one of the larger heads (measured in percentage of SL) among Indo-West Pacific lizardfishes covered in Cressey's monograph

**Synodus macrops Tanaka 1917** *macro-,* from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large;  $\delta ps$  (Gr.  $\tilde{\omega}\psi$ ), eye, referring to eye as long as snout

**Synodus macrostigmus Frable, Luther & Baldwin 2013** *macro-*, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large; *stigmus*, from *stigma* (Gr. στίγμα), mark or spot, referring to its large, black scapular blotch

Synodus marchenae Hildebrand 1946 of Marchena Island, Galápagos, type locality

Synodus mascarensis Prokofiev 2008 -ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: Mascarene Ridge, Western Indian Ocean, type locality

Synodus mundyi Randall 2009 in honor of fishery biologist Bruce C. Mundy, National Marine Fisheries Service (Honolulu Laboratory), for his "extensive" systematic research on the Hawaiian fish fauna

**Synodus nigrotaeniatus Allen, Erdmann & Peristiwady 2017** *nigro-, from* niger (L.), dark or black; *taeniatus* (L.), banded, referring to its black midlateral stripe

*Synodus oculeus* **Cressey 1981** Latin for full of eyes, referring to its relatively large eyes

Synodus orientalis Randall & Pyle 2008 Latin for eastern, referring to its occurrence in Taiwan and Japan

Synodus pacificus Ho, Chen & Shao 2016 -icus (L.), belonging to: western Pacific Ocean, collected off northern and southwestern Taiwan, the Philippines and New Caledonia

*Synodus poeyi* Jordan 1887 in honor of Cuban zoologist Felipe Poey (1799–1891), who discovered this lizardfish but reported it as *S. intermedius* in 1875

Synodus pylei Randall 2009 in honor of ichthyologist Richard L. Pyle (b. 1967), Bishop Museum (Honolulu), who collected type specimens and provided a color photograph of the holotype

*Synodus randalli* Cressey 1981 in honor of American ichthyologist John E. Randall (1924–2020), Bishop Museum (Honolulu), who collected type and enthusiastically supported Cressey's revision of the genus

Synodus rubromarmoratus Russell & Cressey 1979 rubro-, from ruber (L.), red; marmoratus (L.), marbled, referring to its red-marbled coloration in life

**Synodus sageneus Waite 1905** Neo-Latin adjective derived from *sagena* (L.), net, i.e., net-like, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to scales "broadly margined with reddish brown," which can be said to form a net-like pattern

Synodus sanguineus Randall 2009 Latin for blood-red, referring to its predominantly deep-red color

**Synodus saurus (Linnaeus 1758)** from  $sa\acute{u}ra$  (Gr.  $\sigma\alpha\acute{u}\rho\alpha$ ), lizard, presumably referring to its lizard-like head and mouth (which give lizardfishes their vernacular name)

Synodus scituliceps Jordan & Gilbert 1882 scitulus, Latin for neat, trim or slender; -ceps (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to its "very short and slender" head

Synodus sechurae Hildebrand 1946 of Sechura Bay, Peru, type locality

**Synodus similis McCulloch 1921** Latin for like or resembling, described as "apparently very similar" to *S. indicus* 

**Synodus synodus** (Linnaeus 1758) Synódous (Συνόδους), ancient Greek name for *Dentex dentex* (Sparidae), presumably a combination of *syn* (Gr. συν), together or joined, and *odoús* (Gr. ὁδούς), tooth, possibly referring to how the teeth meet evenly, those of one jaw interlocking with those of the other; the name was first applied to lizardfishes by Gronow in 1756, who later (1763¹) described the teeth of *S. synodus* as *"crowded together* in the jaws, palate, tongue and throat" (translation, emphasis added)

Synodus taiwanensis Chen, Ho & Shao 2007 -ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: Taiwan, where type locality (off Hobihu) is situated

Synodus tectus Cressey 1981 Latin for covered, concealed or disguised,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Gronow, L. T. 1763. Zoophylacii Gronoviani fasciculus primus exhibens animalia quadrupeda, amphibia atque pisces, quae in museo suo adservat, rite examinavit, systematice disposuit, descripsit atque iconibus illustravit Laur. Theod. Gronovius, J.U.D. Lugduni Batavorum [Leiden]. 1–136, Pls. 1–13.

referring to its external similarity to S. hoshinonis

Synodus ulae Schultz 1953 Hawaiian common name for this species, meaning red, presumably referring to its red-color phase in life

Synodus usitatus Cressey 1981 Latin for ordinary, referring to its lack of any outstanding markings

Synodus variegatus (Lacepède 1803) Latin for "of different sorts," particularly colors, referring to its "very varied" coloration: "Shades of light brown on the back are highlighted by red spots, and match well the red, yellow, and black of two longitudinal stripes symmetrically found on each side of the [fish], and also match the black and red colors of the fins" (translations)

Synodus vityazi Ho, Prokofiev & Shao 2010 in honor of the Russian research vessel Vityaz II, for its "great contribution to deep-sea fish research" and for collecting holotype

## **Trachinocephalus**

Gill 1861

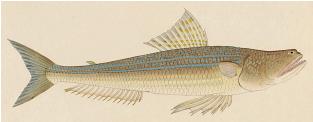
Trachino-, referring to resemblance to weever-fishes, Trachinus (Trachinidae); cephalus, from kephalé (Gr. κεφαλή), head, possibly referring to "abbreviated trachinoid muzzle" of Synodus brevirostris (=T. myops) per Gill (1862)<sup>2</sup>

**Trachinocephalus atrisignis Prokofiev 2019** atri-, from ater (L.), black; signis, unnecessary pluralization of signum (L.), mark, referring to black spot at tip of dorsal fin

Trachinocephalus gauguini Polanco Fernandez, Acero P. & Betancur-R. 2016 in honor of French painter Paul Gauguin (1848–1903), who died in the Marquesas Islands (type locality) on 8 May 1903

Trachinocephalus myops (Forster 1801) Latin for near-sighted, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its anterior eyes, placed near tip of shout

Trachinocephalus trachinus (Temminck & Schlegel 1846) named for its resemblance to the weever-fishes, Trachinus (Perciformes: Trachinidae)



Trachinocephalus trachinus. From: Temminck, C. J. and H. Schlegel. 1846. Pisces. In: Siebold, P. F. de (ed.). Fauna Japonica. Lugduni Batavorum [Leiden] (A. Arnz et soc.). Parts 10–14: 173–269.

Bombay Ducks
Subfamily HARPADONTINAE
Bleeker 1875

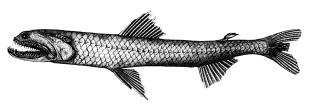
## Harpadon

Lesueur 1825

hárpē (Gr. ἄρπη), a curved weapon or implement, similar to a sickle or a pruning hook; odon, Latinized and grammatically adjusted from the Greek nominative ὁδούς (odoús), tooth, presumably referring to "long, hooked" teeth of Salmo microps (=H. nehereus), "armed with one or two barbs at their extremities"

**Harpadon erythraeus Klausewitz 1983** -eus (L.), adjectival suffix: erythrós (Gr. ἐρυθρός), red, referring to the Red Sea, where it is endemic

**Harpadon microchir Günther 1878** *micro-*, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small; *cheirós* (Gr.χειρός), genitive of *cheir* (χείρ), hand, homologous to the pectoral fin, referring to its "very short" pectoral fin compared with H. nehereus



Harpadon erythraeus, holotype, 302 mm SL. Illustration by Kornella Jentoch. From: Klausewitz, W. 1983. Tiefenwasser-und Tiefseefische aus dem Roten Meer. VII. Harpadon erythraeus n. sp. aus der Tiefsee des zentralen Roten Meeres (Pisces: Teleostei: Scopelomorpha: Myctophiformes: Harpadontidae). Senckenbergiana Biologica 64 (1/3): 34–45.

Harpadon mortenseni Hardenberg 1933 in honor of Danish echinoderm biologist Ole Theodor J. Mortensen (1868–1952), University of Copenhagen, who collected holotype

**Harpadon nehereus** (Hamilton 1822) Latinization of Nehare, its local name at the mouth of the Ganges River in India

*Harpadon nudus* Ganga & Thomas 2016 Latin for bare or naked, referring to absence of scales on body

Harpadon squamosus Alcock 1891 squama (L.), scale; -osus, L. suffix connoting fullness, referring to deciduous cycloid scales covering body, posterior part of head, and cheeks, becoming less deciduous on posterior half of tail

Harpadon translucens Saville-Kent 1889 Latin for clear, transparent or translucent, described as "remarkably transparent" in life

## Saurida

### Valenciennes 1850

diminutive of Saurus (now a junior synonym of Synodus), referring to its similarity to that genus

**Saurida argentea Macleay 1881** Latin for silvery, referring to silvery center on most of the scales

Saurida brasiliensis Norman 1935 -ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: Cape Frio, Brazil, type locality

Saurida caribbaea Breder 1927 named for the Caribbean Sea, presumably referring to its type locality, north of Glovers Reef, Belize

Saurida elongata (Temminck & Schlegel 1846) Latin for prolonged, referring to its slenderer body compared with Aulopus filamentosus (Aulopidae), its presumed congener at the time

 $\it Saurida \ eso \ Jordan \ \& \ Herre \ 1907$  Japanese name for species of  $\it Saurida \ and \ Synodus$ 

Saurida filamentosa Ogilby 1910 Latin for filamentous, referring to "more or less filamentous" third and fourth dorsal-fin rays, and produced second dorsal-fin ray, which reaches (when depressed) to or beyond base of adipose fin in male, and midway between adipose fin and tip of third dorsal-fin ray in females

Saurida flamma Waples 1982 Latin for flame or a blazing fire, referring to the "striking" reddish-orange coloration on mouth and body

Saurida fortis Furuhashi, Russell & Motomura 2022 Latin for strong, referring to its "robust" size

**Saurida golanii** Russell **2011** in honor of Israeli ichthyologist Daniel Golani, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, for his "very significant" contribution to Red Sea ichthyology

Saurida gracilis (Quoy & Gaimard 1824) Latin for thin or slender, referring to its slender body ("corpore gracili") compared with the conical body ("corpore conico") of Synodus variegatus, its presumed congener at the time

Saurida grandisquamis Günther 1864 grandis (L.), large; squamis, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of squama (L.), scale, possibly referring to larger lateral-line scales compared with S. undosquamis

Saurida isarankurai Shindo & Yamada 1972 in honor of Thai fisheries

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  Gill, T. N. 1862. Remarks on the relations of the genera and other groups of Cuban fishes. Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia 14: 235–242.

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biologist Andhi Isarankura (1935–2006), Marine Fisheries Laboratory (Bangkok); he worked to establish sustainable fisheries in the Asia and Pacific Islands

Saurida lessepsianus Russell, Golani & Tikochinski 2015 Latin for Lessepsian, referring to its distribution in both the Red Sea and eastern Mediterranean Sea, having migrated from the former to the latter via the Suez Canal, a phenomenon known as "Lessepsian migration" (after the French diplomat Ferdinand de Lesseps, who supervised the construction of the canal)

Saurida longimanus Norman 1939 longus (L.), long; manus (L.), hand (homologous to the pectoral fin), referring to longer pectoral fin compared with S. undosquamis

**Saurida macrolepis Tanaka 1917** *macro-*, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large; *lepís* (Gr.  $\lambda$ επίς), scale, referring to larger scales compared with the similar *S. argyrophanes* (=tumbil)

**Saurida micropectoralis Shindo & Yamada 1972** *micro-*, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small; *pectoralis* (L.), pectoral, referring to its "very short" pectoral fin, the shortest of all Indo-Pacific congeners known at the time

Saurida nebulosa Valenciennes 1850 Latin for cloudy, presumably referring to blackish spots or blotches on back and sides

Saurida normani Longley 1935 in honor of English ichthyologist J. R. (John Roxborough) Norman (1898–1944), British Museum (Natural History), for his contributions to ichthyology in general and to the knowledge of Synodontidae in particular

**Saurida pseudotumbil Dutt & Sagar 1981** pseudo-, from pseúdēs (Gr. ψεύδης), false, referring to its previous misidentification as and close relationship to *S. tumbil* 

Saurida suspicio Breder 1927 Latin for to look upwards, referring to its "curious upward glancing eyes"

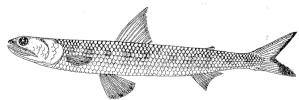
Saurida tumbil (Bloch 1795) based on *Tombili*, its Tamil name in India, which Bloch decided to use since it is "easy to express in several European languages" (translation)

Saurida tweddlei Russell 2015 in honor of Denis Tweddle (b. 1949), Honorary Research Associate at South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, who collected this species during an exploratory fishing survey of the Mascarene Plateau by the research vessel *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* and brought it to Russell's attention

Saurida umeyoshii Inoue & Nakabo 2006 in honor of Japanese ichthyologist Umeyoshi Yamada, formerly of the Fisheries Agency of Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute, who first recognized this species as new

Saurida undosquamis (Richardson 1848) undo-, presumably a variant or misspelling of undu-, from undulatus (L.), wavy; squamis, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of squama (L.), scale, possibly referring to its lateralline scales, "irregularly semicircular or semioval, the chord or base being divided by three furrows into four lobes, and the free margins, with the adjoining parts of the disk, being undulated"

Saurida weijeni Russell, Malay & Cabebe-Barnuevo 2024 in honor of Wei-Jen Chen, Institute of Oceanography, National Taiwan University, who collected this species during an exploratory fish survey of the Macclesfield Bank area of the South China Sea



Saurida micropectoralis, holotype, 183 mm SL. From: Shindo, S. and U. Yamada. 1972. Descriptions of three new species of the lizardfish genus Saurida, with a key to its Indo-Pacific species. Uo (Japanese Society of Ichthyologists) 11–12: 1–13, 1–14.