Order CYPRINIFORMES

Creek Chubs

Family LEUCISCIDAE

Subfamily PLAGOPTERINAE Cope 1874

**Couesius**

Cope 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


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**Hemitremia**

Cope 1870

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

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

Note that the genus predates the only species. *Hemitremia vittata* Cope 1870, the type species of *Hemitremia*, was synonymized with *Phoxinus flamma* Jordan & Gilbert 1878 by Jordan & Evermann (1896), who relegated *Hemitremia* as a subgenus of *Leuciscus*. Since *Leuciscus vit-
tatus* (Cope 1870) was preoccupied by *Leuciscus vittatus* Delight 1842 (now a junior synonym of *Leuciscus cornutus*, Pogonichthyinae), Jordan & Evermann used the next available name, *flamma*. *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).

**Lepidomeda**

Cope 1874

lepidos (Gr. λεπίς), genitive of lepis (лεπίς), 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 Hollinsprins pratensis* Miller & Hubbs 1960 -ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: pratum (L.), meadow, referring to meadowlands of Big Spring, Nevada, USA, where it is endemic

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.
**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

**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”

**Plagopterus**
Cope 1874

-plago (L.), to strike or wound; pterus, from pterón (Gr. πτερόν) or ptéryx (πτερύξ), 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"

**Semotilus**
Rafinesque 1820
etymology not explained; Jordan (1878)² offered this explanation: *semo-*, probably derived from σημεῖον (Gr. σημεῖον), banner, i.e., dorsal fin, and *teleis*, or some similar word, supposed by Rafinesque to mean “spotted,” referring to black spot at front of dorsal-fin base, but the closest word to *teleis* (τέλειος, τέλειος) means the opposite, “perfect” or "without spot or blemish"

*Semotilus atromaculatus* (Mitchill 1818) atr-o-, from *ater* (L.), black; *maculatus* (L.), spotted, referring to black spot at front of dorsal-fin base

*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 Lumbee 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.”

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