Order PETROMYZONTIFORMES
Northern Lampreys

Family PETROMYZONTIDAE
Bonaparte 1831

Subfamily PETROMYZONTINAE
Bonaparte 1831

Ichthyomyzon
Girard 1858
ichthyos (Gr.), fish; myzon (Gr.), to suck (borrowed from Petromyzon), i.e., a sucking fish, referring to their suctorial behavior

Ichthyomyzon bdellium (Jordan 1885) -ium, Latin adjectival suffix: bdella (Gr.), leech, referring to its leech-like suctorial and/or parasitic feeding behavior (as adults)

Ichthyomyzon castaneus Girard 1858 Latin for chestnut-brown, referring to its “uniform chestnut [sic] tint”

Ichthyomyzon fossor Reighard & Cummins 1916 Latin for digger, referring to how ammocoetes burrow into silt and sand

Ichthyomyzon gagei Hubbs & Trautman 1937 in honor of American histologist and embryologist Simon Henry Gage (1851‒1944), Cornell University (Ithaca, New York, USA), “one of the foremost students of the lampreys,” who brought this “interesting and distinct species” to the authors’ attention

Ichthyomyzon greeleyi Hubbs & Trautman 1937 in honor of fisheries scientist John R. Greeley (1904‒1964), who collected holotype and granted the authors permission to describe it

Ichthyomyzon unicuspis Hubbs & Trautman 1937 unus (L.), one; cuspis (L.), point, referring to single (unicuspid) cusps of circumoral teeth of adults (compared with bicuspid circumoral teeth of congeners)

Petromyzon
Linnaeus 1758
petra (Gr.), rock or stone; myzon (Gr.), to suck, referring to their suctorial behavior (adults attach to rocks during nest building and mating)

Petromyzon marinus Linnaeus 1758 Latin for “of the sea,” referring to its marine habitat (as a non-breeding adult) [see box, next page]

Subfamily LAMPETRINAE
Fowler 1958

Caspioomyzon
Berg 1906
Caspio, from the Caspian Sea basin, where C. wagneri is endemic; myzon (Gr.), to suck (borrowed from Petromyzon), referring to their suctorial behavior [placed in Petromyzontinae by some workers]

Caspioomyzon graecus (Renaud & Economidis 2010) Latin word for Greek, derived from Graeci, a tribe of Hellenes living since Prehistoric times in area where this lamprey occurs [placed in Eudontomyzon by some workers]

Caspioomyzon hellenicus (Vladykov, Renaud, Kott & Economidis 1982) -icus, (L.) belonging to: Hellas (Gr.), Greece, referring to only country where it occurs [placed in Eudontomyzon by some workers]

Caspioomyzon wagneri (Kessler 1870) in honor of Nicolai Petrivitsch Wagner (1829‒1907), Kessler’s colleague at the Zoological Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia; Kessler described this lamprey from a specimen in Wagner’s collection

Entosphenus
Gill 1862
entos (Gr.), within; sphenos (Gr.), wedge, referring to wedge-shaped tooth within mouth on tongue of E. tridentatus

Entosphenus folletti Vladykov & Kott 1976 in honor of Wilbur ("Bill") I. Follett (1901‒1992), Curator of Fishes, California Academy of Sciences, “friend, a collaborator in the studies of holarctic lampreys, and a distinguished scholar of the fishes of California” [authors incorrectly gave Follett’s name as “William”]

Entosphenus lethophagus (Hubbs 1971) letho (Gr.), forgetting or forgetfulness; phagein (Gr.), to eat, i.e., not eating (an adjective), referring to adults, which do not eat before they spawn and die.
Petromyzon marinus: the first named “fish”

Although classified as an amphibian at the time, the first fish (or fish-like vertebrate) mentioned in the 10th edition of Linnaeus’ Systema Naturae — the starting point of zoological nomenclature — is the Sea Lamprey Petromyzon marinus. The generic name derives from petro, stone, and myzon, to suck. Although Linnaeus did not explain the meaning of the name, it almost certainly refers to the lamprey’s “stone-sucking” behavior when it enters fresh water in the spring to spawn. Mating pairs move stones with their suctorial mouths to build their redds, and attach themselves to stones in order to complete the spawning act. The trivial name marinus, of course, means “of the sea” and refers to its marine habitat (as a non-breeding adult, at least), specifically in “Mari Europeo,” or European seas.

Linnaeus did not coin the Petromyzon epithet. As with many of the names in his Systema Naturae, he simply utilized a name that was already in use, in this case dating back to at least Arcti’s Genera Piscium (1738). However, the trivial epithet marinus appears to have originated with Linnaeus.

Eudontomyzon

Regan 1911
eu-, a Greek intensive (good, well or very); odontos (Gr.), tooth, referring to numerous radially arranged teeth of E. danfordi; myzon (Gr.), to suck (borrowed from Petromyzon), referring to their suctorial behavior

Eudontomyzon danfordi Regan 1911 in honor of Charles George Danford (1843–1928), Scottish artist, sportsman and ornithologist, who collected holotype

Eudontomyzon mariae (Berg 1931) in honor of Berg’s second wife Maria (née Ivanova), “who examined many thousands of river lampreys from the mouth of the Neva and other streams, falling into the Finnish Gulf”

Eudontomyzon morii (Berg 1931) in honor of zoologist Tamezo Mori (1884–1962), Hyogo Agricultural College (Japan), who provided holotype [placed in Lethenteron by some workers]

Eudontomyzon stankokaramani Karaman 1974 in honor of Karaman’s father, biologist Stanko L. Karaman (1889–1959), founder, Macedonian Museum of Natural History, “the greatest explorer of freshwater fish fauna in Yugoslavia”

Eudontomyzon vladykovi Oliva & Zanandrea 1959 patronym not identified but clearly in honor of lamprey biologist Vadim D. Vladykov (1898–1986)

Lampetra

Bonnaterre 1788

lambo (L.), to lick; petra (Gr.), rock or stone, referring to their suctorial behavior (adults attach to rocks during nest building and mating)

Subgenus Lampetra

Lampetra alavariensis Mateus, Alves, Quintella & Almeida 2013 -ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: Alavarium, Latin for Aveiro, Portuguese district where it occurs

Lampetra auremensis Mateus, Alves, Quintella & Almeida 2013 -ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: Aurem, 12th-century name for what is now Ourém, Portuguese region where it occurs

Lampetra ayresii (Günther 1870) in honor of physician-ichthyologist William O. Ayres (1817–1887), founding member of the California Academy of Sciences, who described this species in 1855 but used a preoccupied name (Petromyzon plumbeus)

Lampetra fluviatilis (Linnaeus 1758) Latin for “of a river,” referring to its upstream river spawning migration


Lampetra lanceolata Kux & Steiner 1972 Latin for lance-like, probably referring to how end of body tapers to a lance- or lancet-like point

Lampetra lusitanica Mateus, Alves, Quintella & Almeida 2013 -ica (L.), belonging to: Lusitania, ancient name of Portugal, where it is endemic
Lampetra pacifica Vladykov 1973 -ica (L.), belonging to: Pacific Coast streams of California and Oregon, USA, where it occurs

Lampetra planeri (Bloch 1784) in honor of Johann Jacob Planer (1743–1789), German physician, botanist and mycologist, who supplied holotype

Lampetra richardsoni Vladykov & Follett 1965 in honor of Scottish typesurgeon-naturalist John Richardson (1787–1865), “author of several important works on fishes from North America”

Lampetra soljani Tutman, Freyhof, Dulčić, Glamuzina & Geiger 2017 in honor of Tonko Šoljan (1907–1980), for his contribution to the knowledge and development of ichthyology in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Lampetra zanandrei Vladykov 1955 in honor of Giuseppe Zanandrea (1907–1965), Istituto di Anatomia Comparata della Università di Bologna, “who made several interesting biometrical and biological studies of lampreys from northern Italy”

Subgenus Okkelbergia Creaser & Hubbs 1922 
-ia (Gr.), belonging to: Peter Okkelberg (1880–1960), University of Michigan, for his “careful studies on the history of the germ cells in lampreys” [treated as a full genus by some workers]

Lampetra oepytera (Abbott 1860) oepy-, from aipys (Gr.), high; ptera (Gr.), fin, referring to enlarged dorsal fins of nuptial males

Lethenteron Creaser & Hubbs 1922 etymology not explained, perhaps lethos (L.), lethal, or lethe (Gr.), forgetting or forgetfulness; enteron (Gr.) intestine, presumably referring to “degenerate and non-functional” intestine of adult L. appendix

Lethenteron alaskense Vladykov & Kott 1978 -ense, neuter of -ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: Alaska (USA), where type locality (West Creek, a tributary of Brooks Lake) is situated

Lethenteron appendix (DeKay 1842) Latin for light- or nut-brown, referring to its color

Lethenteron ninae Naseka, Tuniyev & Renaud 2009 in honor of ichthyologist Nina G. Bogutskaya (b. 1958), Russian Academy of Sciences, for her contribution to the knowledge of Eurasian freshwater fishes [placed in Lampetra and by some workers]

Tetrapleurodon Creaser & Hubbs 1922 tetra (Gr.) four; pleura (Gr.) side, odon (Gr.), tooth. i.e., lateral teeth, referring to four enlarged teeth on each side of mouth of T. spadiceus

Tetrapleurodon geminis Álvarez 1966 Latin for twin, the non-parasitic “twin” of the parasitic T. spadiceus [date often given as 1964]

Tetrapleurodon spadiceus (Bean 1887) Latin for light- or nut-brown, referring to its color