

The ETYFish Project

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COMMENTS: 

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Subcohort STOMIATI

note: based on Stomiatiiformes, proposed by Rosen (1973), whose spelling was deemed incorrect and emended to Stomiiformes by Fink & Weitzman (1982); however, some researchers use the original spelling

Order OSMERIFORMES

5 families · 17 genera · 44 species/subspecies

Suborder OSMEROIDEI

Family OSMERIDAE Smelts

6 genera · 17 species/subspecies

***Allosmerus* Hubbs 1925**

allos, another, i.e., another genus of smelts, “intermediate in most respects” between *Osmerus* and *Thaleichthys*

***Allosmerus elongatus* (Ayres 1854)**

referring to its “elongated and compressed” form or body shape

***Hypomesus* Gill 1862**

hypo, below; *mesos*, middle, referring to position of ventral fins “nearly under middle” of dorsal fin of *H. pretiosus*

***Hypomesus japonicus* (Brevoort 1856)**

Japanese, named from an illustration of a specimen taken from Hakodate, Oshima Subprefecture, Hokkaido, Japan, during the U.S. Japan Expedition (1852-1854) under the command of Matthew C. Perry

***Hypomesus nipponensis* McAllister 1963**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Nippon, or Japan, where it is native to lakes and estuaries of Hokkaido (now introduced and established in California, USA)

***Hypomesus olidus* (Pallas 1814)**

smelly, “smells very bad” (translation), referring to cucumber-like odor (some ichthyologists say *olidus* means oily; while the fish does have oily flesh, this translation is incorrect)

***Hypomesus pretiosus* (Girard 1854)**

precious, presumably referring to its delicate flavor

***Hypomesus transpacificus* McAllister 1963**

trans-, over, referring to the notion (now incorrect) that it occurs on both sides of the Pacific, and “to the friendship of Japanese and Canadian ichthyologists”

***Mallotus* Cuvier 1829**

fleecy or woolly, referring to band of elongate scales along lateral line and middle of belly of breeding males, which appear to be hairy

***Mallotus catervarius* (Pennant 1784)**

in a crowd, i.e., presumably referring to its occurrence in “immense shoals” on the eastern coast of Kamchatka, Russia

***Mallotus villosus* (Müller 1776)**

woolly or shaggy, referring to band of elongate scales along lateral line and middle of belly of breeding males, which appear to be hairy

***Osmerus* Linnaeus 1758**

latinization of the Greek *osmeres*, odorous, referring to their cucumber-like odor [note: the vernacular “smelt” does not refer to this curious smell, but instead may derive from the Old Dutch *smalt*, meaning grease or melted butter, referring to how the fish’s oily flesh gives it a “melt in your mouth” texture]

***Osmerus dentex* Steindachner & Kner 1870**

with large teeth, referring to strong fang-like teeth on tongue and front of vomer

***Osmerus eperlanus eperlanus* (Linnaeus 1758)**

latinization of the Old French *éperlan*, a vernacular name applied to small edible fishes that migrate to fresh water to spawn

***Osmerus eperlanus schonfoldi* McAllister 1984**

first available treatment of “*Eperlanus Schonfoldii*” of Rutton 1772 (named but not described), patronym not

identified, possibly in honor of Dutch naturalist Stephan Schonevelde (d. 1632, also spelled Schonefeld, Schone Velde, Schoenfeld, and presumably Schonfold), whose 1624 book on marine animals is cited by Rutty

***Osmerus mordax mordax* (Mitchill 1814)**

biting, referring to strong fang-like teeth on tongue and front of vomer, a “formidable apparatus for a small fish”

***Osmerus mordax spectrum* Cope 1870**

etymology not explained, perhaps spectrum in the sense of vision, referring to its “remarkably large eye” ($\frac{1}{3}$ length of head), and/or spectrum in the sense of a spirit of apparition, referring to its translucent color in life

***Spirinchus* Jordan & Evermann 1896**

a 1657 name for smelt used by Polish scholar and physician John Jonston (1603-1675, writing as Johannes Jonstonus), possibly a latinization of *spirinche*, a 17th-century Anglo-Saxon word for smelt, itself possibly derived from the Middle English *sperlinge*, Old French *esperlinge*, or Old Dutch *spierling*; according to Moyle, *Inland Fishes of California* (1976, 2002), the name means “breath-beginning” (*spiro*, breath; *inchoatus*, beginning) and refers to the “conspicuous duct that connects the air bladder (=lung) to the gut,” but we doubt this explanation since physostomus gas bladders are common in fishes, and because the name appears to have a clear relationship to similar names of Teutonic origin

***Spirinchus lanceolatus* (Hikita 1913)**

referring to its lanceolate shape, like that of a willow leaf

***Spirinchus starksi* (Fisk 1913)**

in honor of fish osteologist Edwin Chapin Starks (1867-1932), Stanford University, for his “able assistance” in the preparation of Fisk’s paper

***Spirinchus thaleichthys* (Ayres 1860)**

presumably named for its similarity to *Thaleichthys pacificus*, a related species with a similar flavor; Ayres said this species “presents an entire blending of the characters on which Girard proposed to separate” *Thaleichthys* from *Osmerus*

***Thaleichthys* Girard 1858**

etymology not explained, perhaps derived from *thaleia* with three possible translations, none of which align with attributes mentioned by Girard, who established genus based on one specimen of *T. stevensi* (= *pacificus*) seemingly oblivious of the abundant and artisanally important Eulachon described by early explorers: rich (referring to oily flesh), vigorous (referring to fast-swimming schooling behavior), or abundant, referring to what Richardson described as “immense shoals” during freshwater spawning runs of *T. pacificus* along the Pacific Coast of North America; *ichthys*, fish

***Thaleichthys pacificus* (Richardson 1836)**

Pacific, referring to distribution along the Pacific Coast of North America (from southern California north to the Bering Sea)

Family PLECOGLOSSIDAE Ayu or Sweetfish

***Plecoglossus* Temminck & Schlegel 1846**

pleektos, plaited; *glossus*, tongue, referring to its “peculiar” ridged tongue (translation)

***Plecoglossus altivelis altivelis* (Temminck & Schlegel 1846)**

altus, high; *velum*, sail, referring to higher dorsal fin compared to other members of the salmon family (in which, at the time, osmeriform fishes were thought to belong)

***Plecoglossus altivelis chinensis* Wu & Shan 2005**

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: China (and Taiwan), where it occurs



Hypomesus japonicus. From: Brevoort, J. C. 1856. Notes on some figures of Japanese fish taken from recent specimens by the artists of the U. S. Japan Expedition. Pp. 253-288, Pls. 3-12 (color). In: M. C. Perry, *Narrative of the Expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan, performed in the years 1852, 1853, and 1854 under the command of Commodore M. C. Perry, United States Navy, by order of the Government of the United States*. Vol. 2. U.S. Senate Ex. Doc. No. 79, 33rd Congress, 2nd Session. Beverly Tucker, Washington, D.C. [i-viii] + 1-414 + 1-14 + I-XI + [1], 17 folded charts, Pls.

***Plecoglossus altivelis ryukyensis* Nishida 1988**

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: Ryukyu Islands, Japan, where it occurs

Family SALANGIDAE Icefishes or Noodlefishes

7 genera · 19 species

***Hemisanx* Regan 1908**

hemi-, partial, referring to close affinity to *Salanx* (“very hard to be distinguished from it,” according to Fang [1934])

***Hemisanx brachyrostralis* (Fang 1934)**

brachy, short; *rostralis*, snouted, referring to snout “desiredly shorter” than postorbital portion of head

***Neosalangichthys* Fu, Li, Xia & Lei 2012**

neo-, new, literally a new genus of *Salangichthys*, referring to previous placement of *N. ishikawae*

***Neosalangichthys ishikawae* (Wakiya & Takahashi 1913)**

in honor of biologist Chiyomatsu Ishikawa (1861-1935), Tokyo Imperial University, for kindness in placing materials at the authors’ disposal and valuable assistance in various ways

***Neosalanx* Wakiya & Takahashi 1937**

neo-, new, i.e., a new species of *Salanx*, type species of family

***Neosalanx anderssoni* (Rendahl 1923)**

in honor of Johan Gunnar Andersson (1874-1960), Swedish archaeologist, paleontologist and geologist, who obtained type [often misspelled *andersoni* with a single “s”]

***Neosalanx brevirostris* (Pellegrin 1923)**

brevis, short; *rostris*, snout, referring to shorter snout compared to the similar *Salanx hyalocranius* (= *Protosalanx chinensis*)

***Neosalanx hubbsi* Wakiya & Takahasi 1937**

in honor of ichthyologist Carl (misspelled Karl) L. Hubbs (1894-1979), University of Michigan, for “kind suggestions and valuable help in reading [the authors’] manuscript”

***Neosalanx jordani* Wakiya & Takahasi 1937**

in honor of the late David Starr Jordan (1851-1931), ichthyologist and “esteemed friend and teacher”

***Neosalanx oligodontis* Chen 1956**

oligo-, few; *odontis*, tooth, referring to single row of minute teeth on premaxillary and maxillary (fewer teeth compared to congeners, but this is not mentioned in description), and/or toothless tongue, mandible and palatine

***Neosalanx reganius* Wakiya & Takahasi 1937**

-*ius*, belonging to: ichthyologist Charles Tate Regan (1878-1943), Natural History Museum (London), who revised the family in 1908

***Neosalanx taihuensis* Chen 1956**

-*ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: proposed as a subspecies of *N. tangkahkeii* from Lake Taihu (or Tai), Jiangsu Province, China

***Neosalanx tangkahkeii* (Wu 1931)**

in honor of Tang Kah Kei, founder of l’Université d’Ami (no other information available)

***Parasalanx* Regan 1908**

para-, near, referring to similarity and/or close affinity to *Salanx*, type genus of family

***Parasalanx cuvieri* (Valenciennes 1850)**

in honor of the “great naturalist” (translation) Georges Cuvier (1769-1832), who created the genus *Salanx* in 1816

***Protosalanx* Regan 1908**

protos, first, allusion not explained, perhaps describing a *Salanx* (type genus of family) with dorsal fin entirely in front of anal (also the first genus keyed in Regan’s revision of the family); Fang (1934) says name indicates that *Protosalanx* “may be regarded as the most primitive and less specialized form” in the family

***Protosalanx chinensis* (Basilewsky 1855)**

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: China, where type locality (Gulf of Tschili, or Zhili) is situated (also occurs in Korea)

***Salangichthys* Bleeker 1860**

salang, a more euphonic declension of the nominative *Salanx*, provisionally proposed as a new genus related to *Salanx*; *ichthys*, fish

***Salangichthys microdon* (Bleeker 1860)**

micro-, small; *odon*, tooth, referring to its small teeth, much smaller than *Parasalanx cuvieri* and *Protosalanx chinensis*,

its presumed congeners at the time

Salanx Cuvier 1816

“Greek name of an unknown fish” (translation), apparently another of the ancient Greek fish names that Cuvier repurposed for several new genera he proposed (e.g., *Synodontis*, *Premnas*), often without any obvious connections between the ancient and modern taxa [according to FishBase, name is a Latinization of the Filipino *salamga* and French *salangana*, both referring to a type of swallow, but this explanation has no basis in reality]

Salanx acuticeps Regan 1908

acutus, pointed; *ceps*, head, referring to “acutely pointed” snout

Salanx ariakensis Kishinouye 1902

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: Ariake Sea, Kyushu, Japan, type locality, where they were collected from a weir

Salanx chinensis (Osbeck 1765)

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: China, where it is endemic to the Pearl River basin [placed in *Leucosoma* by some workers, treated here as a synonym of *Salanx*]

Salanx longianalis (Regan 1908)

longus, long; *analis*, pertaining to anal fin, presumably referring to length of anal fin, with 30-32 rays, one of the longest in the genus

Salanx prognathus (Regan 1908)

pro-, in front of; *gnathus*, jaw, referring to projecting lower jaw

Salanx reevesii (Gray 1831)

in honor of naturalist John Reeves (1774-1856), who gave to the British Museum (Natural History) many of the Chinese fishes he illustrated, including type of this one

Suborder RETROPINNOIDEI

Family RETROPINNIDAE

3 genera · 7 species

Subfamily Retropinninae Southern Smelts

Retropinna Gill 1862

named for *Argentina retropinna* Richardson 1848, *retro*, back; *pinnis*, fin, referring to posterior insertion of dorsal fin, above anus (Gill attempted to avoid tautonomy by unnecessarily renaming type species *R. richardsonii*)

Retropinna retropinna (Richardson 1848)

retro, back; *pinnis*, fin, referring to posterior insertion of dorsal fin, above anus

Retropinna semoni (Weber 1895)

in honor of German zoologist and evolutionary biologist Richard Semon (1859-1918), who collected type

Retropinna tasmanica McCulloch 1920

Tasmanian, referring to Australian island where it occurs in fresh, brackish and marine waters

Retropinna victoriae Stokell 1941

of Victoria, Australia, type locality

Stokellia Whitley 1955

-*ia*, belonging to: amateur ichthyologist Gerald Stokell (1890-1972), who collected and studied New Zealand’s fresh-water fishes for over 40 years, and described *S. anisodon* in 1941

Stokellia anisodon (Stokell 1941)

anisos, unequal; *odon*, tooth, referring to teeth on upper jaw restricted to anterior parts of mouth

Subfamily Platytroctinae Southern Graylings

Prototroctes Günther 1864

protos, first; *troctes*, from the Latin *tructa*, trout, “in allusion to its Salmonoid affinities,” Günther wrote in 1870

Prototroctes maraena Günther 1864

latinization of *Maräne*, German word for whitefish, having the “general habit” of a *Coregonus*

Prototroctes oxyrhynchus Günther 1870

oxy, sharp; *rhynchus*, snout, referring to its pointed snout [extinct]