

The *ETYFish* Project

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COMMENTS: 

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Order MUGILIFORMES

Family MUGILIDAE Mulletts

25 genera · 79 species

***Agonostomus* Bennett 1832**

a-, without; *gonos*, angle; *stomus*, mouth, referring to more rounded (less angular) lower jaw compared to *Mugil*

***Agonostomus catalai* Pellegrin 1932**

in honor of René Catala (1901-1988), coffee planter and amateur (at the time) biologist in Madagascar, who collected holotype

***Agonostomus telfairii* Bennett 1832**

in honor of Irish botanist and ship surgeon Charles Telfair (1778-1833), who collected and/or acquired plants and animals in Mauritius in 1810, including type of this mullet

***Aldrichetta* Whitley 1945**

-etta, diminutive connoting endearment: in honor of Fred C. Aldrich, Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game (Perth, Western Australia) from 1911-1937, an “able and enthusiastic fisheries investigator”

***Aldrichetta forsteri* (Valenciennes 1836)**

in honor of Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-1798), naturalist aboard James Cook's second voyage on HMS *Resolution*, who observed this mullet in New Zealand in 1769; while he identified it as *Mugil albula* (= *cephalus*), his notes provided sufficient descriptive data for Valenciennes to determine it was a separate and new species

***Cestraeus* Valenciennes 1836**

Latinization of *kestreus*, a name used by Aristotle for mullets

***Cestraeus goldiei* (Macleay 1883)**

in honor of “Alex” Goldie, probably Andrew Goldie (1840-1891), Scottish-born merchant, explorer and natural history collector, who collected type from the Goldie River (which he named after himself) in Papua New Guinea

***Cestraeus oxyrhynchus* Valenciennes 1836**

oxy, sharp; *rhynchus*, snout, referring to sharp angle of lower lip, which makes the snout more pointed

***Cestraeus plicatilis* Valenciennes 1836**

pleated, referring to its “very thick” upper lip, with a “fleshy mass” at the end of the snout, “covered with excessively fine and numerous papillae, which give this organ a velvety appearance” (translations)

***Chaenomugil* Gill 1863**

chaeno-, gape, “distinguished by the longitudinal cleft of the mouth”; *mugil*, mullet

***Chaenomugil proboscideus* (Günther 1861)**

having a proboscis, referring to “extremely thick, conically produced” thick part of upper lip

***Chelon* Artedi 1793**

ancient Greek name mentioned by Aristotle as a synonym for *kephalos* (see *Mugil cephalus*, below) [authorship sometimes attributed to Röse, who reprinted Artedi's 1738 publication]

***Chelon auratus* (Risso 1810)**

gilded, referring to the “beautiful golden spots that adorn its operculum” (translation)

***Chelon bandialensis* (Diouf 1991)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Bandiala, one of three coastal rivers that constitute the Sine Saloum estuary in Senegal, type locality

***Chelon bispinosus* (Bowdich 1825)**

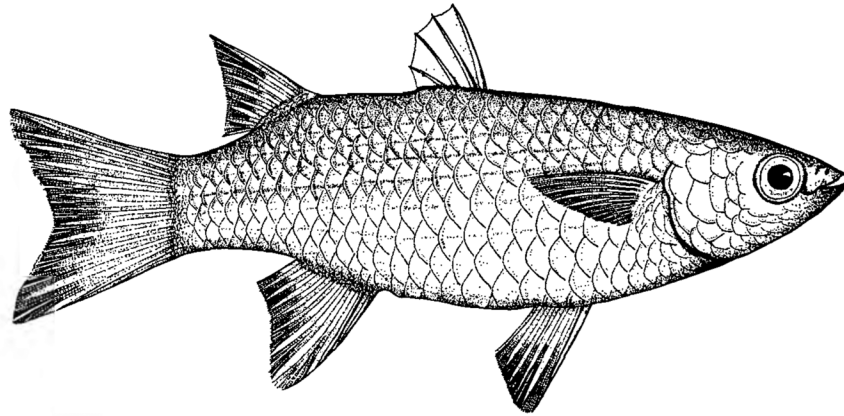
bi-, two; *spinosus*, thorny, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to two spines (plus seven rays) in second dorsal fin (first dorsal fin consists of four “strong” spines with no rays)

***Chelon caeruleus* Deef 2018**

blue, referring to dark-blue color of sides [originally spelled *caeruleum* but emended to *caeruleus* since *Chelon* is masculine; of uncertain taxonomic status, provisionally included here]

***Chelon dumerili* (Steindachner 1870)**

in honor of August Duméril (1812-1870), herpetologist and ichthyologist, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle



Chelon luciae. From: Penrith, M.-L. and M. J. Penrith. 1967. A new species of mullet of the genus *Ellochelon* (Pisces: Mugilidae) from St. Lucia Estuary, Zululand. *Durban Museum Novitates* v. 8 (pt 8): 69-75.

(Paris), who loaned Steindachner specimens of other Sengalese fishes for study

***Chelon labrosus* (Risso 1827)**

thick-lipped, allusion not explained but probably referring to its thicker lips compared to *C. ramada*

***Chelon luciae* (Penrith & Penrith 1967)**

of St. Lucia estuary, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, type locality

***Chelon natalensis* (Castelnau 1861)**

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, locality (also occurs in Swaziland and Mozambique)

***Chelon parsia* (Hamilton 1822)**

local name for this mullet in West Bengal, India

***Chelon persicus* Senou, Randall & Okiyama 1995**

Persian, referring to Persian Gulf, where it appears to be endemic

***Chelon ramada* (Risso 1827)**

from *ramado*, local name for this mullet along the northwestern Mediterranean Sea

***Chelon richardsonii* (Smith 1846)**

patronym not identified, probably in honor of surgeon-naturalist John Richardson (1787-1865)

***Chelon saliens* (Risso 1810)**

leaping or jumping, referring to how this mullet “jumps with extraordinary velocity when it finds himself trapped in a net” (translation)

***Chelon tricuspiciens* (Smith 1935)**

referring to its relatively large tricuspid teeth

***Dajaus Valenciennes* 1836**

Latinization of *dajao*, local name for this mullet in Puerto Rico

***Dajaus monticola* (Bancroft 1834)**

of the mountains, referring to its occurrence in steep forested streams as high as 1500 m

***Ellochelon* Whitley 1930**

Ellon Gistel 1848, an unneeded and presumably forgotten replacement name for *Mugil*, which for some reason Whitley wished to commemorate; *chelon*, ancient Greek name mentioned by Aristotle as a synonym for *kephalus* (see *Mugil cephalus*)

***Ellochelon vaigiensis* (Quoy & Gaimard 1825)**

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: Pulau Waigeo (or Vaigiou), Papua Barat, Indonesia, type locality (but widely occurs in Red-Sea and Indo-West Pacific)

***Gracilimugil* Whitley 1941**

gracilis, slender or thin, referring to its compressed body and “graceful” form; *mugil*, mullet

***Gracilimugil argenteus* (Quoy & Gaimard 1825)**

silvery, referring to the silvery coloration of its “fine and pearly” scales (translation)

***Joturus* Poey 1860**

Latinization of *Joturo*, Cuban name for *J. pichardi* in Havana (also known as *Foturo*)

- Joturus pichardi** Poey 1860
in honor of Cuban lexicographer-geographer Esteban Pichardo (1799-1879), “estimable auteur” of *Diccionario Provincial de voces Cubanas* and *Geografía de la isla de Cuba* (he also recommended the vernacular name *Joturo*)
- Moolgarda Whitley 1945**
native name of *M. pura* (= *seheli*) in Western Australia
- Moolgarda cirrhostoma** (Forster 1801)
curly-mouthed, from *cirrus*, curl or tendril, and *stoma*, mouth, referring to its villous or ciliated lips [*species inquirenda*, provisionally included here]
- Moolgarda crenilabis** (Forsskål 1775)
creni-, crenulate; *labis*, lip, referring to row of crenulate papillae along external edge of its thick lips
- Moolgarda cunnesius** (Valenciennes 1836)
Latinization of *Kunnese*, its local name at Vizagapatam on the Coromandel Coast of India, as reported by Russell (1803)
- Moolgarda delicata** (Alleyne & Macleay 1877)
Latin for giving pleasure: “Of the many species of *Mugil* [original genus] with which Australia abounds, all of high reputation as edible fishes, this is decidedly the best.”
- Moolgarda heterocheilos** (Bleeker 1855)
heteros, different; *cheilos*, lip, allusion not explained, presumably referring to lip papillae, different from most other mullet genera
- Moolgarda seheli** (Fabricius 1775)
Seheli, Arabic name for this mullet
- Moolgarda tade** (Fabricius 1775)
Tade, Arabic name for this mullet
- Mugil Linnaeus 1758**
Latin for mullet, possibly derived from *mulgeo*, to suck, referring to how *M. cephalus* feeds by sucking up sediment
- Mugil bananensis** (Pellegrin 1927)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Banana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, type locality (occurs along eastern Atlantic coast from Senegal to Angola, and Cape Verde Island)
- Mugil brevisrostris** Miranda Ribeiro 1915
brevis, short; *rostris*, snout, referring to its “de focinho curto”
- Mugil broussonnetii** Valenciennes 1836
in honor of physician-naturalist Pierre Marie Auguste Broussonet (1761-1807), who acquired type from Joseph Banks, collected during James Cook’s first great voyage (1768-1771)
- Mugil capurrii** (Perugia 1892)
in honor of Capt. Guiseppe Capurro, who collected type in Senegal, and to whom the Museo Civico di Genova “owes many interesting animals collected by him during his travels” (translation)
- Mugil cephalus** Linnaeus 1758
kephalos, a name dating to Aristotle (it is not clear if the name relates to *cephalus*, meaning head)
- Mugil curema** Valenciennes 1836
Curema, Portuguese vernacular used by Dutch naturalist Jorge Marcgrave in his 1648 *Historia Naturalis Brasiliae*, doubtless corresponding to the Spanish vernacular *querimana* (or *queriman*)
- Mugil curvidens** Valenciennes 1836
curvus, bent; *dens*, teeth, referring to teeth in the lower jaw, which are directed downwards and forwards
- Mugil hospes** Jordan & Culver 1895
a landlord, referring to the near constant presence in its mouth or branchial cavity of a small oniscid crustacean similar to that found in the Menhaden, *Brevoortia tyrannus* (Clupeidae)
- Mugil hubensis** Rizvi & Iqbal 1986
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Hub River, Baluchistan, Pakistan, type locality
- Mugil incilis** Hancock 1830
pertaining to a ditch or trench, “being chiefly found in the trenches or ditches dug for draining the flat lands of the coast of Guiana”
- Mugil liza** Valenciennes 1836
vernacular name for “mullet with big lips” in Spain, apparently applied to this western Atlantic and Caribbean species by the Spanish and/or Valenciennes

***Mugil longicauda* Guitart Manday & Alvarez-Lajonchere 1976**

longus, long; *cauda*, tail, referring to its “notably elongated caudal peduncle”

***Mugil margaritae* Menezes, Nirchio, Oliveira & Siccharamirez 2015**

of Isla Margarita, Venezuela, type locality

***Mugil rubrioculus* Harrison, Nirchio, Oliveira, Ron & Gaviria 2007**

rubri-, red; *oculus*, eye, referring to its distinctly reddish-orange iris

***Mugil setosus* Gilbert 1892**

bristly, referring to “much larger multiserial setæ” (hair-like structures) on premaxilla compared to the similar *M. curema* (perhaps referring to a sympatric population later described as *M. hospes*)

***Mugil thoburni* (Jordan & Starks 1896)**

in honor of Wilbur Wilson Thoburn (1859-1899), who taught bionomics (ecology) at Stanford University (where Jordan was president), for his work on sculpins (Cottidae)

***Mugil trichodon* Poey 1875**

trichos, hair; *odon*, tooth, presumably referring to the filiform appearance of its teeth

***Myxus* Günther 1861**

mucous or slime, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to how mullets often feed on “soft organic substances”

***Myxus elongatus* Günther 1861**

elongate, referring to how its “body appears to be more elongate” than other mullet species

***Neochelon* Durand, Chen, Shen, Fu & Borsa 2012**

neo-, new, i.e., a new genus of *Chelon*

***Neochelon falcipinnis* (Valenciennes 1836)**

falcatus, sickle-shaped; *pinnis*, fin, referring to falcate anal fin

***Neomyxus* Steindachner 1878**

neo-, new, proposed as a subgenus of *Myxus*, i.e., a new *Myxus*

***Neomyxus leuciscus* (Günther 1871)**

leukiskos, Greek word for chub (probably derived from *leukos*, white), allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its silvery sides and white belly and/or its resemblance to the European cyprinid *Leuciscus leuciscus*

***Oedalechilus* Fowler 1903**

oedaleus, swollen; *cheilus*, lip, referring to fleshy upper lip

***Oedalechilus labeo* (Cuvier 1829)**

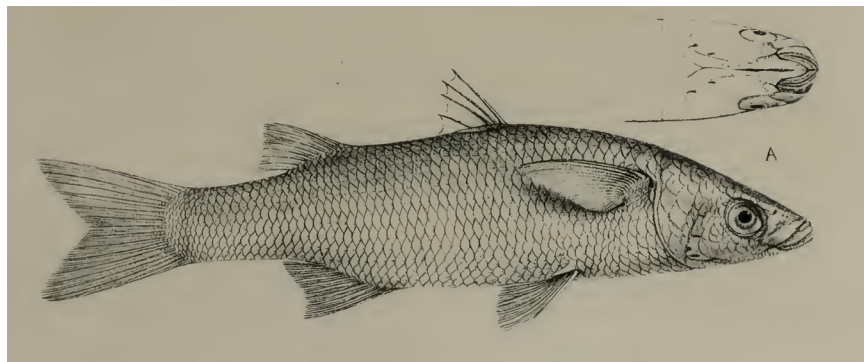
labeo, one with large lips, referring to its fleshy upper lip, thicker than *Mugil chelo* (= *Chelon labrosus*), its presumed congener at the time

***Osteomugil* Luther 1982**

osteo-, bone, referring to how genus is differentiated by an osteological character (absent vs. present posterior zygapophysial hooks on any trunk vertebra); *mugil*, mullet

***Osteomugil engeli* (Bleeker 1858)**

per Bleeker (1860), in honor of Chris Engel, who provided many of the illustrations in Bleeker’s *Atlas Ichthyologique des Orientales Néerlandaises*



Neomyxus leuciscus. From: Günther, A. 1872. Report on several collections of fishes recently obtained for the British Museum. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1871 (pt 3) (art. 1): 652-675, Pls. 53-70.

- Osteomugil perusii (Valenciennes 1836)**
in honor of French naval officer and explorer Jean-François de Galaup La Pérouse (1741-1788), “a name that will remind all scientists of the coasts where this species can be found” (translation), referring to Vanikoro Island in the South Pacific (type locality), where Pérouse was stranded after both his ships struck reefs; he and his crew were never seen again
- Osteomugil robustus (Günther 1861)**
stout, presumably referring to its “very thick” body
- Osteomugil speigleri (Bleeker 1858)**
patronym not identified but almost certainly in honor of Ludwig Speigler (1824-1893), who provided many of the illustrations in Bleeker’s *Atlas Ichthyologique des Orientales Néerlandaises*
- Parachelon Durand, Chen, Shen, Fu & Borsa 2012**
para-, near, allusion not explained, presumably referring to its placement next to *Chelon* on the authors’ phylogenetic tree
- Parachelon grandisquamis (Valenciennes 1836)**
grandis, large; *squamis*, scale, referring to larger scales, 26 or 28 along lateral line, compared to 45 on *Mugil cryptocheilus* (= *Chelon auratus*) and *Mugil plumieri* (= *cephalus*), its presumed congeners at the time
- Paramugil Ghasemzadeh, Ivantsoff & Aarn 2004**
para-, near; *Mugil*, genus in which both included species had previously been placed
- Paramugil georgii (Ogilby 1897)**
etymology not explained, perhaps referring to the Georges River, New South Wales, Australia, type locality
- Paramugil parmatus (Cantor 1849)**
shielded, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to large silvery-white scales covering (i.e., shielding) body
- Planiliza Whitley 1945**
planus, flat, presumably referring to “broad, flat and depressed” interorbital of *P. ordensis*; *Liza* (= *Chelon*), its presumed closest relative (see *Mugil liza* for etymology)
- Planiliza abu (Heckel 1843)**
from *Abu Sukkanajn*, Arabic name for this mullet in Mosul, Iraq, from *Abu*, father (i.e., possessor, or one with), and *sukkanajn*, anchor, probably referring to its toothed suborbital bone (per Heckel), or *abu*, a prefix particle denoting “an animal having or being like” and *sukka'nayn*, dual steering wheel or handle bars, referring to two dorsal (i.e., steering) fins (per Mikaili & Shayegh 2011, “An etymological review on fish common and scientific names in the Euphrates and Tigris”)
- Planiliza alata (Steindachner 1892)**
winged, presumably referring to prolonged and sickle-shaped ventral, anal, caudal and second dorsal fins
- Planiliza carinata (Valenciennes 1836)**
keeled, referring to predorsal scales in midline thickened and ridged to form a keel
- Planiliza haematocheila (Temminck & Schlegel 1845)**
blood-lipped, from *hematos*, bloody, and *cheilus*, lip, referring to “dirty purple” (translation) of lips of living specimens [often spelled as a nondeclinable noun, *hematocheilus*]
- Planiliza klunzingeri (Day 1888)**
in honor of German physician and zoologist Carl Benjamin Klunzinger (1834-1914), who pointed out that Day had incorrectly identified this mullet as *Mugil carinatus* (= *P. carinata*) in 1876
- Planiliza lauvergnii (Eydoux & Souleyet 1850)**
patronym not identified, probably in honor of Barthélemy Lauvergne (1805-1871), painter and draughtsman on voyage that collected type
- Planiliza macrolepis (Smith 1846)**
macro-, large; *lepis*, scale, referring to “very large and hard” scales of back and sides
- Planiliza mandapamensis (Thomson 1997)**
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Kilakarei, south of Mandapam, southern India, type locality
- Planiliza melinoptera (Valenciennes 1836)**
melinus, quince-yellow; *pterus*, fin, referring to lemon-yellow fins of living specimens, especially the caudal fin (based on manuscript description and illustration by Quoy & Gaimard)
- Planiliza ordensis (Whitley 1945)**
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Ord River, Western Australia, type locality (also occurs in New Guinea and Tonga)
- Planiliza planiceps (Valenciennes 1836)**
planus, flat; *ceps*, head, referring to its “extremely flattened” (translation) head

***Planiliza subviridis* (Valenciennes 1836)**

sub-, less than or somewhat; *viridis*, green, referring to its greenish-gray back

***Plicomugil* Schultz 1953**

plicatus, folded, referring to its folded and lobed lips; *mugil*, mullet

***Plicomugil labiosus* (Valenciennes 1836)**

large-lipped, referring to its fleshy lips

***Pseudomyxus* Durand, Chen, Shen, Fu & Borsa 2012**

pseudo-, false, i.e., although this genus may resemble *Myxus*, such an appearance is false

***Pseudomyxus capensis* (Valenciennes 1836)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, type locality

***Rhinomugil* Gill 1863**

rhino-, snout, “distinguished by [its] projecting rounded snout”; *mugil*, mullet

***Rhinomugil corsula* (Hamilton 1822)**

Latinization of *Khorsula*, local name for this mullet in West Bengal, India

***Sicamugil* Fowler 1939**

sica, dagger, referring to strongly spinate preorbital spine; *mugil*, mullet

***Sicamugil cascasia* (Hamilton 1822)**

presumably a local Gangetic name for this mullet [sometimes placed in *Minimugil* Senou 1988, proposed in an unpublished Ph.D. dissertation and therefore not available; authorship sometimes dated to Durand 2016, who cited Senou and provided some diagnostic traits of the genus, but name is not “explicitly indicated as intentionally new” (ICZN 16.1) and therefore remains unavailable]

***Sicamugil hamiltonii* (Day 1870)**

in honor of Francis Hamilton-Buchanan (1762-1829), Scottish physician and naturalist, who described the similar *S. cascasia* in 1822

***Squalomugil* Ogilby 1908**

squalus, shark, referring to flattened head and inferior mouth; *mugil*, mullet

***Squalomugil nasutus* (De Vis 1883)**

large-nosed, referring to its “rounded, sharp, [and] much produced” snout [sometimes placed in *Rhinomugil*]

***Trachystoma* Ogilby 1888**

trachys, rough; *stoma*, mouth, referring to vomer and palate furnished with distinct bands of villiform teeth (but jaws are toothless)

***Trachystoma petardi* (Castelnau 1875)**

in honor of Mr. Petard (forename not available), who sent fishes to Castelnau collected from the Richmond River, New South Wales, including type of this one