

The ETYFish Project

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COMMENTS: 

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Series ANABANTARIA

-aria, pertaining to: *Anabas*, i.e., anabantoid fishes

Order SYNBRANCHIFORMES

4 families · 18 genera · 142 species/subspecies

Suborder SYNBRANCHOIDEI

Family SYNBRANCHIDAE Swamp Eels

7 genera · 30 species

Macrotrema Regan 1912

macro-, long or large; *trema*, hole, referring to wide gill opening, “extending upwards above the middle of the side”

Macrotrema caligans (Cantor 1849)

groping about (i.e., with poor eyesight), presumably referring to its eyes, each one a “minute black speck”

Monopterus Lacepède 1800

mono, one; *pterus*, fin, referring to confluent dorsal, caudal and anal fins, and lack of pectoral and pelvic fins

Monopterus albus (Zuiew 1793)

white, possibly referring to a bleached-out museum specimen of *Synbranchus marmoratus* mistakenly applied to this Asian species (though it may have a whitish ventral region) [a senior synonym of the neotropical *S. marmoratus*; an ICZN decision is needed to protect the current usage of both names]

Monopterus bicolor Nguyen & Nguyen 2006

of two colors, back and upper 2/3 brown, belly and lower 1/3 pale white, unlike the monochromatic *M. albus*

Monopterus dienbienensis Nguyen & Nguyen 2006

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Dien Bien Province, Viêt Nam, only known area of occurrence

Monopterus javanensis Lacepède 1800

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Java, Indonesia, where type locality (Sunda Strait) is situated (but occurs throughout Southeast Asia)

Ophichthys Swainson 1839

ophis, snake, referring to snake-like appearance (i.e., body shape and absence of fins); *ichthys*, fish [also spelled “*Ophichthys*” in same work, apparently in error]

Ophichthys cuchia (Hamilton 1822)

local name for this species in India (also spelled “*kuchia*” and “*kunche*”)

Ophichthys desilvai (Bailey & Gans 1998)

in honor of herpetologist Pilippu Hewa Don Hemasiri de Silva (b. 1927), former director of the National Museums of Ceylon, for his personal hospitality and support to the junior author during field work in Sri Lanka (where this swamp eel is endemic), and for professional advice on local conditions and natural history

Ophichthys fossorius (Nair 1952)

fossorial or burrowing, discovered in “slushy mud” at a depth of 0.6-0.9 m in the paddy fields of a banana plantation, having “almost abandoned its aquatic habitat and taken to a burrowing mode of life” [authorship often but incorrectly attributed to “Nayar 1951”]

Ophichthys hodgarti (Chaudhuri 1913)

in honor of Richard Arthur Hodgart (1883-?), Zoological Collector, Zoological Survey of India, member of expedition during which type was collected

Ophichthys ichthyophoides (Britz, Lalremsanga, Lalrotluanga & Lalramliana 2011)

-oides, having the form of: referring to “striking superficial similarity” to large larvae of the caecilian genus *Ichthyophis*

Ophichthys indicus (Silas & Dawson 1961)

-icus, belonging to: India, where it is endemic

Ophichthys terricolus Britz, Standing, Gower & Kamei 2023

terra, soil; -*colus*, dwelling in, referring to its occurrence in inundated soil (mud)

Ophisternon McClelland 1844

ophis, serpent; *sternon*, chest, i.e., “the trunk is formed like that of a snake”



Typhlosynbranchus luticolus. From: Britz, R., T. M. Doherty-Bone, M. T. Kouete, D. Sykes and D. J. Gower. 2016. *Monopterus luticolus*, a new species of swamp eel from Cameroon (Teleostei: Synbranchidae). *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters* v. 27 (no. 4): 309-323.

***Ophisternon aenigmaticum* Rosen & Greenwood 1976**

something obscure, referring to “obscure” taxonomic history of swamp eels, which the chance discovery of this species, previously assigned to an unrelated species, prompted the authors to resolve

***Ophisternon afrum* (Boulenger 1909)**

African, the first species of the family known from Africa

***Ophisternon bengalense* McClelland 1844**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Bengal, India, type locality, “where it is rather common”

***Ophisternon berlini* Arroyave, Angulo, Mar-Silva & Stiassny 2024**

in honor of Erick Berlin, “a strong supporter of conservation and scientific research of Costa Rican biodiversity,” who first encountered this species and owns the nature reserve where it lives

***Ophisternon candidum* (Mees 1962)**

shining white, described as being a “very striking pure white” in life (with a “faint pinkish tone” on captured specimens, presumably caused by damage of small blood vessels as a result of its capture”; recent photographs show a pinkish-red coloration)

***Ophisternon gutturale* (Richardson 1845)**

of the throat, referring to its single branchial opening, a “transverse slit on the throat, without a septum”

***Ophisternon infernale* (Hubbs 1938)**

underground, referring to its cave habitat

***Rakthamichthys* Britz, Dahanukar & Standing 2020**

raktham, Malayalam word for blood, referring to blood-red color in life of all species; *ichthys*, fish

***Rakthamichthys digressus* (Gopi 2002)**

deviation, referring to its “being different from other closely resembling species” (e.g., *R. indicus* and *R. roseni*)

***Rakthamichthys indicus* (Eapen 1963)**

Indian, presumed at the time to be the only known species of *Monopterus* (original genus) occurring in India [since this species is now in *Rakthamichthys*, the name is no longer preoccupied in *Monopterus* by *Ophichthys indicus*; a 1991 replacement name, *Monopterus eapeni*, is now a junior synonym]

***Rakthamichthys mumba* Praveenraj, Thackeray, Mohapatra & Pavan-Kumar 2021**

named for Mumbai City, Maharashtra, India, type locality (*mumba* originated from Marathi, an official language spoken by the people of Maharashtra, honoring the Maha Amba or Mumba Aai, the patron goddess worshipped by city inhabitants)

***Rakthamichthys rongsaw* (Britz, Sykes, Gower & Kamei 2018)**

Khasi (indigenous ethnic group in northeastern India) word meaning red, referring to blood-red color in life

***Rakthamichthys roseni* (Bailey & Gans 1998)**

in honor of the late Donn E. Rosen (1929-1986), American Museum of Natural History, “accomplished ichthyologist, discerning student of the Synbranchidae, and personal friend and associate” of both authors; he was a field companion of the senior author during five expeditions to Guatemala, “where the many memorable months of ichthyological research included field investigation of two species of synbranchids”

***Synbranchus* Bloch 1795**

syn-, together; *branchus*, gill, referring to gill openings confluent in a narrow slit

***Synbranchus lampreia* Favorito, Zanata & Assumpção 2005**

lampreia, Portuguese word for lamprey, local name for this fish at ilha de Marajó (Pará, Brazil), type locality

***Synbranchus madeirae* Rosen & Rumney 1972**
of the Río Madeira basin, Bolivia, where it is endemic

***Synbranchus marmoratus* Bloch 1795**
marbled, referring to its brownish, variously marbled (but sometimes immaculate) coloration [a junior synonym of the Asian *Monopterus albus*, described from South America (possibly Suriname) but mistakenly applied to an Asian species; an ICZN decision is needed to protect the current usage of both names]

***Synbranchus royal* Sabaj, Arce H. & Sousa 2022**
in honor of American ichthyologist Tyson Royal Roberts (b. 1940), “who with a little help from his friends and colleagues has examined more *Synbranchus* specimens than all other ichthyologists combined” [a noun in apposition, without the genitive “i”]

***Typhlosynbranchus* Pellegrin 1922**
typhlos, blind, referring to absence of eyes, i.e., a blind *Synbranchus* or synbranchid fish

***Typhlosynbranchus boueti* Pellegrin 1922**
in honor of Georges Théodore Louis Bouët (1869-1957), army physician, ornithologist and colonial administrator, who served as French Chargé d’Affaires and French Consul in Monrovia, Liberia (type locality) and supplied specimens to the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle (Paris), including type of this species

***Typhlosynbranchus luticolus* (Britz, Doherty-Bone, Kouete, Sykes & Gower 2016)**
lutus, mud; *-colus*, living among, referring to its habitat

Suborder MASTACEMBELOIDEI

Family CHAUDHURIIDAE Earthworm Eels

7 genera · 11 species

***Bihunichthys* Kottelat & Lim 1994**
Bihun, English transcription of *Bee Hoon* (Hokien Chinese), a kind of very slender noodle, referring to its general shape or appearance; *ichthys*, fish

***Bihunichthys monopteroideis* Kottelat & Lim 1994**
-oides, having the form of: juvenile *Monopterus albus* (Synbranchidae), with which this species was initially confused; also refers to false impression that its unpaired fins are fused into a single fin (*mono*, one; *pterus*, fin) and caudal fin reduced to a single ray

***Chaudhuria* Annandale 1918**
-ia, belonging to: friend and colleague B. L. Chaudhuri (d. 1931), Assistant Superintendent, Indian Museum, to whom Annandale was “indebted for considerable assistance” in the preparation of this paper on the fishes of Inlé Lake, southern Shan States, Myanmar

***Chaudhuria caudata* Annandale 1918**
tailed, believed at the time to be the only true eel (Anguilliformes) with a caudal fin

***Chaudhuria fusipinnis* Kottelat & Britz 2000**
fusio, fusion; *pinnis*, fin, referring to continuous dorsal, anal and caudal fins

***Chaudhuria ritvae* Britz 2010**
in honor of Britz’ wife Ritva Roesler (b. 1970), Finnish artist and scientific illustrator, who helped collect the species, honoring her continuing support of his work on Myanmar freshwater fishes

***Chendol* Kottelat & Lim 1994**
chendol (also spelled *condol*), an iced, sweet dessert in Malaysia and Singapore that contains noodles of worm-like, green, rice-flour jelly, referring to the distribution and shape of these worm-like fishes

***Chendol keelini* Kottelat & Lim 1994**
in honor of carcinologist Peter Kee Lin Ng, National University of Singapore, for his support of the authors and many other researchers of Southeast Asian aquatic biology

***Chendol lubricus* Kottelat & Lim 1994**
slippery, slick or lubricated, referring to thick mucus layer that makes this species very difficult to grasp and handle, in life as well as preserved

***Garo* Yazdani & Talwar 1981**
named for Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, India, where the only known species occurs

***Garo khajuriai* (Talwar, Yazdani & Kundu 1977)**
in honor of zoologist H. Khajuria (d. 1982), Zoological Survey of India, who collected type

***Nagaichthys* Kottelat & Lim 1991**
Naga, Malay name meaning dragon, referring to stylized Chinese dragons that have a tail shaped like the caudal fin of this genus; *ichthys*, fish

***Nagaichthys filipes* Kottelat & Lim 1991**

filum, thread; *pes*, foot, referring to filamentous pectoral fin, consisting of a single ray [in most other fish names, *cheir*, hand, refers to the pectoral fin and *pes*, foot, refers to the ventral or pelvic fin]

***Pillaia Yazdani* 1972**

-*ia*, belonging to: R. Sridharan Pillai, Eastern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India (where type specimens are kept)

***Pillaia indica* Yazdani 1972**

Indian, referring to country where it is endemic

***Pillaia kachinica* Kullander, Britz & Fang 2000**

-*ia*, belonging to: Kachin State, Myanmar, type locality

***Pillaibrachia* Britz 2016**

Pillaia, referring to superficial resemblance with that genus; *a-*, without and *brachia*, arm, referring to lack of pectoral fins

***Pillaibrachia siniae* Britz 2016**

in honor of Britz's daughter Sini, a "remarkable little girl," for supporting her father's fieldwork with "patience and understanding"

Family MASTACEMBELIDAE Freshwater Spiny Eels

3 genera · 100 species

***Macrogathus* Lacepède 1800**

macro-, long or large; *gnathus*, jaw, referring to "very advanced and horn-shaped" upper jaw (i.e., snout or rostrum)

***Macrogathus aculeatus* (Bloch 1786)**

spined, referring to numerous small spines on back in front of dorsal fin

***Macrogathus albus* Plamoottil & Abraham 2014**

white, referring to its "dirty white" sides

***Macrogathus aral* (Bloch & Schneider 1801)**

local name for this fish at Tranquebar (now Tharangambadi), Tamil Nadu, India (also called Mono-arel and Arel)

***Macrogathus aureus* Britz 2010**

golden, referring to its golden-brown coloration

***Macrogathus caudicellatus* (Boulenger 1893)**

caudi-, tail; *ocellatus*, having little eyes, referring to series of black ocelli or eyespots with yellowish centers along caudal fin

***Macrogathus circumcinctus* (Hora 1924)**

circum, around; *cinctus*, belt or girdle, referring to dark brown bands encircling head and body

***Macrogathus dorsicellatus* Britz 2010**

dorsum, back; *ocellatus*, having little eyes, referring to series of ocelli or eyespots along dorsal fin

***Macrogathus fasciatus* Plamoottil & Abraham 2014**

banded, referring to vertical stripes on sides

***Macrogathus guentheri* (Day 1865)**

in honor of ichthyologist-herpetologist Albert Günther (1830-1914); in enumerating the fishes of Cochin (now Kochi), India, Day wrote, "I shall take Dr. Günther's most valuable ["Catalogue of the fishes in the British Museum"] as my text-book, adhere to his arrangement, and as closely as possible make use of the names he has appropriated to each species."

***Macrogathus keithi* (Herre 1940)**

in honor of Henry George Keith (1899-1982), Conservator of Forests for British North Borneo, for his hospitality and aid during Herre's trips to Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia

***Macrogathus kris* Ng & Tan 2020**

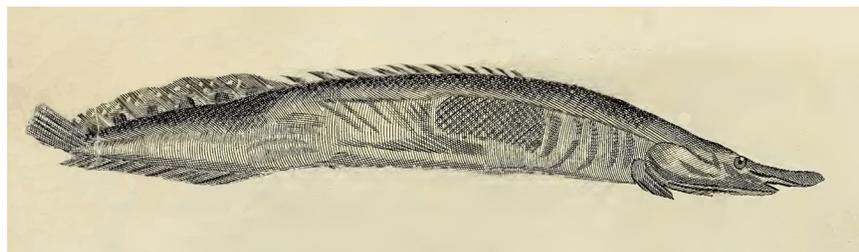
kris, a wavy-bladed dagger carried and used by Indonesian nobility and warriors (species occurs in Borneo, Kalimantan Tengah), referring to wavy or zigzag pattern on body and its general resting posture when viewed from above

***Macrogathus lineatomaculatus* Britz 2010**

lineatus, striped or lined; *maculatus*, spotted or blotched, referring to row of blotches along dorsal-fin base and sometimes along middle of body

***Macrogathus maculatus* (Cuvier 1832)**

spotted, referring to 14-15 black spots on each side of dorsal-fin base (although they are difficult to distinguish



Macrognathus pentophthalmus. From: Willughby, F. 1686. *Historia piscium*. Oxford: Theatro Sheldoniano. Vol. 1: 1-343 + 1-30 + 12 unnumbered pp., 104 pls. [Name first appeared and species first described in this publication; perhaps the earliest illustration of a mastacembelid.]

on the fish's dark-brown body) and/or 17-18 black spots along anal-fin base

***Macrognathus mekongensis* Roberts 1986**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Mekong River basin, Thailand, where it is endemic

***Macrognathus morehensis* Arunkumar & Tombi Singh 2000**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Moreh Bazar, Chandel district, Manipur, India, near where type locality (Maklang River) is situated (also occurs in Bhutan)

***Macrognathus obscurus* Britz 2010**

inconspicuous, referring to lack of prominent dorsal-fin ocelli or eyespots otherwise typical of the *M. aculeatus* group

***Macrognathus orthosemos* Britz & Kottelat 2020**

with vertical stripes, referring to series of oblique bars on body

***Macrognathus pancalus* Hamilton 1822**

presumably a latinization of Pangkal, Assamese name for this spiny eel in India (also occurs in Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh)

***Macrognathus pavo* Britz 2010**

peacock, referring to numerous black spots on body and along dorsal and anal fins, like the spots on peacock feathers

***Macrognathus pentophthalmos* (Gronow 1854)**

pente, five; *ophthalmos*, eye, referring to 5 (but varying from 4-9) dark-brown, white-edged ocelli or eye-like spots at dorsal-fin base; name dates to Willughby (1686) but description dates to 1763 ms. by Gronow posthumously published in 1854 [species last seen in 1980, presumably now extinct for unknown reasons]

***Macrognathus semiocellatus* Roberts 1986**

semi-, half; *ocellatus*, having little eyes, presumably referring to “traces” of ocelli or eyespots along dorsal-fin base

***Macrognathus siamensis* (Günther 1861)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Siam, or Thailand, type locality (also occurs in Laos, Cambodia and Viêt Nam, established in Florida, USA)

***Macrognathus tapirus* Kottelat & Widjanarti 2005**

tapir, herbivorous mammal with a short, prehensile nose trunk, alluding to this spiny eel's long snout [replacement name for *Mastacembelus paucispinis* Fowler 1939, preoccupied by *M. paucispinis* Boulenger 1899]

***Macrognathus zebrinus* (Blyth 1858)**

zebra-like, referring to pattern of dusky transverse stripes on body, much like a zebra's

Mastacembelus Scopoli 1777

etymology unknown, perhaps *mastax*, mouth or jaw and *embolus*, peg or wedge or *belos*, arrow or spear, possibly referring to sharp or pointed jaws of equal length (“maxillis subacutis aequalibus”) [non-Linnaean name coined by Gronow in 1763 and made available as a genus with no included species by Scopoli; name treated as a specific epithet by Banks & Solandar in 1794 (see *M. mastacembelus*), which later created a seemingly unintentional tautonym when their species was placed in *Mastacembelus*]

***Mastacembelus alboguttatus* Boulenger 1893**

albus, white; *guttatus*, spotted, referring to round white spots on body and fins

***Mastacembelus albomaculatus* Poll 1953**

albus, white; *maculatus*, spotted, referring to round (more or less) white spots over entire body

***Mastacembelus ansorgii* Boulenger 1905**

in honor of explorer William John Ansorge (1850-1913), who collected type

***Mastacembelus apectoralis* Brown, Britz, Bills, Rüber & Day 2011**

a-, without; *pectoralis*, pectoral, referring to absence of pectoral fins

***Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacepède 1800)**

armed with a weapon, referring to 33 spines in front of dorsal fin

***Mastacembelus aviceps* Roberts & Stewart 1976**

avis, bird; *ceps*, head, allusion not explained; based on photograph accompanying description, name could refer to bird- or beak-like shape of head

***Mastacembelus batesii* Boulenger 1911**

in honor of George Latimer Bates (1863-1940), farmer and ornithologist who lived in Cameroon and collected specimens for the Natural History Museum (London), including type of this species

***Mastacembelus binhluensis* Vu, Nguyen & Nguyen 2019**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Binh Lu, Tam Dưòng, Lai Châu, northern Việt Nam, type locality

***Mastacembelus brachyrhinus* Boulenger 1899**

brachys, short; *rhinus*, nose, referring to snout ending in an “exceedingly short” (translation) trifold appendage measuring $\sim\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of eye, shorter than rostral appendage of *M. marmoratus* (=niger) and *M. tanganicae*

***Mastacembelus brichardi* (Poll 1958)**

in honor of aquarium-fish exporter Pierre Brichard (1921-1990), who provided type

***Mastacembelus catchpolei* Fowler 1936**

in honor of Capt. Geoffrey Catchpole, big-game hunter, Njiana Farm near Bunia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, who collected type

***Mastacembelus congicus* Boulenger 1896**

-icus, belonging to: upper Congo River basin of Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo), type locality (also occurs in Cameroon, Angola, Central African Republic, Zambia, and possibly Chad)

***Mastacembelus crassus* Roberts & Stewart 1976**

wide, referring to “very thick” head and body of both juveniles and adults

***Mastacembelus cryptacanthus* Günther 1867**

cryptos, hidden; *acanthus*, spine, referring to “small and feeble” dorsal spines, “almost hidden in the skin”

***Mastacembelus cunningtoni* Boulenger 1906**

in honor of William Alfred Cunnington (1877-1958), British zoologist and anthropologist, who led Tanganyika expedition that collected type

***Mastacembelus decorsei* Pellegrin 1919**

in honor of the late Gaston-Jules Decorse (1873-1907), French Army physician and naturalist, Pellegrin’s friend and colleague, and member of the Auguste Chevalier expedition, representing the first ichthyological collection from the Chari River in Chad (although this species was collected in the Central African Republic)

***Mastacembelus dictyon* Britz & Kottelat 2025**

diktyon (δίκτυον), a casting net, referring to network of dark interconnected lines on body

***Mastacembelus dienbienensis* Nguyen & Nguyen 2006**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Dien Bien Phu city, Dien Bien province, Việt Nam, type locality (but types now lost)

***Mastacembelus ellipsifer* Boulenger 1899**

ellipsis, ellipse (oval shape); *fero*, to carry or bear, referring to 12 brown elliptical bands, darker at the edges, across back

***Mastacembelus erythrotaenia* Bleeker 1850**

erythros, red; *taenia*, ribbon or band, referring to several bright-red lateral stripes on body, giving the “Fire Eel” its name in the aquarium trade

***Mastacembelus favus* Hora 1924**

honeycomb, presumably referring to color pattern, consisting of a “network of wide dark meshes enclosing between them circular or elliptical whitish areas”

***Mastacembelus flavidus* Matthes 1962**

yellowish, referring to coloration in life: body entirely yellow or gray-yellowish with golden reflections, ventral regions cream-colored or pale yellow, the head and nape of a yellowish gray

***Mastacembelus flavomarginatus* Boulenger 1898**

flavus, yellow; *marginatus*, edged or bordered, referring to dark-brown or black anal and dorsal fins of adults edged in yellow

***Mastacembelus frenatus* Boulenger 1901**

bridled, referring to dark streak on each side of head, passing through eye

***Mastacembelus goro* Boulenger 1902**

local name for this spiny eel at Ubangi River, Banzyville (now Mobayi-Mbongo), Democratic Republic of the Congo, type locality

***Mastacembelus greshoffi* Boulenger 1901**

in honor of Anton Greshoff (1856-1905), Dutch trader and collector, who collected type

***Mastacembelus kadeiensis* Roberts 2021**

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: Kadei River, Congo basin, 30 km west-northwest of Nola, Congo basin, Central African Republic Central African Republic, type locality

***Mastacembelus kakrimensis* Vreven & Teugels 2005**

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: Kakrima River, major tributary of the Konkoure River basin, Guinea, type locality

***Mastacembelus latens* Roberts & Stewart 1976**

hidden, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its “weakly cryptophthalmic” eyes (*cryptos*=hidden)

***Mastacembelus leucostictus* Endruweit 2025**

white-spotted, from *leukós* (λευκός), white, and *stiktós* (στικτός), marked or spotted, referring to white spots on unpaired fins

***Mastacembelus liberiensis* Boulenger 1898**

-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: Liberia, type locality (also occurs in Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Ivory Coast)

***Mastacembelus loennbergii* Boulenger 1898**

in honor of Swedish zoologist Einar Lönnberg (1865-1942), who reported this species as *M. cryptacanthus* in 1895

***Mastacembelus malabaricus* Jerdon 1849**

-*icus*, belonging to: Malabar (i.e., southern India), referring to type locality in Kerala

***Mastacembelus marchei* Sauvage 1879**

in honor of naturalist Antonine-Alfred Marche (1844-1898), who collected specimens (including type of this species) from the Ogooué (Ogowé) River in Gabon (type locality) under the command of French explorer Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza

***Mastacembelus mastacembelus* (Banks & Solander 1794)**

presumably based on “*Mastacembelus*,” a non-Linnaean name coined by Gronow (1763) and made available as a genus with no included species by Scopoli (1777); etymology unknown, perhaps *mastax*, mouth or jaw and *embolus*, peg or wedge or *belos*, arrow or spear, possibly referring to sharp or pointed jaws of equal length (see genus, above) [*Ophidium simack* Walbaum 1792, derived from *simak*, local name for his spiny eel in Aleppo, Syria, is a senior synonym but treated as a *nomen oblitum* by Eschmeyer’s Catalog of Fishes]

***Mastacembelus micropectus* Matthes 1962**

micro-, small; *pectus*, pectoral, referring to its vestigial pectoral fins

***Mastacembelus moorii* Boulenger 1898**

in honor of its discoverer, John Edmund Sharrock Moore (1870-1947), cytologist, zoologist and Tanganyika expedition leader

***Mastacembelus niger* Sauvage 1879**

black or blackish, presumably referring to uniform brownish coloration

***Mastacembelus nigromarginatus* Boulenger 1898**

nigro-, black; *marginatus*, bordered or edged, referring to dorsal and anal fins edged in brown or black

***Mastacembelus notophthalmus* Roberts 1989**

noto-, mark; *ophthalmus*, eye, i.e., eye mark, referring to dark bar extending below eye in almost all specimens

***Mastacembelus oatesii* Boulenger 1893**

in honor of civil servant (in India and Burma) and amateur ornithologist Eugene William Oates (1845-1911), who collected type

***Mastacembelus ophidium* Günther 1894**

ophis, snake, i.e., a small snake, presumably referring to snake-like appearance; *-idium*, diminutive connoting resemblance

***Mastacembelus pani* Endruweit 2024**

in honor of Pan Xiaofu, Kuming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, co-collector of the type series

***Mastacembelus pantherinus* Britz 2007**

like a panther, referring to numerous spots on body

***Mastacembelus paucispinis* Boulenger 1899**

paucus, few; *spinis*, spine, referring to fewer dorsal spines (7) compared to congeners in the Congo (17-39)

***Mastacembelus plagiostomus* Matthes 1962**

plagio, oblique; *stoma*, mouth, presumably referring to its inferior mouth

***Mastacembelus platysoma* Poll & Matthes 1962**

platy, flat; *soma*, body, presumably referring to “very high and compressed” (translation) body

***Mastacembelus polli* Vreven 2005**

in honor of Belgian ichthyologist Max Poll (1908-1991), who “pioneered” ichthyological studies at Lake Tanganyika and who first suggested that this species might be new in 1953

***Mastacembelus praensis* (Travers 1992)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: tributary of Pra River, Ghana, type locality

***Mastacembelus reygeli* Vreven & Snoeks 2009**

in honor of Alain Reygel (b. 1956), scientific illustrator, Musée Royal de l’Afrique Centrale (Tervuren, Belgium), for his numerous “beautiful” drawings of African fishes

***Mastacembelus robertsi* (Vreven & Teugels 1996)**

in honor of ichthyologist Tyson R. Roberts (b. 1940), who collected part of the type material and first suggested this species might be new to science

***Mastacembelus sanagali* Thys van den Audenaerde 1972**

of the Sanaga River basin, Cameroon, where it is endemic

***Mastacembelus seiteri* Thys van den Audenaerde 1972**

in honor of A. Seiter, ferry operator on the Sanaga River at Nachtigal, Cameroon (type locality); described as a long-term resident of the area, he was a keen angler, familiar with river’s biotopes, immediately took an interest in the author’s research, and collected type of *M. sanagali*

***Mastacembelus sexdecimspinus* (Roberts & Travers 1986)**

sexdecim, 16; *spinus*, spine, referring to number of dorsal spines of most specimens (some have 15)

***Mastacembelus shiloangoensis* (Vreven 2004)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Shiloango River basin, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola, where it appears to be endemic

***Mastacembelus shiranus* Günther 1896**

-anus, belonging to: upper Shiré River, between lakes Malawi and Malombe, type locality (also occurs in Lake Malawi)

***Mastacembelus simbi* Vreven & Stiassny 2009**

simbi (plural: *basimbi*), a Kikongo word meaning “water spirit,” once considered as ancient ancestors in the Bakongo region of the Congo River, where this spiny eel is endemic

***Mastacembelus strigiventus* Zhou & Yang 2011**

striga, stripe or streak; *ventus*, venter or abdomen, referring to longitudinal brown line from isthmus to anus on abdomen, sometimes forming a network of lines

***Mastacembelus taiaensis* (Travers 1992)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: tributary of Taia River at Yele, Sierra Leone, type locality

***Mastacembelus tanganyicae* Günther 1894**

of Lake Tanganyika, where it is endemic

***Mastacembelus thacbaensis* Nguyen, Nguyen & Ngo 2006**

-ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: Thac Ba Lake, Yen Binh district, Yen Bai Province, Vietnam, type locality

***Mastacembelus tinwini* Britz 2007**

in honor of U Tin Win, Myanmarese aquarist and aquarium-fish exporter, for his “help in the field and the gift of specimens”

***Mastacembelus traversi* (Vreven & Teugels 1997)**

in honor of spiny eel taxonomist Robert A. Travers, associated with both the British Museum (Natural History) and the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle (Paris); he was the first to tentatively recognize part of the type material as a new species

***Mastacembelus triolobus* Zhou & Yang 2011**

tri-, three; *lobus*, lobe, referring to nearly separated dorsal, anal and caudal fins, which in outline look like three lobes

***Mastacembelus trispinosus* Steindachner 1911**

tri-, three; *spinosus*, spiny, referring to three preopercular spines

***Mastacembelus truttoides* Endruweit 2024**

-oides, having the form of: *trutta*, Latin for trout, referring to color pattern on upper half of sides, resembling that

of the Brown Trout *Salmo trutta*

***Mastacembelus ubangipaucispinis* Roberts 2021**

ubangi, referring to Ubangi River, Congo basin, Ubangi, Central African Republic, type locality; *paucus*, few, and *spinis*, spine, referring to unusually low count (10) of dorsal-fin spines for a mastacembelid

***Mastacembelus undulatus* (McClelland 1843)**

wavy or undulating, referring to “broad undulating dark line, which extends along each side, sending off at every undulation a branch to the back, which meets a corresponding branch from the opposite side”

***Mastacembelus unicolor* Cuvier 1832**

uni-, one, referring to uniform red-brown coloration

***Mastacembelus vanderwaali* Skelton 1976**

in honor Ben C. W. Van der Waal, Senior Professional Officer in Charge of Fisheries, Eastern Caprivi Government Service, who submitted “Valuable systematic collections” of fishes from the Caprivi area (Botswana, Namibia, Angola), including this spiny eel

***Mastacembelus zebratus* Matthes 1962**

zebra-like, presumably referring to black bands on back and upper $\frac{2}{3}$ of body

Sinobdella Kottelat & Lim 1994

Sino-, of Sinica (China), referring to distribution of *S. sinensis*; *bdella*, leach or sucker, but in this case an abridgement of *Rhynchobdella* Bloch & Schneider 1801 (= *Macrogathus*), genus in which *S. sinensis* had been placed

***Sinobdella anguillaris* (Mori 1928)**

Latin for eel-like, referring to its body shape, “elongate, much compressed, gradually tapering towards the pointed tail”

***Sinobdella kobayashii* (Oshima 1926)**

in honor of Hikoshiro Kobayashi, head of the Shiga Prefectural Fisheries Experiment Station, where Oshima was working at the time

***Sinobdella longitubulus* Shan & Zhang 2024**

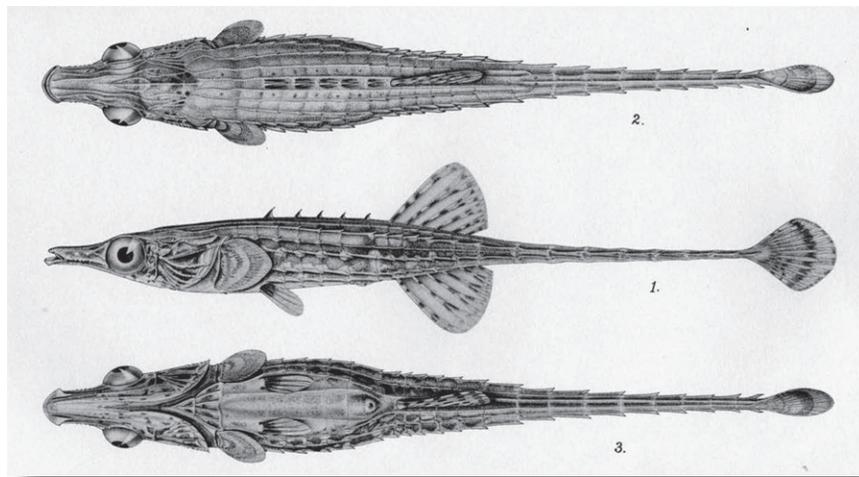
longus, long; *tubulus*, pipe, referring to two tubular anterior nostrils longer than or equal to (vs. shorter than) the rostral appendage (possibly a junior synonym of *S. magnificus*)

***Sinobdella magnificus* Endruweit 2024**

Latin for splendid or magnificent, referring to its “appealing” appearance

***Sinobdella sinensis* (Bleeker 1870)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: described from Sinica (China), where it occurs in the Yellow, Yangtze, Pearl and Red River basins



Indostomus paradoxus. From: Prashad, B. and D. D. Mukerji. 1929. The fish of the Indawgyi Lake and the streams of the Myitkyina District (Upper Burma). *Records of the Indian Museum* (Calcutta) v. 31 (pt 3): 161-223, Pls. 7-10.

Suborder INDOSTOMOIDEI

Family INDOSTOMIDAE Armored Sticklebacks

Indostomus Prashad & Mukerji 1929

etymology not explained, perhaps *Indo-*, Indian, referring to type locality in Burma (now Myanmar), then part of British India; *stomus*, mouth, but possibly referring to its presumed closest relative at the time, the pipefish genus *Solenostomus* (Syngnathiformes: Solenostomidae), i.e., an Indian *Solenostomus*

Indostomus crocodilus Britz & Kottelat 1999

crocodile, referring to its resemblance to the reptile in overall appearance

Indostomus paradoxus Prashad & Mukerji 1929

strange or contrary to expectation, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to the unexpected presence of what the authors believed is a “marine relict” pipefish (Syngnathiformes) living in an inland freshwater lake in Burma (now Myanmar), and/or to its unusual combination of characters (e.g., small tubular mouth of a pipefish, dorsal spines of a stickleback)

Indostomus spinosus Britz & Kottelat 1999

spiny, referring to serrated edges of head bones, giving it a spiny appearance