

The ETYFish Project

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COMMENTS: 

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Order CICHLIFORMES (part 1 of 10)

Family CICHLIDAE Cichlids (part 1 of 7)

Subfamily Etroplinae

3 genera · 17 species

***Etroplus* Cuvier 1830**

etron, belly; [*h*]*oplon*, armor, referring to prominent anal-fin spines

***Etroplus canarensis* Day 1877**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: South Canara, southwestern India, type locality

***Etroplus suratensis* (Bloch 1790)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Surat, India, type locality (also occurs in Sri Lanka; introduced in Singapore)

***Paretroplus* Bleeker 1868**

para-, near, i.e., similar to *Etroplus* but distinguished by its dentition

***Paretroplus dambabe* Sparks 2002**

compound Malagasy word (pronounced *dambah bay*): *damba*, originally used by Merina fish traders for a number of species of *Paretroplus* in northwestern Madagascar; *be*, large, referring to large size relative to most congeners

***Paretroplus damii* Bleeker 1868**

in honor of Dutch explorer and naturalist Douwe Casparus van Dam (1827-1898), who collected type with Dutch naturalist and merchant François Pollen (1842-1888) [see *Paratilapia polleni*, below]

***Paretroplus gymnopreopercularis* Sparks 2008**

gymnos, bare or naked, referring to scaleless preopercle

***Paretroplus kieneri* Arnoult 1960**

in honor of André Kiener, French fisheries researcher who conducted numerous studies in Madagascar in the 1950s and 1960s and provided type specimens (he also co-described *P. maculatus*)

***Paretroplus lamenabe* Sparks 2008**

compound Malagasy word: *lamena*, red one; *be*, large, referring to both coloration in life and large size relative to members of its sister clade, *P. tsimoly* and *P. nourissati*

***Paretroplus loisellei* Sparks & Schelly 2011**

in honor of Paul V. Loiselle (1945–2025), Emeritus Curator of Freshwater Fishes at the New York Aquarium, for directing the authors' attention to this new taxon, and for his efforts to document, preserve, and educate the public regarding Madagascar's unique and severely threatened freshwater ichthyofauna

***Paretroplus maculatus* Kiener & Maugé 1966**

spotted, referring to black humeral spot, which gets bigger as fish gets older

***Paretroplus maromandia* Sparks & Reinthal 1999**

Maromandia, town and general region in northwestern Madagascar, type locality (from the Malagasy *maro-*, many, and *-mandia*, "to tread on or to go on a way [=journey]")

***Paretroplus menarambo* Allgayer 1996**

local Malagasy name for this cichlid (*mea*, red; *rambo*, tail), referring to vivid red caudal-fin margin of mature specimens

***Paretroplus nourissati* (Allgayer 1998)**

in honor of cichlid aquarist and collector Jean Claude Nourissat (1942-2003), who risked his life looking for new species in Madagascar, including this one (he died from malaria three days after returning from his last trip there)

***Paretroplus petiti* Pellegrin 1929**

in honor of zoologist-anatomist Georges Petit (1892-1973), Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris), who collected type

***Paretroplus polyactis* Bleeker 1878**

poly, many; *actis*, ray, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to more soft anal-fin rays (13-16) compared to *P. damii* (11-12), the only other species known at the time (Sparks [2008] interprets *actis* to mean ray [of light] or sunbeam, probably referring to reddish, orange and brown coloration in life)



Paretroplus nourissati. From: Allgayer, R. 1998. Descriptions de *Lamena nourissati* sp. n. genre et espèce nouveaux, endémiques de Madagascar (Teleostei: Etroplinae). *Revue française des Cichlidophiles* No. 179: 7-17.

***Paretroplus risengi* Stiassny, Chakrabarty & Loisel 2001**

in honor of limnologist Karen J. Riseng, who collected holotype with the first author on their initial trip to Madagascar in 1994 as graduate students, for her “immense help and support in the field on that and subsequent expeditions to document the poorly known freshwater ecosystems and ichthyofauna of Madagascar” [preferably spelled *risengae* since name honors a woman, but ICZN 32.5.1 forbids such a correction]

***Paretroplus tsimoly* Sparks & Sparks 2025**

Malagasy name (pronounced *tsee-mool*) for this cichlid in the Sakalava dialect spoken in the Akalimilotrabe region of Madagascar, type locality

***Pseudetroplus* Bleeker 1862**

pseudo-, false, i.e., although similar to *Etroplus*, such an appearance is false

***Pseudetroplus maculatus* (Bloch 1795)**

spotted, allusion not explained, referring to rows of small orange spots on body and/or 2-5 large sooty spots on sides

Subfamily Ptychochrominae Malagasy Cichlids

5 genera · 16 species

***Katria* Stiassny & Sparks 2006**

tautonymous with *Ptychochromoides katria*

***Katria katria* (Reinthal & Stiassny 1997)**

local name for this cichlid in the Marolambo region of eastern Madagascar, type locality

***Oxylapia* Kiener & Maugé 1966**

oxy, sharp or pointed, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to slender, elongate body (an adaptation to living in swift water); *-lapia*, perhaps referring to relationship with *Paratilapia* or to *tilapia*, latinization of *!api*, !Kung word for fish (“!” pronounced as a click, transcribed as “*ti*”), often used as a catch-all term for African cichlids

***Oxylapia polli* Kiener & Maugé 1966**

in honor of Belgian ichthyologist Max Poll (1908-1991), who studied African cichlids and guided the authors’ research

***Paratilapia* Bleeker 1868**

para-, near, allusion not explained, presumably referring to its similarity to and/or presumed relationship with *Tilapia* (although Bleeker regarded it closest to *Hemichromis*, now in Pseudocrenilabrinae)

***Paratilapia polleni* Bleeker 1868**

in honor of Dutch naturalist and merchant François Pollen (1842-1888), who collected type with Dutch explorer and naturalist Douwe Casparus van Dam (1827-1898) [see *Paretroplus damii*, above]

***Ptychochromis* Steindachner 1880**

ptycho, fold or flap, presumably referring to compressed lamellar flap on first gill arch of *P. oligacanthus*; *Chromis* (now in Pomacentridae but historically included many African cichlids), referring to similar dentition to that genus

***Ptychochromis curvidens* Stiassny & Sparks 2006**

curvus, curve; *dens*, teeth, referring to its apomorphically recurved oral jaw dentition

***Ptychochromis ernestmagnusi* Sparks & Stiassny 2010**

in honor of Ernest Magnus (1908-1983), at the request of the family of Rudolf G. Arndt, a German-American marine biologist and ichthyologist, whose “generous gift” supported the authors’ research (Magnus was Arndt’s

uncle and was instrumental in helping Arndt's family survive in Berlin after World War II and then immigrate to New York City in 1950, providing food, clothing, shelter, love, many kindnesses and moral support; R. G. Arndt, pers. comm.) [note: the authors misspelled Arndt's first name as "Rudolph"]

***Ptychochromis grandidieri* Sauvage 1882**

in honor of French naturalist and explorer Alfred Grandidier (1836-1921), who, along with Henri Joseph Léon Humblot (1852-1914), collected type

***Ptychochromis inornatus* Sparks 2002**

plain or unadorned, referring to lack of lateral spotting or barring and overall plain appearance

***Ptychochromis insolitus* Stiassny & Sparks 2006**

unusual, odd or queer, referring to its "somewhat atypical appearance" compared to congeners (e.g., shallow bodied) and the "anomalous morphology" of the aquarium-raised specimens examined in the authors' study (e.g., absence of a "free" second epibranchial toothplate, a diagnostic feature of the genus)

***Ptychochromis loisellei* Stiassny & Sparks 2006**

in honor of Paul V. Loiselle, Emeritus Curator of Freshwater Fishes at the New York Aquarium, who collected type, for his many contributions to the understanding and conservation of Madagascar's freshwater fishes

***Ptychochromis mainty* Martinez, Arroyave & Sparks 2015**

Malagasy word for black, referring to its uniform dark pigmentation pattern in alcohol and large black midlateral blotch in life

***Ptychochromis makira* Stiassny & Sparks 2006**

named for the Makira region of northeastern Madagascar, where it appears to be endemic

***Ptychochromis oligacanthus* (Bleeker 1868)**

oligos, few; *acanthus*, spine, referring to reduced number of dorsal-fin spines compared to presumed congeners in *Tilapia* known at the time

***Ptychochromis onilahy* Stiassny & Sparks 2006**

named for the Onilahy River, southwestern Madagascar, only known area of occurrence

***Ptychochromoides* Kiener & Maugé 1966**

-oides, having the form of: referring to similarity to (and previous placement of *P. betsileanus*) in *Ptychochromis*

***Ptychochromoides betsileanus* (Boulenger 1899)**

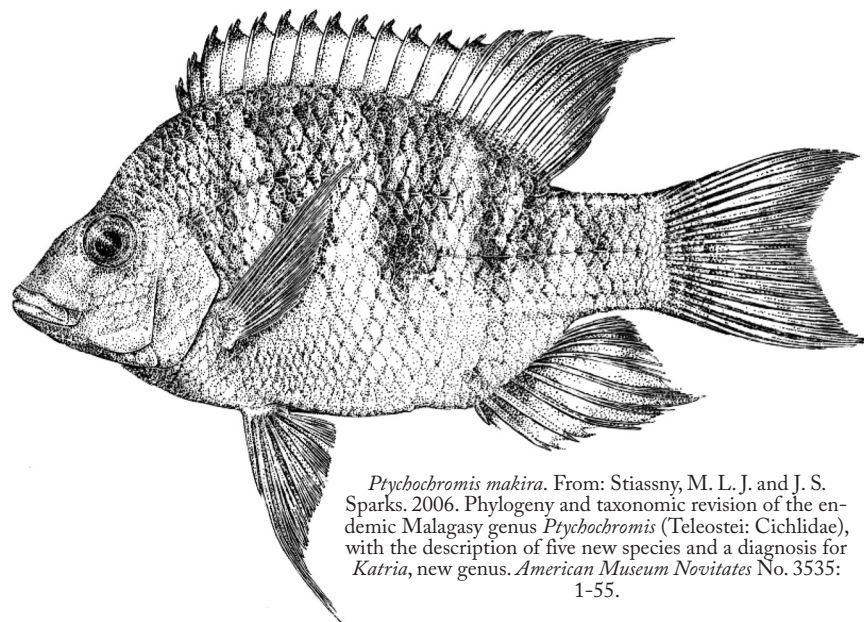
-anus, belonging to: Betsileo region, southern central highlands of Madagascar, type locality

***Ptychochromoides itasy* Sparks 2004**

named for Lake Itasy, a crater lake in the central highlands of Madagascar, type locality (where it is now extirpated)

***Ptychochromoides vondrozo* Sparks & Reinthal 2001**

named for nearest village to type locality, Ramanara River, Fianarantsoa Province, southeastern Madagascar



Ptychochromis makira. From: Stiassny, M. L. J. and J. S. Sparks. 2006. Phylogeny and taxonomic revision of the endemic Malagasy genus *Ptychochromis* (Teleostei: Cichlidae), with the description of five new species and a diagnosis for *Katria*, new genus. *American Museum Novitates* No. 3535: 1-55.