

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Nomenclatural status of *Cyprinus clupeioides* Bloch, 1795 (Osteichthyes: Cyprinidae)

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Salmostoma clupeioides (Bloch, 1795) is a cyprinid fish widely distributed in India and Burma (Banareescu, 1968: 5; Talwar & Jhingran, 1991: 323). It was originally described as *Cyprinus clupeioides* by Bloch (1795: 49, pl. 408 fig. 2). Bloch's name, however, is a junior primary homonym of *Cyprinus clupeioides* Pallas, 1776: 704; therefore, it is invalid and must be replaced (International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, arts. 57(b), 60(a)).

The oldest available synonym is the valid name for the species (ICZN art. 60(b)). Neither Banareescu's (1968, 1971) revision of the genus *Salmostoma* nor Talwar & Jhingran's (1991) review of Indian freshwater fishes lists any synonym for *S. clupeioides*. Day (1878: 602), however, listed *Chela balookee* Sykes (1839a: 160), *C. teekanee* Sykes (1839a: 161), *Leuciscus dussumieri* Valenciennes, in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1844: avis au relieur, p. 2, pl. 508) and *Pelecus affinis* Jerdon (1849: 327) as synonyms. Sykes's descriptions are brief and vague and could apply to several species of *Salmostoma* and other related genera. Sykes is not known to have preserved specimens and none has been reported in the literature.

I designate here specimen ZMB 3425 (of the Zoologisches Museum, Berlin) as neotype of both *Chela balookee* and *C. teekanee* of Sykes (1839a). This specimen (109 mm SL, from "Indian Ocean") is the holotype of *Cyprinus clupeioides* Bloch, 1795; it has been described and illustrated by Banareescu (1971: 16). As both *Chela balookee* and *C. teekanee* are simultaneous objective synonyms, as first reviser I retain *C. balookee* as having priority. As a result, the valid name of the fish commonly called *Salmostoma clupeioides* now is *S. balooke* (Sykes, 1839).

Different versions of Sykes's report have been published (1839a; 1839b; 1841) and the one retained here seems to be the earliest one. If future researches should show that another version of Syke's work appeared first, the above nomenclatural acts (neotype designation, priority designation) are valid for all versions.

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