

The *Microsynodontis* (Teleostei: Siluriformes: Mochokidae) of the lower Guinea region, west central Africa, with the description of eight new species

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Abstract

Species of the mochokid catfish genus *Microsynodontis* Boulenger 1903 from the lower Guinea region in west central Africa (from the Cross River southwards to the Chiloango River drainages) are reviewed. Nine species (of which eight are described as new) are recognized. The status of other nominal species is also reviewed in this study; *Microsynodontis christyi* Boulenger, 1920 (previously considered a junior synonym of *M. batesii*) is shown to be a valid species. Characters useful for diagnosing *Microsynodontis* species are discussed and sexual dimorphism in the genus is also recorded for the first time.