



***Synodus cresseyi* Prokofiev, 2008, an unnecessary replacement for *S. macrocephalus* Cressey, 1981, and a description of a new species from the Western Indian Ocean (Teleostei: Synodontidae)**

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Abstract

Synodus cresseyi Prokofiev, 2008 is an unnecessary replacement name for *S. macrocephalus* Cressey, 1981 according to Article 23.9.5 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The material used for the description of *S. cresseyi* includes two species. One of them represents a new species which differs from its congeners in the following combination of characters: anterior palatine teeth not longer than posterior teeth; preopercle scaled posterior to corner of mouth; membranous posterior flap of anterior nostril slender, with a pointed tip, reaching to above posterior nostril when laid back; pectoral fins reaching a line connecting dorsal and pelvic fin origins; pelvic process broad; color in alcohol without any marking, deep brown on dorsal surface restricted to central two-third of head and body, about two scale rows above lateral line, lateral and ventral surface uniformly silver white without blotches.

Key words: nomenclature; ICZN; *Synodus vityazi*, new species, Western Indian Ocean

Introduction

Prokofiev (2008) described *Synodus cresseyi* as a replacement name for *Synodus macrocephalus* Cressey, 1981 (Fig. 1) which is preoccupied by *Synodus macrocephalus* Lacépède 1803. However, *Synodus macrocephalus* Lacépède is a member of the Cyprinidae and now valid as *Luciobrama macrocephalus* (Lacépède). Thus, they are in different families and there is unlikely to be confusion. According to Article 23.9.5 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999), these two names apply to taxa that have not been considered congeneric after 1899, and the junior homonym must not automatically be replaced. In this case, current usage of *Synodus macrocephalus* Cressey, 1981 should be retained and treated as available and valid. Consequently, *Synodus cresseyi* Prokofiev, 2008 is considered to be an unnecessary replacement name, and is invalid.

During discussion of this nomenclature problem with Dr. W. N. Eschmeyer (personal communication, August, 2008), the first author compared the data and figures of *S. cresseyi* with the type series of *S. macrocephalus* Cressey, 1981 and found they were not identical. With the suspicion that they might represent two species, the second author reexamined the three original specimens used for the description of *S. cresseyi* and found that they indeed represented two species: one specimen was identical to *S. macrocephalus* Cressey, 1981; while the other two were an undescribed species.

An additional lot containing seven specimens of the new species was found at The National Museum of Natural History (USNM). All nine specimens were collected in 1989 by the former Soviet Union research vessel *Vityaz II* at the same station on the 17th Cruise from Madagascar.