



Taxonomy of *Auchenoglanis* Günther 1865 (Siluriformes: Auchenoglanididae)

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Abstract

Teugels *et al.* (1991) considered the genus *Auchenoglanis* to be comprised of two valid species: *A. biscutatus* and *A. occidentalis*. A new analysis of all the nominal species and subspecies of the genus supports the recognition of all nominal taxa as species. Each species is diagnosed primarily on mensural characters, size and shape of the premaxillary tooth patches, and pigmentation patterns. In addition, a new species, *Auchenoglanis senegali*, is described from Senegal.

Key words: Teleostei, catfish, Africa, taxonomy

Résumés

Teugels *et al.* (1991) considère que la *Auchenoglanis* genre était compos de deux espèces nominales suivantes: *biscutatus* A. et *A. occidentalis*. Une nouvelle analyse de toutes les espèces et sous-espèces nominales du genre soutient la reconnaissance de tous les taxons comme des espèces. Chaque espèce est diagnostiquée principalement sur des caractéristiques mensurales, la taille et la forme des taches des dents prémaxillaires et les dessins de pigmentation. En outre, une nouvelle espèce du Sénégal, *Auchenoglanis senegali*, est décrit.

Introduction

The first two species of *Auchenoglanis* to be described were *Pimelodus biscutatus* Geoffroy St. Hilaire, 1808 and *Pimelodus occidentalis* Valenciennes, 1840. Bleeker (1858) described *Auchenaspis* into which *P. biscutatus* and *P. occidentalis* were placed. Günther (1865) then replaced the name of *Auchenaspis* with *Auchenoglanis* when the former name was found to be preoccupied by *Auchenaspis* Egerton. It was then during the early 1900's when many species of *Auchenoglanis* were described primarily by prominent European ichthyologists particularly Boulenger.

Teugels *et al.* (1991) reviewed and narrowed the definitions of *Auchenoglanis* Günther, 1865, *Parauchenoglanis* Boulenger, and described a new genus, *Anaspidoglanis* Teugels, Risch, de Vos, & Thys van den Audenaerde, 1991. They recognized that most of the species previously placed in *Auchenoglanis* were actually members of *Parauchenoglanis*. Indeed, they recognized only two species of *Auchenoglanis*: *A. biscutatus* (Geoffroy St. Hilaire) and *A. occidentalis* (Valenciennes). However, the large distribution of *Auchenoglanis* across many basins in Africa suggests that the genus is more diverse than presently recognized. Western Africa alone has four areas of fish endemism (Hugueny & Lévêque 1994) with each of these areas having species of *Auchenoglanis* present. A new species, *Synodontis macropunctata* (Wright & Page 2008) also suggests that the diversity of other large bodied catfishes (i.e., *Auchenoglanis*) in the Congo Basin is greater than previously thought. Lake Rukwa has a fish fauna that is estimated to be approximately one third endemic and this suggests that its population of *Auchenoglanis* could be an unrecognized form (Seegers 1996).

Teugels *et al.* (1991) synonymized *Oxyglanis sacchii* Vinciguerra, *Auchenoglanis acuticeps* Pappenheim, and *Auchenoglanis wittei* Giltay with *A. occidentalis*. Two subspecies, *A. occidentalis tanganicanus*