

On the validity of *Phractocephalus* Agassiz, 1829, vs. *Pirarara* Agassiz, 1829

(Osteichthyes: Pimelodidae)

By Maurice Kottelat

Kottelat, M. (1989): On the validity of *Phractocephalus* Agassiz, 1829, vs. *Pirarara* Agassiz, 1829 (Osteichthyes: Pimelodidae). – *Spixiana* 12/3: 321

Phractocephalus Agassiz, 1829 is shown to have priority over *Pirarara* Agassiz, 1829.

Dr. Maurice Kottelat, Zoologische Staatssammlung, Münchhausenstr. 21, D-8000 München 60, F. R. G.

In a recent publication (Kottelat 1988), I discussed the nomenclature of some Brazilian fishes described in Spix & Agassiz (1829–1831). Some of the problems met with this work resulted from the use of different names for the same taxa on the plates and in the text. As I stated (p. 77), when this occurs in the first fascicle, the first reviser is Agassiz in the *Conspectus* which appeared with the second fascicle.

In my discussion of the pimelodid catfish genus *Phractocephalus* Agassiz or *Pirarara* Agassiz, I stated that Bleeker (1862) is the first reviser and retained *Pirarara*. This was likely to create some nomenclatural problem, as these fishes are important food fishes and as *Pirarara* has almost never been used since its original description. Actually, the first reviser is Agassiz (1831: *Conspectus*) who refers to:

Phractocephalus bicolor Agass. – Tab. VI. (*Pirarara bicolor* Spix).

This is clearly a first reviser action and *Phractocephalus* has priority over *Pirarara*.

In the same way, Agassiz retained *Prochilodus* Agassiz as having priority over *Pacu* Agassiz and *Rhaphiodon* Agassiz as having priority over *Cynodon*. In both cases, this predates Müller & Troschel (1844) which I had retained as first revisers; as Müller & Troschel had retained the same names as valid, this does not affect the conclusion of my discussion of these taxa.

I thank Ms R. A. Cooper, ICZN Secretariat, for calling my attention on this problem.

References

Refer to the following paper for a full list of the literature mentioned above:

Kottelat, M. 1988. Authorship, dates of publication, status and types of Spix and Agassiz's Brazilian fishes. – *Spixiana* 11: 69–93

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Spixiana, Zeitschrift für Zoologie](#)

Jahr/Year: 1989

Band/Volume: [012](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Kottelat Maurice

Artikel/Article: [On the validity of Phractocephalus Agassiz, 1829, vs. Pirarara Agassiz, 1829 \(Osteichthyes: Pimelodidae\) 321](#)