

SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF FISHES DESCRIBED UNDER
BAGRUS BY VALENCIENNES, 1839

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Valenciennes in the 14th volume of *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons* included 58 species under the genus *Bagrus*. During the course of a revision of the catfish family Bagridae, it was found that the genus as envisaged by Valenciennes is composite, comprising many species which are at present included under different families. The present paper defines the limits of the species to be included under *Bagrus-Porcus*' (*sensu stricto*) and also thereby shows the latest systematic position of the others. As far as possible, up-to-date reference to literature under each species is given. The type locality and distribution of the species thus defined, is also cited.

By a revision of the generic limits it has been shown in this article that only two species are referable to *Porcus*, as recognised at present, contrary to 58 species broadly included by Valenciennes. To the family Bagridae itself only 21 out of 58 species can be assigned, falling under six genera. Of the remaining 37 species, four belong to Schilbeidae falling under three genera, 13 belong to Tachysuridae falling under five genera and 20 are synonyms of earlier species. Geographically, 10 species belong to the Neotropical, 6 to the Ethiopian and 22 to the Oriental region.

Such heterogenous assemblage of species of different family affinities under one genus may be due to the incomplete and bad delineations of earlier authors like Kuhl and van Hasselt and others as was pointed out by Valenciennes himself who stated that (p. 389) "mais toutes ces espèces se ressemblent si fort qu'il devient très-difficile de les caractéres, surtout quand il faut en tirer les caractéres des descriptions si souvent fautives des auteurs et non des originaux"

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¹ Jayaram, K. C., *Copeia*, No. 4, pp. 248-249 (1956).

TABLE 1

No.	Name and page reference in "Histoire Naturelle des Poissons?" Vol. XIV.	Current Scientific name and latest reference.	Type locality.	Current family position.	Distribution of the Species.
1.	<i>Bagrus schilbeides</i> , p. 389	} <i>Eutropius niloticus</i> (Rüppel); Boulenger, G.A., <i>Cat. African Fish. Brit. Mus.</i> , II, p. 283 (1911).	Egypt	Schilbeidae .	Africa.
2.	<i>Bagrus adansonii</i> , p. 391				
3.	<i>Bagrus vacha</i> , p. 392	<i>Eutropiichthys vacha</i> (Hamilton); Hora, S. L., <i>J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.</i> , XXXIX, p. 436 (1937).	Gangetic Province	Do.	Sind, Punjab, U.P., Bihar, Bengal Orissa, Burma, and Siam. In India the southernmost limit appears to be the Mahanadi river.
4.	<i>Bagrus murius</i> , p. 393	<i>Eutropiichthys murius</i> (Hamilton); Hora, S. L., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 435.	River Mahananda	Do.	Rivers of Sind, Orissa, Bengal and Assam.
5.	<i>Bagrus angius</i> , p. 393	} <i>Pseudeutropius atherinoides</i> (Bloch); Hora., S. L., <i>Rec. Indian Mus.</i> , XLIII, p. 103 (1941).	Tranquebar	Do.	Burma, Bengal, and Deccan.
6.	<i>Bagrus exodon</i> , p. 394				
7.	<i>Bagrus urua</i> , p. 395				
8.	<i>Bagrus atherinoides</i> , p. 396				
9.	<i>Bagrus bayad</i> , p. 397	<i>Porcus bayad</i> (Forsk.); Boulenger, G. A., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 305.	Egypt	Bagridae	Nile system, Chad Basin, Senegal (Africa).
10.	<i>Bagrus docmac</i> , p. 404	<i>Porcus docmac</i> (Forsk.); Boulenger, G. A., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 309.	River Nile	Do.	Nile delta to Lake Victoria and Shoa tributaries of Blue Nile, Ganama River, Lake Stephanie, Omo, and Sagan Rivers.

11. <i>Bagrus aor</i> , p. 405	<i>Mystus Osteobagrus aor</i> (Hamilton); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Rec. Indian Mus.</i> , LI, (4), p. 549 (1954).	Bengal.	Do.	Sind, Punjab, Delhi, Assam and Burma.
12. <i>Bagrus lamarrii</i> , p. 407	<i>Mystus (Osteoagrus) seenghala</i> (Sykes); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 550.	Mutha Mula River, Poona.	Do.	Punjab, Delhi, U. P., Bengal, Burma, Yunnan and Deccan upto Kistna river.
13. <i>Bagrus corsula</i> , p. 408	<i>Mystus (Mystus) menca</i> (Hamilton); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 546.	Kosi, Mahananda River, N. Bihar.	Do.	Burma, Assam, Bengal and Orissa.
14. <i>Bagrus cavasius</i> , p. 409	<i>Mystus (Mystus) cavasius</i> (Hamilton); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 532.	Gangetic Province	Do.	Whole of India upto Madras in South, south Burma, and Yunnan.
15. <i>Bagrus keletius</i> , p. 411	<i>Mystus (Mystus) keletius</i> (Valenciennes); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 540.	Pondicherry	Do.	Pondicherry, Coimbatore, Mysore and Ceylon.
16. <i>Bagrus nigriceps</i> , p. 412	<i>Mystus (Mystus) nigriceps</i> (Valenciennes); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 553.	Pondicherry	Do.	Thailand, Malay Peninsula, Java, Sumatra and Borneo.
17. <i>Bagrus vittatus</i> , p. 413	} <i>Mystus (Mystus) vittatus</i> (Bloch); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 534.	Tranquebar	Do.	Throughout India, Burma, Siam and Ceylon.
18. <i>Bagrus tenggara</i> , p. 414				
19. <i>Bagrus halepensis</i> , p. 413	<i>Mystus (Mystus) pelusius</i> (Solander); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 552	Aleppo, River Coic, Syria.	Do.	Syria.
21. <i>Bagrus stenomus</i> , p. 415	<i>Leiocassis stenomus</i> (Valenciennes); Regan, C. T., <i>Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.</i> (8), XI., p. 548 (1913).	Java	Do.	Thailand, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

TABLE I—*contd.*

No.	Name and page reference in ' <i>Histoire Naturelle des Poissons</i> ' Vol. XIV.	Current Scientific name and latest reference.	Type locality	Current family position.	Distribution of the Species.
21.	<i>Bagrus albilabris</i> , p. 416	} <i>Mystus (Mystus) gulio</i> (Hamilton); Jayaram, K. C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 542.	Upper parts of Gangetic estuaries.	Bagridae	Estuaries and tidal waters from Ceylon, Sind, India, Burma to Malay Archipelago, Thailand and Sumatra.
22.	<i>Bagrus fuscus</i> , p. 417				
23.	<i>Bagrus gulio</i> , p. 418				
24.	<i>Bagrus birmannus</i> , p. 419				
25.	<i>Bagrus abbreviatus</i> , p. 420				
26.	<i>Bagrus planiceps</i> , p. 421	} <i>Mystus (Mystus) planiceps</i> (Valenciennes); Jayaram, K.C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 553.	Java	Do.	Thailand, Java, Sumatra, Borneo and Malay Peninsula.
27.	<i>Bagrus anisurus</i> , p. 422				
28.	<i>Bagrus nemurus</i> , p. 423	<i>Mystus (Mystus) nemurus</i> (Valenciennes); Jayaram, K.C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 553.	Java	Do.	Thailand, Malay Archipelago and Java.
29.	<i>Bagrus oculatus</i> , p. 424	<i>Mystus (Mystus) oculatus</i> (Valenciennes); Jayaram, K.C., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 540.	Malabar Coast	Do.	Malabar Coast and Coimbatore district.
30.	<i>Bagrus batasio</i> , p. 525	<i>Batasio batasio</i> (Hamilton); Hora & Law, <i>Rec. Indian Mus</i> , XLIII, Part (1), p. 33 (1941).	Brahmaputra	Do.	Teesta river system.
31.	<i>Bagrus nigrata</i> , p. 426	<i>Clarotes laticeps</i> (Rüppel); Bou- lenger, G. A., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 342.	Nile	Do.	Africa.

32. <i>Bagrus auratus</i> , p. 426	}	<i>Chrysichthys auratus</i> (Geoffroy St. Hilaire); Boulenger, G. A., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 325.	Egypt	Do.	Africa.
33. <i>Bagrus capito</i> , p. 430					
34. <i>Bagrus maurus</i> , p. 431		<i>Chrysichthys nigrodigitatus</i> (Lacepede); Boulenger, G. A., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 321.	..	Do.	Africa.
35. <i>Bagrus poecilopterus</i> , p. 431		<i>Leiccasia poecilopterus</i> (Valenciennes); Regan, C.T., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 548.	Java	Do.	Thailand, Java, Sumatra and Borneo.
36. <i>Bagrus tengana</i> , p. 433		<i>Potasio tengana</i> (Hamilton); Hora & Law, <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 36.	Brahmaputra River.	Do.	Darjeeling Himalayas, Assam, Tenasserim, Mergui, Perak and Siam.
37. <i>Bagrus bilineatus</i> , p. 434	}	<i>Tachysurus thalassinus</i> (Rüppel); Chandy, M., <i>Rec. Indian Mus.</i> , LI, p. 15 (1953).	..	Tachysuridae	Bombay and Ceylon.
38. <i>Bagrus netuma</i> , p. 438					
39. <i>Bagrus laevigatus</i> , p. 439					
40. <i>Bagrus arioides</i> , p. 440	}	<i>Tachysurus sona</i> (Hamilton); Chandy, M., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 12.	Bengal	Do.	Coasts of Bombay, Puri, Penang and Calcutta.
41. <i>Bagrus gagorides</i> , p. 441					
42. <i>Bagrus trachipomus</i> , p. 443					
43. <i>Bagrus sondaicus</i> , p. 444	}	<i>Tachysurus sagor</i> (Hamilton); Chandy, M., <i>Op. cit.</i> , p. 11.	Gangetic estuaries	Do.	Coasts of Bombay, Calcutta, Penang and the Saugor Island.
44. <i>Bagrus javensis</i> , p. 445					
45. <i>Bagrus chinta</i> , p. 445					
46. <i>Bagrus sagor</i> , p. 446					
47. <i>Bagrus doroides</i> , p. 447					
48. <i>Bagrus commersonii</i> , p. 449		<i>Netuma commersonii</i> (Valenciennes); Jordan, D.A. et al., <i>Rept. U. S. Fish. Comm.</i> , p. 149 (1928).	Montevideo	Do.	Uruguay, S. America.

TABLE 1—concl'd.

No.	Name and page reference in "Histoire Naturelle des Poissons" Vol. XIV	Current Scientific name and latest reference.	Type locality.	Current family position.	Distribution of the Species.
49.	<i>Bagrus genidens</i> , p. 452	<i>Genidens genidens</i> Castelnau; Eigenmann, C.H., <i>Rept. Princeton Univ. Exped. Patagonia</i> , III, part 2, No. 4, p. 381 (1910).	Rio de la Plata, Araguay.	Tachysuridae	Araguay, S. America.
50.	<i>Bagrus herzbergi</i> , p. 453	} <i>Selanaspis herzbergi</i> (Bloch); Jordan, D. S. & Evermann, B. W., <i>Proc. U. S. nat. Mus.</i> No. 47, Part I, p. 124 (1898).	Surinam	Do.	Coasts of South America from Cayenne to Peru.
51.	<i>Bagrus pemecus</i> , p. 456		Guiana	Do.	
52.	<i>Bagrus mesops</i> , p. 456	<i>Sciadeichthys mesops</i> (Valenciennes); Jordan, D. S. & Evermann, W., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 123.	Guiana, Porto Rico	Do.	West Indies.
53.	<i>Bagrus proops</i> , p. 457	<i>Sciadeichthys proops</i> (Valenciennes); Jordan, D. S. <i>et. al.</i> , <i>Rep. U. S. Fish Comm.</i> , p. 148. (1928).	Cayenne	Do.	Cayenne, S. America.
54.	<i>Bagrus passany</i> , p. 458	<i>Sciadeichthys passany</i> (Valenciennes); Jordan, D.S. & Evermann, B. W., <i>Op cit.</i> p. 124.	Cayenne	Do.	Cayenne, S. America.
55.	<i>Bagrus couma</i> , p. 459	<i>Tachysurus couma</i> (Valenciennes); Günther, A., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 138.			

56. <i>Bagrus albicans</i> , p. 461	<i>Sciadeichthys albicans</i> (Valenciennes); Jordan, D.S. & Evermann, B. W., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 124.	Cayenne	Do.	Guiana to Amazon, S. America.
57. <i>Bagrus flavescens</i> , p. 462	<i>Sciadeichthys flavescens</i> (Valenciennes); Jordan, D.S. & Evermann, B. W., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 123.	Cayenne	Do.	Cayenne, S. America.
58. <i>Bagrus temminckianus</i> , p. 463	<i>Sciadeichthys temminckianus</i> (Valenciennes); Jordan, D.S. & Evermann, B. W., <i>Op. cit.</i> p. 124.	Cayenne	Do.	Cayenne, S. America.