Claea, a new replacement name for Oreias Sauvage, 1874 (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae)

Maurice Kottelat*

The name Oreias was created by Sauvage (1874: 334) for a new genus of loaches from "eastern Tibet". Its type species is Oreias dabryi Sauvage, 1874: 334, by monotypy.

Oreias Sauvage is a junior homonym of Oreias Kaup, 1829: 177, 193 in Aves, and of Oreias Temminck, in Temminck & Laugier, 1838: 108 in Aves. Therefore a replacement name is needed for Oreias Sauvage.

There is presently no junior synonym of Oreias Sauvage, 1874 and I establish here Claea as new replacement name.

Sauvage did not explain the etymology of the name Oreias, but it is the ancient Greek word Ὠρείας, meaning an Orest, a nymph of the mountain. Nymphs were minor goddesses of nature, each associated to a specific mountain. To continue Sauvage’s idea, I use the name of one of these Oreiads as replacement name. Claea (Κλαεὰ) is the Oreiad nymph of a sacred cave on Mount Kalathion in Messenia. I choose Claea because the names of almost all others Oreiads have already been used as genus names. The grammatical gender is feminine.

I thank Antoinette Kottelat-Kloetzli for her help in proposing this and many other names and Ralf Britz for checking the availability of Oreias in Kaup (1829).

Literature cited


* Route de la Baroche 12, 2952 Cornol, Switzerland. E-mail: mkottelat@dplanet.ch