

Brycinus luteus (Roman, 1966) a junior synonym of *Brycinus leuciscus* (Günther, 1867) (Alestidae: Teleostei)

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The nomenclatural statuses of two nominal species, *Brycinus leuciscus* and *B. luteus*, both known from West Africa, were investigated. Fourteen counts and twenty-seven measurements taken on 103 specimens, including the type specimens, were analysed using multi- and univariate statistical techniques. The length of the gill rakers, previously reported as the sole diagnostic character able in distinguishing the two species, proved to be ineffective. The length of the seventh lower gill raker of the first gill arch of the syntypes of *B. leuciscus* fell within the range of those of the types of *B. luteus*. An in-depth analysis of meristic and morphometric data failed to find any distinctive character between specimens hitherto identified as *B. leuciscus* and *B. luteus*, demonstrating that they are in fact conspecific. Therefore, *B. luteus* is considered to be a subjective junior synonym of *B. leuciscus*, and a re-description is provided for the species. The distribution of *B. leuciscus* remains unchanged as the distribution range of those specimens on which the proposition of the name *B. luteus* was based is included in that of *B. leuciscus*. Two different phenotypes had been identified in the literature for *B. leuciscus*, one with and one without predorsal hump. The present study confirms these phenotypes to represent intraspecific variation. Although the presence of a hump is most probably related to a seasonal deposition of fat, further research on its origin is needed.

Les statuts nomenclatureaux de deux espèces nominales, *Brycinus leuciscus* et *B. luteus*, toutes deux connues d'Afrique de l'Ouest, ont été étudiés. Quatorze comptages et vingt-sept mensurations pris sur 103 spécimens, y compris les spécimens types, ont été analysés à l'aide de techniques statistiques multivariées et univariées. La longueur des branchiospines, précédemment signalée comme le seul caractère diagnostique permettant de distinguer les deux espèces, s'est avérée inefficace. La longueur de la septième branchiospine de la partie inférieure du premier arc branchial des syntypes de *B. leuciscus* se situait dans la fourchette de celle des types de *B. luteus*. Une analyse approfondie des données méristiques et morphométriques n'a pas permis de trouver le moindre caractère distinctif entre les spécimens jusqu'ici identifiés comme *B. leuciscus* et *B. luteus*, démontrant qu'ils sont en fait conspécifiques. Par conséquent, *B. luteus* est considéré comme un synonyme subjectif junior de *B. leuciscus* et une redescription est donnée pour l'espèce. La distribution de *B. leuciscus* reste inchangée puisque l'aire de distribution des spécimens sur lesquels était basée la proposition du nom *B. luteus* est incluse dans celle de *B. leuciscus*. Deux

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