

FAMILY *Polypteridae* Bonaparte, 1835 - **bichirs**

[=*Politterini, Armicipites, Polypterini, Calamoichthyinae, Erpetoichthyidae*]

Notes: *Politterini* Rafinesque, 1810b:33 [ref. 3595] (ordine) ? *Polypterus* [published not in latinized form before 1900; not available, Article 11.7.2]

Armicipites Latreille, 1825:120 [ref. 31889] (tribe) *Polypterus* [no stem of the type genus, not available, Article 11.7.1.1]

Polypterini Bonaparte, 1835:[8] [ref. 32242] (subfamily) *Polypterus* [genus inferred from the stem, Article 11.7.1.1]

Calamoichthyinae Gill, 1893b:130 [ref. 26255] (subfamily) *Calamoichthys* [genus inferred from the stem, Article 11.7.1.1; family name sometimes seen as *Calamichthyidae*]

Erpetoichthyidae Myers & Storey, 1956:16 [ref. 32831] (family) *Erpetoichthys* [genus inferred from the stem, Article 11.7.1.1; unavailable publication]

GENUS *Erpetoichthys* Smith, 1865 - **reedfishes**

[=*Erpetoichthys* Smith [J. A.], 1865:273, *Calamoichthys* Smith [J. A.], 1866:654]

Notes: [ref. 4060]. Masc. *Erpetoichthys calabaricus* Smith, 1865. Type by monotypy. Unjustifiably emended or misspelled *Herpetoichthys* by authors. Apparently not preoccupied by *Erpichthys* Swainson, 1838 in fishes; replacement *Calamoichthys* Smith, 1866 not needed. Probably should be treated as valid (see *Calamoichthys*) as concluded by Swinney & Heppell 1982:98 [ref. 20746].

•Valid as *Erpetoichthys* Smith, 1865 -- (Gosse in Lévêque et al. 1990:80 [ref. 21589], Poll & Gosse 1995:77 [ref. 24781], Britz 2007:173 [ref. 30014], Suzuki et al. 2010:3 [ref. 31060]).

Current status: Valid as *Erpetoichthys* Smith, 1865. *Polypteridae*.

(*Calamoichthys*) [ref. 20732]. Masc. *Erpetoichthys calabaricus* Smith, 1865. Type by being a replacement name. *Calamichthys* in a misspelling. Apparently an unneeded replacement for *Erpetoichthys* Smith, 1865, regarded as preoccupied by Swainson 1838 in

fishes (as *Erpichthys*) or by *Herpetoichthys* Kaup, 1856.

•Valid as *Calamoichthys* Smith, 1866 -- (Gosse 1984:18 [ref. 6169]), but probably *Erpetoichthys* should be used instead, not preoccupied by *Erpichthys* Swainson. •Swinney & Heppell 1982 [ref. 20746] concluded that *Erpetoichthys* is the valid name.

•Synonym of *Erpetoichthys* Smith, 1865 -- (Gosse in Lévêque et al. 1990:86 [ref. 21589]).

Current status: Synonym of *Erpetoichthys* Smith, 1865. *Polypteridae*.

Species *Erpetoichthys calabaricus* Smith, 1865 - **reedfish, ropefish, sailfin, snakefish**

[=*Erpetoichthys calabaricus* Smith [J. A.], 1865:2,

Polypterus erpetoideus Smith [J. A.], 1865:2,

Erpetoichthys robbianus Smith [J. A.], 1865:2]

Notes: [Daily Review No. 1242; ref. 20731] Old Calabar River, West Africa.

Current status: **Valid** as *Erpetoichthys calabaricus* Smith, 1865. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: West-central Africa: Nigeria to Cameroon.

Habitat: freshwater.

(*erpetoideus*) [Daily Review No. 1242; ref. 20731] Old Calibar River, West Africa.

Current status: Synonym of *Erpetoichthys calabaricus* Smith, 1865. *Polypteridae*.

Habitat: freshwater.

(*robbianus*) [Daily Review No. 1486; ref. 20730]

Current status: Synonym of *Erpetoichthys calabaricus* Smith, 1865. *Polypteridae*.

Habitat: freshwater.

GENUS *Polypterus* Lacepède, 1803 - **bichirs**

[=*Polypterus* Lacepède [B. G. E.], 1803:340]

Notes: [ref. 4930]. Masc. *Polypterus bichir* Lacepède, 1803. Type by subsequent monotypy. Extensive first description was given by Geoffroy St. Hilaire 1802 [1798]:97-98 [ref. 4183] and 1802:57-68 [ref. 26737], but genus name given only in the vernacular; apparently latinized first by Lacepède 1803

as above, with one species. •Valid as *Polypterus* Lacepède, 1803 -- (Gosse 1984:19 [ref. 6169], Gosse 1988 [ref. 6868], Lévêque et al. 1989:113 [ref. 26480], Paugy & Bénech 1989:299 [ref. 26478], Paugy et al. 1990:332 [ref. 26477], Gosse in Lévêque et al. 1990:80 [ref. 21589], Poll & Gosse 1995:28 [ref. 24781], Seegers 1996:62 [ref. 23725], Dankwa et al. 1999:11 [ref. 28023], Britz 2004:179 [ref. 27800], Schliwen & Schäfer 2006:23 [ref. 28498], Britz 2007:169 [ref. 30014] with authorship as Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, Suzuki et al. 2010:3 [ref. 31060]).

Current status: Valid as *Polypterus* Lacepède, 1803. *Polypteridae*.

Species *Polypterus ansorgii* Boulenger, 1910 - **Guinean bichir**

[=*Polypterus ansorgii* Boulenger [G. A.], 1910:424]

Notes: [Annals and Magazine of Natural History (Series 8) v. 6 (no. 34); ref. 14430] Corbal River at Tchitoli, Guinea-Bissau.

Current status: Valid as *Polypterus ansorgii* Boulenger, 1910. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Guinea-Bissau and upper Niger, Africa.

Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus bichir* Geoffroy St. Hilaire, 1809 - **Nile bichir**

[=*Polypterus bichir* Lacepède [B. G. E.], 1803:340,

Polypterus birchir katangae Poll [M.], 1941:173, Figs. 10-12,

Polypterus lapradei Steindachner [F.], 1869:112,

Polypterus niloticus Shaw [G.], 1804:122, Pl. 112]

Notes: [Histoire naturelle des poissons (Lacepède) v. 5; ref. 4930] Nile River, Egypt.

Current status: Valid as *Polypterus bichir* Lacepède, 1803. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Africa.

Habitat: freshwater.

(*katangae*) [Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines v. 35 (no. 2); ref. 19488] Nyonga, Lake Upemba, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus bichir* Lacepède, 1803. *Polypteridae*. Habitat: freshwater. (*lapradei*) [Anzeiger der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien v. 6 (no. 15); ref. 20468] Senegal, western Africa.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus bichir* Lacepède, 1803. *Polypteridae*. Habitat: freshwater. (*niloticus*) [General zoology or systematic natural history; ref. 4015] Nile River.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus bichir* Lacepède, 1803. *Polypteridae*. Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus delhezi* Boulenger, 1899 - **barred bichir**

[=*Polypterus delhezi* Boulenger [G. A.], 1899:61, Pl. 30 (fig. 2)]

Notes: [Annales du Musee du Congo (Ser. Zoology) v. 1 (fasc. 4); ref. 549] Lake Leopold and New Antwerp, Upper Congo River.

Current status: Valid as *Polypterus delhezi* Boulenger, 1899. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Central Africa.

Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus endlicherii* Heckel, 1847 - **saddled bichir**

[=*Polypterus endlicherii* Heckel [J. J.], 1847:310, Pl. 22 (fig. 1),

Polypterus congicus Boulenger [G. A.], 1898:418]

Notes: [Reisen in Europa, Asien und Africa v. 2 (pt 3); ref. 2068] White Nile River, Sudan.

Current status: Valid as *Polypterus endlicherii* Heckel, 1847. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Africa.

Habitat: freshwater.

(*congicus*) [Annals and Magazine of Natural History (Series 7) v. 2 (no. 11); ref. 14681] Stanley [Boyoma] Falls, Congo.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus endlicherii* Heckel, 1849. *Polypteridae*.

Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus makelembembe* Schliewen & Schafer, 2006 - **Mokele-mbembe bichir**

[=*Polypterus makelembembe* Schliwen [U. K.] & Schäfer [F.], 2006:24,
Figs. 1a-3a, 6a]

Notes: [Zootaxa No. 1129; ref. 28498] Wamba, riv. Maringa, 0°11'N, 22°28'E, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Current status: **Valid** as *Polypterus makelembembe* Schliwen & Schäfer, 2006. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Congo River basin.

Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus ornatipinnis* Boulenger, 1902 - **ornate bichir**

[=*Polypterus ornatipinnis* Boulenger [G. A.], 1902:23, Pl. 7 (fig. 1)]

Notes: [Annales du Musee du Congo (Ser. Zoology) v. 2 (fasc. 2); ref. 562] Monsembé, Upper Congo River.

Current status: **Valid** as *Polypterus ornatipinnis* Boulenger, 1902. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Africa.

Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus palmas* Ayres, 1850 - **shortfin bichir**

[=*Polypterus palmas* Ayres [W. O.], 1850:241, Pl. 6,
Polypterus buettikoferi Steindachner [F.], 1891:179,
Polypterus palmas congicus Daget [J.], 1962:48,
Polypterus lowei Boulenger [G. A.], 1911:377,
Polypterus polli Gosse [J.-P.], 1988:241, Fig. 1]

Notes: [Boston Journal of Natural History v. 6 (no. 2, art. 2); ref. 15932] Cape Palmas, Liberia.

Current status: **Valid** as *Polypterus palmas* Ayres, 1850. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Western Africa.

Habitat: freshwater.

(*buettikoferi*) [Notes from the Leyden Museum v. 13 (note 23); ref. 18788] Mahfa River;

Solymah River; swamps at Buluma and Juring, Liberia, western Africa.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus palmas* Ayres, 1850. *Polypteridae*. Habitat: freshwater. (*congius*) [Mémoires de l'Institut français d'Afrique Noire No. 65; ref. 5866]

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus palmas* Ayres, 1850. *Polypteridae*. Habitat: freshwater. (*lowei*) [Annals and Magazine of Natural History (Series 8) v. 7 (no. 40); ref. 14780] Nanna Kru, Liberia.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus palmas* Ayres, 1850. *Polypteridae*. Habitat: freshwater. (*polli*) [Cybium v. 12 (no. 3); ref. 6868] Eala, Ruki River, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus palmas* Ayres, 1850. *Polypteridae*. Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus retropinnis* Vaillant, 1899 - **West African bichir, retropinnis bichir**

[=*Polypterus retropinnis* Vaillant [L. L.], 1899:219 [1]]

Notes: [Bulletin, Sea (ser. 1) v. 5 (no. 5); ref. 14711] Alima River, Upper Congo.

Current status: **Valid** as *Polypterus retropinnis* Vaillant, 1899. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Western Africa: Congo River basin.

Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus senegalus* Cuvier, 1829 - **gray bichir**

[=*Polypterus senegalus* Cuvier [G.], 1829:330,

Polypterus arnaudii Duméril [A. H. A.], 1870:394, Pl. 23 (fig. 2),

Polypterus senegalus meridionalis Poll [M.], 1941:151]

Notes: [Le Règne Animal (Edition 2) v. 2; ref. 995] Senegal.

Current status: **Valid** as *Polypterus senegalus* Cuvier, 1829. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Africa.

Habitat: freshwater.

(*arnaudii*) [Histoire naturelle des poissons ou ichthyologie générale v. 2; ref. 1147]

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus senegalus* Cuvier, 1829. *Polypteridae*.

Habitat: freshwater.

(*meridionalis*) [Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines v. 35 (no. 2); ref. 19488]

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus senegalus* Cuvier, 1829. *Polypteridae*.

Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus teugelsi* Britz, 2004 - **Cross River bichir**

[=*Polypterus teugelsi* Britz [R.], 2004:180, Fig. 1]

Notes: [Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters v. 15 (no. 2); ref. 27800] Cross River system downstream of Mamfe at Bapuo River junction with Cross, 5°55'30"N, 9°09'00"E, Manyu, Cameroon.

Current status: **Valid** as *Polypterus teugelsi* Britz, 2004. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: West Africa: Cameroon.

Habitat: freshwater.

Species *Polypterus weeksii* Boulenger, 1898 - **mottled bichir**

[=*Polypterus weeksii* Boulenger [G. A.], 1898:419,

Polypterus schoutedeni Pellegrin [J.], 1923:296]

Notes: [Annals and Magazine of Natural History (Series 7) v. 2 (no. 11); ref. 14681] Monsembé, upper Congo River, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Current status: **Valid** as *Polypterus weeksii* Boulenger, 1898. *Polypteridae*.

Distribution: Africa.

Habitat: freshwater.

(*schoutedeni*) [Revue Zoologique Africaine v. 11 (no. 3); ref. 15424] Congo River at Mongende, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Current status: Synonym of *Polypterus weeksii* Boulenger, 1898. *Polypteridae*.

Habitat: freshwater

