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A name for the glass catfish (Teleostei: Siluridae) revisited

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Introduction

We recently described a new species of catfish, *Kryptopterus vitreolus* (see Ng & Kottelat, 2013). Although the abstract, the introduction and the running title of that work made it clear that it was a new species, some may argue that the name is unavailable because it is not accompanied by the magic words ‘new species’. Article 16.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (hereafter the Code) requires that in order to be available a new name “must be explicitly indicated as intentionally new”. Although our study explained that the species had no name and went on to provide a description and propose a name for it, we inadvertently omitted to accompany the name with the words “new species”, leaving room for argument that the name is technically unavailable in terms of Art. 16.1 of the Code.

We therefore repeat here the elements of the description needed to make the name available and add the magic words, noting that while details certainly count, they should not supersede the leading principles of the Code: universality and stability. In our opinion, the essence of Article 16.1 (to allow taxonomists to ignore names that have been used by accident or that suffer from a flaw that may have bearing on nomenclature like the absence of a type fixation) is satisfied in our article. Besides, the present re-publication of the same name bears a potential for confusion that defeats the principle of stability. Nevertheless, in order to avoid any doubt, we here satisfy the requirements of the Code and make the name *Kryptopterus vitreolus* available from the present publication. The holotype is deposited in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (UMMZ).

Kryptopterus vitreolus, new species

Holotype: UMMZ 249801, 45.2 mm SL; Thailand: Trat Province, Amphoe Khao Saming; K. Udomritthiruj, 27 November 2011. Paratypes: all specimens listed as paratypes of *K. vitreolus* by Ng & Kottelat (2013) are paratypes of *K. vitreolus* described herein.

Diagnosis: *Kryptopterus vitreolus* can be distinguished from all other congeners (except *K. minor* and *K. piperatus*) in having a transparent (vs. translucent or opaque) body in life, and from members of the *K. cryptopterus*, *K. limpok*, and *K. schilbeides* groups in having fewer anal-fin rays (48–55 vs. 64–85). *Kryptopterus vitreolus* can be distinguished from members of the *K. bicirrhis* species group (*K. bicirrhis*, *K. lais*, *K. macrocephalus*, *K. minor*, *K. palembangensis* and *K. piperatus*) in having the following combination of characters: snout length 29–35% HL, eye diameter 28–34% HL, body depth at anus 16–20% SL, depth of caudal peduncle 4–7% SL, maxillary barbels reaching beyond base of first anal-fin ray, dorsal profile with pronounced nuchal concavity, 14–18 rakers on first gill arch, and 48–55 anal-fin rays.

See Ng & Kottelat (2013) for a complete description and further information and discussion.