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Authorship and type specimens of *Alburnoides kubanicus* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)

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Bogucká & Coad (2009: 138) recognized *Alburnoides kubanicus* as a valid species in the genus *Alburnoides* Jetteles (1861: 325), attributing it to Berg (1932a). We show below that Berg (1932a) did not describe the species and discuss the proper authorship of the name.

Spelling of toponyms generally follows NGA (2010) where possible. Other toponyms and names of authors originally written in non-Latin scripts were transliterated into the Latin ones according to currently valid rules (see Mlíkovský 2010a; Pedersen 2010). Nomenclatural issues follow the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999; hereafter ‘the Code’). Julian dates (‘Old Style’; OS) used in Russian literature prior to 1919 were recalculated to Gregorian dates (‘New Style’; NS) (see Mlíkovský 2010b).

Berg (1932a: 150) described a new form of *Alburnoides bipunctatus* from the Kuban' River basin, Russia, as *A[lburnoides] bipunctatus rossicus natio kubanicus*. Thus, Berg (1932a) expressly proposed *kubanicus* to denote an infrasubspecific entity (Art. 45.5. and 45.6. of the Code). This name is thus not available for the purposes of zoological nomenclature (Art. 1.3.4., 10.2. and 45.5. of the Code). Most subsequent authors followed Berg's (1932a) treatment and used his *kubanicus* exclusively for an infrasubspecific form (e.g. Berg 1932b: 493, 1933: 803, 1949: 758; Kabisch 1974: 248; Kottelat 1997: 44; Bogucká & Naseka 2004: 77).

Berg (1932b: 493) published the same name, but this book appeared later than Berg's (1832a) paper in the *Zoogeographica* (Bogucká & Naseka 2004: 77–78); the name *kubensis* thus first appeared in Berg (1932a).

Bogucká & Coad (2009: 138) recently “resurrected” (their wording) “*Alburnoides kubanicus* Berg, 1932” as a full species (see also Coad & Bogucká 2009: 72). They referred to Art. 45.5. of the Code, stating that an infrasubspecific name cannot be made available from its original publication by any “subsequent author”. They further stated (p. 138) that they “have not found any publication which treats *kubanicus* as a subspecies or species”. They then attributed *kubanicus* to Berg (1932a: 150). The latter action is incorrect, because Art. 45.5.1. of the Code speaks of “any subsequent action”, not about “any subsequent author”. It is thus impossible to make *kubanicus* available from its original publication (Berg 1932a).

Similarly, the name *kubanicus* cannot be attributed to Bogucká & Coad (2009: 139) because it was not explicitly indicated as intentionally new (Art. 16.1. of the Code) and Bogucká & Coad (2009: 138) attributed the name to Berg (1932a), not to themselves.

If Bogucká & Coad (2009: 138) were correct in assurance that no author used Berg's *kubanicus* for a subspecies or a species, then *kubanicus* would continue to be an infrasubspecific name without standing in zoological nomenclature. However, Bănărescu (1964: 380) divided *Alburnoides bipunctatus* (Bloch, 1782) into 10 subspecies, including “*kubanicus* (Berg)” (see also Bănărescu 1964: 381, fig. 163). Following the provisions of Art. 45.5.1. of the Code, Bănărescu (1964: 380) became the author of *kubanicus*. Although he did not present a description of the taxon, his reference to Berg (which can easily be traced back to Berg 1932a) makes the name available for nomenclatural purposes (Art. 13.1.2. of the Code).

The type series of *Alburnoides bipunctatus kubanicus* Bănărescu, 1964, includes specimens recognized by Berg (1932a) as *A. b. rossicus natio kubanicus*. Berg (1932a) did not list such specimens, but he showed later (Berg 1933: 803) that the type series included the following specimens (all deposited in the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg; ZIN): ZIN 15289 (6 specimens collected by D. P. Filatov on 13 October 1909 in Labenok River at Psebaj; 44.12°N, 40.81°E); ZIN 15292 (1 specimen collected by D. P. Filatov on 28 January 1909 in Kuban' River at Armavir; 44.99°N, 41.12°E); ZIN 15306 (12 specimens, collected by D. S. Volnuhin on 17 May 1911 in Laba River at Labinskaâ; 44.63°N, 40.74°E); ZIN 15307 (4 specimens, collected by D. S. Volnuhin on 5 May 1911 in Kuban' River at Armavir); and ZIN 15307^a (1 specimen, collected by D. S. Volnuhin in April 1911 OS on an unknown locality in the Kuban' River basin). All type localities are located in the lower Kuban' River and its tributaries (Laba, Labenok), Krasnodar Krai, South Federal District, Russia.