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The authorship of *Neolissochilus soro* (Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae): a correction to Khaironizam *et al.* (2015)

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In a meristic, morphometric and distributional study of *Neolissochilus* from Peninsular Malaysia, Khaironizam *et al.* (2015) subsumed *Lissochilus tweediei* Herre in Herre & Myers 1937 and a taxon they called “*Tor soro* Bishop 1973” into the synonymy of *N. soroides* (Duncker 1904) based on data collected from museum specimens. However, “Bishop 1973” is not the correct author citation for *Tor soro*. Instead, *Tor* (now placed in *Neolissochilus*) *soro* was originally described as *Barbus soro* by Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes (1842:191). Since “*Tor soro* Bishop 1973” is not a valid name/author combination, *Neolissochilus soro*, as treated by Khaironizam *et al.* (2015), cannot be considered a junior synonym of *N. soroides*.

Khaironizam *et al.* (2015) presented evidence that the specimens labeled by Bishop (1973) as *Tor soro* should be identified as *N. soroides* instead. This much is clear. What is not clear is why they treat Bishop (1973) as the author of *T. soro*, which they do three times in their paper. The first instance is in the last sentence of the abstract: “*Lissochilus tweediei* Herre in Herre & Myers 1937 and *Tor soro* Bishop 1973 are synonyms of *Neolissochilus soroides*.” The second and third instances occur in the synonymy of *N. soroides*: “*Tor soro* Bishop 1973: 350 (Sg. [=River] Gombak, Selangor) . . . *Tor soro* Bishop is herein considered to be a synonym of *Neolissochilus soroides* (Duncker).”

Bishop (1973) is not a taxonomic work. Rather, it is a book-length limnological study of the Gombak River (Sungai Gombak) in Malaysia that includes a chapter on the diversity, distribution and abundance of that river’s fishes. Descriptive and identifying characters are not given. Therefore, Bishop (1973) cannot be misconstrued as a description or redescription of *Tor soro*. In fact, the publication clearly and correctly identifies Valenciennes as the author of *Tor soro* in its Appendix F.

Neolissochilus soro (Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes 1842) has a complex nomenclatural history and its taxonomic status remains in question, partly due to the fact that its holotype is presumed lost (Roberts 1993:23; Roberts 1999:234; Kottelat 2000:86; Kottelat 2013:127). However, there is no question that “*Tor soro* Bishop 1973” cannot be considered in any taxonomic assessment of *Neolissochilus* because that name/author combination is incorrect and has no taxonomic standing.

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Literature cited

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