

History and status of the genera *Enneanectes* and *Axoclinus* (Teleostei: Blennioidei: Tripterygiidae)

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Abstract

The genus *Enneanectes* was established by Jordan and Evermann (in Jordan 1895), based on a specimen that was incorrectly identified as *Tripterygium carminale* Jordan and Gilbert, 1882. Brock (1940) selected Jordan and Evermann's specimen as the neotype of *Tripterygium carminale*, thus transferring the name to another species. Subsequent authors have confused the issue further, at various times treating either of two biological species as the type species. We invoke provisions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature to recognize Brock's neotype designation and thus preserve prevailing usage of the genera *Enneanectes* and *Axoclinus*.

Key words: Tripterygiidae, *Enneanectes*, *Axoclinus*, nomenclature

Introduction

Since it is the object of nomenclature to denote each taxon by a name which is unique, unambiguous and universal, an author should not change the prevailing usage of names, or the sense in which they are used, unless this is required for scientific reasons (i.e. the reclassification of taxa); it is of especial importance that a name should not be transferred to a taxon distinct from that to which it is generally applied. (ICZN, 1999:125).

The recently revised International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999) places great emphasis on the stability of nomenclature (see quote above). We interpret this to mean that prevailing usage should not be changed without a compelling reason to do so. In the paragraph immediately following the one quoted above, the Code explicitly urges authors not to take any action that threatens stability without referring the case to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. In this paper we present our reasons