

The Status of the Ophidiid fish *Ophidium brasiliense* Kaup

C. Richard Robins

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The name *Ophidium brasiliense* has never been properly allocated. Kaup (1856a) first described *brasiliense* and attributed the name to Valenciennes. The specimen at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris presumably had been accorded a shelf or manuscript name by Valenciennes and this was the name used by Kaup. However, there is no indication that Valenciennes prepared or was in any way responsible for the brief description, and, inasmuch as Kaup had assembled all the materials at the British Museum (see the Preface by John Edward Gray, in Kaup, 1856b), it is virtually certain that Kaup alone prepared the description. According to provisions of Article 50 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Kaup is the person responsible for making available the name and thus is to be considered its author, his attribution of the name to Valenciennes notwithstanding. The lengthy German manuscript from which Kaup abstracted his first paper (1856a) was submitted to the British Museum for publication. This work, translated into English by Sir John Richardson, appeared later in the same year (Kaup, 1856b). John Gray's remarks in the Preface of the English publication make it clear that the German work (Kaup, 1856a) appeared first.

The holotype of *Ophidium brasiliense* Kaup is deposited in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris from whence it was kindly loaned to me by Dr. Marie-Louise Bauchot. Counts and measurements (as hundredths of standard length) recorded on the holotype are: dorsal rays 135, caudal rays 9 (4+5), anal rays 105, pectoral rays 21/21, gill rakers 7 (3 rudiments above + a graded series of 4 developed rakers below on the first arch), vertebrae 62 (14 precaudal + 48 caudal, including the hypural vertebra), standard length 116 mm, head length 17, predorsal length 22, preanal length 37, occipital length 12, depth of body at anal-fin origin 11, depth of body at occiput 10, length of longest pelvic ray 5.5, length of shortest pelvic ray 3.9,

snout length 2.6, postorbital length 8.8, maxillary length 8.3, longitudinal diameter of eye 3.9, bony interorbital distance 2.5. For definitions of measurements see Robins (1960: 90-91). The specimen is in relatively good condition though it is too soft for the measurements to be helpful in its identification. Its sex could not be determined. The swimbladder is badly torn but appears to have had a posterior opening, in which case the specimen would have been a male. Although both pectoral fins are broken, the rays could be counted. In addition to the counts, the most important descriptive items are: 1) the occiput bears scales posteriorly and the cheeks and opercle bear scales except for the posterior membrane; 2) there is a short but distinct and strong ethmoid spine that projects upward at an angle; 3) the posterior region of the head is short; 4) there are no pyloric caeca.

Among ophidiid genera with jugular pelvic fins, only *Genypterus*, *Lepophidium*, and *Raneya* have so extensive a squamation of the head; in fact it is more extensive in *Genypterus* and *Lepophidium*. Both *Genypterus* and *Lepophidium* have pyloric caeca, and have a regular rather than an anguilloid arrangement of scales on the body. *Lepophidium* has a long, forward-projecting ethmoid spine; *Genypterus* lacks this spine and has a very long postorbital section of the head. These differences eliminate these two genera. The extent of the head squamation, the nature of the ethmoid spine, the absence of pyloric caeca, and the vertebral, fin-ray and gill-raker counts show that the types of *Ophidium brasiliense* and *Raneya fluminensis* (Miranda Ribeiro) are of the same species. For a description of *R. fluminensis* see Robins (1961) and Menni and Lopez (1974). Although Kaup's name has been little used, *Raneya fluminensis*, which it predates by 47 years, was itself unused for 50 years and has received too little attention to justify any appeal for its retention. Specifically, the conditions set forth in Article 79(b) of the International Code are not met.

Raneya fluminensis (Miranda Ribeiro) is a junior synonym of *R. brasiliensis* (Kaup). The synonymy follows.

Raneya brasiliensis (Kaup)

Ophidium brasiliense Kaup, 1856a: 95-96 (descrip-

- tion; type locality, Brazil; name incorrectly attributed to Valenciennes). Kaup, 1856b: 154 (translation of 1856a). Günther, 1862: 378 (description repeated; attributed to Valenciennes in Kaup [1856b], the earlier description being ignored).
- Lepophidium fluminense* Miranda Ribeiro, 1903: 44–45 (description; type locality, ESE of Ilha Rasa, Brasil). Miranda Ribeiro, 1953: 402 (6 cotypes in Museu Nacional, No. 1890). Robins, 1959: 366 (name only).
- Lepophidium brevibarbe* (misidentifications): Miranda Ribeiro, 1953: [717], fig. opposite p. [708] (original description of *fluminense* repeated, now referred to *brevibarbe* without comment). Fowler, 1941: 180 (in part, the Ilha Rasa record only). Angelescu et al., 1958: 136 (occurrence). Ringuélet and Aramburu, 1960: 79 (in checklist of Argentinian fishes). Nani, 1964: 15 (species 74, name misspelled, *brevibarbis*). Nani and Alberdi 1967: tables I–II (catch data in Mar del Plata).
- Raneya fluminensis*: Robins, 1961: 212–214, figs. 1–2 (referred to new genus *Raneya*, description). Menni and Lopez, 1974: 1–6, fig. 1 (description of male; distribution in Argentina). Menezes, 1971: 48 (collections along the coast of Rio Grande do Sul.). Cohen and Nielsen, 1978: 15, 17 (characters, distribution).
- Distribution.** The species ranges from the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to Puerto Quequén, Argentina. In addition to the material listed by Menni and Lopez (1974), there is much material in the collections of the Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo (pers. comm., E. B. Böhlke).
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(Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, Florida, USA 33149)

アシロ科の *Ophidium brasiliense* Kaup の学名の考察

C. Richard Robins

Ophidium brasiliense の著者は, Valenciennes でなく, Kaup とするのが適当である. この学名は *Lepophidium fluminense* Miranda Ribeiro に対し先取権がある. *L. fluminense* に対し, 後に一属一種の *Raneya* 属が提唱された. 正しい新しい学名の組み合わせは *Raneya brasiliensis* (Kaup) となる. 模式標本の再記載を行い, シノニムリスト, 分布についてまとめた.