

Chaunacops Garman, 1899, a Senior Objective Synonym of *Bathychaunax* Caruso, 1989 (Lophiiformes: Chaunacoidei: Chaunacidae)

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Chaunacops Garman, 1899, is shown to be a senior synonym of the chaunacid anglerfish genus *Bathychaunax* Caruso, 1989. While *Chaunacops* has not been used as valid since its erection in 1899, conditions do not exist to allow “reversal of precedence,” as provided by Article 23.9.1. of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Thus, *Chaunacops*, type species *Chaunax coloratus* Garman by monotypy, must be regarded as valid and *Bathychaunax* set aside as a junior synonym.

THE genus *Bathychaunax* was introduced by Caruso (1989a) to contain two previously described species: *Bathychaunax coloratus* (Garman, 1899), the type species, now known from the eastern Pacific and eastern Indian Oceans, and *Bathychaunax roseus* (Barbour, 1941) from the Western Atlantic Ocean. The new genus was distinguished from its sister-genus *Chaunax* Lowe, 1846 by having a lower lateral-line count, longer illicium, wider head, and longer, more widely spaced dermal denticles. These distinctions were corroborated by Caruso (1989b) with the addition of a third species of *Bathychaunax*, *B. melanostomus*, from the eastern Indian Ocean. However, unrecognized by ichthyologists, is a brief comment published more than a century ago by Samuel Garman (1899) that now requires that the name *Bathychaunax* be set aside in favor of *Chaunacops* Garman.

In describing several new species of “lophoids,” part of a much larger collection of fishes made in the Eastern Tropical Pacific in 1891 by the U.S. Fish Commission steamer ALBATROSS, Garman (1899:76) wrote: “The fourth is a new species of *Chaunax*, agreeing closely with the species previously known in details, yet, dwelling in the ooze, possessed of a compressed body, with a high nape, differences that may necessitate the establishment of a new subgenus (*Chaunacops*) to distinguish it from the depressed forms heretofore described.” Later, in the same publication (p. 83), Garman provided a detailed and beautifully illustrated description of *Chaunax coloratus*, but made no reference to *Chaunacops*. In fact, as far as we know, the name *Chaunacops* has never been used before or since, and although Garman (1899) expressed only a possibility rather than a formal statement, the Principle of Priority holds. Unfortunately, conditions in this case do not exist to allow “prevailing usage” of the more recent name, as provided by Article 23.9.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999; see also Article 11.5.1 concerning “conditional” propo-

sals made before 1961): (1) *Chaunacops* has not been used as valid since 1899 (Article 23.9.1.1), but (2) *Bathychaunax* has not been used as a valid name in at least 25 works, published by at least ten authors during the past 50 years, and encompassing a span of not less than ten years (Article 23.9.1.2). Thus *Chaunacops*, type species *Chaunax coloratus* Garman by monotypy, must hereby be regarded as valid, and *Bathychaunax*, taking the same type species, invalid, qualifying as a junior objective synonym.

In conclusion, we take this opportunity to point out the need for caution in assuming that ichthyology has thoroughly documented the names that are available for use by taxonomists. There have been three major efforts to generate a complete list of generic names of fishes: Jordan (1917–1920, 1923), Eschmeyer and Bailey (1990), and Eschmeyer (1998), as well as a major effort to compile a list of all generic names of animals (Neave, 1939–1940), and still a name published in a widely known ichthyological publication somehow escaped notice. That *Chaunacops* was overlooked in these compilations, illustrates the need for taxonomists to realize that the names listed therein are not necessarily comprehensive.

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