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ANNOTATED CHECKLISTS OF FISHES

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Family Anoplopomatidae Jordan & Gilbert 1883

sablefishes

By

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The Anoplopomatidae contains two species of primarily black scorpaeniform fishes: sablefish, *Anoplopoma fimbria*; and skilfish, *Erilepis zonifer*. Collectively, they are called sablefishes or, less frequently, coalfishes. However, the Melanonidae (order Gadiformes) also are called coalfishes. Body moderately elongate and compressed. Head lacking spines, ridges, or cirri. Two dorsal fins, the first with 12–30 spines and the second with 1 or 2 spines and 15–21 soft rays. Anal fin with 2 or 3 spines and 11–20 soft rays, located opposite second dorsal fin. Spines in second dorsal and anal fins small and embedded, difficult to discern. Pelvic fins thoracic, with 1 spine and 5 soft rays. Two pairs of nostrils, both well developed. Scales ctenoid, very small, covering body and head and extending onto second dorsal, anal, caudal, and pectoral fins. One lateral line canal, complete. Teeth small, even in size, and numerous; present on jaws, palatines, and vomer. Gill membranes united, attached to the isthmus. Branchiostegal rays 6 or 7. Swim bladder absent. Vertebrae 45–66. Maximum length of *A. fimbria* about 114 cm (3 ft 9 in), and of *E. zonifer* 183 cm (6 ft). Marine, demersal as adults, in fairly deep water; sablefish recorded to 2,740 m and skilfish to 339 m. Juveniles typically found near the surface in relatively shallow water. Feed on crustaceans, cephalopods, worms, and other fishes. Distributed in North Pacific from Alaska to California and to Japan. *Anoplopoma fimbria* is an important commercial species, in the fishery and market more commonly called blackcod than sablefish.

Quast (1965 [ref. 26203]) considered that the Anoplopomatidae are distinct enough osteologically from the other scorpaeniform families to warrant a separate superfamily, and that the suborbital stay may have originated independently in the anoplopomatid lineage. Nelson (1994:318 [ref. 26204]) and Eschmeyer (1998 [ref. 23416]) classified sablefishes in their own suborder, Anoplopomatoidei. Shinohara (1994:65 [ref. 21519]) treated the Anoplopomatoidei as a basic lineage in Scorpaeniformes separate from cottoid, scorpaenoid, and other scorpaeniform lineages. Other higher-level relationships involving sablefishes have been proposed (e.g., Imamura and Shinohara 1998 [ref. 26842], Imamura and Yabe 2002 [ref. 26810]), but it would be premature to adopt them into a classification without corroboration from additional studies.

The first use of the sablefish family-group name evidently was as a subfamily Anoplopominae in Chiridae by Jordan and Gilbert (1883:641 [ref. 2476]). The family name was spelled Anoplopomidae by Gill (1885:253 [ref. 1653]) and in other early literature, but the spelling Anoplopomatidae is grammatically correct. *Erilepis zonifer* is sometimes placed in its own family, Erilepididae. The first use of that group name evidently was as a subfamily Erilepidinae by Gill (1893:135 [ref. 26255]).

Genus *Anoplopoma* Ayres 1859

Anoplopoma Ayres 1859:27 [ref. 155]. Type species *Anoplopoma merlangus* Ayres 1859. Type by monotypy.

Scombrocottus Peters 1872:568 [ref. 3452]. Type species *Scombrocottus salmoneus* Peters 1872. Type by monotypy.

***Anoplopoma fimbria* (Pallas 1814)**

Gadus fimbria Pallas 1814:200 [ref. 3351] (probably Aleutian Islands [“Prom. Eliae Americae”]). Holotype: ZMB 23569 (dry).

Anoplopoma merlangus Ayres 1859:27, Fig. 4 (p. 53) [ref. 155] (San Francisco, California, U.S.A.). Possible syntype: BMNH 1863.10.9.58(1).

Scombrocottus salmoneus Peters 1872:569 [ref. 3452] (Vancouver I., 49°45'N, 126°00'W, British Columbia, Canada). Holotype: ZMB 8281.

DISTRIBUTION: North Pacific: Bering Sea to central Baja California and to central Honshu, Japan.

REMARKS: It is not clear from Ayres (1859) whether he based the description of *A. merlangus* on more than one specimen, so we may not assume the surviving type is a holotype.

Genus *Erilepis* Gill 1894

Erilepis Gill 1894:52 [ref. 1737]. Type species *Myriolepis zonifer* Lockington 1880. Type by being a replacement name.

Myriolepis Lockington 1880:248 [ref. 2818]. Type species *Myriolepis zonifer* Lockington 1880. Type by monotypy.

Ebisus Jordan & Snyder 1901:308 [ref. 2506]. Type species *Ebisus sagamius* Jordan & Snyder 1901. Type by monotypy.

REMARKS: *Myriolepis* Lockington 1880 is preoccupied by *Myriolepis* Egerton 1864 in fossil fishes (Gill 1894:52 [ref. 1737]).

***Erilepis zonifer* (Lockington 1880)**

Myriolepis zonifer Lockington 1880:248 [ref. 2818] (Monterey, California, U.S.A.). Holotype (unique): USNM 27111.

Ebisus sagamius Jordan & Snyder 1901:308, Pl. 15 (figs. 3–4) [ref. 2506] (Misaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, Sagami Bay, Honshu, Japan). Holotype (unique): ZUMT (stuffed, missing).

DISTRIBUTION: North Pacific: Gulf of Alaska to central California and south of Aleutian and Commander islands to central Japan.

REMARKS: The description of *Ebisus sagamius* Jordan & Snyder 1901 was based on an adult of *Myriolepis zonifer* Lockington 1880 (Jordan 1917:88 [ref. 2408]). The holotype of *E. sagamius* measured 140 cm TL and lacked obvious pale markings. The holotype of *M. zonifer* measured 30 cm TL and had the characteristic white markings of juveniles of the species.

Summary Lists

Genus-Group Names of Family Anoplopomatidae

Anoplopoma Ayres 1859 = *Anoplopoma* Ayres 1859

Ebisus Jordan & Snyder 1901 = *Erilepis* Gill 1894

Erilepis Gill 1894 = *Erilepis* Gill 1894

Myriolepis Lockington 1880 = *Erilepis* Gill 1894

Scombrocottus Peters 1872 = *Anoplopoma* Ayres 1859

Incertae Sedis Genus-Group Names

None

Unavailable Genus-Group Names

None

Species-Group Names of Family Anoplopomatidae

fimbria, Gadus Pallas 1814 = *Anoplopoma fimbria* (Pallas 1814)

merlangus, Anoplopoma Ayres 1859 = *Anoplopoma fimbria* (Pallas 1814)

sagamius, Ebisus Jordan & Snyder 1901 = *Erilepis zonifer* (Lockington 1880)

salmoneus, Scombrocottus Peters 1872 = *Anoplopoma fimbria* (Pallas 1814)

zonifer, Myriolepis Lockington 1880 = *Erilepis zonifer* (Lockington 1880)

Incertae Sedis Species-Group Names

None

Unavailable Species-Group Names

None

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