

On the original publication of *Alosa saposchnikowii* Grimm (Teleostei: Clupeidae)

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It is shown that *Alosa saposchnikowii* is originally published by Grimm in the newspaper Astrakhanskii Spravochnyi Listok for 5 May 1885. The problem of its lectotype is discussed.

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The name of Caspian big-eyed puzanok-shad *Alosa saposchnikowii* has been always credited to Grimm (1887, pages 85 and 94 in the journal or 7 and 16 in the separate). However, Grimm (1887: 94) stated: "this species was announced in the [daily newspaper] Astrakhanskii Spravochnyi Listok, in the issue for May 4, 1885". This statement was mentioned by Bogutskaya & Naseka (2004), but the authors did not verify it. We examined the above-mentioned newspaper in the Russian National Library, St. Petersburg. The relevant text from the issue for May 5 [not 4!], 1885, is as follows (see Figure): "In our region, for salting are taken ... 'puzanok' (*Alosa caspia*) and 'chernospinka' (*Alosa pontica*) ... the small fish which are thrown out from nets reach the length of 5 'vershkov' [= about 225 mm] and belong to a separate undescribed species discovered by me first on Zaburunskiy fishery [45.75°N 50.17°E] and Biryuch'ya Kosa [45.72°N 47.58°E] ... Being generally similar in the body shape to puzanok, it differs clearly at first sight in the much more developed teeth on the lower jaw and fewer gill-rakers (30-43) ... This shad named by me *Alosa Saposchnikowii* in honour of A.A. Sapozhnikov should not be confused with the even smaller 'sardinka' (clapea [sic] delicatula) also occurring in the Volga mouth". This text satisfies the criteria of availability for new nominal taxa (articles 10, 11 and 12 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 4th edition). Though a newspaper, as a kind of publication, does not entirely meet the criteria of Art. 8 of the Code, there are quite many other cases of publication of new taxa in newspapers, and such names are considered available. Hence, the cor-

rect date of publication is May 5, 1885 [= 17 May 1885 in the Gregorian calendar].

Berg (1913: 16-18) listed specimens in the collection of Zoological Museum [now Institute] in St. Petersburg and named three of them "type". One of these specimens (male, total length 200 mm, ZIN 15921, Oranzhereynyi in the Volga delta [45.85°N 47.57°E], May 1885) was illustrated by Berg (1948: fig. 89) with the statement "type". Both cases do not constitute a valid designation of the lectotype, but Svetovidov (1952: 223) stating about the above specimen that Berg "established it as type" actually designated it as the lectotype. However, the shift of the publication date to 5 May 1885 casts doubt on the belonging of the above-mentioned specimen to syntypes, as it is not clear if it was examined by Grimm before writing his paper or not. If the specimen will be discarded as the lectotype, another specimen listed by Berg (1913) (e.g., one of those from ZIN 15868, Biryuch'ya Kosa, 15 April 1885) will be eligible for lectotype designation.

References

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