

THUNNUS SOUTH, 1845 (PISCES): PROPOSED VALIDATION UNDER  
THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1652

By Bruce B. Collette (*Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Ichthyological Laboratory,  
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*)  
and

Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. (*U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*)

The generic name *Thunnus* was proposed by South (1845, *Encycl. Metrop.* 25 : 620) as an emendation of [substitute for] *Thynnus* Cuvier (1817, *Règne Animal* 2 : 313), type-species by tautonymy, *Scomber thynnus* Linnaeus (1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 297-298), which is preoccupied by *Thynnus* Fabricius (1775, *Syst. Ent.* : 360) in Hymenoptera. Since this proposal by South was pointed out by Gill (1894, *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 16 : 693-694), most workers have used *Thunnus* South at least for the type-species. Within recent years numerous authors, including Fraser-Brunner (1950, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* 12 : 142-146), Rivas (1951, *Bull. mar. Sci. Gulf and Carib.* 1 : 217-223), de Sylva (1955, *Bull. mar. Sci. Gulf and Carib.* 5 : 31-40), Collette and Gibbs (1963, *FAO Fish Rept.* 6, 1 : 27-28) and Gibbs and Collette (MS, Comparative anatomy and systematics of the tunas, genus *Thunnus*), have used *Thunnus* South for six commercially important species of tunas: *T. alalunga* (Bonnaterre, 1788), *T. albacares* (Bonnaterre, 1788), *T. atlanticus* (Lesson, 1830), *T. obesus* (Lowe, 1839), *T. thynnus* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *T. tonggol* (Bleeker, 1852). The World Scientific Meeting on the Biology of Tunas and Related Species, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and held in La Jolla, California from June 2-14, 1962, suggested (*FAO Fish Rept.* 6, 1 : 8) that the generic nomenclature utilized by Collette and Gibbs (*op. cit.*) be tentatively accepted pending future revisionary studies.

2. In 1955, Whitley (*Proc. Roy. zool. Soc. N. S. Wales*, 1953-54 : 51-52) published the rediscovery of *Thinnus* S.D.W. (1837, *Analyst* 18 : 208), an emendation of *Thynnus* Cuvier, 1817, which antedates *Thunnus* South, 1845 by eight years, and proposed that *Thinnus* S.D.W., be employed in place of *Thunnus* South. S.D.W., perhaps S. D. Wood, of Derbyshire according to Whitley, wrote systematic lists of the animals of Britain for the *Analyst* emending many scientific names by changing ph into f, y into i, etc. As far as we can determine, *Thinnus* S.D.W. has been used only by Abe (1955, *Bull. Jap. Soc. Sci. Fish.* 21 : 20-23). Later (1963) Abe employed *Thunnus* for *T. thynnus* in his encyclopedia of Japanese marine fishes (Genshoku Gyorui Kewsaku Zukan).

3. The tunas of the genus *Thunnus* are important commercial species. Because most studies of the tunas are made by fishery biologists, not by systematists, any change in nomenclature would adversely affect many biologists.

4. Therefore, we request the International Commission to:

- (1) exercise its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Thinnus* S.D.W., 1837, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;

- (2) to place the generic name *Thunnus* South, 1845 (gender : masculine), type-species through *Thynnus* Cuvier, 1817, by tautonymy, *Scomber thynnus* Linnaeus, 1758, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) place the specific name *thynnus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Scomber thynnus*, (type-species of *Thunnus* South, 1845) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) place the following generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology;
  - (a) *Thynnus* Cuvier, 1817 (a junior homonym of *Thynnus* Fabricius, 1775);
  - (b) *Thinnus* S.D.W., 1837 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above);
- (5) to place the family-group name THUNNINAE E. C. Starks, 1910 (*J. Morph.* 21(1) : 79-80) (type-genus *Thunnus* South, 1845) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology;
- (6) to place the family-group name THINNINAE G. P. Whitley, 1955 (type-genus *Thinnus* S.D.W., 1837) (invalid because the name of its type-genus has been suppressed under the plenary powers) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology.