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Paulicea gigantea GOELDI, 1900 – AN OVERLOOKED, AVAILABLE JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *Zungaro jahu* (IHERING, 1898)

Paulicea gigantea Goeldi, 1900 – *Un olvidado, sinónimo disponible de Zungaro jahu* (Ihering, 1898)

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In only two pages Hermann von Ihering (1898) described both, the new pimelodid genus *Paulicea* and the new species *P. jahu*, being 'Jahú' also the vernacular name of the species. Silfvergrip (1992) considered *Paulicea* to be a junior synonym of *Zungaro*, whose type species, *Zungaro zungaro* (Humboldt, 1821), is distributed in the Amazon and Orinoco basins, and *Z. jahu* is found in the Paraná and Paraguay systems. Only these two species of the genus are currently known, but there may be more hidden ones (Pires *et al.*, 2017). *Bagrus flavicans* Castelnau, 1855, *Zungaro humboldtii* Bleeker, 1858, and *Platystoma lütkeni* Steindachner, 1876 were listed as junior synonyms of *Zungaro zungaro* by Lundberg y Littmann (2003) and Ferraris (2007), while no synonym to *Z. jahu* seems to exist.

In his paper on the fishes of the Amazon, published in German, Goeldi (1900a: 474, 1900b: 384) has stated that "for the closely related 'Jahu' Dr. H. von Ihering, Director of the Museum at São Paulo, has proposed the name *Paulicea gigantea* I. nov.gen. et nov. spec. However, I have to admit that the collocation of a specimen in my possession has resulted in such a similarity to the *Pseudoplatystoma lutkenii* described by Steindachner, that to me, if not the identity with the very species, at least the affiliation to Steindachner's genus seems to be very probable" [author's translation from the original text in German]. In his earlier contribution on the Amazonian fishes Goeldi (1898) did not mention *Paulicea gigantea*, nor *P. jahu*. Ihering's paper was probably not yet available to Goeldi when preparing his own paper as both have been published nearly simultaneously.

By mentioning not only a species allegedly described by Ihering, but also the description of the genus *Paulicea*, Goeldi clearly refers to the paper in which Ihering (1898) described *Paulicea* and *P. jahu*. Thus, Goeldi ascribed the nomen *Paulicea gigantea* erro-

neously to the authorship of Ihering and in consequence, possibly due to a *lapsus calami*, published inadvertently a new nomen (not a *nomen novum* in the sense of the glossary of the Code!). Goeldi's *Paulicea gigantea* was not supported by a description or any other definition of the species, but by a 'bibliographic reference to a previously published description' which is an *indication* in the sense of Article 12.2.1. (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999). Thus, *Paulicea gigantea* Goeldi, 1900 is a name available for the zoological nomenclature and a so far overlooked jr. synonym of *Paulicea jahu* Ihering, 1898.

As a matter of fact the contribution of Goeldi has been published twice, both times during the same year (1900a,b) in the German journals Prometheus and Nerthus, being the first a popular journal on technical advances and natural sciences and the latter a magazine for keepers of plants and pets, including the aquarium hobby. As the editor of Nerthus acknowledged the permission to reprint from Prometheus (Goeldi 1900b: 468), the paper published in Prometheus was the one Goeldi submitted for initially.

As recognizable from the respective subtitles Goeldi had structured his contribution for Prometheus in three parts and the editor has then fractured those into seven (see Goeldi 1900a in references). Different from Nerthus, the issues of Prometheus do not indicate the exact date of publication, but only the running weekly issue of the respective volume and a continuous number for the entire journal. As the volumes started in October the publication date of each part in Prometheus was counted from the beginning of October by weeks forward. By coincidence Nerthus was published on Sundays and October 1st, 1900 was a Sunday, too. Goeldi's comment on *Paulicea gigantea* in Prometheus was mentioned in issue 550, assumed to have been published on April, 22nd 1900, while the same comment in Nerthus

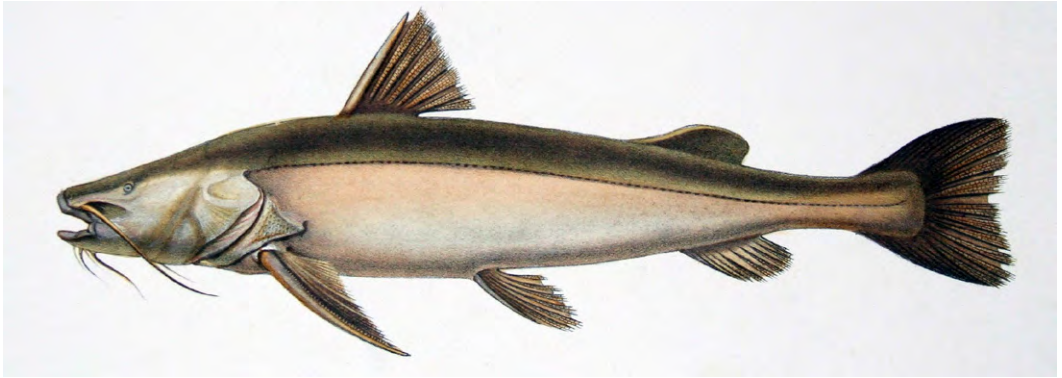


Figure 1 - *Bagrus flavicans* Castelnau, 1855, a junior synonym of *Zungaro zungaro* (Humboldt, 1821). Drawing from Castelnau's original description, made available by Wikimedia Commons.

Für den nahestehenden »Jahú« hat Dr. H. VON IHERING, Direktor des Museums von Sao Paulo, den Namen *Paulicea gigantea* L., nov. gen. et nov. spec., vorgeschlagen; ich muss indessen gestehen,

Figure 2 - Relevant text from Goeldi (1900b).

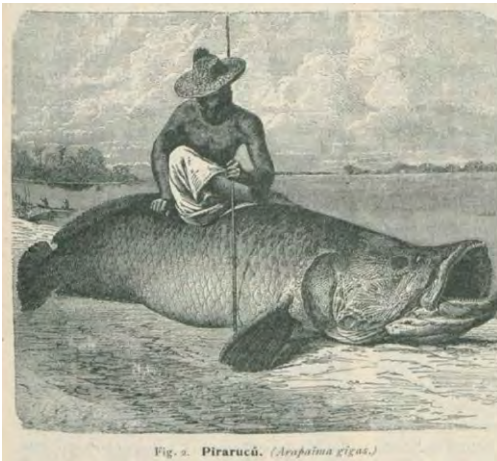


Figure 3 - *Arapaima gigas*, one of the illustrations presented in Goeldi (1900b).

dates from June 10th, 1900. Thus, issue 550 of *Prometheus*, is to be considered the original source of publication for *Paulicea gigantea* Goeldi, 1900.

As both papers are either not available online as compilation of the parts (Nerthus)

or not available online at all (*Prometheus*), these are offered for download at: www.pecescrilloos.de/en/paulicea-gigantea. To maintain their permanent availability for the ichthyological community please feel free to store those pdf-files in any database or site you consider feasible.

ZooBank registrations for the publication and the taxon are pub:879DD32D-C7BB-4E42-93DC-98361060ECE2 and act:F67E4D1D-357D-48DA-B7C4-39720B3E-3DEE, respectively.

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