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**ANNOTATED CHECKLISTS OF FISHES**

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**Family Stephanoberycidae Gill 1884**

pricklefishes

By

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The Stephanoberycidae is a small group, comprising three monotypic genera, of stephanoberycoid fishes known mainly from tropical marine waters. Body oblong; head about one-third length of body. Head bones with strongly serrated ridges (except in *Malacosarcus*) covered by thin skin. Eye small. Mouth large, oblique, with jaws extending behind eye. Dorsal and anal fins opposite, placed behind middle of body. Dorsal fin with 0–3 weak spines and 9–14 soft rays; anal fin with 0–3 weak spines and 9–14 soft rays; pectoral fins with 10–14 soft rays; pelvic fins abdominal or subabdominal with 5 soft rays (no spine). Villiform teeth on jaws; no teeth on vomer, palatines, endopterygoid, and ectopterygoid. One supramaxilla. Branchiostegal rays 8–9. Orbitosphenoid, subocular shelf, and antorbital absent; basisphenoid present. Scales ctenoid (*Acanthochaenus* and *Stephanoberyx*) or cycloid (*Malacosarcus*). Lateral line papillate, with 29–32 scales. Vertebrae 26–33. Maximum length 14 cm (5.5 in). Bathypelagic or abyssal benthic, known from tropical to temperate waters of the Atlantic, Indian, and western and central Pacific oceans. Adults at depths of 945–4,438 m. Feed on crustaceans (*Acanthochaenus*).

The family name dates to Gill (1884 [ref. 1728]), who called the group “Stephanoberycides” and included his *Acanthochaenus luetkenii* and *Stephanoberyx monae*. One new genus and species, *Malacosarcus macrostoma* (Günther), has been discovered and described since then. Ebeling and Weed (1973 [ref. 6898]) provided evidence supporting inclusion of all three genera in the family in their review of western North Atlantic stephanoberycoids. Kotlyar (1990 [ref. 26698], 1996 [ref. 23292]) described the osteology and reviewed the family on a worldwide basis, and Kotlyar and Evseenko (1989 [ref. 26700]) described larvae of *A. luetkenii*. The family as currently understood includes three species in three genera.

**Genus *Acanthochaenus* Gill 1884**

*Acanthochaenus* Gill 1884:433 [ref. 1728]. Type species *Acanthochaenus luetkenii* Gill 1884.  
Type by monotypy.

***Acanthochaenus luetkenii* Gill 1884**

*Acanthochaenus luetkenii* Gill 1884:433 [ref. 1728] (western North Atlantic, east of New Jersey, U.S.A., Albatross sta. 2095, 39°29'00"N, 70°58'40"W, 1,342 fm). Lectotype: USNM 33555.

*Stephanoberyx gillii* Goode & Bean 1896:187, Pl. 56 (fig. 206) [ref. 1848] (western North Atlantic, east of Virginia, U.S.A., Albatross sta. 2099, 37°12'20"N, 69°30'00"W, 2,949 fm). Holotype: USNM 33555.

**DISTRIBUTION:** North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Indian oceans off South Africa, southern Indian Ocean from Madagascar Ridge to Australia, and South Pacific Ocean (38°48'S, 175°54'W). Adults at 1,655–2,700 m, larvae taken at 30 m. Adults probably benthopelagic.

REMARKS: The lectotype of *Acanthochaenus luetkenii* Gill 1884 was designated by Myers (1936:118 [ref. 23293]). *Stephanoberyx gillii* Goode & Bean 1896 is an objective synonym of *A. luetkenii* Gill after lectotype designation by Myers (1936:118 [ref. 23293]).

**Genus *Malacosarcus* Günther 1887**

*Malacosarcus* Günther 1887:30 [ref. 2013]. Type species *Scopelus macrostoma* Günther 1878. Type by original designation (also monotypic).

***Malacosarcus macrostoma* (Günther 1878)**

*Scopelus macrostoma* Günther 1878:186 [19 of separate] [ref. 2010] (mid-Pacific, *Challenger* sta. 271, 0°33'S, 154°34'W, 2,425 fm.). Holotype (unique): BMNH 1887.12.7.11.

DISTRIBUTION: Tropical western and central Pacific and eastern tropical Atlantic (northwest Africa) at depths of 2,777–4,438 m. Adults probably bathypelagic or abyssal benthic.

**Genus *Stephanoberyx* Gill 1883**

*Stephanoberyx* Gill 1883:258 [ref. 1724]. Type species *Stephanoberyx monae* Gill 1883. Type by monotypy.

***Stephanoberyx monae* Gill 1883**

*Stephanoberyx monae* Gill 1883:258 [ref. 1724] (western North Atlantic, east of Long Island, New York, U.S.A., *Albatross* sta. 2077, 41°09'40"N, 65°02'20"W, 1,255 fm). Holotype (unique): USNM 33445.

DISTRIBUTION: Western North Atlantic: New England to Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and Lesser Antilles at depths of 945–4,777 m. Adults probably abyssal benthic.

**Summary Lists**

**Genus-Group Names of Family Stephanoberycidae**

*Acanthochaenus* Gill 1884 = *Acanthochaenus* Gill 1884

*Malacosarcus* Günther 1887 = *Malacosarcus* Günther 1887

*Stephanoberyx* Gill 1883 = *Stephanoberyx* Gill 1883

**Incertae Sedis Genus-Group Names**

None

**Unavailable Genus-Group Names**

None

**Species-Group Names of Family Stephanoberycidae**

*gillii*, *Stephanoberyx* Goode & Bean 1896 = *Acanthochaenus luetkenii* Gill 1884

*luetkenii*, *Acanthochaenus* Gill 1884 = *Acanthochaenus luetkenii* Gill 1884

*macrostoma*, *Scopelus* Günther 1878 = *Malacosarcus macrostoma* (Günther 1878)

*monae*, *Stephanoberyx* Gill 1883 = *Stephanoberyx monae* Gill 1883

**Incertae Sedis Species-Group Names**

None

**Unavailable Species-Group Names**

None

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