

NAMES OF FISHES IN MEUSCHEN'S INDEX TO THE "ZOOPHYLACIUM GRONOVIANUM."

By

GILBERT P. WHITLEY,

Ichthyologist, The Australian Museum, Sydney.

The "Zoophylacium Gronovianum" is a well known book on animals which was published in 1763. The Latin names given to the species described therein by L. T. Gronow were binary but not consistently binomial and cannot therefore be utilized in taxonomy. In 1781 another edition of the "Zoophylacium" appeared which was a replica of the 1763 original, but at least some copies of it possessed an excellent index in which *binomial* names, mostly Linnean in origin and all based on the Linnean system, were given to Gronow's genera and species by F. C. Meuschen.

Very few zoologists seem to have been aware of Meuschen's compilation or much argument over the Gronovian names might have been avoided. The Australian Museum is fortunate in possessing a copy of the index, as it is evidently very rare. Sherborn does not quote it in his wonderful "Index Animalium," nor is it in Dean's "Bibliography of Fishes," and, so far as I know, Meuschen's 1781 names are only in general use amongst the conchologists who are indebted to Dall¹ for tabulating them. I am obliged to Mr. Tom Iredale for calling my attention to Meuschen's index several years ago. I am now able to offer a collation of the fish names which appeared therein and feel that these will prove important to ichthyologists generally. The mammals, reptiles, amphibia, insecta, vermes, and zoophyta claim the attention of others.

Besides giving binomial names to Gronow's species, Meuschen also indexed ordinal, family, and vernacular names but those are not considered in this paper. He also sometimes appeared to give more than one name to a Gronovian species-number or failed to supply a number to a name, but these discrepancies are due to obvious misprints or the use of a wrong font of type and have been rectified in the collation given below.

Several new specific names were introduced for fishes by Meuschen in 1778 and 1781 (see bibliography, *infra*); the former are indicated in the list below by an obelisk (†) and the latter by an asterisk (*). Some of these will be found to invalidate the use

¹Dall.—Nautilus, xxxvii, 1923, pp. 44-52; Iredale, Rec. Austr. Mus. xv, 1927, pp. 327-328.