

MELANIE L. J. STIASSNY
HERBERT R AND EVELYN AXELROD RESEARCH CURATOR AND CURATOR-IN-CHARGE
DIVISION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
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HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED

Ph.D.

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Systematics, conservation biology, evolutionary morphology of fishes

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of London, 1980

B.S., University of London, 1976

EXPERIENCE IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Adjunct Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology,
Columbia University, 2003-present

Adjunct Professor, Center for Environmental Research in Conservation, Columbia
University, 1997-2003

Adjunct Professor, City College, City University of New York, 1992-present

Assistant Professor, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard
University, 1983-1987

COURSES TAUGHT

Fish biodiversity: systematics and evolution, undergraduate/graduate class with lab,
Columbia University, 2004

Fish Biology and Systematics, graduate seminar, Columbia University, Fall 2000

Zoology and Phylogeny of Chordata [Fishes], The Interrelationships of Fishes Living and
Fossil (co-taught with John Maisey, Department of Vertebrate Paleontology), City
University of New York, Spring 1995.

Seminar in the anatomy of fishes, City University of New York, Spring 1993

Zoology and Phylogeny of Chordata [Fishes], Systematics and Evolutionary Biology of
Fishes, City University of New York, Spring 1991

GRADUATE COMMITTEES

Robert C. Schelly, Columbia University, 1999-2006

William Leo Smith, Columbia University, 1999-2005

Hernan Lopez Frenandez, Texas A&M University, 2005

Marcelo Carvalho, Ph.D., City University of New York, 1992-2001

Mario DePinna, Ph.D, City University of New York, 1993-1998

Joel Radding, Ph.D, City University of New York, 1994

Jeff Jensen, Ph.D thesis, Harvard University, 1993

GRADUATE ADVISEES

Robert C. Schelly, Ph.D. candidate, Columbia University, 1999-2006

William Leo Smith, Ph.D., Columbia University, 1999-2005

Abebe Getahun, Ph.D, City University of New York, 1994-1999

Monica Toledo-Pisa, Ph.D, City University of New York, 1992-1997

Linda Benveniste, M.S., City University of New York, 1994

RESEARCH GRANT SUPPORT

FEDERAL SOURCES

National Science Foundation, "Dissertation Research: Scorpionfish (Teleostei: Scorpaenoidei) Phylogenetics and the Evolution of Venom in Fishes" (co-PI with W.L. Smith), \$11,970, June 1, 2004 – May 31, 2006

National Science Foundation, "Dissertation Research: Phylogenetics of the Lamprologini (Teleostei: Cichlidae) based on morphology and molecules" (co-PI with R. Schelly), \$10,310, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2007

NON-FEDERAL SOURCES

Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation support, \$7,500-\$6,000 each year since 2002 (primarily to fund students' field research)

Axelrod Research Curatorship, ongoing endowed funds in support of research on freshwater fish biodiversity and biodiscovery (varies by year).

RECENT ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

Loiselle, P.V., and M.L.J. Stiassny. 2007. Rehabilitation of the Malagasy endemic, *Kuhlia sauvagii* Regan, 1913 (Teleostei: Perciformes), with the designation of a neotype for *Centropomus rupestris* Lacépède, 1802. *American Museum Novitates* 2561: 1-13.

Sparks, J.S., and M.L.J. Stiassny. 2007. Les poissons d'eaux douce. In S.M. Goodman and J. P. Benstead (editors), *Histoire Naturelle de Madagascar*: 1-28 Publications Scientifiques Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN), Paris. (will be out by June).

Stiassny, M.L.J., and A. Getahun. 2007. An overview of labeonin relationships and the phylogenetic placement of the Afro-Asian genus *Garra* Hamilton, 1922 (Teleostei: Cyprinidae), with the description of five new species of *Garra* from Ethiopia and a key to all African species. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 150: 41-83.

Stiassny, M.L.J., and U.K. Schliewen. 2007. *Congochromis*, a new cichlid genus (Teleostei: Cichlidae) from central Africa, with a description of a new species from the upper Congo River, Democratic Republic of Congo. *American Museum Novitates* 3576: 1-13.

Dudgeon, D., A.H. Arthington, M.O. Gessner, Z. Kawabata, D.J. Knowler, C. Leveque, R.J. Naiman, A.-H. Prieur-Richard, D. Soto, M.L.J. Stiassny, and C.A. Sullivan. 2006. Freshwater biodiversity: importance, threats, status and conservation challenges. *Biological Reviews* 81:163-182.

Harrison, I.J., and M.L.J. Stiassny. 2006. La biodiversità negli ambienti d'acqua dolce: minacce e prospettive. In A. Duchi (editor), *Convegno. La Conservazione ed il Recupero della Fauna Ittica e degli Ambienti delle Acque Interne*. Ragusa 28

- Maggio 2004 : 59-83. Provincia Regionale de Ragusa, Sicily : Assessorato Territorio e Ambiente.
- Schliewen, U.K., and M.L.J. Stiassny. 2006. A new species of *Nanochromis* (Teleostei: Cichlidae) from Lake Mai Ndombe, central Congo Basin, Democratic Republic of Congo. *Zootaxa* 1169:33-46.
- Stiassny, M.L.J. 2006. Flatfishes: Biology and Exploitation. *Fish and Fisheries* 7: 73-74.
- Stiassny, M.L.J., R.C. Schelly, and U.K. Schliewen. 2006. A new species of *Raiamas* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from the Lower Congo River, with a phylogenetic assessment of the generic limits of the predatory cyprinid genera *Opsaridium*, *Raiamas* and *Leptocypris*. *Copeia* 2006(3): 370-377.
- Stiassny, M.L.J., and J.S. Sparks. 2006. Phylogeny and taxonomic revision of the endemic Malagasy genus *Ptychochromis* (Teleostei: Cichlidae), with the description of five new species and a diagnosis for *Katria*, new genus. *American Museum Novitates* 3535: 1-55.
- Tshibabwa, S.M., M.L.J. Stiassny, and R.C. Schelly. 2006. Description of a new species of *Labeo* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from the lower Congo River. *Zootaxa*. 1224: 33-44.
- Lopez-Ferndez, H., R.L. Honeycutt, M.L.J. Stiassny, and K.O. Winemiller. 2005. Morphology, molecules, and character congruence in the phylogeny of South American Geophagine Cichlids (Perciformes, Labroidei). *Zoologica Scripta* 34(6): 627-651.
- Stiassny, M.L.J., and S.A. Schaefer. 2005. *Rhabdalestes aeratis*, new species (Characiformes: Alestidae): first occurrence of the genus from the Middle Congo River basin. *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters*, 16(3):271-278
- Schelly, R & M.L.J. Stiassny. 2004. Revision of the Congo River *Lamprologus* Schilthuis, 1891 (Teleostei: Cichlidae), with description of two new species. 68 ms. pages. *American Museum Novitates*.
- Getahun, A., Stiassny, M.L.J. & G.G. Teugels. 2004. Description of a new species of *Varicorhinus* (Ostariophysi: Cyprinidae) from West-Central Africa. 6 ms. pages.
- Schliewen, U.R. & M.L.J. Stiassny. 2003. *Etia nguti*, a new genus and species of cichlid fish from the River Mamfue, Upper Cross River basin, Cameroon, Central Africa. *Ichthyol. Explor. Freshwaters*, 14(1): 61-72.
- Lamboj, A. and M.L.J. Stiassny. 2003. Three new *Parananochromis* species (Teleostei, Cichlidae) from Gabon and Cameroon, Central Africa. *Zootaxa* 209: 1-19.
- Benstead, J.P., DeRham, P.H., Gattolliat, J.-L., Gibbon, F.-M., Loiselle, P.V., Sartori, M., Sparks, J.S. & M.L.J. Stiassny. 2003. Conserving Madagascar's freshwater biodiversity. *Bioscience* 53(11): 1101-1111.
- Schelly, R., M.L.J. Stiassny & L. Seegers. 2003. *Neolamprologus devosi* sp.n. a new riverine lamprologine cichlid (Teleostei: Cichlidae) from the lower Malagarasi River, Tanzania. *Zootaxa* 373: 1-11.
- Stiassny, M.L.J., D.M. Rodriguez & P.V. Loiselle. 2002. *Rheocles vatosoa*, a new species of freshwater rainbowfish (Atherinomorpha: Bedotiidae) from the Lokoho River basin in northeastern Madagascar. *Cybium* 261: 71-77.
- Stiassny, M.L.J. 2002. Conservation of freshwater fish biodiversity: the knowledge impediment. *Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft für Ichthyologie*, 3, 2002: 7-18.

- Stiassny, M.L.J., Chakrabarty, P. and P.V. Loiselle. 2001. Relationships of the Madagascan cichlid genus *Paretroplus* Bleeker 1868, with a description of a new species from the Betsiboka River drainage of northwestern Madagascar. *Ichthyol. Explor. Freshwaters* 12(1): 29-40.
- Stiassny, M.L.J. & D.M Rodriguez. 2001. *Rheocles derhami*, a new species of freshwater rainbow (Atherinomorpha: Bedotiidae) from the Amboaboa River in northeastern Madagascar. *Ichthyol. Explor. Freshwaters* 12(2): 97-104.
- Stiassny, M.L.J. 2001. Revision of *Sauvagella* Bertin (Clupeidae; Pellonulinae; Ehiravini) with a description of a new species from the freshwaters of Madagascar and diagnosis of the Ehiravini. *Copeia* 2002(1): 67-76.