

MELANIE L. J. STIASSNY
HERBERT R AND EVELYN AXELROD RESEARCH CURATOR AND PROFESSOR
DIVISION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED

Ph.D.

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Systematics, conservation biology, evolutionary morphology of fishes

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ph.D., University of London, 1980

B.S., University of London, 1976

PREVIOUS 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, 2007 (co-taught with John Sparks)

Fish biodiversity: systematics and evolution, undergraduate/graduate class with lab,
Columbia University, 2004 (co-taught with John Sparks)

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 ADVISEES

Jacob Lowenstein, Columbia University, 2006 –

Hugo Escobar, City University of New York, 2006 -

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

GRADUATE COMMITTEES

Raoul Monsembula, University of Kinshasa, 2007 -
Jacob Lowenstein, Columbia University, 2006 -
Hugo Escobar, City University of New York, 2006 -
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

RESEARCH GRANT SUPPORT

FEDERAL SOURCES

National Science Foundation, “Collaborative Research: Evolution in a vortex: an inventory of the fishes and mollusks of the Lower Congo River rapids”, \$422,953, March 31, 2006 – March 31, 2009.

NON-FEDERAL SOURCES

Axelrod Research Curatorship, ongoing endowed funds in support of research on freshwater fish biodiversity and biodiscovery.

RECENT ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS (2003-2008)

- Lévêque, C., T. Oberdorf, D. Paugy, M.L.J. Stiassny and P. Tedesco. 2008. Global diversity of fish (Pisces) in freshwater. *Hydrobiologia* 595: 545-567.
- Conway, K.W. and M.L.J. Stiassny, 2008. Phylogenetic diagnosis of the African cyprinid genus *Clypeobarbus* Fowler, with the rehabilitation of *C. bomokandi* (Myers) and notes on included species. *Ichthyological Research*, 55: 260-266.
- Hardman, M. and M.L.J. Stiassny, 2008. A sexually dimorphic species of *Chrysichthys* (Siluriformes: Claroteidae) from Lac Mai-Ndombe, Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Ichthyol. Explor. Freshwaters*, 9: 175-184.
- Sparks, J.S. and M.L.J. Stiassny. 2008. Les poissons d'eau douce. Pp. 283-309 in: S. M. Goodman (ed.), *Paysages naturels et biodiversité de Madagascar*. Publications Scientifiques Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN), Paris.
- Abel, R., M.L.J. Stiassny et al. 2008. . Freshwater ecoregions of the World: A new map of biogeographic units for freshwater biodiversity conservation. *Bioscience* 58 (5): 403-414.
- Stiassny, M.L.J., G.G. Teugels and C.D. Hopkins. 2007. *Poissons d'Eaux Douces et Saumâtres de Basse Guinée, l'Afrique Ouest-Centrale: The Fresh and Brackish Water Fishes of Lower Guinea, west-Central Africa*. Volume 1. 800pp, Volume 2. 603pp. IRD Éditions, Paris.
- Stiassny, M.L.J., and V. Mamonekene. 2007. *Micralestes* (Teleostei, Alestidae) of the Lower Congo River, with a description of a new species endemic to the Lower Congo River rapids in the Democratic Republic of Congo. *Zootaxa* 1614: 17-29.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.