

A Critical Review of the Types and Putative Types of Southern Asian Marine and Freshwater Fish Species in the Australian Museum Named by Francis Day

CARL J. FERRARIS JR.,¹ MARK A. MCGROUTHER² AND KERRY L. PARKINSON²

¹ Department of Ichthyology, California Academy of Sciences,
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118, United States of America
ferraris@CalAcademy.org

² Division of Vertebrate Zoology, Australian Museum,
6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia
markm@austmus.gov.au
kerrylnp@austmus.gov.au

ABSTRACT. Specimens representing 160 nominal species of fishes that were named by Francis Day were among the nearly 2000 specimens sent to the Australian Museum by Day in 1884. The type status of each of these specimens was evaluated in light of new evidence obtained from the archival papers of Edward Ramsay, the curator responsible for the acquisition of the Day collection. Of the 160 species, 141 are represented by at least one specimen that must be considered as a possible type. Approximately 126 of those species are represented by syntypes or possible syntypes, 1 by a lectotype, 2 by possible holotypes, 1 by a questionable type, and the remaining 11 by paralectotypes or possible paralectotypes. These numbers greatly exceed previous estimates of the number of types of Day's species housed in the Australian Museum and include species for which types are otherwise unknown. Among the types of Day's fishes are species from coastal marine environments from throughout southern Asia, as well as fresh and brackish water species from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar.

FERRARIS JR., CARL J., MARK A. MCGROUTHER & KERRY L. PARKINSON, 2000. A critical review of the types and putative types of southern Asian marine and freshwater fish species in the Australian Museum named by Francis Day. *Records of the Australian Museum* 52(3): 289–306.

Francis Day is the single most influential figure in the ichthyology of southern Asia. During the 24 year period of his study of Asian fishes (1865 to 1889), Day named 343 species of marine and freshwater fishes, based primarily on nearly 10,000 specimens (Whitehead & Talwar, 1976) that he obtained during nearly 20 years of intermittent field

work in India and the surrounding region, which includes the area that today extends from Afghanistan to Myanmar.

Day's ichthyological pursuits, which were initially conducted in addition to his normal duties as a military surgeon, resulted in more than 50 scientific papers on southern Asian fishes, not included in which were several