

BETWEEN THE JFB COVERS

After 175 years, a species proposed by Darwin and Jenyns is tested

After his global circumnavigation on the *Beagle*, Charles Darwin gave hundreds of fishes he collected to longtime mentor Leonard Jenyns, so that Jenyns could help publish Darwin's taxonomic discoveries. Working with specimens that were shriveled and discolored from years in spirits, Jenyns often struggled to recognize differences between species. However, he got it right most of the time and 80% of the species he described 175 years ago are still valid today.

In this taxonomic revision of the *Jenynsia lineata* species complex, Pedro Amorim (2018) uses fresh specimens and species delimitation methods to correct an instance where Jenyns got it wrong: he described *J. lineata* as a new species based on several specimens, and incorrectly differentiated the species *J. multidentata* based on a single individual with only slight morphological differences. Amorim not only demonstrates that these differences are insignificant – thereby synonymizing these species – but also discovers a previously unrecognized species that he names *Jenynsia darwini*, honoring both the great

theorist who conceived the theory of evolution by natural selection and the humble naturalist who first collected and preserved specimens of this complex. Although the *J. lineata* complex now occupies a genus honoring Jenyns, it was Albert Günther – the fish curator at the British Museum – who erected the genus *Jenynsia* and transferred these species there in 1866, 22 years after they were first described.

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REFERENCE

- F. Amorim, P. (2018), *Jenynsia lineata* species complex, revision and new species description (Cyprinodontiformes: Anablepidae). *Journal of Fish Biology*, 92, 1312–1332. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.13587>