The BIBLIO Table in FishBase and SeaLifeBase

The BIBLIO table provides a many-to-many link between the SPECIES and the REFRENS table, i.e., for each species it lists all the references we have used, and for each publication all the species for which we have extracted information. We also record the scientific **Name Used as Valid** for a species in a given publication, and this name is entered in the SYNONYMS table, if it did not exist previously. In this way we want to keep track of all scientific names of fishes that are in public use. In addition, we record the locality from which the species was reported, and if given, the global or regional distribution of the species assumed in the publication. This is meant to capture the respective taxon concept or circumscription used by the authors, i.e., which populations they considered to be included under the species name. Internally this information is used whenever a species is split, a rather painful process, because we have to decide for each publication to which of the new species it will be assigned.

The close integration of synonyms and references ensures that publications remain attached to the proper biological species, even if the scientific name changes. It also allows us to print automatically updated lists of nomenclatural changes for our references, from Linnaeus (1758) onwards (see 'Nomenclatural Changes', below).

The BIBLIO table also includes a field for the page number where the species is dealt with and a field for citations. In May 2010, the BIBLIO Table contained over half a million records.

Internet

On the internet, you get to the BIBLIO table by clicking the Biblio button under the 'Main Reference' or References button in the 'More information' section of the Species summary page. In the Biblio Entry Summary page, click on a reference number to get additional information on locality (type locality when given with museum catalogue number), distributional range assumed by the authors, a relevant quote from the publication (e.g. on taxonomic issues), and a comment by FishBase staff, e.g. on the information used for the species.

You get to the list of scientific names used as valid in a publication by first going to the summary page for that reference (click on the blue highlighted Author, Year link) and then selecting the **Species used from this reference** link of the **Find this reference in** field of the Reference page.

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