

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pseudoscaphirhynchus* spp.: A Bibliography*Vadim J. Birstein**

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The three species of *Pseudoscaphirhynchus* (Scaphirhynchinae), *P. fedtschenkoi*, *P. hermanni*, and *P. kaufmanni* are the Central Asian endemics which recently inhabited the Syr (*P. fedtschenkoi*) and Amu (*P. hermanni* and *P. kaufmanni*) Darya rivers (Berg, 1905, 1948a; Nikolskii, 1938, 1950; Birstein, 1997). At present, *P. kaufmanni* is Endangered, while *P. fedtschenkoi* and *P. hermanni* are Critically Endangered (IUCN, 1996). All three species have become the victims of the Aral Sea ecological catastrophe (Birstein, 1993, 1997; Birstein et al., 1997; Zholdasova, 1997).

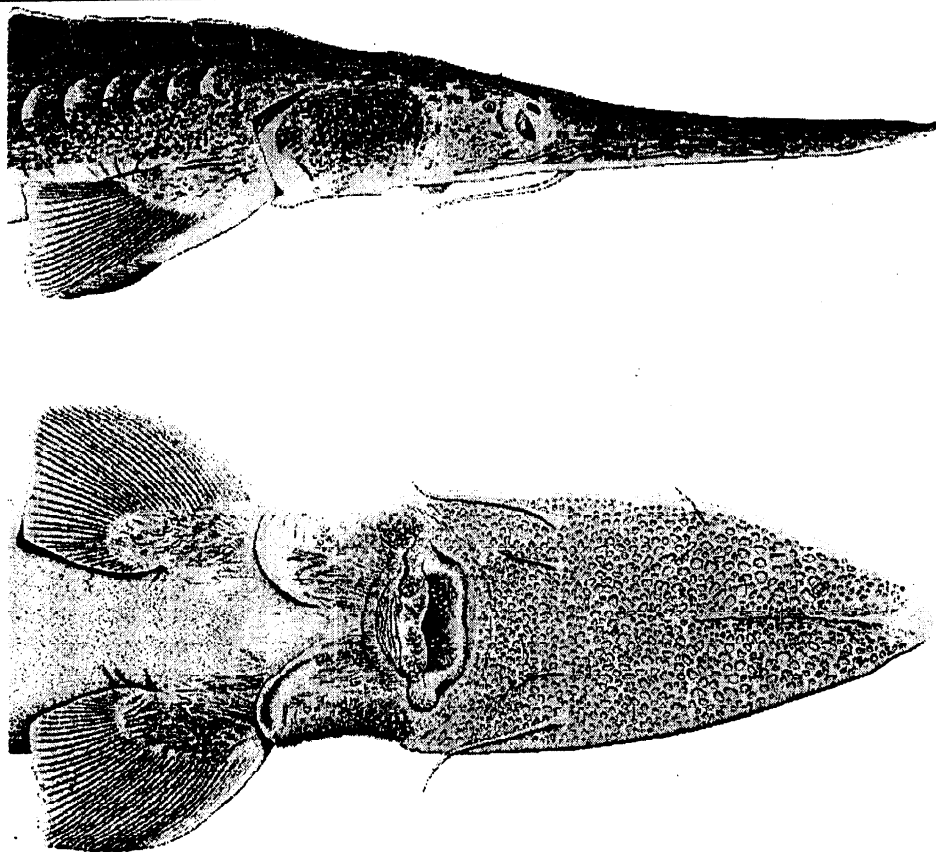
The bibliography presented below includes titles of all papers and monographs published on *Pseudoscaphirhynchus*. If species of *Pseudoscaphirhynchus* are only mentioned in the paper, pages and/or figure numbers with the description and/or images of *Pseudoscaphirhynchus* are given. For the papers published in local Central Asian magazines (which are unavailable in the main libraries), only titles are given.

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Right side and underside of a *Pseudoscaphirhynchus hermanni* head (specimen P-1904 from the Zoological Museum, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia). Original drawing by Paul Vescei, 1997.

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Recent evidence of a long distance saltwater migration of white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) in North America

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In 1994 and 1995 white sturgeon, *Acipenser transmontanus*, were found for the first time in the mouth of the Somass and Cowichan rivers on Vancouver Island (British Columbia, Canada). Sturgeon (species unknown) have also been seen in the lower parts of the Gordon and Sarita rivers on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Past

evidence of long distance saltwater migrations of white sturgeon along the coast of British Columbia and North America are mostly anecdotal. As yet, it is unknown whether the white sturgeon found in the Somass and Cowichan rivers originated from the Fraser or Columbia River. However, the Columbia River is considered as the source of white sturgeon for the Fraser River following the last glaciation 10,000 years ago (Brown et al., 1992). Based on this historic migration and recent measurement of upstream spawning migrations, white sturgeon would be capable of migrating from either the Fraser or Columbia rivers (McCabe and Tracy, 1994; Devore et al., 1995). It is also unknown whether white sturgeon in the Somass and Cowichan rivers are reproducing.

White sturgeon in Canada are classified as vulnerable by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife (Lane, 1991). Therefore, the beginning of a new population of white sturgeon on Vancouver Island has implications for the maintenance of their population and possible removal of their vulnerable status. The natural establishment of a "failsafe" population in habitat other than the Fraser or Columbia River in British Columbia is important for white sturgeon populations in Canada.

In addition, the length of this migration has serious implications for the management of natural populations of white sturgeon in North America. For instance, Canada and the United States may have to manage the white sturgeon as one stock population rather than three separate stock populations, i.e., Fraser River, Columbia River, and Sacramento River stocks. Clearly, more study is needed to resolve the unknowns of white sturgeon migrations and populations in North America.

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Danube Caviar in Danger

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Introduction

The commercial exploitation of sturgeons in the Danube River has occurred for more than 2,000 years (see Bacalbasa-Dobrovici, 1997; Hensel and Holcik, 1997).