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Gobius canestrinii Ninni, 1883 (Teleostei, Gobiiformes,  
Gobiidae, Gobionellinae)**

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1     **Designation of a lectotype for the Canestrini's Goby, *Gobius canestrinii* Ninni, 1883**

2                     **(Teleostei, Gobiiformes, Gobiidae, Gobionellinae)**

3  
4 Harald AHNELT<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Christelle TOUGARD<sup>3</sup> and Marcelo KOVAČIĆ<sup>4</sup>

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6     <sup>1</sup> *Department of Evolutionary Biology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Vienna,*

7                     *Althanstraße 14, 1090 Vienna, Austria.*

8     <sup>2</sup> *First Zoological Department, Natural History Museum of Vienna, Burgring 7, 1010*

9                     *Vienna, Austria.*

10     <sup>3</sup> *ISEM, Université de Montpellier, CNRS, EPHE, IRD, Montpellier, France.*

11     <sup>4</sup> *Natural History Museum Rijeka, Lorenzov prolaz 1, HR-51000 Rijeka, Croatia.*

12     \* *Corresponding author: harald.ahnelt@univie.ac.at, harald.ahnelt@nhm-wien.ac.at*

13  
14     A recent study based on molecular biological data revealed that *Gobius canestrinii*  
15 (NINNI, 1883), a gobioid fish endemic to the Adriatic basin, has to be split in three lineages.  
16 The original description was based on populations from two distant localities in Italy and in  
17 Croatia respectively, the first representing one of these lineages, the second most likely  
18 belonging to another lineage. To fix the name of the species, we hereby designated a lectotype  
19 for Canestrini's Goby.

20  
21     **Key words:** Gobiidae, *Gobius canestrinii*, taxonomy, lectotype, Venice, Italy

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## INTRODUCTION

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30 A recent study based on molecular data and species delimitation test revealed three  
31 lineages of *Gobius canestrinii* Ninni, 1883, two of them cryptic species (TOUGARD *et al.*,  
32 2021). Nevertheless, as only three populations along the range of *G. canestrinii* were  
33 investigated, it is possible that further distinct lineages will be detected. Additionally,  
34 Canestrini's Goby seemingly represents a non-monophyletic assemblage of freshwater gobies  
35 with at least one of the lineages closely related to *Pomatoschistus montenegrensis* Miller and  
36 Šanda, 2008 (TOUGARD *et al.*, 2021).

37 The description of Canestrini's Goby was based on samples from two distant  
38 localities, one in Italy, Venice lagoon and one in Croatia, river Jadro near Split (NINNI,  
39 1883). The material from Italy was collected by A.P. Ninni, while the Croatian material was  
40 sent to him by J. Kolombatović. NINNI (1883) did not mention an exact number of specimens  
41 on which the original description of *G. canestrinii* was based. There is also no indication that  
42 one of the specimens would have to be addressed as a holotype. Therefore, all specimens have  
43 to be considered as syntypes.

44 To date twelve syntypes are documented: five at the Natural History Museum in  
45 Vienna (NMW) and seven at the Zoological Museum "La Specola" of the University of  
46 Florence (MZUF) (FRICKE *et al.*, 2021). The five syntypes housed at the NMW (register  
47 numbers NMW 28817-28818 and NMW 29943-29945) arrived there before May 1882. Ninni  
48 sent these specimens to F. Steindachner, head of the Ichthyological Collection of the K. K.  
49 Naturhistorisches Hofmuseum in Vienna, who mentioned in a letter from May 6, 1882 that  
50 the new species would be a variety of *Gobius quagga* Heckel, 1839 (NINNI, 1883). The  
51 seven syntypes deposited at MZUF (register numbers MZUF 5577-5583) are dated

52 “22.IV.1883” (VANNI, 1990). All 12 specimens were collected at Venice lagoon (NINNI,  
53 1883). The whereabouts of the type series from the Jadro River (Croatia) is unknown.

54 The study of TOUGARD *et al.* (2021) revealed that the population of the Canestrini’s  
55 Goby from Italy and the two populations from Croatia represent three distinct species. To  
56 avoid taxonomical problems, a lectotype for *G. canestrinii* was designated.

57

### 58 **Description of the lectotype**

59 According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Art. 74.1, 74.7 and  
60 amendment of Art. 74.7.3), a lectotype is herein designated to become the unique bearer of  
61 the name *G. canestrinii*. To fix the name of the species, we hereby designate a lectotype for  
62 Canestrini's Goby. The specimen is properly labeled at the Ichthyological Collection of the  
63 NMW and can be identified by its morphological characters described below. As the Venetian  
64 specimens of MZUF are all juvenile, an adult male registered under number NMW 29943,  
65 was selected as lectotype (Fig. 1). It is characterized by:

66 – standard length + caudal fin length (SL + CL) of the lectotype 37.4 +7.2 mm; head length  
67 9.7% SL; snout to origin of first dorsal fin 34.5% SL; snout to origin of second dorsal fin  
68 55.1% SL; snout to origin of anal fin 57.5% SL; body depth at origin of pelvic fin 18.4% SL;  
69 body depth at origin of anal fin 16.3% SL; caudal peduncle length 26.7 % SL; caudal  
70 peduncle depth 1.0% SL; eye diameter (horizontal) 6.8% SL; snout length 7.0% SL;  
71 postorbital length 12.7% SL;

72 – first dorsal fin with six spiny rays (D1 VI); second dorsal fin with one spiny and nine soft  
73 rays (D2 I/9); anal fin with one spiny and eight soft rays (A I/8); pectoral fin with 16 soft rays  
74 (P 16); ventral disc, formed by the fused pelvic fins, with one spiny and five soft rays on both  
75 sides, the fifth rays of both sides fused with each other along the entire length (V I/5+5/I). The  
76 ventral disc is complete with a distinct membrane expending between both spiny rays; the  
77 edge of this membrane is smooth;

78 – all scales are ctenoid, increasing in size posteriorly; scales are largest on the caudal  
79 peduncle; ctenii are small and numerous (21–30); 34 scales in lateral midline; trunk anterior  
80 to a line of the axilla rearwards to the fourth fin ray of the second dorsal fin (D2 4) naked;  
81 head, nape, pre-dorsal area and breast naked;  
82 – head lateral line canal system with anterior oculo-scapular canal (AOS) present; following  
83 AOS, pores are developed: B, C (unpaired), D (unpaired), F and H; pore E is missing on both  
84 sides; posterior oculo-scapular canals (POS) reduced but furrows in the canal bearing bone  
85 (post-temporal) still distinct; pre-opercular canal (POC) present on the left side with pores M  
86 and O present; pore N missing; POC on the right side missing but furrow in the canal bearing  
87 bone (pre-opercle) still distinct;  
88 – free neuromasts and their pattern not discernable because of preservation;  
89 – urogenital papilla elongate and pointed, wide at the base and tapering to the end;  
90 – coloration (preserved): body pale fawn; dorsal side of head and trunk brownish-greyish;  
91 indistinct pale blotch dorsal of each opercle but not confluent in the midline; sides of head  
92 (cheeks and opercles) and the trunk covered by numerous blackish spots; spots on nape and  
93 pre-dorsal area distinctly smaller except for two spots immediately anterior to the origin of  
94 the first dorsal fin; four such blackish spots extend as an oblique row on the anterior most part  
95 of the pectoral fin; pale mark on base on the origin of the pectoral fin rays anterior to these  
96 spots; first dorsal fin with a large, distinct blackish spot which is surrounded by transparent  
97 fin membrane; blotch extends from fifth spiny ray on to the post-dorsal membrane.

98         With the designation of the specimen NMW 29943 as lectotype of *G. canestrinii* the  
99 four syntypes registered NMW 28817-28818 and NMW 29944-29945 become paralectotypes  
100 (recommendation of ICZN Art. 47.F).

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## DISCUSSION

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104 Formerly placed in the genus *Pomatoschistus* Gill, 1863 by DE BUEN (1930), *G.*  
105 *canestrinii* was recently transferred to the genus *Ninnigobius* Whitley, 1951 (THACKER *et*  
106 *al.*, 2019), whereas TOUGARD *et al.* (2021) found no clear evidence to assign *G. canestrinii*  
107 to this genus. However, *G. canestrinii* is endemic to the Adriatic drainage area and has a  
108 disjunct distribution (MILLER, 2004). Divers morphological variations were described on the  
109 Croatian samples of the supposed single species of *G. canestrinii* (KOVAČIĆ, 2005). Based  
110 on molecular biological data, TOUGARD *et al.* (2021) split *G. canestrinii* in three lineages of  
111 which one corresponds to one of the type localities of *G. canestrinii*, the lagoon of Venice in  
112 northern Italy. The other two are lineages from Croatia, each one from a single locality. The  
113 river Raša lineage in Istria (west Croatia) is more close to the type locality in the Venice  
114 lagoon than to the second type locality, river Jadro near Split. The Baćinska lakes lineage is  
115 south from this second type locality, situated in southeast Croatia (MILLER, 2004;  
116 KOVAČIĆ, 2005). In order to fix the name of the species, according to the recommendation  
117 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Art. 74.1, 74.7) (International  
118 Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999; 2003), one specimen, among the Venetian  
119 syntypes of *G. canestrinii*, was chosen as lectotype. The Jadro population, which should be  
120 distinct from the Venice population considering the Raša lineage and the Baćinska lakes  
121 lineage in between, is left as an undescribed species, probably related to the Baćinska lakes  
122 lineage.

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158 **Određivanje lektotipa Canestrinijevog glavoča, *Gobius canestrinii* Ninni, 1883 (Teleostei,**  
159 **Gobiiformes, Gobiidae, Gobionellinae)**

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### SAŽETAK

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165 Nedavna istraživanja, zasnovana na molekularno biološkim metodama, otkrila su da se  
166 *Gobius canestrinii* (NINNI, 1883), endemski glavoč jadranskog bazena, dijeli u tri  
167 filogenetske grane. Izvorni opis vrste zasnivao se na populacijama dva udaljena lokaliteta u  
168 Italiji i Hrvatskoj. Populacija u Italiji predstavlja jednu od tri filogenetske grane, dok druga  
169 najvjerojatnije predstavlja jednu od preostale dvije grane. Da bi se fiksiralo ime vrste, u  
170 ovom radu određujemo lektotip Canestrinijevog glavoča.

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172 **Ključne riječi:** Gobiidae, *Gobius canestrinii*, taksonomija, lektotip, Venecija, Italija

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181 *Fig. 1. Lectotype of Gobius canestrinii (NMW 29943). Lateral view. Scale bar: 10 mm.*

182 *Photograph B. Riedel.*