

Descriptions of South-American Cichlids from 1758 to 2008

(Teleostei: Cichlidae: Cichlinae)

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Ingo Schindler, Berlin (Germany)

<http://www.alice-dsl.net/mesonauta/>

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Schindler, I. (2009): Taxonomische Erforschung der südamerikanischen Cichliden von 1758 bis 2008. DCG-Inform. 40(11): 252-257.

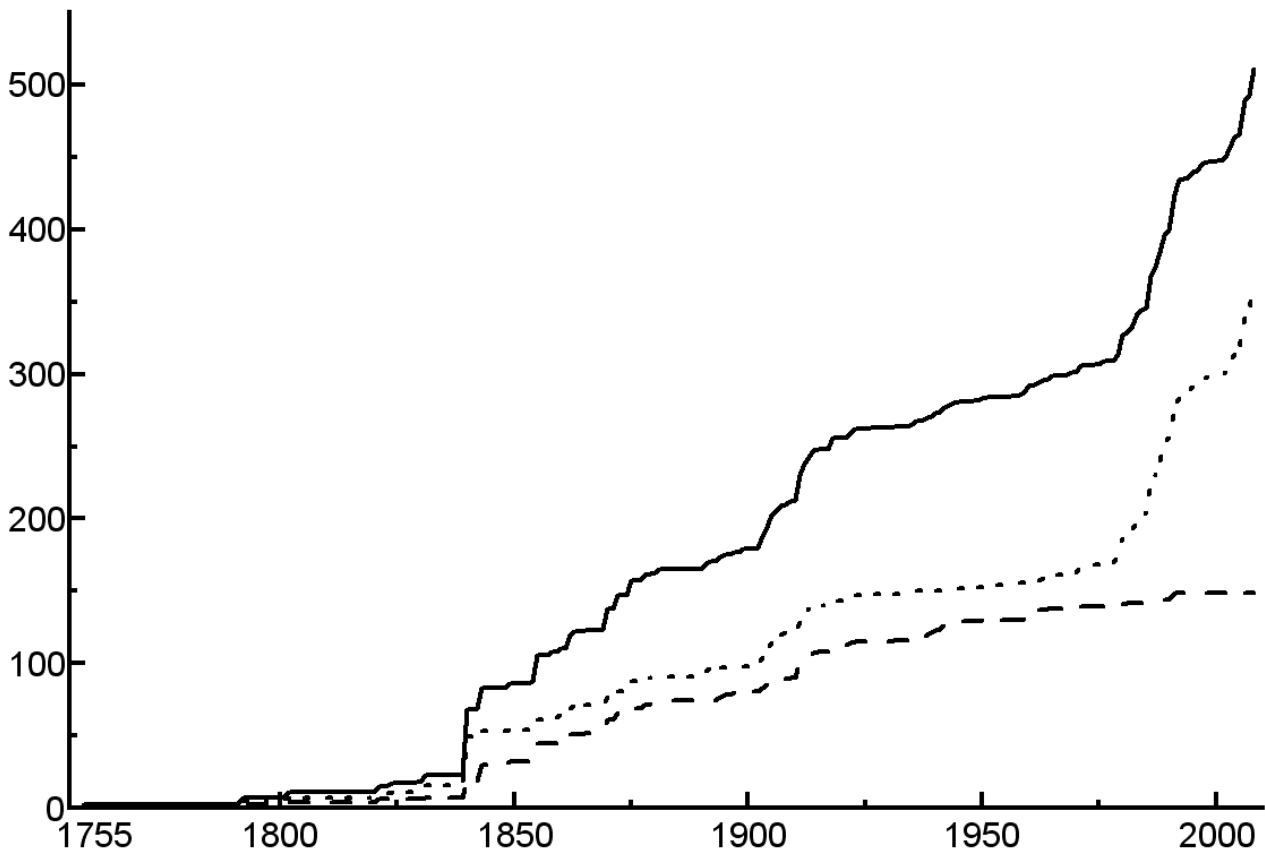


Fig. 1. Accumulation of south-american cichlid taxa described from 1758–2008; number of taxa (y-axis) and year of description (x-axis). Solid line = total number of described taxa; dotted line = number of taxa regarded as valid species, dashed line = number of synonyms.

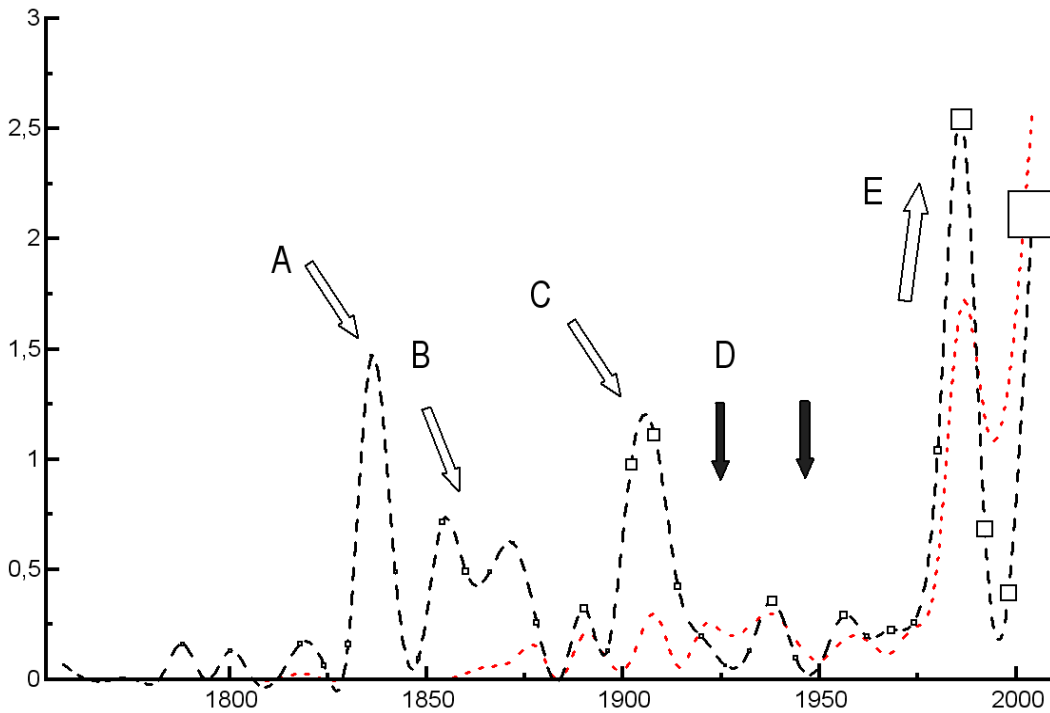


Fig 2. Taxonomic exploration of South American cichlids. x-axis = year, y-axis = relative number (relative to the total number of descriptions), squares = number of authors. The red line represents the adjusted number of described taxa of the fish family Rivulidae.

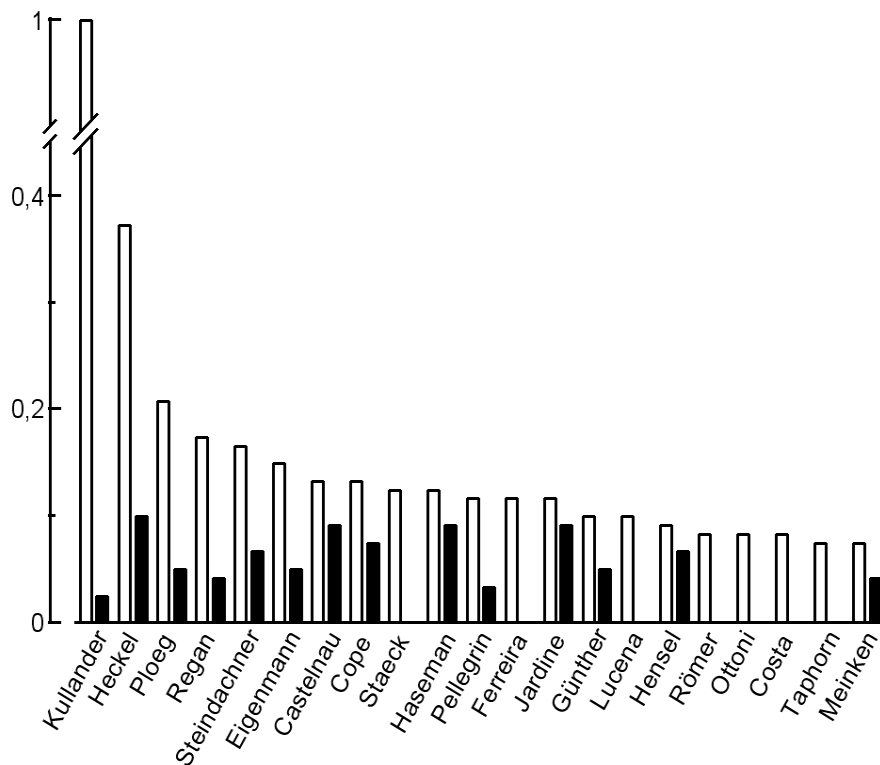
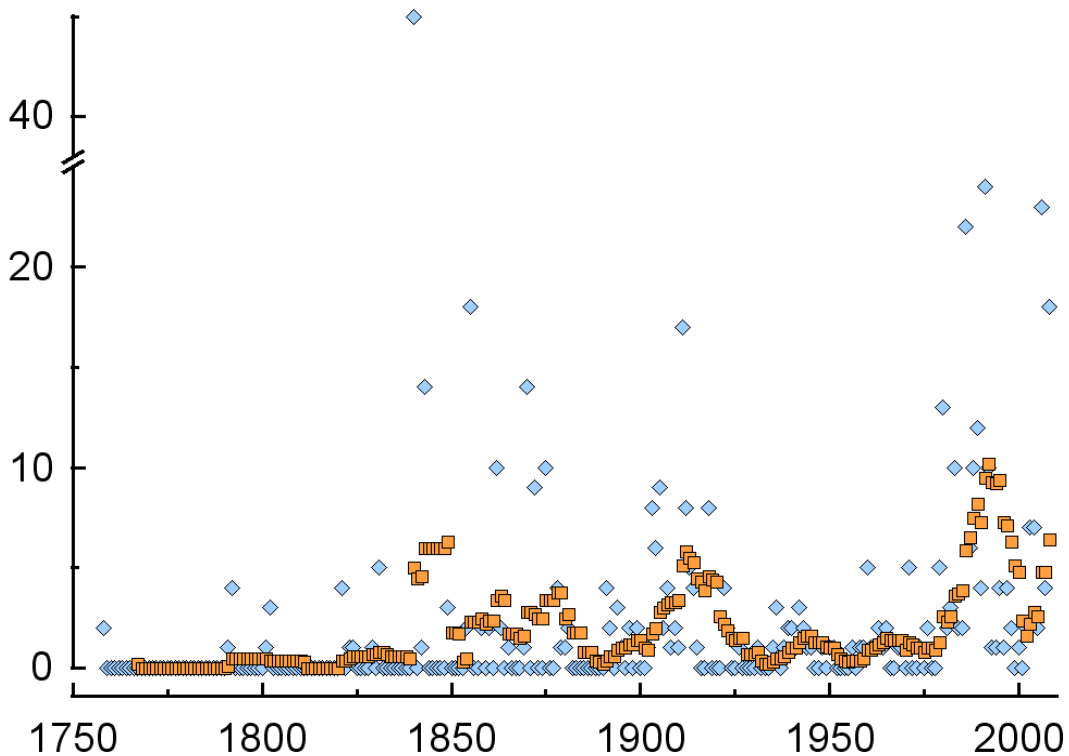


Fig. 3. Authors with highest number of descriptions. The y-axis indicates the relative number of described taxa. The open bar indicates the total number of species taxa published by the author and the filled column the amount of known to be synonyms. Neither from the height of the bar, nor from the number of synonyms can any conclusions regarding the taxonomic skills of the people involved be drawn. There are definitely very

good taxonomists, who have not submitted any, or relatively few, species descriptions. They often follow a conservative approach (different species concept) and focus more on complementary descriptions of not well researched species. Ernst Mayr, the “Darwin of the 20th Century “, pointed out in his recommendations on the zoological systematics that (Mayr 1975: 247)” ... the re-description of poorly known representatives, is much more important, than the description of other new forms “.

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(Fig . 4) Species numbers during 1758 and 2008 of Cichlinae taxonomy. Diamonds represent the number of taxa described per year and squares represent average numbers over the previous 10 years.

Literature cited in the original article:

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