



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

- 1 : adult male.  
2 : postlarva, 8 mm. excl. C.

**DIAGNOSIS** — Body fusiform, somewhat compressed. Maximal height to total length (excl. C.) 1 :  $3\frac{2}{3}$  -  $4\frac{1}{5}$ ; length of head to total length (excl. C.) 1 :  $3\frac{1}{3}$  -  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; diameter of eye to length of head 1 :  $3\frac{1}{3}$  - 4; eye in the male somewhat larger than in the female. Maxilla only slightly expanded posteriorly, reaching far beyond eye. Insertion of dorsal fin much nearer tip of snout than origin of caudal fin; the anal commences just under the posterior end of the dorsal fin. Scales large, cycloid, dicituous. D : 15-17; A : 13-14; P : 11-12; V 8. Scales in the lateral line : 35-36. Number of vertebrae : 33-35. Maximal length attained 40 mm. (?)

*Photophores* arranged as in the genus *Diaphus* generally. A very small dorsonasal luminous organ. Suprapectoral organ nearer the pectoral fin than the lateral line. Supraventral, uppermost supraanal and posterolateral organs equidistant from ventral series of photophores and lateral line, sometimes nearer lateral line than ventral series of photophores (cf. *Diaphus gemellari*) (Cocco 1838). Ultimate precaudal organ separated from penultimate by a marked wide interval. Number of anal organs 4-6+4-6; 5+5 is by far the predominant value. The male (> 20 mm.) has a large luminous plate supra-caudally, the female (> 24 mm.) has some small, indistinct, irregularly placed luminous plates infracaudally.

The postlarval stage is rather clumsy. The very small eye is entirely circular, with no marked "eye-taper" as seen in *Myctophum* — species; no remains of a dorsal sinus are found in the older stages.

Very little pigment is present; there is as a rule some pigment along the anal fin, but no melanophores are seen at base of caudal fin (cf. *D. gemellari*). The upper rays of the pectoral fin not so markedly prolonged as in *Diaphus gemellari*. Metamorphosis at a length of 10.5-13 mm. (excl. C.). Photophores are not developed so suddenly as in most species of the genera *Myctophum* and *Lampanyctus*.

**DISTRIBUTION** — Pelagic species, most often met with in the upper 100 metres of water. Occuring as a very common species in the Mediterranean (especially in the western part) and in the temperate North Atlantic.

**PROPAGATION** — Maturity is attained at a length of abt. 30 mm. (excl. C.). Number of eggs 300-500 in females abt. 30-40 mm. Spawning appears to take place in the Mediterranean from winter to some way on in summer, though a certain amount of spawning doubtless occurs all the year round.

#### SYNONYMY

*Myctophum (Diaphus) Gemellari partim* Brauer 1906, Fage 1910 et Zugmayer 1911.  
*Myctophum (Lampanyctus) Dofleini* Zugmayer 1911.

#### LITERATURE

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