



Adult female.

DIAGNOSIS — Body fusiform, deep anteriorly, somewhat compressed and rather short. Maximal height to total length (excl. C.) $1 : 3\frac{2}{3} - 3\frac{2}{3}$; length of head to total length (excl. C.) $1 : 3\frac{1}{3}$; diameter of eye to length of head $1 : 2\frac{2}{3} - 3$, larger than distance from posterior margin of eye to posterior end of maxilla. Insertion of dorsal fin much nearer tip of snout than origin of caudal fin; anal fin originating under posterior end of dorsal fin. Scales large, cycloid, deciduous. D : 15-16; A : 15-16; P : 11; V : 8. Scales in lateral line abt. 37. Maximal length attained 65 mm. (?)

Photophores arranged as in the genus *Diaphus* generally. Suprapectoral organ much nearer the lateral line than the pectoral fin; supraventral organ nearer the lateral line than the ventral fin; uppermost supraanal, posterolateral and ultimate precaudal organs near the lateral line. First and generally also ultimate anterior anal organs somewhat out of the line. Dorso-nasal luminous organ very large, reaching to the ethmoidal ridge, and united along the anterior margin of the eye with the sub-orbital organ (evidently developed of or including the ventro-nasal organ); the sub-orbital organ reaching far behind the anterior margin of lens along the ventral margin of eye, ending in a circular expansion. A very characteristic small triangular organ (supra-orbital organ) between dorso-nasal luminous organ and the anterior margin of eye. Number of anal organs 6-7+5-7, most frequently 6+6.

The postlarva not described.

DISTRIBUTION — Pelagic, deep-sea species living in a depth of abt. 100-700 meters or deeper. Records of the species from the central Mediterranean and from the North Atlantic between abt. 20° and 50° N. Lat.

SYNONYMY

Nyctophus metopoclampus Cocco 1829, *Æthoprora metopoclampa* Goode and Bean 1895, *Myctophum (Diaphus) metopoclampum* Brauer 1906.

LITERATURE

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