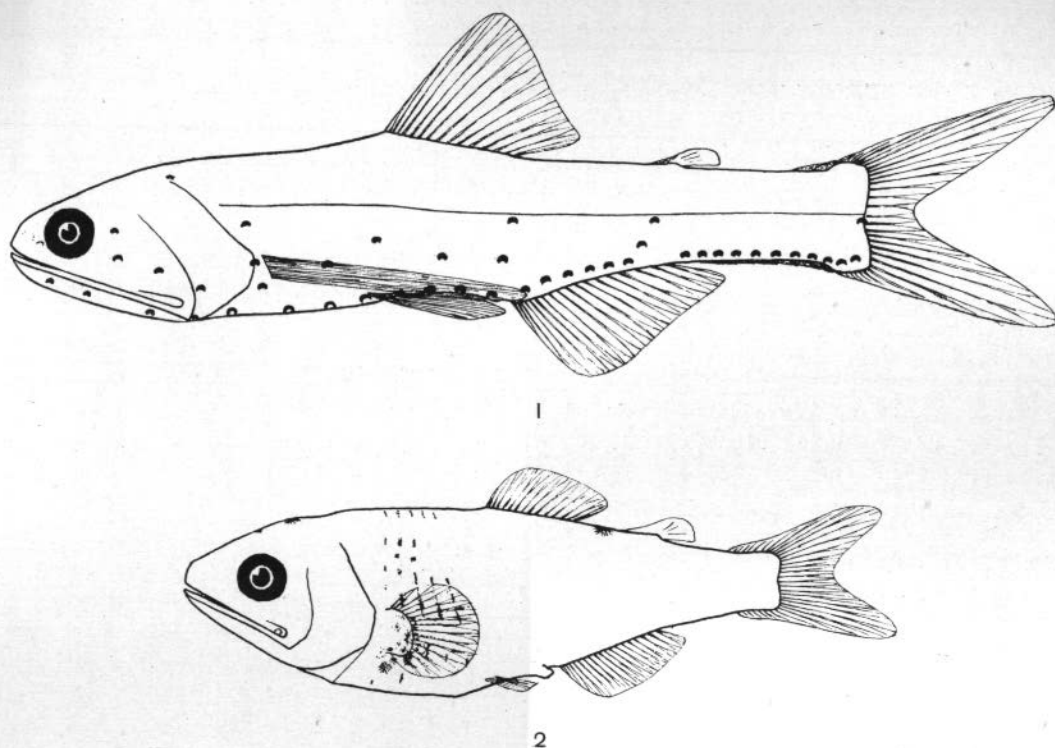


TELEOSTEI
Iniomi-Myctophidae

Lampanyctus crocodilus

(Risso 1810)



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

- 1 : adult male
2 : postlarva 14 mm. excl. C.

DIAGNOSIS — Form slender, elongate and compressed, somewhat meagre. Maximal height to total length (excl. C.) 1 : 5-6 ; length of head to total length (excl. C.) 1 : abt. $3\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of eye to length of head 1 : $4\frac{1}{2}$ -5 (smallest in female). Maxilla reaching far beyond eye. Insertion of dorsal fin nearer to snout than to origin of dorsal fin ; anal fin originating below the posterior end of dorsal fin. Pectorals very long, reaching to anal fin. Scales large and deciduous. D : 13-16 ; A : 16-20 ; P : abt. 14 ; V : 8. Scales in lateral line : abt. 38. Number of vertebrae : 36-38. Maximal length attained up to 200-300 mm.

Photophores : three photophores normally present on cheek ; supraventral organ well below lateral line ; supra-anal organs in a nearly right angle. Ultimate and penultimate precaudal organs in a vertical or nearly vertical line ; no distinct interval between ultimate anal organ and first precaudal organ. Anterior, but not the two anterior, anal organ displaced a little ventrally to the line through the following photophores of this series. Number of anal organs 6-8+6-9 ; 4 precaudal organs. A row of very small photophores follows the ventral border of the lateral line, and scattered over the body very diminutive organs may be seen. *Luminous scales* infra and supracaudally ; infracaudal luminous scales reaching near to the posterior end of anal fin. A very characteristic luminous scale on the front edge of the adipose fin.

The postlarva has a circular eye and no dorsal sinus. An unpaired large melanophore present between the dorsal and the adipose fin; in specimens from the Atlantic (not from the Mediterranean) there may be a large melanophore near the anal fin, and diffuse pigment connect the dorsal melanophore with the ventral one. Markedly prominent transverse pigment stripes above and behind the pectoral following the myotomes.

Metamorphosis takes place at a length of abt. 19-22 mm. (ontogenetic vertical migration).

DISTRIBUTION — Pelagic deep-sea species. The range of this common species includes the Mediterranean and the Marmora Sea; it is, however, not present in the warmest parts of the eastern Mediterranean, and this distribution coincides with a northerly distribution in the Atlantic, where it is met with from the Bay of Cadiz and Madeira north to the Faroes and West-Greenland.

Propagation — Postlarval stages are found in the Mediterranean throughout the year; spawning probably here at its height in the summer.

SYNONYMY

Gasteropelecus crocodilus Risso 1810, *Nyctophus Bonapartii* Cocco 1838, *Lampanyctus gemmifer* Goode and Bean 1895. Genotype of the genus *Gasteropelecus* Risso 1810 (name preoccupied).

LITERATURE

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