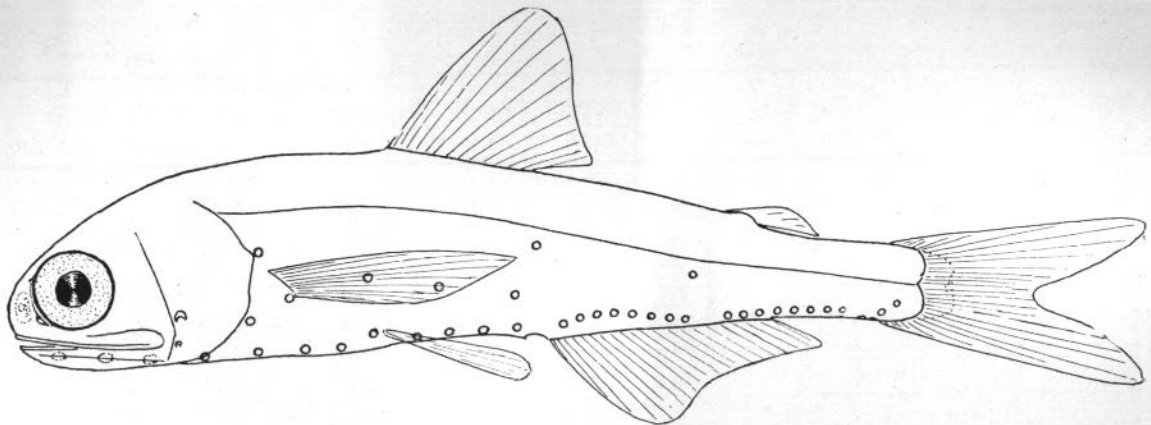


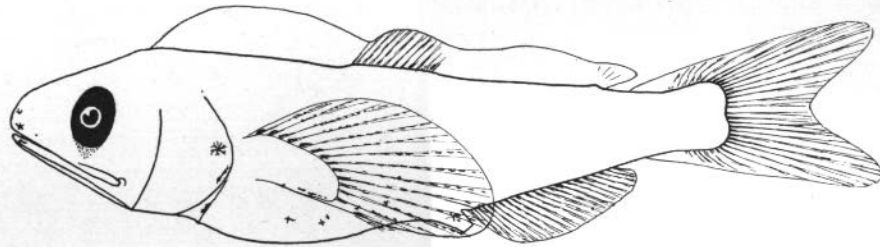
TELEOSTEI
Inicmi - Myctophidae

Myctophum humboldti

(Risso 1810)



1



2

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

- 1: adult female.
2: postlarva 17 mm. excl. C.

DIAGNOSIS — Body fusiform, somewhat compressed. Maximal height to total length (excl. C.) 1 : 5 ; length of head to total length (excl. C.) 1 : $3\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 ; diameter of eye to length of head 1 : $3-3\frac{2}{5}$. Maxilla with a narrow distal end, extending far behind posterior margin of eye. Insertion of dorsal fin nearer to snout than to origin of caudal fin ; anal fin originating behind posterior end of dorsal fin. Distance from origin of anal fin to caudal fin shorter than distance from centre of eye to anal fin. Last anal ray in a line passing through third to fourth posterior anal organs. Pectoral fin reaching near to the anus. Scales large, cycloid, with silvery lustre. D : 13-14 ; A : 21-23 ; P : abt. 13 ; V : 8. Scales in lateral line : abt. 40. Number of vertebræ : 39-40. Maximal length at least 120 mm. (excl. C.).

Photophores : one postero-lateral organ ; anal organs in two groups ; four ventral organs at same level ; suprapectoral organ dorsally to upper end of base of pectoral. Supra-anal organs in a right or nearly right angle ; the anterior organ of this series above second ventral organ (sometimes slightly in front of this photophore, rarely slightly behind it). Number of anal organs 7-9 + 7-9.

Adult male has 2 small fused supracaudal luminous plates, the adult female 2-4 small infra-caudal luminous plates.

The postlarval stages (described as *Stylophthalmoides mediterraneus*, Mazzarelli) resemble those of *Myctophum punctatum* but they have no strong pigment caudally, dorsally and ventrally; the pectoral fin reach far beyond the anus and the snout is not so much flattened as in *M. punctatum*. Metamorphosis takes place at a length of abt. 20 mm. (excl. C.); the metamorphosis is connected with a pronounced ontogenetic vertical migration.

DISTRIBUTION — *Horizontal*: pelagic, normally outside 500 metres isobath. Occuring in the eastern Atlantic as a rather rare species from west of Ireland to the Azores, penetrating farther south in the most eastern and western Atlantic; enters the Mediterranean, even to the Levantine Sea; most common in the central parts of the Mediterranean.

Vertical: Adolescent and adult stages especially in the upper 100 metres of water. The metamorphosis stages occur deeper down (ontogenetic migration).

Propagation.— Maturity first attained at a rather large size of the fish (abt. 60 mm.?). Number of eggs abt. 2800 in a specimen of 82 mm. Spawning takes place at any rate in the Mediterranean throughout the greater part of the year, though probably at its height in the spring.

SYNONYMY

Gasteropelecus humboldti Risso 1810, *Scopelus Veranyi* Moreau 1888, *Stylophthalmoides mediterraneus* Mazzarelli 1912. Genotype of the genus *Scopelus* Cuvier 1817.

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