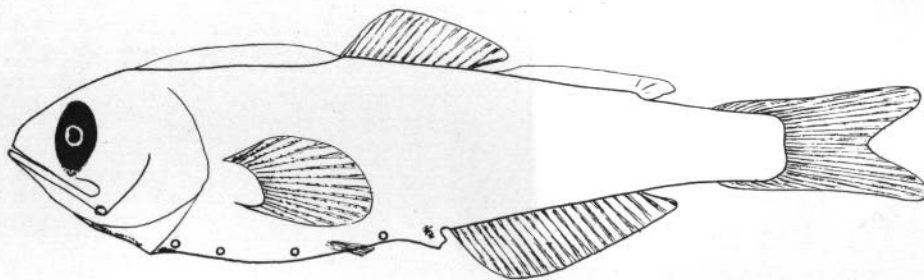


1



2

**EXPLANATION OF FIGURES**

1: adult male.

2: postlarva 14.5 mm. excl. C.

**DIAGNOSIS** — Body fusiform, slightly compressed. Maximal height to total length (excl. C.)  $1: 4 \frac{1}{3}$ ; length of head to total length (excl. C.)  $1: 3 \frac{2}{5}$ ; diameter of eye to length of head  $1: 2 \frac{1}{2}$ . Maxilla with a broad distal end, not reaching beyond posterior margin of eye. Insertion of dorsal fin much nearer to snout than to origin of caudal fin; anal fin originating below posterior end of dorsal fin. Scales large, cycloid, with a silvery lustre. D: 14-15; A: 20-21; P: abt. 14; V: 8. Number of scales in lateral line: abt. 38; number of vertebrae: 36-37. Maximal length attained abt. 52 mm.

*Photophores*: two postero-lateral organs in an oblique line, the lower organ a trifle anterior to ultimate anterior anal organs; anal organs in two groups; two precaudal organs of which the upper one is near the lateral line. It is very characteristic of this species that the supra-ventral organ is near the lateral line. Number of anal organs 6-8+5-7, generally 7+6.

Adult male has a small supracaudal *luminous plate*, adult female 1-2 small infra-caudal plates.

*The postlarval stage* has an oblong eye with a small pigmented "eye-taper"; snout not unusually flattened in the smaller stages; no or very faint pigment on the posterior border of the operculum or in other places of the head. Very little pigment on the body. The postlarva is difficult to distinguish from young postlarvæ of *Myctophum benoiti*. Metamorphosis takes place at a length of 13-14.5 mm.; during metamorphosis the postlarvæ seek out deeper water layers (ontogenetic vertical migration).

**DISTRIBUTION** — Pelagic, true oceanic species. Occuring especially in the subtropical parts of the Atlantic, as far north of the Azores as 47° N. Lat. Penetrating in the Mediterranean as far east as the Levantine Sea; most common in the Italian waters.

*Propagation*: Size when maturity is attained probably abt. 40 mm. Spawning probably in autumn and winter in the Mediterranean.

#### SYNONYMY

*Scopelus Hygomi* Lütken 1892, *Myctophum remiger* Goode and Bean 1895.

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