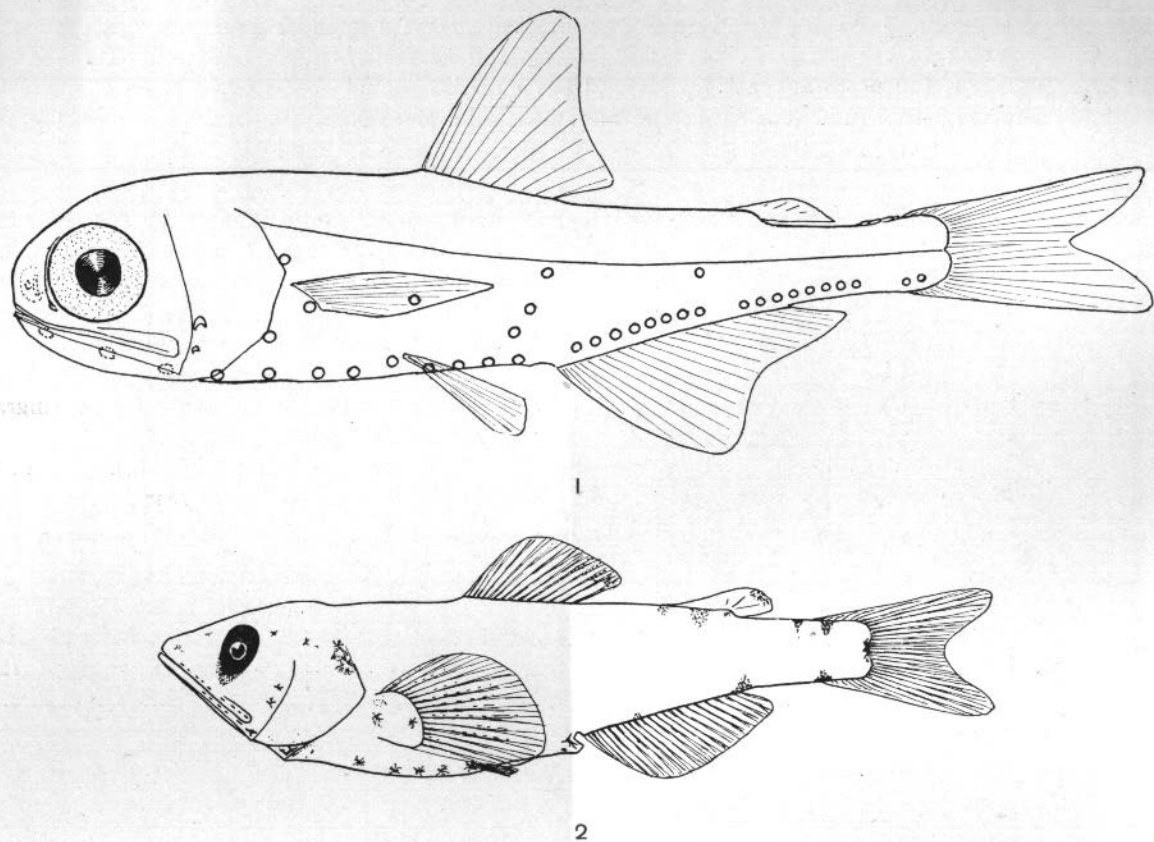


TELEOSTEI
Iniemi-Myctophidae

Myctophum punctatum

RAFINESQUE 1810



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

- 1: adult male.
2: postlarva 16 mm. excl. C.

DIAGNOSIS — Body fusiform, somewhat compressed. Maximal height to total length (excl. C.) 1: $4-4\frac{1}{2}$; length of head to total length (excl. C.) 1: $3\frac{3}{4}-4$; diameter of eye to length of head 1: $2\frac{3}{4}-3$. 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 below posterior end of dorsal fin. Last anal ray in a line passing through third to fourth posterior anal organs. Distance from origin of anal fin to caudal fin shorter than distance from centre of eye to anal fin. Scales large, cycloid, with silvery lustre. D: 12-14; A: 19-22; P: 14-15; V: 8. Scales in lateral line: 41-45. Number of vertebrae: 40-42. Maximal length at least 100 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 straight or nearly straight line passing to the interval between third and fourth ventral organ. Number of anal organs 7-9+7-11. Adult males (> abt. 36 mm. excl. C.) have 1-3 small fused supracaudal *luminous plates* and adult females (> abt. 34 mm. excl. C.) 3-5 infracaudal luminous plates.

The postlarval stage (described as *Stylophthalmoides Lobiancoi*, Mazzarelli) has the eye oblong with a rather strongly developed pigmented tapering prolongation at the lower margin (partly disappearing immediately prior to metamorphosis). The snout in smaller stages very markedly flattened, not unlike a duck's bill. Postlarval pigment well developed and very characteristic; different caudal pigment patches and also pigment ventrally, and on the head (see figure). Pectoral fin reaches hardly or just to the anus; in the postlarval stages of *Myctophum humboldti*, much resembling these postlarvæ, the pectoral reach far beyond the anus. Metamorphosis takes place at a length of 17.5-19.5 mm. (excl. C.); the metamorphosis is connected with a pronounced ontogenetic vertical migration.

DISTRIBUTION — *Horizontal*: pelagic, normally outside 500 metres isobath, sometimes cast ashore, e. g. Iceland, Denmark (once). Occuring in the Atlantic from Iceland south to about 36° N. Lat., penetrating farther south in the eastern Atlantic; enters the Mediterranean even to the Aegean Sea.

Vertical: Adolescent and adult specimens especially in the upper 100 metres of water; adult specimens frequently recorded as washed on board ships during night in rough weather. The metamorphosis stages occur deeper down (ontogenetic migration).

Propagation — Maturity attained at a length of abt. 45-50 mm. (excl. C.). Number of eggs 800-900 in specimens of 50-60 mm. Spawning most of the year in the Mediterranean, with maximum in the spring.

SYNONYMY

Scopelus punctatus Rafinesque 1810, ? *Scopelus caninianus* Cuvier et Valenciennes 1849, ? *Scopelus Heideri* Steindachner 1881; *Stylophthalmus Lobiancoi* Mazzarelli 1912. Genotype of the genera *Myctophum* Rafinesque 1810 and *Stylophthalmoides* Mazzarelli 1912.

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