



**EXPLANATION OF FIGURES**

- 1 : adult.  
2 : postlarva 9 mm. excl. C.

**DIAGNOSIS** — Body fusiform, somewhat compressed, deep anteriorly and very short. Maximal height to total length (excl. C.):  $1 : 2\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{4}{5}$ ; length of head to total length (excl. C.):  $1 : 2\frac{3}{5}$ ; diameter of eye to length of head abt.  $1 : 2$ . Maxilla with a broad distal end, reaching to posterior margin of eye. Insertion of dorsal fin slightly nearer to caudal fin than to snout; anal fin originating under posterior end of dorsal fin. Eye normal, lens not displaced, central. Scales large, cycloid, with rich silvery lustre. D : 12-15; A : 16-19; P : 15-17; V : 8. Scales in lateral line : 30-32. Number of vertebrae : 33-34. Maximal length attained abt. 80 mm.

*Photophores* : postero-lateral organ not present, anal organs in a single row (cf. *Myctophum arcticum*, the only other species of this group from European waters with this position of these organs). Number of anal organs 10-13. Infra- and supra-caudal luminous plates (secondary sexual characters) : it would seem that the male has no luminous plates at all, while the female has plates both infra- and supracaudally.

*The postlarva* only slightly pigmented : preanal pigment is present in the form of a couple of large melanophores in front of the ventral fin; generally pigment along the rays of the pectoral; pigment on the point of the snout and the point of the lower jaw. Besides the slight pigmentation this postlarva is characterized by an elongated oval eye, obliquely set. Dorsal sinus present. Metamorphosis takes place at a length of abt. 10 mm. (excl. C.).

**DISTRIBUTION** — Pelagic, deep-sea species. Cosmopolitan, tropic to subtropic species. Occuring as a rather rare species in the eastern Atlantic north to abt. 45° N. Lat. ; northeast of the Azores. Enters the Mediterranean (not found in the Adriatic and the Ægean Seas ; most common in the Balearic and the Tyrrhenian Seas).

*Propagation* — Maturity probably attained at a length of 30-40 mm. (?). Post-larval stages present in the Mediterranean throughout the year.

#### SYNONYMY

*Scopelus Rissoi* Cocco 1829, *Electrona Rissoi* Goode and Bean 1895, *Myctophum Rissoi* Brauer 1906.

#### LITERATURE

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