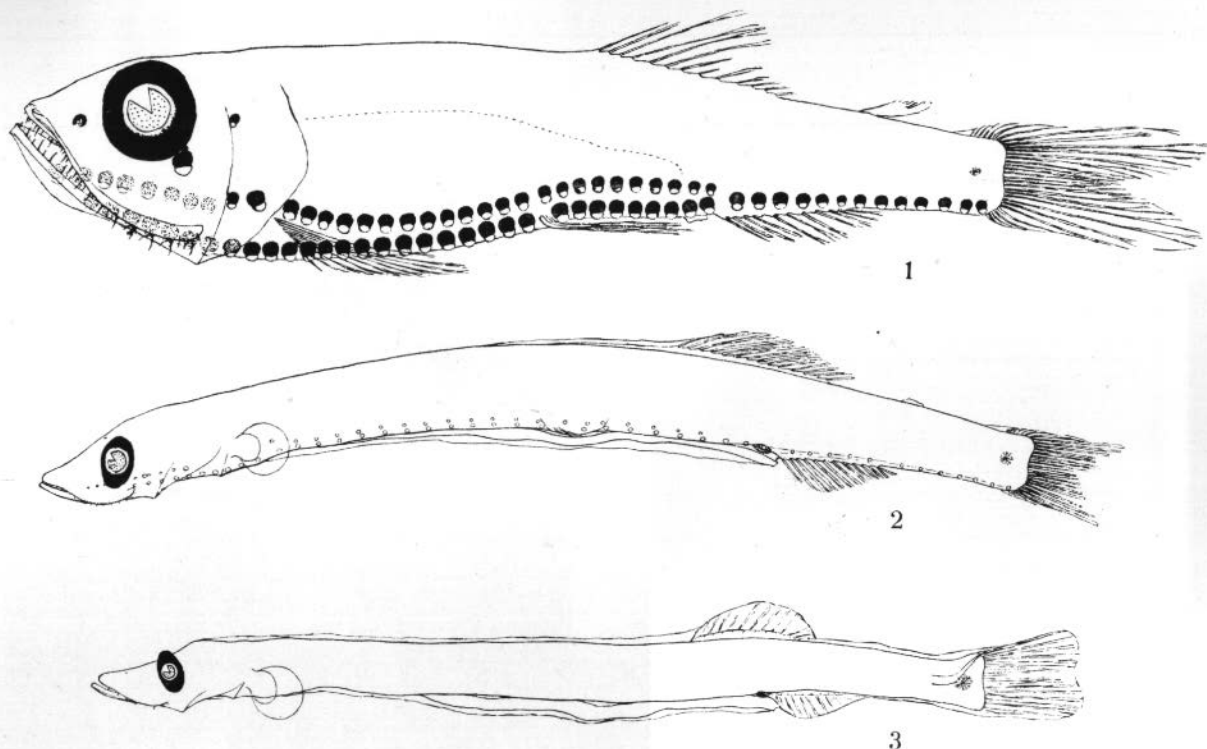


## TELEOSTEI

*Isospondyli - Genostomatidæ**Vinciguerria poweriæ*

(Cocco 1838)



## EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

- 1 : adolescent stage 21.3 mm. excl. C.  
 2 : postlarval stage near metamorphosis 20 mm. excl. C.  
 3 : postlarva 11.3 mm. excl. C.

**DIAGNOSIS** — Body fusiform, somewhat compressed. Maximal height of body to total length (excl. C.) 1 : 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  ; length of head to total length (excl. C.) about 1 : 3  $\frac{2}{5}$  ; diameter of eye to length of head 1 : 3. Pre-anal length 72-74 % of total length excl. C. Normal eye. Origin of dorsal fin a little in advance of that of anal, which commences below its middle or posterior part. D : 13-15 ; A : 12-14 ; P : 9-10 ; V : 7. Number of vertebrae 38-39. The number of gill-rakers on the first branchial arch is generally 3 + 8 + 4. Maximal length attained about 38 mm. (excl. C.).

**Photophores** — Two organs in the region of the eye ; 1 + 2 on the operculum. Eight photophores on the branchiostegal membrane, but no organs at the symphysis of the mandibles. Two series of photophores on each side of the abdomen. Lower series consisting of 23 organs (7 + 16) on the isthmus and abdomen to the ventral fin, and 8-10 organs from ventral to origin of anal. In the upper series there are 22-24 (12-13 + 9-11) photophores. Length of row of photophores from origin of anal to base of caudal (12-14 organs) is shorter than the length of the head.

**Postlarval stages** — At the base of the caudal is a melanophore, almost equidistant from dorsal and ventral side. The distance from anterior margin of anal fin to base of

caudal fin is relatively smaller than in *Vinciguerria attenuata* (Mediterranean material). The photophores are formed prior to metamorphosis, and nearly all are pigmented simultaneously. Total length of metamorphosis stages generally 16-19 mm. (excl. C.).

**DISTRIBUTION** — *Horizontal* : This pelagic species has a remarkably interesting distribution in the Mediterranean. A line about Corsica-Sardinia forms the boundary between the eastern area where the species is found, and the western, where it generally is very scarce. It has been taken in the Bay of Cadiz, and in the North Atlantic the area of distribution lies south of about 43° N. Lat.

*Vertical* : Adolescent and adult specimens especially in depths from about 100 to 600 metres, and postlarval stages generally from about 200 metres to near the surface. As metamorphosis stages mostly are found in depths from 100 to 500 metres these stages do not seem to exhibit such a marked or extensive downward movement (ontogenetic migration) as those of *Vinciguerria attenuata*.

**Propagation** — In the Mediterranean the species spawns during the greater part of the year but the spawning ceases probably during the cold season. Maturity is attained by this species in the Mediterranean at a length of close on 30 mm. excl. C.

#### SYNONYMY

*Gonostoma poweriae* Cocco 1838, *Ichthyococcus poweriae* Bonaparte 1841, *Scopelus poweriae* Cuvier and Valenciennes 1849, *Mauroliscus poweriae* Günther 1864, *Vinciguerria lucelia* Murray and Hjort 1912.

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