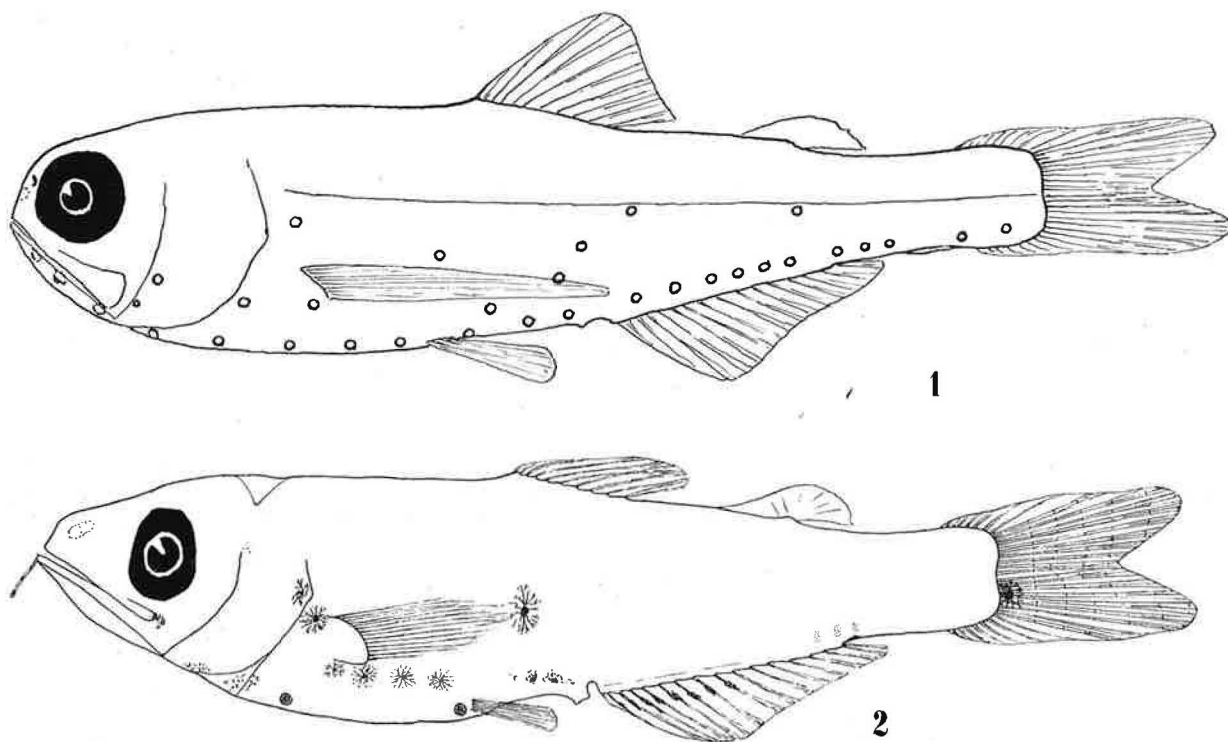


TELEOSTEI
Iniomi - Myctophidae

Myctophum laternatum atlanticum

TÅNING 1928



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

- 1 : adult female.
2 : postlarva 11 mm. excl. C.

DIAGNOSIS — Body fusiform, somewhat compressed. Maximal height to total length (excl. C.) $1 : 4-4\frac{1}{3}$; length of head to total length (excl. C.) $1 : 3\frac{1}{2}-4$; diameter of eye to length of head $1 : 2\frac{3}{5}-3$. Maxilla with a broad distal end, hardly reaching behind posterior margin of eye. Insertion of dorsal fin nearer to snout than to origin of caudal fin; anal fin originating under posterior end of dorsal fin. Scales rather large, cycloid. D : 9-11; A : 15-16; P : 10-11; V : 8. Scales in lateral line : 32-34. A diminutive species, probably not surpassing 25 mm. (excl. C.) in the Atlantic ocean.

Photophores : one postero-lateral organ; anal organs in two groups; second ventral organ displaced dorsally. First supra-anal organ above fourth ventral organ or slightly in front of this photophore. Three supra-anal organs nearly in a straight line passing through the space between third and fourth ventral organs or in front of third ventral organ; second supra-anal organ sometimes a trifle out of the straight line between first (ventral) and third (dorsal) supra-anal organs. Ultimate and penultimate precaudal organs horizontally placed. Number of anal organs $5-7+2-4$.

Adult male has a large supracaudal luminous plate, adult female a small simple infracaudal luminous plate. The dorso-nasal luminous organ is much smaller in the female than in the male, and smaller in the Atlantic subspecies than in the Pacific subspecies (*M. l. laternatum* Garman).

The postlarva is very characteristic, and cannot be confused with the postlarva of any other known *Scopelid*; the postlarva has a barbel, which disappears as metamor-

phosis sets in ; the eye of the postlarva is oblong (but without eye-taper ventrally) ; the pigmentation is *inter alia* characterized by a large, dendritic, lateral melanophore. Metamorphosis takes place at a length of abt. 12-13 mm. excl. C. ; the metamorphosis is connected with a pronounced ontogenetic vertical migration.

DISTRIBUTION — Pelagic, true oceanic species. Occuring as a common species in tropic and subtropic Atlantic ; in European waters met with south of abt. 40° N. Lat. ; only one specimen taken in the Mediterranean, just inside the Straits of Gibraltar.

Propagation — Maturity attained at a length of 17 mm. or a little over. Postlarval stages and adult stages in the upper water layers, metamorphosis stages in deeper water layers.

SYNONYMY

Myctophum laternatum part. Brauer 1906, *Myctophum laternatum atlanticum* Tåning 1928.

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Å. VEDEL TÅNING — 1931.