



# FAO SPECIES CATALOGUE

Volume 18

**OPHIDIIFORM FISHES OF THE WORLD**  
(Order Ophidiiformes)

An annotated and illustrated catalogue of pearlfishes, cusk-eels, brotulas and other ophidiiform fishes known to date



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OPHIDIIFORM FISHES OF THE WORLD

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An annotated and illustrated catalogue of pearlfishes, cusk-eels,  
brotulas and other ophidiiform fishes known to date

by

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## PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document was prepared under the FAO Fisheries Department Regular Programme by the Species Identification Programme in the Marine Resources Service of the Fishery Resources Division. It is the eighteenth worldwide species catalogue in the FAO Fisheries Synopsis series.

Several ophidiiform fishes are abundant in nature and play a significant role in the ecology of their habitats. Some species are of great importance to fisheries. Their identification, however, often presents such great difficulty that specimens are often referred to the family or genus level only. The purpose of this catalogue is to facilitate identification of these fishes. It also provides a much updated and extended version of the revision of the Order Ophidiiformes by Cohen and Nielsen (1978). The authors are internationally recognized experts in ophidiiform fishes and have been collaborating with FAO's Species Identification and Data Programme for many years.

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**FAO Fisheries Synopsis.** No. 125, Vol. 18. Rome, FAO. 1999. 178p., 136 figs.

### ABSTRACT

This is the eighteenth issue in the FAO series of worldwide annotated and illustrated catalogues of the groups of marine organisms that enter marine fisheries. This volume covers all 93 genera currently recognized in the order Ophidiiformes (pearlfishes, cusk-eels, brotulas and allies). It includes a glossary of technical terms, general remarks on the order, identification keys from the suborder to the species level, detailed genera accounts, and a table of species by major fishing areas. In addition, 10 species of interest to fisheries are treated in illustrated accounts. The work is fully indexed and there is a comprehensive list of references to pertinent literature.

### Distribution

Authors

FAO Fisheries Officers

Regional Fisheries Councils and Commissions

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Daniel M. Cohen

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Jørgen G. Nielsen

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C. Richard Robins