

**Remarks:** The systematic status of the various populations is unclear. Two species may exist in southern Australia and in Argentina under this name and the distinctness of *blacodes* vs *capensis* has yet to be demonstrated. Literature reports of the distribution of South American species are confused and the exact distributions of each needs clarification. For recent discussions of this problem see Layson (1984) and de Astarola and Figueroa (1993). *G. brasiliensis* (Regan, 1903b) from northern Argentina appears to be an unpatterned form of *blacodes*. It has been recognized as a distinct species (Nakamura, 1986) but its status is unclear.

*Genypterus capensis* (Smith, 1847)

KCP

**Synonyms:** *Hoplophycis lalandi* Kaup, 1858.

**FAO names:** En - Kingclip; Fr - Abadèche du Cap; Sp - Congribadejo (= Rosada) del Cabo.

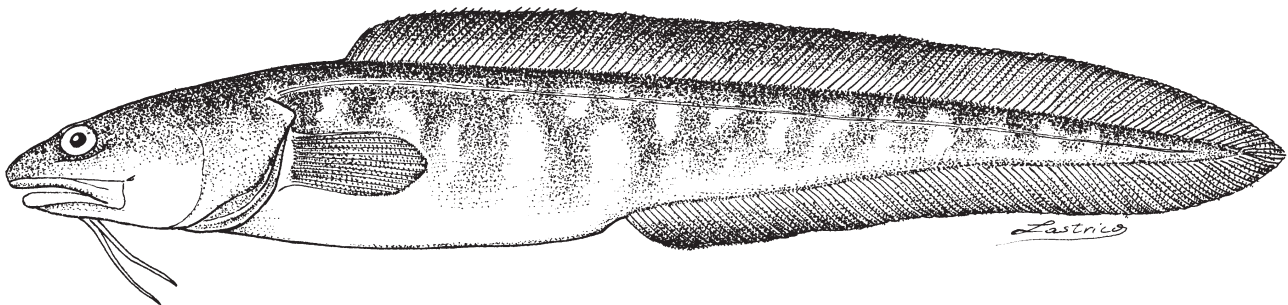


Fig. 33 *Genypterus capensis*

**Diagnosis:** Head and body usually pinkish to orangish with dark spots and blotches especially dorsally; dorsal-fin rays about 150; anal-fin rays about 110.

**Geographical distribution:** Southern Africa from Walvis Bay, Namibia, to Algoa Bay, southeastern Cape Province, South Africa.

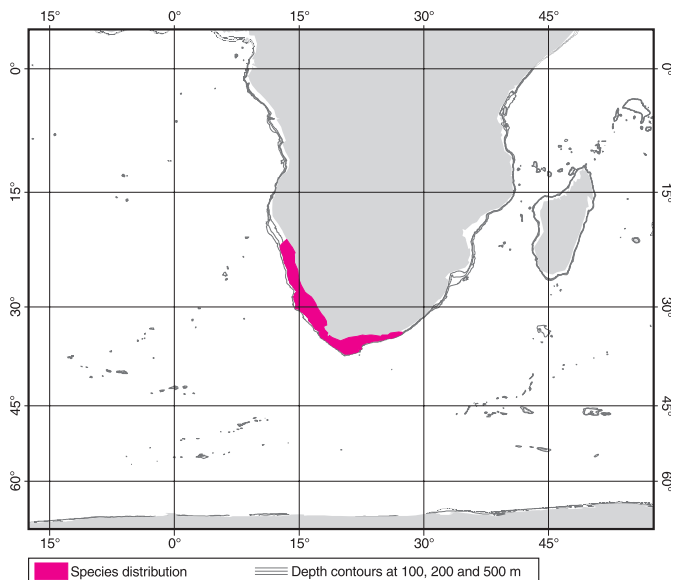
**Habitat and biology:** Benthic at depths of 50 to 500 m. Common.

**Interest to fisheries:** An important commercial species. Landings amounted to 6 281 t in 1996. Catches are almost equally distributed between Namibian and South African trawling fleets. Some minor catches are also landed by a foreign Spanish fleet. Harvests are consumed fresh and frozen.

**Local names:** NAMIBIA: Kingclip.

**Size:** At least 1.6 m.

**Remarks:** The distinctiveness of this species and *Genypterus blacodes* is unclear.



*Genypterus chilensis* (Guichenot, 1848)

CUC

**Synonyms:** *Genypterus nigricans* Philippi, 1857; *Genypterus reedi* Reed, 1962 (a nomen nudum).

**FAO names:** **En** - Red cusk-eel; **Fr** - Abadèche rouge; **Sp** - Congribadejo colorado.

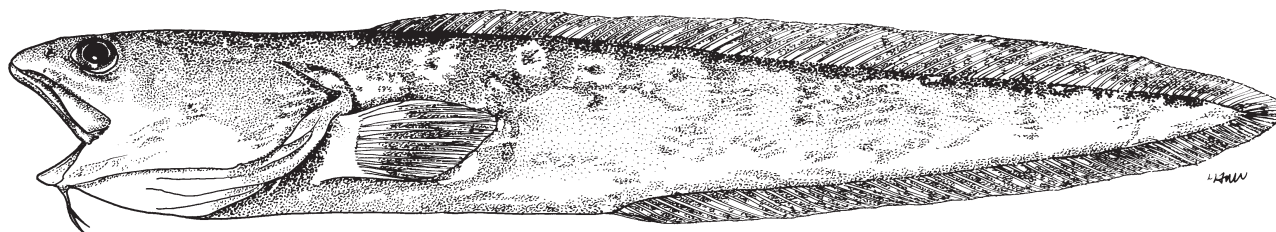


Fig. 34 *Genypterus chilensis* (after Mann, 1954)

**Diagnosis:** Head and body dark with large, irregular pale markings; head more than 4.5 times in standard length; dorsal-fin rays more than 135; anal-fin rays more than 105.

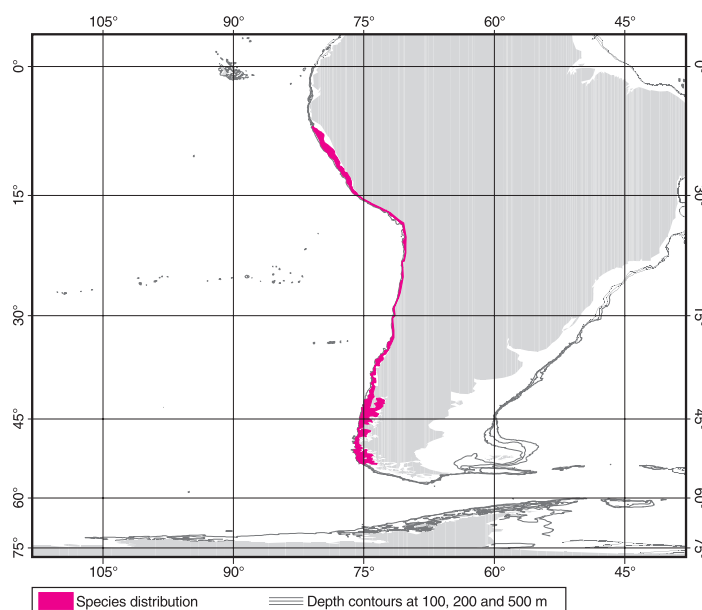
**Geographical distribution:** Southern Peru to southern Chile.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic on rocky bottom in deep shelf and upper slope waters. Common.

**Interest to fisheries:** An important commercial species. FAO reported landings in 1996 were 982 t, all of them resulting from the activity of the Chilean fleet. Catch data from Peru are reported together with those for *Genypterus maculatus*; for 1996, a total catch of 1 121 t of *Genypterus* spp. was reported from Peru.

**Local names:** Chilean kingclip, Congrio colorado, Congrio rosado.

**Size:** At least 1.5 m.



*Genypterus maculatus* (Tschudi, 1846)

CUB

**Synonyms:** None.

**FAO names:** **En** - Black cusk-eel; **Fr** - Abadèche noir; **Sp** - Congribadejo negro.

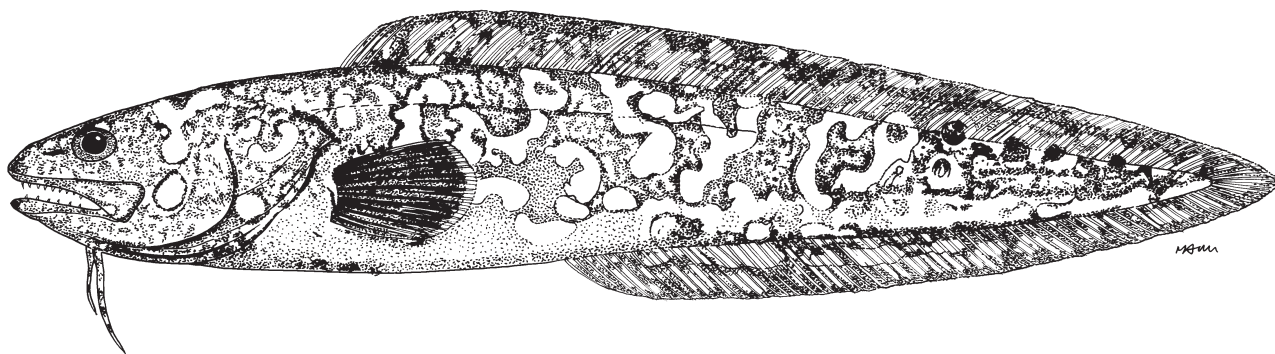


Fig. 35 *Genypterus maculatus* (after Chirichigno, 1974)

**Diagnosis:** Head and body dark with large pale markings; body short, head less than 4.5 times in standard length; dorsal-fin rays 118 to 135; anal-fin rays 92 to 105; pyloric caeca 6 to 9.

**Geographical distribution:** Peru to northern Chile.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in rocky shelf and upper slope waters. Common.

**Interest to fisheries:** Of commercial importance. Landings from the Chilean fleet amounted to 1 343 t in 1996.

**Local names:** Congrio negro, Congrio moreno.

**Size:** At least 600 mm.

**Remarks:** *Ophidium maculatum* Tschudi is permanently unavailable because it is a junior homonym of *Ophidium maculatum* Rafinesque (*O. barbatum*). A petition to conserve the Tschudi name in *Genypterus* has been submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by Melvyn H. Wilson. Pending the outcome of this petition, it is recommended here to use the name *Genypterus maculatus* (Tschudi) for this species.

