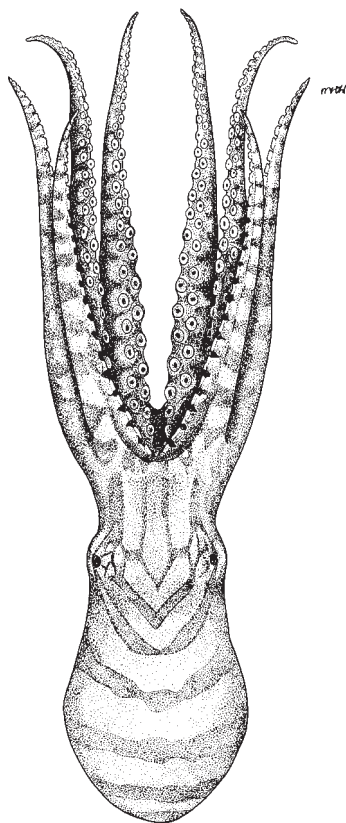


Octopus zonatus Voss, 1968

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: **En** - Atlantic banded octopus; **Fr** - Poulpe zèbre; **Sp** - Pulpo acebrado.



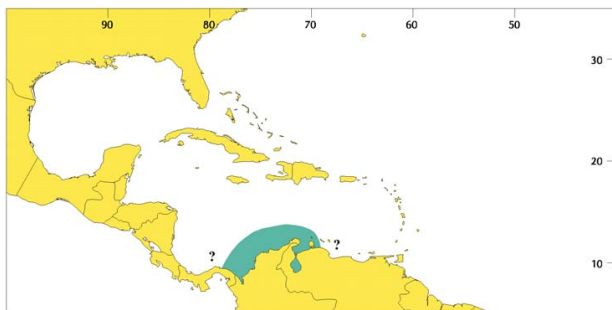
Diagnostic characters: Suckers in 2 series. Structures on dorsal surfaces of mantle, head, arms (when present) not star-shaped cartilaginous tubercles. Ink sac present. No ocelli between eye and bases of lateral arms. Funnel organ W-shaped. Arms subequal in length. Gill lamellae 6 or 7 per outer demibranch. Small adult size. **Colour:** wide dark transverse bands on light background over head, mantle, and arms (difficult to see in some states of preservation).

Size: To 3 cm mantle length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found in 30 to 75 m depth.

Distribution: Southern part of the Caribbean Sea.

Remarks: This species is the only banded octopod known from the western Atlantic Ocean.

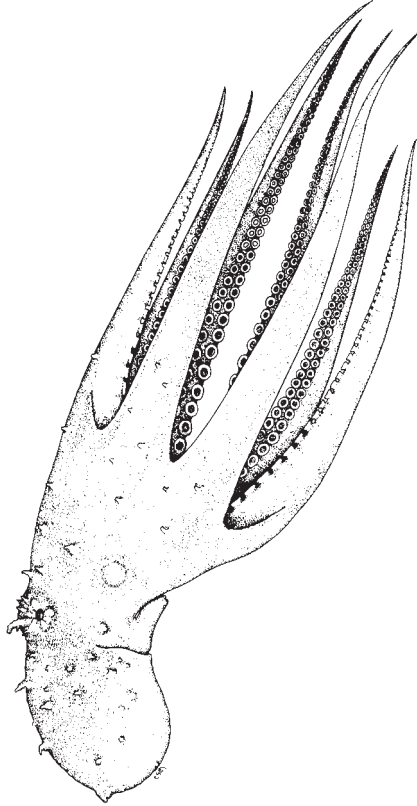


Ocellate *Octopus* group

Nominal species included locally: *Octopus filusus* Howell, 1868; *Octopus maya* Voss and Solis Ramirez, 1966.

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Octopus hummelincki* Adam, 1936; *Octopus rugosus* Robson, 1929 / *Octopus maya* Voss and Solis Ramirez, 1966, *Octopus joubini* Robson, 1929.

FAO names: **En** - Bumblebee two-spot octopus; **Fr** - Poulpe bourdon; **Sp** - Pulpo abejorro.



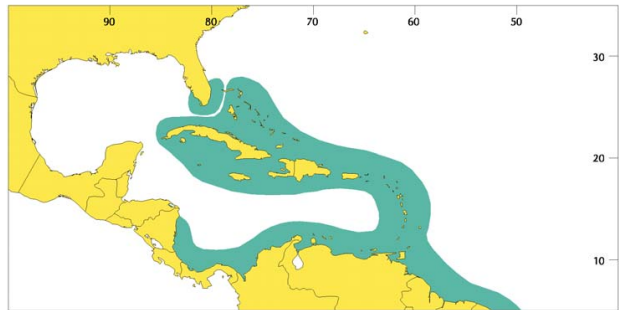
Diagnostic characters: Suckers in 2 series. Structures on dorsal surfaces of mantle, head, arms not star-shaped cartilaginous tubercles. Funnel organ W-shaped. Ink sac present. **Ocellus ("eye spot") present on both sides between eye and bases of lateral arms; includes iridescent blue ring in the form of an unbroken chain. Gill lamellae 5 to 9 per outer demibranch.** Ligula length 3 to 5% of hectocotylized arm length. Egg length 1.6 to 1.8 mm. Small adult size.

Size: To 7 cm mantle length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs from very shallow waters, where it is associated with coral reefs, to 200 m depth on sand and gravel bottom. Often found among calcareous algae and shell rubble. Common on reefs in Haiti.

Distribution: Tropical western Atlantic Ocean, from Florida through the Bahama Islands and Caribbean Sea to the coast of Brazil.

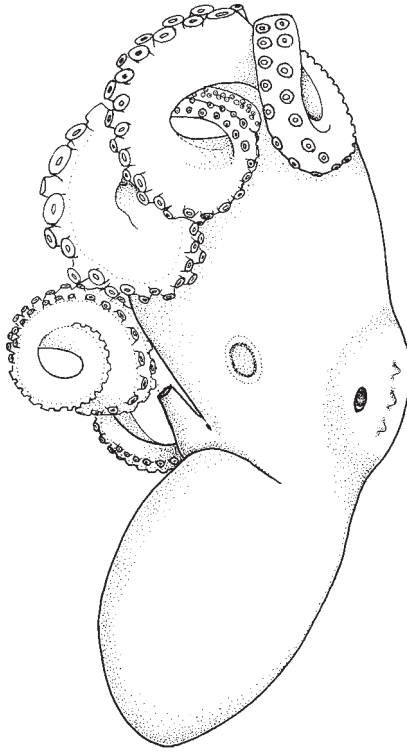
Remarks: This species is generally known by the junior synonym, *Octopus hummelincki* Adam, 1936.



Octopus maya Voss and Solis Ramirez, 1966

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Octopus vulgaris* group.

FAO names: **En** - Mexican four-eyed octopus; **Fr** - Poulpe mexicain; **Sp** - Pulpo mexicano.

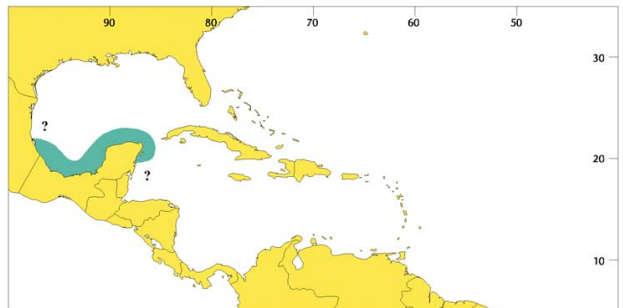


Diagnostic characters: Suckers in 2 series. Structures on dorsal surfaces of mantle, head, arms not star-shaped cartilaginous tubercles. Funnel organ W-shaped. Ink sac present. **Ocellus ('eye spot') present on both sides between eye and bases of lateral arms; iridescent blue or blue-green ring within ocellus present only in juveniles.** Gill lamellae 9 or 10 per outer demibranch. Ligula length 1.4 to 1.9% of hectocotylized arm length; egg length ca. 17 mm. Large adult size. **Colour:** not distinctive.

Size: To 25 cm mantle length. Total length to 130 cm. Weight to 5 kg.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs in shallow water from 1 to 50 m depth, on grassy bottom. Spawning season November and December; 1 500 to 2 000 large eggs deposited in festoons in rocky holes and empty shells; female broods the clutch; the young hatch in 50 to 65 days, large hatchlings settle immediately on the bottom; life span 1 to 2 years. Feeds on crabs (e.g. stone crab *Menippe mercenaria*), bivalve molluscs and fishes; preyed upon by grouper (Serranidae) and other fishes. Commercially fished off Campeche and Yucatán, Mexico, from June to December from small drifting boats with dipnets and 25 to 35 nylon or cotton lines trailed along the bottom, baited with crabs. Occasionally artificial lures soaked in fish oil are used, as are empty conch shells (*Strombus gigas*) and clay pots into which octopuses crawl for shelter or to lay eggs. Hooking and spearing are done in shallow water. Utilized as food and bait. May be overfished (Solis-Ramirez, 1997).

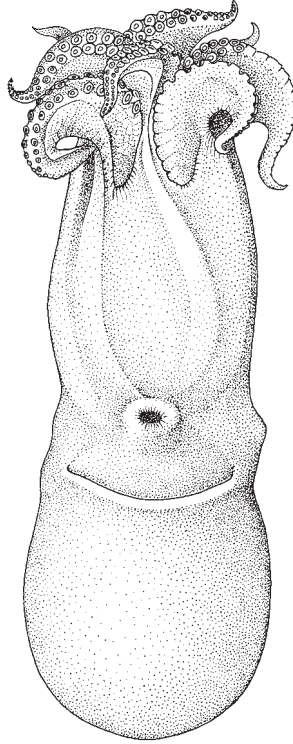
Distribution: Southern Gulf of Mexico



Pteroctopus schmidti (Joubin, 1933)

Frequent synonyms/misidentifications: *Danoctopus schmidti* Joubin, 1933 / None.

FAO names: **En** - Dana octopod; **Fr** - Poulpe dana; **Sp** - Pulpito monedero.



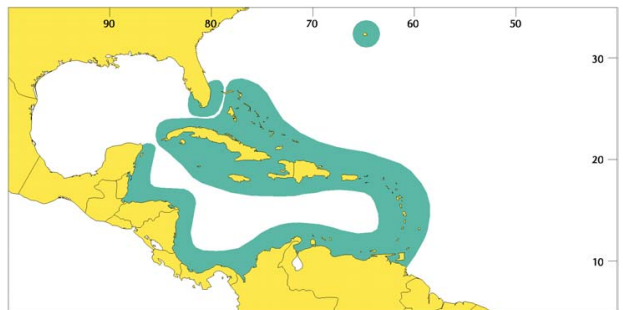
Diagnostic characters: Suckers in 2 series. Structures on dorsal surfaces of mantle, head, arms not star-shaped cartilaginous tubercles. Ink sac present. No ocelli between eye and bases of lateral arms. Nine gill lamellae per outer demibranch. **Funnel organ VV-shaped**. Mantle opening narrow. **Funnel almost entirely buried in tissue of head**. Prominent subcutaneous layer of semigelatinous tissue covers muscular mantle and arms. Ventral arms shorter than other arms, which are subequal in length. **Right ventrolateral arm of males hectocotylized**. **Colour:** not distinctive.

Size: To 4 cm mantle length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: A deep-water species found at depths of 300 to 1 200 m.

Distribution: Scattered records: Bermuda, Dry Tortugas, Caribbean Sea, occasionally found on the continental slope north of Cape Hatteras.

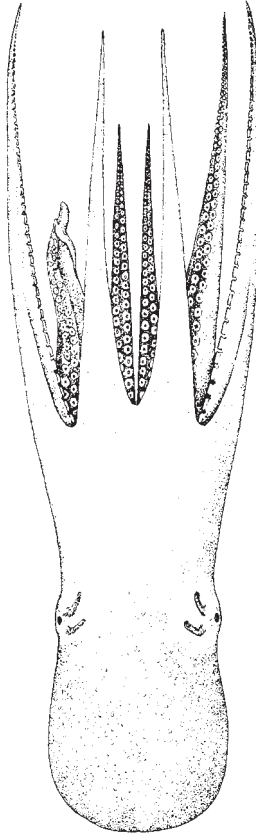
Remarks: Only immature specimens are known; may be juveniles of another named species, possibly *Pteroctopus tetracirrhus*. The 2 species differ on the side of hectocotylization and were therefore placed in separate genera, but Voss and Toll (1998) indicated that this may not be a reliable character. They reported that Toll (MS) considers *Danoctopus* to be a junior synonym of *Pteroctopus*, but Voss and Toll (1998) provisionally retained the two species as distinct. Sweeney and Roper (1998) omitted this species as well as the genus *Danoctopus*.



***Pteroctopus tetracirrhus* (Chiaie, 1830)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Scaeurus tetracirrhus* (Chiaie, 1830) / None.

FAO names: **En** - Fourhorn octopod; **Fr** - Poulpe à quatre cornes; **Sp** - Pulpo cuatro cuernos.



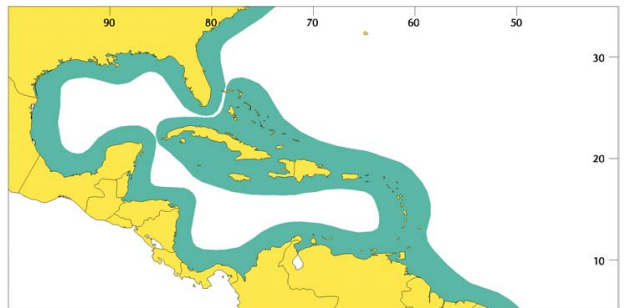
Diagnostic characters: Suckers in 2 series. Structures on dorsal surfaces of mantle, head, arms not star-shaped cartilaginous tubercles. Ink sac present. No ocelli between eye and bases of lateral arms. Gill lamellae 9 or 10 per outer demibranch. **Funnel organ VV-shaped**. Mantle opening narrow, tightly surrounding funnel. Prominent subcutaneous layer of semigelatinous tissue covers muscular mantle and arms. All arms subequal in length. **Left ventrolateral arm of males hectocotyized**. **Colour:** not distinctive.

Size: Females 13 cm mantle length; males 11 cm mantle length. Total length to 28 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Usually found at depths of 100 to 750 m on mud bottoms.

Distribution: In western Atlantic Ocean and adjacent waters from Cape Hatteras to Uruguay. Also found in Mediterranean Sea, west coast of Africa, Azores, Cape Verde Islands.

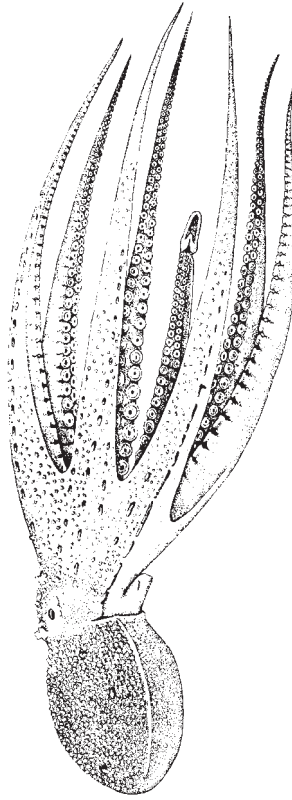
Remarks: This is another species originally described from Mediterranean waters for which the species status of the western Atlantic form has been questioned because it differs somewhat in morphometrics from those of the type locality. See also remarks under *Pteroctopus schmidtii*.



***Scaeurus unicirrhus* (Chiaie, 1839-1841)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Octopus cocco* Vérany, 1846 / *Octopus vulgaris* Cuvier, 1797.

FAO names: **En** - Atlantic warty octopod; **Fr** - Poulpe licorne; **Sp** - Pulpo unicornio.



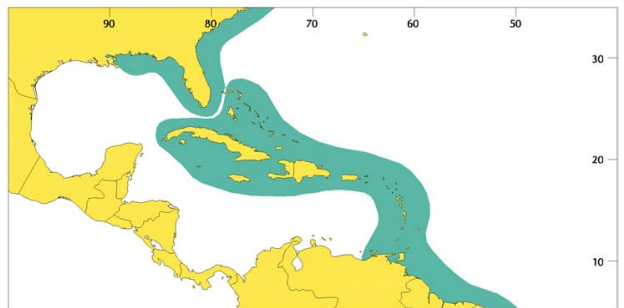
Diagnostic characters: Suckers in 2 series. Structures on dorsal surfaces of mantle, head, arms not star-shaped cartilaginous tubercles. Ink sac present. No ocelli between eye and bases of lateral arms. **Gill lamellae 12 to 14 per outer demibranch. Prominent lateral ridges on mantle.** Right ventrolateral arm of males hectocotylized. **Colour:** not distinctive.

Size: To 9 cm mantle length. Total length to 34 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found in 100 to 400 m depth range, occasionally to 800 m. Associated with sandy, muddy, or coralline bottoms.

Distribution: In the western Atlantic Ocean, including adjacent waters, from north of Cape Hatteras to southern Brazil. Also in the Mediterranean Sea, eastern Atlantic Ocean from Bay of Biscay to Namibia, and reported from submarine banks and tops of seamounts.

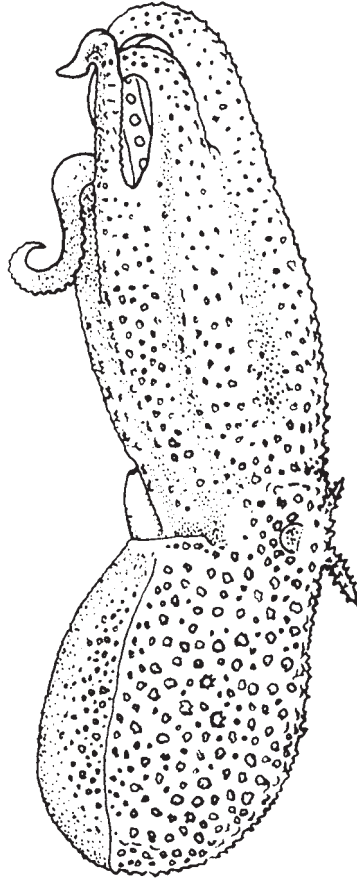
Remarks: Yet another species originally described from Mediterranean waters for which the species status of the western Atlantic form has been questioned because it differs somewhat in proportions from those of the type locality.



***Tetracheledone spinicirrus* Voss, 1955**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Graneledone* sp.

FAO names: En - Spiny-horn octopod; Fr - Poulpe cornu; Sp - Pulpo cornudo.



Diagnostic characters: Suckers in 1 series (may form zig-zag pattern when arms are contracted). Star-shaped cartilaginous tubercles permanently visible on dorsal surfaces of mantle, head, arms, and 2 pairs of large supraocular cirri. Funnel organ with 4 separate parts (IIII- shaped). Lateral ridge present on mantle. Gill lamellae 6 to 9 per outer demibranch. **Colour:** not distinctive.

Size: To 10 cm mantle length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs on mud bottoms in 200 to 400 m depth range.

Distribution: Gulf of Mexico, Straits of Florida, Caribbean Sea. Limits unknown.

