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FAMILY OCTOPOTEUTHIOAE Berry, 1912

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Octopoteuthidae Berry, 1912, Proc.Acad.Nat.Sci.Phila., 64(2):432.

FAO Names : En - Octopus squids
Fr - Encornets poulpes
Sp - Pulpotas

General Remarks on the Family : The family comprises only two genera, Octopoteuthis (not included in this catalogue) and Taningia. It is characterized by biserial hooks on the arms (usually replaced by small biserial suckers near the arm tips); a lack of tentacles (in adults), buccal connectives that attach to the ventral borders of arms IV; a simple, straight, slightly broad funnel locking-cartilage; very large fins; light organs at the tips of at least some of the arms. Tentacles are present in larval forms of all species but are lost very early in development in Octopoteuthis, while they remain for some time in Taningia as small rudimentary filaments that bear a few distal club suckers; they eventually drop off in the juvenile stage.

Key to Genera:

- 1a. Several small, spindle-shaped photophores at tips of all eight arms Octopoteuthis
- 1b. Only one, very large photophore at tip of each arm II Taningia

Taningia danae Joubin, 1931

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Taningia danae Joubin, 1931, Ann.Inst.Oceano, 10(7):181.

Synonymy : Cuciotheuthis unguiculatus Joubin, 1898, 1900; Cuciotheuthis unguiculatus Clarke, 1956; Cuciotheuthis unguiculata Rees & Maul, 1956; Cuciotheuthis unguiculata Clarke, 1962.

FAO Names : En - Dana octopus squid
Fr - Encornet poulpe dana
SP - Pulpota

Diagnostic Features : Mantle broad, robust. Fins very large and thick, their length about 85% of mantle length, width 130% of mantle length. Tentacles lacking in adults. Arms with 2 rows strong hooks; arms II each with a large, distinct, black photophore at tip, its luminescent surface covered by an eyelid-type mechanism.

