

**Octopus globosus** Appellöf, 1886

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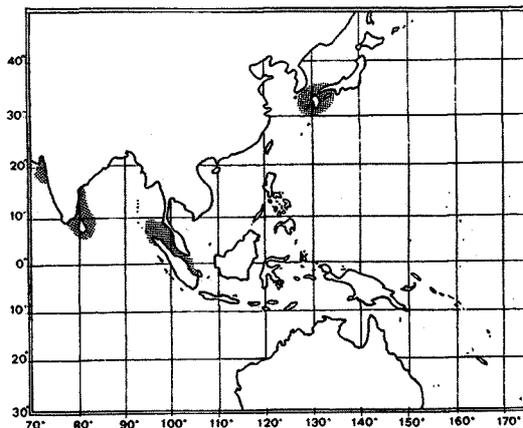
*Octopus globosus* Appellöf, 1886, *Svenska Vet.Akad.*, 21(13):7.

**Synonymy** : None.

**FAO Names** : En - Globe octopus  
Fr - Poulpe globe  
SP - Pulpo globoso

**Diagnostic Features** : Mantle globular to slightly elongate; dorsal and lateral surface of mantle, head, and bases of arms covered with widely spaced conical warts of various sizes, skin smooth in between warts; 5 to 7 warts above and posterior to each eye of which 3 are elongated into cirri. Arms moderately long, arms I the longest, arms IV the shortest; right arm III hectocotylized, only 2/3 as long as left III; ligula about 15% of arm length, elongate-conical, with a broad, deep groove that has a median pinnate ridge with about 15 alternating side-arms and depressions on each side; calimus well-developed, relatively long; 17 to 19 lamellae (total count) in each gill.

**Geographical Distribution** : Scattered reports from Japan to India.



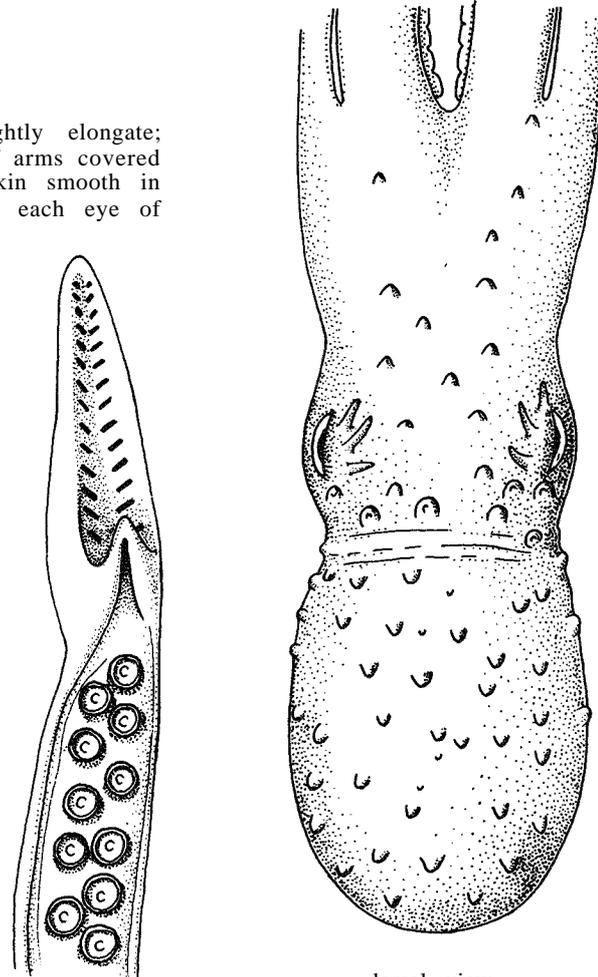
**Habitat and Biology** : A littoral species.

**Size** : Maximum total length 25 cm, sexually mature at about 19 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries** : Reported as one of the main commercial cephalopod species in India; along the southeastern coast longlines of hundreds of *Pterocera* shells are set out for *Octopus* species, which are used as bait for longline fishing for seerfish, carangids, sharks and rays.

**Local Names** :

**Literature** : Voss (1973, resources).



tip of  
hectocotylized  
right arm III  
of male

dorsal view  
of body and head

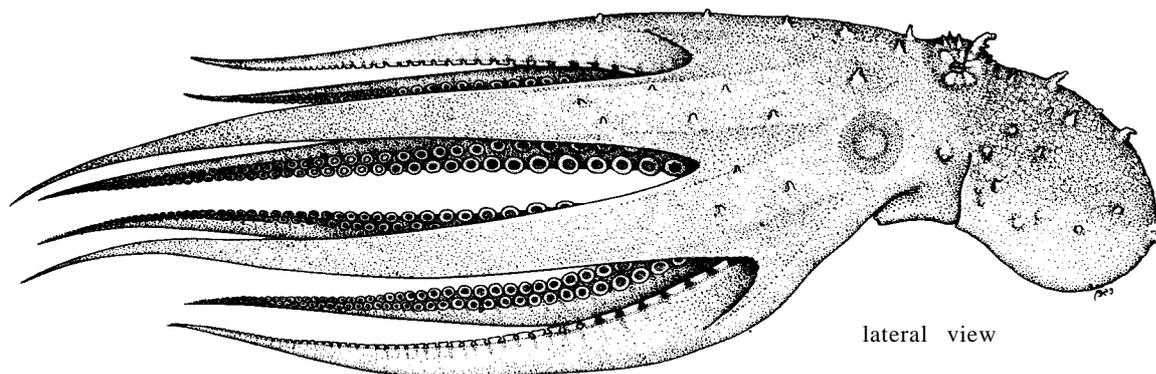
**Octopus hummelincki** Adam, 1936

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*Octopus hummelincki* Adam, 1936, *Bull.Mus.R.Hist.Nat.Belg.*, 12:1.

**Synonymy** : *Octopus filosus* Howell, 1868; *Octopus rugosus* Robson 1929 (in part).

**FAO Names** : En - Bumblebee octopus  
Fr - Poulpe bourdon  
SP - Pulpo abejorro



lateral view

**Diagnostic Features** : A very small species. Mantle globular to oval, usually covered with conspicuous papillae; a vivid dark iridescent blue ocellus occurs on the web at the base of arms II and III anterior to the eyes; several papillae or cirri over each eye. Arms relatively long and robust; a few suckers on arms II and III enlarged in males; right arm III hectocotylized; ligula short, small, length 2 to 6% of arm length, with a very shallow spoon-like groove; calamus acute with a deep spermatophore groove; 5 to 9, mostly 6 to 7, filaments on outer demibranch-of gill.

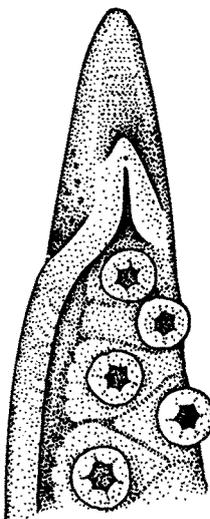
**Geographical Distribution** : Tropical western Atlantic: Caribbean, Florida and Bahamas to Brazil.

**Habitat and Biology** : This small benthic species occurs from very shallow waters, where it is associated with coral reefs, down to 200 m depth on sand and gravel bottom, often associated with calcareous algae, and shell rubble.

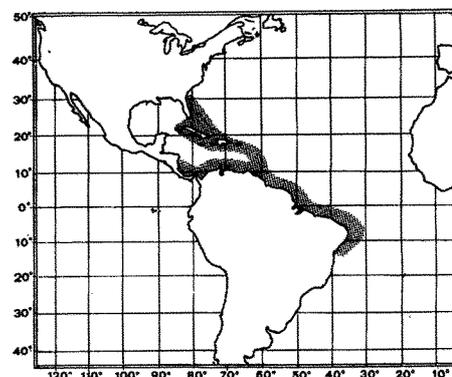
**Size** : Maximum mantle length 7 cm, mostly 2 to 3 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries** : None at present.

**Local Names** : USA: Bumblebee octopus.



tip of hectocotylized right arm III of male



**Octopus joubini** Robson, 1929

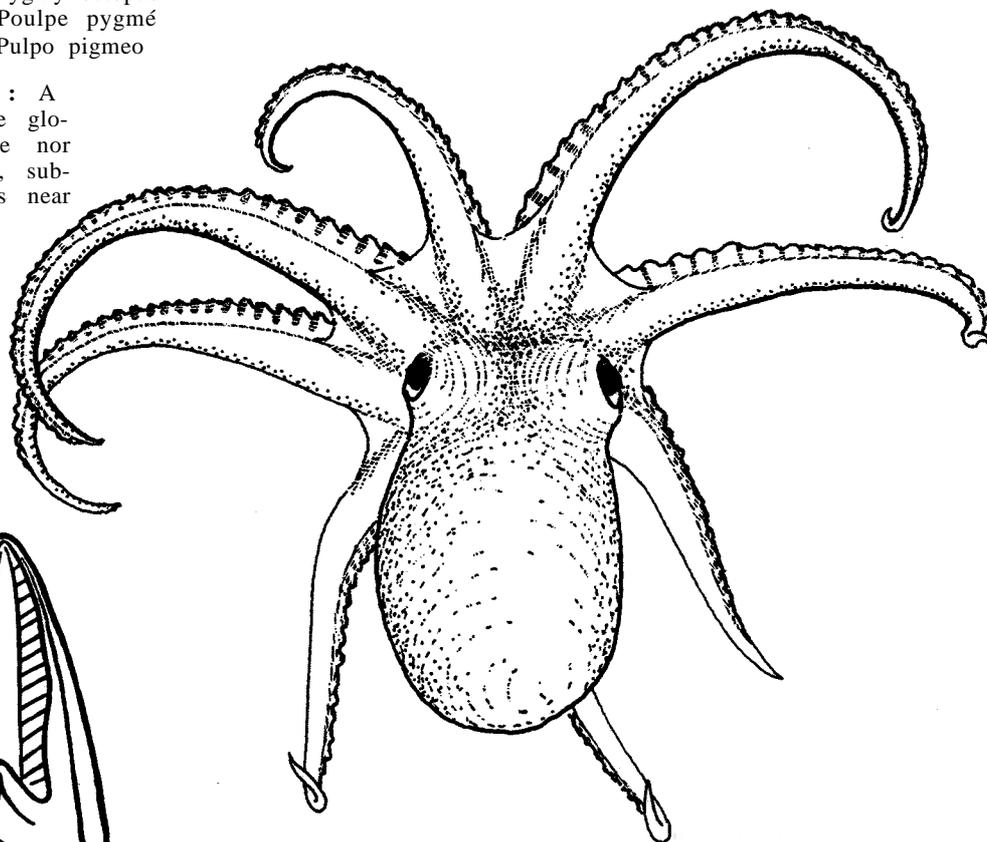
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Octopus joubini Robson, 1929, Mono.Rec.Ceph., 161.

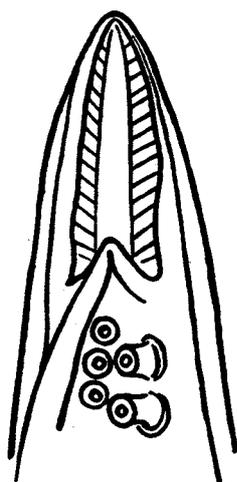
**Synonymy** : None.

**FAO Names** : En - Pygmy octopus  
Fr - Poulpe pygmé  
SP - Pulpo pigmeo

**Diagnostic Features** : A very small species. Mantle globular, smooth, no ocellae nor papillae. Arms very short, subequal, small; some suckers near base of arms II and III of males conspicuously enlarged; right arm III hectocotylized, shorter than left III; ligula 4 to 7% of arm length, groove shallow with a few transverse ridges; calamus small; 5 to 7 gill lamellae.



dorsal view



tip of hectocotylized  
right arm III  
of male

**Geographical Distribution** : Tropical western Atlantic: Florida, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea to Guyanas.

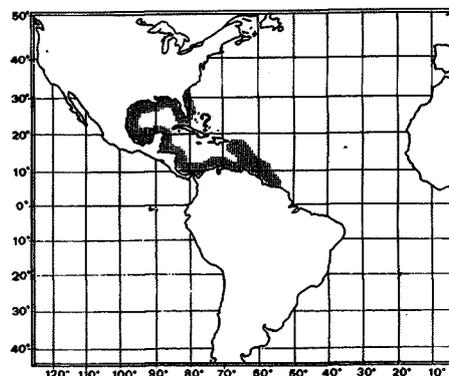
**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic, shallow-water species occurring on sandy and hard coral and rubble bottoms down to about 80 m depth. It frequently hides in bivalve shells. Spawning takes place in 2 periods, the first between November and January, and the second between April and June. The females lay their about 10 mm long eggs in clam shells and brood them. The hatchlings settle immediately in the benthic adult habitat.

**Size** : Maximum total length 15 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries** : No commercial fishing exists due to the very small size of the species. It is, however, believed to have potential for mariculture.

**Local Names** : USA: Pygmy octopus.

**Remarks** : It has been cultured through five generations. Excellent for behavioural and biomedical research.



**Octopus lobensis** Castellanos & Menni, 1969

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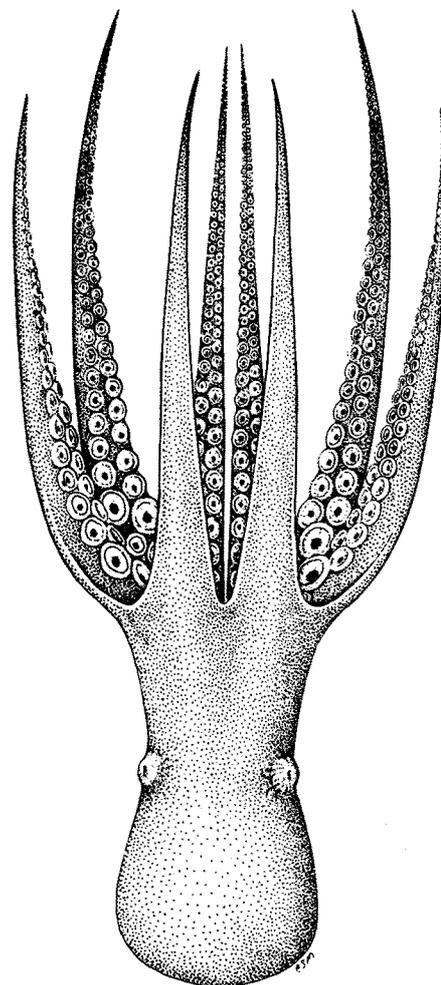
*Octopus lobensis* Castellanos & Menni, 1969, *Neotropica*, 15(47):92.

**Synonymy** : None.

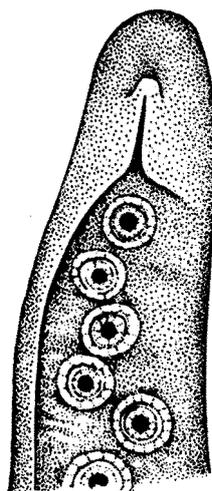
**FAO Names** : En - Lobed octopus  
Fr - Poulpe séganliou  
SP - Pulpo lobero

**Diagnostic Features** : Mantle broad, short, globular, its width 71 to 110% of its length; head and arms broad; funnel organ distinctly VV-shaped. Arms moderately long, very robust at bases; one or two suckers on the 7th or 8th row out; arms II and III greatly enlarged in both males and females right arm III hectocotylized in males only slightly shorter than left III; ligula very small, indistinct (1.5% of arm length), bluntly rounded, with an indistinct, shallow groove; calimus small, rounded. Five to 11 gill filaments on outer demibranch.

**Geographical Distribution** : Southwest Atlantic between 13°N and 42°N, entering the Patagonian region.



dorsal view



tip of hectocotylized  
right arm III  
of male



**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic species occurring in shallow waters down to 60 to 80 m depth; the eggs are about 9 mm long.

**Size** : Maximum mantle length 10 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries** : Currently taken as bycatch in trawl fisheries.

**Local Names** :

**Remarks** : Sympatric with *O. tehuelchus*, with which it is probably often confused.

**Octopus macropus** Risso, 1826

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Octopus macropus Risso, 1826, Hist.nat.Europe Méridion., 4:3.

**Synonymy** : Octopus cuvieri - Orbigny, 1840; Octopus longimanus - Orbigny, 1840; Octopus bermudensis - Hoyle, 1885; Octopus chromatus Heilprins, 1888

**FAO Names** : En - White-spotted octopus  
Fr - Poulpe tacheté  
Sp - Pulpo manchado

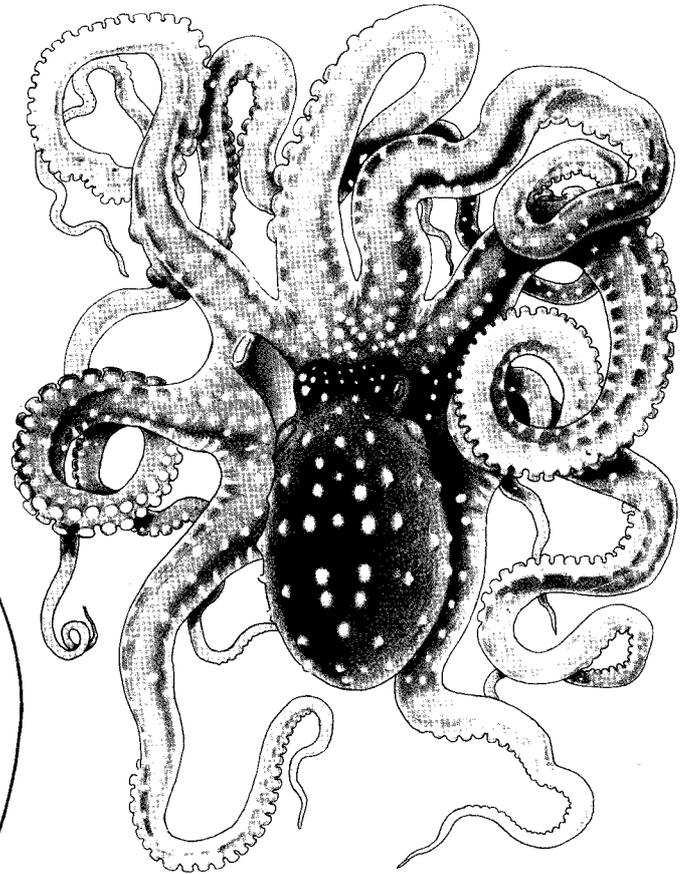
**Diagnostic Features** : Dorsal pair of arms I longest and stoutest (or coequally stoutest with arms II; right arm III of males hectocotylized by modification of tip to a large stout, tubular ligula; ligula index (length of ligula expressed as percentage of length of hectocotylized arm) up to 14; 9 to 13 gill lamellae on outer side of gill. Colour: conspicuous white spots on reddish background

**Geographical Distribution** : Worldwide in warm to warm-temperate waters.

**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic, shallow-water species occurring in coral reefs, reef flats and on open bottoms. In the western central Atlantic, the spawning season extends from winter into early spring. Hatchlings are first planktonic, settling to the bottom after a short time. The lifespan of this species probably does not exceed 1 year. It preys on crustaceans, molluscs and, occasionally, fishes.



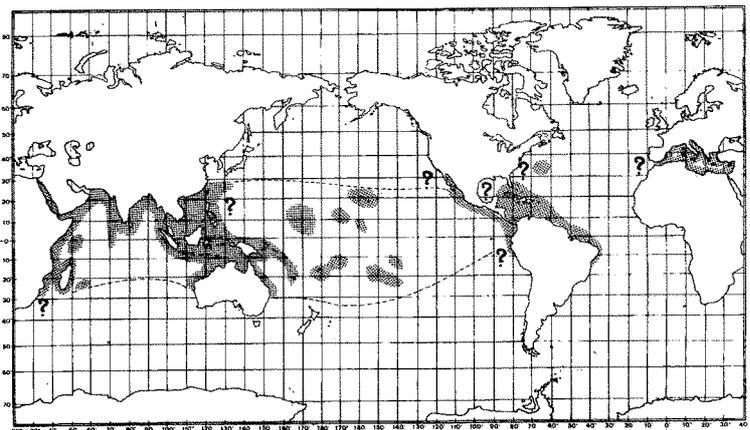
tip of hectocotylized right arm III of male



dorsal view

**Size** : Maximum total length from 120 to 150 cm; common to 60 cm; maximum mantle length 14 cm, weight 2 kg.

**Interest to Fisheries** : No large-scale fisheries are directed at this species, but it supports artisanal and subsistence fisheries in several regions, i.e. in the Philippines and the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas. Separate catch statistics are not available for this species, although it is suspected that it may be partially included in catch figures attributed to O. vulgaris. Fishing gears include spears, hook, and lures, trawls and traps. In the Caribbean and northern South America it is marketed fresh; in other areas it may also be marketed frozen and dried-salted as O. vulgaris.



**Local Names** : CHINA: Sui gwai (Water ghost); CYPRUS: Octapodi; FRANCE: Poulpe; GREECE: Khtapódi; ITALY: Polpessa; MALTA: Frajjel; MOROCCO: Poulpe; SPAIN: Pulpo patudo; TUNISIA: Qarnit kbir; TURKEY: Ahtapot; USA: White-spotted octopus; USSR: Osminog; YUGOSLAVIA: Tracan.

**Literature** : Voss & Williamson (1971, Hong Kong); Roper (1978, Species Identification Sheets, western central Atlantic, fishing area 31); Chikuni (in press, resources).

**Remarks** : Occasionally confused with Cistopus indicus, but can be distinguished by sculpture, lack of water pores, and the large ligula in the male.

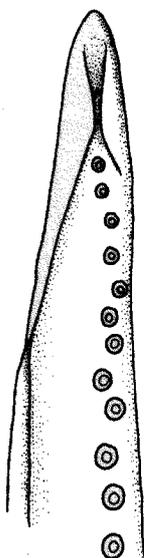
**Octopus maya** Voss & Solis, 1966

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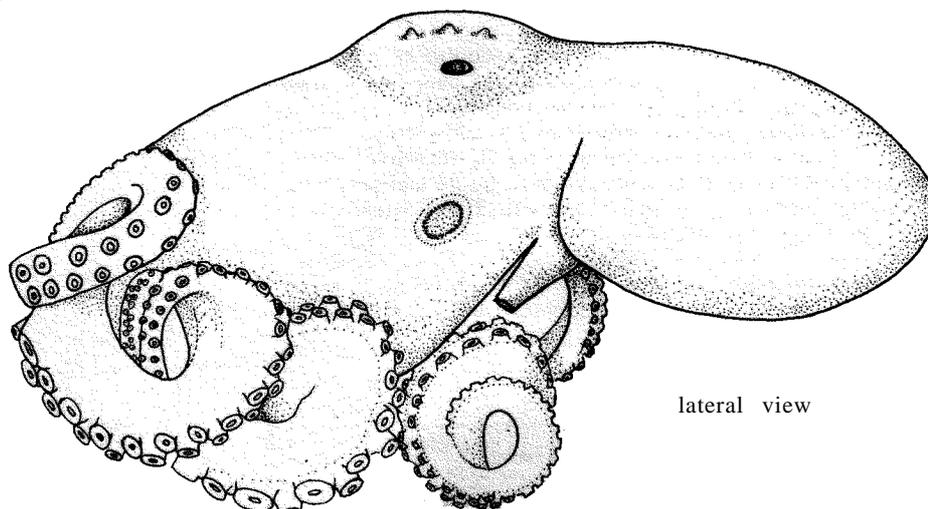
*Octopus maya* Voss & Solis, 1966, *Bull.Mar.Sci.*, 16(3):617.

**Synonymy** : None.

**FAO Names** : En - Mexican four-eyed octopus  
Fr - Poulpe mexicain  
SP - Pulpo mexicano



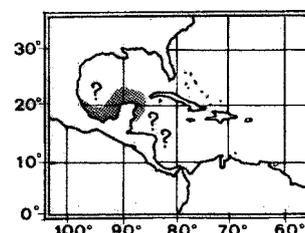
tip of hectocotylized  
right arm III of male)



lateral view

**Diagnostic Features** : A large, round dark "eyespot" (ocellus) between eye and base of arms II and III on each side of head. Arms long with attenuate tips; right arm III in males shortened, hectocotylized by modification of tip into a small, smooth spoon-shaped ligula with inrolled edges; ligula index (length of ligula expressed as percentage of length of hectocotylized arm) 1.4 to 1.9. Nine or 10 gill lamellae on outer side of gill.

**Geographical Distribution** : Western Atlantic: coasts of Yucatan and Campeche, Mexico in the Gulf of Mexico.



**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic, shallow-water species occurring in seagrass beds, empty shells and crevices down to 50 m depth. The spawning season extends from November to December; females deposit 1 500 to 2 000 large eggs (up to 17 mm long) in festoons in crevices or empty mollusc shell in September/October and brood them during the incubation period of 50 to 65 days. The large hatchlings settle immediately to benthic life. Longevity is about 1 to 2 years. The species feeds on crabs (such as the stone crab, *Menippe mercenaria*), gastropods (i.e. *Nerita*) and fishes. It is in turn preyed upon by groupers (Serranidae) and Spanish mackerels (Scombridae).

**Size** : Maximum total length 130 cm, weight 5 kg.

**Interest to Fisheries** : In the Bay of Campeche, this species is taken between June and December on crab-baited lines, in pots, with artificial lures and dipnets. In shallow waters, it is also hooked or speared. Separate statistics are not reported, but it may at least partially have been included in Mexico's catch figures for *O. vulgaris* reported as 6 877 metric tons in 1981 (FAO, 1983). The species is marketed fresh for human consumption and as bait.

**Local Names** :

**Literature** : Solis (1967, biology); Voss (1971, resources); Van Heukelem (1977, breeding and rearing); Roper (1978, Species Identification Sheets, western central Atlantic, fishing area 31).

**Remarks** : This species has been reared through several generations in the laboratory and is an ideal experimental animal due to the large size of the eggs.

**Octopus membranaceus** Quoy & Gaimard, 1832

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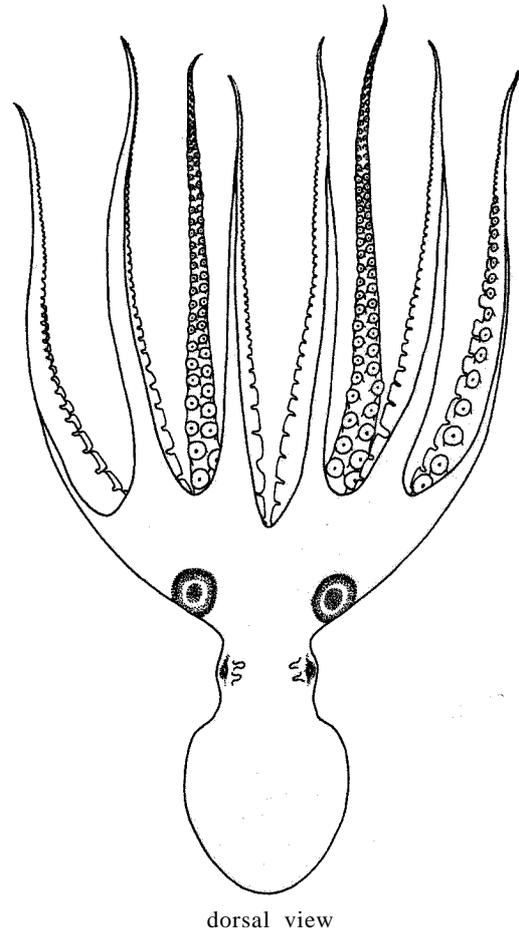
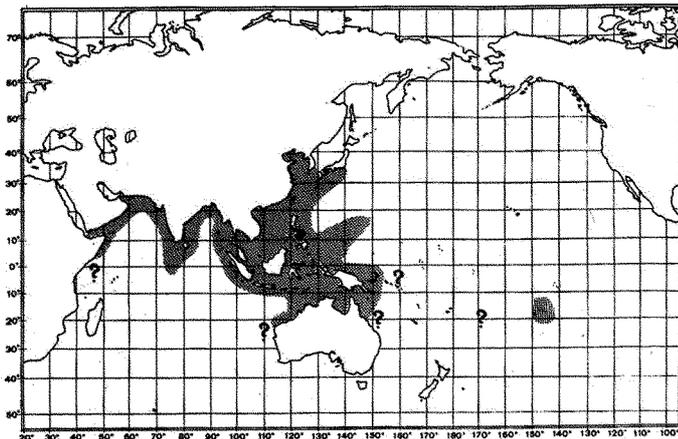
Octopus membranaceus Quoy & Gaimard, 1832, Zool.Astrolabe, 2:89.

**Synonymy** : Octopus fang-siao Orbigny, 1840 (in 1834-1848); Octopus ocellatus Gray, 1849.

**FAO Names** : En - Webfoot octopus  
Fr - Poulpe à quatre yeux  
SP - Pulpo membranoso

**Diagnostic Features** : Mantle saccular to elongate, sculptured with small, close-set tubercles over head, mantle, and arms; 2 cirri or warts over each eye. Arms moderately long, robust; web low; a conspicuous, dark, ringed ocellus on web at base of arms II, enteroventral to the eyes; right arm III hectocotylized; ligula slender, long, 4 to 6% of arm length, with a groove; 7 or 8 filaments in outer demibranch of gill.

**Geographical Distribution** : Indo-Pacific: Indian Ocean to Japan, China, Philippines and southward to Australia.



**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic shallow-water species occurring down to about 60 m depth. It shows a strong cryptic behaviour and usually hides in holes on flat bottoms. The spawning season extends from December to February.

**Size** : Maximum total length 30 cm; mantle length 8 cm; weight 0.5 kg.

**Interest to Fisheries** : An important market species, supporting local fisheries throughout Japan (mostly in the Inland Sea) and in China. It is caught with small pots and as bycatch in shallow-water trawl fisheries throughout southeast Asian waters. Separate statistics are not reported.

**Local Names** : CHINA: Sei ngaan liu (Four-eyed bird); JAPAN: Ji dako.

**Literature** : Voss & Williamson (1971, Hong Kong); Chikuni (in press, resources, as O. ocellatus).

**Remarks** : The nomenclature is confused and unresolved; a species related to the Octopus areolatus-ocellatus complex.

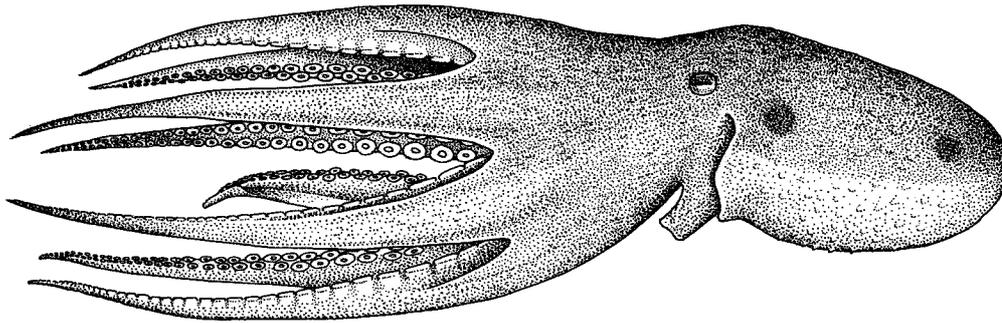
**Octopus selene** Voss, 1971

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*Octopus selene* Voss, 1971, *Bull.Mar.Sci.*, 21(1):11.

**Synonymy** : None.

**FAO Names** : En - Moon octopus  
Fr - Poulpe lune  
SP - Pulpo lunero



lateral view

**Diagnostic Features** : A medium-sized octopus. Mantle stout, rounded, with weak rugosity; web moderately shallow, extending 2/3 of length out arms. Arms of medium length; right arm III hectocotyized in males, shorter (by 25%) than left III; ligula small, narrow, pointed, with a distinct groove with transverse rugae; ligula length about 7.5% (5 to 10%) of arm length; calimus short, triangular; 12 to 16, mostly 13 to 14 lamellae on outer demibranch of gill. Colour: 4 dark pigment spots on dorsolateral surface of mantle.

**Geographical Distribution** : Tropical eastern Pacific; Gulf of Panama.

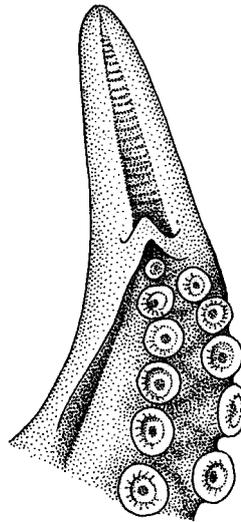
**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic, shallow-water species occurring on sandy and rocky bottoms, in depths between 20 and 50 m.

**Size** : Maximum mantle length 6 cm, mostly 4 to 4.5 cm. Females attain larger sizes than males.

**Interest to Fisheries** : Some potential has been predicted for this species as it occurs on good trawlable bottom in the Gulf of Panama and appears to be very abundant in some areas (up to 1.5 specimens per square metre).

**Local Names** : PANAMA: Pulpo.

**Literature** : Voss (1967).



tip of hectocotyized right arm III of male

