

**Octopus tehuelchus** Orbigny, 1834

OCT Oct 19

*Octopus tehuelchus* Orbigny, 1834, in 1834-1846, *Voy.Amér.Mérid.*, 5(3):27.

**Synonymy** : None.

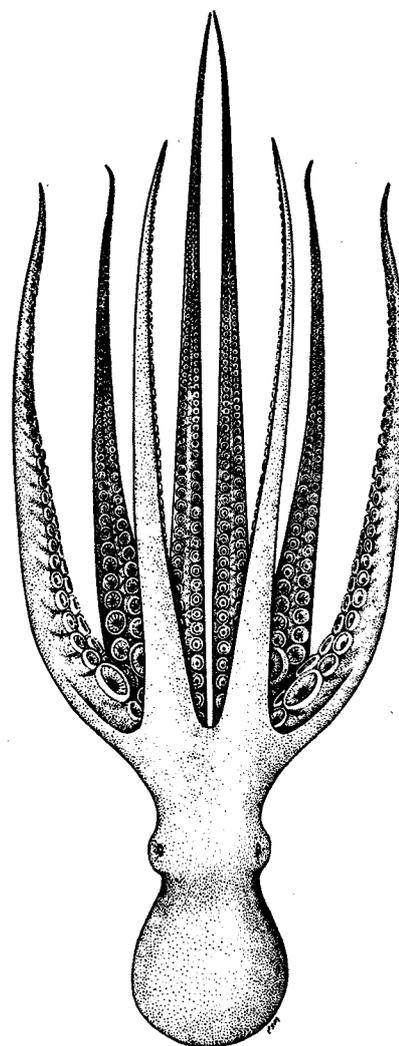
**FAO Names** : En - Tehuelche octopus  
Fr - Poulpe téhuelche  
SP - Pulpo tehuelche

**Diagnostic Features** : A medium-sized species. Mantle globular, narrow; surface smooth with minute granulations around the eyes. Head slightly narrower than mantle; eyes prominent; neck constricted; mantle opening wide; funnel long, extends anterior to level of eyes; funnel organ thick, W-shaped. Arms moderate in length (66 to 76% of total length) and thickness, attenuate, subequal, arms IV longest, arms II shortest; enlarged suckers present in males only; right arm III hectocotyized in males, short (80% of left III); ligula medium-sized (3 to 6% of arm length), groove shallow; calimus small, smooth; 6 gill filaments on outer demi-branch.

**Geographical Distribution** : Southern Brazil to Golfo San Jorge, Argentina (50°S). Unconfirmed to Patagonia and Falkland (Malvina) Islands.



tip of hectocotyized  
right arm III  
of male



dorsal view

**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic, shallow-water species occurring down to 90 m depth.

**Size** : Maximum total length 20 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries** : Bycatch to trawl fisheries and of local interest.

**Local Names** : BRAZIL: Pulpo.

**Literature** : Palocio (1977, Brazil).

**Remarks** : Much information is needed for this species.

**Octopus tetricus** Gould, 1852

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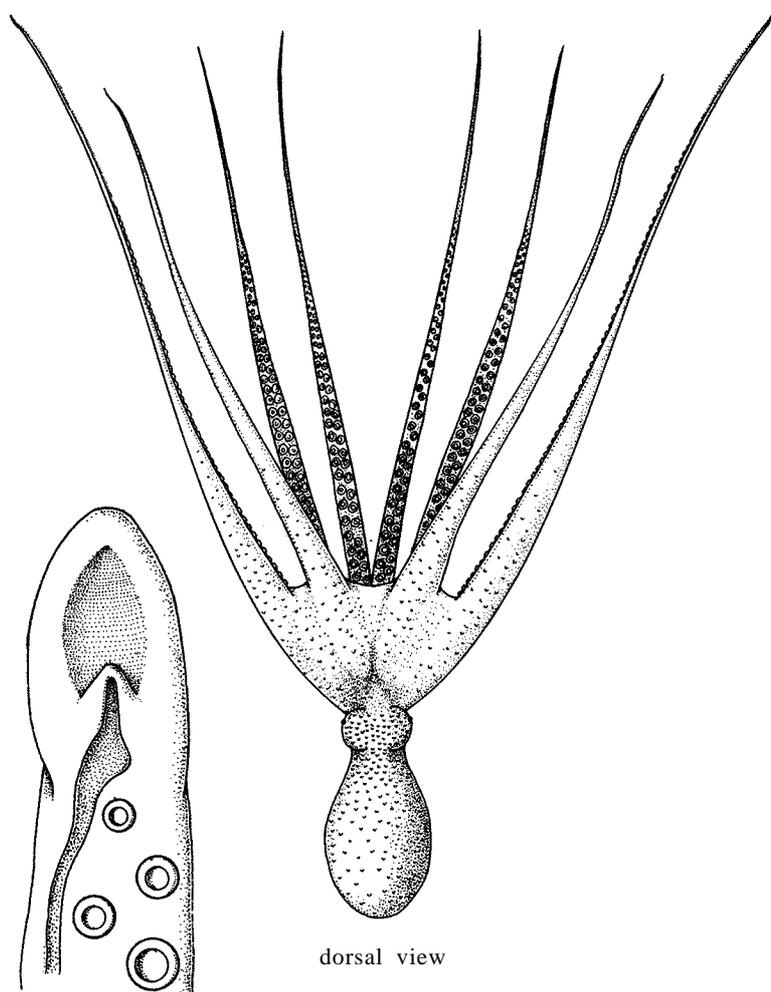
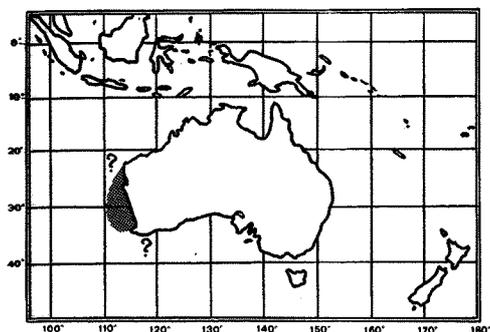
Octopus tetricus Gould, 1852, U.S.Explor.Exped., 12:474.

**Synonymy** : Octopus boscii Gray, 1849.

**FAO Names** : En - Gloomy octopus  
Fr - Poulpe sombre  
SP - Pulpo tetrico

**Diagnostic Features** : A relatively large species. Mantle saccate; neck constricted. Arms very long and attenuate, comprising 80 to 90% of the total length of the animal; depth of web 1/5 to 1/4 of arm length; skin covered with conical rosette-shaped tubercles with erect central knobs; funnel organ W-shaped; right arm III hectocotylized, shorter than left III; ligula very small (1.5% of arm length), leaf-shaped, with a wide, shallow groove; 9 or 10 filaments in outer demibranch of gill.

**Geographical Distribution** : Eastern Indian Ocean: temperate coastal waters of southwestern Australia, exact range undetermined.



tip of hectocotylized right arm III of male

**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic, shallow-water species occurring from the intertidal zone down to about 60 m depth. There is at least one, rather prolonged, breeding season. The eggs are small and hatch into planktonic larvae. Females die after the hatching of the eggs. The species feeds on crabs and molluscs.

**Size** : Maximum total length 80 cm; females recorded to 3 kg.

**Interest to Fisheries** : Initially, this octopus was considered an unwellcome bycatch in the valuable western Australian rock lobster industry, since it would enter the pots and eat the rock lobsters (Panulirus longipes). In the 1975/76 season, the losses due to octopus were conservatively estimated at about \$ 400 000. While this bycatch was initially only used as bait, a directed octopus fishery has been developing recently, aimed in particular at the Japanese seafood market. Catches are best between January and June.

**Local Names** : AUSTRALIA: Octopus.

**Literature** : Joll (1977, octopus predation on rock lobster).

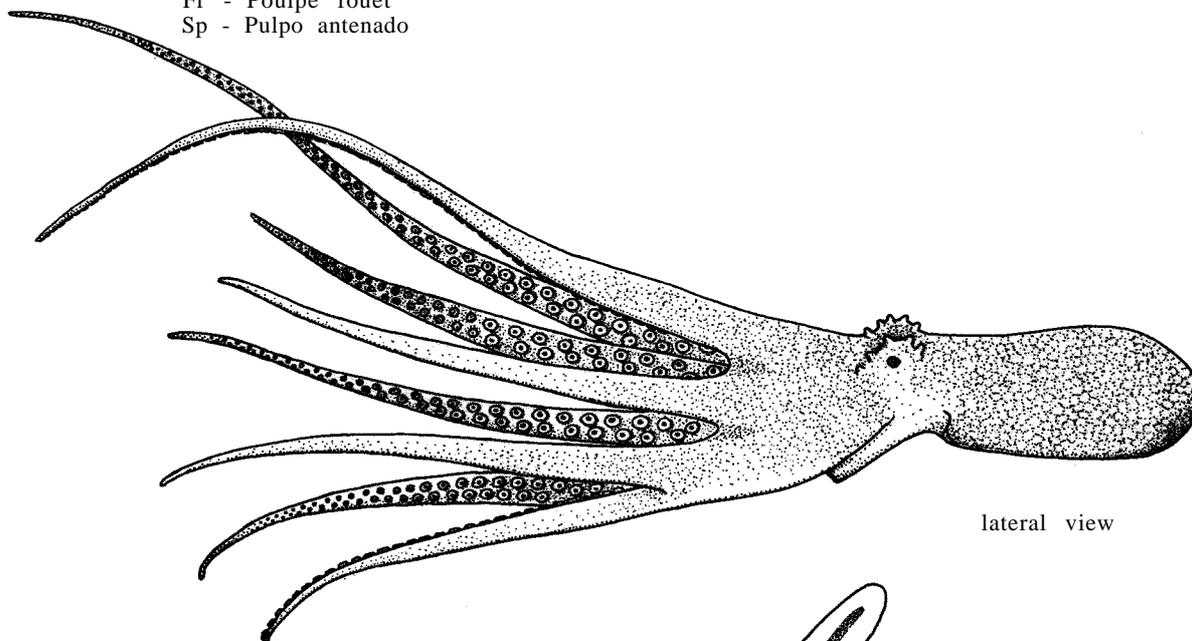
**Octopus variabilis** (Sasaki, 1929)

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*Polypus variabilis* var. *typicus* Sasaki, 1929, *J.Coll.Agr.Hokkaido Imp.Univ.*, 20:90.

**Synonymy** : *Polypus variabilis* Sasaki, 1929.

**FAO Names** : En - Whiparm octopus  
Fr - Poulpe fouet  
Sp - Pulpo antenado



lateral view

**Diagnostic Features** : Mantle elongate, oval, up to twice as long as broad; skin covered with variable-sized warts and papillae; 5 to 8 cirri over each eye, one quite enlarged; neck strongly constricted; web very low. Arms very long, unequal, arms I longest, up to 2 times longer than arms III or IV; male with some considerably enlarged suckers; right arm III hectocotylized, at maturity only half as long as left III; ligula large, conspicuous (1/4 to 1/7 the length of the arm), terminally rounded; groove deep with 10 to 14 strong transverse ridges and grooves; calimus relatively large, bluntly pointed, conical; 20 to 24 lamellae (total count).

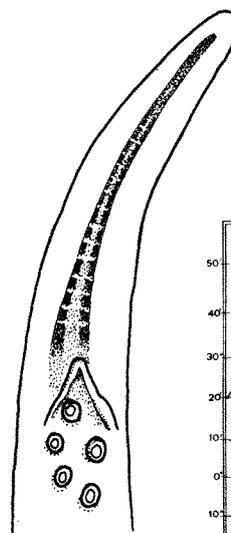
**Geographical Distribution** : Western Pacific Ocean: Japan; limits unknown.

**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic, littoral species occurring down to about 200 m depth around Japan.

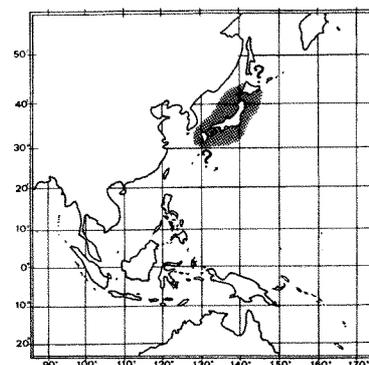
**Size** : Maximum mantle length 10 cm total length 70 cm; sexually mature at about 50 cm total length.

**Interest to Fisheries** : The species is important in the Japanese fishery off Honshu. It is also one of the three species reported in the Chinese octopus catch. No separate statistics are available.

**Local Names** :



tip of hectocotylized right arm III of male



**Octopus vulgaris** Cuvier, 1797

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*Octopus vulgaris* Cuvier, 1797, Tabl.élém.hist.nat., 380.

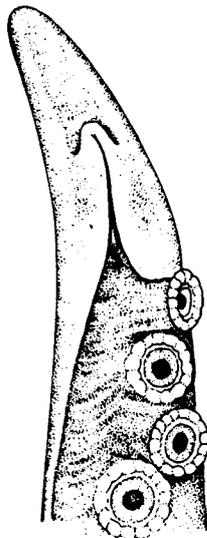
**Synonymy :** *Octopus vulgaris* Lamarck, 1798.

**FAO Names :** En - Common octopus  
Fr - Pieuvre  
SP - Pulpo común

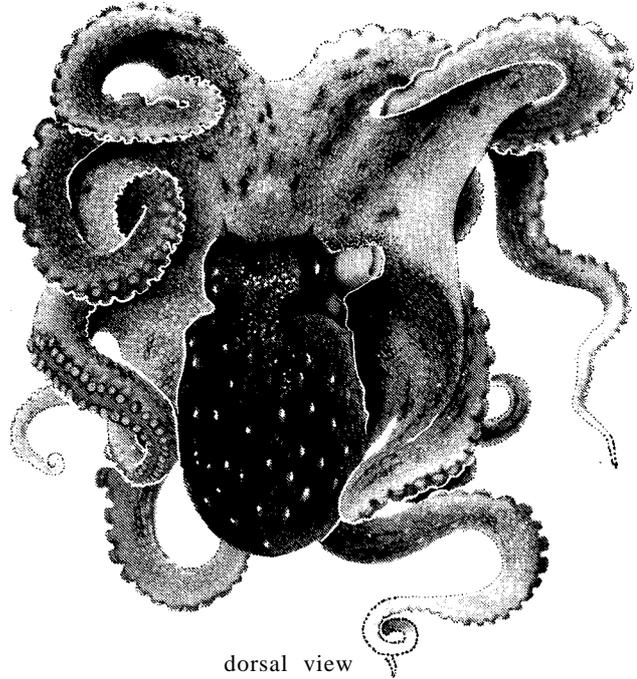
**Diagnostic Features :** Medium to large-sized; animal chunky in appearance. Arms stout, of about equal length and thickness, dorsal pair of arms slightly shorter; shortened right arm III of males hectocotyzed by modification of tip into a very small, spoon-shaped ligula; ligula index (length of ligula expressed as percentage of length of hectocotyzed arm) less than 2.5; 7 to 11 gill lamellae on outer side of gill, including terminal lamella.

**Geographical Distribution :** Worldwide in temperate and tropical waters; limits unknown.

**Habitat and Biology :** A benthic, neritic species occurring from the coastline to the outer edge of the continental shelf (in depths from 0 to 200 m), where it is found in a variety of habitats, such as rocks coral reefs, and grass beds. It is inactive in waters of 7°C and colder.



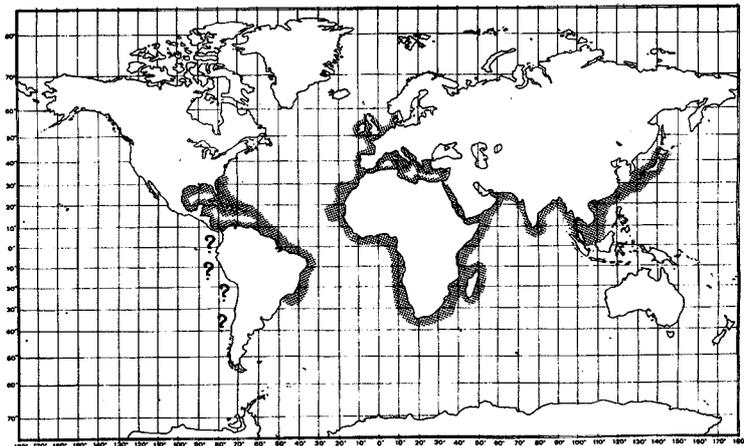
tip of hectocotyzed right arm III of male



dorsal view

Throughout its distribution range, this species is known to undertake limited seasonal migrations, usually overwintering in deeper waters and occurring in shallower waters during summer. In the western Mediterranean, large mature or maturing individuals migrate inshore in early spring, followed later on by smaller immature individuals. These two groups begin their retreat into deeper waters by August/September and November/December respectively. Similar migration patterns are found in other sea areas.

Two spawning peaks per year can be observed for this species throughout its distributional range: in the Mediterranean and the Inland Sea of Japan, the first occurs in April/May, corresponding to the group migrating inshore in spring (most important in the Mediterranean) and the second in October, corresponding to the group migrating in autumn (most important in Japan); off West Africa, around Cape Blanc, the first spawning peak occurs in May/June and the second (more important) in September.



Females may produce between 120 000 and 400 000 eggs little longer than 2 mm, which they deposit in strings in crevices or holes, usually in shallow waters. Spawning may extend up to 1 month. During the brooding period (25 to 65 days), females almost cease feeding and many die after the hatching of the larvae. The hatchlings are pelagic, but settle to benthic life after about 40 days at a minimum size of approximately 12 mm. In the Inland Sea of Japan, common octopus reaches about 1 kg weight in 4 months; in the western Mediterranean it grows from 3 to about 20 cm in 17 months. A von Bertalanffy growth expression is given for the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic populations by Guerra (1979). Food consists of bivalves and crustaceans. Larvae and juveniles are preyed upon by albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), etc., and adults by benthic finfishes.

**Size :** Maximum total length 1.2 m in females and to 1.3 m in males; maximum weight 10 kg; common to 3 kg. In the western Mediterranean, mantle length at first maturity is about 9.5 cm in males, 13.5 cm in females.

**Interest to Fisheries :** World catches attributed to *O. vulgaris* declined from peaks in the late sixties (more than 100 000 metric tons per year) to 20 000 to 30 000 tons in recent years (FAO, 1983). Part of the non-identified world catches of *Octopus* oscillating between 120 000 and 160 000 metric tons annually, also pertain to this species (including part of the nearly 45 000 metric tons caught by Japan in the Inland Sea, Fishing Area 61, and most of the catches (between 40 000 and 50 000 metric tons) taken by Spanish vessels on the Sahara Banks off West Africa, Fishing Area 34). The species is highly desirable and commands high prices throughout its distributional range and supports artisanal as well as industrial fisheries. It is taken mainly with lures, hook-and-lines, pots, spears and otter trawls. In the Inland Sea of Japan, some 12 000 to 17 000 pots are laid out annually to provide shelter and enhance egg conservation as a measure to safeguard recruitment of the fishable stock. This species is marketed fresh, frozen and dried salted, mostly for human consumption.

**Local Names :** BAHAMAS: Scuttle; BULGARIA: Octopod; CHILE: Pulpo; CYPRUS: Octopodi; EGYPT: Akhtaboot; FRANCE: Pieuvre, Poulpe de roche; GREECE: Khtapodi; ITALY: Polpo; JAPAN: Ma dako; LEBANON: Akhtaboot; LIBYA: Garnet; MALTA: Qarnita; MONACO: Purpu; MOROCCO: Pulpe; SPAIN: Pulpo; TUNISIA: Qarnit kbir; TURKEY: Ahtapot; USA: Common octopus; USSR: Osminog; YUGOSLAVIA: Hobotnika.

**Literature :** Mangold-Wirz (1963, biology, western Mediterranean); Basilio & Pérez-Gandaras Pedrosa (1973, fishery, West Africa); Fischer (ed., 1973, Species Identification Sheets, Mediterranean and Black Sea, fishing area 37); Roper (1978, Species Identification Sheets, western central Atlantic, fishing area 31); Guerra (1979, growth); Hatanaka (1979b, spawning season; 1979c, fishery, biology, West Africa); FAO (1981, population dynamics, West Africa); Roper & Sweeney (1981, Species Identification Sheets, eastern central Atlantic, fishing areas 34/47 in part); Fisheries Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (1982, production model).

**Remarks :** While this species, or species-complex, is very widely distributed around the world, its taxonomic and geographic parameters still are not precisely defined.

**Octopus zonatus** Voss, 1968

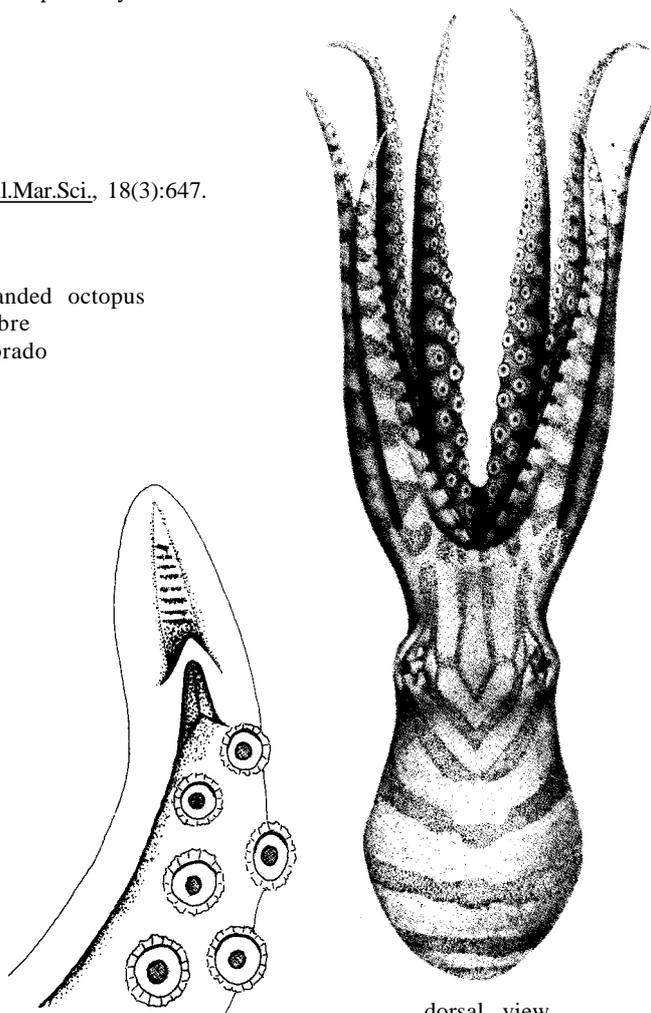
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*Octopus zonatus* Voss 1968, Bull.Mar.Sci., 18(3):647.

**Synonymy :** None.

**FAO Names :** En - Atlantic banded octopus  
Fr - Poulpe zèbre  
SP - Pulpo acebrado

**Diagnostic Features :** Mantle small, oblong; mantle wall thick, muscular. Head narrow; web shallow. Arms of moderate length; right arm III hectocotylyzed in males, only slightly shorter than left III; ligula slender, pointed, medium-sized (6.3 to 8.5% of arm length), groove with raised, in-rolled edges, a median ridge, and faint transverse rugae; calimus erect, conspicuous; 6 or 7 lamellae on outer demibranch of gill. Colour pattern distinct: yellowish to greyish white bands alternating with dark greyish or brownish bands transversely across the mantle, longitudinally on the head and transversely on the arms.



dorsal view

tip of hectocotylyzed right arm III of male

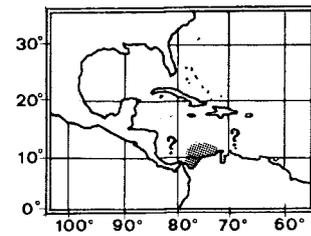
**Geographical Distribution :** Western Atlantic Ocean: Colombia.

**Habitat and Biology :** A benthic species found in 30 to 75 m depth.

**Size :** Maximum mantle length 3 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries :** Small species of undetermined fishery potential.

**Local Names :**



**Danoctopus schmidti** Joubin, 1933

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Danoctopus schmidti Joubin, 1933, Ann.Inst.Oceano, 13(1):4.

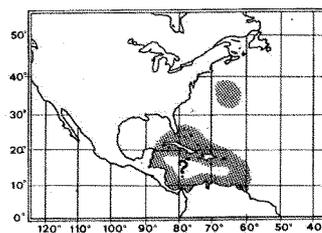
**Synonymy :** None.

**FAO Names :** En - Dana octopus  
Fr - Poulpe dana  
Sp - Pulpito monedero

**Diagnostic Features :** Mantle compact, globular, nearly as wide as long; skin slightly papillose. Head broad, short; eyes small; no neck constriction; 2 widely spaced ocular cirri. Suckers in 2 rows, arms moderately long and stout; web deep  $-\frac{1}{2}$  of arm length; right arm III hectocotylized in males, much shorter than left III, stouter, bordered with broad extension of web; ligula and calimus present (undescribed); 9 lamellae on demibranch of gill.

**Geographical Distribution :** Western north Atlantic: Dry Tortugas, Dominica, Bermuda, 38° N 70°W.

**Habitat and Biology** Immature forms are captured in mid-water, adults are benthic in depths to 600 m on trawlable bottom.

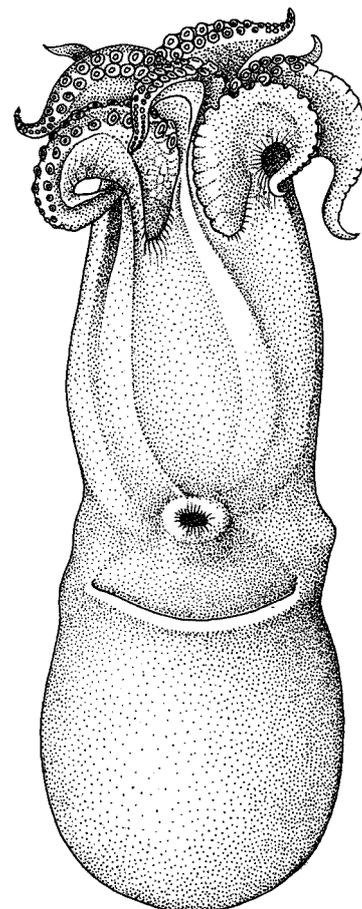


**Size :** Maximum mantle length 4 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries :** A small species of undetermined fishery potential.

**Local Names :**

**Remarks :** Possibly juvenile form of another taxon.



ventral view

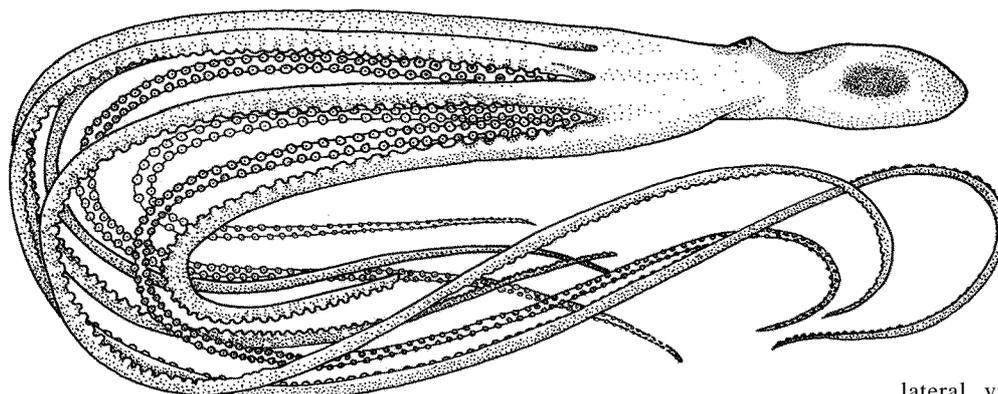
**Euaxoctopus pillsburyae** Voss, 1975

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Euaxoctopus pillsburyae Voss, 1975, Bull.Mar.Sci., 25(3):346.

**Synonymy** : None.

**FAO Names** : En - Map octopus  
Fr - Poulpe lierre  
SP - Pulpo lampazo



lateral view

**Diagnostic Features** : A small species. Mantle small, only 10% of total length, oblong; neck constricted; arms very long, slender, attenuate; suckers biserial, very small, none enlarged in males; web very low, less than 6% of arm length; right arm III hectocotylized in males, much shorter and stouter than others; ligula lanceolate with raised margins forming a broad groove with numerous (15 to 20) transverse ridges; calimus relatively large, well-developed, sharply pointed; 7 lamellae on outer demibranch of gill. Colour: a large, darkly pigmented patch, enclosed by a small ridge on each dorsolateral side of the mantle.

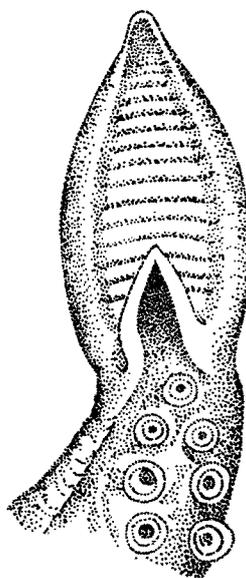
**Geographical Distribution** : Tropical western Atlantic: Surinam.

**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic species occurring in depths from 20 to 60 m on trawlable bottoms.

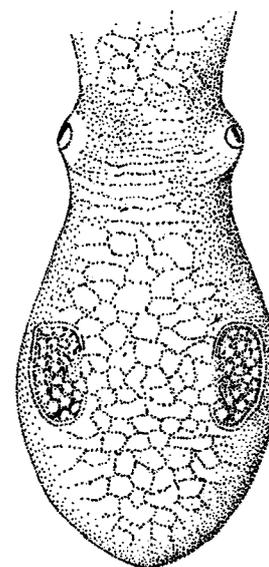
**Size** : Maximum mantle length 3 cm, total length to 20 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries** : Currently there is no fishery directed at this species, but it is taken as bycatch in trawls.

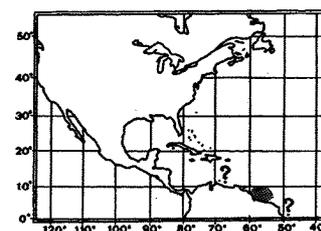
**Local Names** :



tip of hectocotylized right arm III of male



dorsal view of body and head.



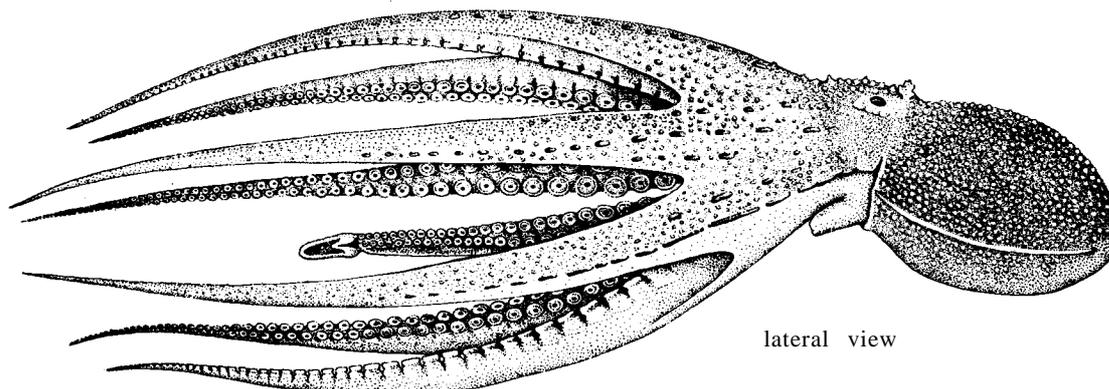
**Scaevirus unicirrhus** (Orbigny, 1840)

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*Octopus unicirrhus* Orbigny, 1840, in 1834-1848, *Hist.Nat.Ceph.Acetab.*, 70.

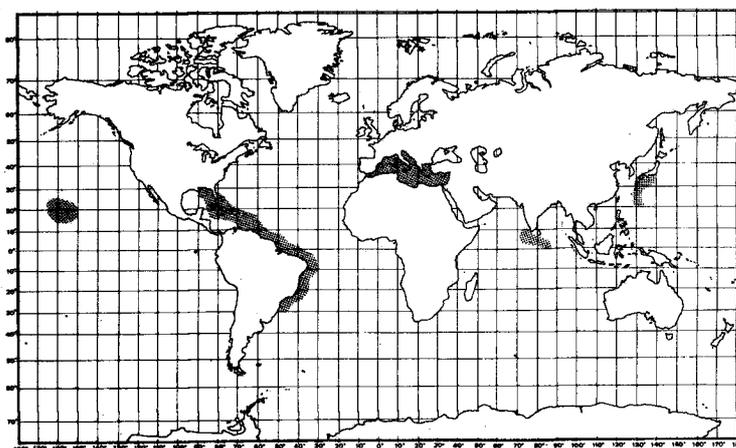
**Synonymy** : *Octopus unicirrhus* Orbigny, 1840; *Octopus cocco* Verany, 1846; *Scaevirus patagiatus* Berry, 1913.

**FAO Names** : En - Unihorn octopus  
Fr - Poulpe licorne  
SP - Pulpo unicornio



lateral view

**Diagnostic Features** : Mantle compact, oblong; body covered with round papillae or warts that may coalesce and form linear ridges; a peripheral ridge encircles the lateral surfaces of the mantle. A single, multifid cirrus over each eye. Arms moderate; web deep; left arm III hectocotylized in males, markedly shorter than right III; ligula long, blunt, spoon-shaped, (8 to 11% of arm length) with swollen, heavily infolded marais, deep groove and transverse striae; calimus long, acutely conical with a deep groove; mostly 12 or 13 lamellae on outer demibranch of gill, range 11 to 14.



tip of hectocotylized right arm III of-male

**Geographical Distribution** : Worldwide, scattered in tropical and warm temperate waters.

**Habitat and Biology** : A benthic species occurring in the depth range between 100 and 400 m, but occasionally down to 800 m, associated with sandy and coralline bottoms. There seems to be migration to the spawning grounds; spawning takes place in summer (by August and September) in the western Mediterranean, but throughout the year in tropical seas. The species feeds on molluscs, crustaceans, and small fishes.

**Size** : Maximum mantle length 6 cm. Males are mature at 5 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries** : Unassessed, but a regional potential is believed to exist, in some regions.

**Local Names** : USA: *Unihorn octopus*.

**Literature** : Mangold-Wirz (1963, biology, western Mediterranean).