

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

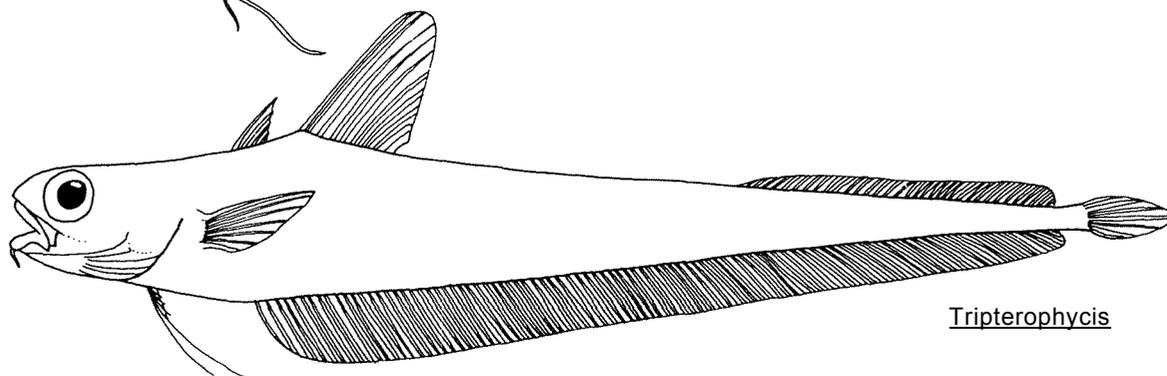
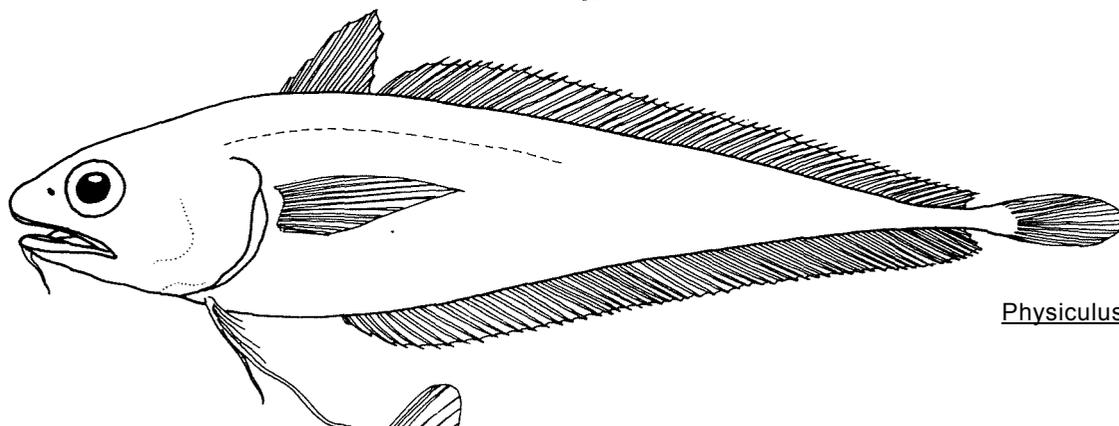
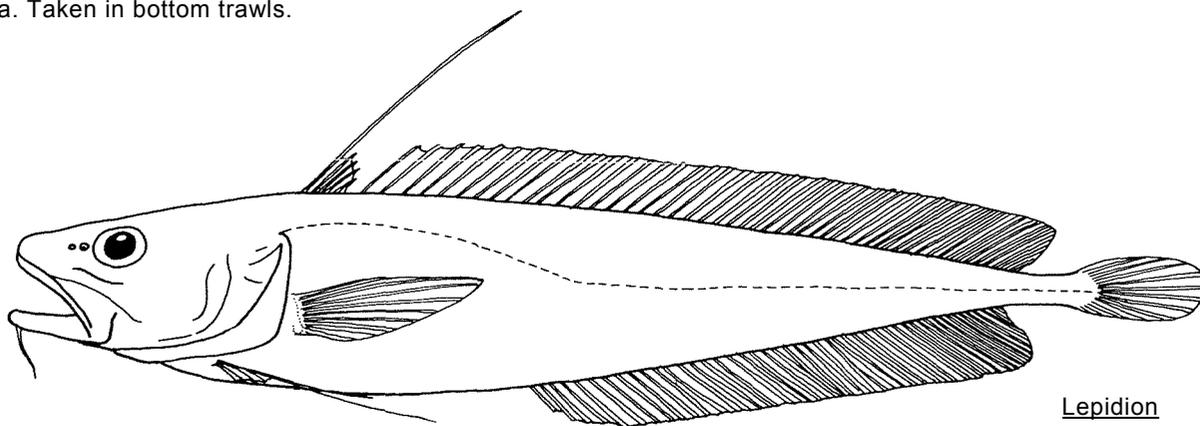
MORIDAE

Moras

Body relatively elongate, tapering to a narrow caudal peduncle. Mouth terminal or inferior; teeth few or lacking on head of vomer (roof of mouth). No spines in fins; 2 or 3 dorsal fins and 1 or 2 anal fins; pelvic fins thoracic, never very close together; caudal fin always separate from dorsal and anal fins. Small cycloid scales on body and head. Anterior paired projections of swimbladder attached to a membranous area at the rear of the cranium.

Colour: variable, black or grey to light brown or pink; some species may have iridescent areas.

Fishes of the continental slope and abyssal depths. Locally abundant in some habitats but not commercial in the area. Taken in bottom trawls.

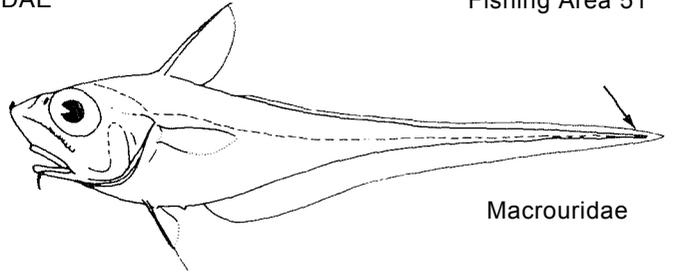


SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

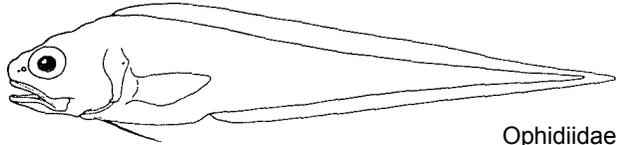
Macrouridae: no caudal fin.

Ophidiidae and Bythitidae: ventral fins close together, dorsal,caudal and anal fins joined in most.

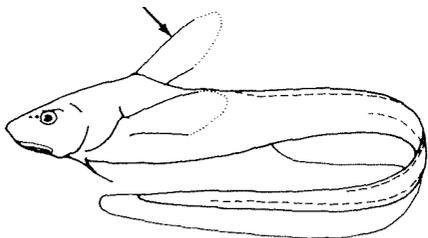
Ateleopodidae: no scales; no free caudal fin; a single dorsal fin far forward on the body.



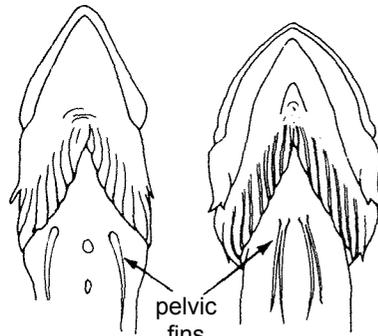
Macrouridae



Ophidiidae



Ateleopodidae



Moridae Ophidiidae

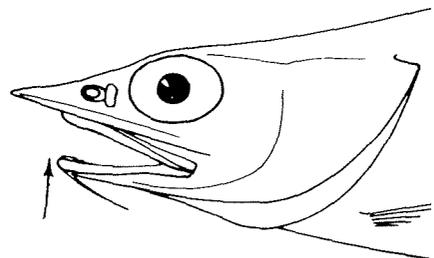
Underside of head

KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

1a. Mouth inferior, beneath a prominent, flattened, pointed, bony snout (Fig.1) Antimora

1b. Mouth terminal to slightly inferior; snout normal

2a. One or more small, dark, scaleless patches (covering a light organ) on the belly (Fig.2)



Antimora

Fig.1

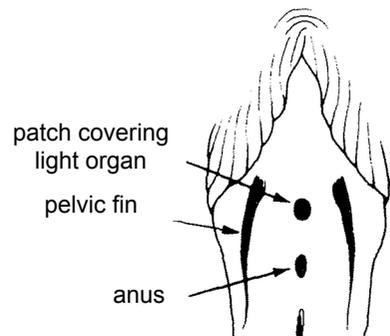
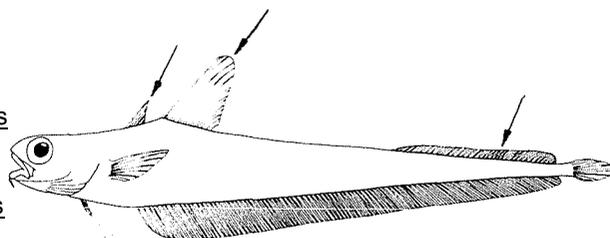


Fig.2

3a. Three dorsal fins (Fig.3) Tripterophycis

3b. Two dorsal fins (Fig.4) Physiculus

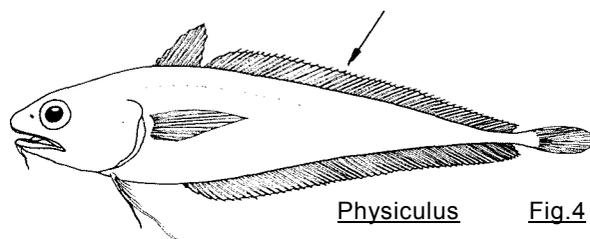


Tripterophycis Fig.3

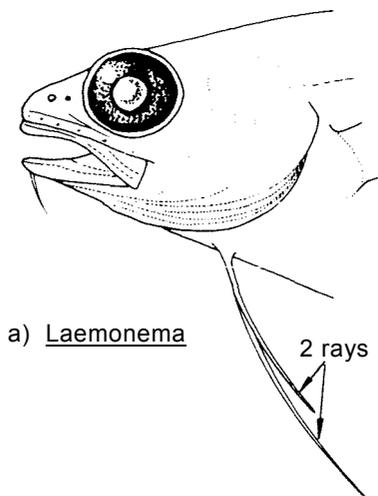
2b. No dark scaleless patch on belly

4a. Pelvic fins with 2 rays in each (Fig.5a)..... Laemonema

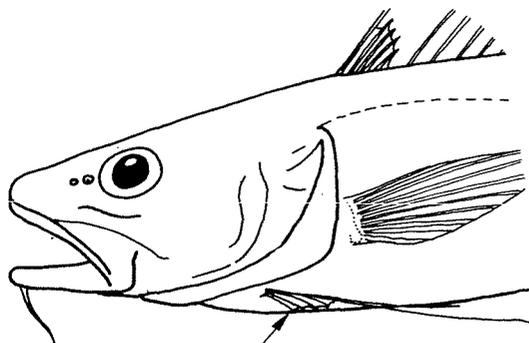
4b. Pelvic fins with more than 2 rays in each (Fig.5b) Lepidion



Physiculus Fig.4



a) Laemonema



more than 2 rays b) Lepidion Fig.5

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA

Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included

Antimora rostrata (Günther)

Laemonema compressicauda (Gilchrist)

Laemonema globiceps Gilchrist

Lepidion capensis Gilchrist

Lepidion natalensis Gilchrist

Physiculus argyropastus Alcock

Physiculus capensis Gilchrist

Physiculus edelmanni Brauer

Physiculus natalensis Gilchrist

? Physiculus peregrinus (Günther)

Physiculus roseus Alcock

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