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List of species

Parophidion schmidti (Woods and Kanazawa, 1951). Bermuda, the Bahamas and southern Florida to northern South America. Uncommon.

P. vassali (Risso, 1810). Mediterranean Sea and adjacent northeastern Atlantic. Uncommon.

Raneya Robins, 1961

Type species: ***Lepophidium fluminense*** Miranda-Ribeiro, 1903 by original designation.

Synonyms: None.

Number of recognized species: 1.

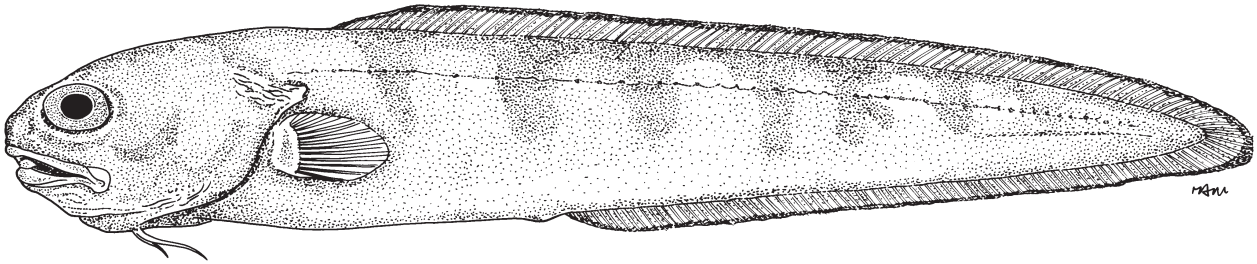


Fig. 43 ***Raneya brasiliensis*** (after Menni and López, 1974)

Diagnosis and description: Scales on body in regular but non-overlapping rows, some anguilloid, becoming anguilloid in pattern on belly and flanks in front of anus, **top of head from interorbit to nape and sides of head with non-imbricate scales, snout, subocular area and chin and throat naked;** ethmoid spine short but strong; **gill chamber dark; esophagus dark** and intestines and stomach pale; no pyloric caeca; males with posterior opening on swimbladder; dorsal-fin rays 111 to 135; anal-fin rays 93 to 105; pectoral-fin rays 19 to 23; gill rakers 2 or 3 rudiments above, 4 or 5 developed rakers below on first arch (total 6 to 8); vertebrae 14 or 15 precaudal, 48 to 51 caudal, 62 to 66 total.

Revisions: Robins (1985).

Geographical distribution: Southern Brazil (near Ilha Rasa) to northern Argentina (Puerto Quequén).

Habitat and biology: Benthic in coastal waters. Uncommon.

Interest to fisheries: Of minor commercial importance.

Size: At least 310 mm.

List of nominal species

Raneya brasiliensis (Kaup, 1856a). Information see above.

R. fluminense (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1903) (junior synonym of ***R. brasiliensis***).

2.4.4 Subfamily Neobythitinae

Subfamily name: Neobythitinae Radcliffe (1913).

Number of recognized genera: 38.

Diagnosis and description: No barbels on snout and chin; body covered with small cycloid scales; **ventral arm of cleithrum meeting its mate and terminating at about level of preopercle or farther**

forward but no slender elongate anteriorly extending filament of bone (Fig. 26), pelvic fin present in most genera at about level of preopercle or further forward with 1 or 2 rays in each fin; 1 or 2 (rarely 3 or 4) median basibranchial tooth patches except for a few species with none (see key to subfamilies p. 22); caudal-fin rays 6 to 12; developed gill rakers 0 to 42.

Key to genera (the following genera are entered in the key more than once: ***Bassozetus, Dicrolene, Porogadus, Pycnocraspedum, Spectrunculus,*** and ***Spottobrotula***):

1a. Pelvic fins placed below or slightly behind eyes . . . . . → ***2***

1b. Pelvic fins placed below preopercle or absent . . . . . → ***6***

2a. Each pelvic fin with a single ray; no spines on preopercle . . . . . ***Sirembo***

2b. Each pelvic fin with 2 rays; spines variously developed on preopercle . . . . . → ***3***

3a. Spine on opercle short, hardly extending beyond rear margin of head . . . . . → ***4***

3b. Spine on opercle long, extending well beyond rear margin of head . . . . . → ***5***

4a. Several weak, skin-covered spines at angle of preopercle; pelvic fins inserted below rear margin of eye . . . . . ***Dannevigia***

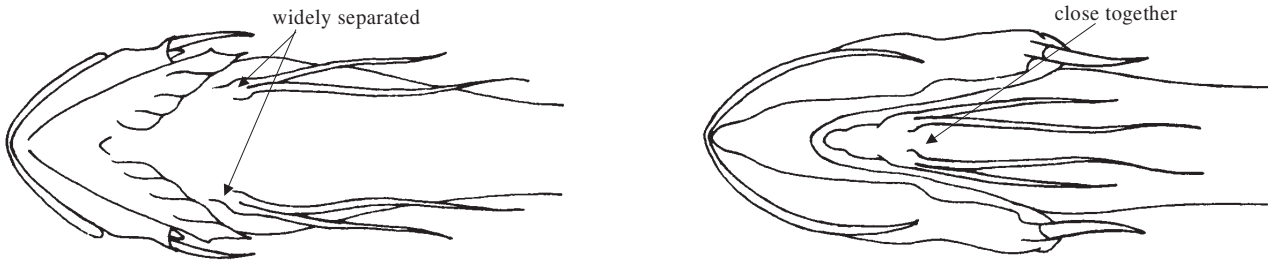
4b. Angle of preopercle with 3 strong spines; pelvic fins inserted below middle of eye . . . . . ***Hoplobrotula***

5a. Prominent, protruding bifid spine on tip of snout; body slender . . . . . ***Acanthonus***

5b. No spine on snout; body robust . . . . . ***Xyelacyba***

6a. Pelvic fins widely separated on isthmus (Fig. 44a) . . . . . ***Tauredophidium***

6b. Pelvic fins, if present, close together (Fig. 44b) . . . . . → ***7***



a) ***Tauredophidium*** **b)** ***Xyelacyba***

Fig. 44 Pelvic-fin insertion (from Cohen and Nielsen, 1978)

7a. Pelvic fins absent or rudimentary, rays shorter than orbit . . . . . → ***8***

7b. Pelvic fins present, each with 1 or 2 well-developed rays . . . . . → ***10***

8a. One median and a pair of basibranchial tooth patches; body short and high . . ***Leptobrotula***

8b. Basibranchial tooth patches absent or 1 median present; body elongate . . . . . → ***9***

9a. Preopercle posteriorly expanded almost reaching hind margin of opercle (***B. multispinis***) . . . . . ***Bassozetus***

9b. Preopercle not expanded posteriorly . . . . . ***Lamprogrammus***

10a. Orbit large, eye lens rudimentary or absent . . . . . ***Leucicorus***

10b. Orbit large to small, developed lens present or eyes buried and not externally visible . . . . . → ***11***

11a. Head massively inflated; mouth much inferior; eyes not externally developed or very small . . . . . ***Typhlonus***

11b. Head more or less inflated; mouth subterminal or terminal; eyes large to small externally visible . . . . . → ***12***

12a. Head length much less than 1/2 preanal length . . . . . → ***13***

12b. Head length about 1/2 preanal length . . . . . → ***15***

13a. Developed gill rakers 3 or fewer; vomerine teeth in a narrow row . . . . . ***Enchelybrotula***

13b. Developed gill rakers 5 or more; vomerine teeth in a diamond-shaped patch . . . . . → ***14***

14a. Median basibranchial tooth patch 0 or 1; pectoral fins as long as head . . . . . ***Barathrites***

14b. Median basibranchial tooth patches 2; pectoral fins 1/2 as long as head . . ***Spectrunculus***

15a. Long gill rakers 4 or fewer . . . . . → ***16***

15b. Long gill rakers 5 or more . . . . . → ***20***

16a. Median basibranchial tooth patches 2; preopercle with 2 or 3 spines at lower angle . . . . . ***Pycnocraspedum***

16b. Median basibranchial tooth patches 1; preopercle with 0 or 1 spine at lower angle . . → ***17***

17a. Opercular spine present . . . . . → ***18***

17b. Opercular spine absent . . . . . → ***19***

18a. Head depressed; eye much smaller than snout . . . . . ***Luciobrotula***

18b. Head rounded; eye diameter almost as long as snout (***S. amaculata***) . . . . . ***Spottobrotula***

19a. Mouth terminal or lower jaw slightly longer; some teeth enlarged . . . . . ***Hypopleuron***

19b. Mouth inferior; no teeth enlarged . . . . . ***Petrotyx***

20a Opercular spine absent or weak, if present rather broad, flattened and flap-like incorporated in opercular bone . . . . . → ***21***

20b. Opercular spine strong and narrow, sometimes hidden, usually rounded in cross-section . . . . . → ***29***

21a. Pectoral fins narrow and constricted proximally, originating on only part of peduncle, some of the rays greatly elongated . . . . . ***Mastigopterus***

21b. Pectoral fins originating on the entire peduncle, fin short or only lower rays prolonged . . . . . → ***22***

22a. Pectoral-fin rays 10 or 11 . . . . . ***Abyssobrotula***

22b. Pectoral-fin rays 15 or more . . . . . → ***23***

23a. Eye diameter equal to or greater then snout . . . . . ***Glyptophidium***

23b. Eye diameter less than snout . . . . . → ***24***

24a. Head depressed; upper jaw ends below posterior margin of eye . . . . . ***Alcockia***

24b. Head not depressed; upper jaw ends well behind eye . . . . . → ***25***

25a. Depth of body at anus at least 10 times in standard length; caudal fin with 5 or 6 rays . . . . . ***Porogadus***

25b. Depth of body less than 10 times in standard length (in 2 ***Bassozetus*** spp. depth of body more than 10 times in standard length, but with 8 caudal-fin rays). . . . . → ***26***

26a. Lower pectoral-fin rays free, prolonged or fin divided . . . . . → ***27***

26b. Lower pectoral-fin rays normal and fin not divided . . . . . → ***28***

27a. Pelvic-fin rays 2; median basibranchial tooth patches 2; lower pectoral-fin rays free . . . . . ***Bathyonus***

27b. Pelvic-fin rays 1; median basibranchial tooth patches 1; lower pectoral-fin rays prolonged (ripe males) or middle fin rays shorter than upper and lower rays (females and unripe males) . . . . . ***Eretmichthys***

28a. Soft watery body; anterior nostril swollen. . . . . ***Apagesoma***

28b. Body not soft; anterior nostril not swollen . . . . . ***Bassozetus***

29a. Opercular spine curved . . . . . → ***30***

29b. Opercular spine straight. . . . . → ***31***

30a. Snout long, broad and strongly depressed . . . . . ***Penopus***

30b. Snout short and blunt (***D. kanazawai***) . . . . . ***Dicrolene***

31a. Pectoral fins with lower rays free; pelvic fins with 2 rays in each . . . . . → ***32***

31b. Pectoral fins entire; pelvic fins with 1 or 2 rays in each . . . . . → ***33***

32a. Eye diameter much less than 1/2 snout length; pelvic-fin rays flattened . . ***Holcomycteronus***

32b. Eye diameter equal to 1/2 or more of snout length; pelvic-fin rays filamentous . . ***Dicrolene***

33a. Body depth at anus 10 times or more in standard length; caudal fin with 5 or 6 rays . . . . . ***Porogadus***

33b. Body depth at anus 8.5 times or less in standard length; caudal fin with 8 or more rays . . . . . → ***34***

34a. Median basibranchial tooth patch 1 . . . . . → ***35***

34b. Median basibranchial tooth patches 2 . . . . . → ***38***

35a. Pelvic fins longer than head; pectoral fins placed closer to ventral edge than to midline . . . . . ***Homostolus***

35b. Pelvic fins not longer than head; pectoral fins placed closer to midline than to ventral edge . . . . . → ***36***

36a. Opercular spines 2; teeth longer near symphysis. . . . . ***Benthocometes***

36b. Opercular spine 1; jaw teeth granular, small and close-set . . . . . → ***37***

37a. Pelvic fin with 2 fleshy rays; prominent dark spots or lines on body and fins . ***Spottobrotula***

37b. Pelvic fin with 1 filamentous ray; no spots on body and fins . . . . . ***Monomitopus***

38a. Teeth large, needle-like and separate from each other . . . . . ***Epetriodus***

38b. Teeth small, granular (a few ***Neobythites*** spp. with needle-like teeth) and close set . . . → ***39***

39a. Pelvic-fin rays 1 . . . . . ***Selachophidium***

39b. Pelvic-fin rays 2 . . . . . → ***40***

40a. Eye diameter about equal to or greater than snout length; many species with spots, blotches or bands . . . . . ***Neobythites***

40b. Eye diameter less than snout; no spots, blotches or bands. . . . . → ***41***

41a. Anterior nostril with a thick, fleshy, raised rim . . . . . ***Spectrunculus***

41b. Anterior nostril a simple pore or with a thin tube . . . . . → ***42***

42a. Snout notably inflated; long gill rakers 12 or more; pectoral fins almost reaching anus . . . . . ***Barathrodemus***

42b. Snout not inflated; long gill rakers 5 to 9; pectoral fins far from reaching anus . . . . . → ***43***

43a. Preopercle with 3 spines; long rakers on anterior gill arch 5 or 6; precaudal vertebrae 12 or 13 . . . . . ***Pycnocraspedum***

43b. Preopercle without spines; long rakers on anterior gill arch 7 to 9; precaudal vertebrae 15 or 16 . . . . . ***Bassogigas***

List of nominal genera

Abyssobrotula Nielsen, 1977
Acanthonus Günther, 1878
Alcockia Goode and Bean, 1896
Apagesoma Carter, 1983
Barathrites Zugmayer, 1911
Barathrodemus Goode and Bean, 1883
Bassobythites Brauer, 1906 (junior synonym of ***Lamprogrammus***)
Bassogigas Goode and Bean, 1896
Bassozetus Gill, 1884
Bathynectes Günther, 1877 (preoccupied - substituted by ***Bathyonus***)
Bathyonus Goode and Bean, 1878
Benthocometes Goode and Bean, 1896
Brachydicrolene Norman, 1939 (junior synonym of ***Dicrolene***)
Brotella Kaup, 1858 (junior synonym of ***Sirembo***)
Celema Goode and Bean, 1896 (junior synonym of ***Porogadus***)
Dannevigia Whitley, 1941

Dermatorus Alcock, 1890b (junior synonym of ***Porogadus***)
Dicrolene Goode and Bean, 1883
Dicromita Goode and Bean, 1896 (junior synonym of ***Monomitopus***)
Enchelybrotula Smith and Radcliffe in Radcliffe, 1913
Epetriodus Cohen and Nielsen, 1978
Eretmichthys Garman, 1899
Glyptophidium Alcock, 1889
Grimaldichthys Roule, 1913 (junior synonym of ***Holcomycteronus***)
Holcomycteronus Garman, 1899
Homostolus Smith and Radcliffe in Radcliffe, 1913
Hoplobrotula Gill, 1863a
Hypopleuron Smith and Radcliffe in Radcliffe, 1913
Itatius Matsubara, 1943 (junior synonym of ***Pycnocraspedum***)
Lamprogrammus Alcock, 1891
Leptobrotula Nielsen, 1986
Leucicorus Garman, 1899
Luciobrotula Smith and Radcliffe in Radcliffe, 1913
Mastigopterus Smith and Radcliffe in Radcliffe, 1913
Mixonus Günther, 1887 (junior synonym of ***Bathyonus***)
Moebia Goode and Bean, 1896 (junior synonym of ***Porogadus***)
Monomeropus Garman, 1899 (junior synonym of ***Monomitopus***)
Monomitopus Alcock, 1890b
Nematonus Günther, 1887 (junior synonym of ***Bathyonus***)
Neobythites Goode and Bean, 1885b
Parabassogigas Nybelin, 1957 (junior synonym of ***Spectrunculus***)
Paradicrolene Alcock, 1889 (junior synonym of ***Dicrolene***)
Penopus Goode and Bean, 1896
Petrotyx Heller and Snodgrass, 1903
Porogadus Goode and Bean, 1886
Pseudobythites Meek and Hildebrand, 1928 (junior synonym of ***Petrotyx***)
Pterodicromita Fowler, 1925 (junior synonym of ***Bassozetus***)
Pteroidonus Günther, 1887 (junior synonym of ***Dicrolene***)
Pycnocraspedum Alcock, 1889
Selachophidium Gilchrist, 1903
Sirembo Bleeker, 1858
Spectrunculus Jordan and Thompson, 1914
Spottobrotula Cohen and Nielsen, 1978
Tauredophidium Alcock, 1890a
Tetranematopus Günther, 1887 (junior synonym of ***Neobythites***)
Typhlonus Günther, 1878
Umalius Herre and Herald, 1951 (junior synonym of ***Sirembo***)
Volcanus Gosline, 1954 (junior synonym of ***Luciobrotula***)
Watasea Jordan and Snyder, 1901 (junior synonym of ***Neobythites***)
Xyelacyba Cohen, 1961

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