

***Selachophidium* Gilchrist, 1903**

Type species: *Selachophidium guentheri* Gilchrist, 1903 by monotypy.

Synonyms: None.

Number of recognized species: 1.

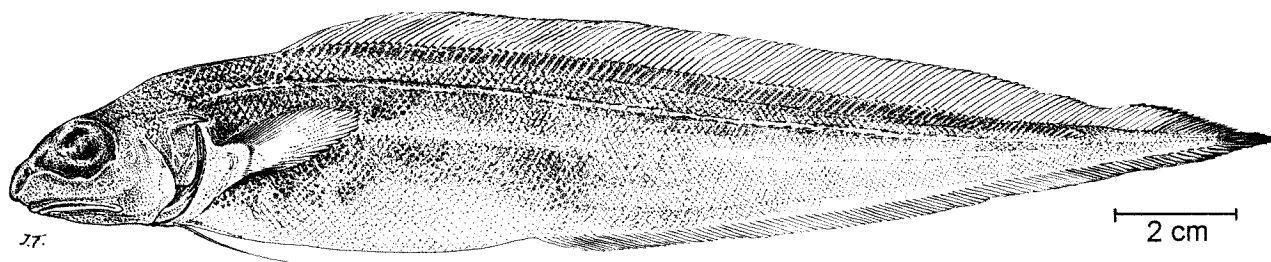


Fig. 85 *Selachophidium guentheri* (from Nielsen, 1971)

Diagnosis and description: Elongate body with pointed head; snout inflated and mouth inferior; eye diameter greater than snout; opercular spine distinct but not very strong; lateral line distinct, median basibranchial tooth patches 2; 15 to 21 developed rakers on anterior gill arch; pseudobranchial filaments 3 to 6; pectoral-fin rays 26 to 29; pelvic-fin rays 2; precaudal vertebrae 17 or 18.

Revisions: Nielsen (1971).

Geographical distribution: Off southern Africa from Angola to Mozambique.

Habitat and biology: Benthopelagic at bathyal depths (275 to 980 m). A 50 mm juvenile was caught epipelagically off Cape Town.

Interest to fisheries: None.

Size: At least 285 mm.

Remarks: Two *Selachophidium* spp. described by Nielsen (1971) were later transferred to *Monomipterus* by Cohen and Nielsen (1978).

List of species

Selachophidium guentheri Gilchrist, 1903. Information see above. Common.

***Sirembo* Bleeker, 1858**

Type species: *Brotula imberbis* Temminck and Schlegel, 1846 by subsequent designation of Vaillant, 1888.

Synonyms: *Brotella* Kaup, 1858, type species *Brotula imberbis* Temminck and Schlegel, 1846; *Umalius* Herre and Herald, 1951, type species *Umalius philippinus* Herre and Herald.

Number of recognized species: 3.

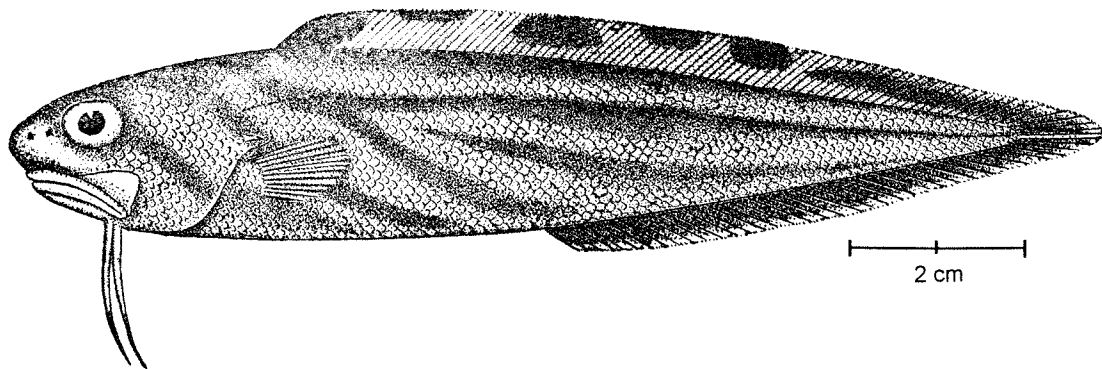


Fig. 86 *Sirembo jerdoni* (from Herre and Herald, 1951)

Diagnosis and description: Deepest part of fish well behind head; **no spines on preopercle, spine on opercle short, not reaching rear margin of head; eyes well developed;** developed gill rakers on first arch 4; **pseudobranch large, with 15 to 28 filaments;** single median basibranchial tooth patch; **pelvic fins immediately adjacent to each other, each with a single ray inserted beneath or immediately behind the eye.**

Revisions: Cohen and Robins (1986).

Geographical distribution: Red Sea, tropical Indian Ocean, Australia, and the Philippines to Japan.

Habitat and biology: Continental shelf, probably benthic or benthopelagic.

Interest to fisheries: Rarely seen in fish markets.

Size: At least 317 mm.

Key to species

- 1a. Three or 4 broad, oblique bands on head and anterior body, which connect over the predorsal and head to the other side *S. jerdoni*
- 1b. No oblique bands on forepart of body → 2
- 2a. Lateral line marked by a bold to faint brown line over a light brown or yellow brown ground colour *S. metachroma*
- 2b. Body usually with 1 or more horizontal stripes or rows of blotches. *S. imberbis*

List of nominal species

Sirembo everriculi Whitley, 1936 (junior synonym of *S. imberbis*).

S. heraldi (Herre, 1953) (apparently a replacement name for *Umalius philippinus*, a junior synonym of *S. jerdoni*).

S. imberbis (Temminck and Schlegel, 1846). Tropical western Pacific from Japan, East China Sea, the Philippines, Queensland; also Western Australia. Caught occasionally, rare in markets.

S. jerdoni (Day, 1888). Red Sea, Bay of Bengal, Western Australia, Gulf of Thailand, the Philippines, East China Sea. Caught occasionally, rare in markets.

S. maculata (Kaup, 1858) (new name for *Brotula imberbis*).

S. metachroma Cohen and Robins, 1986. Queensland and Western Australia (which may represent an undescribed species). Probably benthopelagic. Rare.

S. philippinus (Herre and Herald, 1951) (junior synonym of *S. jerdoni*).

Spectrunculus Jordan and Thompson, 1914

Type species: *Spectrunculus radcliffei* Jordan and Thompson, 1914 by monotypy.

Synonyms: *Parabassogigas* Nybelin, 1957, type species *Sirembo grandis* Günther, 1877.

Number of recognized species: 1.

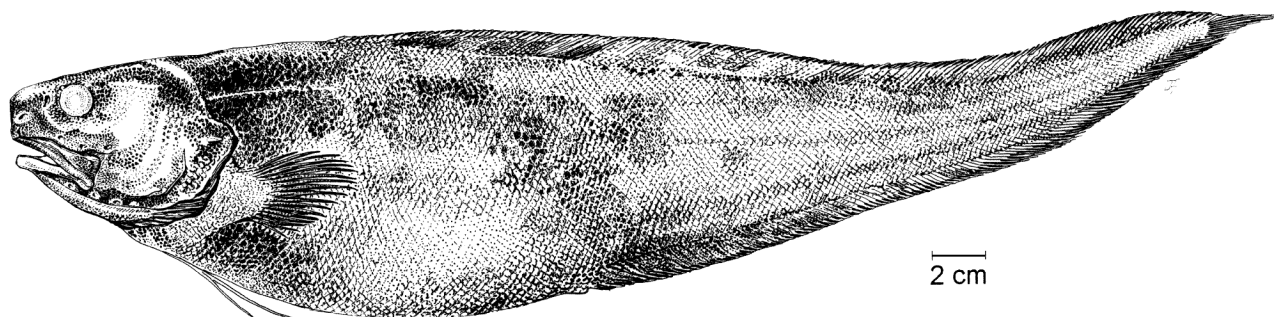


Fig. 87 *Spectrunculus grandis* (from Nielsen and Hureau, 1980)

Diagnosis and description: Head short, more than twice in preanal length, eye shorter than snout; anterior nostril with a thick, fleshy raised rim; opercular spine strong; 2 median basibranchial tooth patches; 5 to 10 developed rakers on anterior gill arch; pectoral-fin rays 23 to 33; pelvic-fin rays 2; precaudal vertebrae 18 to 25.

Revisions: Nielsen and Hureau (1980).

Geographical distribution: Below tropical and temperate areas of all oceans.

Habitat and biology: Benthopelagic at bathyal and abyssal depths (800 to 4 255 m). Epipelagic larva.

Interest to fisheries: None.

Size: At least 1 270 mm.

List of nominal species

Bythites crassus Vaillant, 1888 (junior synonym of *Spectrunculus grandis*).

Bassogigas coheni Mayer and Nalbant, 1972 (junior synonym of *S. grandis*).

Spectrunculus grandis (Günther, 1877). Information see above. Common.

S. radcliffei Jordan and Thompson, 1914 (junior synonym of *S. grandis*).

Spottobrotula Cohen and Nielsen, 1978

Type species: *Spottobrotula mahodadi* Cohen and Nielsen, 1978 by original designation.

Synonyms: None.

Number of recognized species: 2.

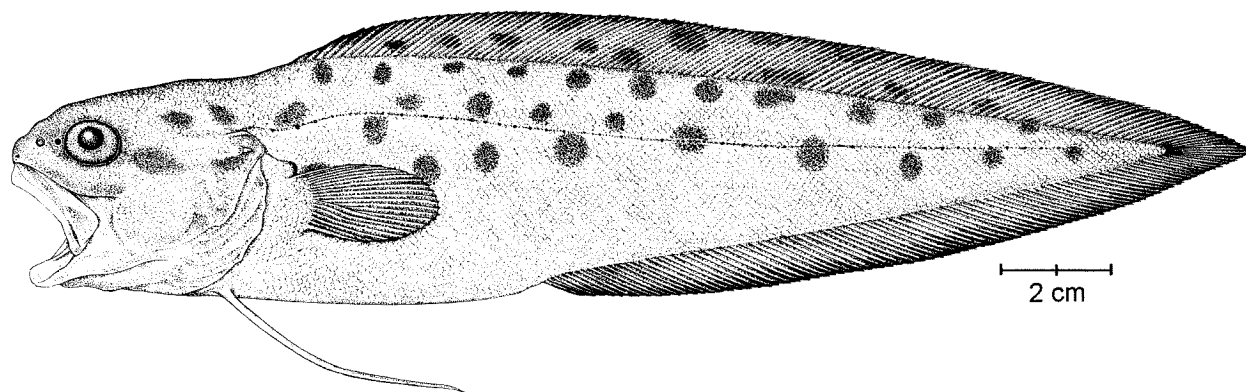


Fig. 88 *Spottobrotula mahodadi* (from Cohen and Nielsen, 1978)

Diagnosis and description: Body relatively short; depth at anus about 5 times in standard length; preanal about 2 times or more in standard length; head about 2 times or more in preanal length; **a prominent skin flap above base of pectoral fins**; opercle with a strong pointed spine; **pseudobranch large, with 25 or more filaments**; teeth granular; developed gill rakers 3 to 10; **colour pattern present**, which varies with size and species; **a single median basibranchial tooth patch**; **pelvic fins fleshy, with 2 rays in each, bound together with tough skin**, equal to or somewhat shorter than head and extending beyond rear margin of pectoral fins but falling short of anus; abdominal vertebrae 14 or 15.

Revisions: Cohen and Nielsen (1982).

Geographical distribution: Arabian Sea, Andaman Islands, west coast of Australia and the Philippines.

Habitat and biology: Benthopelagic at 40 to 90 m.

Interest to fisheries: None.

Key to species

- 1a. Developed gill rakers 10; vertebrae 54 or 55; dorsal-fin rays 101 to 103; anal-fin rays 75 to 77 *S. mahodadi*
- 1b. Developed gill rakers 3 or 4; vertebrae 51 or 52; dorsal-fin rays 94 to 96; anal-fin rays 71 to 73 *S. amaculata*

List of species

Spottobrotula amaculata Cohen and Nielsen, 1982. The Philippines, west coast of Australia. Benthopelagic at 52 to 90 m. Uncommon.

S. mahodadi Cohen and Nielsen, 1978. Arabian Sea, Andaman Islands. Benthopelagic at 40 to 75 m. Rare.

Tauredophidium Alcock, 1890a

Type species: *Tauredophidium hextii* Alcock, 1890a by monotypy.

Synonyms: None.

Number of recognized species: 1.

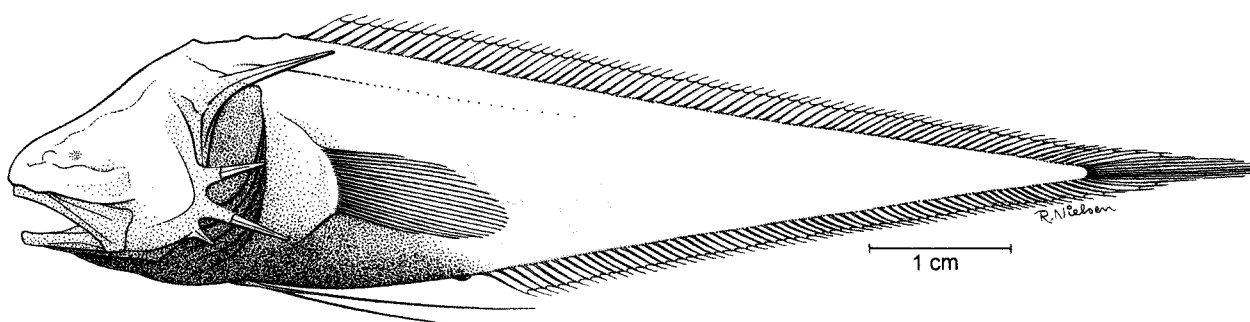


Fig. 89 *Tauredophidium hextii* (from Nielsen, 1997)

Diagnosis and description: Head high and body tapering; **eyes not visible at surface of head**; **preopercle with 3 strong spines and opercle with 1 even longer spine**; a short spine on tip of snout, one median and a pair of basibranchial tooth patches; 11 or 12 developed rakers on anterior gill arch; pectoral-fin rays 18 to 20; **pelvic fins widely separated and with 2 rays in each** (Fig. 44a); precaudal vertebrae 11.

Revisions: None.

Geographical distribution: From off East Africa to New Caledonia.

Habitat and biology: Benthopelagic at bathyal and abyssal depths (1 500 to 2 660 m).

Interest to fisheries: None.

Size: At least 105 mm.

List of species

Tauredophidium hextii Alcock, 1890a. Information see above. Rare.

Typhlonus Günther, 1878

Type species: *Typhlonus nasus* Günther, 1878 by monotypy.

Synonyms: None.

Number of recognized species: 1.

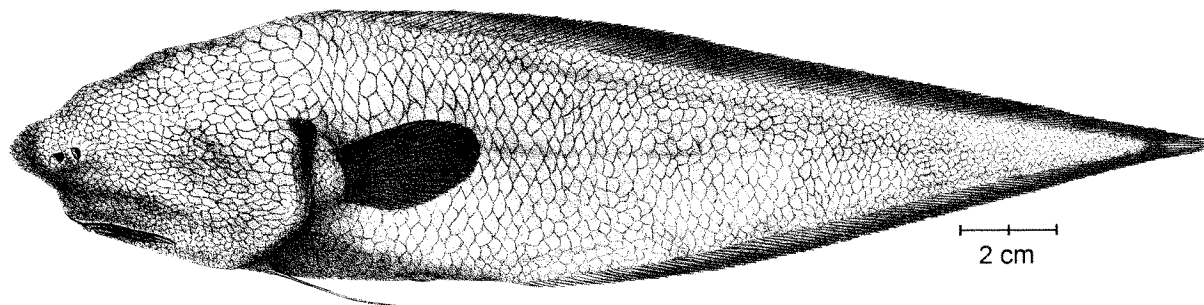


Fig. 90 *Typhlonus nasus* (from Günther, 1878)

Diagnosis and description: Head and body soft; head massively inflated and without spines; mouth inferior with protrusible jaws; eyes small or not at all visible at surface of head; median basibranchial tooth patch 0 or 1; 10 to 13 developed rakers on anterior gill arch; pectoral-fin rays 24 to 28; pelvic-fin rays 1; precaudal vertebrae 13 or 14.

Revisions: Nielsen (1965), Howes (1997).

Geographical distribution: Below tropical areas of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Habitat and biology: Benthopelagic at abyssal depths (3 935 to 4 940 m).

Interest to fisheries: None.

Size: At least 285 mm.

List of nominal species

Typhlonus delosomatus Hureau, Staiger and Nielsen, 1979. Transferred to the genus *Apagesoma* by Carter (1983).

T. nasus Günther, 1878. Information see above. Rare.

***Xyelacyba* Cohen, 1961**

Type species: *Xyelacyba myersi* Cohen, 1961 by original designation.

Synonyms: None.

Number of recognized species: 1.

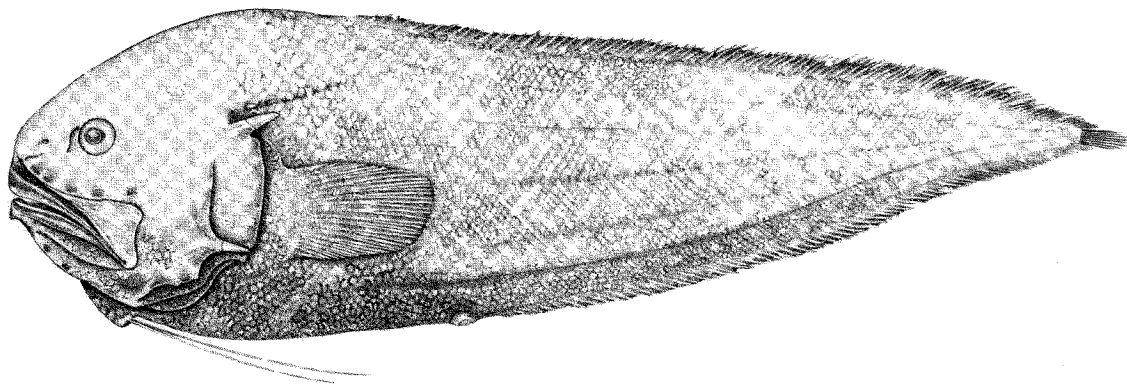


Fig. 91 *Xyelacyba myersi* (from Cohen, 1961)

Diagnosis and description: Body relatively short, depth at anus 26 to 29% of standard length; head massive and short, less than 25% of standard length; prominent spine at upper angle of opercle, extending well beyond head, another long spine at lower angle of opercle preceded by several along lower margin of preopercle; no spine on snout; branchiostegal rays 8; eye small; basibranchial tooth patches 2 to 4; developed gill rakers 14 to 18; 2 rays in each pelvic fin, inserted far forward, close to level of rear margin of maxilla; **precaudal vertebrae 11 or 12**, total vertebrae 49 to 52.

Revisions: Machida (1989b).

Geographical distribution: Possibly around the world in tropical and subtropical seas. But not yet caught in the eastern Pacific.

Habitat and biology: Benthopelagic at bathyal depths; caught by bottom trawling at depths of 1 075 to 2 500 m.

Interest to fisheries: None.

Size: At least 464 mm.

List of species

Xyelacyba myersi Cohen, 1961. Information see above. Rare.