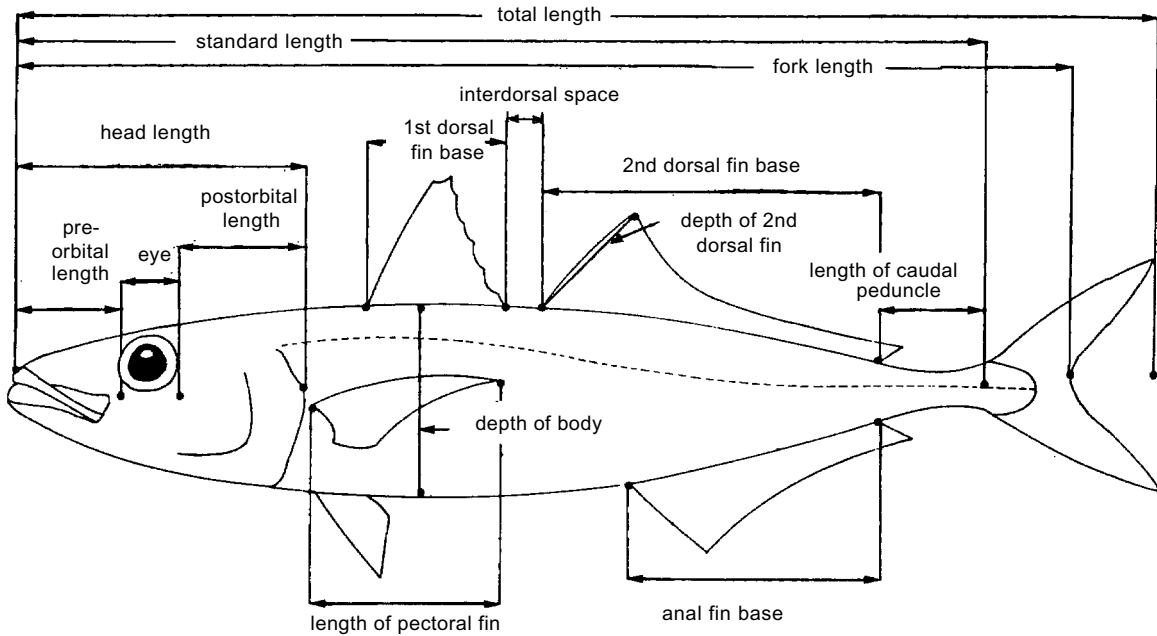


BONY FISHES

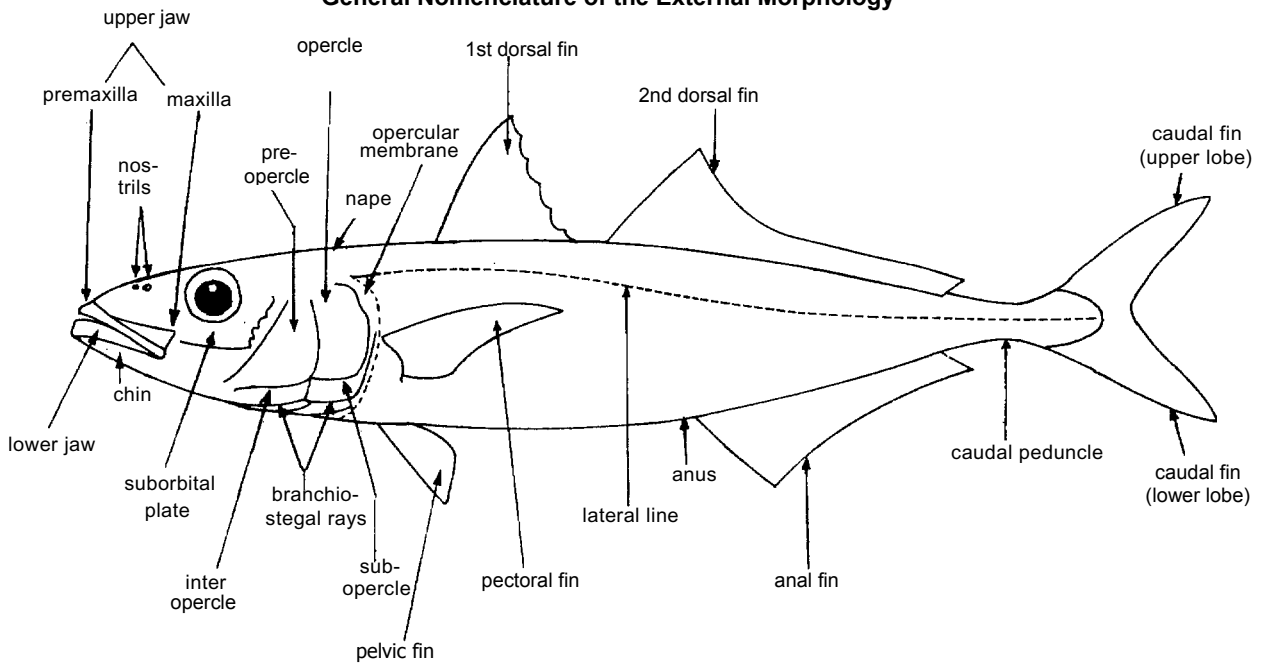
TECHNICAL TERMS

Principal Measurements Used

(shortest distance between the points marked)



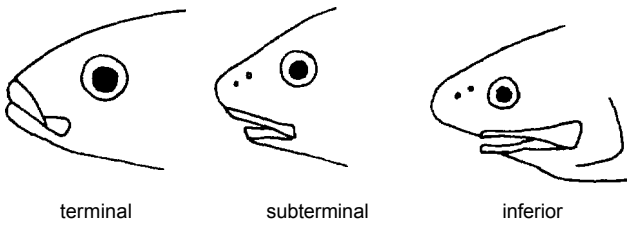
General Nomenclature of the External Morphology



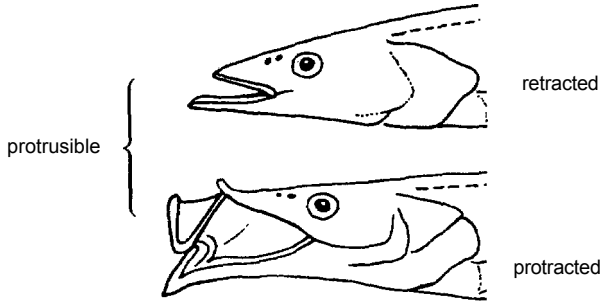
BONY FISHES

Details

(all schematic examples)



terminal subterminal inferior

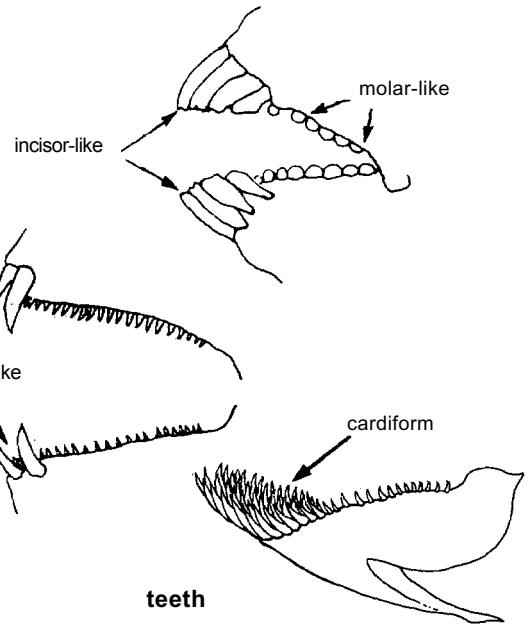


protrusible

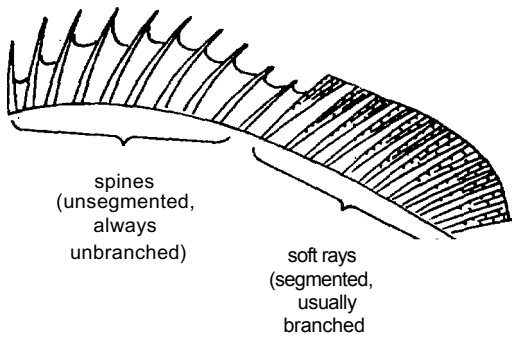
retracted

protracted

mouth

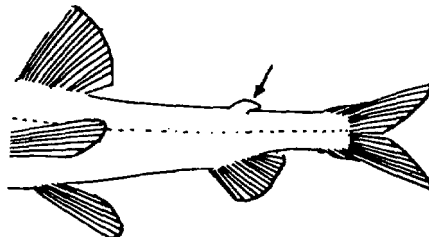


teeth

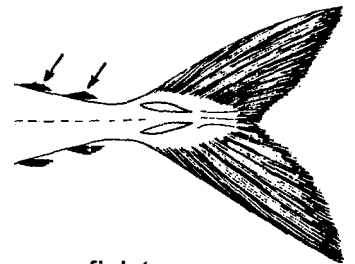


spines
(unsegmented,
always
unbranched)

soft rays
(segmented,
usually
branched)

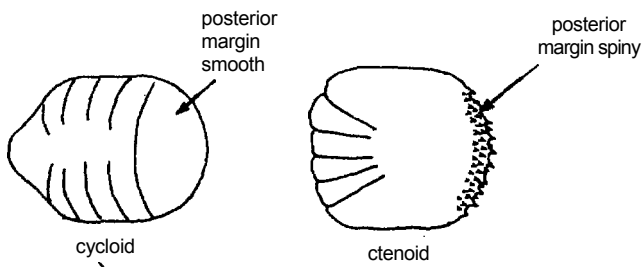


adipose fin



finlets

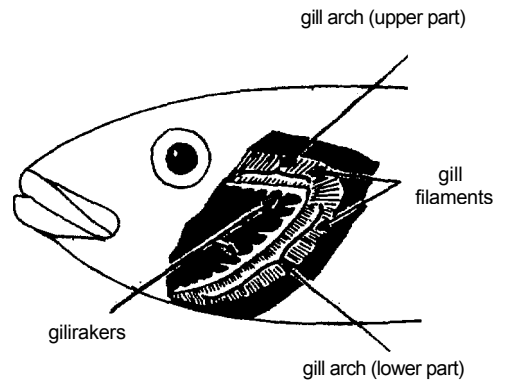
example of a continuous dorsal fin of a spiny-rayed fish



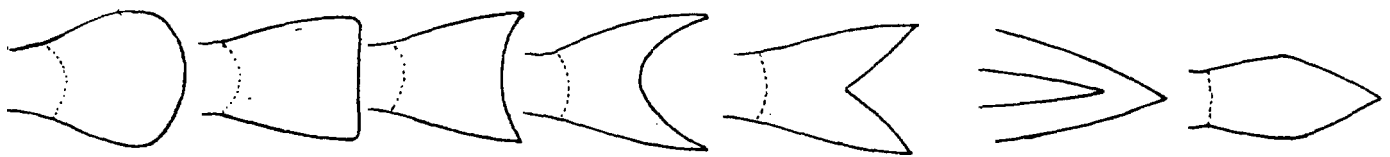
cycloid

ctenoid

schematic examples of "normal" scales



first left gill arch



rounded

truncate

emarginate

lunate

forked

pointed

pointed and
separated from the
dorsal and anal fins

most common types of caudal fin

BONY FISHES
GUIDE TO FAMILIES

GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF FAMILIES
OCCURRING IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

The purpose of this guide is to ensure the correct identification of all families that may enter the catches in the Gulf of Guinea. In order to avoid erroneous identification, it was necessary to include also certain families of no interest to fisheries, but which might be confused with important ones.

Apart from the identification of families, this guide often allows the identification of genera, some of which are illustrated in the case of high pteymorphic families.

Note :

Page numbers are given for those families that are treated in more detail. All features utilized in this guide apply only to species occurring in the Gulf of Guinea.

TARPONS AND ALLIES - Elopiformes

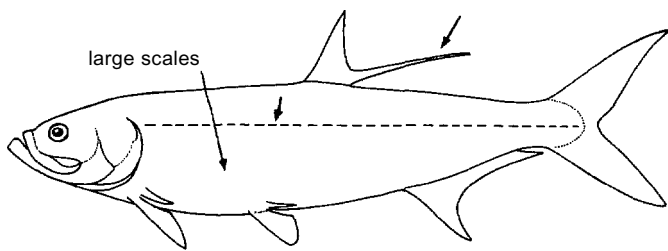
Fin-spines absent; a single-dorsal fin located above middle of body; pelvic fins in abdominal position; colour silvery.

MEGALOPIDAE

Tarpons

page 81

To 250 cm; in coastal marine waters, estuaries and freshwater; pelagic. A single species in the area.



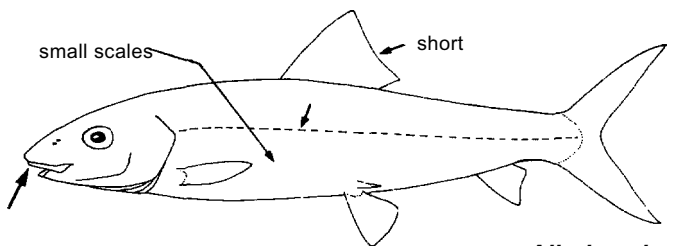
Tarpon atlanticus

ALBULIDAE

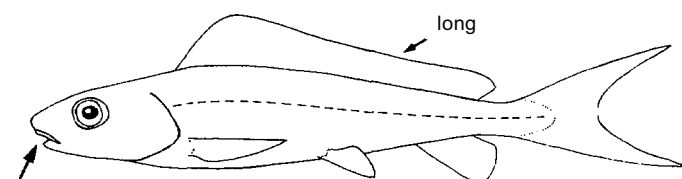
Bonefishes

page 39

To 80 cm; mainly in coastal marine waters, sometimes entering estuaries; demersal.



Albula vulpes



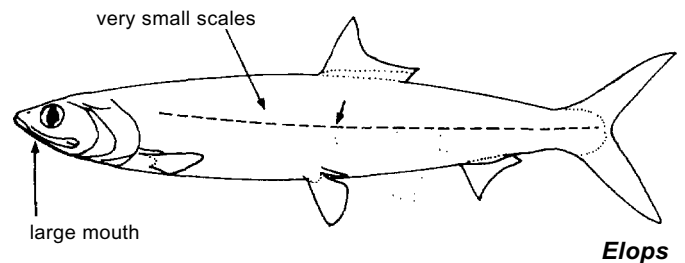
Pterothrissus bellocci

ELOPIDAE

Ladyfishes

page 62

To 90 cm; coastal marine waters, estuaries and freshwater; mainly pelagic.



Elops

HERRINGS AND ALLIES - Clupeiformes

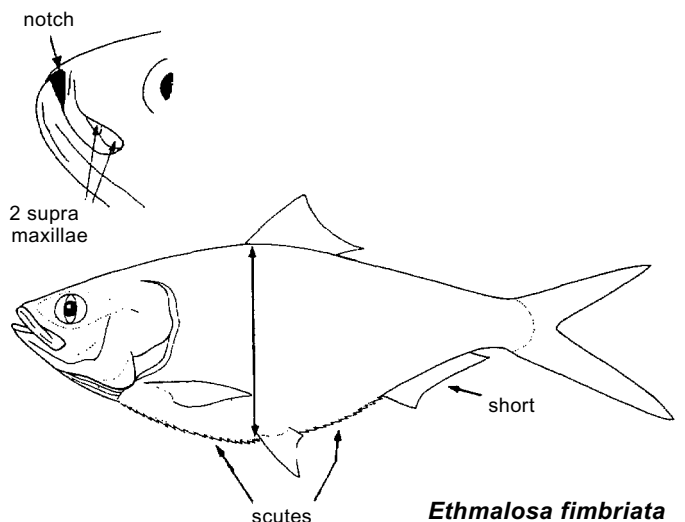
Fin-spines absent; a single dorsal fin located above middle of body; pelvic fins in abdominal position; lateral line absent; a row of scutes along ventral profile (except in Engraulididae); colour silvery.

CLUPEIDAE

Sardines, sardinellas, etc.

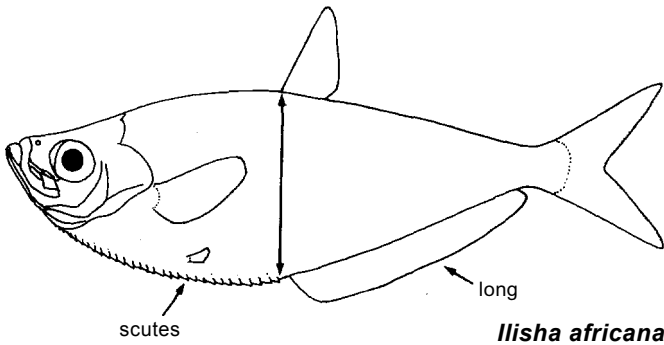
page 57

To 60 cm, but most species less than 25 cm; in coastal marine waters, estuaries and freshwater; mainly pelagic.



Ethmalosa fimbriata

BONY FISHES
GUIDE TO FAMILIES



Ilisha africana

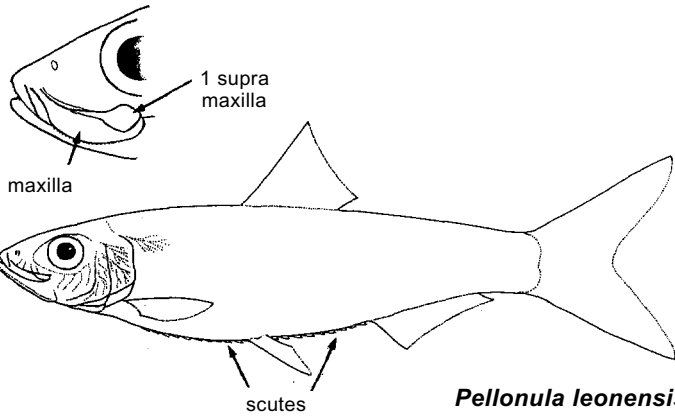
EELS - Anguilliformes

Body very elongate; fin-spines absent; pelvic fins absent; usually scaleless.

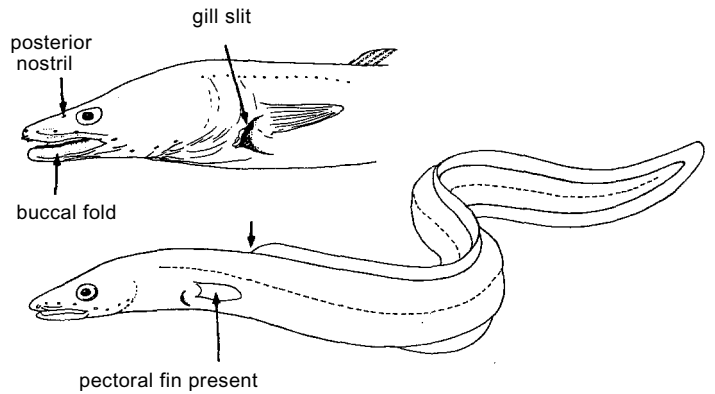
CONGRIDAE

Conger eels

To over 200 cm, but usually not exceeding 60 cm; marine, from the shore to about 2000 m depth; benthic. Several species taken occasionally.



Pellonula leonensis

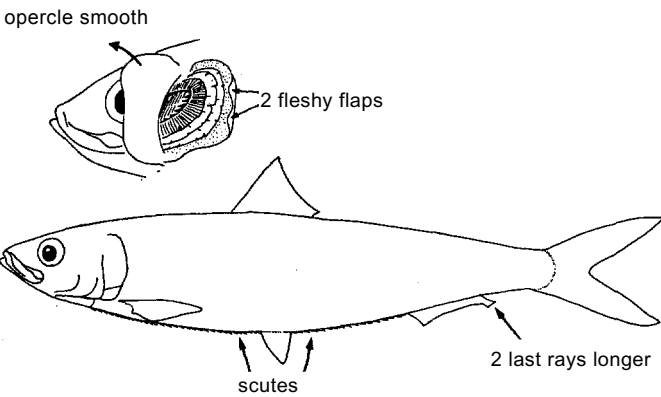


OPHICHTHIDAE

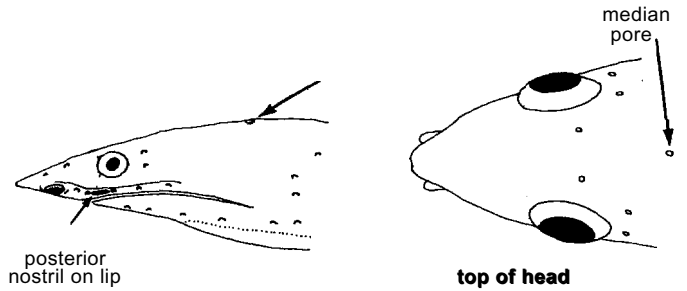
Snake eels,
snapper eels,
worm eels

page 87

To 245 cm; marine, from shallow coastal waters to below 750 m depth; occasionally in estuaries; most benthic, some pelagic. Several species occurring in catches.



Sardinella

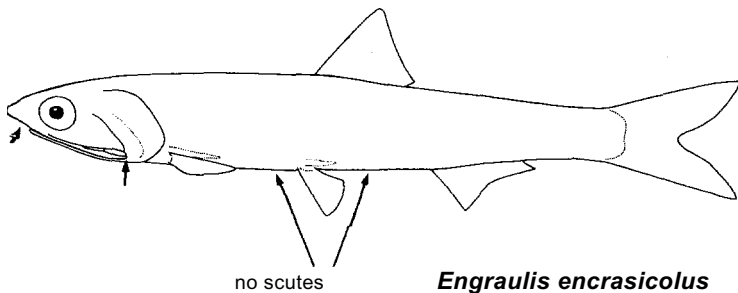


ENGRAULIDIDAE

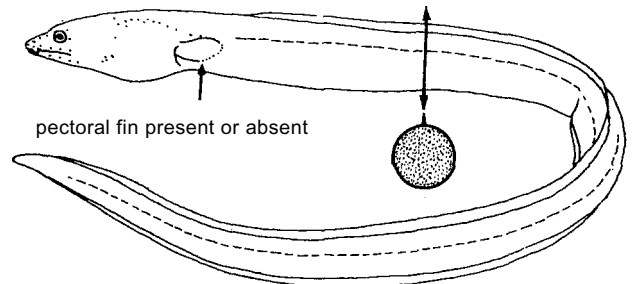
Anchovies

page 63

To 12 cm; coastal marine waters, to 400 m depth; off-bottom to pelagic. A single species in the area.



Engraulis encrasicolus



Echelus

other genera

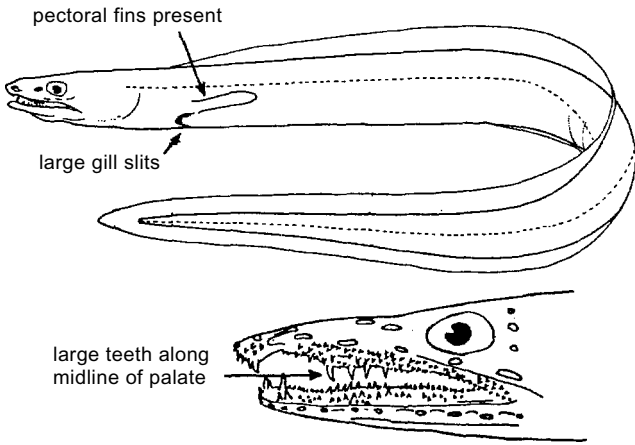
types of tail

BONY FISHES
GUIDE TO FAMILIES

MURAENESOCIDAE

Pike congers **page 85**

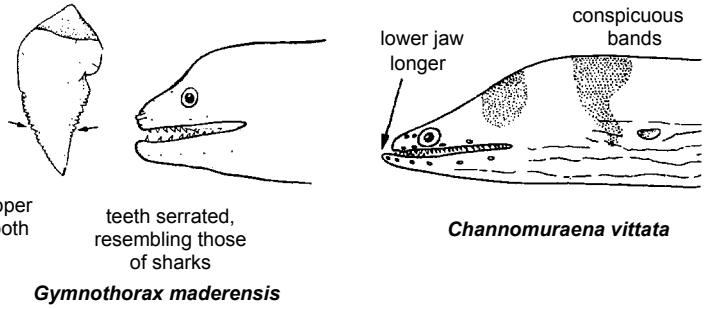
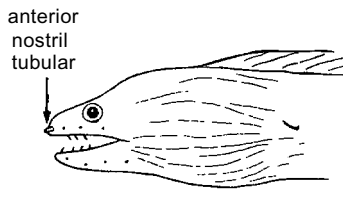
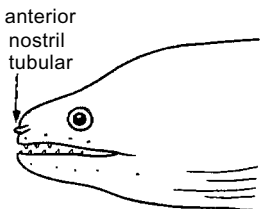
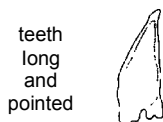
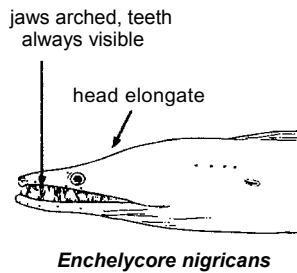
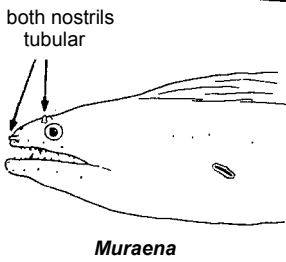
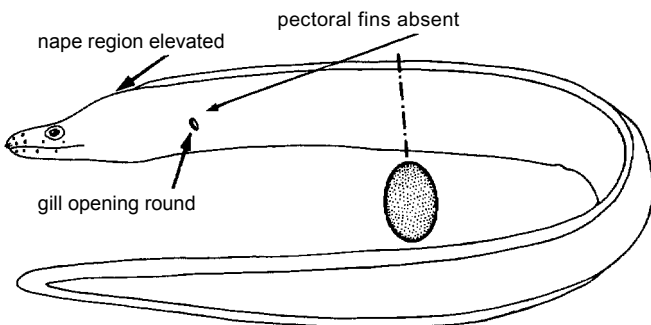
To 200 cm; marine, from shallow coastal waters to at least 200 m depth; benthic. A single species in the area.



MURAENIDAE

Morays **page 85**

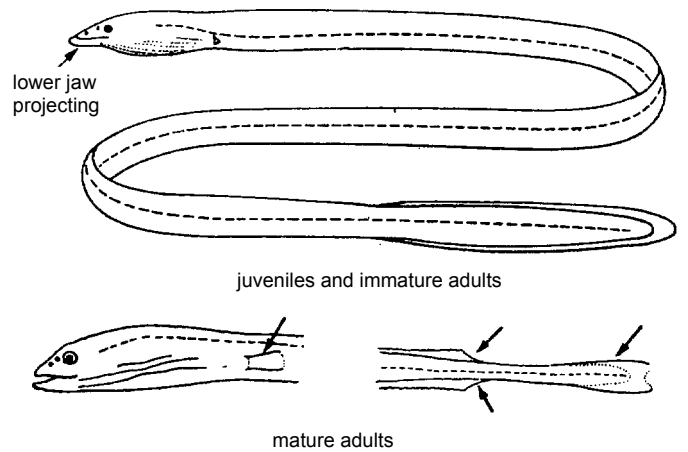
To over 200 cm; marine, from shallow coastal waters to beyond 500 m depth; benthic.



MORINGUIDAE

Spaghetti eels

To at least 50 cm; marine, mostly inshore waters; benthic (burrowing) by day, but pelagic at night; a strong sexual dimorphism.



XENOCONGRIDAE

False morays

To about 50 cm; marine, from the shore to at least 350 m depth; benthic.

