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# Heterenchelyidae

Clofnam 74

by L. Saldanha

Common name: Shortfaced eels (En).

Body elongate, slender; tail much longer than trunk. Snout conical; eyes very small, under skin. Mouth rather short, extending beyond eyes, lips well developed. Teeth conical or obtuse, bi- or multiserial on jaws, granular on vomer. Gill openings well separated, latero-ventral. Dorsal and anal fins very low, confluent with caudal fin; pectoral and pelvic fins absent. Lateral line absent.

Benthic on the continental shelf at 20–60 m, hypogean in muddy substrates. Reproduction in warm hydrological season; leptocephali with metamorphic stages.

Genera 2; in Clofnam area 1.

Recent revisions: Ben-Tuvia (1956), Blache (1968).

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## *PANTURICHTHYS* Pellegrin, 1913

Clofnam 74.1

Body greatly elongate, slender; trunk much shorter than head, the latter with median crest on top; eyes minute, under skin. Mouth rather short, lips well developed. Outer row of conical maxillary teeth much longer than inner rows; vomerine teeth granular, connecting with premaxillary patch. Gill openings latero-ventral, well separated. Origin of dorsal fin always before level of gill opening.

See family for biology, etc.

Species 3; in Clofnam area 2.

Recent revisions: Ben-Tuvia (1956), Blache (1968), Saldanha (1969).

### KEY TO SPECIES

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|----|--|---------------------------------|
| 1a | Trunk about half as long as head; 164–176 vertebrae . . . .    | <i>P. mauritanicus</i> (p. 546) |
| 1b | Trunk about two-thirds of head length; 154–166 vertebrae . . . | <i>P. fowleri</i> (p. 545)      |

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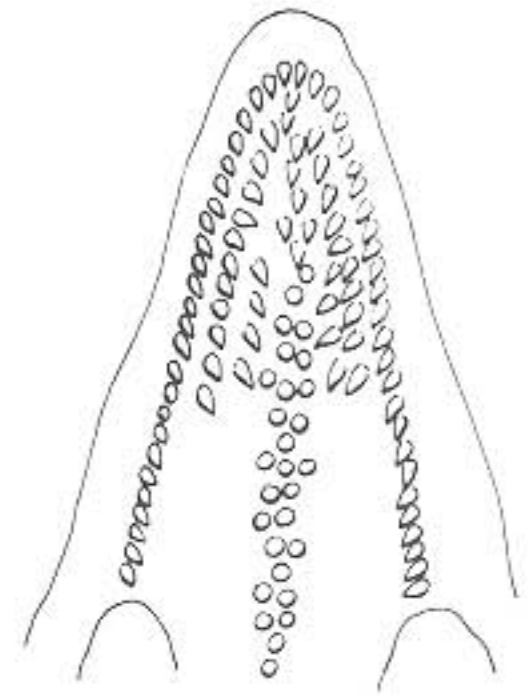
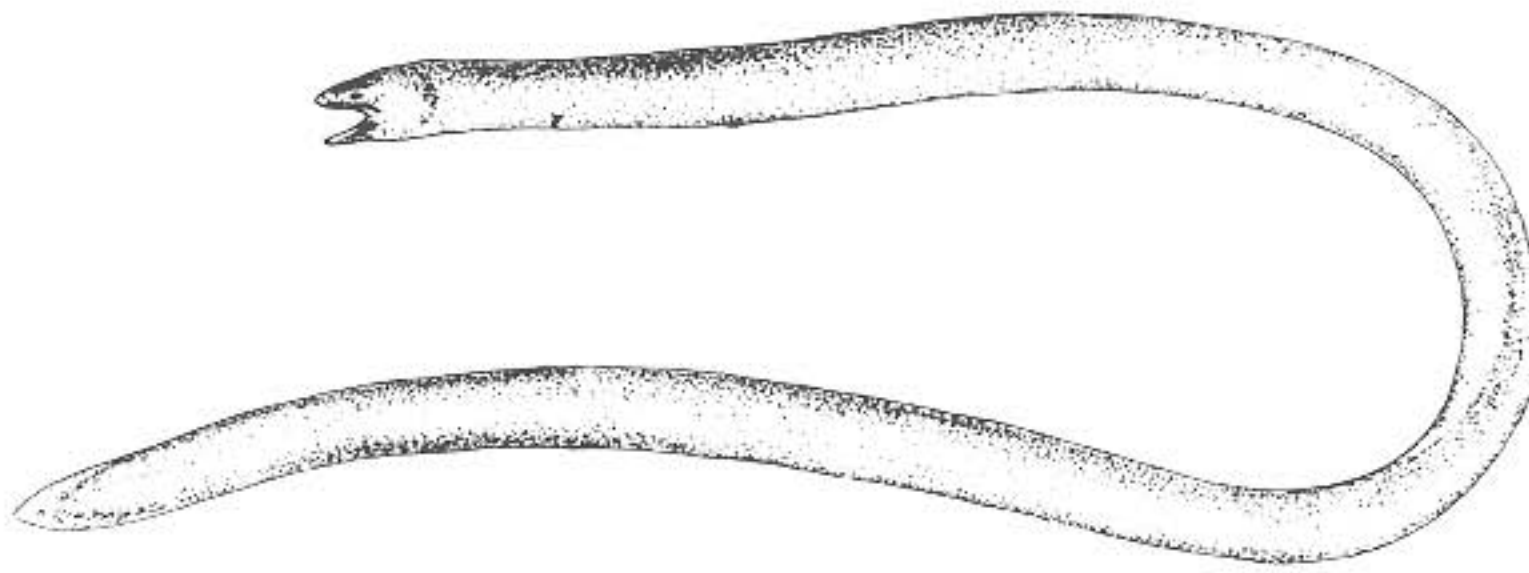
## *Panturichthys fowleri* (Ben-Tuvia, 1953)

Clofnam 74.1.2  
Suppl.: 354

Common synonyms: none.

Common name: Fowler's shortface eel (En).

*Diagnosis:* body very elongate; trunk short, its length two-thirds of head length, its depth less than length of mouth. Eyes minute, nearer to the rictus than to tip of snout. Teeth conical on both jaws; maxillae with 2 or 3 rows, anteriorly, 1 posteriorly; dentary with 2 rows anteriorly, 3 rows posteriorly, except the posterior part of the inner row with granular teeth; 2 or 3 rows of granular teeth on median part of vomer,

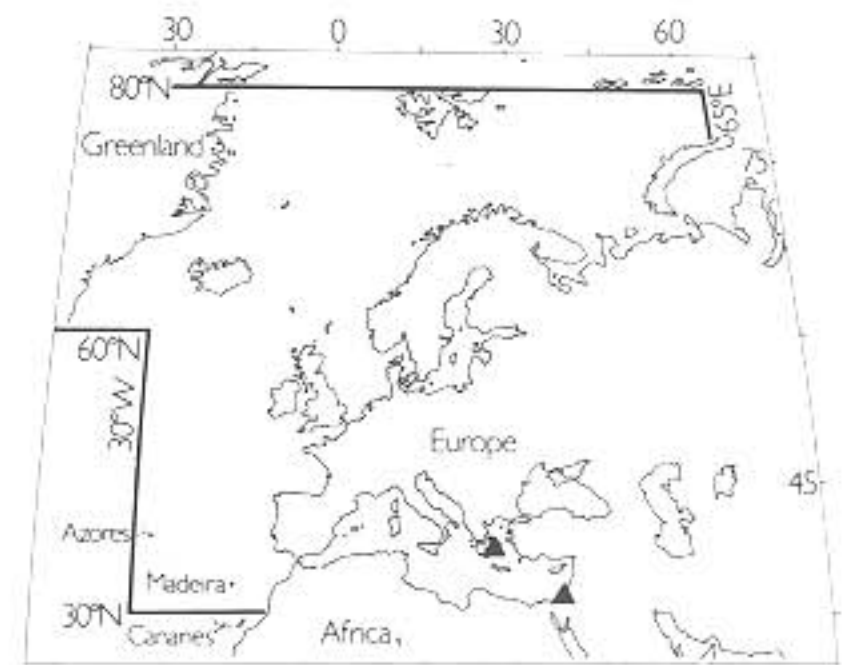


Teeth of upper jaw

uniserial anteriorly and posteriorly. Gill openings latero-ventral, their anterior edge near midpoint between anus and rictus. Vertical fins prominent only at end of tail, visible only in living specimens; pectoral and pelvic fins absent. No lateral line. Vertebrae 154–166. *Colour*: mottled brown-black dorsally, cream-white ventrally (preserved specimens). *Size*: to 70 cm.

*Habitat*: benthic on the continental shelf on muddy bottoms at 30–60 m. *Food*: no data. *Reproduction*: no data.

*Distribution*: eastern Mediterranean (coasts of Lebanon and Israel, Aegean Sea).



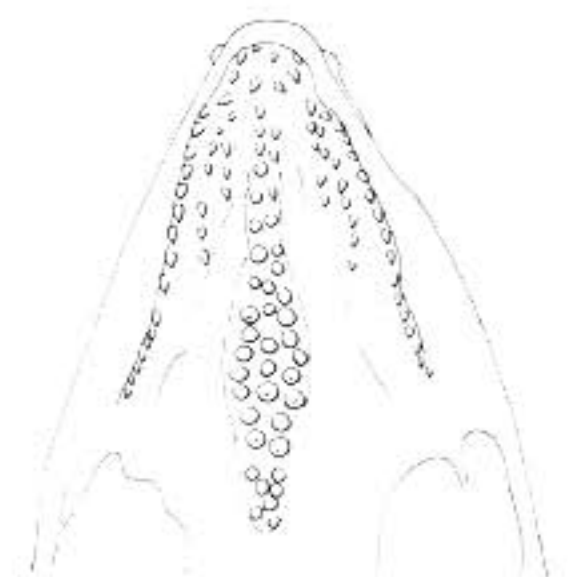
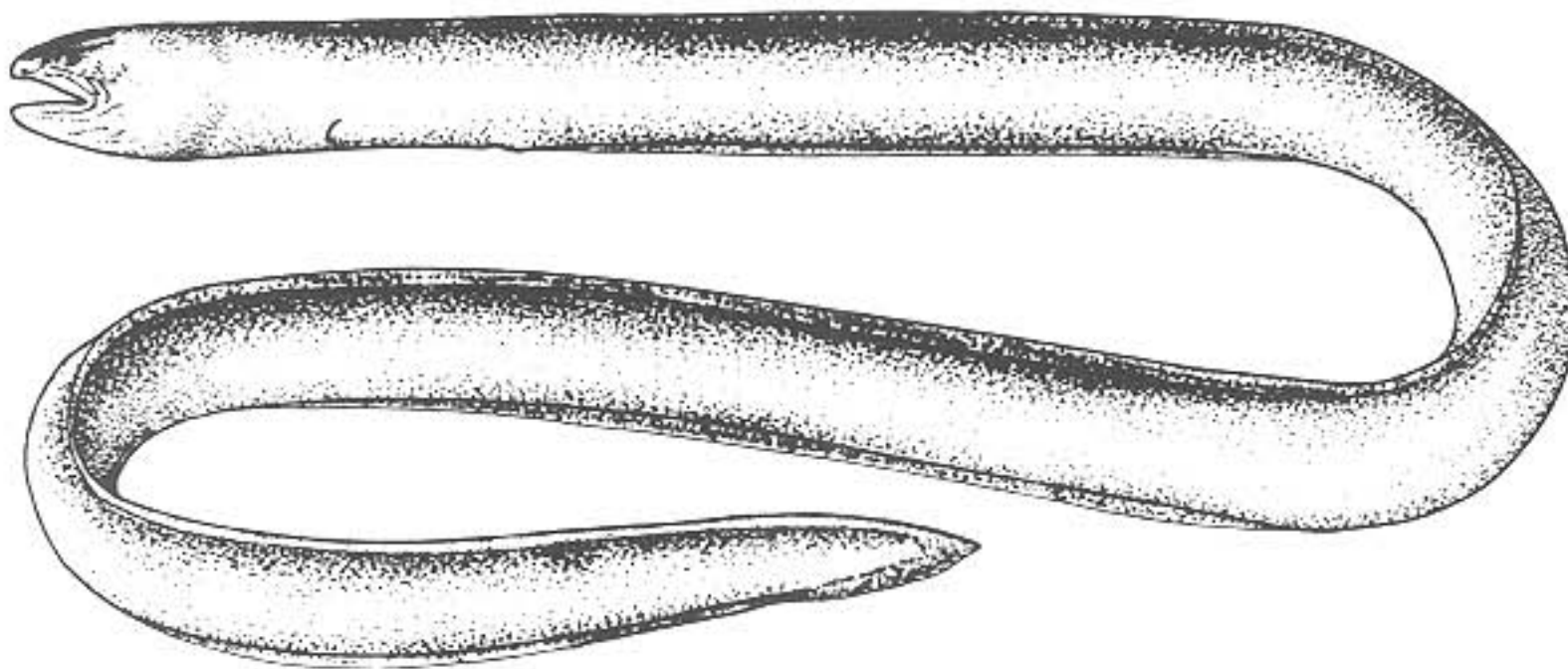
### *Panturichthys mauritanicus* Pellegrin, 1913

Clofnam 74.1.1

Suppl.: 354

Common synonyms: none.

Common name: Mauritanian shortface eel (En).



Teeth of upper jaw

*Diagnosis*: body very elongate; trunk very short, its length about half of head length, its depth longer than mouth length; eye minute, placed over midpoint of upper jaw; lips well developed. Teeth conical on both jaws; maxillae with 2 or 3 rows anteriorly, 1 posteriorly; vomer with granular teeth, bi- or multiserial on median part and uniserial anteriorly and posteriorly; dentary with 2 rows anteriorly, three posteriorly. Gill openings well separated, latero-ventral. Dorsal and anal fins confluent with caudal fin; dorsal fin origin about over gill opening; pectoral and pelvic fins absent. Vertebrae: total 164–176; abdominal 54–58. *Colour*:

brownish dorsally, grey below; end of tail blackish (preserved specimens). *Size*: to 84 cm.

*Habitat*: benthic on the continental shelf on muddy substrates at 20–50 m. *Food*: small annelids and bivalves, crustaceans. *Reproduction*: spawning at beginning of warm hydrological season; larvae described by Castle (1966, 1970) as *Leptocephalus Taenioconger longissimus* (Günther, 1870) were later identified as the leptocephali of *Panturichthys mauritanicus* by Blache (1972).

*Distribution*: eastern Atlantic (Morocco). Elsewhere, southward to Senegal.

