

Xenocoagridae

Clofnam 77

by L. Saldanha

Common name: False morays (En).

Body very elongate; anus in advance of midpoint. Anterior nostril tubular, near to tip of snout, posterior nostril on outside of lip or within confines of mouth. Jaws not produced; vomerine teeth totally or partially separated in two rows. Gill openings small, lateral. Dorsal and anal fins confluent with caudal fin; pectoral fins present or absent; pelvic fins absent. Cephalic pores reduced in number; on body, lateral line without pores but with low papillae.

Benthic on shelf and on continental slope, usually burrowing in the bottom; reproduction during hydrological warm season; leptocephali with metamorphic stages.

Genera 8; in Clofnam area 1.

Recent revisions: Böhlke (1956), Castle (1966), Böhlke & Smith (1968).

CHLOPSIS Rafinesque, 1810

Clofnam 77.1

Body elongate, anus in advance of midpoint. Posterior nostrils opening outside confines of mouth. Vomerine teeth in 2 separate rows. Pectoral fins absent or very rudimentary and only adding a slight flap-like contour to upper edge of gill opening. 5 pores along side of lower jaw before mouth angle.

Species 3; in Clofnam area 1.

Recent revisions: Böhlke (1956), Robins & Robins (1967), Blache (1972).

Chlopsis bicolor Rafinesque, 1810

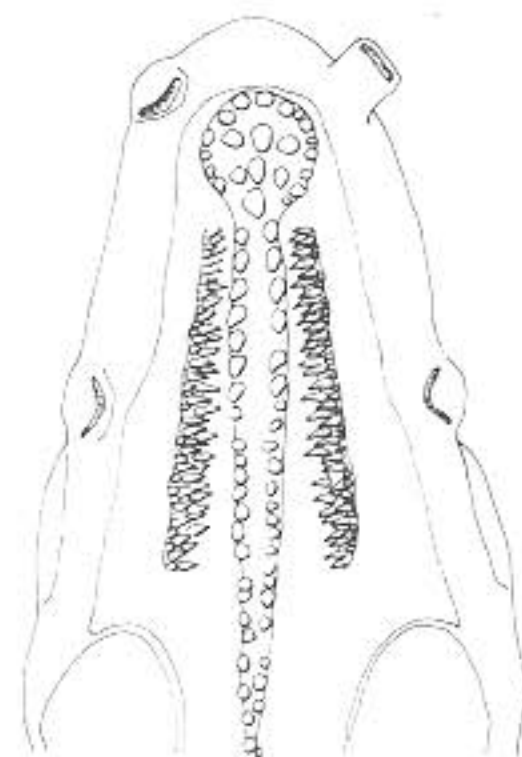
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Common synonyms: none.

Common name: Bicoloured false moray (En).



Diagnosis: body greatly elongate, head and trunk nearly twice in tail. Snout broadly rounded, slightly projecting beyond tip of lower jaw. Anterior nostril tubular, near tip of snout; posterior nostril an oval pore with a flap on outside of upper lip, below and before front eye margin. Teeth on premaxillae in a round patch, the strongest teeth



Teeth of upper jaw

posteriorly; vomerine teeth broad and strong, in two lines at either edge of vomer and in continuation of premaxillary patch; maxillary teeth multiserial, innermost longest and sharpest; dentary teeth biserial anteriorly, uniserial posteriorly. Gill opening round, very restricted, a fold of skin on its upper margin forming a sort of hood over opening. Dorsal and anal fins confluent with caudal fin. Lateral line with only a true pore on either side of branchial region and a series of very small low papillae along the course of body; no supra-temporal pore. Vertebrae: total 127–136; abdominal 44–49. *Colour*: body bicoloured (dark brown dorsally and creamy white ventrally) as far as a point somewhat behind middle of anal fin. *Size*: to 42 cm.

Habitat: benthic on shelf and upper slope, down to 350 m, burrowing on muddy bottoms. *Food*: no data. *Reproduction*: very few data; eggs and leptocephali known.

Distribution: Atlantic coast of Morocco, also Mediterranean. Elsewhere, southward to Mauritania, also western Atlantic (Gulf of Mexico and off southern Brazil).

