Family NETTASTOMIDAE

L. Nettastoma melanurum Rafinesque, 1810 (Text-fig. 1, F-G)

1810. *Nettastoma melanurum* Rafinesque, *Caratteri nuovi gen.*, p. 66.
1910. *L. Nettastoma melanurum* Rafinesque. Grassi, *Soc. Ital. Progr. Sci. Mem. I.*

MATERIAL EXAMINED. One specimen: 88.2mm total length, *Tui* Station AUZ 118, ca. 32° 30′ S, 178° 56′ E, 31/7/62, IKMT (10ft), 1,460m wire out.

DESCRIPTION. Measurements in mm: head 7.5, snout 3.2, eye 1.7, cleft of mouth 4.5, postorbital 3.0, pectoral 2.0, preanal 50.1, depth just before eye 2.3, at pectoral origin 10.1, at midpoint between pectoral and vent 23.1, at anal origin 17.4. Caudal rays 3 + 3. Teeth $\frac{0}{1 + \text{VIII} + 3}$. Myomeres ca. 76 + ca. 170 = ca. 246. Last vertical blood vessel at myomere 67.

Body moderately elongate, compressed, deep anteriorly but almost filamentous posteriorly, the maximum depth at the end of the first third of the body and contained about 3.8 times in the total; head clearly differentiated from trunk, snout relatively sharp; pigment in two inconspicuous groups on the intestine and in a large spot on the spinal cord posterior to the level of the vent.

Head moderate, contained about 11 times in total length, from the middle of the postorbital region forwards clearly set off from trunk; snout sharply pointed, curved downwards at its extreme tip, about 2.5 in head; nasal organ large, oval, placed close in front of eye; eye circular, relatively large, contained about twice in postorbital; cleft of mouth slightly oblique, curved, reaching to below middle of pupil; no teeth in upper jaw, those in lower acute. Pectoral fin relatively long, about equal to eye; dorsal and anal fins not yet developed but caudal with six well defined fin-rays.

Pigmentation confined to a group of about eight small, diffuse chromatophores forming a conspicuous, relatively large spot on the ventral aspect of the liver at myomeres 30–33; a similar group at about myomere 58—i.e., halfway along the opisthonephros: a conspicuous group of chromatophores forming a large spot on the spinal cord at myomere 104, rather faint as seen through the muscle tissue; diffuse black pigment on the under surface of the snout tip, on the nasal organ, behind the eye, between the cerebellum and the medulla oblongata and deep on the branchial arches; chorioid pigment also present.

REMARKS. The leptocephalus described above shows conspicuous similarities to *L. Nettastoma melanurum* as described by Grassi (1910). Ancona (1928, p. 110) regards *L. longirostris* Kaup, 1856 and *Hyoprorus messanensis* Kölliker, 1854, to be synonyms of this species. The present specimen has 246 myomeres, while Grassi's *L. Nettastoma melanurum* has 201–207 myomeres, a difference which I suggest to be of little systematic importance as the species is probably like *L. Nemichthys scolopaceus,* adding segments during growth of the leptocephalus. In Grassi's specimens the lateral pigment spot is at myomere 97, that is, relatively a little further forwards along the body than in the *Tui* specimen. In view of this very close similarity the latter is referred to *L. Nettastoma melanurum. L. urosema* Lea, 1913, and *L. bellotti* Ancona, 1928, may also be synonyms of this species but differ markedly in number of myomeres and in the position of the lateral pigment spot.

Family CONGRIDAE

L. Gnathophis incognitus Castle, 1963

1963. *Gnathophis incognitus* Castle, *Zool. Publ. Vict. Univ. N.Z.*, 34: 37.
1963. *L. Gnathophis incognitus* Castle, *Zool. Publ. Vict. Univ. N.Z.*, 34: 41.