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A Redescription of *Gloiopotes huttoni* (Thomson, 1889),
with a Key to the Species of the Genus

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Abstract

A redescription of *Gloiopotes huttoni* (Thomson, 1889) is given together with comments on variations in body form and ornamentation as seen in the author's material. It is concluded that *Gloiopotes longicaudatus* (Marukawa, 1925), *G. watsoni* Kirtisinge, 1934, and *G. zeugopteri* Satyanarayana Rao, 1951, are synonyms of *G. huttoni*. Other species of the genus are briefly discussed and a key to the species is given.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Gloiopotes* is parasitic on several of the larger pelagic fishes and is essentially cosmopolitan in distribution.

In the past most of the species of *Gloiopotes* have been described from a few specimens only, but the present material is sufficiently abundant to obtain a good idea of the variability of some characters. The range of variation shown has necessitated a reconsideration of the specific characters of other described species.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Material from the Dominion Museum, Wellington: From the striped marlin (*Makaira mitsukurii*); Mayor Island, 2.3.1948, six females (three damaged) and one male; Bay of Islands, 2.3.1957, ("from flank, near vent"), six females and five males; Bay of Islands, —/3/1960 ("from flank"), seven females and two males. From the black marlin (*Makaira marlina*); Bay of Islands, —/3/1960 ("from flank") two females and two males.

Material from M. J. Daniels, N.Z. Forest Service: From the striped marlin; off Russell, Bay of Islands, —/2/1963, nine females and two males.

Total number of New Zealand specimens, 30 females and 12 males.

Material from the British Museum (Natural History): From *Histiophorus brevirostris*; Madras, one female and one male.

Gloiopotes Steenstrup and Lütken, 1861

(After Wilson, 1907, p. 698, modified as required by the description of later species.)