teeth robust, in three groups on each side of upper and lower jaws with a minute, needle-like tooth on the anterior extremity of snout and with the more posterior and smaller teeth having their tips curved forwards. Branchiostegal rays barely visible. Pectoral fin a much reduced, circular flap; dorsal fin not well differentiated but with an origin a few segments in advance of level of vent; anal fin well developed; caudal fin pointed, reduced, but still retaining fin-rays.

Pigmentation generally inconspicuous and in this long-preserved specimen faded, but on careful examination the following details may be noted:—a line of seven very small chromatophores along the ventral edge of the maxilla and a single chromatophore on the extreme tip of the snout; three chromatophores below the pectoral fin deep on the intestine; above the eight upward loops and swellings of the intestine a group of about a dozen diffuse chromatophores usually linking with a similar group on the other side of the body over the dorsal surface of the pronephric swellings at these points; deep under each of these pronephric swellings a line of four or five inconspicuous chromatophores; a chromatophore on the base of nearly every anal ray; at every 4th or 5th myoseptum below the midlateral line an oblique line of up to a dozen or more (in the middle of the body) minute chromatophores; and on each side of these myosepta one or two myosepta with similar but fewer chromatophores; seven equally-spaced deep groups of chromatophores below the vertebral column from the level of the vent to the caudal tip; a line of about nine minute chromatophores on the dorsal aspect of the tip of the spinal cord.

Alimentary canal with eight conspicuous swellings which are looped or festooned dorsally; above each of the loops a swelling of the pronephric ducts.

REMARKS. The leptocephalus described above is the first of two species which are distinguished from other ophichthid larvae in having rather conservative pigmentation, this being restricted to the upward loops of the intestine and to equally-spaced deep clumps of pigment under the spinal cord along the caudal region (general ophichthid characters), and laterally to many of the myosepta below the midlateral line. Minor pigment also occurs on the anal base as well as on the posterior dorsal tip of the spinal cord. The pectoral fin in both species is a tiny rudiment and such is its reduction that I believe that it would not survive metamorphosis. Furthermore, the dorsal rays are moderate in number (less than 250) and unlike leptocephali of *?Bascanichthys,* in which an anterior origin of the dorsal is early established, in the present two species the dorsal origin lies only a few segments in advance of the level of the vent. The caudal fin is reduced and tends to be pointed. The number of preanal myomeres in both species suggests that the vent in the metamorphosed eel would probably be placed near the middle of the body. These characters shown by the two species of eel-larvae in the present group suggest that they are possibly larvae of *Caecula* Vahl, 1794.

The species described above is strikingly similar in all respects to Leptocephalus A recorded by Gopinath from southern India (1950, p. 89). Except for more numerous clumps of pigment along the caudal region in Gopinath's specimen the pigmentation is almost identical; the pectoral is almost vestigial; there are 209–211 anal rays (compared with 205 in the present species). Gopinath's specimen has 156 myomeres (63 + 93), close to the range shown above.

Gosline (1951, p. 303) gives a count of 153 vertebrae for *Caecula flavicauda* (Snyder, 1904) but as this species appears to be restricted to Hawaii and also since there have been many species described for the genus with an almost total lack of vertebral counts known, I would hesitate to refer the present species further.