

the opercular region. Pectoral fin a small, rounded flap. Dorsal fin poorly developed in height (except near the caudal tip) but basal structures can be observed as far forwards as the 12th myomere; anal fin conspicuous with well-developed rays; caudal fin reduced to a blunt point with short, obscure rays and hypurals.

Pigmentation in formalin superficially inconspicuous, but on closer examination complex, as follows:—a row of ten minute chromatophores along the ventral edge of the maxilla; a circular patch of 13 spots on the surface of the head at the level of the myelencephalon; 20 in a patch deep on the intestine immediately behind the branchial arches; on each side of each upward loop and swelling of the intestine (that is, at the level of the 10th myomere and at about each succeeding 10th myomere to segment 82) a circular patch of about 30 minute chromatophores, some of which extend below the pronephric ducts to meet the patch of the other side; at least one chromatophore on the base of nearly every anal ray and on the bases of the posterior dorsal rays; pigment over the surface of the reduced caudal; below the midlateral line on the lateral surface at every six to eight segments a circular patch of pigment spots, as many as thirty or more in number in the middle of the body; this patch becomes partially divided posteriorly and irregular intermediate patches or scattered spots appear between these major patches; at the level of each of these groups of chromatophores the myoseptum below the midlateral level bears seven to eight (anteriorly) or as many as 20–30 minute chromatophores in an oblique line (similar to the lines of chromatophores found in the larvae of the congrid genus *Ariosoma*); not far along the body a progressively greater number of these oblique lines appear on neighbouring myosepta so that posteriorly nearly every myoseptum bears pigment spots; a row of minute chromatophores occurs subterminally on the dorsal aspect of the spinal cord; a few spots are present subterminally on the ventral aspect of the dorsal aorta.

Intestine swollen or festooned at eight places along its length, these swellings more or less equally spaced. The first two are covered on each side laterally by expansions of the liver which are also joined longitudinally.

REMARKS. The most impressive, superficial feature of the large ophichthid leptocephalus described above (and to a lesser extent the smaller specimen) is perhaps the looped intestine, the eight loops being immediately conspicuous and much more well-defined than in the two species of *Ophichthus* previously described. Although the pigmentation is not superficially well-marked, closer examination shows it to be rather complex but definitive. The present species differs from larvae of *Ophichthus* in having circular patches of minute chromatophores evenly spaced along the lateral surface just below the midlateral line, in addition to oblique series of minute, compact chromatophores on the myosepta at the level of these patches. It lacks groups of chromatophores on the pronephric ducts between the patches on the upward flexures of the intestine. I can find no described leptocephalus in the literature with pigment placed as in this species so that its identification, together with the three other species described below which I have also placed with it by virtue of similar pigmentation, immediately presents a problem.

There are two major leads that can be followed in the generic identification of this species and the three other species described below. Firstly, we have here four species of a single genus (as shown by the similarity in pigmentation) and therefore we can eliminate from our consideration those ophichthid genera which are probably monotypic or with only two or three species—i.e., *Cirrhimuraena*, *Brachysomophis*, *Phyllophichthus*, *Leuranus*, *Myrichthys* and *Ophisurus*. *Muraenichthys* and *Myrophis* (having a rayed caudal) may also be disregarded, since the present group of species is characterised by a pointed, rayless caudal tip.