

posterior swelling of the intestine and as seven midlateral, subsurface chromatophores, more or less equally spaced, four on the left side and three on the right.

These specimens agree remarkably well with the type and paratype of *L. diptychus* Eigenmann & Kennedy, 1900, from the western Central Atlantic. In the type the myomeres number  $73 + 43 = 116$ , the pectorals are small, the anterior nostril is on the tip of the snout but is not conspicuously tubular, the lower jaw projects beyond the upper, there is no pigment on the head and teeth are absent. The present species, and in particular the Bougainville metamorphic specimen, agrees so well with *L. diptychus* that normally I would have no hesitation in regarding them to be of the same species. However, I am not aware that the genus *Moringua*, to which *L. diptychus* is clearly referable, has been recorded from the Atlantic. The presence of leptocephali of the *L. diptychus* type in this area nevertheless strongly suggests that moringuid eels occur in the Atlantic. A possible answer is found in the known presence of eels which have been referred to the genus *Stilbiscus* Jordan & Bollman, 1889. The relationship of this genus (and its probable synonym *Anguillichthys* Mowbray, 1927) to the Moringuidae has been discussed by a number of authors including Trewavas (1932, p. 639) who synonymised Parr's family Stilbiscidae (1930, p. 14) with the Moringuidae, a now generally accepted view. Gosline & Strasburg (1956, p. 12) have also discussed the validity of *Anguillichthys* and *Stilbiscus* without a final decision on the matter. There are two alternatives presented by the occurrence of the moringuid leptocephali of the *L. diptychus* type in the western Atlantic: (1) that there is an as yet unrecorded species of *Moringua* in this area or, (2) that *Anguillichthys-Stilbiscus* is a synonym of *Moringua*. With regard to the latter possibility it may be of some value to note here that *L. diptychus* (clearly a *Moringua*) has 114-116 myomeres while the specimen of *Stilbiscus bahamensis* (Mowbray, 1927) examined by Trewavas (1932, pp. 642-645) had 112.

The two leptocephali from southern India described by Deraniyagala (1934, p. 95) as Larva VII are also unquestionably larvae of *Moringua* having the same general characters of the present group of species and of *L. diptychus*. Deraniyagala's specimens have 103 and 108 ( $70 + 38$ ) myomeres and are therefore possibly referable to the present species although if this were true it would add greatly to the observed range in myomere counts in the present material.

#### *L. Moringua* sp. (160-169 myomeres).

**MATERIAL EXAMINED.** *Centre d'Océanographie de l'Institut Français d'Océanie Collection* (2 specimens): 38.9mm total length, IFO Station S 1m D, 10 miles west of Bulari Pass, New Caledonia, 29/11/61, S1mH, ca. 133m; 61.5, St S 1m 3, 10 miles west of Bulari Pass, New Caledonia, 30/11/61, S1mH, ca. 67m.

*C.S.I.R.O. Division of Fisheries and Oceanography (Cronulla) Collection* (2 specimens): 58.8, *Fairwind*, Kieta, Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands, 21/10/49, submarine light and net; 63.1, *Fairwind*, Wewak Harbour, New Guinea, 23/9/49, submarine light and net.

**DESCRIPTION AND REMARKS.** Four specimens: total lengths 38.9mm-61.5mm, myomeres  $110-118 + 42-59 = 160-169$ , last vertical blood vessel at myomere 112-119, gall bladder not seen, teeth 0 (in the New Guinea metamorphic specimens) and  $\frac{1 + III-IV + 5-6}{1 + III-V + 3}$ , dorsal rays 128-142, anal rays 128-140, caudal rays  $3 + 2-3$ , a-d = -12 to -15.

This species is immediately distinguished from the preceding two in having a much higher number of myomeres. The vent is placed at more than 100 segments along the body with the last vertical blood vessel also placed at about this point. There is also a relatively great distance between the levels of the dorsal and anal bases.