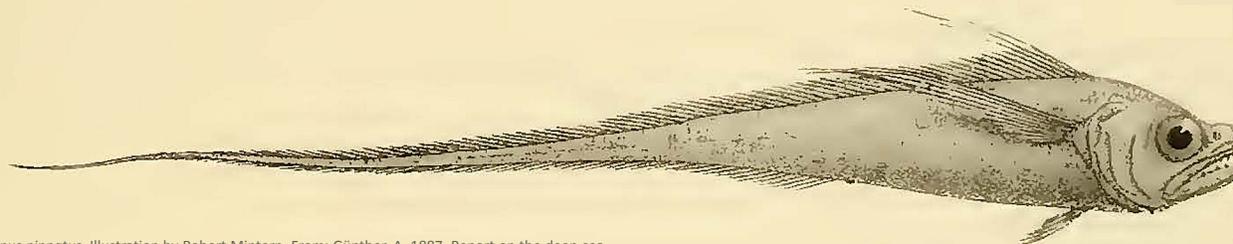


Order GADIFORMES

Atlantic Hakes

Family LYCONIDAE

Günther 1887



Lyconus pinnatus. Illustration by Robert Mintern. From: Günther, A. 1887. Report on the deep-sea fishes collected by H. M. S. Challenger during the years 1873-76. 22 (57): i-lxv + 1-268, Pls. 1-66.

Lyconus

Günther 1887

lykos (λύκος), wolf, presumably referring to two “canine-like” teeth on upper jaw and single “canine-like” tooth on each side of vomer of *L. pinnatus*; *onus*, presumably a Latinization of *onos* (ὄνος), donkey or ass (*asellus* in Latin);¹ a name dating to Aristotle for an unidentified gadiform fish, possibly *Phycis blennoides* (Gadidae) but often applied to *Merluccius merluccius* (Merlucciidae) and hence used several times by Günther as a suffix for a hake-like fish

***Lyconus brachycolus* Holt & Byrne 1906** *brachýs* (βραχύς), short; *colus*, from *kolon* (κῶλον), limb, arm or leg, referring to shorter pectoral fins compared with *L. pinnatus*

***Lyconus pinnatus* Günther 1887** Latin for finned, presumably referring to “exceedingly elongate” pectoral fins, their middle rays extending far beyond the vent

¹ Why a donkey or ass? At least four explanations have been mentioned but no one knows for sure. (1) The color of Hake *Merluccius merluccius* (Merlucciidae)—grayish-white color above, white below—is like that of an ass (Varro, 1471, *De lingua Latina*). (2) The Haddock *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* (Gadidae) is as sluggish as a donkey (Varro, citing Oppian). (3) The dark mark on the shoulder of the Haddock is said to resemble the dark stripe over the withers of an ass (Yarrell, 1836, *History of British Fishes*, vol. 2). (4) In ancient times, gadiform fishes were carried to market on the backs of asses (Day, 1882, *Fishes of Great Britain and Ireland*).