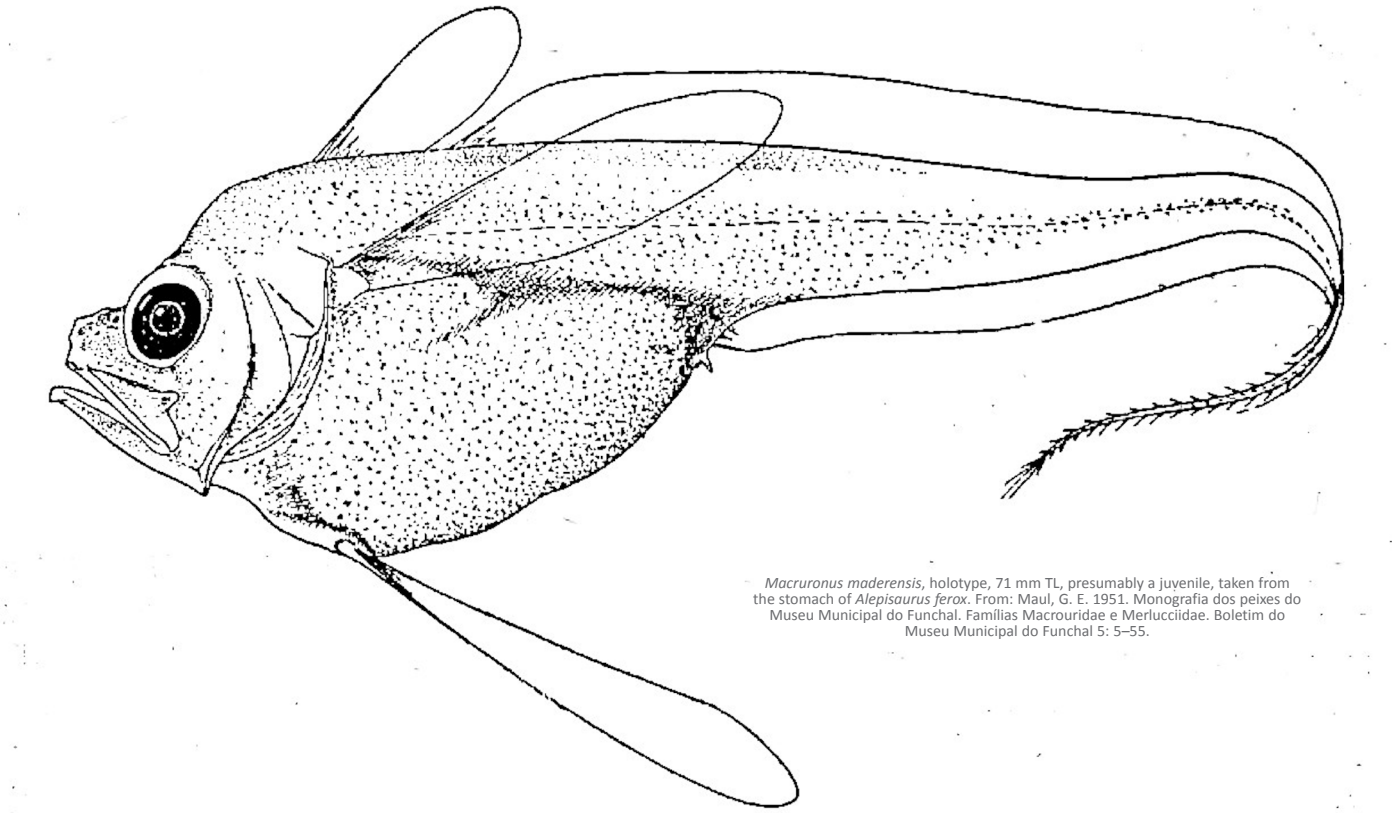
Order GADIFORMES

Southern Hakes or Blue Grenadiers

Family **MACRURONIDAE**

Regan 1903



Macruronus maderensis, holotype, 71 mm TL, presumably a juvenile, taken from the stomach of *Alepisaurus ferox*. From: Maul, G. E. 1951. Monografia dos peixes do Museu Municipal do Funchal. Famílias Macrouridae e Merlucciidae. Boletim do Museu Municipal do Funchal 5: 5–55.

Macruronus

Günther 1873

etymology not explained, *Macrur-*, possibly reflecting original placement of *M. novaezelandiae* in the macrourid genus *Coryphaenoides*; *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

Macruronus maderensis **Maul 1951** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: off Madeira, eastern Atlantic, type locality

Macruronus novaezelandiae **(Hector 1871)** of New Zealand, referring to type locality off Ward Island, Port Nicholson

[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*).