

Order ANGUILLIFORMES

Spaghetti Eels

Family MORINGUIDAE

Gill 1885



Moringua penni, holotype, 515 mm TL. Illustration by Aime M. Awl. From: Schultz, L. P., E. S. Herald, E. A. Lachner, A. D. Welanders and L. P. Woods. 1953. Fishes of the Marshall and Marianas islands. Vol. I. Families from Asymmetriontidae through Siganidae. Bulletin of the United States National Museum No. 202. v. 1: i–xxxii + 1–685, Pls. 1–74.

Moringua

Gray 1831

etymology not explained, presumably a vernacular (perhaps Portuguese) corruption of *muraena*¹ (L.), from *mýraina* (μύραινα), Greek name of *Muraena helena* and precursor to “moray”

***Moringua abbreviata* (Bleeker 1863)** Latin for shortened, referring to smaller size compared with *M. javanicus*

***Moringua bicolor* Kaup 1856** *bi-*, from *bis* (L.), twice, i.e., of two colors, referring to dark coloration above and silvery below

***Moringua edwardsi* (Jordan & Bollman 1889)** in honor of American zoologist Charles Lincoln Edwards (1863–1937), Johns Hopkins Biological Laboratory (Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas), who collected holotype

***Moringua ferruginea* Bliss 1883** Latin for rust-colored, referring to “ochrous brown” dorsal color and/or reddish-brown spot at vent and pectoral fin

***Moringua guthriana* (McClelland 1844)** *-ana* (L.), belonging to: Capt. Charles Seton Guthrie (1808–1875), Bengal Engineers, for “service rendered by him to natural history,” including discovery of *Cervus frontalis* (misspelled *frontalus*, synonym of *C. eldi*), a deer described by McClelland in 1843

***Moringua hawaiiensis* Snyder 1904** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Hawaiian Islands, type locality

***Moringua javanica* (Kaup 1856)** *-ica* (L.), belonging to: Java (Indonesia, Eastern Indian Ocean), type locality

***Moringua macrocephalus* (Bleeker 1863)** large-headed, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large, and *kephalé* (Gr. κεφαλή), head, referring to its considerably larger head compared with *M. abbreviata*

***Moringua macrochir* Bleeker 1855** *macro-*, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large; *cheirós* (Gr. χειρός), genitive of *cheir* (χείρ), hand, homologous to the pectoral fin, which is at least twice as long as it wide across the base

***Moringua microchir* Bleeker 1853** *micro-*, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός); *cheirós* (Gr. χειρός), genitive of *cheir* (χείρ), hand, homologous to the pectoral fin, referring to short, rudimentary pectoral fins

***Moringua penni* Schultz 1953** in honor of American invertebrate zoologist George H. Penn (1918–1963), who collected holotype while serving as Officer in Charge of a U. S. Navy malaria control team in Papua New Guinea

***Moringua raitaborua* (Hamilton 1822)** from *rata boura*, Bengali vernacular for this eel

Neoconger

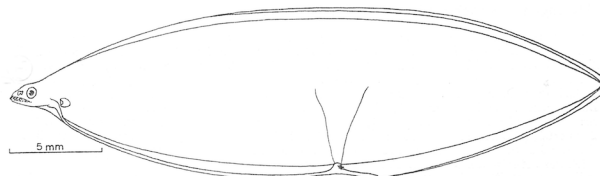
Girard 1858

neos (Gr. νέος), new; *conger*, a conger eel but probably used here as a general term for a marine eel, i.e., a new genus of marine eels

***Neoconger mucronatus* Girard 1858** Latin for pointed, referring to its small, slender, narrow and pointed head

***Neoconger tuberculatus* (Castle 1965)** Latin for warty or tuberculate, referring to single swelling of intestine near vent in leptocephalus

***Neoconger vermiformis* Gilbert 1890** *vermis* (L.), worm; *formis* (L.), shape or form, referring to its slender body



Neoconger tuberculatus, holotype, leptocephalus, 32.7 mm TL. From: Castle, P. H. J. 1965. Moringuid leptocephali in Australasian waters. Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Zoology 7 (7): 125–133.

¹Smith, D. G. 1989. Family Moringuidae. In: Böhlke, E. B. (ed.). Fishes of the Western North Atlantic. Memoirs of the Sears Foundation for Marine Research No. 1 [pt. 9, vol. 1]: i–xvii, 1–655.