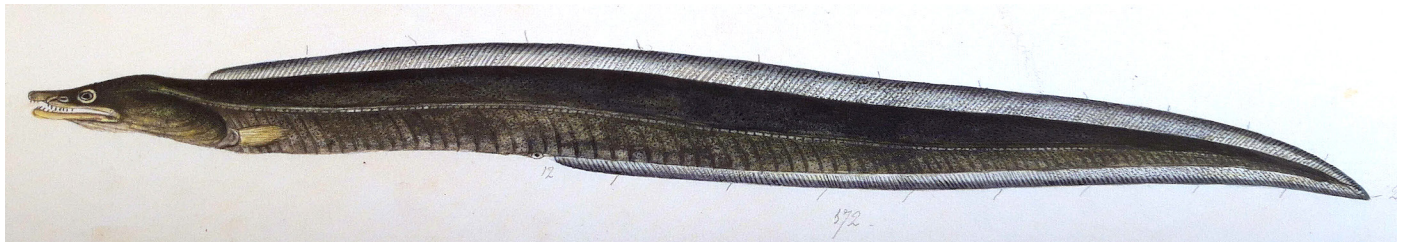


Order ANGUILLIFORMES

Pike Congers

Family MURAENOSCIDAE

Kaup 1859



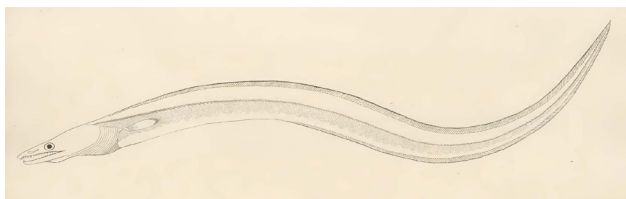
Muraenesox bagio. Hamilton's original illustration, unpublished at the time, reproduced in: Britz, R. 2019. Francis Hamilton's Gangetic Fishes in colour. A new edition of the 1822 monograph, with reproductions of unpublished coloured illustrations. Ray Society, London: 1–48, i–vii, 1–405, i–vii, Pls. 1–228.

Congresox
Gill 1890

combination of *Conger* and *esox*, a Latinized Gaulish word for a large fish from the Rhine, possibly originally applied to a salmon, now applied to pikes, i.e., a conger-like eel with a pike-like form (see *Muraenesox*)

***Congresox talabon* (Cuvier 1829)** *Tala Bon*, Telugu (an Indo-Aryan language) vernacular for this eel as reported in Russell's *Descriptions and figures of two hundred fishes; collected at Vizagapatam on the coast of Coromandel* (1803); Cuvier's apparent misspelling (*talabou*) would be used but the correct subsequent spelling is in prevailing usage

***Congresox talabonoides* (Bleeker 1852)** *-oides*, Neo-Latin from *eídos* (Gr. εἶδος), form or shape: referring to similarity to *C. talabon*

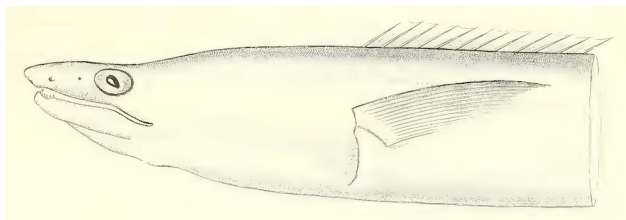


"Tala Bon," upon which Cuvier based his account of *Conger talabou* (now *Congresox talabon*). From: Russell, P. 1803. *Descriptions and figures of two hundred fishes; collected at Vizagapatam on the coast of Coromandel*. London. 2 vols. v. 1–2: i–vii + 78 pp. + 85 pls., 197 pls.

Cynoponticus
Costa 1845

cyno-, from *kynós* (Gr. κυνός), genitive of *kýōn* (κύων), dog; *pontus* (L.), from *póntos* (Gr. πόντος), sea; *-icus* (L.), belonging to, literally "sea dog," probably referring to the ferocious appearance of *C. ferox*, with a "large mouth armed ... with feral teeth" (translation)¹

***Cynoponticus coniceps* (Jordan & Gilbert 1882)** *conus* (L.), from *kónos* (Gr. κώνος), cone; *-iceps* (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to its slender, conical snout



Costa, O. G. 1829–53. *Fauna del regno di Napoli, ossia enumerazione di tutti gli animali che abitano le diverse regioni di questo regno e le acque che le bagnano. Pesci. Fauna del regno di Napoli Part 1: 511 pp. (variously paginated), 60 pls. (See footnote below.)*

¹ Although *Cynoponticus* and its type species *C. ferox* were described in the same publication, pages were issued in sets that were sold separately, often in neither systematic nor chronological order; the genus dates to 1845 whereas the species dates to 1846.

***Cynoponticus ferox* Costa 1846** Latin for fierce, probably referring to its ferocious appearance, with a "large mouth armed ... with feral teeth" (translation)

***Cynoponticus savanna* (Bancroft 1831)** from *savanne*, vernacular for this eel in Martinique (Cuvier coined the name without a description in 1829)

Muraenesox
McClelland 1844

muraena (L.), from *mýraina* (Gr. μύραινα), Greek name of *Muraena helena* and precursor to "moray" but likely used here as a general term for eel; *esox*, a Latinized Gaulish word for a large fish from the Rhine, possibly originally applied to a salmon, now applied to pikes, "of both which the proposed genus partakes in form," presumably referring to its eel-like body and pike-like long, narrow jaws with prominent teeth

***Muraenesox bagio* (Hamilton 1822)** Bengali vernacular for this species

***Muraenesox cinereus* (Forsskål 1775)** Latin for ash-colored or gray, referring to its gray coloration

Oxyconger
Bleeker 1864

in honor of German naturalist Johann Jacob Kaup (1803–1873), for his work on apodal fishes; *ichthyos* (Gr.), fish

***Oxyconger leptognathus* (Bleeker 1858)** *leptós* (Gr. λεπτός), thin or slender; *gnathus*, from *gnáthos* (Gr. γνάθος), referring to thin jaws that form a much-produced snout

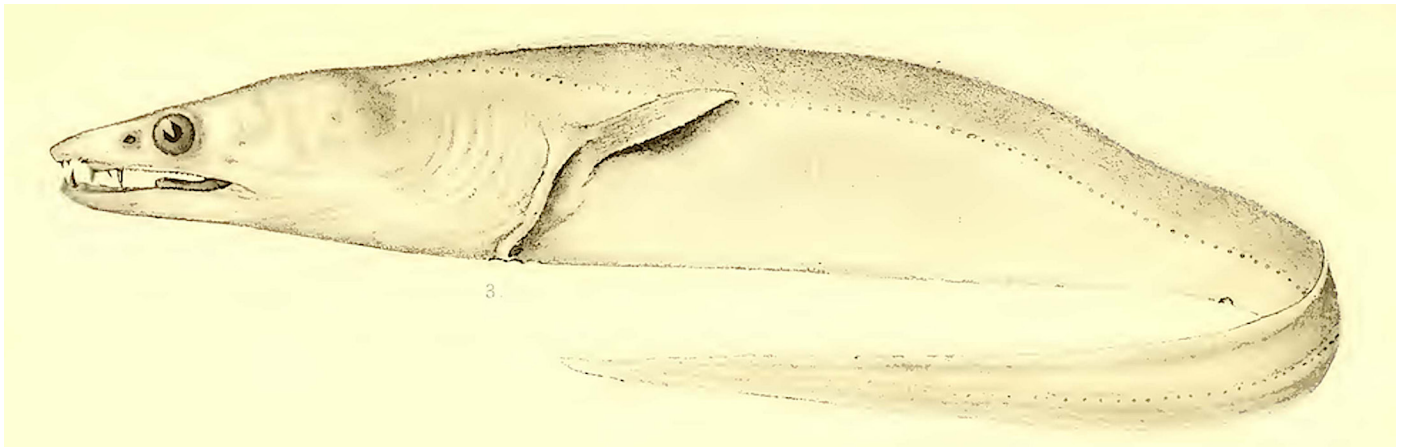


Oxyconger leptognathus. From: Bleeker, P. 1857. *Vierde bijdrage tot de kennis der ichthyologische fauna van Japan. Acta Societatis Regiae Scientiarum Indo-Neerlandicae 3 (art. 10): 1–46, Pls. 1–4. [Illustration published in 1858.]*

Sauromuraenesox
Alcock 1889

sauros, from *saúra* (Gr. σαύρα), lizard, i.e., a *Muraenesox* with a general body form "much like that of a chameleon," e.g., with a high-arched back tapering to a low tail

***Sauromuraenesox vorax* Alcock 1889** Latin for gluttonous, allusion not explained, possibly referring to its sharp and enlarged teeth



Sauromuraenesox vorax. From: Alcock, A. W. 1892. Illustrations of the zoology of the Royal Indian marine surveying steamer Investigator. Fishes. Calcutta. Part 1: Pls. 1-7. [Description published in 1889, illustration in 1892.]