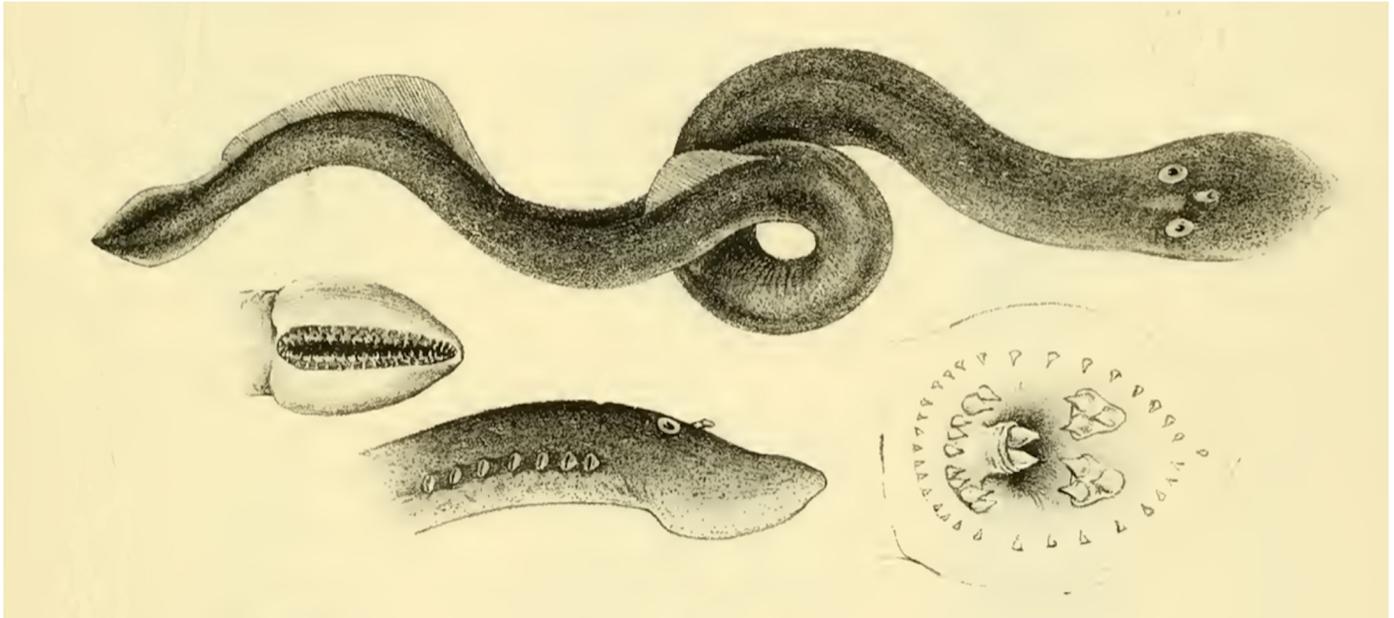


Order PETROMYZONTIFORMES

Southern Topeyed Lampreys

Family MORDACIIDAE

Gill 1893



Mordacia mordax. Illustration by W. Mitchell. From: Richardson, J. 1844-48. Ichthyology of the voyage of H.M.S. Erebus & Terror. In: J. Richardson & J. E. Gray (eds.). The zoology of the voyage of H.M.S. Erebus & Terror, under the command of Captain Sir J. C. Ross, R.N., F.R.S., during the years 1839 to 1843. E. W. Janson, London. [Pages 53-74 published in 1846.]

Mordacia Gray 1851

etymology not explained, likely derived from *mordax* (L.), biting, referring to specific name of *M. mordax*

***Mordacia lapicida* (Gray 1851)** *lapis* (L.), stone; *-cida* (L.), cut or kill, i.e., stonecutter, allusion not evident but possibly referring to its parasitic behavior

***Mordacia mordax* (Richardson 1846)** Latin for biting, perhaps referring to its parasitic behavior and/or serrated, cutting teeth

***Mordacia praecox* Potter 1968** Latin for premature, referring to its “precocious nature of sexual development,” wherein newly metamorphosed ammocoetes become sexually mature without first reaching their adult parasitic phase