Order ANGUILLIFORMES (part 2 of 3)

Family OPHICHTHIDAE Snake Eels and Worm Eels

66 genera/subgenera · 348 species

Subfamily Ophichthinae Snake Eels

Allips McCosker 1972
allos, another; ipo, worm, i.e., a worm-shaped eel in addition to Ecips, described in the same paper

Allips concolor McCosker 1972
colored uniformly, referring to uniform brown color in isopropanol

Aplatophis Böhlke 1956
aplatus, terrible or unapproachable, referring to fearsome appearance of large mouth and “extremely highly developed” dentition; ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like shape

Aplatophis chauliodus Böhlke 1956
chauliodus, referring to deep-sea genus Chauliodus (Stomiidae); odon, tooth, referring to prominent, tusky teeth that both genera feature

Aplatophis zorro McCosker & Robertson 2001
“for the remarkable coloration of the pore pattern along the face, reminiscent of the slash mark of the swordsman Zorro”

Aprognathodon Böhlke 1967
a-, without; pro-, in front of; gnathos, jaw; odon, tooth, referring to lack of anterior teeth in upper jaw

Aprognathodon platyventris Böhlke 1967
platys, flat; ventralis, of the belly, referring to flattened pre-anal region

Apterichtus Duméril 1806
a-, without, pteron, fin, referring to absence of fins; ichtus, variant spelling of ichthys, fish

Apterichtus anguiformis (Peters 1877)
Anguis, slow worm genus; formis, shape, referring to elongate, worm-like body

Apterichtus ansp (Böhlke 1968)
abbreviation for Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where Böhlke worked and where holotype is housed

Apterichtus australis McCosker & Randall 2005
southern, referring to distribution in South Pacific (Rapa, Pitcairn, Easter and Kermadec islands)

Apterichtus caecus (Linnaeus 1758)
blind, referring to small eyes under skin, which Linnaeus thought were incapable of sight (“Oculos nullus video”)

Apterichtus dunalailai McCosker & Hibino 2015
Fijian (known from Vanuatu and Fiji) for a small eel, referring to its size (up to 289 mm)

Apterichtus equatorialis (Myers & Wade 1941)
equatorial, referring to type locality north of Barrington Island, Galapagos, near equator

Apterichtus flavicaudus (Snyder 1904)
flavus, yellow; caudus, tail, referring to “lemon yellow” color on posterior half of body in living specimens

Apterichtus gracilis (Kaup 1856)
thin, “thinner and more elongated” (translation) than Ichthyapus acutirostris

Apterichtus hatookai Hibino, Shibata & Kimura 2014
in honor of Kiyotaka Hatooka, ichthyological curator, Osaka Museum of Natural History, for his contribution to the taxonomy of Japanese anguilliform fishes

Apterichtus jeffwilliamsi McCosker & Hibino 2015
in honor of ichthyologist Jeffrey T. Williams, U.S. National Museum of Natural History, who collected type

Apterichtus kendalli (Gilbert 1891)
in honor of William C. Kendall (1861-1939), naturalist aboard U. S. Fish Commission schooner Grampus, which collected type
Apterichtus klazingai (Weber 1913)
in honor of M. D. Klazinga, the brave (“vaillaint”) chief mechanical officer of the Siboga, to whom the expedition, which collected type, owes much

Apterichtus malabar McCosker & Hibino 2015
referring to Malabar, NSW, Australia, type locality

Apterichtus monodi (Roux 1966)
in honor of ichthyologist-hydrobiologist Christian Lévêque, ORSTOM (Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d'Outre-Mer), who initiated a research program on the freshwater fishes of west Africa

Apterichtus moseri (Jordan & Snyder 1901)
in honor of Jefferson Franklin Moser (1848-1934), U.S. Navy, for his “valued services to ichthyology” as commander of the U.S. Fish Commission steamer Albatross, which collected type

Apterichtus mysi McCosker & Hibino 2015
in honor of Mysi Hoang, Curatorial and Administrative Assistant, California Academy of Sciences, for her many contributions to ichthyology

Apterichtus nariculus McCosker & Hibino 2015
diminutive of naris, nostril, referring to its minute anterior nostrils

Apterichtus orientalis Machida & Ohta 1994
eastern, referring to type locality in the Far East (Japan)

Apterichtus succinus Hibino, McCosker & Kimura 2016
amber, referring to its coloration and shape of head and nape markings (vivid reddish oval or circular spots)

Bascanichthys Jordan & Davis 1891
Bascanion (=Coluber), black snake genus (see below); ichthys, fish

Bascanichthys bascanium (Jordan 1884)
Bascanion (=Coluber), black snake genus, “which the body much resembles,” Jordan wrote in 1896, from the Greek baskanos, malignant

Bascanichthys bascanoides Osburn & Nichols 1916
-oides, having the form of, i.e., “close to” B. bascanium

Bascanichthys ceciliae Blache & Cadenat 1971
matronym not identified, nor can identity be inferred from available information

Bascanichthys cylindricus Meek & Hildebrand 1923
cylindrical, presumably referring to more terete shape compared to B. panamensis

Bascanichthys deraniyagalai Menon 1961
in honor of paleontologist-zoologist Paules Edward Pieris Deraniyagala (1899-1976), Director, National Museum, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)

Bascanichthys fijiensis (Seale 1935)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Suva, Fiji Islands, type locality

Bascanichthys filaria (Günther 1872)
etymology not explained but probably filum, thread, root of slender, thread-like genus of nematode worms, Filaria, referring to “considerably greater slenderness” compared to Ophichthys (=Bascanichthys) longipinnis and O. (=B.) kirkii

Bascanichthys gaira Moreno, Acero P. & Grijalba-Bendeck 2016
named for Bahía de Gaira (Gaira Bay), Santa Marta, Colombia, type locality

Bascanichthys inopinatus McCosker, Böhle & Böhle 1989
unexpected, as the authors originally considered specimens of this eel to be an aberrant or geographically variant form of B. paulensis and “did not initially expect to describe this as a new species”

Bascanichthys kirkii (Günther 1870)
in honor of John Kirk (1832-1922), Scottish physician, naturalist and explorer, who presented specimens to the British Museum (Natural History)

Bascanichthys longipinnis (Kner & Steindachner 1867)
longus, long; pinnis, fin, referring to length of dorsal fin, which begins before gill slit

Bascanichthys myersi (Herre 1932)
in honor of Stanford University ichthyologist George S. Myers (1905-1985), who first noticed what is evidently an undeveloped pectoral fin at posterior margin of each gill opening

Bascanichthys panamensis Meek & Hildebrand 1923
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Panama, type locality
Bascanichthys paulensis Storey 1939
-ensis, suffix denoting place: São Paulo, Brazil, type locality

Bascanichthys pusillus Seale 1917
very small, allusion uncertain, perhaps referring to “slim” body or to “very minute” pectoral fins

Bascanichthys scuticaris (Goode & Bean 1880)
scutica, whip, presumably referring to elongate, whip-like shape

Bascanichthys sibogae (Weber 1913)
of the ship Siboga and Indonesian expedition (1898-1899) of same name, during which type was collected

Brachysomophis Kaup 1856
brachys, short, soma, body, allusion unclear, perhaps referring to moderately elongate body compared to more elongate body of most ophichthines; ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like shape

Brachysomophis atlanticus Blache & Saldanha 1972
-icus, belonging to: Atlantic Ocean, this species representing the first Atlantic occurrence of a largely Pacific genus

Brachysomophis cirrocheilos (Bleeker 1857)
cirrus, tendril; cheilos, lip, referring to numerous prominent barbels on lips

Brachysomophis crocodilinus (Bennett 1833)
referring to its imposing long jaws, which give the eel the appearance of a crocodile

Brachysomophis henshawi Jordan & Snyder 1904
in honor of ornithologist Henry W. Henshaw (1850-1930) of Hilo, Hawai‘i, to whom the authors are “indebted for several rare specimens”

Brachysomophis longipinnis McCosker & Randall 2001
longus, long; pinna, fin, referring to elongate pectoral fins

Caecula Vahl 1794
blind, referring to skin-covered eyes, which are “so small that they are very hard to find in dead specimens” and “might easily be interpreted as pores” (translations)

Caecula pterygera Vahl 1794
diminutive of pteryx, fin, referring to presence of dorsal and anal fins compared to complete absence of fins on C. apertypia (=Apterichtus caecus), described in same paper

Callechelys Kaup 1856
kallas, beauty, probably referring to “handsome” (translation) appearance of C. guichenoti (=marmorata); enchelys, ancient Greek for eel

Callechelys bilinearis Kanazawa 1952
br-, two; linearis, lined, referring to two dark lateral stripes along body

Callechelys bitaeniata (Peters 1877)
br-, two; taeniata, striped or banded, presumably referring to wide, dark brown stripe running from mid-head to tail, stopping at dorsal fin base below a narrow, pale stripe above base

Callechelys catostoma (Schneider 1801)
cato, inferior; stoma, mouth, referring to overhanging lower jaw

Callechelys cliffl Böhke & Briggs 1954
in honor of herpetologist and Stanford University graduate student Frank S. Cliff (1928-2000), who captured type (J. C. Briggs, pers. comm.)

Callechelys eristigma McCosker & Rosenblatt 1972
eri, very; stigma, spot, referring to numerous dark spots on body and dorsal fin

Callechelys galapagensis McCosker & Rosenblatt 1972
-ensis, suffix denoting place: the Galapagos Islands, only known locality

Callechelys guineensis (Osório 1893)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Guinea, former Portuguese colony that included Cape Verde Islands, type locality

Callechelys kuro (Kuroda 1947)
Japanese for black, probably referring to purplish-black coloration

Callechelys leucoptera (Cadenat 1954)
leucos, white; ptera, fin, referring to “creamy white” and/or “very clear” (translations) fins
Callechelys lutea Snyder 1904  
yellow, referring to lemon-yellow mottling on upper body and dorsal fin

Callechelys maculatus Chu, Wu & Jin 1981  
spotted, stained or marked, presumably referring to more than 10 indistinct black transverse bands on body

Callechelys marmorata (Bleeker 1854)  
marbled, referring to chocolate to black spots overlain with large black blotches on body and fins

Callechelys muraena Jordan & Evermann 1887  
being stouter and therefore more like the moray genus Muraena in form and color than C. (=Basinichthys) scuticaris and C. (=B.) bascanium

Callechelys papulosa McCosker 1998  
blistered or pimpled, referring to small acne-like round pits on lower jaw, cheeks, nape and dorsal surface of head and branchial basket

Callechelys randalli McCosker 1998  
in honor of ichthyologist John E. Randall (b. 1924), Bishop Museum (Honolulu), friend and collector of this and many of the specimens included in McCosker’s 1998 revision of the genus

Callechelys springeri (Ginsburg 1951)  
in honor of shark expert Stewart Springer (1906-1991), who obtained type from stomach of shark

Caralophia Böhlke 1955  
karu, head; lophia, mane, i.e., back fin, referring to anterior origin of dorsal fin

Caralophia loxochila Böhlke 1955  
laxus, slanting or oblique; chilos, lip or rim, referring to conspicuous flange on either side of lower jaw

Chauligenion McCosker & Okamoto 2016  
chaulis, prominent; genion, chin, referring to obtusive lower jaw

Chauligenion camelopardalis McCosker & Okamoto 2016  
camellus, camel; pardus, leopard, together forming ancient name of giraffe, referring to giraffe-like coloration

Cirrhimuraena Kaup 1856  
cirrus, tendril, referring to short, irregular barbels on edge of upper lip; muraena, moray (which it is not), allusion unknown, possibly used as a standard suffix for an eel

Subgenus Cirrhimuraena

Cirrhimuraena calamus (Günther 1870)  
reed, possibly referring to brownish, thin, reed-like shape, with tail twice length of body

Cirrhimuraena cheilopogon (Bleeker 1860)  
cheilos, lip; pogon, beard, referring to numerous barbels on upper lip

Cirrhimuraena chinensis Kaup 1856  
-ensis, suffix denoting place: China, type locality

Cirrhimuraena paucidens Herre & Myers 1931  
paucus, few or little; dens, teeth, presumably referring to distinctive “group of a few small teeth” on maxillary plate beneath tip of snout and/or single rows of small teeth each on vomer and mandible

Cirrhimuraena tapeinoptera Bleeker 1863  
tapeinos, lowly; pteras, fin, allusion unclear, possibly referring to poorly developed dorsal and anal fins compared to Ophisurus (=Cirrhimuraena) cheilopogon and an unknown (name only) species, Ophisurus polyodon

Cirrhimuraena yuanding Tang & Zhang 2003  
in honor of Zhu Yuan-Ding (1896-1986), “China’s leading authority on ichthyology and fishery science” [presumably a noun in apposition, without the patronymic “i”]

Subgenus Jenkinsiella Jordan & Evermann 1905  
éilla, diminutive connoting endearment: in honor of Oliver Peebles Jenkins (1850-1933), physiology professor, Stanford University, who described many Hawaiian fishes, including type of subgenus, Microdonophis macgregori (=Cirrhimuraena playfairii)

Cirrhimuraena inhacae (Smith 1962)  
of Inhaca, Mozambique, type locality

Cirrhimuraena oliveri (Seale 1910)  
patronym not identified but probably in honor of physiology professor Oliver Peebles Jenkins (1850-1933), who worked with Seale at Stanford University and described many Hawaiian fishes
Cirrhimuraena playfairii (Günther 1870)
in honor of Lieut.-Col. Robert Lambert Playfair (1828-1899), British Consul to the Sultanate of Oman in Zanzibar (Tanzania), who presented type to the British Museum (Natural History)

Incertae sedis
Cirrhimuraena orientalis Nguyen 1993
eastern, probably referring to Vietnamese distribution

Cirriculaecula Schultz 1953
cirri, referring to cirri on edges of upper lip; closely related to Caecula

Cirriculaecula johnsoni Schultz 1953
in honor of oceanographer Martin W. Johnson (1893-1984), Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who participated in Schultz' 1946 field work

Cirriculaecula macdowelli McCosker & Randall 1993
in honor of Michael McDowell (note latinization of “Mc” to “Mac”), “tour operator and bon vivant, who has taken us to remote outposts in search of rare specimens” and “diver, explorer and friend”

Dalophis Rafinesque 1810
dal, meaning unknown, possibly derived from Dalmatia, then a country on the east side of the Adriatic Sea, within range of type, Dalophis serpa (=imberbis); ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like shape

Dalophis boulengeri (Blache, Cadenat & Stauch 1970)
in honor of ichthyologist-herpetologist George A. Boulenger (1858-1937), who first reported the presence of this eel off the coast of West Africa in 1915 but incorrectly identified it as Sphagebranchus (=Dalophis) cephalopeltis

Dalophis cephalopeltis (Bleeker 1863)
cephalus, head; pelta, small shield, allusion not evident; name apparently coined by zoologist Hermann Schlegel (1804-1884) in an unpublished manuscript

Dalophis imberbis (Delaroche 1809)
beardless, referring to absence of cirri on snout

Dalophis multidentatus Blache & Bauchot 1972
multi-, many; dentatus, toothed, presumably referring to more teeth compared to D. imberbis and D. boulengeri

Dalophis obtusirostris Blache & Bauchot 1972
obtusus, blunt; rostris, snout, presumably referring to less prominent snout compared to congeners

Echelus Rafinesque 1810
presumably a variant spelling of echis, viper or adder, referring to snake-like appearance

Echelus myrus (Linnaeus 1758)
ancient name of this species

Echelus pachyrhynchos (Vaillant 1888)
pachys, thick; rostris, snout, probably referring to short, rounded and “swollen” or “bulging” (translation) snout

Echelus polyspondylus McCosker & Ho 2015
poly, many; spondylus, vertebrae, having more vertebrae than any of its congeners

Echelus uropterus (Temminck & Schlegel 1846)
ona, tail; pterus, fin, referring to confluence of dorsal and anal fins with caudal fin, which, in effect, creates appearance of one long tail fin extending around body

Echlophis Kaup 1856
echis, adder or viper; ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, both referring to snake-like appearance

Echlophis bruneus (Castro-Aguirre & Suárez de los Cobos 1983)
brown, referring to uniformly dark brown coloration

Echlophis intertinctus (Richardson 1848)
ter, between; tinctus, colored, allusion not evident

Echlophis mordax (Poey 1860)
biting, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to stronger, larger teeth compared to smaller teeth of two congrid eels Poey said were clearly different: Conger analis (=Arisoma anale) and C. impressus (=Ariosoma balearicum)

Echlophis punctifer (Kaup 1860)
punctum, spot; fero, to carry or bear, referring to numerous small brown spots on body
Ethadophis Rosenblatt & McCosker 1970

tethas, customary or ordinary, referring to “lack of outstanding morphological characters”; ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like appearance

Ethadophis akkistikos McCosker & Böhlke 1984

Greek for pretending indifference, referring to coy appearance of face

Ethadophis byrnei Rosenblatt & McCosker 1970

in honor of the late John Byrne, a San Diego resident who was walking on the beach during low tide when the type specimen stuck its head out of the wet sand; he grabbed it and brought it to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where it was identified as a new species (and remains the only known specimen; John E. McCosker, pers. comm.)

Ethadophis merenda Rosenblatt & McCosker 1970

Latin for afternoon snack, referring to type being taken from the stomach of a White Sea Bass, Cynoscion nobilis

Evips McCosker 1972

eu-, good, Latinized to ev- for euphony; ips, worm, referring to general worm-like appearance of this “charming eel”

Evips percincus McCosker 1972

per-, very; cinctus, girdle or belt, referring to 16 brown saddles on upper half of body

Gordiichthys Jordan & Davis 1891

Gordius, horsehair worm genus, named after Gordius, king whose complicated (“Gordian”) knot was cut by Alexander, referring to thin, elongate body; ichthys, fish

Gordiichthys combibus McCosker & Lavenberg 2001

combibe, to drink with a companion, referring to sibling nature of this eastern Pacific species to its Atlantic congener G. randalli

Gordiichthys ergodes McCosker, Böhlke & Böhlke 1989

irksome or troublesome, referring to “difficulties this new species has created with our previous concept of generic limits” between Gordiichthys, Allips, Phaenomonas and Ethadophis

Gordiichthys irretitus Jordan & Davis 1891

entangled, probably referring to appearance of partially digested type specimen found in the “spewings” of snappers (Lutjanus aya)

Gordiichthys leibyi McCosker & Böhlke 1984

in honor of Mark M. Leiby (b. 1944), friend and apodal ichthyologist

Gordiichthys randalli McCosker & Böhlke 1984

in honor of ichthyologist John E. Randall (b. 1924), Bishop Museum (Honolulu), friend and collector of type specimens

Hemerorhinus Weber & de Beaufort 1916

hemerus, cultivated; rhinos, snout, allusion unclear, perhaps referring to pointed snout projecting beyond mouth

Hemerorhinus heyningi (Weber 1913)

patronym (also spelled heijnigi) not identified but clearly in honor of Lieut. Cornelis E. Hoorens van Heyningen, an officer aboard the Siboga expedition that collected type

Hemerorhinus opici Blache & Bauchot 1972

in honor of Pierre Opic, who provided the illustrations for Blache’s African anguilliform monographs

Herpetoichthys Kaup 1856

herpeton, snake, referring to snake-like appearance; ichthys, fish

Herpetoichthys fossatus (Myers & Wade 1941)

dug, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to burrowing behavior in soft-bottom habitats

Herpetoichthys regius (Richardson 1848)

royal, perhaps referring to distinctive coloration (brown markings on pale background), but since type had “been immersed in spirits many years, and many of its markings have doubtless disappeared,” such a presumption can easily be questioned

Hyphalophis McCosker & Böhlke 1982

hyphalos, submerged under the sea, referring to “extraordinary” depth of capture (293-366 m) of type; ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like appearance

Hyphalophis devius McCosker & Böhlke 1982

off the main way or highway, referring to two unique characteristics: quadriserial rows of maxillary dentition and a lateral line that abruptly arches and abuts lateral line from other side on top of head

Ichthyapus Brisout de Barneville 1847

ichthys, fish; apous, without foot, referring to lack of fins
Ichthyapus acuticeps (Barnard 1923)  
*acutus*, pointed; *ceps*, head, referring to pointed snout and, hence, pointed head

Ichthyapus acutirostris Brisout de Barneville 1847  
*acutus*, pointed; *rostris*, snout, referring to pointed snout

Ichthyapus insularis McCosker 2004  
of an island, referring to Ascension Island, South Atlantic Ocean, where it appears to be endemic

Ichthyapus keramanus (Machida, Hashimoto & Yamakawa 1997)  
*-anus*, belonging to: known only from type locality, Kerama Island, Okinawa, Japan

Ichthyapus ophioneus (Evermann & Marsh 1900)  
*-eus*, having the quality of: *ophis*, snake, referring to snake-like appearance

Ichthyapus platyrhynchus (Gosline 1951)  
*platy*, flat; *rhynchus*, snout, referring to how snout forms a flattened triangle in cross section

Ichthyapus selachops (Jordan & Gilbert 1882)  
*selachos*, shark; *ops*, face, referring to “remarkably shark-like” physiognomy created by nostrils on lower side of snout, which projects over mouth

Ichthyapus vulturis (Weber & de Beaufort 1916)  
*named after the Dutch Government Fisheries Investigation ship Gier (=vulture), which collected type*

Kertomichthys McCosker & Böhlke 1982  
*kertomios*, mocking, referring to facial expression (down-turned snout and forward eye position) of type species and difficulty it has caused ichthyologists trying to understand its relationships; *ichthys*, fish

Kertomichthys blastorhinos (Kanazawa 1963)  
*blastos*, bud; *rhinos*, nose, referring to clavate snout

Lamnostoma Kaup 1856  
etymology not explained, presumably *lamno*, voracious fish or shark; *stoma*, mouth, referring to voracious or shark-like appearance of mouth

Lamnostoma kampeni (Weber & de Beaufort 1916)  
in honor of herpetologist Pieter Nicolaas Van Kampen (1878-1937), who collected type

Lamnostoma mindora (Jordan & Richardson 1908)  
*named after Mindoro Island, Philippines, type locality*

Lamnostoma orientale (McClelland 1844)  
eternally, typically the Far East or Orient, probably referring to Coromandel Coast of India, type locality

Lamnostoma polyophthalmum (Bleeker 1853)  
*poly*, many; *ophthallos*, eye, probably referring to double row of yellow, round spots on head and nape

Lamnostoma taiwanense Chiu, Huang & Shao 2018  
*-ensis*, suffix denoting place: known only from Lan-yang River, northeastern Taiwan

Lamnostoma taylori (Herre 1923)  
in honor of herpetologist Edward H. Taylor (1889-1978), “student of Philippine reptiles and amphibia” (and Chief of Fisheries in the Philippines)

Leiuranus Bleeker 1853  
*leuvs*, smooth; *uraos*, relating to roof of mouth, referring to toothless vomer

Leiuranus semicinctus (Lay & Bennett 1839)  
*semi-*; *cinctus*, belt or girdle, referring to “fascia-like patches of dark-brown, which do not surround the body, but are interrupted on the under surface”

Leiuranus versicolor (Richardson 1848)  
*variegated or of various colors, referring to 27 purplish-brown rings, which are further divided more or less completely by narrower white lines or imperfect circles*

Leptenchelys Myers & Wade 1941  
*leptos*, thin, referring to elongate body; *enchelys*, ancient Greek for eel

Leptenchelys vermiciformis Myers & Wade 1941  
*vermis*, worm; *formis*, shape, referring to wormlike shape

Letharchus Goode & Bean 1882  
*lethos*, to forget; *archos*, anus, referring to lack of anal fin
Letharchus aliculatus McCosker 1974
-atus, provided with: alicula, a light upper garment, referring to cream and pale tan coloration of body and fins

Letharchus rosenblatti McCosker 1974
in honor of Richard H. Rosenblatt (1930-2014), Scripps Institution of Oceanography, for contributions to the study of apodal fishes and the education of ichthyologists

Letharchus velifer Goode & Bean 1882
velum, sail; fero, to bear, referring to unusually high dorsal fin, height at nape equaling distance from tip of lower jaw to angle of mouth

Lethogoleos McCosker & Böhleke 1982
lethos, to forget; goleos, hole or pricking, referring to unique absence of several cephalic pores

Lethogoleos andersoni McCosker & Böhleke 1982
in honor of William D. Anderson, Jr. (b. 1933), Grice Marine Biological Laboratory (Charleston, South Carolina, USA), friend and ichthyologist, who made specimens available to authors

Leuropharus Rosenblatt & McCosker 1970
leuros, smooth; pharos, plow, referring to toothless vomerine shaft

Leuropharus lasiops Rosenblatt & McCosker 1970
lasius, bearded; ops, face, referring to numerous papillae on snout and lips

Luthulenchelys McCosker 2007
in honor of Chief Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli (ca. 1898-1967) of KwaZulu-Natal, Africa’s first winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and former President of the African National Congress; enchelys, ancient Greek for eel

Luthulenchelys heemstraorum McCosker 2007
-arum, commemorative suffix, plural: in honor of ichthyologists Phillip C. (1941-2019) and Elaine Heemstra, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, for their “efforts to understand, illustrate, and explain the fishes of the Indian Ocean to scientists and the general public”

Malvoliophis Whitley 1934
Malvolio, Lady Olivia’s steward in Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night, referring to banded coloration of M. pinguis, suggestive of cross-gartered legs and yellow socks worn by him; ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like appearance

Malvoliophis pinguis (Günther 1872)
fat, possibly referring to body being shorter than tail

Myrichthys Girard 1859
referring to affinity to the genus Myrus (=Echelus); ichthys, fish

Myrichthys aspetocheiros McCosker & Rosenblatt 1993
aspetos, unspeakably great; cheiros, hand, referring to elongate pectoral fin, longer than snout

Myrichthys breviceps (Richardson 1848)
brevis, short; ceps, head, “remarkable for its short blunt head”

Myrichthys colubrinus (Boddaert 1781)
snake-like, referring to extreme similarity to banded sea snakes that occupy shallow coral reefs over much (but not all) of its range
Myrichthys maculosus (Cuvier 1816)  
spotted, referring to brown to brownish-black spots, usually larger than eye, on head and body

Myrichthys magnificus (Abbott 1860)  
splendid, presumably referring to attractive appearance of chocolate-brown spots

Myrichthys ocelatus (Lesueur 1825)  
having little eyes, referring to eyelike spots (dark with small bright centers) on body

Myrichthys paleracio McCosker & Allen 2012  
in honor of dive guide and underwater photographer Peri Paleracio, who collected type [a noun in apposition, without the patronymic “i”]

Myrichthys pantostigmius Jordan & McGregor 1898  
\textit{panto}-, whole or entire; \textit{stigma}, spot, referring to numerous large brown to brownish-black spots along sides, at base of dorsal fin, and “covering the whole belly”

Myrichthys pardalis (Valenciennes 1839)  
like a leopard, presumably referring to brown spots with bright centers on body

Myrichthys tigrinus Girard 1859  
like a tiger, allusion not explained, presumably referring to rounded, dark spots on a brownish olive background [although tigers are striped and not spotted, \textit{tigrinus} is sometimes used to connote “tiger-like spots”]

Myrichthys xysturus (Jordan & Gilbert 1882)  
xyston, spike; \textit{oura}, tail, referring to pointed tail with sharp tip

Mystriophis Kaup 1856  
mystrix, spoon, referring to snout shape of \textit{M. rostellatus}; \textit{ophis}, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like appearance

Mystriophis crosnieri Blache 1971  
in honor of carcinologist Alain Crosnier, for his many collections [he initiated many deepwater trawl surveys, see \textit{Dipturus crosnieri}, Rajidae] and “many informed opinions” (translation)

Mystriophis porphyreus (Temminck & Schlegel 1846)  
purplish, referring to purple-brown dorsal coloration in life

Mystriophis rostellatus (Richardson 1848)  
beaked, presumably referring to narrow, rounded snout

Ophichthus Ahl 1789  
\textit{ophis}, snake, referring to snake-like appearance; \textit{ichthy}, fish

Subgenus \textit{Ophichthus}

\textit{Ophichthus maculatus} (Rafinesque 1810)  
spotted, referring to scattered spots on body

\textit{Ophichthus ophis} (Linnaeus 1758)  
\textit{ophis}, snake, referring to snake-like appearance

\textit{Ophichthus rugifer} Jordan & Bollman 1890  
\textit{ruga}, wrinkle or crease; \textit{fero}, to bear, referring to longitudinal striations obvious on larger specimens

\textit{Ophichthus triserialis} (Kaup 1856)  
\textit{tri}-, three; \textit{serialis}, rowed, referring to two rows of large, round spots on dorsal fin and lateral line, and a third row going as far as anus

\textit{Ophichthus zophochir} Jordan & Gilbert 1882  
zophos, darkness; \textit{cheiros}, hand, referring to occasionally black pectoral fin on adults

Subgenus \textit{Centrurophis} Kaup 1856  
\textit{centrum}, point, presumably referring to hard caudal tip (sharply pointed in some species, blunt in others); \textit{ophis}, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like appearance

\textit{Ophichthus bonaparti} (Kaup 1856)  
in honor of biologist Charles Lucien Bonaparte (1803-1857), who supplied type

\textit{Ophichthus brasiliensis} (Kaup 1856)  
\textit{-ensis}, suffix denoting place: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, type locality (though possibly erroneous)

\textit{Ophichthus cephalozona} Bleeker 1864  
\textit{cephalus}, head; \textit{zonus}, band, referring to broad black band across nape
Subgenus *Coecilophis* Kaup 1856
*coecil*-, etymology not explained and meaning unknown, perhaps a variant spelling of *caecilian*, the snake-like amphibian, which type species, *C. comphor* (= *O. apicalis*), superficially resembles; *ophis*, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like appearance

**Ophichthus alleni** McCosker 2010
in honor of Gerald R. Allen (b. 1942), Western Australia Museum (Perth), for his “numerous and diverse contributions to the knowledge of fishes of Australia and beyond”

**Ophichthus aniptocheilos** McCosker 2010
*aniptos*, unwashed; *cheilos*, lips, referring to brown speckling along edge of lips

**Ophichthus apicalis** (Anonymous [Bennett] 1830)
apex or point, referring to how dorsal, anal and caudal fins converge to form a pointed tail

**Ophichthus brachynotopterus** Karrer 1982
*brachys*, short; *notos*, back; *pterus*, fin, presumably referring to posterior dorsal-fin origin, making for a shorter dorsal fin

**Ophichthus congroides** McCosker 2010
*oides*, having the form of: referring to similarity of posterior nostril, which opens within outer lip, to that of some congrids

**Ophichthus echeloides** (D’Ancona 1928)
*oides*, having the form of: described from leptocephalus presumed to be in the family Echelidae (= Ophichthidae)

**Ophichthus exourus** McCosker 1999
ending in a tapered point, referring to how robust body tapers evenly to tail tip

**Ophichthus genie** McCosker 1999
in honor of Eugenia (Genie) B. Böhlke (1929-2001), Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, “friend and contributor to knowledge of apodal fishes”

**Ophichthus hirritus** McCosker 2010
to snarl like a dog, referring to how jaw teeth are exposed and lips do not meet when mouth is closed

**Ophichthus humanni** McCosker 2010
in honor of Paul Humann (b. 1937), underwater photographer, author and friend, who has “generously aided ichthyologists with his photographs and observations”

**Ophichthus ishiyamorum** McCosker 2010
*orum*, commemorative suffix, plural: in honor of sibling philanthropists Nelson (b. 1944) and Patsy (b. 1937) Ishiyama for their interest in, and generous support of, ichthyological research

**Ophichthus kunaloa** McCosker 1979
Kuna Loa, the Long Eel, of ancient Hawaiian legends, whose cut tail evolved into to the common conger eel and whose blood gave rise to all other Hawaiian eels (“This, clearly,” McCosker wrote, “was the first attempt at a phylogenetic interpretation of Hawaiian anguilliforms.”)

**Ophichthus lentiginosus** McCosker 2010
freckled, referring to fine dark freckles over entire body

**Ophichthus machidai** McCosker, Ide & Endo 2012
in honor of ichthyologist Yoshihiko Machida, who guided second author (Sachiko Ide) through her thesis at Kochi University, Kochi, Japan

**Ophichthus mccoskeri** Sumod, Hibino, Manjubrayakath & Sanjeevan 2019
in honor of John E. McCosker (b. 1945), California Academy of Sciences, for his “immense contributions to ophichthid eel systematics and phylogeny”

**Ophichthus megalops** Asano 1987
*mega*-, large; *ops*, eye, referring to its “remarkably” large eyes

**Ophichthus microstictus** McCosker 2010
*mikros*, small; *stiktos*, punctures, referring to minute cephalic pores

**Ophichthus mystacinus** McCosker 1999
mustachioed, referring to high density of dark spots surrounding base of anterior nostril tubes, “appearing like a faint mustache”

**Ophichthus naga** McCosker & Psomadakis 2018
Nāga, a seagoing, serpentine dragon-like being in Buddhism that has great powers; they are able to swim through the earth as if it was water, a behavior not unlike that of ophichthid snake eels

**Ophichthus obtusus** McCosker, Ide & Endo 2012
blunt, referring to short and conical snout
Ophichthus serpentinus Seale 1917
serpentine, probably referring to elongate, cylindrical and, hence, snake-like shape

Ophichthus shaoi McCosker & Ho 2015
in honor of ichthyologist and marine ecologist Kwang-Tsao Shao (b. 1951), Biodiversity Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Ophichthus tomioi McCosker 2010
in honor of friend and colleague Tomio Iwamoto (b. 1939), California Academy of Sciences, who captured holotype

Ophichthus urolophus (Temminck & Schlegel 1846)
oura, tail; lophus, mane or crest, referring to elevated posterior portions of vertical (dorsal and anal) fins (which, as in all eels, converge at the tail)

Subgenus Microdonophis Kaup 1856
micro-, small, odon, teeth, referring to minute but sharp teeth; ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like appearance

Ophichthus altipennis (Kaup 1856)
altus, high; pennis, fin, referring to greatly developed fins, especially high dorsal fin

Ophichthus erabo (Jordan & Snyder 1901)
Japanese name of venomous sea snake Platurus fasciatus (=Laticauda colubrina), which it resembles

Ophichthus polyophthalmus Bleeker 1864
poly, many; ophthalmos, eye, referring to numerous ocellated (eyelike) spots on head and body

Ophichthus zophistius (Jordan & Snyder 1901)
zopherus, dusky; istios, sail, referring to “posteriorly dusky” dorsal fin, with a broad black edge

Subgenus Omochelys Fowler 1918
ome-, rough (Fowler said “cruel,”) referring to “savage habits” of O. cruentifer (see below); chelys, water-serpent or eel

Ophichthus aphotistos McCosker & Chen 2000
dark or obscure, referring to both black coloration in life (grayish-brown to black in ethanol) and deepwater (700-800 m) habitat

Ophichthus cruentifer (Goode & Bean 1896)
sanguinary or cruel, reflecting the authors’ mistaken belief that it is a parasitic borer (specimens were found inside bodies of other fishes)

Ophichthus nansen McCosker & Psomadakis 2018
named after the EAF-Nansen Programme and in honor of Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930), “famous” Norwegian explorer and scientist for whom the programme and research vessel were named; since 1975, the “EAF-Nansen Programme has contributed to increasing the knowledge of global marine biodiversity while supporting developing countries in fisheries research and sustainable management of their resources throughout surveys at sea and capacity building” [a noun in apposition, without the patronymic “i”]

Ophichthus pullus McCosker 2005
dark-colored, referring to uniform gray-brown-to-black coloration in ethanol

Incertae sedis

Ophichthus apachus McCosker & Rosenblatt 1998
a-, without; pachus, thickness, referring to very slender and elongate body

Ophichthus arneutes McCosker & Rosenblatt 1998
arneuter, Greek for diver, referring to occurrence at depths of 434-557 m at the Galápagos Islands and use of Johnson Sea-Link submersible to collect type

Ophichthus asakusae Jordan & Snyder 1901
of the Asakusa Aquarium, Tokyo, Japan, which supplied type

Ophichthus bicolor McCosker & Ho 2015
two-colored, yellowish-tan body strongly contrasting with white throat and belly

Ophichthus brevicaudatus Chu, Wu & Jin 1981
brevis, short; cauda, tail, referring to shorter tail compared to O. stenopterus

Ophichthus brevirostris McCosker & Ross 2007
brevis, short; rostrum, snout, referring to short, blunt and rounded snout when viewed from above

Ophichthus celebicus (Bleeker 1856)
-icus, belonging to: Manado, Celebes (now Sulawesi), Indonesia, type locality
Ophichthus chilensis Chaudhuri 1916
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Chilka Lake (brackish water lagoon), Odisha, India, type locality

Ophichthus cylindroideus (Ranzani 1839)
-oides, having the form of: cylindros, cylinder, referring to body shape

Ophichthus fasciatus (Chu, Wu & Jin 1981)
banded, described as having more than 20 vertical black bands on body

Ophichthus fowleri (Jordan & Evermann 1903)
patronym not identified but certainly in honor of ichthyologist Henry Weed Fowler (1878-1965), Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and a student of Jordan's at Stanford University

Ophichthus frontalis Garman 1899
frontal, also used to indicate forehead, probably referring to “somewhat large” head

Ophichthus gomesii (Castelnau 1855)
in honor of Ildefonso Gomes, physician who cured Castelnau of a malady in Rio de Janeiro

Ophichthus grandoculis (Cantor 1849)
grandis, large; oculus, eye, referring to “comparatively large” eye, which “occupies nearly the whole space between the lip and the profile”

Ophichthus hyposagmatus McCosker & Böhlke 1984
hypo, somewhat; sagmatus, saddled, referring to 16 faint tan saddles along body

Ophichthus johnmccoskeri Mohapatra, Ray, Mohanty & Mishra 2018
in honor of John E. McCosker (b. 1945), California Academy of Sciences, for “vast” contributions to the taxonomy of ophichthid eels

Ophichthus kusanagi Hibino, McCosker & Tashiro 2019
named for the ancient holy sword kusanagi-no-tsurugi (one of the Three Imperial Regalia of Japan), which was used by the legendary Japanese prince Yamato Takeru no Mikoto (ca. 72-114) for cutting grass and avoiding disaster at Suruga-no-kuni (now Shizuoka Prefecture), where type locality (Suruga Bay) is situated

Ophichthus leonensis Blache 1975
-ensis, suffix denoting place: off the coast of Sierre Leone, type locality and only known distribution

Ophichthus limkouensis Chen 1929
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Limkou, Kwangtung, China, type locality

Ophichthus lithinus (Jordan & Richardson 1908)
marbled, like stone, referring to dark mottling on dorsal surface and sides, tending in places to form vague crossbands

Ophichthus longipenis McCosker & Rosenblatt 1998
longus, long; penis, tail, which is 74-80% of total length

Ophichthus lupus Hibino, McCosker & Tashiro 2019
wolf, referring to shape of snout (described as “long and acute”)

Ophichthus macrochir (Bleeker 1852)
macro-, long; cheirus, hand, referring to long pectoral fins, which measure ½ length of head

Ophichthus macrops Günther 1910
macro-, long; ops, eye, referring to large eye, ½ as long as snout and nearly ½ length of head

Ophichthus manilensis Herre 1923
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Manila, referring to Manila Bay, type locality (Cavite, Philippines), and/or to Tondo market in Manila, one of the type localities

Ophichthus marginatus (Peters 1855)
bordered, referring to black edge on dorsal fin

Ophichthus mecopterus McCosker & Rosenblatt 1998
mekos, length; ptera, fin, referring to elongate pectoral fins

Ophichthus melanoporus Kanazawa 1963
melano, black; porus, pore, referring to conspicuous black pores on head and lateral line

Ophichthus melope McCosker & Rosenblatt 1998
melan, black; ope, hole or cavity, referring to head pores conspicuously surrounded by rings, or melanophores

Ophichthus menezesi McCosker & Böhlke 1984
in honor of Brazilian ichthyologist Naercio A. Menezes (b. 1937), for his “generous contributions” of specimens, including the type of this one, to the authors’ eel research
Ophichthus microcephalus Day 1878
micro-, small; cephalus, head, referring to size of head compared to larger heads of two species Day believed were congener, Pisodonophis boro and Myrichthys colubrinus

Ophichthus oligosteus Hibino, McCosker & Tashiro 2019
oligo-, few; osteus, bone, having the fewest vertebrae (46 preanal and total 121) in the genus

Ophichthus omorgmus McCosker & Böhleke 1984
spotted, referring to conspicuous spots (i.e., black pores) around lateral line

Ophichthus pallens (Richardson 1848)
pale or pallid, referring to its “pale honey-yellow or faint wood-brown” coloration, “lighter on the belly, and without spots”

Ophichthus puncticeps (Kaup 1860)
punctus, speckled; -ceps, head, referring to characteristic pattern of white dots and dashes on snout and head

Ophichthus remiger (Valenciennes 1837)
-iger, to bear: apparent misspelling of ramiger, referring to Port Rame, Chile, type locality (likely currently known as Estero Rama, south of Valparaiso)

Ophichthus retrodorsalis Liu, Tang & Zhang 2010
retro-, behind; dorsalis, dorsal, referring to dorsal fin origin far behind tip of pectoral fins

Ophichthus rex Böhler & Caruso 1980
king, referring to preeminently large size (>2 m has been reported)

Ophichthus rotundus Lee & Asano 1997
round or circular, referring to almost completely cylindrical body shape

Ophichthus rufus (Rafinesque 1810)
reddish, referring to color of head (although one contemporary account says head color is yellow-brown)

Ophichthus rutidoderma (Bleeker 1852)
ruti-, variant spelling of rhytido-, wrinkled; derma, skin, referring to longitudinal furrows on skin

Ophichthus sangjuensis (Ji & Kim 2011)
-enus, suffix denoting place: Sangju, South Sea of Korea, type locality

Ophichthus singapurensis Bleeker 1864-65
-enus, suffix denoting place: Singapore, type locality

Ophichthus spinicauda (Norman 1922)
spina, thorn; cauda, tail, referring to short section of erect and thickened (“spinous”) rays in posterior segment of dorsal fin (near tail)

Ophichthus tchangi Tang & Zhang 2002
in honor of Tchunlin Tchang (1897-1963), “China’s leading authority on ichthyology and fishery science”

Ophichthus tetratrema McCosker & Rosenblatt 1998
tetra, four; trema, hole, referring to unique presence of four preopercular pores

Ophichthus unicolor Regan 1908
uni-, one, referring to uniformly brownish coloration
Ophichthus woosuitingi Chen 1929
in honor of S. T. (Sui-ting) Woo, Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou, China), assistant to Prof. H. N. Fey, who discovered species

Ophichthus yamakawai Hibino, McCosker & Tashiro 2019
in honor of Takeshi Yamakawa (b. 1942), Kochi University, a fish collecting specialist and ichthyologist, for his “great” contributions to taxonomy and the study of Japanese fishes

Ophisurus Lacepède 1800
ophis, snake; oura, tail, referring to pointed (i.e., snake-like) caudal fin of O. serpens

Ophisurus macrorhynchos Bleeker 1853
macro-, long; rhynchos, snout, referring to long, sharp snout

Ophisurus serpens (Linnaeus 1758)
snake, referring to serpentine shape and habits, and reflecting a vernacular (e.g., sea snake, serpent marin, serpent de mer) that dates to Aristotle

Paraletharchus McCosker 1974
para, near, representing a separate generic lineage from Letharchus, in which P. pacificus had previously been placed

Paraletharchus opercularis (Myers & Wade 1941)
referring to “pendulous, operculumlike fold of skin hanging down over and screening gill openings”

Paraletharchus pacificus (Osburn & Nichols 1916)
referring to distribution in the Eastern Pacific, compared to Gulf of Mexico distribution of presumed congener Letharchus velifer

Phaenomonas Myers & Wade 1941
phaneros, visible; monas, single, referring to absence of all fins except for “brief, anteriorly placed, well-defined dorsal fin”

Phaenomonas coopeareae Palmer 1970
in honor of Jane Cooper, who collected type while living at Betio, Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands (Kiribati, Western Pacific)

Phaenomonas foresti (Cadenat & Roux 1964)
in honor of carcinologist Jacques Forest (1920-2012), who led Calypso mission that collected type at Cape Verde Islands

Phaenomonas longissima (Cadenat & Marchal 1963)
longest, referring to extreme length (498 mm in type series, up to 553 mm known)

Phaenomonas pinnata Myers & Wade 1941
diminutive of pinn, fin, presumably referring to short, anteriorly placed dorsal fin

Phyllophichthus Gosline 1951
phyllon, leaf, referring to anterior nostrils with posterior borders extending downward into leaf-like appendages; Ophichthus, type genus of family

Phyllophichthus xenodontus Gosline 1951
xenos, strange; odontus, tooth, referring to dentition, different from all other ophichthids (two rows of conical teeth on internasal plate; single row of smaller teeth on inner border of each maxilla; no vomerine teeth; mandibular teeth large, uniserial, well outside of maxillary teeth and projecting directly laterally)

Pisodonophis Kaup 1856
pion, pea and odon, tooth, referring to granular, pea-shaped teeth; ophis, snake, conventional termination for generic names of snake eels, referring to snake-like appearance

Pisodonophis boro (Hamilton 1822)
Bengali vernacular for this eel, presumably derived from boro, a variety of rice, possibly alluding to this anadromous eel’s occurrence (and reported spawning) in rice paddies

Pisodonophis cancivorus (Richardson 1848)
cancer, crab; voratus, eat, allusion not explained but clearly referring to its feeding on crabs

Pisodonophis copelandi Herre 1953
in honor of botanist Edwin Bingham Copeland (1873-1964), founder of the Philippine College of Agriculture and friend to both Herre and the Philippine people

Pisodonophis daspilotus Gilbert 1898
da-, very; spilotus, stained, presumably referring to thick covering of black spots on head and body

Pisodonophis hijala (Hamilton 1822)
presumably Bengali vernacular for this eel

Pisodonophis hoeveni (Bleeker 1853)
in honor of the “famous” (translation) Dutch zoologist, Jan van der Hoeven (1801-1868)
Pisodonophis hypselopterus (Bleeker 1851)
*hypselo*, high; *pterus*, fin, referring to elevated dorsal and, especially, anal fins

Pisodonophis semicinctus (Richardson 1848)
*semi-*:, half; *cinctus*, belt or girdle, referring to 18 deep purplish-brown spots or bars that band around upper half of body, fading away below lateral line, except for last three, which encircle tail

Quassiremus Jordan & Davis 1891
*quassus*, obliterated; *remus*, oar, referring to minute pectoral fins

Quassiremus ascensionis (Studer 1889)
-is, genitive singular of: east of Ascension Island, South Atlantic Ocean, type locality

Quassiremus evionthas (Jordan & Bollman 1890)
*ev*-, latinization of *eu-*, well; *ionthas*, shaggy, but used here to mean freckled, referring to small black spots over body

Quassiremus nothochir (Gilbert 1890)
*notus*, spurious; *cheiros*, hand, referring to minute pectoral fins

Quassiremus polyclitellum Castle 1996
*poly*, many; *clitella*, saddle, referring to 16-20 prominent saddle-shaped bars across dorsum

Rhinophichthus McCosker 1999
*rhinos*, snout, referring to conical snout, tapering evenly to a sharp point; *Ophichthus*, type genus of family

Rhinophichthus penicillatus McCosker 1999
-atus, having the nature of: *penicillus*, pencil, referring to sharpened-pencil appearance of both ends

Scytalichthys Jordan & Davis 1891
*skytale*, viper, referring to snake-like appearance; *ichthys*, fish

Scytalichthys miurus (Jordan & Gilbert 1882)
curtailed, referring to "unusually short" tail

Stictorhinus Böhlke & McCosker 1975
*stiktos*, pricked or punctured; *rhinos*, nose, referring to tubeless anterior nostrils, which consist of hole with lateral fleshy projections into it

Stictorhinus potamius Böhlke & McCosker 1975
-is, pertaining to: *potamos*, river, referring to freshwater habitat (Amazon and Orinoco River basins)

Suculentophichthus Fricke, Golani & Appelbaum-Golani 2015
*suulentus*, succulent, referring to succulent-leaf shaped snout appendages, characteristic of genus; *Ophichthus*, type genus of family

Suculentophichthus nasus Fricke, Golani & Appelbaum-Golani 2015
*nasus*, nose, referring to its nose-like snout

Xestochilus McCosker 1998
*sesta*, shaven; *cheilus*, lip, referring to smooth (without a crease, split or barbel) upper lip

Xestochilus nebulosus (Smith 1962)
cloudy, referring to “variable dusky cloudings” over most of dorsal surface on larger, older specimens

Xyrias Jordan & Snyder 1901
a shaveling, referring to absence of cirri on lips

Xyrias chiouii McCosker, Chen & Chen 2009
in honor of Capt. Jiu-Shiun Chiou, who captured and donated this and other important eel specimens to the laboratory of the National Taiwan Ocean University

Xyrias guineensis (Blache 1975)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Gulf of Guinea, referring to type locality off Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo

Xyrias multiserialis (Norman 1939)
*multi-*-, many; *serialis*, rowed, presumably referring to multiserial maxillary dentition

Xyrias revulsus Jordan & Snyder 1901
smooth-shaven or twice plucked, referring to absence of cirri on lips

Yirrkala Whitley 1940
named for Yirrkala, Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland, Australia, type locality of type species, *Y. chaselingi*

Yirrkala calyptra McCosker 2011
Greek for veil, referring to distinctive black facial slash
**Yirrkala chaselingi** Whitley 1940
in honor of Rev. Wilbur S. Chaseling (1910-1989), Methodist missionary at Yirrkala, Australia (type locality), who “presented” type

**Yirrkala fusca** (Zuiew 1793)
dusky, referring to uniform dark coloration

**Yirrkala gjellerupi** (Weber & de Beaufort 1916)
in honor of Danish health officer Knud Gjellerup (1876-1950), who collected type

**Yirrkala insolitus** McCosker 1999
unusual or strange, referring to dorsal-fin origin far posterior to that of other *Yirrkala*, and to depth of capture (59 m), deeper than its shallow-water congeners

**Yirrkala kaupii** (Bleeker 1858)
in honor of naturalist (and apodal fish expert) Johann Jacob Kaup (1803-1873), for his many ichthyological discoveries

**Yirrkala lumbricoides** (Bleeker 1864)
-oides, having the form of: *lumbricus*, earthworm, referring to vermiform body shape

**Yirrkala macrodon** (Bleeker 1863)
macro-, large; odon, tooth, referring to larger, stronger teeth compared to *Sphagebranchus (= Lamnostoma) polyophthalma* and *S. (L.) bicolor* (the latter being a taxon of uncertain validity)

**Yirrkala maculata** (Klausewitz 1964)
spotted, referring to row of elongated dark brown spots above lateral line that gradually merge into each other near anus, and/or to small dots under lateral line, each one corresponding to a lateral-line pore

**Yirrkala misolensis** (Günther 1872)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Misool Island (misspelled Misol), Irian Jaya, Indonesia, type locality

**Yirrkala moluccensis** (Bleeker 1864)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Ambon Island, Moluccas Islands, Indonesia, type locality

**Yirrkala moorei** McCosker 2006
in honor of Intel co-founder and philanthropist Gordon E. Moore (b. 1929), for “his interest in fishes, his love of fishing, and his support of biodiversity research and conservation”

**Yirrkala omanensis** (Norman 1939)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Gulf of Oman, type locality and only known area of distribution

**Yirrkala ori** McCosker 2011
in honor of the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) of South Africa, which collected type and many other valuable specimens

**Yirrkala philippinensis** (Herre 1936)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: the Philippines, referring to type locality at Dumaguete, Oriental Negros, Philippines

**Yirrkala tenuis** (Günther 1870)
thin, probably referring to thin, elongate body

Subfamily Myrophinae Worm Eels

**Ahlia** Jordan & Davis 1891
-a, belonging to: Jonas Nicholas Ahl (1765-1817), physician and student of Linnaeus, whose 1789 thesis (“De Muraena et Ophichtho”) “furnishes the beginning of our systematic arrangement of the eels”

**Ahlia egmontis** (Jordan 1884)
-is, genitive singular of: Egmont Key, Florida, USA, type locality

**Asarcenchelys** McCosker 1985
asarkos, lean, referring to “emaciated” appearance; enchelys, ancient Greek for eel

**Asarcenchelys longimanus** McCosker 1985
-longus, long; manus, hand, referring to elongate pectoral fins

**Benthenchelys** Fowler 1934
-bentho, of the depths, referring to deepwater habitat (collected at 685 fathoms); enchelys, ancient Greek for eel

**Benthenchelys cartieri** Fowler 1934
in honor of herpetologist-ichthyologist Oscar Cartier, University of Warzburg (Germany), who studied Philippine fishes in 1874

**Benthenchelys indicus** Castle 1972
Indian, referring to distribution in Indian Ocean
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**Benthenchelys pacificus** Castle 1972
Pacific, referring to distribution in the Central Pacific

**Glenoglossa** McCosker 1982
*genus*, a thing to stare at; *glossa*, tongue, referring to elongate tongue, extending well beyond mouth and decorated with a fleshy appendage

**Glenoglossa wassi** McCosker 1982
in honor of fisheries officer Richard C. Wass (b. 1942), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who collected type and many other fishes from American Samoa

**Mixomyrophis** McCosker 1985
*mixis*, a mixing; *Myrophis*, genus of ophichthid eel, referring to its combination of myrophine characters

**Mixomyrophis longidorsalis** Hibino, Kimura & Golani 2014
*longo*, long; *dorsalis*, dorsal, referring to longer dorsal-fin base compared to *M. pusillipinna*

**Mixomyrophis pusillipinna** McCosker 1985
*pusillus*, puny or insignificant; *pinna*, fin, referring to minute pectoral fins

**Muraenichthys** Bleeker 1853
originally described in *Muraena* by Bleeker earlier in the year, he later felt it was sufficiently different to warrant a new genus; *ichthys*, fish

**Muraenichthys gymnopterus** (Bleeker 1852)
gymnos, bare or naked; *pterus*, fin, referring to absence of pectoral fins

**Muraenichthys hattae** Jordan & Snyder 1901
in honor of Saburo Hatta (1865-1935), Imperial University, Tokyo, for his “excellent” paper on Japanese lampreys

**Muraenichthys malabonensis** Herre 1923
-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: Bañgos pond at Malabon, Rizal Province, Manila Bay, Philippines, type locality

**Muraenichthys philippinensis** Schultz & Woods 1949
-*ensis*, suffix denoting place: Badian Island, Philippines, type locality

**Muraenichthys schultzei** Bleeker 1857
in honor of Jan Francois Schultze (1817-?), Assistant-Resident (i.e., governor) of Ambal, Java, who provided an important collection of fishes from the south coast of Java

**Muraenichthys sibogae** Weber & de Beaufort 1916
in honor of the ship *Siboga* and Indonesian expedition (1898-1899) of same name, during which type was collected

**Muraenichthys thompsoni** Jordan & Richardson 1908
in honor of Joseph Cheesman Thompson (1874-1943), U.S. Navy medical officer (neurosurgeon), amateur zoologist-archaeologist, co-founder of the Zoological Society of San Diego, psychoanalyst, and Burmese cat breeder, who collected type

**Muraenichthys velinasalis** Hibino & Kimura 2015
*velum*, veil; *nasalis*, nasal, referring to posterior nostril concealed by a large flap

**Myrophis** Lütken 1852
*myrus*, Greek for a male moray, used here as a general word for eel; *ophis*, snake, referring to snake-like shape

**Myrophis anterodorsalis** McCosker, Böhle & Böhle 1989
*antero*, anterior; *dorsalis*, of the back, referring to anterior origin of dorsal fin

**Myrophis lepturus** Kotthaus 1968
*leptos*, thin; *outra*, tail, referring to very low and thin tail compared to body

**Myrophis microchir** (Bleeker 1864)
*micro-*, small; *chirrs*, hand, referring to small pectoral fins, about 4½ times within length of head

**Myrophis platyrhynchus** Breder 1927
*platy*, flat; *rhynchus*, snout, referring to “peculiar broad flat snout”

**Myrophis plumbeus** (Cope 1871)
leaden, referring to ventral coloration of holotype

**Myrophis punctatus** Lütken 1852
speckled, referring to dark brown spots on sides and back

**Myrophis vafer** Jordan & Gilbert 1883
sly, allusion not explained, possibly referring to similarity to and previous misidentification as *M. punctatus*
Neenchelys Bamber 1915
neo, new; enchelys, ancient Greek for eel, literally a new family (Neenchelidae, now synonymized) and genus of eels

Neenchelys andamanensis Hibino, Satapoomin & Kimura 2015
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Andaman Sea, eastern Indian Ocean, type locality

Neenchelys buitendijki Weber & de Beaufort 1916
in honor of Pieter Buitendijk (1870-1932), surgeon aboard the Siboga expedition, who collected type in the Java Sea

Neenchelys cheni (Chen & Weng 1967)
in honor of Ting-Pai Chen, chief, Section of Fisheries, Joint Sino-American Commission on Rural Reconstruction (JCCR), for "financial support and kind encouragement"

Neenchelys daedalus McCosker 1982
named after “Greek artisan who escaped from his Earth-bound prison and ascended into heaven,” referring to midwater habitat, the second ophichthid known to have left substrate and live in midwater (the first being Benthenchelys cartieri)

Neenchelys diaphora Ho, McCosker & Smith 2015
different; initially recognized as being closely similar to N. pelagica but confirmed to be different with newly collected specimens [originally published electronically in 2013 without registration in ZooBank, making it unavailable]

Neenchelys gracilis Ho & Loh 2015
slender or slim, referring to its very slim body

Neenchelys mccoskeri Hibino, Ho & Kimura 2013
in honor of John E. McCosker (b. 1945), California Academy of Sciences, for his “great” contributions to eel systematics and for allowing the authors to describe this species, which he first recognized in 1999

Neenchelys microtretus Bamber 1915
micro-, small; tretos, perforated, probably referring to small gill openings

Neenchelys nudiceps Tashiro, Hibino & Imamura 2015
nudus, naked or bare; cephs, head, referring to upper and lateral surfaces of snout smooth, without papillae

Neenchelys parvipectoralis Chu, Wu & Jin 1981
parvus, small, referring to “smaller and weaker” pectoral fins compared to N. buitendijki

Neenchelys pelagica Ho, McCosker & Smith 2015
referring to its mesopelagic habitat [originally published electronically in 2013 without registration in ZooBank, making it unavailable]
Neenchelys similis Ho, McCosker & Smith 2015
like, referring to its similarity to *N. daedalus* [originally published electronically in 2013 without registration in ZooBank, making it unavailable]

**Pseudomyrophis** Wade 1946
*pseudo*, false, i.e., although this genus may superficially resemble *Myrophis*, such an appearance is false

- **Pseudomyrophis atlanticus** Blache 1975
  referring to distribution in eastern tropical Atlantic

- **Pseudomyrophis furgae** McCosker, Böhke & Böhke 1989
  in honor of scientific illustrator Mary H. Fuges (1916-2010), for her “artistic ability … meticulous attention to detail … and her patience and encouragement throughout the preparation” of the eel volume of “Fishes of the Western North Atlantic” series

- **Pseudomyrophis micropinna** Wade 1946
  *micro-*, small; *pinna*, fin, referring to minute pectoral fins

- **Pseudomyrophis nimius** Böhke 1960
  excessive, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to “exceedingly elongate” body, and/or greater length (up to 323 mm) compared to *P. micropinna* (up to 139 mm)

**Pylorobranchus** McCosker & Chen 2013
*pylorus*, gatekeeper; *branchus*, gill, referring to lappet-like structure located before gill opening

- **Pylorobranchus hearstorum** McCosker 2014
  - *orun*, commemorative suffix, plural: in honor of William (b. 1949) and Margaret (b. 1958) Hearst, friends and philanthropists, who sponsored expedition that collected type

- **Pylorobranchus hoi** McCosker, Lo & Lin 2013
  in honor of Hsuan-Ching Ho (b. 1978), friend and colleague, who has studied eels and many other fishes of Taiwan

**Schismorhynchus** McCosker 1970
*schisme*, cleft; *rhynchus*, snout, referring to prominent toothed groove on underside of snout

- **Schismorhynchus labialis** (Seale 1917)
  of the lips, presumably referring to “abnormally large [nostrils] resembling two large curved fangs hanging down from the upper lips”

**Schultzidia** Gosline 1951
*ta*, belonging to: Leonard P. Schultz (1901-1986), Curator of Fishes, U. S. National Museum, who co-described type species, *S. johnstonensis*

- **Schultzidia johnstonensis** (Schultz & Woods 1949)
  - *ensis*, suffix denoting place: Johnston Island, Central Pacific, type locality

- **Schultzidia retropinna** (Fowler 1934)
  *retro-*, behind; *pinna*, fin, referring to posterior “insertion” of dorsal fin

**Scolecenchelys** Ogilby 1897
*scolex*, worm, referring to worm-like shape; *enchelys*, ancient Greek for eel

- **Scolecenchelys acutirostris** (Weber & de Beaufort 1916)
  *acutus*, sharp; *rostrum*, snout, referring to “very pointed and prominent snout”

- **Scolecenchelys aoki** (Jordan & Snyder 1901)
  in honor of Kumakichi Aoki, fisherman, assistant to Kakichi Mitsukuri in the Marine Laboratory at Misaki, “one of the best [fish] collectors in Japan” [presumably a noun in apposition, without the patronymic “i”]

- **Scolecenchelys australis** (Macleay 1881)
  described from Australia, near Sydney (also occurs in Pacific near New Zealand, Norfolk Island and Kermadec Islands)

- **Scolecenchelys borealis** (Machida & Shiogaki 1990)
  northern, referring to northern distribution (Western North Pacific) compared to other members of genus

- **Scolecenchelys breviceps** (Günther 1876)
  *brevis*, short; *ceps*, head, referring to shorter head compared to *Muraenichthys (=Scolecenchelys) macropterus*

- **Scolecenchelys castlei** McCosker 2006
  in honor of Peter H. J. Castle (1934-1999), Victoria University (Wellington, New Zealand), who recognized this eel
as distinct but did not live to complete a description

_**Scolecenchelys chilensis** (McCosker 1970)_
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Chile, indicating offshore islands from which this species was taken, the first species of genus known from the New World

_**Scolecenchelys cookei** (Fowler 1928)_
in honor of conchologist Charles Montague Cooke, Jr. (1874-1948), for his "unselfish interest and influence in the many scientific projects which have their center in the Bishop Museum at Honolulu," for the inception of Fowler's monograph on Hawaiian fishes, and the "encouragement of his steadfast friendship," through whom Fowler was "enabled to study new and interesting fishes, many of them the most beautiful of their kind"

_**Scolecenchelys fuscapenis** McCosker, Ide & Endo 2012_
fuscus, dark; penis, tail, referring to prominent black spot on posterior tail region

_**Scolecenchelys fuscoangularis** Hibino, Kai & Kimura 2013_
fuscus, dark; gularis, throat, referring to dark branchial basket

_**Scolecenchelys godeffroyi** (Regan 1909)_
in honor of the Museum Godeffroy (Hamburg, Germany), where type was housed, and/or the museum's founder, shipping magnate Johann Cesar VI. Godeffroy (1813-1885), who commissioned natural history collections in Australia and the South Seas

_**Scolecenchelys gymnotus** (Bleeker 1857)_
gymnos, bare or naked; notus, back, probably referring to rudimentary dorsal fin, beginning above or behind anus, giving appearance of a bare or naked dorsal surface

_**Scolecenchelys iredalei** (Whitley 1927)_
in honor of ornithologist-malacologist Tom Iredale (1880-1972), Australian Museum, who accompanied Whitley on a collecting trip to Michaelmas Cay, Great Barrier Reef, type locality

_**Scolecenchelys laticaudata** (Ogilby 1897)_
latus, broad; caudatus, tailed, referring to anal and dorsal fins "expanded and fan-shaped" around tip of tail

_**Scolecenchelys macroptera** (Bleeker 1857)_
macro-, long; ptera, fin, referring to longer dorsal fin, which begins near gill openings, compared to _Muraenichthys_ (=Scolecenchelys) gymnotus

_**Scolecenchelys nicholsarum** (Waite 1904)_
in honor of Mary Nichols (1846-1923), Lord Howe Island, wife of Thomas Nichols, a whaler captain who collected and/or provided many Australian fishes for Waite, and her daughters for the "many kindnesses" he received [originally spelled Nicholsae; since name honors more than one woman, spelling is amended to nicholsarum]

_**Scolecenchelys profundorum** (McCosker & Parin 1995)_
of the depths, referring to deepwater (310 m) habitat

_**Scolecenchelys puhi olo** (McCosker 1979)_
puhi olo, "small eels about as large in diameter as a finger" (a delicacy among ancient Hawaiians), referring to body width (7.5-15 mm)

_**Scolecenchelys robusta** Hibino & Kimura 2015_
referring to its robust body, i.e., body depth deeper than that of its congeners

_**Scolecenchelys vermiformis** (Peters 1866)_
vermis, worm; forma, shape, referring to worm-like shape

_**Scolecenchelys xorae** (Smith 1958)_
of Xora River (specifically, its mouth), Transkei, South Africa, type locality

_**Skythrenchelys** Castle & McCosker 1999_
skythros, angry or sullen, referring to facial expression of two included species; enchelys, ancient Greek for eel

_**Skythrenchelys macrostoma** (Bleeker 1864)_
macro-, long; stoma, mouth, referring to wide cleft of mouth, reaching behind eye

_**Skythrenchelys zabra** Castle & McCosker 1999_
zabrutus, gluttonous, referring to its ability to ingest very large prey

_**Sympenchelys** Hibino, Ho & Kimura 2015_
sympiez, Greek for compress, referring to its compressed body and neural and haemal spines; enchelys, ancient Greek for eel

_**Sympenchelys taiwanensis** Hibino, Ho & Kimura 2015_
-ensis, suffix denoting place: known from northeastern and southwestern Taiwan