

## MELAMPHAIDAE Western North Atlantic Genera

### Common larval features

- Principal caudal rays 10+9.
- Pelvic fin develops early (preflexion stage), with 1 weak spine and 7–8 rays; origin anterior, under or posterior to pectoral fin.
- Pectoral fin forms early.
- Weak spines in dorsal and anal fins; dorsal fin origin anterior to anal fin origin, insertions about opposite.
- Body shape and pigment patterns are important in distinguishing the larvae.

### *Scopeloberyx* Zugmayer

- Myomeres 23–27; dorsal rays 10–13.
- Note body shape relative to other genera.
- Pigment sparse; in 3–4 mm SL larvae, a swath of pigment extends from dorsal origin to anal insertion.
- See Fig. A below.

### *Scopelogadus* Vaillant

- Myomeres 23–27; dorsal rays 10–12.
- Head about 50% SL.
- Heavily pigmented; in 3–4 mm larvae, a swath of pigment extends from dorsal origin to anal insertion.
- See *S. bispinosus* in Fig. B below.

### *Poromitra* Goode and Bean

- Myomeres 25–29; dorsal rays 10–14.
- Well-developed preopercle spines.
- Rostral spine present in large larvae.
- See Fig. C and D on opposite page.

### *Melamphaes* Günther

- Myomeres 25–31; dorsal rays 13–18.
- Note “hump” on head over the eye.
- Pigment characteristically in bands between dorsal and anal fins and on peduncle.
- See Fig. E–M on opposite page.

- Note:**
- (1) Anterior dorsal rays can be elongate in some species of the family.
  - (2) *Sio Moss* also occurs in the western North Atlantic (not illustrated).

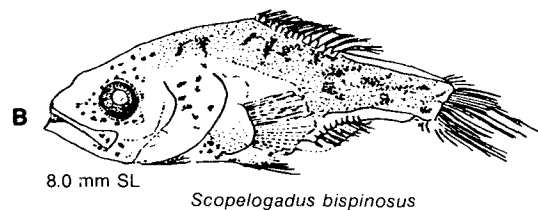
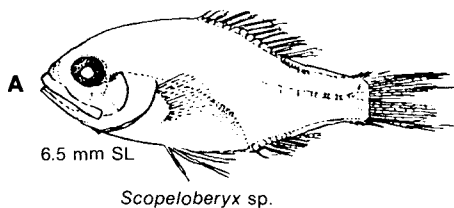
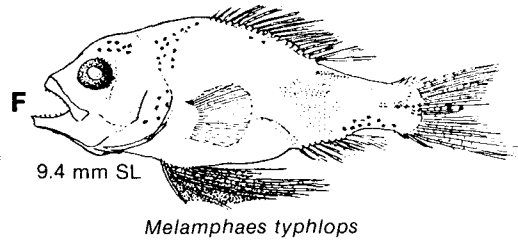
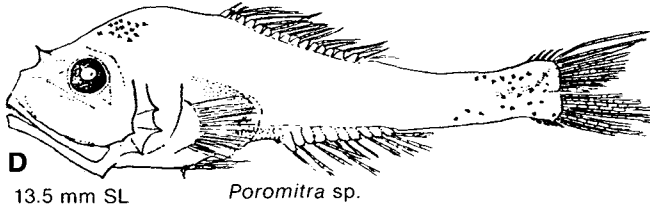
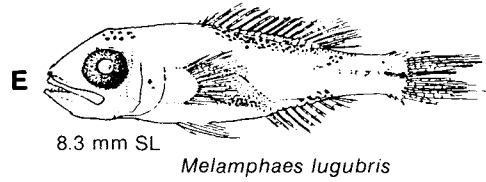
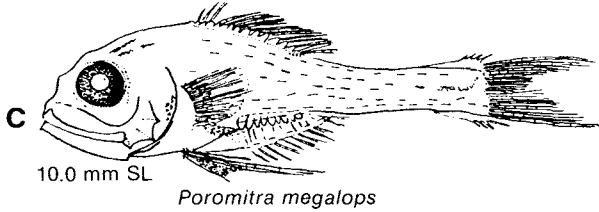


Fig. — A–M, Ebeling 1962.

Ref. — Ebeling and Weed 1963, 1973.

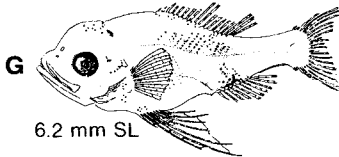
Western North Atlantic Genera

MELAMPHAIDAE

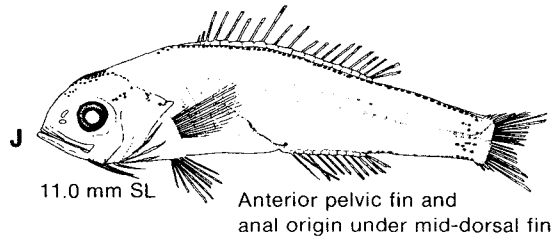
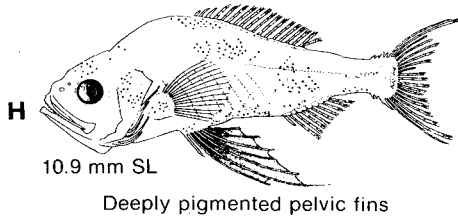
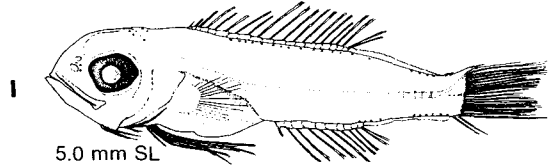


Five Western North Atlantic *Melamphaes* Species

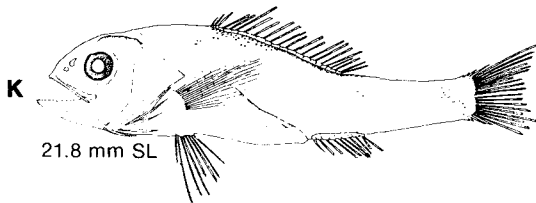
*M. typhlops* (also see Fig. F)



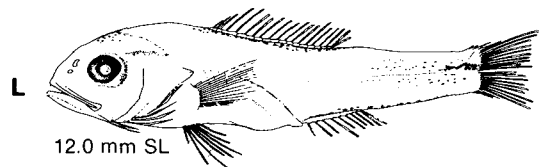
*M. simus*



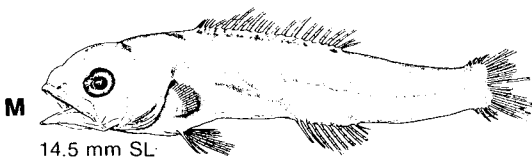
*M. microps*



*M. polylepis*



*M. suborbitalis*



E (North Pacific specimen)