

STUDIES IN ICHTHYOLOGY.

No. 11.*

By

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(Plate xxi, and Figure 1.)

Family OPHICHTHYIDAE.

Genus *Malvoliophis* Whitley, 1934.

Malvoliophis Whitley, Rec. Austr. Mus., xix, 2, March 26, 1934, p. 154. Orthotype,
Bascanichthys hemizona Ogilby.

Malvoliophis pinguis (Günther).

(Fig. 1.)

Ophichthys pinguis Günther, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4), x, Dec. 1, 1872, p. 425.
Salomon Islands. Type in British Museum. *Id.* Günther, Cruise Curaçoa
(Brenchley), 1873, p. 430, pl. xxxv. *Id.* Günther, Journ. Mus. Godeff., vi, 17,
1910 (Fische d. Südsee, ix), p. 399. *Id.* Borodin, Bull. Vanderbilt Mus., i,
1932, p. 71.

Bascanichthys hemizona Ogilby, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, xxii, 2, Oct. 25, 1897,
p. 248. Port Jackson, N.S. Wales.

Bascanichthys pinguis Waite, Rec. Austr. Mus., iv, 1901, p. 53, *et ibid.*, v, 1903,
p. 22 (Lord Howe Island). *Id.* McCulloch, Austr. Zool., ii, 1921, p. 35, pl. viii,
fig. 86a, and Austr. Mus. Mem., v, 1929, p. 70.

Ophichthus pinguis Fowler, Mem. Bern. P. Bishop Mus., x, 1928, p. 44.

Malvoliophis pinguis Whitley, Rec. Austr. Mus., xix, 1934, p. 154; Abstr. Proc.
Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, 497, May, 1937, p. 1.

Three post-larval specimens, 41, 45, and 48 mm. long, have been referred
to this species, the middle-sized specimen being selected for describing and
figuring here.

Head (6.4 mm.) 7, depth (2.5) 18 in total length (45). Eye (1) wider than
interorbital, and slightly wider than dark bands on body.

The head is conic, the mouth being inferior, reaching backward to below the
anterior half of the eye. The end of the upper jaw considerably overhangs the
lower. Rows of fine acute teeth in jaws, the anterior ones caniniform. About
four branchiostegal rays can be seen through the skin. The gill-slits are difficult

* For No. 10, see RECORDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, Vol. xx, No. 1, May, 1937,
p. 3.