



Accession Number: - ZOO102

Scientific Name: *Synagrops japonicus*

Family: Synagropidae

Common Name: Blackmouth splitfin

Physical Characteristics:

It has an elongated, laterally compressed body, typically measuring 15 to 25 centimetres long. This species is characterised by a silvery body with a dark, often blue or black, back. The sides and belly are lighter. They possess two dorsal fins; the first has spines, and the second is softer and longer. The anal fin is small and located near the tail. Pectoral fins are relatively large. They have large eyes adapted for low-light environments, indicative of their deep-sea habitat. They exhibit bioluminescence, which is thought to be used for communication and predator avoidance. They have a terminal mouth with small, sharp teeth, well-suited to their carnivorous diet.

Geographical Distribution:

The Pacific Ocean includes waters around Japan, Taiwan, China, and extends to the Philippines and Indonesia.

Economic Importance:

Economically, it plays a minor role, primarily as bycatch; however, it has value for its taste and for scientific research, owing to its unique biological features.

