Cephalopods

of Commercial Importance in Australian Fisheries

An Hitter Management



By Victoria Wadley and Malcolm Dunning Illustrations by Roger Swainston and Georgina Davis

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Preparation of this guide was funded in part by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and the Fishing Industry Research and Development Corporation (grants 1988/74 and 1994/17)

Wadley, V.A. (Vicki A.) Cephalopods of commercial importance in Australian fisheries

Bibliography ISBN 0 643 06163 0

Cuttlefish - Australia - Identification
Squids - Australia - Identification
Octopus - Australia - Identification
Cephalopoda - Australia - Identification
Squid Fisheries - Australia
Octopus fisheries - Australia
Dunning, Malcolm

II. Title

594.51630994



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The cost of about \$15 covers production and postage, but no profit.

Please direct comments or enquiries to DrVictoria Wadley at:

CSIRO Marine Research GPO Box 1538 HOBART TAS 7001 Tel: (03) 6232 5222 Fax: (03) 6232 5000 Telex: CSIRO AA57182







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Drs C. C. Lu, Mark Norman, Mandy Reid and Tim Stranks (all of the Museum of Victoria) are thanked for providing access to the cephalopod collections and for commenting on the manuscript. Jason Cottier, David Evans, Roy Jackson, Scott McKinnon, Jeff Nemec, Dr David Ramm and Kate Yeomans collected and photographed the cephalopods. Mark Grubert and Kerrie Crossley helped to prepare the text and search the literature. Dr Vivienne Mawson edited the manuscript and the graphic design was done by Antonia Hodgman. We especially thank the fishing companies and skippers of commercial vessels for their help during this project.

The colour plates were illustrated by Roger Swainston; line drawings by Georgina Davis. Details for the illustrations are cited on page 65. Permission to reproduce their previously published and unpublished illustrations was given by Mark Norman, Tim Stranks and Julia Yeatman. We also thank the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) for permission to use illustrations prepared for the Mollusca volume of Fauna of Australia. Fisheries and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) gave permission to reproduce illustrations from the forthcoming FAO Identification Guide to Living Marine Resources of the Western Central Pacific.

We are grateful for financial assistance toward production of the guide from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. Some of the specimens were collected with assistance from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (Grants number 1988/74 and 1994/17). Funds towards printing of the guide were provided by the National Seafood Centre.



The aim of this guide is to help commercial fishers, scientific observers and recreational fishermen to identify the most common cephalopods (cuttlefish, squid and octopus) caught in Australian fisheries. Logbooks kept by commercial and recreational fishers provide essential information for fisheries research and management; however, for the records to be useful the catch must be correctly identified, especially in any developing fishery.

Malcolm Dunning of Fisheries Group, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland, prepared the tropical sepiid and *Photololigo* pages, while Vicki Wadley prepared the other sections. The cephalopod specimens for this guide were collected by CSIRO and QDPI scientific staff on commercial and research vessels. They were caught by demersal trawling, jigging and seine netting.

After landing, the freshly dead cephalopods were photographed on the vessels. The cephalopods were then frozen, and later preserved in the laboratory. A single specimen of each species was chosen for illustration in colour. Many squid were badly damaged from trawling and have been illustrated to reflect this. Line drawings, or published illustrations, were used for some species. The specimens have been deposited in the Museum of Victoria, Melbourne, and the CSIRO fish collection in Hobart.

Cephalopods, particularly squid, occur in commercial quantities throughout the Australian Fishing Zone but remain largely under utilised. Squid are highly productive species, and generally live for less than a year. They are caught throughout the year, usually with high catches in spring and summer. High catch rates (up to 90 kg h<sup>-1</sup>) have been recorded in targeted cephalopod trawl fisheries off northern Australia.

Many of the species treated here have not been described and illustrated in the literature, and until now there has been no shipboard guide to the local Australian cephalopods of commercial importance. However, some of the species are included in other publications, some of which are in the bibliography. If you are unsure of the identity of a specimen, consult these works or take the specimen to your regional museum.

As Australia's cephalopod fisheries develop to the stage where management plans are required, the composition, size and sustainable harvest levels of the stocks must be assessed. Commonwealth-managed fisheries are evaluated on the basis of this information. At present, recorded landings represent only a fraction of the cephalopod catch, as cephalopods taken as bycatch are often discarded at sea or used as bait in other fisheries.

Quick-find Reference







Quick-find Reference

## Sepia apama Gray, 1849

Common Name:	Australian giant cuttlefish
Key Features:	External:
	Dorsal surface of head with three flat, semicircular, flap-like papillae over each eye
	Large species with broadly oval mantle, particularly in juveniles
	Dorsal mantle margin projects forward, reaching the level of anterior border of the eye
	Suckers on tentacular club form five or six longitudinal rows; suckers vary greatly in size but the central ones are largest
	Cuttlebone:
	Pronounced V-shaped callus on posterior inner edge of inner cone
	Outer cone well developed and greatly extended posteriorly; cone less developed in juveniles
	No spine in adults, although usually present as a small knob in juveniles
	Dorsal surface of cuttlebone white-grey in colour
Colour in Life:	Opalescent or cream flesh when fresh-caught, fading rapidly to pale cream-grey; spectacular stripes on mantle during mating displays
Distribution:	Australia—southern Australia, from southern Qld to Point Cloates in WA
Habitat:	Rocky reefs; occupies and defends a crevice or cave; found to J100 m depth, but most common in shallow waters
Size:	Dorsal mantle length commonly 200 mm, maximum 520 mm, maximum weight over 5 kg
Comments:	An endemic species in southern Australian waters. Commonly caught by fishers, usually as trawl or Danish seine bycatch but also on squid lures. Sold on the domestic market; also used as bait.
References:	Lu,1998 Zeidler and Norris, 1989





Sepia apama

#### Sepia cultrata oyle,

Hovle	1885
I IOVIC,	1005

Common Name:	Knife-bone cuttlefish (FAO)
Key Features:	External:
	Arm suckers in four rows; left ventral arm of male modified for sperm transfer, with the two dorsal rows of suckers smaller than the two ventral rows
	Ventral mantle margin slightly notched; dorsal mantle margin projects strongly forward, beyond the level of the eye
	Tentacles with strong swimming membranes, about 1.5 times the length of the clubs; dorsal protective membrane as wide as the sucker- bearing surface of the club, separated from ventral protective membrane at the base
	Tentacular club with 5–6 transverse rows of small, similar-sized suckers
	Cuttlebone:
	Cuttlebone elongate, oval, widest just anterior of middle
	Anterior triangular in shape, posterior tapers evenly to a point
	Dorsal surface cream or salmon coloured, flat anteriorly with a distinct narrow median ridge and two indistinct lateral ridges
	Outer cone narrow anteriorly, wider posteriorly, forming two short posterior wings around the posterior part of inner cone
	Inner cone narrow, with rounded edges
	Spine without keels, turned upwards, sometimes slightly curved with concave ventral side
Colour in Life:	Pale cream in fresh-caught specimens
Distribution:	Australia—southern Australia, from the Houtman Abrolhos, WA, along the southern and eastern Australian coast, including Tas, to southern Qld
Habitat:	Rare and probably deep-water species; recorded from depths of 130–800 m, with most catches from 300–500 m
Size:	Mantle length to 100 mm
Comments:	Bycatch of trawlers, particularly in south-east Australia; sold on domestic market as food or bait.
References:	Lu, 1998 Zeidler and Norris, 1989





Sepia cultrata

### Sepia elliptica Hoyle, 1885

Common Name:	Oval bone cuttlefish (FAO)
Key Features:	External:
	Dorsal mantle broadly oval, dorsal margin rounded posteri <b>orl</b> y; ventr <b>a</b> l mantle has notched margin
	Tentacular club with 10–12 minute, similar-sized suckers in transverse rows; arm suckers in four rows
	Swimming membrane of club extends beyond the club base
	Protective membranes narrow, separated at base in smaller specimens and fused in larger specimens; membranes connected at base of club by a membranous ridge
	Six or seven long, membranous, fleshy papillae along base of each fin
	Arm suckers in four rows
	Cuttlebone:
	Oval, anterior rounded; constricted from the midline to the posterior
	Dorsal surface granular; ventral surface with a shallow median groove
	Dorsally, a broad central ridge flanked by two lateral ridges with depressions to each margin
	Outer cone with postero-lateral edges forming small wings
	Spine pointed slightly upwards, without keels
Colour in Life:	Pale transverse stripes across dorsal surface of mantle; white line along base of fins
Distribution:	Australia—northern Australia from Exmouth Gulf, WA, to Capricorn Group, Qld, including Gulf of Carpentaria
	World—Indo-west Pacific, New Guinea, South China Sea
Habitat:	Demersal and neritic species found on sandy and muddy bottoms in 15–140 m depth; overwinters in deeper waters and migrates to shallow coastal areas for spawning
Size:	Maximum mantle length 180 mm; weight about 0.6 kg
Comments:	Commonly caught in Western Pacific regions, supporting local and subsistence fisheries in, for example, the Philippines; a highly appreciated species in Japan and South East Asian countries.
References:	Lu, 1998 Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984 Dunning <i>et al.</i> , 1994





Sepia elliptica

### Sepia novaehollandiae Hoyle, 1909

Common Name:	None known
Key Features:	External:
	Anterior dorsal mantle margin rounded, extends to mid-level of eyes, notched ventrally
	Tentacular club short with suckers in eight rows; suckers of second and third rows from dorsal surface are distinctly larger
	Distinct swimming membrane extends slightly beyond base of club; protective membranes well developed
	Arm suckers in four rows throughout
	Cuttlebone:
	Elongate oval, pointed toward both ends
	Pink dorsally; weak median ridge, flanked by two smaller lateral ridges; dorsal surface granular, particularly near spine
	Ventral groove wide and deep along striated area; two rounded ribs with depressions on either side flank the ventral groove
	Inner cone fused to outer cone, which is expanded posteriorly
	Spine without keel, straight or turned slightly upward; base of spine enlarged dorsally and laterally, with a deep groove on ventral side; groove also located dorsally in larger specimens
Colour in Life:	Flesh cream when fresh, with luminous yellow-green streaks
Distribution:	Endemic to Australian waters. Southern Australia from Shell Harbour, NSW, to North West Shelf in WA
Habitat:	Occurs in depths of 15-348 m
Size:	Mantle length to 100 mm
Comments:	Bycatch of trawlers; sold on domestic market as food or bait.
References:	Lu, 1998



Sepia novaehollandiae

# Sepia opipara

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	Common Name:	Stare gaze cuttlefish (FAO)	
	Key Features:	External:	
		Dorsal mantle margin extends to mid-level of eyes, ventral margin slightly curved	
		Tentacular clubs short, with suckers in eight transverse rows on flattened face; suckers differ greatly in size; four to five big suckers in the middle of the club; dorsal and ventral membranes not fused at base of club	
		Arms with suckers in four rows; left ventral arm of male modified for sperm transfer, with five or six series of normal suckers at the base, then six to seven rows of much smaller paired suckers, then normal suckers to the tip	
		Cuttlebone:	
		Long oval shape, the anterior margin fragile	
		Ventral surface with a shallow, narrow median groove	
		Dorsal surface pimply, light tan or pink in colour, flat at sides and centre, with a prominent, rounded median rib and wide lateral ribs	
		Spine long and relatively straight, with a ventral keel	
*	Colour in Life:	Dorsal surface of mantle and head dark tan or brown, with darker blotches; ventral surface white; iridescent orange bars along the margin between the mantle and fins	
	Distribution:	Australia—endemic to northern Australia, from Fremantle, WA, to southern Qld; not in the Gulf of Carpentaria	
	Habitat:	Shelf waters from 40–184 m depth	
	Size:	Up to 130 mm mantle length from trawl bycatch; males and females of similar size	
	Comments:	Bycatch of demersal trawl fisheries.	
	References:	Adam, 1979 Lu, 1998	



Sepia opipara

Common Name:	None known
Key Features:	External:
	Small papillae scattered over the dorsal surface of the mantle, head and arms; two pairs of large papillae over each eye and one on each eyelid
	Suckers on ventral arms in four transverse rows in males and females; suckers on other arms in four transverse rows towards base but two transverse rows at tips
	Tentacular club suckers vary in size; suckers in five or six transverse rows, largest suckers towards centre; dorsal protective membrane much longer than ventral protective membrane
	No obvious modification of the ventral arms in mature males
	Cuttlebone:
	Anterior and posterior ends bluntly rounded
	Dorsal surface with three rounded ribs separated by two grooves; dorsal median rib distinct, flared toward anterior end
	Chitinous margins broad
	Ventral surface with a distinct, wide, median groove
	Spine straight, with a ventral keel
Colour in Life:	Dark greenish-brown with white blotches, matching the colour of its habitat in seagrass and algal beds
Distribution:	Australia—northern Australia from Fremantle, WA, through the Arafura and Coral seas, to southern NSW; includes the Gulf of Carpentaria
	World—central Indo-west Pacific (Philippines, Indonesia)
Habitat:	From shallow inshore waters over soft bottoms, to about 150 m depth
Size:	Up to about 100 mm mantle length from trawl bycatch; males and females of approximately equal size
Comments:	Bycatch of demersal trawl fisheries.
References:	Adam, 1979 Dunning <i>et al.</i> , 1994 Lu, 1998





Sepia papuensis

### Sepia pharaonis (Ehrenberg, 1831)

Common Name:	Pharaoh cuttlefish
Key Features:	External:
	Mantle broad, with base of fin marked by a row of tubercules and a dashed, white line
	Fins wide, continuing around the edge of the mantle except for a notch at the tail
	Left ventral arm modified for spermatophore transfer in mature males; ten series of normal suckers at base, then six series of reduced suckers, then normal suckers to tip
	Tentacle club long, with eight suckers in transverse rows; suckers differ greatly in size; five or six central suckers much larger than the others; dorsal and ventral protective membranes not fused at base of club
	Cuttlebone:
	Cuttlebone is long and oval
	Inner cone is horn-like and greatly enlarged, overlapping posterior part of striated area, not found in other Australian species
	Granular dorsal surface with three longitudinal ridges
	Ventral surface with shallow ventral groove in striated zone, last loculus faintly grooved
	No keel on spine; two thick, lateral expansions at its base
Colour in Life:	In live or freshly dead animals, spectacular white stripes cross the body and head from side to side
Distribution:	Australia—north and north-western Australia, including Gulf of Carpentaria
	World—Indo-Pacific
Habitat:	On the continental shelf in depths to about 110 m; most common in waters to 40 m depth
Size:	Mantle length commonly 15–200 mm, maximum 430 mm in males and 330 mm in females (Roper <i>et al.</i> 1984); males tend to be smaller than females
Comments:	This species is commercially important throughout its range.
References:	Lu, 1998 Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984 Wadley, 1995

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Sepia pharaonis <sub>Colour</sub> Mate i

Sepia rex (1	Iredale, 1926)
Common Name:	King cuttlefish (FAO)
Key Features:	External:
	Dorsal mantle margin projects forward to mid level of eyes; ventral margin slightly notched
	Swimming membrane of tentacular club extends slightly beyond the base of club, and the protective membranes remain separated at the base
	Tentacular club with 10–12 rows of massed suckers
	Arm suckers in four rows
	Male with left ventral arm adapted for transferring sperm; suckers in four rows, but appear to be in two or three rows only, because suckers in the middle third are much smaller and further apart
	Cuttlebone:
	Elongate diamond shape, narrowed anteriorly; at least twice as long as wide
	Wide, but not prominent, ventral groove
	Dorsal surface rose pink in colour and pimply on posterior third
	Prominent dorsal median ridge bounded by two shallow grooves; lateral ridges less distinct
	Large chitinous_margin_around cuttlebone, occupying most of outer cone
	Spine bluntly tapering to a point, usually curved upward, without keel
Colour in Life:	Pale cream
Distribution:	Australia—southern Australia from southern Qld to SA
Habitat:	Found at depths 55–400 m
Size:	Mantle length up to 120 mm
Comments:	There is still some taxonomic confusion between this species and <i>S. jaenschi</i> , so its distribution is unclear.
References:	Lu, 1998

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Australian Species Code 610007

Sepia rozel	lla	(Iredale, 1926)

Common Name:	Rose cone cuttlefish
Key Features:	External:
	Anterior dorsal margin tapering strongly to a point, extending toward anterior borders of eye; ventral margin notched
	Swimming membrane of tentacular club extends beyond base of club; protective membranes of varied size, fused at base of club
	Tentacular club suckers in eight transverse rows; arm suckers in four rows
	Left ventral arm of mature male with basal 40% bearing reduced suckers; oral surface wider than corresponding right ventral arm
	Cuttlebone:
	Cuttlebone elongate oval, tapering to a point at both ends
	Dorsal surface of cuttlebone pink in colour, with granulose dorsal surface and three faint longitudinal ribs
	Ventral surface with deep groove in striated zone, flanked by two prominently convex ribs; anterior ventral surface flat
	Posterior striae are slightly arched, and V-shaped anteriorly
	Inner cone rose in colour, with broad limbs, fusing with outer cone
	Outer cone with wing-like expansions posteriorly
	Spine strong, curved upward; ventral keel notched
Colour in Life:	Dorsal surface rose coloured, ventral surface cream to light pink
Distribution:	North-eastern Australia, from southern Qld to NSW
Habitat:	Found at depths 27–183 m
Size:	Up to 140 mm mantle length
Comments:	Taken as by-catch of prawn and other trawl fisheries; commonly marketed in Sydney.
References:	Iredale, 1926 Lu, 1998 Reid, In prep.

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Sepia rozella



Common Name:	Whitley's cuttlefish
Key Features:	External:
	Both ventral arms modified in mature males for sperm transfer; left ventral arm bearing 7–8 series of normal suckers at the base, 5–6 series of reduced suckers in the middle, then normal suckers to the tip
	Tentacular club with 20 transverse rows of minute, similar-sized suckers
	Cuttlebone:
	Oblong shape, sides roughly parallel
	Striated zone deeply concave
	No keel on spine
Colour in Life:	In freshly-caught animals, the upper surface of the mantle is a dark olive-grey in colour with a characteristic pattern of wavy longitudinal lines and spots
Distribution:	Australia—endemic to eastern Australia, from Gulf of Carpentaria to NSW
Habitat:	Found at depths between 23–160 m
Size:	Cuttlebone known to reach at least about 168 mm; larger specimens may occur
Comments:	Co-occurs with <i>S. smithi</i> ; the two species are frequently confused, but <i>S. smithi</i> has only the left ventral arm modified for sperm transfer. Features of the cuttlebone are also different.
References:	Lu, 1998



Sepia whitleyana

### Rossia species 1

Common Name:	Dumpling squid, Bobtail squid
Key Features:	Mantle short, rounded towards the head, not fused with the head
	Fins rounded
	Arms short, with two rows of suckers; all arms, except those on the dorsal surface, are joined by a web; the pair of dorsal arms are modified for spermatophore transfer in mature males
	Eyes large, well developed, with opalescent colour and covered by a thin, transparent membrane
	No luminous organs on the ink sac
Colour in Life:	Beige, speckled with darker brown; green-blue eyes
Distribution:	Australia—North West Slope and Shelf
	World—possibly the same species off the east coast of South Africa
Habitat:	Benthic, found on the continental shelf and slope, probably in muddy habitats
Size:	Maximum mantle length recorded in the North West Slope trawl fishery is 60 mm; males mature at a smaller size than females and do not grow as large
Comments:	Little commercial interest in Australia for this or similar species, although sepiolid squid of the family Rossiinae are regularly marketed in the Mediterranean from prawn trawl bycatch. <i>Rossia</i> species 1 as described by Reid (1991) may be the same species as the South African <i>Rossia mastigophora</i> .
References:	Nesis, 1987 Okutani <i>et al.,</i> 1987 Reid, 1991



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### Nautilus pompilius (Linnaeus, 1758)

Common name	Emperor nautilus (FAO)
Key Features:	Chambered shell is coiled around the animal
	"Bellybutton" of shell filled in, no deep hole
	Stripes on shell, with well-defined edges
Colour in Life:	Pale shell with red-brown stripes
Distribution:	Australia—north-west, northern and eastern Australia to NSW; not in the Gulf of Carpentaria
	World—western Pacific
Habitat:	Deeper continental shelves and slopes; migrates from the bottom (to 750 m) by day to the surface waters at night; particularly associated with coral reefs
Size:	Maximum diameter of shell recorded is about 200 mm
Comments:	Shell attractive, although trade strongly discouraged for conservation of the species; flesh used as food in artisanal fisheries in parts of the Indo- Pacific. Other species of <i>Nautilus</i> occur in northern Australia and a revision of the genus is needed.
References:	Roper et al., 1984



Nautilus pompilius

, Colour Plate iii

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### Octopus australis Hoyle, 1885

Common Name:	Southern octopus
Key Features:	Ventrolateral integumental ridge continuous around entire mantle circumference; forms a sharply angled peak on posterior mantle
	In males, ligula large and shaped like a coffee-bean, as shown
	Mantle globular and egg shaped; slight constriction separates narrow head from mantle
	Skin surface on upper side of animal covered by fine, rounded and closely set tubercles; underside with by fewer, smoother tubercules
	Long, slender, similar-sized arms tapering to fine tips
	A large papilla over each eye; small but prominent eyes
Colour in Life:	Uniform mottled yellow-tan on upper side and white on the underside in fresh specimens
Distribution:	Australia—eastern Australia from Hervey Bay, Qld to Jervis Bay, NSW
Habitat:	Common in subtropical inshore waters from 3–134 m depth, living on sand and mud bottoms, and among sponges
Size:	Males mature at 20–25 mm mantle length, females at 50–60 mm mantle length
Comments:	A southern species now known as <i>Octopus berrima</i> was previously treated under this name. Catch records show that this species constitutes a high percentage of the total octopus fisheries yield from eastern Australia, taken as a commercial bycatch from prawn trawlers; estimated annual catch about 150 t. Another species, <i>Octopus graptus</i> Norman, 1993, forms a small bycatch fishery of less than 100 t annually on the east Australian coast.
References:	Stranks and Norman, 1992 Winstanley <i>et a</i> l., 1983





Octopus australis

## Octopus berrima Stranks and Norman, 1992

Common Name:	None known
Key Features:	Egg shaped mantle separated from arms by constriction around the head
	Arms long, similar-sized and slender, tapering to fine tips; suckers in two rows
	Skin with fine, rounded, closely set tubercles which are large and dense dorsally, fine and less prominent ventrally
	Ventrolateral integumental ridge around mantle, obvious near mantle opening, but less so posteriorly
	A row of one large and three to four small unbranched papillae around eye region, and also on the dorsal side where four papillae form a diamond arrangement
Colour in Life:	When at rest, grey-white with light brown mottling dorsally, white to cream ventrally; bar of dark brown runs from behind each eye, through eye, to tentacles; when stimulated, the animal becomes uniformly dark brown to purple-brown dorsally, cream to light brown ventrally; two white spots on dorsal mantle behind eyes; white bar present between eyes; two thin white stripes along basal length of dorsal arms
Distribution:	Australia—south-eastern Australia from the central Great Australian Bight to Twofold Bay, NSW, including Bass Strait and Tas
Habitat:	Common in temperate inshore waters, living on sandy and muddy bottoms, and among sponges and sea squirts; depths 5–267 m
Size:	Males mature at about 20–25 mm mantle length and females at 30–40 mm mantle length
Comments:	Previously confused with <i>Octopus australis</i> , which is now known to be a subtropical species. Caught incidentally during scallop and mussel dredging and seine netting; often used as bait.
References:	Stranks and Norman, 1992





Octopus berrima

Australian Species Code 610012
# Octopus maorum (Hutton, 1880)

Common Name:	Maori octopus
Key Features:	Long arms with slender tips; arms of unequal length; dorsal arms (those between eyes) are longest and most robust
	Large in size
	Pear-shaped body
	Skin smooth when fresh, compared with warty skin of other local octopus
	Gill lamellae count high: usually 13–15
Colour in Life:	Brick red, with small, dark red blotches scattered over the entire dorsal and ventral surfaces
Distribution:	Australia—temperate waters around south eastern Australia, from Tuncurry in NSW, around Tas and Bass Strait to west of Ceduna in SA
	World—South-western Pacific Ocean, New Zealand
Habitat:	Continental shelf and upper continental slope, living on reefs or rocky areas and among sponges; recorded from depths to 550 m
Size:	Large species often growing to 1 200 mm total length, sometimes over 2 500 mm, of which 25% is body length; weighs up to 9 kg
Comments:	A major bycatch of the SA rock lobster fishery; sold on the domestic market for food or bait. Targeted in small-scale fisheries in southern Tas; value-adding by pickling or smoking attracts a premium price. Stranks recently confirmed that <i>O. flindersi</i> (Cotton, 1932) from Australia is a junior synonym of <i>O. maorum</i> , originally described from New Zealand.
References:	Kailola <i>et al.</i> , 1993 Stranks, 1988a Zeidler and Norris, 1989







Common Name:	Pale octopus
Key Features:	Medium in size
	Chunky appearance, egg-shaped mantle with stout arms of equal length
	Distinctive pattern of closely set tubercules and prominent cirri on dorsal surface, giving skin a warty appearance
	Enlarged suckers on all arms of mature males; medium-sized ligula (occupies about 10% of length of third right arm)
Colour in Life:	Resting animals are brown to mottled cream, dorsally; paler ventrally; colour becomes uniformly dark brown to purple when animal is stimulated; a faint orange stripe is often present along the length of dorsal arms
Distribution:	Australia—endemic to temperate waters around south-eastern Australia from Sydney to west of Ceduna in SA; also in Bass Strait and off the north and east coasts of Tas
Habitat:	Primarily an inshore species, living among bryozoans, sponges and sea squirts on sandy substrates; recorded from 7–593 m depth, usually in less than 110 m; common in bays and coastal waters
Size:	May grow to 350 mm total length, 150 mm mantle length; usually weighs about 500 g, but sometimes up to 800 g
Comments:	This species is taken as incidental catch by inshore demersal otter trawlers and Danish seiners in Victoria. A small-scale fishery for pale octopus occurs in north-western Tasmania using longlines and plastic pots. Small numbers are taken as incidental catch from southern rock lobster pots.
References:	Stranks, 1988a Stranks, 1988b Winstanley <i>et al.</i> , 1983





Octopus pallidus

## Octopus "tetricus" (Gould, 1852)

Common Name:	None known
Key Features:	Arms long and thin, occupying 80–90% total length of animal; lateral arms longer and more robust than others
	Skin covered with conical, rosette-shaped tubercules with erect central knobs
	Funnel organ shaped like the letter W
	In mature males, right arm III modified in leaf-shape at tip for sperm transfer; shorter than left arm III
Colour in Life:	Mantle brick red, suckers white; after capture colour patterns on mantle and arms change rapidly to blotched olive on beige, then intense purple-red
Distribution:	Australia—WA
	World—apparently endemic to Australia, but see comments below
Habitat:	Found in cryptic habitats, particularly on inshore limestone reefs to about 60 m depth
Size:	Maximum recorded total length is 800 mm
Comments:	A large bycatch in the WA rock lobster fishery; sold as food or bait. This species is currently undescribed. The true <i>O. tetricus</i> is found only in the warm temperate waters of eastern Australia. However, the name <i>O. "tetricus"</i> has been consistently used for the western species by Joll and others. A trial trap fishery for <i>O. "tetricus"</i> was started in WA in 1990 as a fisheries development program. The octopus are caught using unbaited pipes with a single, open end.
References:	Joll, 1977 Roper <i>et a</i> l., 1984 Wadley, 1995 Winstanley <i>et al.</i> , 1983



Octopus "tetricus"

Colour Plate iv

# "Photololigo chinensis" complex (Gray, 1849)

Common Name:	Pencil squid, Mitre squid (FAO)
Key Features:	Mantle slender, cylindrical, elongate, tapering to a blunt cone
	Fins long, extending over 60% of mantle length, fan-shaped, with straight or slightly concave borders toward the tail in adults
	A pair of luminous organs ventrally beneath the ink sac
	Head small, cube-shaped, narrower than mantle; transparent membrane covering the eyes
	Arms with two rows of suckers; large suckers towards tip of arm have rings with 10–18 sharp conical teeth; left ventral arm in males (next to funnel) modified towards its tip (in 33–40% of its length) for sperm transfer in males
	Tentacles with four rows of suckers on their clubs; the 12 or so central suckers are 1.5 times the diameter of the suckers at the edge, and twice that of the largest arm sucker; central large sucker rings with 20–30 sharp conical teeth
Colour in Life:	Flesh-coloured; pale tan to pink-cream mantle when fresh
Distribution:	Australia—Northern Australian coastal bays and continental shelf waters, from Shark Bay, WA, through Arafura and Timor seas, to Botany Bay, NSW
	World—" <i>P. chinensis"</i> found in the western Pacific, including South and East China seas to Okinawa, Japan; Gulf of Thailand
Habitat:	Inhabits shallow inshore waters, coastal bays and inlets to 170 m; demersal eggs
Size:	Maximum mantle length 400 mm; in trawl catch commonly 200 mm; 7–180 mm mantle length squid are commonly trawled in Moreton Bay
Comments:	Targeting with banana prawn nets off the Kimberleys and western Gulf of Carpentaria has yielded several hundred tonnes during spring in recent years. Bycatch of demersal and otter trawl catches in northern Australia. In Moreton Bay about 100 t are caught annually and sold as seafood or bait. Taken by recreational fishers with baited jigs or lures. The <i>"P. chinensis"</i> complex contains two currently unnamed species, which can occur in the same location; specimens that cannot be identified should be forwarded to a museum. <i>"P. chinensis"</i> should not be confused with the closely related <i>"P. edulis"</i> complex, which has an overlapping distribution.
References:	Kailola <i>et al.</i> , 1993 Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984 Yeatman and Benzie, 1994 (as <i>Photololigo</i> species 3 and <i>P. chinensis</i> )





"Photololigo chinensis" complex

# "Photololigo edulis" complex

(Hoyle, 1885)

Common Name:	North-west pink squid, Mitre squid (FAO)
Key Features:	Mantle slender, cylindrical, elongate, tapering to a blunt cone
	Fins long, extending over 70% of mantle length, fan-shaped, with distinctly concave borders towards the tail in adults
	A pair of luminous organs ventrally beneath the ink sac
	Head small, cube-shaped, narrower than mantle; transparent membrane covering the eyes
	Arms with two rows of suckers; large suckers in the central arm have rings with 6–12 squared, truncate teeth; left ventral arm in males (next to funnel) modified towards its tip (for over 50% of its length) for sperm transfer
	Tentacles with four rows of suckers on their clubs; the 16 or so central suckers are 1.2 times the diameter of the suckers at the edge, and equal to that of the largest arm suckers; central large sucker rings with 30–40 sharp conical teeth
Colour in Life:	Flesh-coloured, with small pink spots on mantle
Distribution:	Australia—northern regions, from North West Cape to the North West Shelf, Arafura Sea, Gulf of Carpentaria and NE Cape York
	World—western Pacific; Philippine Islands, northern South China Sea to central Japan
Habitat:	On the continental shelf, 15–170 m depth; attracted to light; forms large aggregations at some times of the year; demersal eggs
Size:	Maximum mantle length 150 mm; mature at 120 mm or smaller; size in trawl catch commonly 100–120 mm
Comments:	Commercial potential, already marketed in Australia; excellent for human consumption; high market value; in Asia, processed into a dry product and also used raw for sashimi. See fishing comments on " <i>P.</i> <i>chinensis</i> " complex which also apply to this group. " <i>P. edulis</i> " complex contains two unnamed species which have overlapping distributions. Individuals belonging to both " <i>P. edulis</i> " and " <i>P. chinensis</i> " complexes can be caught at the same location. However, " <i>P. chinensis</i> " can be distinguished by the conical, pointed teeth on the suckers of the arms.
References:	Okutani, 1980, Okutani <i>et al.</i> , 1987 Wadley, 1995 Yeatman and Benzie, 1994 (as <i>Photololigo</i> species 1 and 2) Jackson and Yeatman, 1996



"Photololigo edulis" complex Colour Plate v

Sepioteuthis australis (Quoy and Gaimard, 1832)

Common Name:	Southern calamary
Key Features:	Mantle tapers to a blunt point at the tail
	Fins continuous around the edge of the mantle; widest at about half their length; luminescent blue marginal stripe on fins
	Arms moderately long, robust; the left ventral arm is modified at the tip for spermatophore transfer in mature males
	Eyes large, well-developed, with opalescent colour and covered by a thin, transparent membrane
	Funnel tapering strongly to a blunt tip, becoming narrow anteriorly, with a raised fleshy pad at tip and a well-developed apical papilla
Colour in Life:	Translucent on capture, changing rapidly to rust-red; luminescent blue margin on fins
Distribution:	Australia—southern Australia; from 20°S in WA, around the southern coast, to 27°S in eastern Australia including Tas
	World—endemic to southern Australia and northern New Zealand
Habitat:	A neritic species, commonly found in the surface waters to a depth of 10 m
Size:	Males grow to 550 mm mantle length and 4 kg in weight (Cape Jervis, SA); females to 350 mm and 1.2 kg (Bicheno, Tas); in general, males mature at a smaller size (about 90 mm) and reach a larger maximum size than females
Comments:	Commercial interest in inshore fisheries around southern Australia, including eastern and south-eastern Tasmania. Mainly fished in inshore habitats, particularly with trolled jigs over seagrass. Commercially important bycatch of SA prawn fishery. Heavily fished by amateurs in SA using baited jigs and lures.
References:	Lu and Tait, 1983 Wadley, 1995 Zeidler and Norris, 1989



Sepioteuthis australis

Colour Plate vi

# Sepioteuthis lessoniana Lesson, 1830

Common Name:	Northern calamary
Key Features:	Long, robust mantle, its width about 40% of its length, tapering to a blunt tip posteriorly
	Fins large, 90–100% of mantle length, width 75% of mantle length; fins widest in their posterior third
	Funnel very stout, large
	Funnel expanded in anterior and posterior third, tapers to a blunt tip posteriorly; anterior very blunt
Colour in Life:	Translucent to light green in life with distinct white bars across the dorsal mantle
Distribution:	Australia—inhabits northern Australian waters from Geraldton in WA to Moreton Bay on east coast (27°S)
	World—Indo-Pacific; Red-Sea, Arabian Sea east to 160°E, northern Australia, and north to Japan, eastward to the Hawaiian Islands
Habitat:	Occurs in subtropical coastal bays and inlets and offshore reefs to depths of at least 100 m; off Townsville, found to 100 km offshore on outer Great Barrier Reef
Size:	Maximum mantle length recorded 420 mm, commonly 200–300 mm; weight about 1.8 kg
Comments:	This species is a minor bycatch of prawn trawling in Qld, the northern prawn fishery and WA prawn fisheries. In southern Qld, it is taken by tunnel net fishers from March to mid-December. Recreational fishers take calamary by baited jigs or lures. This species is sold for human consumption.
References:	Kailola <i>et al.</i> , 1993 Lu and Tait, 1983 Okutani, 1980 Winstanley <i>et al.</i> , 1983





Sepioteuthis lessoniana

# Nototodarus gouldi (McCoy, 1888)

Common Name:	Gould's arrow squid
Key Features:	Mantle heavily muscled, tapering gradually to the fins, then sharply to the tail
	Smooth skin on surface of mantle, head and arms
	Cartilage that locks funnel to mantle is shaped like an inverted letter T
	Funnel groove with folds of skin forming pockets
	Both ventral arms modified in mature males, with two rows of papillae (one flattened) and one middle row of very small papillae
	Large suckers on tentacles, with sharp teeth of about equal size; large suckers on arms with 10–14 triangular teeth grading to a single, large, tooth
Colour in Life:	Light brownish-pink mantle with a bluish-purple dorsal stripe
Distribution:	Australia—south-western, southern and eastern Australian waters, extending northward to 28°S at Geraldton, WA, and in eastern Australia, northward to the border of NSW and Qld including Tas
	World—restricted to southern Australian and northern New Zealand waters
Habitat:	Found to about 500 m depth
Size:	Maximum mantle length recorded for females 400 mm and for males 350 mm
Comments:	May be confused with <i>N. hawaiiensis</i> in more northern waters; <i>N. gouldi</i> is most easily differentiated by smooth skin texture of mantle and slightly larger size of mature specimens. Good flavour and texture; supports largest Australian fishery of over 1 000 t, particularly in Bass Strait and Great Australian Bight. Bycatch in demersal trawling, but main fishing method is jigging under lights.
References:	Dunning and Brandt, 1985 Lu and Dunning, 1982 Wadley, 1995



Nototodarus gouldi <sup>Colour Plate vii</sup>

## Nototodarus hawaiiensis (Berry, 1912)

Common Name:	Hawaiian arrow squid (FAO)
Key Features:	Mantle heavily muscled, tapering gradually to the fins and then sharply to the tail
	Regularly spaced thickenings of the skin produce a rough or "chamois leather" texture of the mantle
	Cartilage that locks funnel to mantle is shaped like an inverted letter T
	Funnel groove with folds of skin forming a pocket
	Both ventral arms modified for spermatophore transfer in mature males; modified arms bearing three rows of fleshy papillae (one row usually flattened)
	Arms bearing sucker rings with a single, large distal tooth plus 16–17 smaller teeth; most obvious in males and in the large suckers near the body
Colour in Life:	Light pinkish-brown mantle, with a purplish-blue dorsal stripe
Distribution:	Australia—predominantly in northern waters; in the west coast from 29°S at Geraldton, WA, along the North West Shelf and Slope; in the east coast from 31°S at Port Macquarie, NSW, along the South East Shelf and Slope
	World—Hawaiian Islands, Midway Islands and South China Sea
Habitat:	Demersal on the continental shelf and slope, recorded at 100–710 m depth
Size:	Maximum recorded mantle length from the North West Shelf trawl fishery was 248 mm for males, 215 mm for females
Comments:	Commonly caught by North West Shelf demersal trawlers, with catches of 90 kg h <sup>-1</sup> recorded in October to December 1986. May be mistaken for <i>N. gouldi</i> ; most easily differentiated by rough texture of skin. Palatable, has commercial fishery potential.
References:	Dunning, 1988 Wadley, 1990, 1993 Jackson and Wadley, 1998



Nototodarus hawaiiensis

Colour Plate viii

# Ommastrephes bartramii (Lesueur, 1821)

Common Name:	Red ocean squid, Neon flying squid (FAO)
Key Features:	Mantle long, muscular and robust
	Fins muscular; length about 40–45% of mantle length, and width about 60% of mantle length; single fin angle 45–50°
	Small light organs present beneath the ventral mantle skin, which when cut, appear as small yellow spots
	Ventral protective membrane of arms very broad, particularly on arm III; with sexual maturation, this becomes web-like
	Right or left ventral arms of males may be modified for sperm transfer, in which case the arm tip is smooth and free of suckers
	Large tentacular suckers with four equally spaced teeth, interspersed with 7–10 smaller teeth
Colour in Life:	A broad, deep, blue-purple longitudinal band occurs on the dorsal surface; the ventral surface is bronze, with a golden midventral patch
Distribution:	Australia—southern Australian waters, south of the Tropic of Capricorn, including eastern Tas and the western Great Australian Bight
	World—a discontinuous worldwide distribution throughout subtropical and temperate oceans
Habitat:	Oceanic species, occurring from the surface to about 1500 m depth
Size:	Maximum mantle length in females is about 600 mm; males smaller in size (about 400 mm); maximum weight about 7 kg; females mature at a little less than 400 mm and males at about 300 mm
Comments:	Exploited commercially in the North Pacific, e.g. off Japan and Canada. More than 300,000 t caught annually in the North Pacific in the late 1980's. Tasty, edible flesh, although may be tough in large individuals. Suitable for processing, e.g. smoking, shredding and drying
References:	Lu and Dunning, 1982 Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984 Dunning, 1993



Ommastrephes bartramii

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## Ornithoteuthis volatilis (Sasaki, 1915)

Common Name:	Long-tailed flying squid
Key Features:	Mantle slender, tapering gradually to form a long tail posteriorly
	Fins long, at least half length of mantle, tapering to a point at the tail
	Cartilage that locks funnel to mantle is shaped like an inverted letter T
	Funnel groove with folds of skin forming a pocket
	Right ventral arm modified for sperm transfer in mature males; criss- cross pattern on modified part
	Luminous strip and large light organ on gut, visible from underside
	Tentacles bearing largest sucker ring usually with 18–21 (22 on some specimens) evenly-spaced teeth
Colour in Life:	Dark red-brown mantle, with bright strip beneath from luminous organ on gut
Distribution:	Australia—predominantly in northern and eastern waters, in the Timor, Coral and Tasman seas
	World—central, western Pacific and Indian oceans
Habitat:	Tropical slope and oceanic waters, occasionally caught at the sea surface on jigs and in nets
Size:	Maximum mantle length recorded from the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery was 140 mm for a female; world records to 210 mm for female and 310 mm for male
Comments:	Rarely collected anywhere in its range, but if concentrations were found they would be commercially attractive because of the size of the animals and texture of their flesh.
References:	Lu and Dunning, 1982 Roper <i>et al</i> ., 1984



Ornithoteuthis volatilis

Colour Plate ix

## Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis (Lesson, 1830)

Common Name:	Yellow-backed squid
Key Features:	Mantle stout, tapering uniformly from fin to tail
	Fins broad, about twice as wide as long, less than half the length of the mantle
	Cartilage that locks funnel is fused to mantle and shaped like an inverted letter T
	Right or left ventral arm modified for sperm transfer in mature males; no suckers on modified part
	Luminous oval patch below "neck" on upper surface of mantle
	Tentacles bearing largest sucker ring with four large teeth, interspersed equally with five to six smaller teeth
Colour in Life:	Dark red-brown mantle, somewhat darker on midline; bright yellow dorsal patch may light up after capture
Distribution:	Australia—North West Shelf and Slope; eastern coast from Qld, occasionally to southern NSW in warm East Australian Current waters
	World—Indian and Pacific oceans
Habitat:	Tropical oceanic waters
Size:	Maximum mantle length 300 mm for females, 250 mm for males in Australian waters
Comments:	Widespread oceanic species with commercial potential for jig fisheries if areas and times of abundance can be established.
References:	Dunning and Brandt, 1985 Lu and Dunning, 1982 Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984



Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis

Colour Plate x

# Todarodes filippovae Adam, 1975

Common Name:	Southern ocean arrow squid
Key Features:	Mantle muscular, long, narrow, tapering to a pointed tail
	Tentacles very large and robust, with 7–12 large, sharp, teeth evenly spaced, alternating with low plates
	Arms relatively short
	Expanded clubs occupy nearly entire length of tentacles
	Right arm IV modified for sperm transfer, with the distal 40% of the arm modified to papillae and tubercles
Colour in Life:	Deep red or carmine overall; no distinct mid-dorsal stripe apparent
Distribution:	Australia—found around the southern Australian coast from central NSW to south-west WA; also off Tas
	World—circumpolar in the Southern Ocean, south of approximately 35°S; common in the Subtropical Convergence Zone
Habitat:	Oceanic species, occurring from surface waters to about 500 m depth; also associated with continental slope waters
Size:	Between 200–400 mm mantle length, although individuals of greater than 550 mm have been recorded
Comments:	Taken as bycatch by Japanese jig fishers off New Zealand and southern Australia. Caught in commercial quantities off north-eastern Tas in 1978. Also taken incidentally in demersal trawls in slope waters off southern Australia and a major component in the diets of sperm whales. Possible commercial potential.
References:	Dunning, 1993 Lu and Dunning, 1982 Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984



Todarodes filippovae

## Todaropsis eblanae (Ball, 1841)

Common Name:	Golden arrow squid, Lesser flying squid (FAO)
Key Features:	Mantle short, squat; head large and broad; four nuchal folds on the neck
	Fins fan-shaped
	Cartilage that locks funnel to mantle is shaped like an inverted letter T
	Funnel groove smooth, without folds of skin forming pockets
	Both ventral arms modified in mature males; left arm slightly longer than right
	Large suckers on tentacles, with 30 or more evenly spaced long, pointed teeth of equal size
Colour in Life:	Mantle golden with a darker mid-dorsal stripe
Distribution:	Australia—northern slope waters off the north-west and east coasts
	World—eastern Atlantic from Shetland Islands to the Cape of Good Hope; Indian Ocean including Agulhas Bank and Mascarenes Ridge; Timor Sea, western Pacific from northern Australia to East China Sea
Habitat:	Demersal species, found on the continental slope; usually associated with sandy or muddy bottoms between 200–700 m depth
Size:	Maximum mantle length recorded in the North West Shelf trawl fishery was 160 mm for males, 270 mm for females
Comments:	Target of minor fisheries in the north-eastern Atlantic. The species does not generally rise to the surface or approach the shore. It is not taken on jigs.
References:	Dunning and Brandt, 1985 Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984 Wadley, 1990, 1993, 1995



Todaropsis eblanae

Colour Plate xi

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Common Name:	Hooked squid (FAO)
Key Features:	Mantle long, slender, soft, covered with fleshy warts; tip drawn out into a long, pointed tail
	Head cube-shaped, eyes large with thick, pigmented lobes on either side of the indentation in the eyelid
	Ventral arms not modified for spermatophore transfer in mature males
	Tentacular clubs narrow, with up to 15 hooks in each of two rows
	Sucker rings chitinous, smooth and without teeth
Colour in Life:	Reddish-purple with closely spaced longitudinal grain (as in timber)
Distribution:	Australia—North West Shelf
	World—north-west Japan, Kuroshio, Indian Ocean
Habitat:	Deepwater, generally found at between 400–500 m depth
Size:	Maximum mantle length recorded 360 mm
Comments:	<i>Moroteuthis</i> are not currently fished commercially in Australia but are in other parts of the world, particularly by Russian trawlers. This species is unpalatable due to ammonia taste. The genus is an important food for sperm whales.
References:	Okutani <i>et al.</i> , 1987 Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984 Wadley, 1990



Moroteuthis Ioennbergi <sub>Colour</sub> Plate xii

# Glossary of Terms

Anterior	at or near the head-end; antero-dorsal - at the head-end on the upper surface
Chitin	horny (fingernail-like) substance that forms the sucker rings, hooks and beaks of cephalopods
Cirri	finger-like extensions
Club	enlargement of tentacle at the tip, with suckers and/or hooks
Continental shelf	zone of shallow water less than about 200 m deep that surrounds a continental land mass
Continental slope	zone of deep water greater than about 200 m deep that surrounds a continental land mass
Demersal	near the sea bottom
Distal	in direction, away from the centre of the body
Dorsal	uppermost or back surface
Funnel	the siphon or funnel lies below the head in a groove; it is a tapered tube through which water is ejected from the mantle, propelling the animal through the water
Ligula	membranous spatula or spoon shaped structure on the end of the arm modified for sperm transfer in octopods
Loculus	small chamber, cavity or compartment
Luminous organs	specialised structures that glow; often near the liver and ink sac
Mantle	the muscular sheath or body wall surrounding the mantle cavity containing the internal organs
Mantle length	length from the posterior tip of the mantle to the most anterior projection, measured along the dorsal surface
Neritic	inhabiting the waters over the continental shelf
Nuchal folds	folds in nuchal cartilage around neck beneath mantle; used as a diagnostic feature - not present in all squid
Oceanic	inhabiting the waters beyond the continental shelf
Papilla	a small, fleshy extension
Pelagic	inhabiting the ocean, not associated with the bottom
Posterior	at or near the tail-end
Proximal	in direction, toward the centre of the body
Sucker ring	a chitinous ring, often serrated or toothed, that encircles the suckers of squid and cuttlefish
Tentacles	long, paired appendages usually consisting of a slender stalk and a distal club, found between the third and fourth pairs of arms in cuttlefish and squid
Total length	length from the posterior tip of the animal to the most anterior part, usually the fully-extended tentacles, measured along the dorsal surface
Tubercle	thickened ridge of cartilage
Ventral	lowermost or belly surface of a cephalopod; the surface on which the funnel is sited; opposite the dorsal surface

### Anterior



#### Figure 1.

Squid terminology, illustrated on the underside of the animal, with an enlargement of its sucker ring (after Lu and Dunning, 1982).

### Anterior



#### Figure 2.

Cuttlefish bone terminology, illustrated from the underside (left) and upper view (right) of the bone, removed from the animal. The side view of the tail spine is shown below (after Macpherson and Gabriel, 1962).

### Dorsum



#### Figure 3.

Cuttlefish terminology, illustrated from the right side (after Okutani et al., 1987).



#### Figure 4.

Male octopus internal terminology, illustrated from the underside with part of the funnel removed (after Okutani et al., 1987).



#### Figure 5.

Octopus terminology, illustrated from the right side of the animal (after Voss and Williamson, 1971).

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Illustration Details

Species	Collector	Illustration
Sepia apama	V. Wadley	G. Davis—cuttlebone; Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984
Sepia cultrata	V. Wadley	G. Davis
Sepia elliptica	V. Wadley	G. Davis—cuttlebone; Hoyle, 1886
Sepia novaehollandiae	V. Wadley	G. Davis
Sepia opipara	M. Dunning	G. Davis
Sepia papuensis	M. Dunning	G. Davis—cuttlebone; Hoyle, 1886
Sepia pharaonis	D. Ramm	G. Davis—cuttlebone; R. Swainston
Sepia rex	V. Wadley	FAO (in prep.)
Sepia rozella	V. Wadley	FAO (in prep.)
Sepia whitleyana	M. Dunning	FAO (in prep.)
Rossia species 1	D. Evans	R. Swainston
Nautilus pompilius	R. Jackson	R. Swainston
Octopus australis	V. Wadley	Stranks & Norman, 1992
Octopus berrima	V. Wadley	Stranks & Norman, 1992
Octopus maorum	V. Wadley	Stranks, 1988a
Octopus pallidus	V. Wadley	Stranks, 1988b
Octopus "tetricus"	V. Wadley	R. Swainston
"Photololigo chinensis"	M. Dunning	ABRS
"Photololigo edulis"	T. Carter	R. Swainston
Sepioteuthis australis	V. Wadley	R. Swainston
Sepioteuthis lessoniana	M. Dunning	Lu & Tait, 1983—hectocotylus; FAO (in prep.)
Nototodarus gouldi	D. Wright	R. Swainston
Nototodarus hawaiiensis	B. Wallner	R. Swainston
Ommastrephes bartramii	V. Wadley	Roper <i>et al.</i> , 1984
Ornithoteuthis volatilis	V. Wadley	R. Swainston
Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis	R. Jackson	R. Swainston
Todarodes filippovae	M. Dunning	Roper et al., 1984
Todaropsis eblanae	D. Wright	R. Swainston
Moroteuthis loennbergi	D. Evans	R. Swainston



Sepia pharaonis



Plate ii



Nautilus pompilius

Plate iii



Octopus "tetricus"



"Photololigo edulis" complex

Plate v



Sepioteuthis australis

Plate vi



Nototodarus gouldi

Plate vii



Nototodarus hawaiiensis

Plate viii





Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis



Todaropsis eblanae



Moroteuthis loennbergi



Cephalopods

of Commercial Importance in Australian Fisheries



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