

Elopomorpha leptocephalus larvae from the Mexican Pacific

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Larval identification is particularly hard for most fish groups such as the *Elopomorpha leptocephalus* larvae, mainly because the lack of taxonomic description of the early life stage of fishes, problems related with the adults taxonomy as well as the fact that not all larval stages has been collected until now. *Leptocephalus* larvae have a translucent and compressed long slim body, “V” or “W” shaped myomeres, small head and rudiments on the non-paired fins. This work characterizes *leptocephalus* larvae of 21 species according to their morphologic and meristic characters as well as their pigment patterns. For 15 of this species engyodontic larval stage is described for the first time. Specimens are deposited in the scientific collection of fish eggs and larvae of the Mexican Pacific at CICIMAR-IPN.

Key words: *Elopomorpha*; *leptocephalus*; ichthyoplankton.

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