

### Supplementary Material

#### Early life-history characteristics of *Conger leptocephali* in the western South Pacific

*Aya Takeuchi*<sup>A,B,\*</sup>, *Mari Kuroki*<sup>B</sup>, *Michael J. Miller*<sup>B</sup>, *John J. Pogonoski*<sup>C</sup>, *Tsuguo Otake*<sup>B</sup>,  
and *Akinori Takasuka*<sup>B</sup>

<sup>A</sup>Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, Kindai University, 3327-204 Nakamachi, Nara 631-8505, Japan.

<sup>B</sup>Department of Aquatic Bioscience, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo, 1-1-1 Yayoi, Bunkyo, Tokyo 113-8657, Japan.

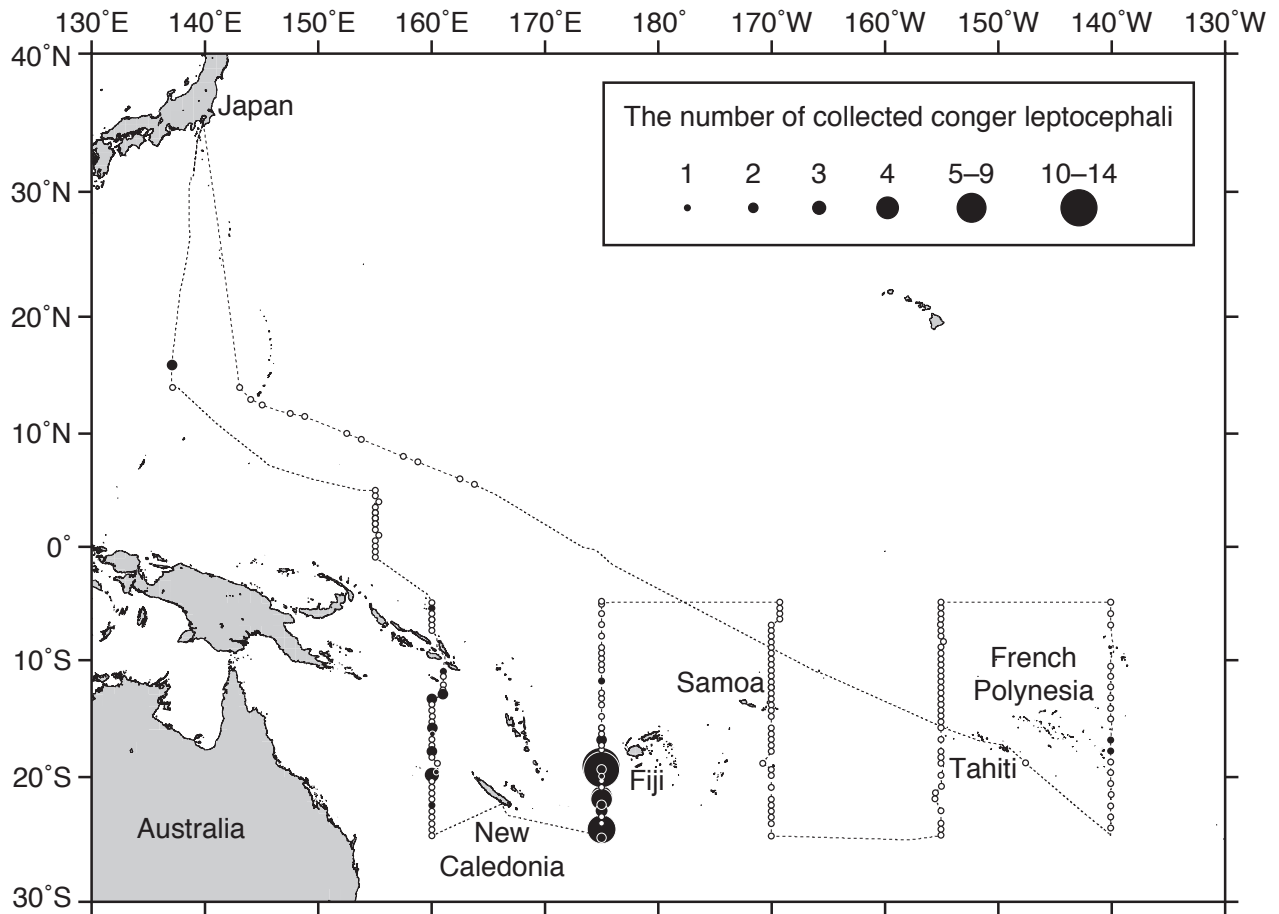
<sup>C</sup>CSIRO National Research Collections Australia, Australian National fish Collection, GPO Box 1538, Hobart, Tas. 7001, Australia.

\*Correspondence to: Aya Takeuchi, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, Kindai University, 3327-204 Nakamachi, Nara 631-8505, Japan. Email: [aya.takeuchi@nara.kindai.ac.jp](mailto:aya.takeuchi@nara.kindai.ac.jp)

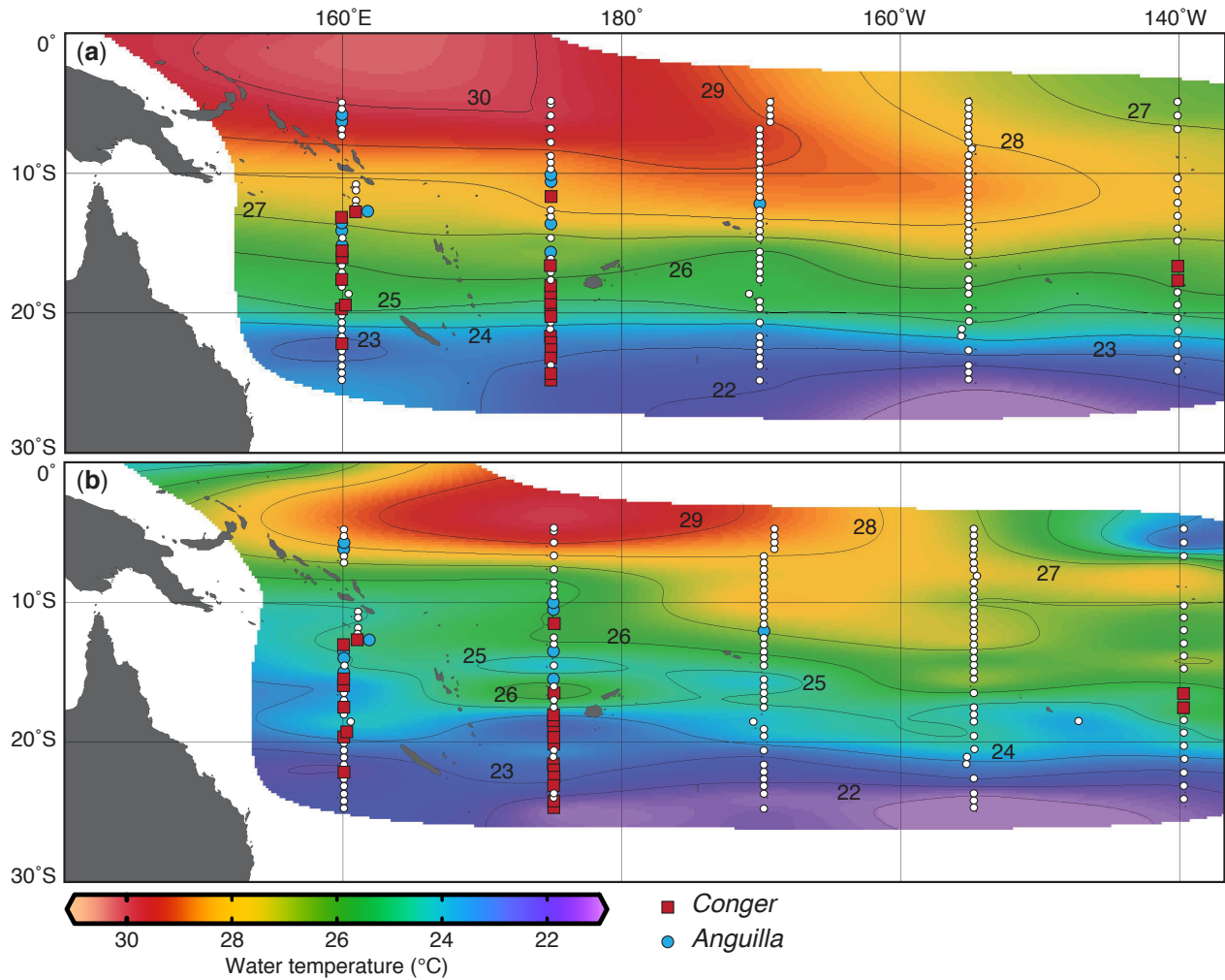
**Table S1.** Summary of downloaded sequences of the genus *Conger* from the DNA data bank of Japan (DDBJ) and Barcode of Life Data (BOLD).

Species name	Accession number or sample ID	Voucher specimens or museum ID	Data base	Collection country
<i>C. cinereus</i>	JQ431651	MBIO1174.4	DDBJ	French Polynesia
	JQ431652	MBIO428.4	DDBJ	French Polynesia
	KF929775	KUT 5531	DDBJ	Saipan, Northern Mariana Island
	MK657754	AUST-101	DDBJ	French Polynesia
	KP194852	UG0808	DDBJ	Queensland, Australia
<i>C. monganius</i> (formerly <i>C. wilsoni</i> )	BW-A5552	DGQ0747	BOLD	Queensland, Australia
	BW-A10321	CSIRO reg no withheld	BOLD	Queensland, Australia
	MFG#166	A24770	BOLD	Victoria, Australia
<i>C. myriaster</i>	HM180545	PI-000015	DDBJ	Jeollanam-do, Korea
	AB038381	CBM-ZF 10309	DDBJ	Japan
	KT733050	33564	DDBJ	Bohai Sea, China
<i>C. oceanicus</i>	MH379073	20E1DA354E3046E6	DDBJ	Massachusetts, USA
	MT455714	USNM:FISH:438872	DDBJ	Virginia, USA
<i>C. verreauxi</i>	FOAO897-15	CSIRO H 7778-01	BOLD	Tasmania, Australia
	MN123320	P.045149	DDBJ	New Zealand
	BW-1580	CSIRO H 4231-01	BOLD	New South Wales, Australia

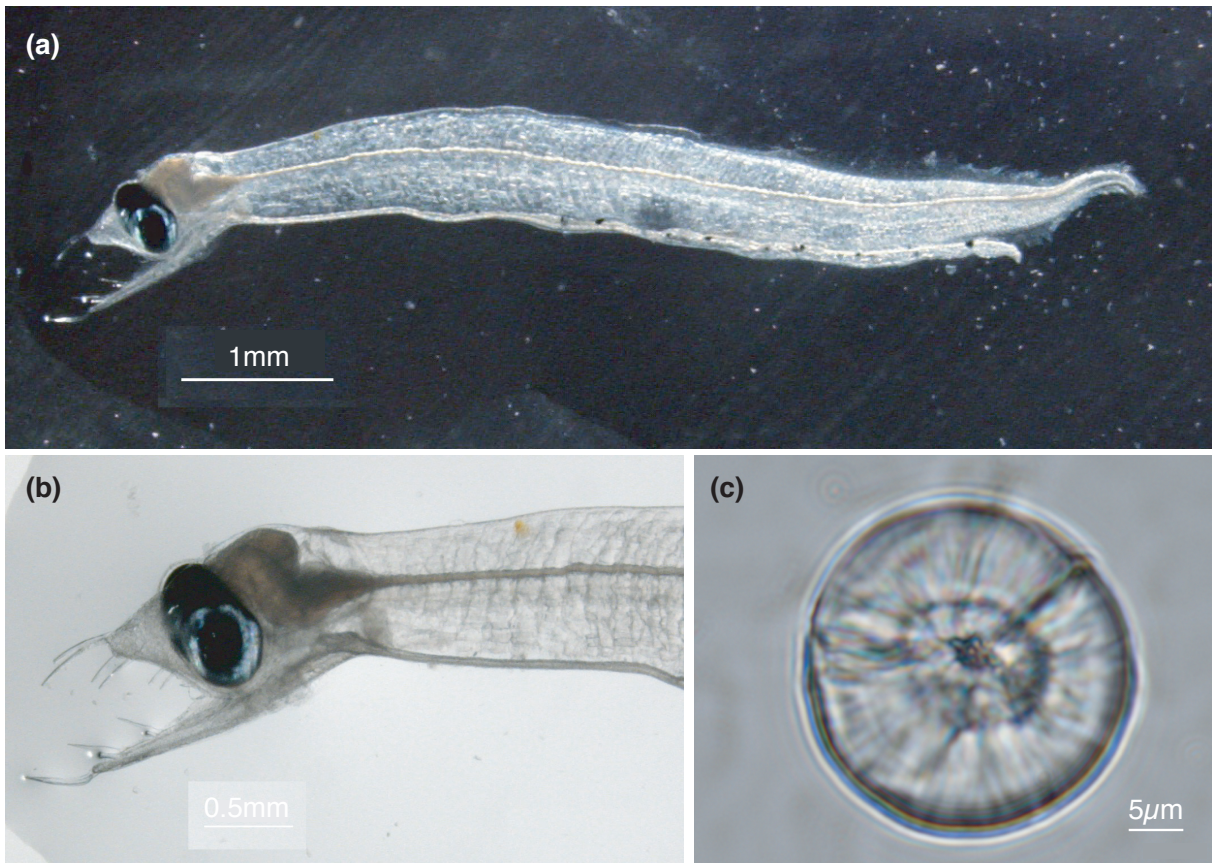
These sequences were used to identify species by constructing the neighbour-joining tree.



**Figure S1.** Map of sampling stations (circles) using Isaacs–Kidd Midwater Trawl and cruise tracks of the KH-16-4. Black circles show stations where conger leptocephali ( $n = 71$ ) were collected and its size means the number of collected them. Open circles show stations where no conger leptocephali.



**Figure S2.** Horizontal water temperatures at a depth of 50 m (a) and 100 m (b) with the collection stations of *Conger* (red squares) and *Anguilla* (blue circles) leptocephali during the KH-16-4. White circles show the stations where no leptocephali were caught.



**Figure S3.** Photographs of (a) the small leptocephalus (15 days old, 7.7 mm), (b) the head region and (c) the otolith of *Conger cinereus*.