Vampyroteuthis southchinaseais sp. nov.—a second Recent widely distributed species of Vampyromorpha (Cephalopoda, Coleoidea)

Dajun Qiu[1,2*]   Bilin Liu[3]   Yupei Guo[1,2]   W.A.S.W. Lakmini[1,2]   Yuehui Tan[1]   Gang Li[1]   Zhixin Ke[1]   Kaizhi Li[1]   Liangmin Huang[1,2]

[1]CAS Key Laboratory of Tropical Marine Bio-resources and Ecology, South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510301, China

[2]University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

[3]College of Marine Sciences, Shanghai Ocean University, Shanghai 200090, China

Running title: New species *Vampyroteuthis*

Corresponding Author:

Dajun Qiu

164 West Xingang Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong, 510301, China

Telephone +86-20-89130879;

Email: djqiu@scsio.ac.cn

Abstract

Until present, the Vampire squid *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* Chun, 1903 (Cephalopoda: Vampyromorpha) was the only accepted Recent species in the family Vampyroteuthidae Chun, 1903. However, morphological differences between specimens from the Gulf of Guinea, Africa, and California suggested the possibility that additional taxa existed. We report on a second species of *Vampyroteuthis* from the South China Sea, China which differs from *V. infernalis* in tail shape, lower beak morphology, and molecular characteristics, with phylogenetic trees based on large subunit ribosomal DNA and mitochondrial CO1 sequences supporting recognition of two species: *V. infernalis*, reserved for species lacking a tail, photophores near the fins, and a lower beak with a broad, short wing; and *Vampyroteuthis southchinaseais* sp. nov., which we apply to those species with a coracoid-shaped tail, a pair of photophores located between the fins and tail, and a lower beak with a broad, prolonged wing.

Keywords: *Vampyroteuthis southchinaseais* sp. nov., Vampyromorpha, Nuclear and mitochondrial gene, Phylogeny, Morphology, South China Sea

Introduction

Planktonic cephalopods and their larval and paralarval stages are widely distributed in the world's oceans from surface to abyssal depths, where they occupy epipelagic, mesopelagic and bathypelagic zones. One of these taxa, *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* Chun, 1903, is the only presently accepted Recent species in the Vampyroteuthidae Chun, 1903. The synonymy of this species is complex, and includes at least seven genera and 10 species (Sweeney and Young 1998).

The recognized distribution of *V. infernalis* includes temperate and tropical Pacific and Atlantic oceans (Yokobori et al. 2007, Hoving & Robison 2012) where it typically occurs between 600 and 900 m at oxygen concentrations of ~0.4 ml L^{-1} (Hoving & Robison 2012). However, morphological differences reported among specimens from the Gulf of Guinea, Africa, and California (Young 1972), and genetic differences or population structure analysis suggest that two or multiple Recent species may exist in this family (Braid and Bolstad 2019, Timm et al. 2020). In light of these differences, the Vampyroteuthidae requires revision.

Vampyroteuthis has not been earlier reported from the South China Sea, from which a recent faunal inventory cited 153 cephalopod species (Norman et al. 2016). We take this opportunity to describe a unique specimen from this region, for which we also report SSU and large

subunit (LSU) rDNA, mitochondrial CO1, and histone H3*a* sequences. Molecular phylogenies inferred from these data group this South China Sea specimen into one clade, separated from a second species which we nominally refer to *V. infernalis* in another. Both molecular phylogenies and morphological differences indicate the existence of two Recent species, one of which we herein describe as new species *Vampyroteuthis southchinaseais* sp. nov.

Materials and Methods

Sample collection, research ethics, and observations

A specimen of vampyromorph was collected during a Natural Science Foundation of China open cruise near Hainan Island, northwestern South China Sea (Stn 30: 17°59′28″N, 112°29′58″E) on 13 September 2016 (Figure 1) from a depth between 800 and 1000 m depth using a Hydro-Bios Multinet system (Type Max, mouth area 0.5m^2, 300 µm mesh; HydroBios Inc., Kiel, Germany) hauled vertically at approximately 0.5 m s^{-1}. Temperature at this station ranged 5.75–8.86°C and salinity 34.46–34.36 PSU. The net was equipped with internal and external flow meters and a depth transducer, all monitored and logged in real time; sampling of the water column otherwise occurred from 1000–800, 800–600, 600–400, 400–300, 300–200, 200–100, 100–50, 50–25 m and 25–0 m.

The specimen of vampyromorph was subsequently donated by the

Chinese Ocean Conservation Association for research use in this study in

accordance with local research guidelines and regulations on animal

experimentation. All experimental protocols were reviewed and approved

by the research ethics committee for animal experiments at the South

China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Immediately after sorting the specimen was photographed, and counts

and measures were taken following Roper and Voss (1983). The specimen

was then frozen at $-20°C$, and kept in darkness for subsequent molecular

and morphological analyses.

DNA extraction, PCR, and gene sequencing

A tissue sample was resuspended in 0.5 mL of DNA lysis buffer (0.1

MEDTA pH 8.0, 1% SDS, 200 µg mL^{-1} proteinase K) in a 1.5 mL tube,

then incubated for 48 hours at 55°C. DNA extraction and purification

followed protocols of Qiu et al. (2011). After extraction, sample DNA

was eluted in 50 µL Tris-HCl solution before 1 µL of DNA was used in

PCR with pairs of SSU rRNA, rDNA LSU, mitochondrial CO1, and H3a

primers to amplify SSU rDNA, LSU rDNA, mitochondrial CO1, and

histone H3a genes, respectively. Primer sequences are detailed in Table 1.

PCR amplifications were carried out in 25 µL reaction volumes under

thermocycling conditions, including a denaturing step of 94°C for 4 min;

35 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, 56°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 45 sec, and a final

extension step of 72°C for 10 min. PCR products were resolved by

agarose gel electrophoresis with the DL2000 DNA Ladder (TaKaRa Bio,

Dalian, China) before bands of expected sizes were excised to remove

primer dimers. DNA was purified and directly sequenced as reported by

Qiu et al. (2011).

Phylogenetic analyses

Sequences were trimmed with primers, and the two strands were merged.

Assembled sequences were analyzed using the Basic Local Search Tool

(BLAST) against the GenBank database. Sequences showing significant

similarity in BLAST to our sequences were retrieved. Phylogenies based

on partial SSU (1899 bp) and partial LSU (D1-D2, 408 bp),

mitochondrial CO1 (702 bp), and histone H3*a* (311 bp) regions were used

to investigate the phylogenetic position of *Vampyroteuthis*. Combined

sequences were aligned with ClustalW. Alignment was run through

ModelTest to select the most appropriate evolutionary model. The

selected general time reversible model with gamma distribution was

employed for maximum likelihood analysis using Mega 5.0. Categories

of substitution rates were set at 4, and other parameters were estimated

based on datasets. Sequences obtained in this study are deposited in

GenBank with accession numbers MN044751, OP526744, OP531921,

OP549780.

Results

Our data strongly support the existence of two distinct *Vampyroteuthis*

species that differ in tail shape, photophore position, lower beak

morphology, and evolutionary distance between respective SSU and LSU

rDNA, and mitochondrial CO1 sequences. We propose that one of these

taxa, the South China Sea specimen, represents a new species, which we

differentiate from the other which we refer to as *V. infernalis*.

Taxonomic Description

Vampyroteuthidae Chun, 1903,

***Vampyroteuthis southchinaseais* D. Qiu, B. Liu, & L. Huang sp. nov.**

Preliminary description

Fresh specimen (Figure 2) small, extensively gelatinous, of total length

9.5 cm, mantle length 5.2 cm, and mantle width 5 cm, with black and

reddish-brown chromatophores interspersed over body surfaces. Mantle

conical and rounded, with coracoid-shaped 'tail' (Figure 2). Head fused

with mantle; brachial and nuchal constrictions poorly demarcated. Eyes

brown (0.7 cm diameter), recessed into head tissues, covered by a

crystalline membrane. Arms of comparable length to mantle, subequal,

with tapering ends. Web depth ~2.5 cm, ~ 50% arm length. Suckers small,

in single series, on distal half of arms only, unstalked, without cuticular lining. Two rows of cirri extend along each arm for their length. Halfway between it and the web margin, threadlike arm ends naked. A pair of long, paddle-shaped fins (width ~5 cm, length ~0.9 cm) lacking a cartilaginous base protrude from the posterior mantle. A pair of large photophores (~0.3 cm diameter) lie between the fins and 'tail.'

Gladius

Gladius broad, chitinous, transparent, covering the dorsal mantle beneath the skin and a thick layer of loose connective tissue (Fig. 3). Gladius thin and flat anteriorly, gradually thickening and arching strongly posteriorly. Gladius formed of middle (ostracum), inner (hypostracum) and outer (periostracum) shell layers. The proostracum comprises five longitudinal elements: a middle plate (rachis), two lateral plates, and two wings (Fig. 3a).

Beaks

Upper beak rostrum long, curved, tip pointed. Jaw angle obtuse, lateral wall extends forwards of wing forming large, with distinct false angle. Hood long, ~0.8 times crest length. Posterior margin of hood/wing are convex. Wing extends to base of anterior margin of lateral wall. Crest straight, unthickened (Fig. 3b). Lower beak rostral tip pointed, have small hook. Wings are very broad, prolonged, spread parallel, with very high wing fold, highest opposite jaw angle, forming smooth cutting edge.

Crest short, wide, unthickened. Jaw angle obtuse. Shoulder tooth present

(Fig. 3b). Beak measurements are presented in Table 2.

Holotype. Fig. 2B collected by Dajun Qiu. SCSMBC030991, Marine

Biodiversity Collections of South China Sea, South China Sea Institution

of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The specimen is barcoded

in GenBank: SSU 1-1899 (MN044751), D1-D2 LSU 1-408 rDNA

(OP526744), and CO1 1-702 (OP531921), H3a 1-311 (OP549780)

sequences.

Etymology

The species name *southchinaseais* refers to the geographic locality, the

South China Sea, where the species was collected.

Type locality

South China Sea, China (17°59′28″N, 112°29′58″E).

Distribution

From whole animals, the South China Sea species is known only from

this locality. From molecular samples, this species appears to have a

wider distribution. D1–D2 LSU rDNA sequences MG: 263928, 263931,

263941, 263942, 263948, 263949, 263954, 263969, 263987, and 263992

from GenBank identified as *V. infernalis* from the Gulf of Mexico,

Atlantic Ocean, and an unknown locality, are identical to that of *V.*

southchinaseais. Additionally, CO1 sequences AB266515; GU145060;

MF432197; and (all MG) 591300, 591304, 591313, 591328, 591329,

591335, 591338, 591339, 591358, 591379, 591380, 591385, 591386, 591404, 591438, 591440, 490128; and NC009689 retrieved from GenBank as *V. infernalis* from the Gulf of Mexico, North Atlantic Ocean, Smith Caldera (North Pacific Ocean), and an unknown locality, are also identical to that of *V. southchinaseais*.

Phylogenetic position of *Vampyroteuthis* based on nuclear rRNA, mitochondrial CO1, and histone H3*a* genes

Nuclear-encoded partial SSU (MN044751) and LSU (OP526744) ribosomal RNA genes, mitochondrial CO1 (OP531921), and histone H3*a* gene sequences (OP549780), were obtained. The phylogenetic tree of SSU, LSU, CO1, and H3*a* contained 40, 29, 80, and 41 sequences, respectively, from GenBank, in addition to our sequences. LSU tree topologies inferred from the dataset using neighbor joining (NJ) and maximum likelihood (ML) revealed well-supported long distances and clear separation of *V. southchinaseais* from *V. infernalis* and other genera (Fig. 4). Because our LSU rRNA gene sequence is almost identical to 10 sequences (MG: 263928, 263931, 263941, 263942, 263948, 263949, 263954, 263969, 263987, 263992) from the Gulf of Mexico, and Atlantic Ocean, these specimens may be conspecific. The LSU phylogeny places *V. southchinaseais* sp. nov. in a distinct lineage, separate from 14 other sequences referred to *V. infernalis* from the Gulf of Mexico (MG: 263894, 263895, 263896, 263897, 263926, 263930, 263940, 263951, 263953,

263959, 263985, 263986) and two unknown locality (AH012197 and
AY557548) (Fig. 4).

In the mitochondrial CO1 tree (Fig. 5), the South China Sea *V. southchinaseais* is identical to 21 sequences reported for *V. infernalis* from the Gulf of Mexico, northeast and northwest Atlantic Ocean, and North Pacific Ocean (Smith Caldera), and forms a strongly supported distinct lineage that is well-separated from 20 sequences referred to *V. infernalis* from the Gulf of Mexico, near New Zealand (South Pacific Ocean), Indian Ocean, and northwest Atlantic Ocean. Thus, the mitochondrial CO1 tree resolved these species into two groups. Sequences of AY557459 (SSU rDNA, Fig. 6), AY557548 (LSU rDNA, Fig. 4), AF000071 (CO1, Fig. 5), and AY557408 (histone H3 *a*, Fig. S1) were sourced from the same specimen referred to *V. infernalis* by Lindgren et al. (2004). In the SSU tree (Fig. 6), the 1899-bp SSU rDNA sequence from the South China Sea of *V. southchinaseais* (MN044751) differed by only 5 bp (0.003%) from that of *V. infernalis* (AY557459, AY145387). So SSU rDNA sequences of *V. southchinaseais* could be separated from the *V. infernalis* sequence (AY557459) based on sequence bases. LSU, SSU, and CO1 molecular phylogenies revealed *V. southchinaseais* to form strongly supported lineages (Fig. 4–6). However, in the H3*a* tree (Fig. S1), *V. southchinaseais* could not be separated from *V. infernalis* sequences (AY557408).

Discussion

Splitting *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* sensu lato into two species: *V. southchinaseais* sp. nov. and *V. infernalis* s.s.

SSU, LSU rDNA and CO1 phylogenies indicate that *V. southchinaseais* differs from what we refer to as *V. infernalis* (Fig. 4–6) with very strong bootstrap support. In addition to the contrast in general shape, *V. southchinaseais* and *V. infernalis* differ in 'tail' shape, lower beak morphology, and photophore position. In this study, *V. southchinaseais* has a broad and prolonged wing of lower beak, which differ from those of *V. infernalis* the southeast and northeast Pacific and central and eastern Atlantic (Clarke 1986, Schwarz et al. 2020). The ratio of lower beak CL to HL in this study is similar with previous studies, except for the eighth specimen (Table 2). The ratio of lower beak WL to RL in this study is significant different from the second, third and fourth specimens but similar with the seventh and eighth specimens (Table 2). *V. infernalis* has neither a 'tail' nor photophores near the fins, and the lower beak has a broad and short wing, while *V. southchinaseais* has a coracoid-shaped 'tail,' photophores between the fins and 'tail,' and a lower beak with a broad, prolonged wing (Table 3).

In previous molecular phylogenies, *V. southchinaseais* branched in a basal position to *V. infernali*s s.s.; these two species indisputably share

common ancestry (Figs. 4 and 5). Timm et al. (2020) reported that the

evidence of two populations in *Vampyroteuthis* was found in the Gulf of

Mexico and northwestern Atlantic Ocean based on population structure

analysis..

Phylogenetic position of Vampyromorpha based on morphology and

molecular evidence

Our analyses lend support to the idea that Vampyromorpha occupies

an intermediate phylogenetic position between Decabrachia and

Octobrachia (Fig. 6). Of surveyed taxa, Vampyromorpha appears to be

more closely related to *Psychroteuthis* sp. (AY557513) than it is to *S.*

syrtensis, differing from the former in 345 bp (15.92%) and the latter in

851 bp (32.78%). Our interpretation of these results is similar to those of

Lindgren et al. (2004) using molecular data and Pickford (1939, 1940),

Young (1977), Healy (1990), and Young et al. (1996, 1998) using

morphological data, wherein Vampyromorpha was deemed to be more

closely related to Decabrachia (or Teuthida) than to Octobrachia

(particularly cirrate octopuses). However, this interpretation contrasts

with that of Yokobori et al. (2007), wherein the Vampyromorpha was

deemed to be more closely related to the Octobrachia based on

mitochondrial gene sequences.

Morphological and molecular data support the position of the

Vampyromorpha as being intermediate between the Octobrachia and Decabrachia. However, our results and historical data (both morphological and molecular) have yet to unequivocally demonstrate the monophyly of Decabrachia and Vampyromorpha, or Octobrachia and Vampyromorpha. Further analyses are required to resolve phylogenetic relationships between these taxa.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank Guozheng Wang, Huangchen Zhang, Yanan Tang, and Chenhui Xiang from the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and colleagues of the northern South China Sea Marine Research Open Cruises (NSFC) for helping us use the Hydro-Bios Multinet system or the collection of deep sea samples. We thank Richard Young from the University of Hawaii for providing and permission the *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* beak photo and insightful advice on data analysis. We also thank the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) supplying us a *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* the digital image and permission, and the Royal Society (U.K.) permission.

Author contributions

DQ designed the experiments. DQ, GL, and ZK collected the samples. DQ, BL, YG, WA conducted the experiments. DQ, LH, KL, and YT

308 contributed reagents, materials, analysis tools. DQ and BL carried out the

309 data analysis. DQ and BL prepared the manuscript. All authors were

310 involved in revision of the manuscript and approved its final version.

Funding

313 This research work was supported by the program of the Natural Science

314 Foundation of China (Grant 42276165, 41776154, 41130855).

References

Braid H.E., Bolstad K.S.R. (2019). Cephalopod biodiversity of the

Kermadec Islands: implications for conservation and some future

taxonomic priorities. *Invertebr. Syst.* 33(2),

402-425. https://doi.org/10.1071/IS18041

Clarke M.R. (1986). A hand book for the identification of cephalopod

beaks. Clarendon Press, Oxford, pp273.

Healy J.M. (1990). Ultrastructure of spermiogenesis in *Vampyroteuthis*

infernalis Chun—a relict cephalopod mollusk. *Helgol. Meeresunters.*

44, 95–107. https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02365433

Hoving H.T., Robison B.H. (2012). Vampire squid: detritivores in the

oxygen minimum zone. *P. Roy. Soc. B-Biol. Sci.* 279, 4559–4567.

https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2012.1357

Johnsen, S., Balser, E.J., Fisher, E.C., Widder, E.A. (1999).

Bioluminescence in the deep-sea cirrate octopod *Stauroteuthis syrtensis* Verrill (Mollusca: Cephalopoda). *Biol. Bull. US* 197(1), 26–39.

Lindgren A., Giribet G., Nishiguchi M. (2004). A combined approach to the phylogeny of Cephalopoda (Mollusca). *Cladistics* 20, 454–486. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-0031.2004.00032.x

Norman M.D., Nabhitabhata J., Lu C.C. (2016). An updated checklist of the cephalopods of the South China Sea. *Raffles Bull. Zoo.* 34, 566-592.

Pickford G.E. (1939). A re-examination of the types of *Melanoteuthis lucens* Joubin. *Bulletin de l'Institut Oceanographique, Monaco* 777, 1–12.

Pickford G.E. (1940). The Vampyromorpha, living fossil Cephalopoda. *Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences 2*, 169–181.

Pickford G.E. (1949). *Vampyroteuthis infernalis* Chun an archaic dibranchiate cephalopod. II. External anatomy. *Dana-Report* 32, 1-132.

Roper C.F.E., Voss G.L. (1983). Guidelines for taxonomic descriptions of cephalopod species. *Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria* 44, 48–63.

Qiu D., Huang L., Liu S., Lin S. (2011). Nuclear, mitochondrial and plastid gene phylogenies of *Dinophysis miles* (Dinophyceae):

Evidence of variable types of chloroplasts. PloS One 6(12), e29398. https://doi.org/ 10.1371/journal.pone.0029398

Schwarz R., Piatkowski U., Robison B.H., Laptikhovsky V.V., Hoving H.J. (2020). Life history traits of the deep-sea pelagic cephalopods *Japetella diaphana* and *Vampyroteuthis infernalis*. *Deep-Sea Res. Part I* 164, 103365. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2020.103365

Sweeney M.J., and Young R.E. (1998). Taxa associated with the Family Vampyroteuthidae. Available at: http://tolweb.org/accessory/Vampyroteuthidae_Taxa?acc_id=2420.

Timm L.E., Bracken-Grissom H.D., Sosnowski A., Breitbart M., Vecchione M., Judkins H. (2020). Population genomics of three deep-sea cephalopod species reveals connectivity between the Gulf of Mexico and northwestern Atlantic Ocean, *Deep-Sea Res. Part I* 158, 103222. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2020.103222.

Yokobori S.I., Lindsay D.J., Yoshida M., Tsuchiya K., Yamagishi A., Maruyama T., Oshima T. (2007). Mitochondrial genome structure and evolution in the living fossil vampire squid, *Vampyroteuthis infernalis*, and extant cephalopods. *Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.* 44(2), 898–910.   https://doi.org/ 10.1016/j.ympev.2007.05.009

Young J.Z. (1977). "Brain, behaviour and evolution in cephalopods." In The biology of cephalopods. Eds M. Nixon, and J.M. Messenger., (New York: Acad. Press), 377–434.

Young R.E. (1964). The anatomy of the vampire squid. MSc thesis,

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA.

Young R.E. (1972). The systematic and areal distribution of pelagic

cephalopods from the seas off southern California. *Smithson.*

Contrib. Zool. 97, 1–159.

Young R.E., Vecchione M. (1996). Analysis of morphology to determine

primary sister–taxon relationships within coleoid cephalopods. *Am.*

Malacol. Bull. 12, 91–112.

Young R.E., Vecchione M., Donovan D.T. (1998). "The evolution of

coleoid cephalopods and their present biodiversity and ecology." In

Cephalopod Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution. Eds Payne, A.I.L.,

Lipinski, M.R., Clarke, M.R., Roeleveld, M.A.C., (Cape Town:

National Book Printers), 393–420.

Young R.E., Vecchione M. (1999). Morphological observations on a

hatchling and a paralarva of the Vampire squid, *Vampyroteuthis*

infernalis Chun (Mollusca: Cephalopoda). *Proc. Biol. Soc.*

Washington 112, 661–666.

Young R.E. (2019). Vampyroteuthidae Thiele, in Chun, 1915.

Vampyroteuthis infernalis Chun, 1903. The Vampire Squid. Version

26   March   2019.   Available   at:

http://tolweb.org/Vampyroteuthis_infernalis/20084/2019.03.26

in The Tree of Life Web Project, http://tolweb.org/

396   18

Figure legends:

Figure 1. Map of study site. The *Vampyroteuthis* was collected from

Station 30.

Figure 2. Fresh-collected *Vampyroteuthis southchinaseais* sp. nov.: A)

dorsal, B) lateral views. Scale bar = 1 cm in Fig. 2 A–B.

Figure 3. Gladius (A), upper and lower beak (B) of *Vampyroteuthis*

southchinaseais sp. nov. Scale bar = 1 cm in Fig. 3 A–B.

Figure 4. Cephalopod phylogeny inferred from LSU rDNA. Nodal

support based on bootstrap values of ML/NJ with 1000 resamplings each;

only values > 50 are shown (if a phylogenetic method yielded support <

50, it is denoted by ''-''). *Pyroteuthis margaritifera* was used as an

outgroup to root the tree.

Figure 5. Cephalopod phylogeny inferred from mitochondrial CO1.

Nodal support based on bootstrap values of ML/NJ with 1000

resamplings each; only values > 60 are shown (if a phylogenetic method

yielded support < 60, it is denoted by ''-''). *Chaetoderma nitidulum* was

used as an outgroup to root the tree.

Figure 6. Cephalopod phylogeny inferred from SSU rDNA. Nodal

support based on bootstrap values of ML/NJ with 1000 resamplings each;

only values > 60 are shown (if a phylogenetic method yielded support <

60, it is denoted by ''-''). *Chaetoderma nitidulum* was used as an

outgroup to root the tree.

Figure S1. Cephalopod phylogeny inferred from histone H3 *a* gene.

Nodal support based on bootstrap values of ML/NJ with 1000

resamplings each; only values > 60 are shown (if a phylogenetic method

yielded support < 60, it is denoted by ''-''). *Chaetoderma nitidulum* was

used as an outgroup to root the tree.

Table 1. Primers used in this study.

Primer name	Application		Sequences (5′-3′)	References
18SF	SSU	for	AAGGGTTGTGTTYATTAGNTACARAAC	This study
	Vampyroteuthis			
18ScomR	SSU	for	CACCTACGGAAACCTTGTTACGAC	This study
	Vampyroteuthis			
28Sa	LSU	for	GACCCGTCTTGAAACACGGA	Lindgren et
	Vampyroteuthis			al., 2004
28Sb	LSU	for	TCGGAAGGAACCAGCTAC	Lindgren et
	Vampyroteuthis			al., 2004
LCO1490	CO1	for	GGTCAACAAATCATAAAGATATTGG	Lindgren et
	Vampyroteuthis			al., 2004
HCO2198	CO1	for	TAAACTTCAGGGTGACCAAAAAATCA	Lindgren et
	Vampyroteuthis			al., 2004
H3*a* F	H3*a*	for	ATGGCTCGTACCAAGCAGAC(ACG)GC	Lindgren et
	Vampyroteuthis			al., 2004
H3*a* R	H3*a*	for	ATATCCTT(AG)GGCAT(AG) AT(AG)GTGAC	Lindgren et
	Vampyroteuthis			al., 2004

Table 2. Lengths of upper and lower beak characters of *Vampyroteuthis* in this study and histories data. HL, hood length; RL, rostral length; CL, crest length; LWL, lower wing length; WL, wing length

Specimen number	Break position	HL (mm)	RL (mm)	CL (mm)	LWL (mm)	WL (mm)	
1	Upper beak	8.718	2.249	11.590	8.005	2.924	This study
	Lower beak	5.436	2.077	6.559	6.905	4.630	
2	Upper beak	/	/	/	/	/	http://tolweb.org/Vamp
	Lower beak	3.41	1.00	3.78	3.91	2.81	yroteuthis_infernalis/20
3	Upper beak	/	/	/	/	/	084
	Lower beak	7.57	2.20	9.12	9.62	7.75	http://tolweb.org/notes/
4	Upper beak	/	/	/	/	/	?note_id=5249
	Lower beak	16.59	5.30	20.16	19.87	14.26	
5	Upper beak	13.23	3.67	16.13	13.49	4.31	Schwarz et al. 2020
	Lower beak	/	/	/	/	/	
6	Upper beak						Clarke 1986
	Lower beak	10.786	/	13.000	12.91	/	
7	Upper beak	7.10	2.61	9.45	5.84	1.58	Pickford 1949
	Lower beak	5.00	2.04	6.09	/	4.12	
8	Upper beak	5.04	/	7.02	4.80	/	
	Lower beak	3.66	0.91	5.21	4.84	1.95	

449   Table 3 Morphological characteristics and distributions of *Vampyroteuthis*

450   species

	Vampyroteuthis infernalis s.s.	*Vampyroteuthis southchinaseais* nov. sp.
Tail	No tail © 2007 MBARI	Coracoid shaped tail
Photophores	A pair of photophores are located on the dorsal mantle side near the fins. Hoving and Robinson, 2012	A pair of photophores are located between the fins and tail.
Lower beak wing	Broad and short http://tolweb.org/notes/?note_id=5249	Broad and prolonged
Distributions	The Gulf of Mexico,	South China Sea, Smith

	northwest Atlantic Ocean, near New Zealand (South Pacific Ocean), North Pacific Ocean, and Indian Ocean.	Caldera (North Pacific Ocean), the Gulf of Mexico, northeast and northwest Atlantic Ocean.
References	Young, 2019; Hoving and Robinson, 2012; http://tolweb.org/notes/?note_id=5249.	This study

Figure 1

A

B

Arms

Fin

Large
photophore

Coracoid
tail

Cirri

Eye

1 cm

Figure 2

A

1 cm

B

1 cm

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure S1