

Loligo pealei Lesueur, 1821
Longfin Squid

Class Cephalopoda
Order Teuthoidea
Family Loliginidae

Classification according to Roper *et al.* (1984)
References used: Sanchez (1995)

Diagnostic characters: Mantle long, cylindrical; head, arms and tentacles large; fin length in relation to mantle length variable, usually exceeding 50% in specimens larger than 70 mm mantle length; gladius (pen) broad, curved (feather shaped), more rounded in females; vane of gladius without ribs, margins thin and curved; junction of vane and rachis gradual, not distinct; ratio of greatest width of vane of gladius to greatest width of rachis (GW/RW ratio) 2.74 to 3.52 in females, 2.26 to 3.36 in males; overall ratio 2.1 to 3.8 (includes small specimens for which sex could not be determined). Using a GW/RW ratio of 2.7 separates 100% of the *L. plei* and 91% of the *L. pealei*.

GW/RW ratio $\geq 2.7 = L. pealei$.

Habitat: Neritic, occurring over continental shelf to depth of 400 m. In SEAMAP samples usually found at stations exceeding 20 fathoms, more abundant as depths increase.

Range: Western Atlantic; Gulf of Mexico; Caribbean Sea.



Loligo plei de Blainville, 1823
Arrow Squid

Class Cephalopoda
Order Teuthoidea
Family Loliginidae

Classification according to Roper *et al.* (1984)
References used: Sanchez (1995)

Diagnostic characters: Mantle long, slender, cylindrical, posterior end acutely pointed; head, arms and tentacles smaller than in *L. pealeii* for same mantle length; fins usually less than 50% of the mantle length in juveniles and subadults (in specimens over 120 mm mantle length fins approach and may exceed 50%); gladius (pen) long, slender, (sword or dagger shaped); vane with marginal ribs in both sexes, ribs more pronounced in males; ribs in vane of small specimens not easily distinguished; junction of rachis and vane abrupt and distinct; ratio of greatest width of vane of gladius to greatest width of rachis (GW/RW ratio) 1.85 to 2.34 in males and 1.98 to 2.69 in females; overall **GW/RW ratio less than 2.70**; males usually with ventral streaks.

Habitat: Neritic, occurring over continental shelf to depth of 370 m. In SEAMAP samples usually found at stations 20 fathoms or less. Often mixed with *Lolliguncula brevis* at shallow water stations.

Range: Western Atlantic; Gulf of Mexico; Caribbean Sea; Brazil.



Females



Males

Loligo comparisons



L. plei *L. pealei*
Females



L. plei *L. pealei*
Males



AFR

RW

GW

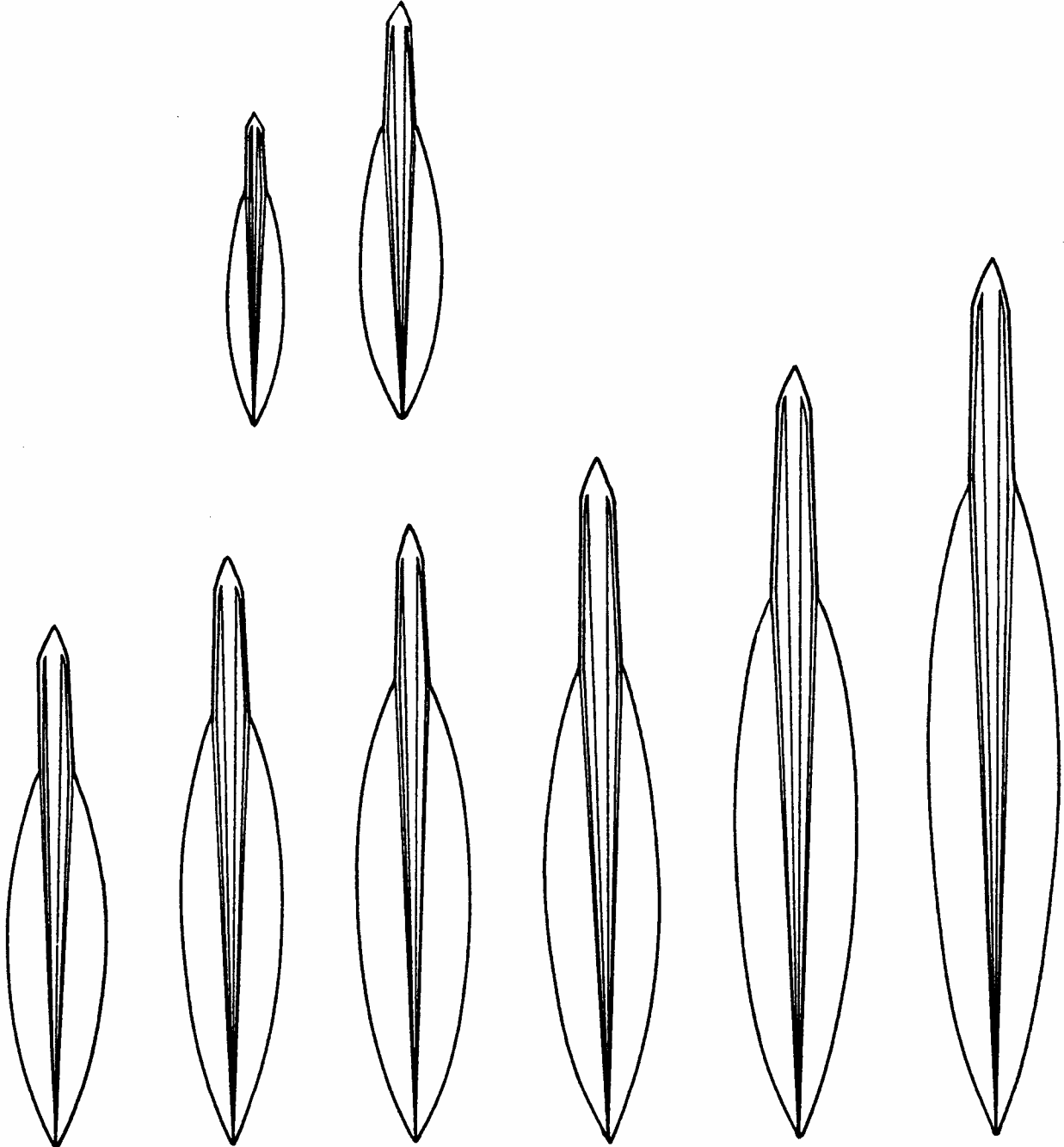
GW/RW Ratios for *Loligo*

	<i>L. pealei</i>	<i>L. plei</i>
Male	2.26 - 3.36	1.85 - 2.34
Female	2.74 - 3.52	1.98 - 2.69
Average	≥ 2.7	< 2.7

From Sanchez 1995

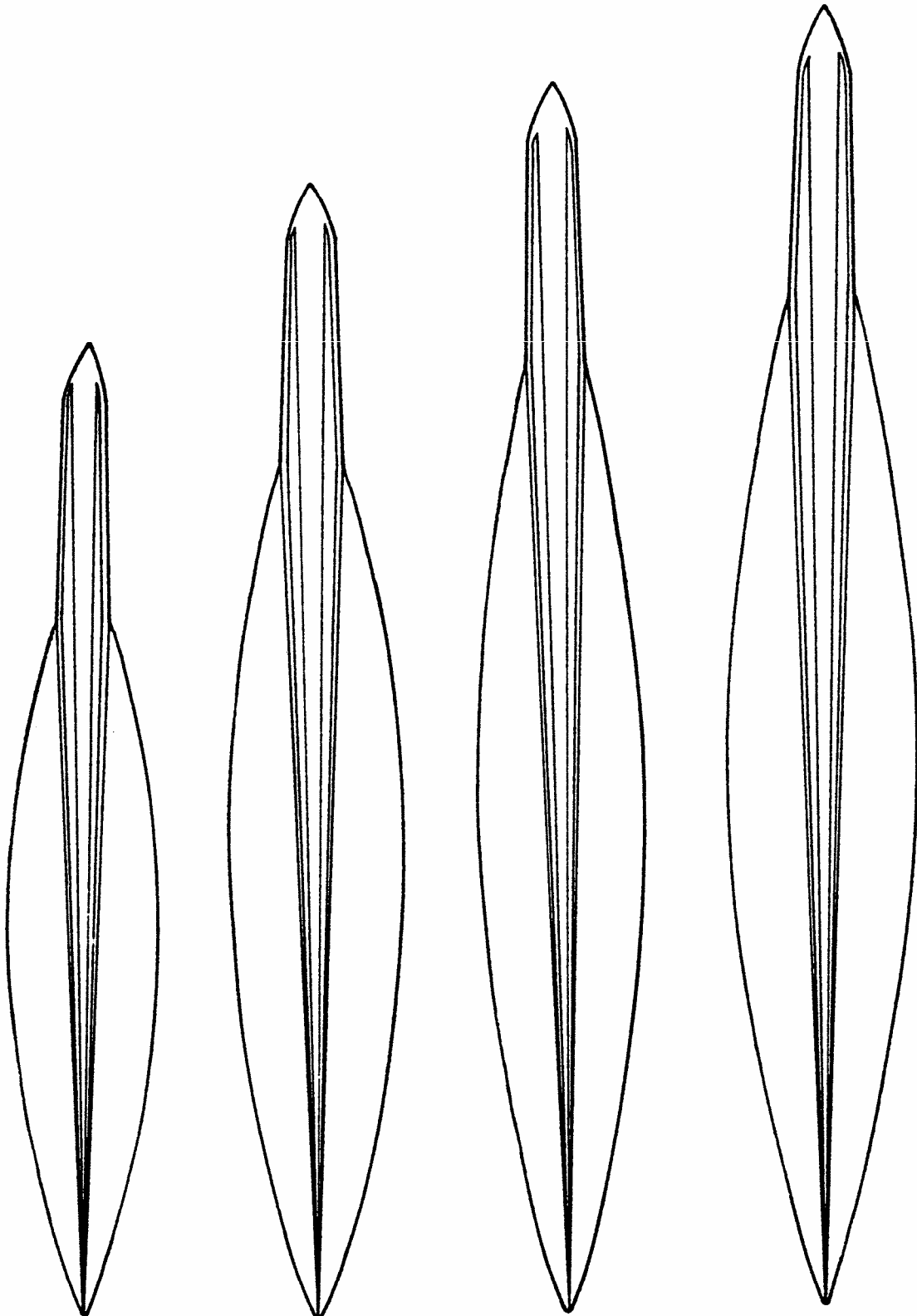
Loligo pealei - Male pens

(Drawings from Sanchez 1995)



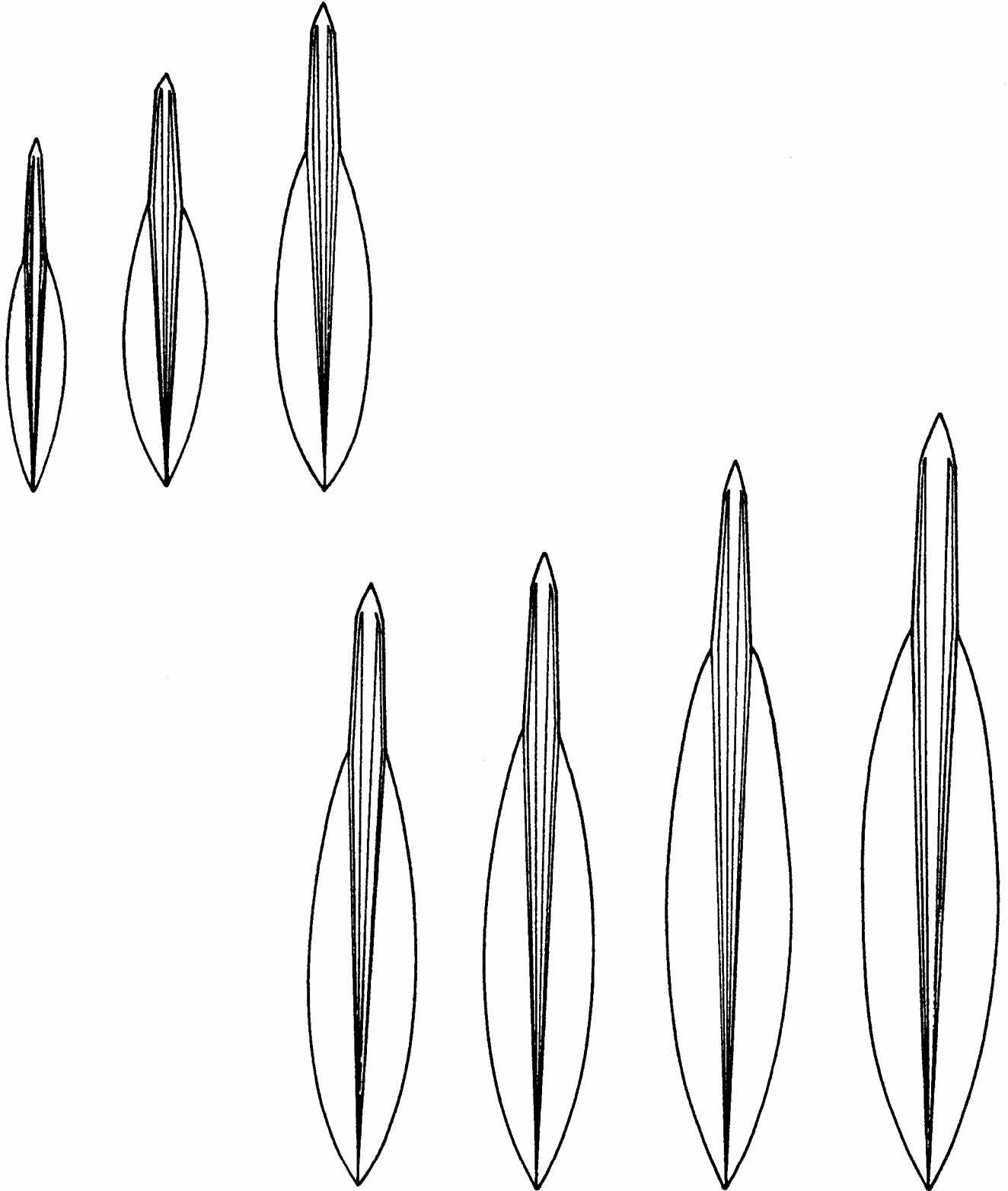
Loligo pealei - Male pens cont.

(Drawings from Sanchez 1995)



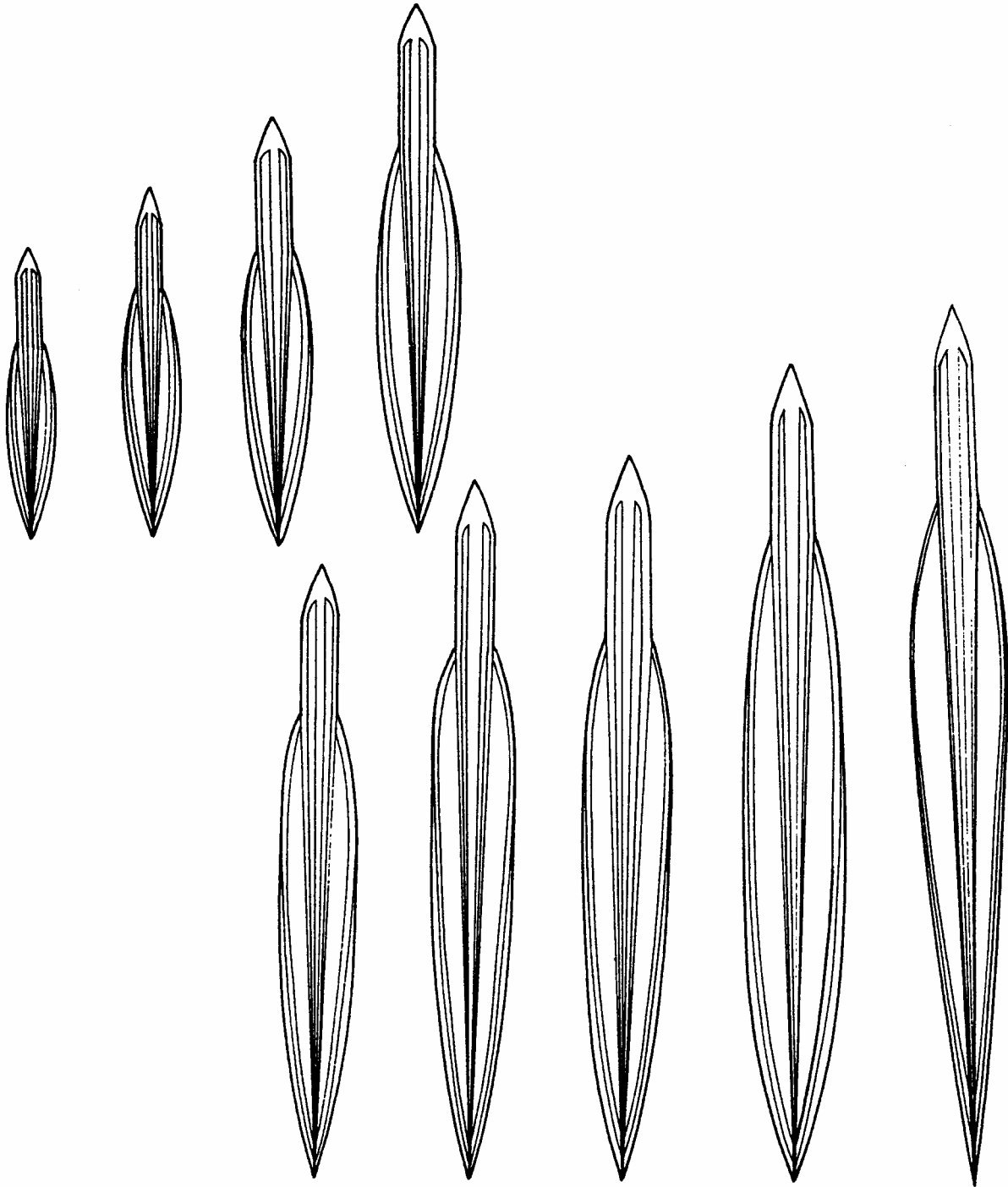
Loligo pealei - Female pens

(Drawings from Sanchez 1995)



Loligo plei - Male pens

(Drawings from Sanchez 1995)



Loligo plei - Female pens

(Drawings from Sanchez 1995)

