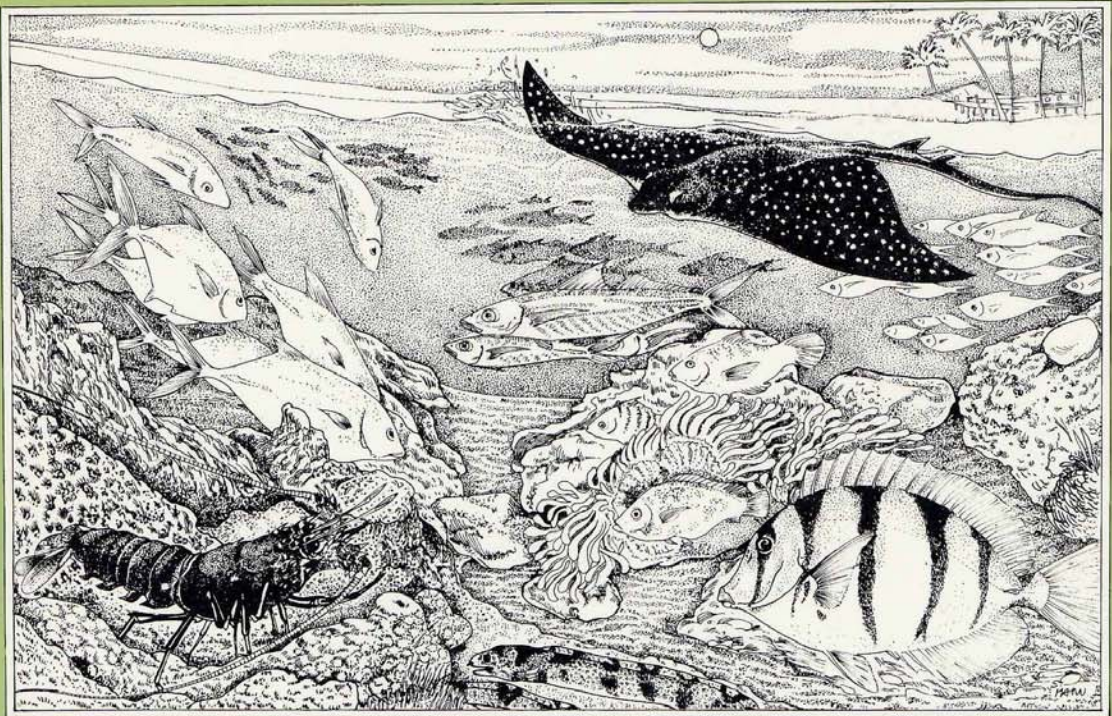




# THE LIVING MARINE RESOURCES OF SOMALIA



Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations



# THE LIVING MARINE RESOURCES OF SOMALIA

by

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## PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This field guide was prepared under the direction of the Species Identification and Data Programme of the Marine Resources Service, Fishery Resources Division, Fisheries Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy. Preparation was supported by UNDP, project code SOM/86/036 (responsible Project Operation Officer, R. Ziesler).

During a survey cruise of the Norwegian research vessel "Dr FRIDTJOF NANSEN" which is directed from the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen the need for detailed information on Somalia became evident. Parts of the Western Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea are well investigated but marine faunal surveys of Somalia are very limited. Furthermore, due to the particular physical and geological conditions, the findings from the Red Sea and Kenya cannot be confidently extrapolated to Somalia.

It was not possible for the authors to travel to Somalia and sample fish in the field or to visit local fish markets. Therefore this guide is compiled entirely from the literature. Basic references were the FAO Species Identification Sheets for Fishery Purposes - Western Indian Ocean (Fishing Area 51), and more recently published FAO Species Catalogues (FAO Fisheries Synopsis Series No. 125). It was not possible to compile a complete checklist and therefore this guide should be viewed as a tentative list of species that may occur in Somalia. The authors expect that many new records will be discovered from Somalia and would appreciate any additional information users may find.

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### SUMMARY

This field guide covers the major resource groups likely to be encountered in the fisheries of Somalia. This includes shrimps, lobsters, bivalves, gastropods, cephalopods, sharks, batoid fishes, bony fishes, and sea turtles. Each resource group is introduced by a general section on technical terms and measurements pertinent to that group and an illustrated guide to orders and families of the group. The more important species are treated in a subsequent guide that includes scientific nomenclature, FAO names in English and French (where available), local names used in Somali, diagnostic features, one or more illustrations, maximum size, and notes on fisheries, habitat, and biology. The guide is fully indexed and a list of further literature is appended.

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# INTRODUCTION

Somalia has a marine fauna that is difficult to characterize because of its position in the Indian Ocean, its particular oceanographic conditions and its history. It is in a transition zone between the typical tropical fauna of eastern Africa and the unique fauna of the Red Sea and the Arabian Peninsula. A seasonal cold water upwelling zone in the centre of the Somalian coast is bordered by rich coral reefs and tropical demersal areas in the South and North.

Furthermore, specimens of nearshore fishes from Somalia are very much underrepresented in museum collections around the world and therefore species distributions often must be guessed. In addition, at the time this guide was written, it was not practical to do field work in Somalia and therefore the species list was compiled from available

literature. Because of these historical and geographical factors the species list needed to compile this guide was tentative.

## Oceanography

Somalia has a coastline of around 3300 km, of which 2000 km fringe the Indian Ocean and about 1300 km fringe the Gulf of Aden. Along this coastline the continental shelf is relatively narrow, rarely exceeding 15 km. It is more extensive only in the extreme east, near Ras Hafun and Ras Asir, where it has a width of 60 to 80 km, and in the very northwest, at the border to Djibouti, where it is about 100 km wide (Fig. 1).

The currents, salinity, and temperature of the water masses around Somalia are highly variable.

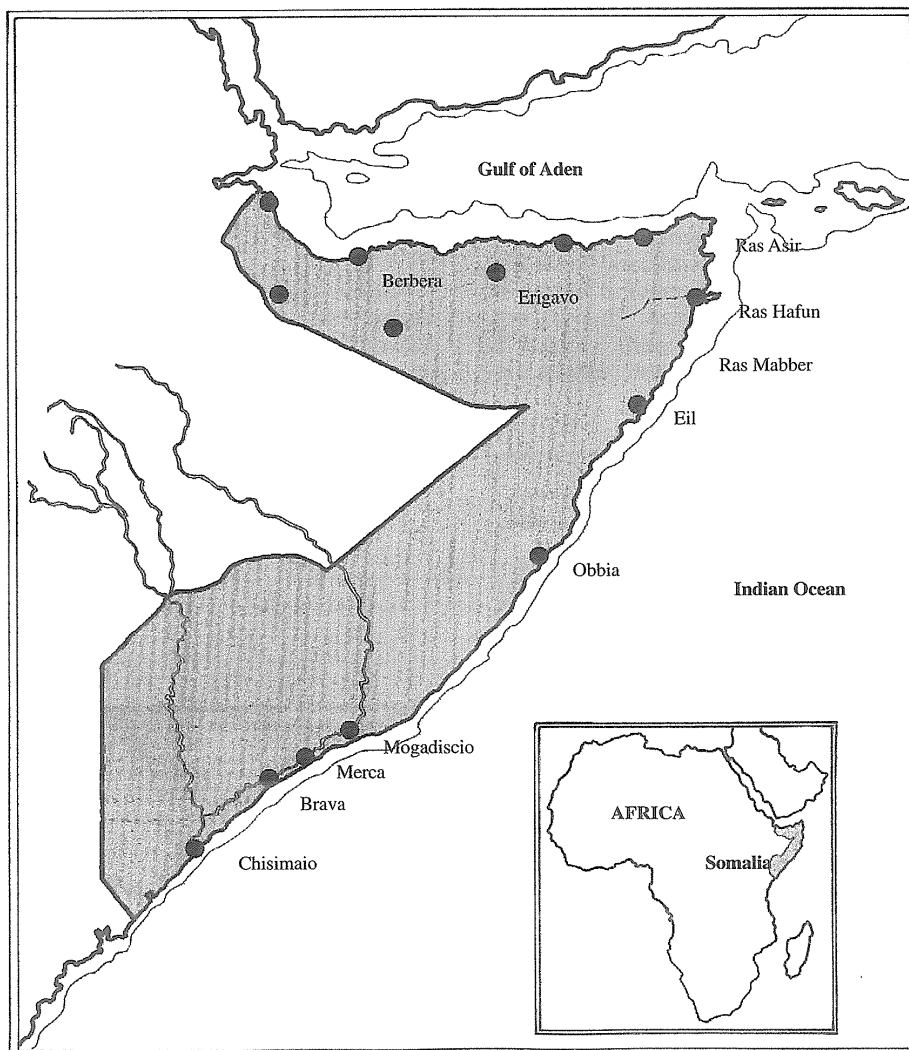


Fig. 1 Map of Somalia and the continental shelf

They depend not only on the main current system in the Indian Ocean, but also on seasonally changing monsoons winds.

The Southern Equatorial Current traverses the Indian Ocean all year. It encounters the coast of Tanzania and moves northward forming the East African Coastal Current. On the eastern coast of Somalia this current comes under the influence of the changing monsoon winds, which create a complicated system of currents, counter currents, and whirls.

From March to October, the strong Southwest monsoon reinforces the East African Coastal Current and drives the waters strongly in a north-eastern direction along the Somali coast. With a maximum of 7 knots speed, this current is the fastest known current in the world and it is called the Somali current (Fig. 2a).

Between 5° and 9°N, depending on the time of the year, the Somali Current leaves the coast, turns eastward and creates a wide clock-wise circular current, which brings some of the water back in the direction of the Southern Equatorial Current. From June to September, the Somali Current is strongest and creates on its northern flank a large gyre known as the "Great Whirl." This whirl leads to a strong upwelling in the area of Ras Hafun (Fig. 3).

From October to March, the Northeast monsoon slows the northerly water movement of the East African Coastal Current, and eventually reverses the current direction on the east coast of Somalia, forming the Somali Counter Current. This current can reach as far as 4°S during years when it is strong, before it turns westward and leaves the

coast (Fig. 2b and 3). Due to the reversed currents, the "Great Whirl" and the upwelling in north Somalia break down.

The waters in the Gulf of Aden are also influenced by the changing winds. The Southwest monsoon drives a strong current from about Socotra Islands, across the Arabian Sea, in the direction of Pakistan. This current influences also the water masses in the Gulf of Aden. The main current direction in the Gulf of Aden is eastward during this time of the year. However, along the northern coast of Somalia exists a counter current that flows westward, fed by northeasterly flowing waters passing between Socotra Islands and the mainland into the Gulf of Aden (Fig. 2).

From October to March the currents are reversed. The Northeast monsoon drives waters across the Arabian Sea, and into the Gulf of Aden. The main current direction is westward, but along the north Somalian coast there exists an eastward counter current.

The seasonally upwelling water in the northern Somali basin has a great impact on the physical water conditions not only on the Somali coast, but in the whole northern Arabian Sea. Upwelling water is generally cold, has a high concentration of nutrients and is undersaturated with oxygen. This condition promotes phytoplankton and zooplankton blooms and influences the occurrence of fish species.

During the Northeast monsoon, when the upwelling breaks down, the water near Ras Hafun is warmer, less nutrition rich, and saturated with oxygen.

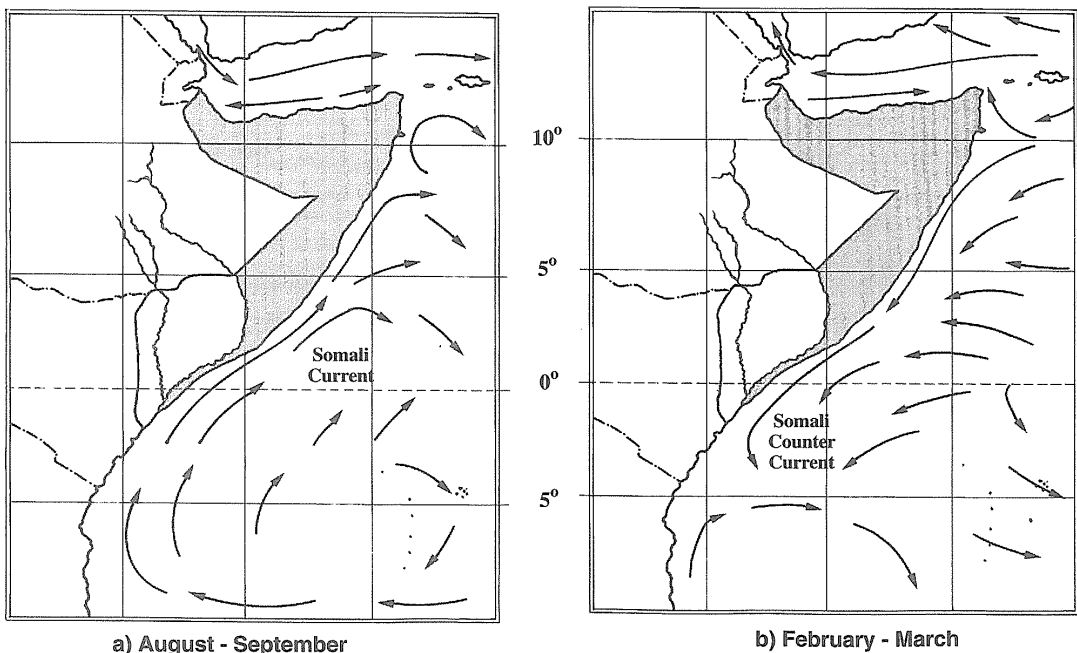
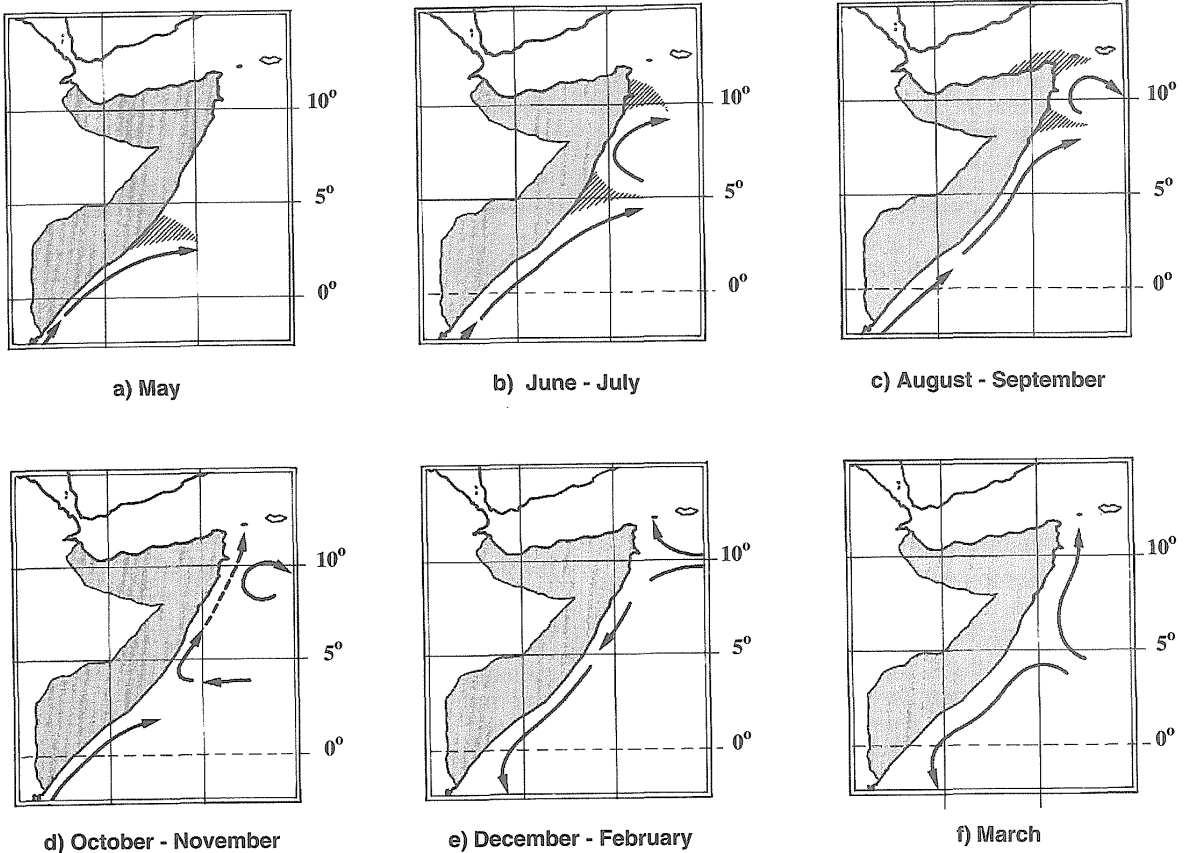


Fig. 2 Main surface currents around Somalia



**Fig. 3** Possible flow pattern of the Somali Current

In Kenya and Tanzania the finfish catch is low during the Southeast monsoon and high during the Northeast monsoon (McClanhan, 1988). Even though it is uncertain to which extent the various factors of fishing effort, fish population changes, and environmental conditions influence the catch rates, it can be assumed that also in Somalia catches undergo distinct seasonal changes. During an acoustic survey of the Norwegian R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen between Ras Asir and Ras Hafun in 1984, the estimated biomass of small pelagic fishes varied from 245 000 t in February and March to 115 000 t in August. This seasonal change in stock estimates was attributed to a migration of the fish to avoid the oxygen-depleted upwelling waters (Stromme, 1984).

The ecosystem of the Somalia east coast is eutrophic and of low biological diversity. It is truly an upwelling ecosystem. However, it cannot be easily compared with the upwelling ecosystems in western Africa, or Peru. These systems are constant and known for their high annual production.

In Somalia the upwelling occurs only during a limited period of time and the annual production is therefore restricted.

The ecosystem in the extreme northwest of Somalia is related to the Red Sea. It is primarily a coral reef system with high species diversity, water surface temperatures in July reaching over 28°C, and salinities over 3,6%. The ecosystem in southern Somalia below the equator is related to the tropical warm water system of Kenya and Tanzania, and is also predominated by coral reefs and benthic productivity associated with low-nutrient, warm water.

The cold upwelling water may act as a zoogeographical boundary between the areas of warm water in the south and the northeast. The species composition is therefore not the same along the entire coastline. Further research is needed here to clarify how fishes and other marine animals cope with the distinct seasonal changes in the environment.

## Fisheries

The annual fisheries production between 1980 and 1988 varied between a minimum of 8 730 t in 1982 and a maximum of 19 939 t in 1984 (FAO, 1985). It is difficult to estimate to what extent the civil war effected the annual production. Estimations for 1993 give total catches and landings of about 14 850 t (FAO, 1995). The major part of the catch are marine finfishes (14 000 t), while freshwater fishes (250 t), tropical spiny lobster (350 t) and cephalopods (250 t) were caught only to a minor extent.

It is important to note, that in all years the total estimated annual production never exceeded 20 000 t. Results from research surveys conducted by the Norwegian R/V Dr. Fridtjof Nansen and many other trawlers, indicate a much higher potential yield. The potential annual sustainable yield alone of small pelagic fishes between Ras Asir and Ras Hafun could be 75 000 t (Van Zalinge, 1987 and Stromme in UNEP 1987).

The total potential annual catches for Somalia are estimated up to 200 000 t (World Fishing - anonymous) or 300 000 t (Pierconti, 1993).

In the 1980's, the Somalian government emphasized the development of fisheries. Several bi- and multilateral projects were launched to increase fisheries production. However, during the civil war all of these efforts were interrupted and most of the fishing gear, processing plants, and equipment were either lost or destroyed. A strong concerted effort will be necessary not only to reestablish the Somalian fishery sector, but also to exploit the full potential yield.

## Species included in this guide

This guide is designed as a working tool for fisheries workers within Somalia. Monitoring fish stocks and fisheries management is necessary for a sustainable fishery and therefore the correct species identification is important. The species included in this guide are primarily those of present or potential interest to fisheries. Also included are species that occur less frequently in catches but

can be confused with important ones, species that may be of importance in the food chain of fisheries organisms, and species that are of interest to the aquarium fish trade.

## Presentation and format

This guide is divided in major taxonomic groups. Each group is introduced by a schematic illustration showing the main body parts of a typical representative species and some measurements and technical terms of general use to fishery workers. In order to facilitate identification, the chapters on bony fishes, sharks, batoid fishes, lobsters, shrimps and prawns, and bivalves and gastropods are preceded by an illustrated guide to the different families. The family guides and the order of the families within the species guides are arranged in phylogenetic (systematic) order. The arrangement of species within a family is alphabetical by genus and species.

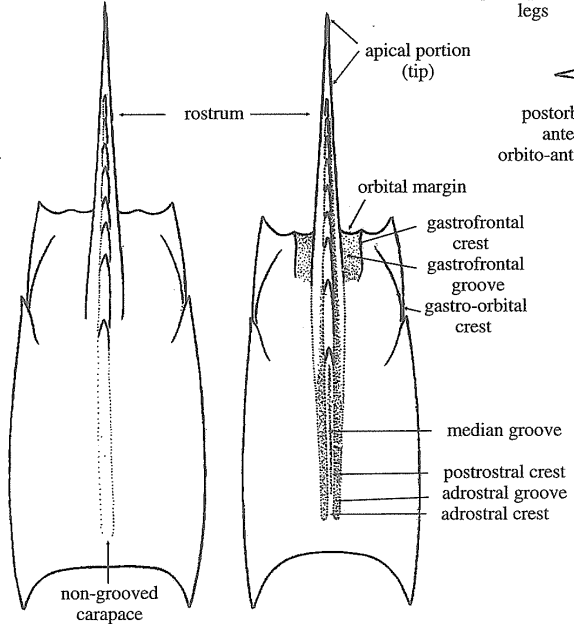
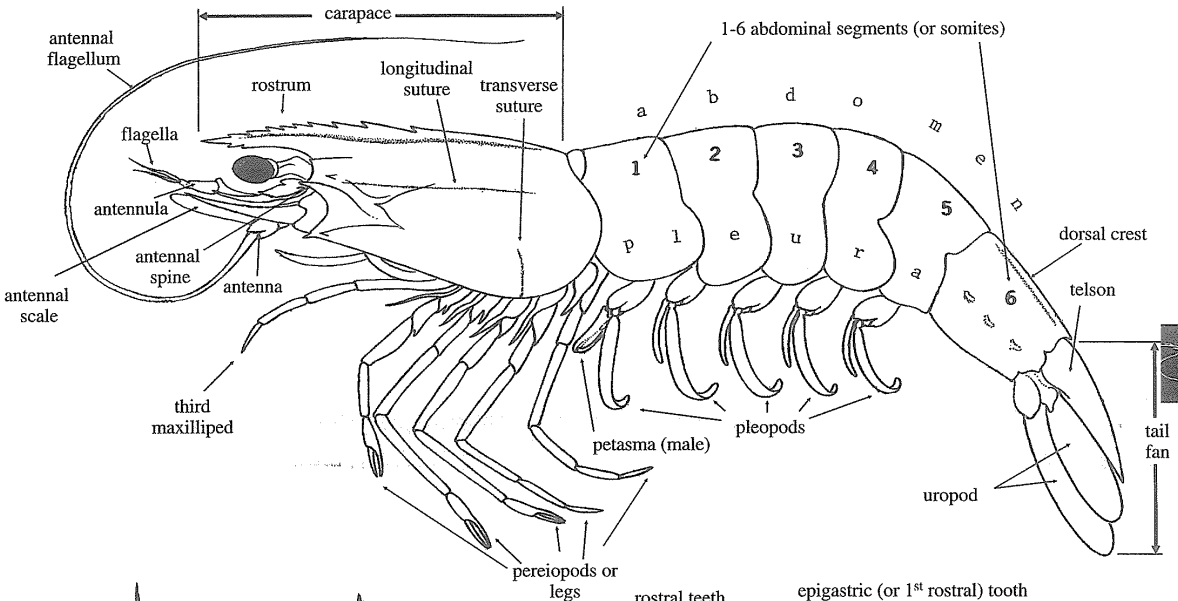
The information for species contains valid scientific names; vernacular English (**En**), French (**Fr**) (where available); local names (where available); size (maximum or common size, usually as total length, unless otherwise specified as fork length, standard length, or other measurement); fisheries, and habitat and biology. Synonyms or misidentifications are also noted, particularly of species previously recorded in the FAO Species Identification Sheets for the Western Indian Ocean, edited by Fischer and Bianchi, 1984.

The official vernacular English name is the one recommended by FAO. The local Somali names included are those found in Parisi et. al. (1988). It should be noted that many of these names are not unique and therefore should not be used for statistical purposes. Many local vernacular names were not available, and it is hoped that users will add these directly to the sheets and also make them available to FAO.

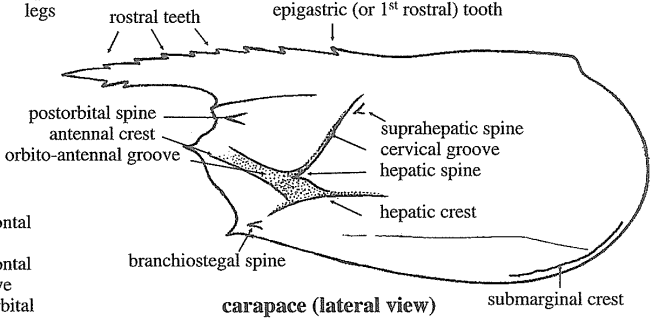
Each species is illustrated by a line drawing, on which the most important diagnostic characters are indicated. Furthermore, the identification of many species is facilitated by the presentation of colour illustrations.

# SHRIMPS AND PRAWNS

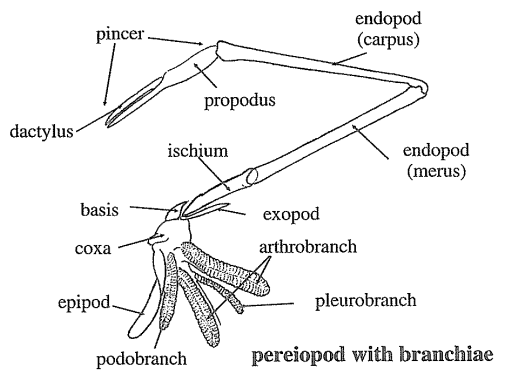
## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



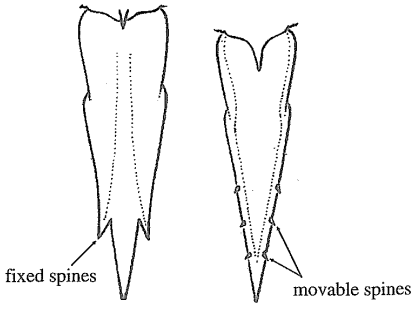
carapace (dorsal view)



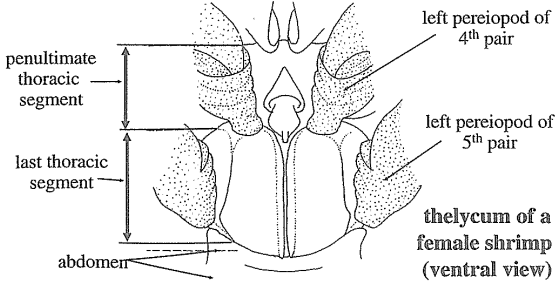
carapace (lateral view)



pereopod with branchiae



types of spined telsons

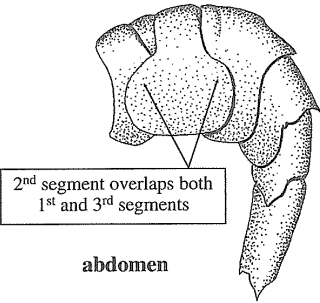


tellycum of a female shrimp (ventral view)

## GUIDE TO ORDERS AND FAMILIES

**Suborder CARIDEA - Caridean Shrimps**

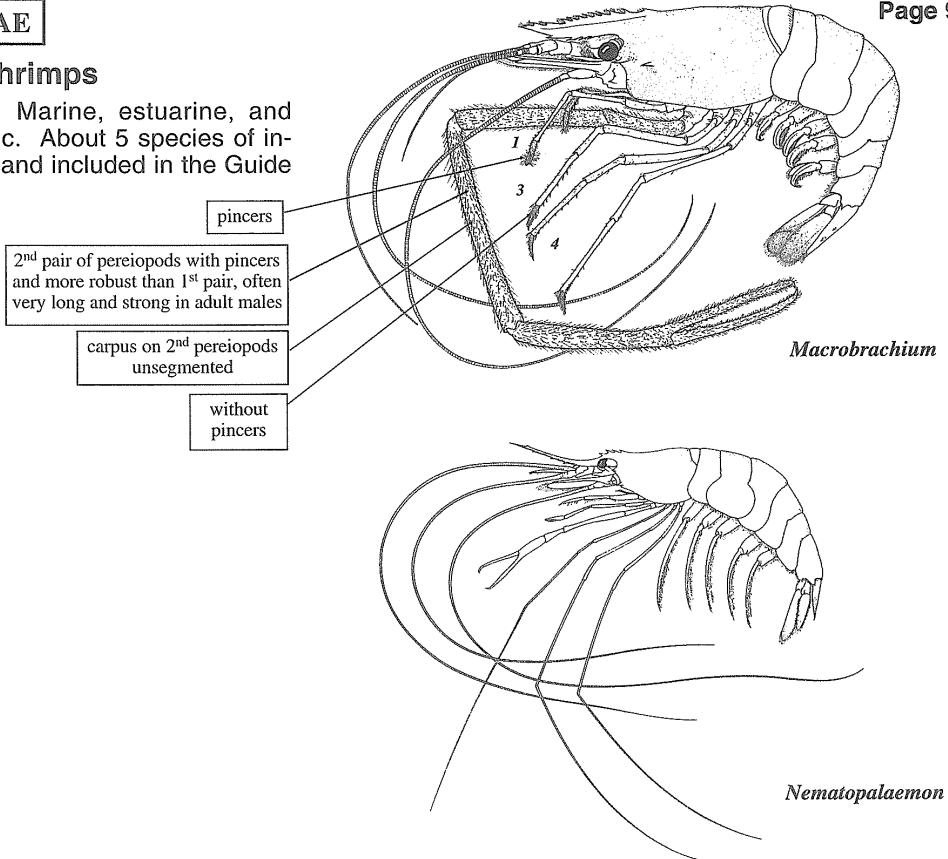
Pleuron of second abdominal segment overlapping those of first and third segments. First 2 pairs of thoracic legs, or only the second, ending in a pincer; the last 3 pairs with a simple claw. Eggs carried by the female.

**PALAEMONIDAE**

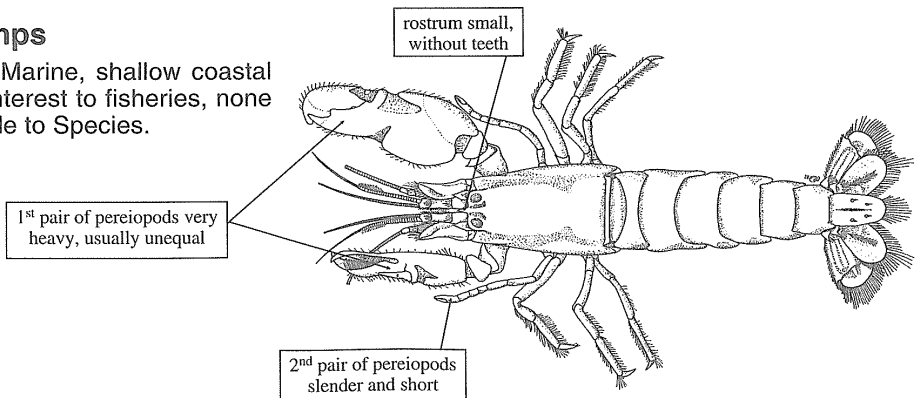
Page 9

**Palaemonid shrimps**

To about 34 cm. Marine, estuarine, and freshwater; benthic. About 5 species of interest to fisheries and included in the Guide to Species.

**ALPHEIDAE****Snapping shrimps**

To at least 42 cm. Marine, shallow coastal waters. Of minor interest to fisheries, none included in the Guide to Species.





**HIPPOLYTIDAE**

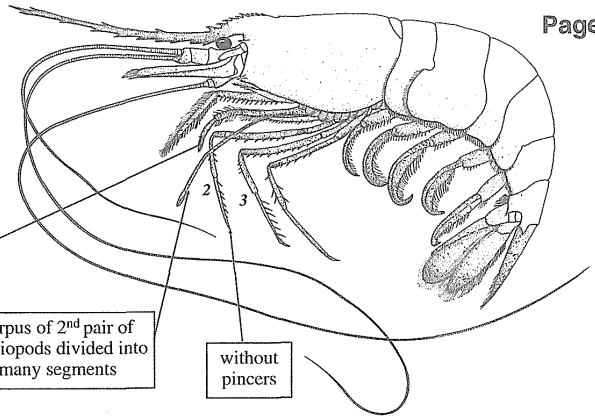
**Cock shrimps**

To about 8 cm. Shallow marine or estuarine waters. One species of interest to fisheries and included in the Guide to Species.

1<sup>st</sup> pair of pereiopods with distinct pincers, a little more robust than the following legs

carpus of 2<sup>nd</sup> pair of pereiopods divided into many segments

without pincers



**PANDALIDAE**

**Pandalid shrimps**

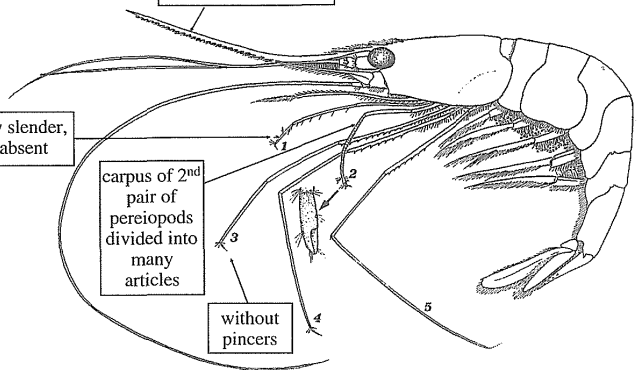
To about 15 cm. Marine, deepwater; benthic. Two species included in the Guide to Species.

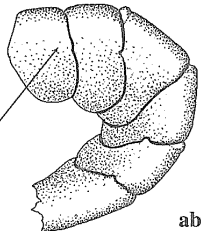
1<sup>st</sup> pair of pereiopods very slender, pincers microscopic or absent

rostrum often long

carpus of 2<sup>nd</sup> pair of pereiopods divided into many articles

without pincers

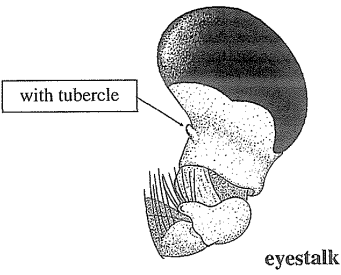


<p><b>Suborder PENAEOIDEA - Penaeid Shrimps</b></p> <p>Pleuron of second abdominal segment overlapping that of third segment only; pincer of 3 first pairs of thoracic legs equal or subequal. Eggs carried by the female.</p>	 <p>1<sup>st</sup> segment overlaps 2<sup>nd</sup> segment</p> <p>abdomen</p>
--	---

**SOLENCERIDAE**

**Solenocerid shrimps**

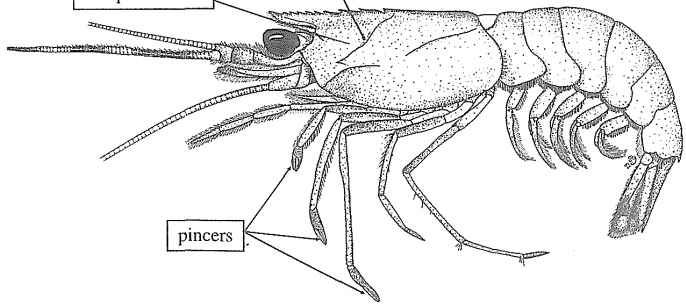
To about 14 cm. Marine, benthic, nocturnal. Two species included in the Guide to Species.



postorbital spine present

cervical groove reaching (or almost reaching) to dorsal margin of carapace

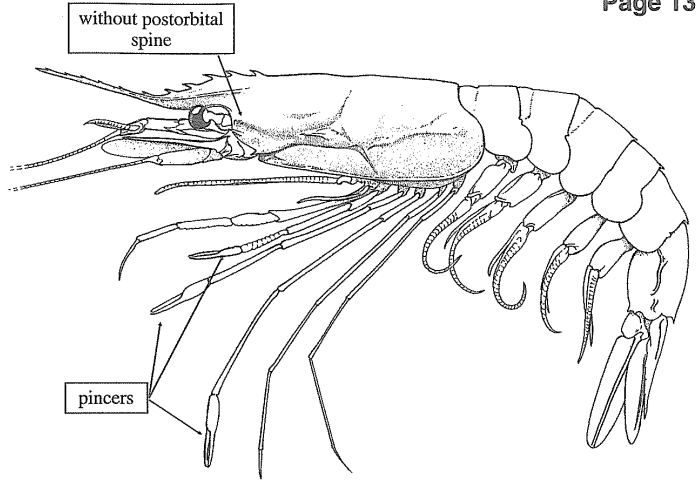
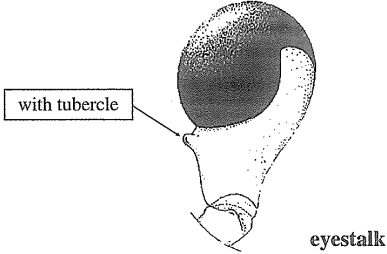
pincers



**ARISTAEIDAE**

**Aristaeid shrimps**

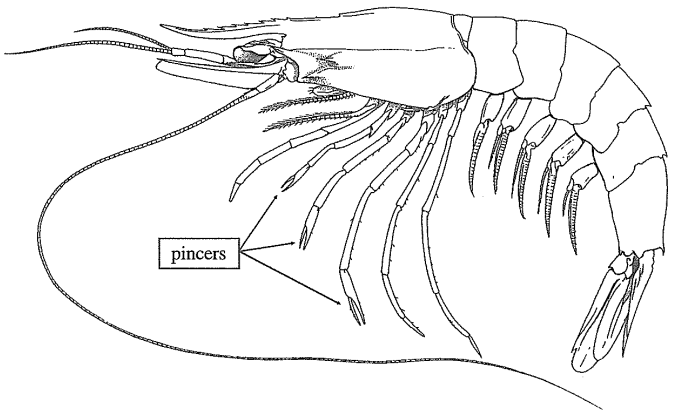
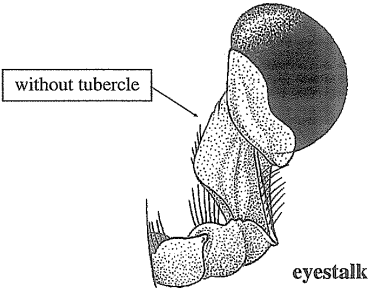
To about 33 cm. Marine, benthic deeper water. Three species included in the Guide to Species.



**PENAEIDAE**

**Penaeid shrimps**

To about 35 cm. Marine and estuarine, benthic. Around 18 species of interest to fisheries.

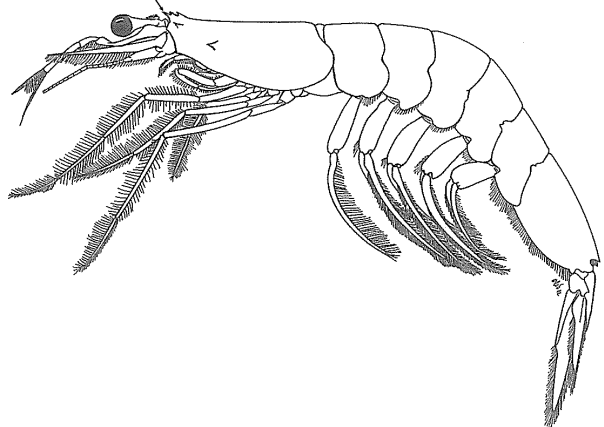


**SERGESTIDAE**

**Sergestid shrimps**

To 48 cm. Marine and brackish water, benthic. One species included in the Guide to Species.

rostrum shorter than eyestalk



**PALAEEMONIDAE**

**Palaemonid shrimps**

***Macrobrachium rude* (Heller, 1862)**

**FAO names:** En - Hairy river prawn;

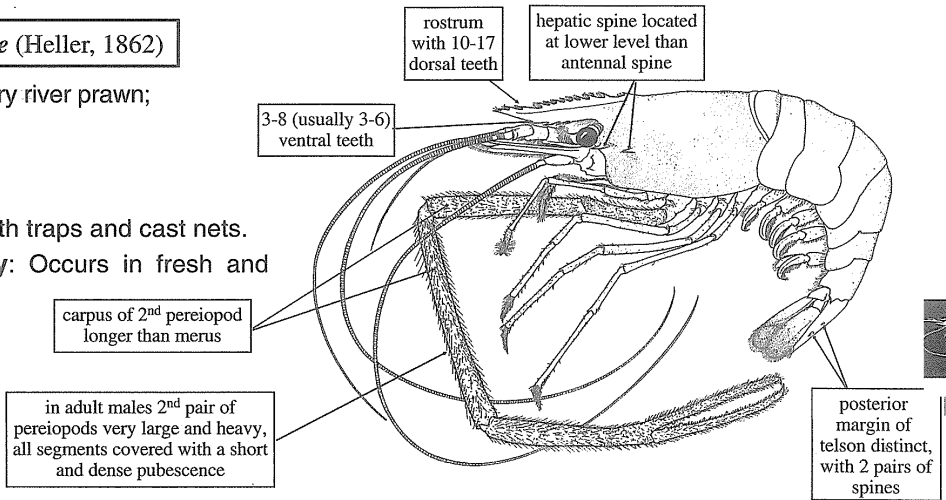
Fr - Bouquet velu.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 13 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps and cast nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in fresh and brackish waters.



***Macrobrachium scabriculum* (Heller, 1862)**

**FAO names:** En - Goda river prawn;

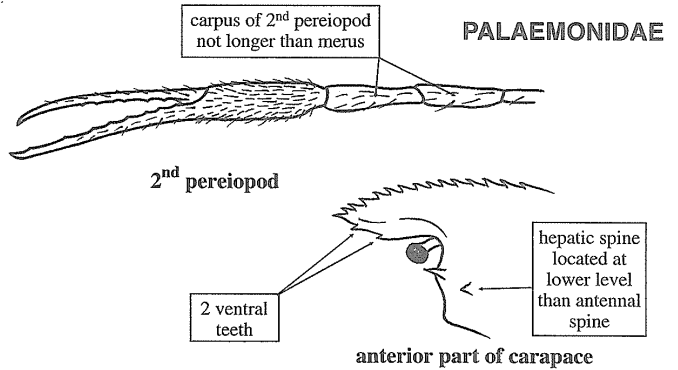
Fr - Bouquet goda.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 7 cm, females 6.2 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in fresh and brackish water.



***Nematopalaemon tenuipes* (Henderson, 1893)**

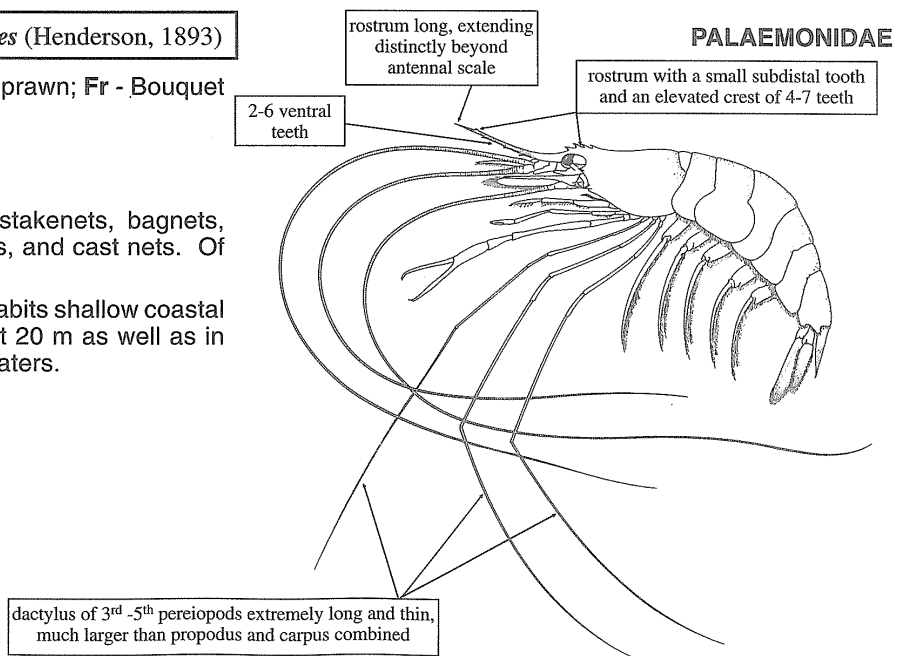
**FAO names:** En - Spider prawn; Fr - Bouquet araignée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 7 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with stakenets, bagnets, shore seines, boat seines, and cast nets. Of some commercial value.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shallow coastal waters to depths of about 20 m as well as in estuarine and brackish waters.



***Palaemon concinnus* Dana, 1852**

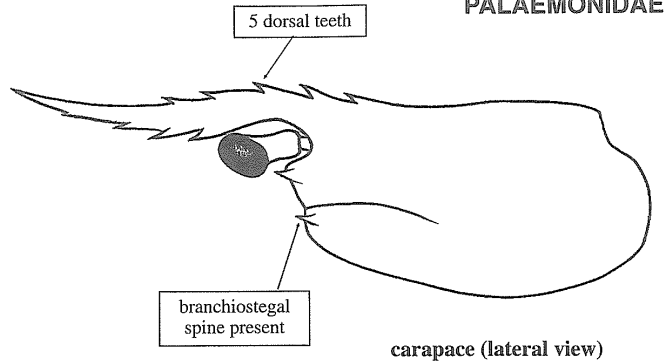
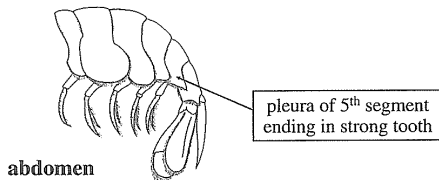
**FAO names:** En - Mangrove prawn; Fr - Bouquet mangrove.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 6.6 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow fresh, brackish, and salt water.

**PALAEMONIDAE*****Palaemon pacificus* (Stimpson, 1860)**

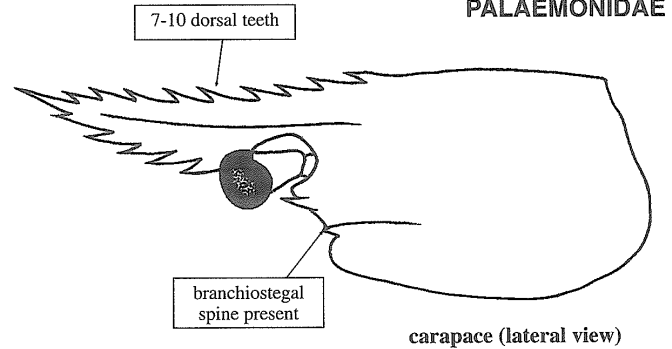
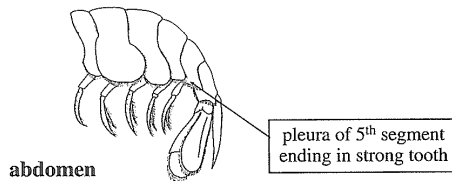
**FAO names:** En - Indian bait prawn; Fr - Bouquet zélateur indien.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 5.3 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Purely marine, littoral.

**PALAEMONIDAE****HIPPOLYTIDAE****Cock shrimps**

rostrum with 3-4 widely spaced dorsal teeth and an elevated crest of 7-12 closely spaced teeth

7-16 more or less equally spaced ventral teeth

***Exhippolysmata ensirostris* (Kemp, 1914)**

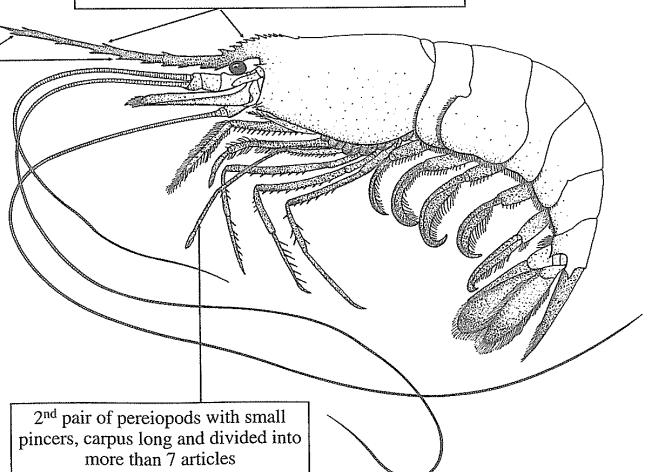
**FAO names:** En - Hunter shrimp; Fr - Bouc chasseur.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 7.9 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls. Of some commercial value.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs over sand and mud bottoms in shallow water. Often occurs together with *Nematopalaemon tenuipes*.



**PANDALIDAE**  
**Pandalid shrimps**

*Heterocarpus laevigatus* Bate, 1888

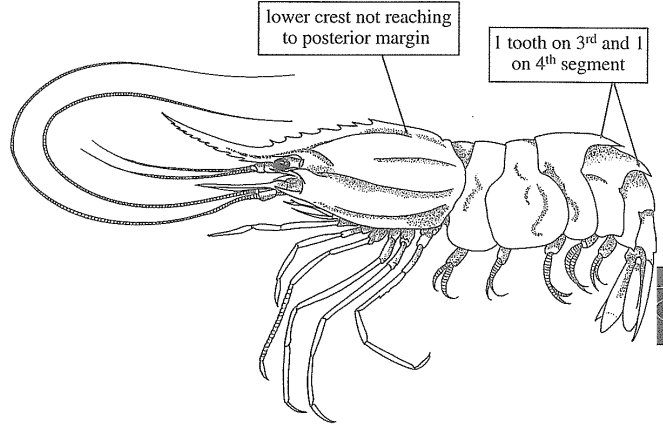
**FAO names:** En - Smooth nylon shrimp;  
 Fr - Crevette nylon inerme.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On sandy bottoms or on sandy mud bottoms from depths of 302 to 1156 m .



*Heterocarpus woodmasoni* Alcock, 1901

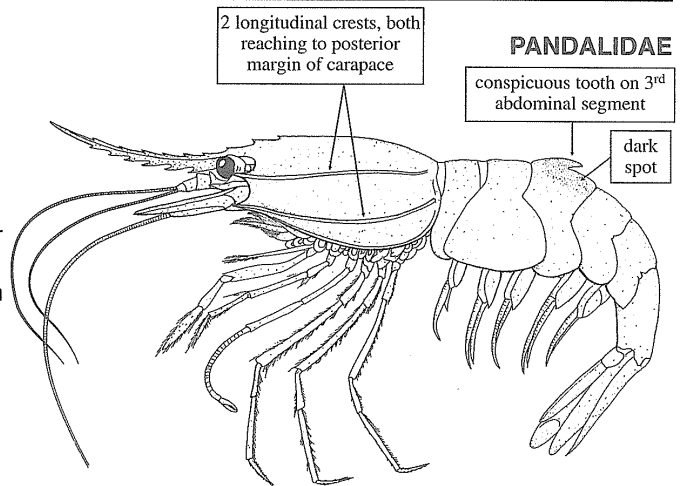
**FAO names:** En - Indian nylon shrimp;  
 Fr - Crevette nylon indienne.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 13 cm, females to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls. Of potential commercial value.

**Habitat and biology:** On mud bottoms from depths of 290 to 640 m.



*Plesionika alcocki* (Anderson, 1896)

**FAO names:** En - Gondwana striped shrimp;  
 Fr - Crevette gondwana.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 2.2 cm carapace length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs at depths of 500 to 1170 m.

rostrum with 2 dorsal teeth restricted to basal part of rostrum, and 4-7 ventral teeth

length of rostrum about 1.6 times carapace length

**PANDALIDAE**

no longitudinal crests on carapace

no illustration available

***Plesionika martia* (A. Milne Edwards, 1883)**

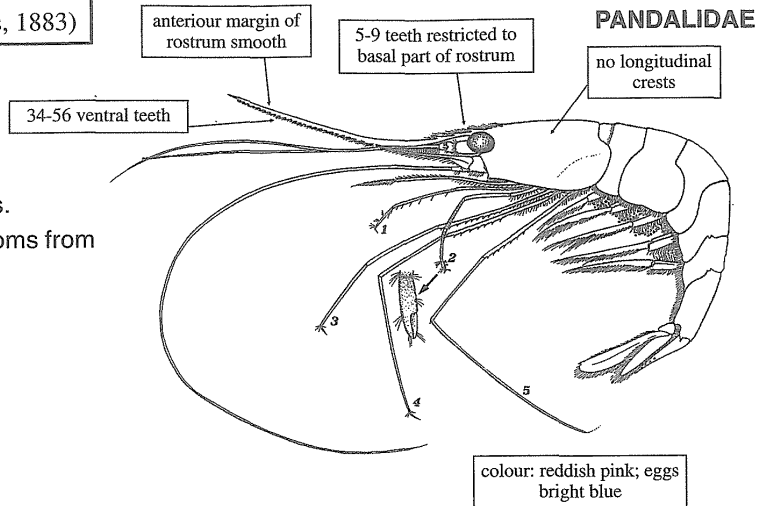
**FAO names:** En - Golden shrimp;  
Fr - Crevette dorée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 16.9 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Over mud bottoms from depths of 180 to 2100 m.

**SOLENOCERIDAE****Solenocerid shrimps*****Solenocera choprai* Nataraj, 1945**

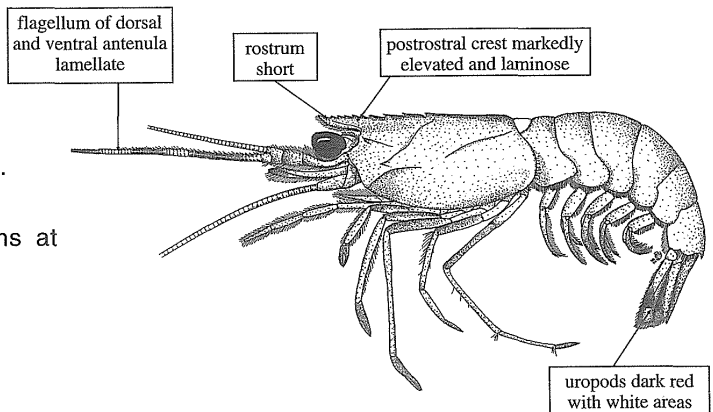
**FAO names:** En - Ridgeback shrimp;  
Fr - Salicoque balafrée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 9.5 cm, females to 13 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On soft bottoms at depths between 75 and 110 m.

***Solenocera hextii* Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1891**

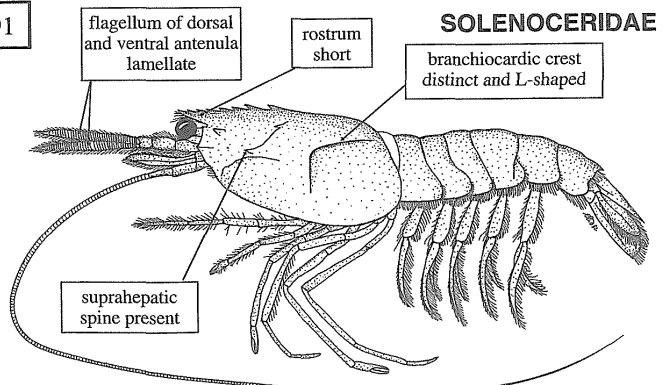
**FAO names:** En - Deep-sea mud shrimp;  
Fr - Salicoque des vases profondes.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 12.7 cm, females to 13.8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On soft bottoms at depths between 115 and 500 m.



**ARISTEIDAE**

**Aristeid shrimps**

*Aristaeomorpha foliacea* (Risso, 1827)

**FAO names:** En - Giant red shrimp; Fr - Gambon rouge.

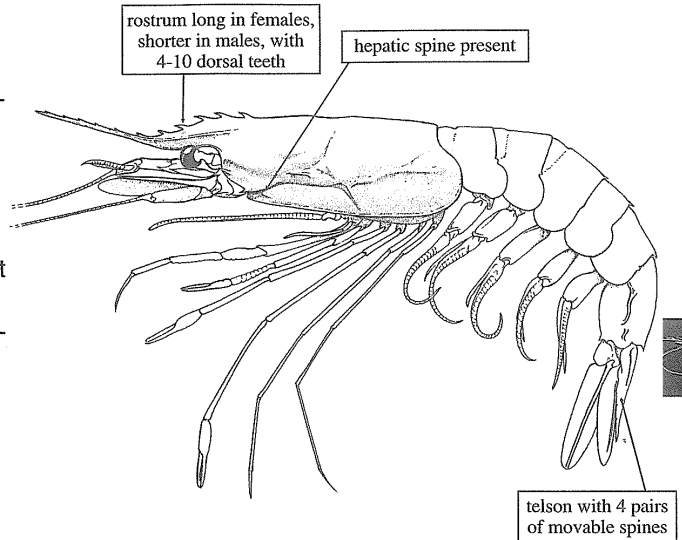
**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 17 cm, females 22.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy bottoms, at depths of 250 to 1000 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed



*Aristeus alcocki* Ramadan, 1938

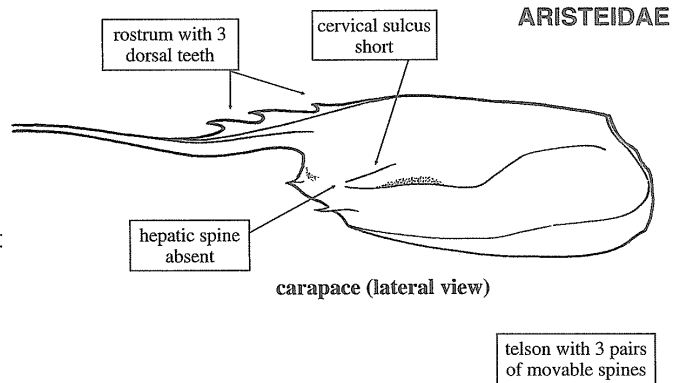
**FAO names:** En - Arabian red shrimp; Fr - Gambon d'Arabie.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy bottoms, at depths between 270 and 1086 m.



*Plesiopenaeus edwardsianus* (Johnson, 1868)

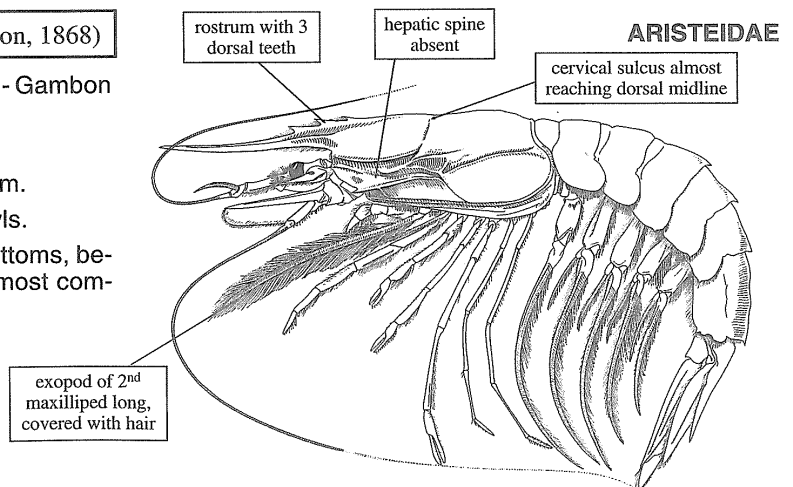
**FAO names:** En - Scarlet shrimp; Fr - Gambon écarlat.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 19 cm, females 33 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy bottoms, between depths of 274 and 1850 m, most common between 400 and 900 m.



## PENAEIDAE

### Penaeid shrimps

*Metapenaeopsis mogiensis* (M.J. Rathbun, 1902)

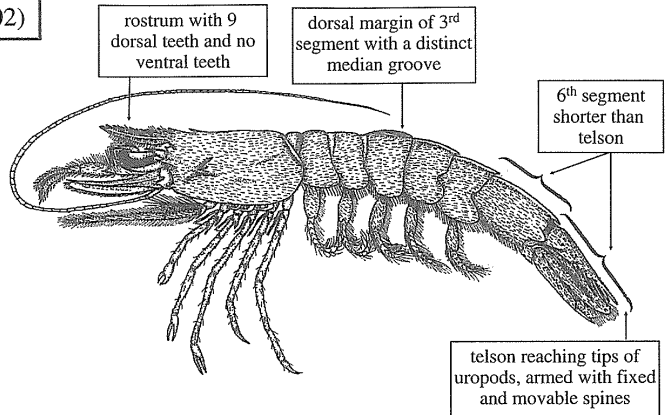
**FAO names:** En - Velvet shrimp; Fr - Crevette chamois mogi.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 6.9 cm, females to 9 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy to muddy sand bottoms from depths of 5 to 50 m.



*Metapenaeus monoceros* (Fabricius, 1798)

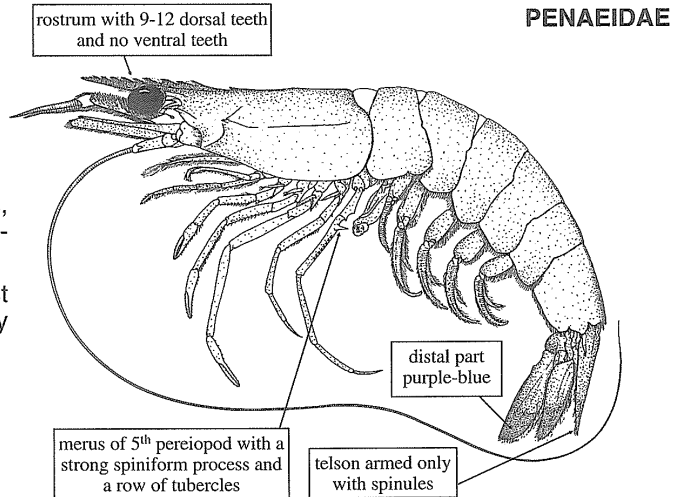
**FAO names:** En - Speckled shrimp; Fr - Crevette mouchetée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 15 cm, females to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, boat seines, shore seines, and gillnets. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Found from the coast line to depths of about 70 m, on mud, sandy mud, or silt bottoms.



*Metapenaeus stebbingi* Nobili, 1904

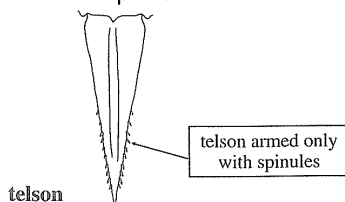
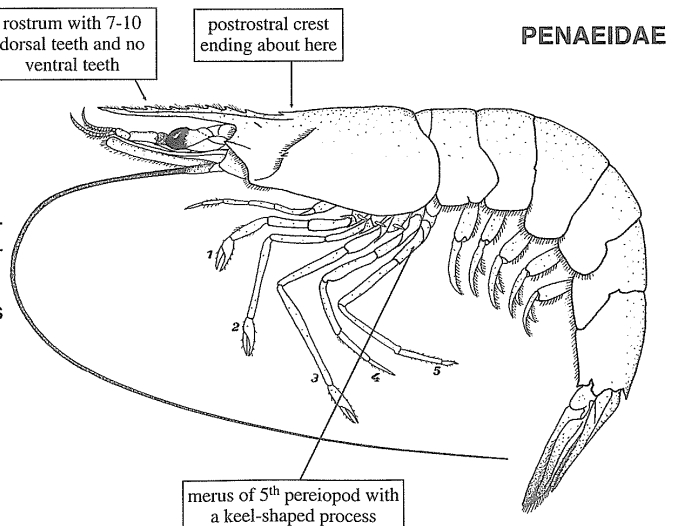
**FAO names:** En - Peregrine shrimp; Fr - Crevette faucon.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 11 cm, females to 13.9 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, stak-enets, castnets, and pushnets. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Found on soft bottoms from the shore to a depth of about 90 m.





*Parapenaeopsis acclivirostris* (Alcock, 1905)

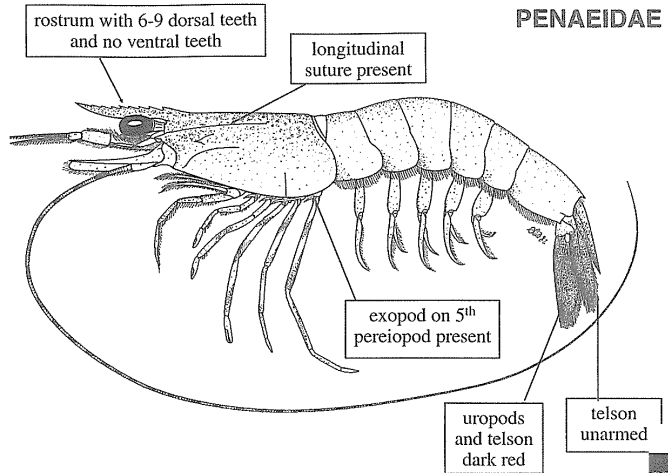
**FAO names:** En - Hawknose shrimp;  
Fr - Crevette aquiline.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 4.7 cm, females to 7.3 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, gillnets, and seines. Of minor interest to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Found from near the coastline to a depth of about 50 m.



PENAEIDAE



*Parapenaeus fissurus* (Bate, 1881)

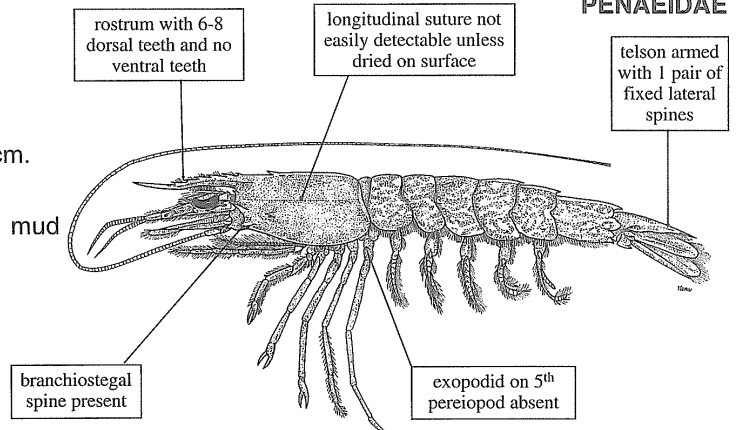
**FAO names:** En - Neptune rose shrimp;  
Fr - Crevette neptune.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 7.8 cm, females to 10.7 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Over sand and mud bottoms from depths of 50 to 274 m.



PENAEIDAE

*Parapenaeus investigatoris* Alcock & Anderson, 1899

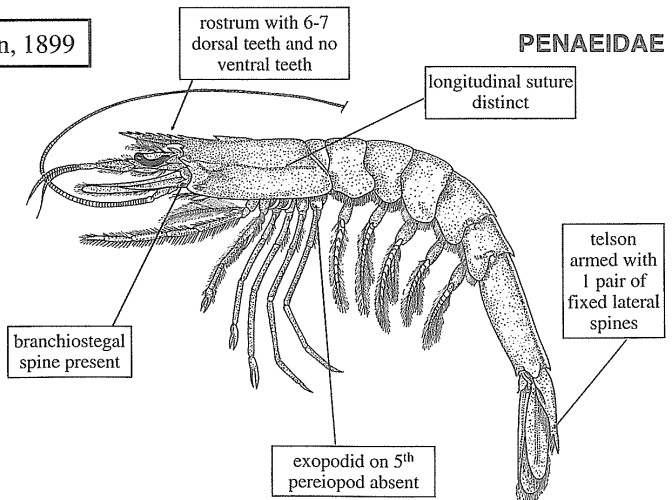
**FAO names:** En - Explorer shrimp;  
Fr - Crevette rose chercheuse.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 7.6 cm, females to 8.2 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** From depths of 220 to 1240 m.



PENAEIDAE

***Parapenaeus longipes* Alcock, 1905**

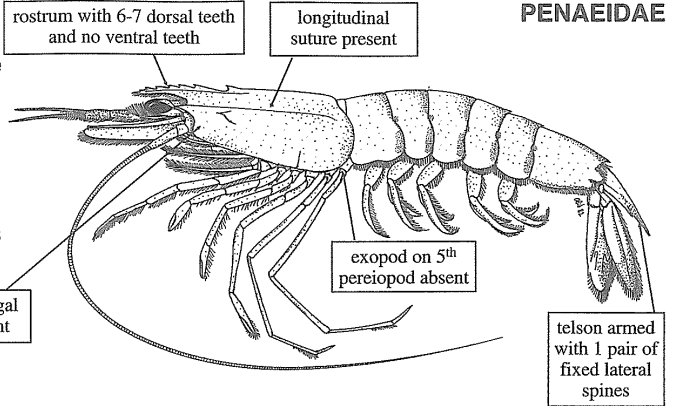
**FAO names:** En - Flamingo shrimp; Fr - Crevette flamand.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 7.6 cm, females to 7.9 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Found between depths of 10 and 90 m.

***Penaeopsis balssi* Ivanov & Hassan, 1976**

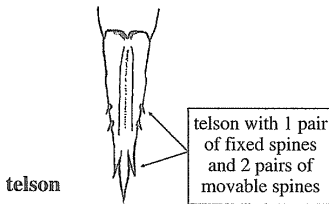
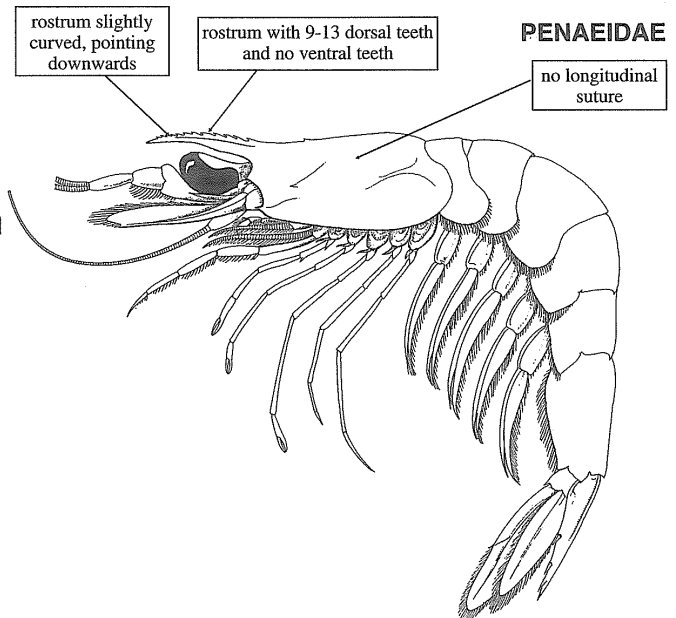
**FAO names:** En - Scythe shrimp.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 12.8 cm, females to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on soft sand and mud at depths between 280 and 980 m.

***Penaeopsis jerryi* Pérez Farfante, 1979**

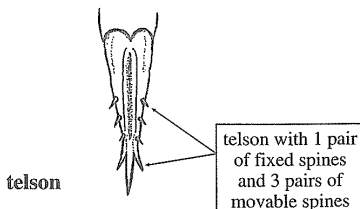
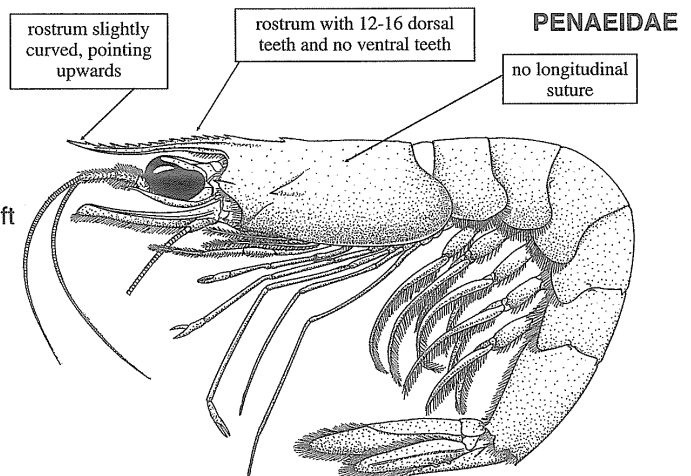
**FAO names:** En - Gondwana shrimp.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 10.7 cm, females to 13.8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs mainly on soft bottoms at depths between 180 and 680 m.



*Penaeus (Fenneropenaeus) indicus* H. Milne-Edwards, 1837

PENAEIDAE

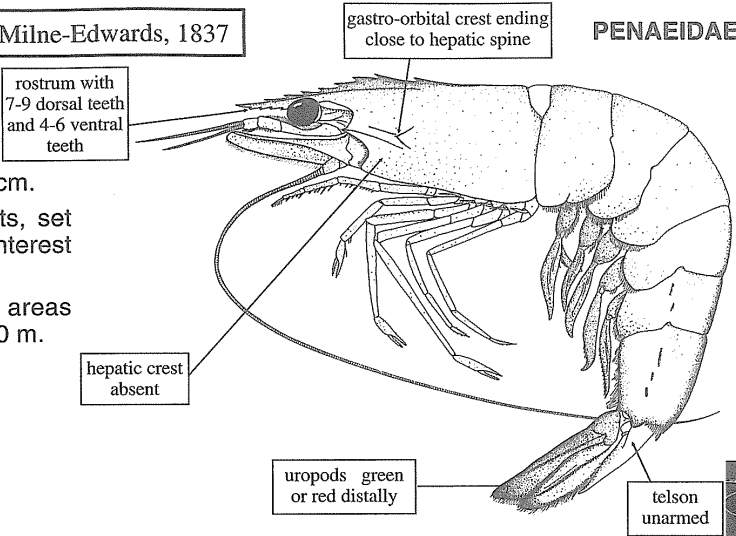
**FAO names:** En - Indian white shrimp;  
Fr - Crevette royale des Indes.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 18.4 cm, females to 23 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, driftnets, set gillnets, and other net gear. Of major interest to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shelf areas from the coastline to depths of about 90 m.



*Penaeus (Fenneropenaeus) penicillatus* Alcock, 1905

PENAEIDAE

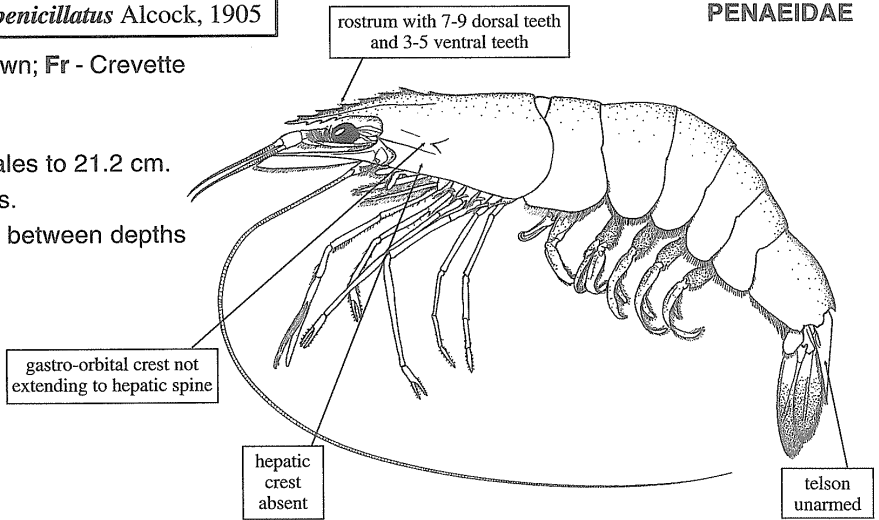
**FAO names:** En - Redtail prawn; Fr - Crevette queue rouge.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 16.3 cm, females to 21.2 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Found between depths of 2 and 90 m.



*Penaeus (Marsupenaeus) japonicus* Bate, 1888

PENAEIDAE

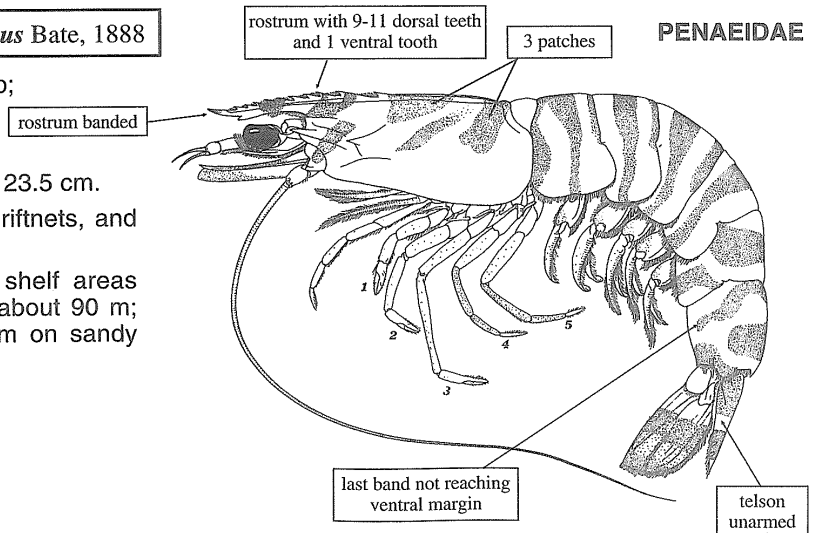
**FAO names:** En - Kuruma shrimp;  
Fr - Crevette kuruma.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 20 cm, females to 23.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, driftnets, and set gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shelf areas from the coastline to depths of about 90 m; most common in less than 50 m on sandy bottoms.



*Penaeus (Melicertes) canaliculatus* (Olivier, 1811)

## PENAEIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Witch prawn; Fr - Crevette sorcière.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 14.5 cm, females to 18.2 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, stakenets, and bagnets. Of little interest to fisheries

**Habitat and biology:** From the coastline to depths of about 50 m.

rostrum with 9-11 dorsal teeth and 1 ventral tooth

2 bands on carapace

last band reaching to ventral margin

telson unarmed

*Penaeus (Melicertes) latisulcatus* Kishinouye, 1896

## PENAEIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Western kingprawn; Fr - Crevette royale occidentale.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 16.2 cm, females to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls. Of little interest to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** From the coastline to depths of about 80 m; on sandy or muddy bottoms, with a clear preference for sand.

rostrum with 9-12 dorsal teeth and 1 ventral tooth

adrostral crest and groove extending to about here

short brown stripes

telson armed with 3 pairs of small movable spines

*Penaeus (Melicertes) marginatus* Randall, 1840

## PENAEIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Aloha prawn.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** On sandy or mud and sand bottoms, from the coastline to depths of 300 m.

rostrum with 8-10 dorsal teeth and 1-2 ventral teeth

adrostral crest and groove extending almost to posterior border of carapace

3 pairs of movable spines

*Penaeus (Penaeus) monodon* Fabricius, 1798

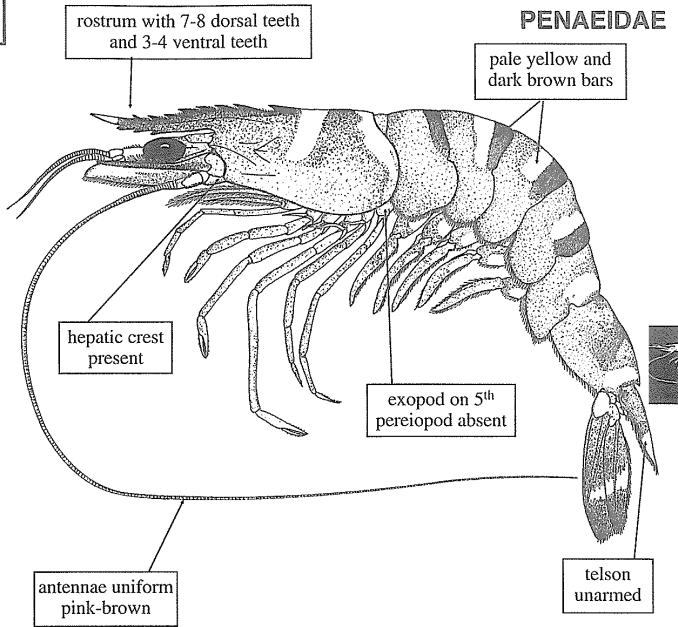
**FAO names:** En - Giant tiger prawn; Fr - Crevette géante tigrée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 26.8 cm, females to 33.7 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, gillnets, boat and shore seines. Of major interest to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** From the coastline to depths of about 150 m; on mud or sand bottoms; juveniles in mangrove swamps.



*Penaeus (Penaeus) semisulcatus* De Haan, 1844

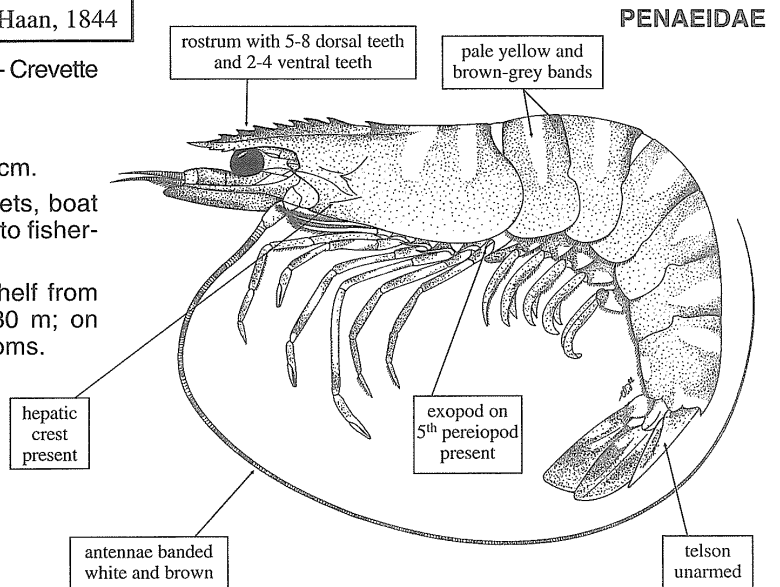
**FAO names:** En - Green tiger prawn; Fr - Crevette tigrée verte.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 18 cm, females to 23 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, driftnets, boat and beach seines. Of major interest to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Continental shelf from the coastline to depths of about 130 m; on mud, sandy-mud, or sandy-grit bottoms.



***Trachypenaeus curvirostris* Stimpson, 1860**

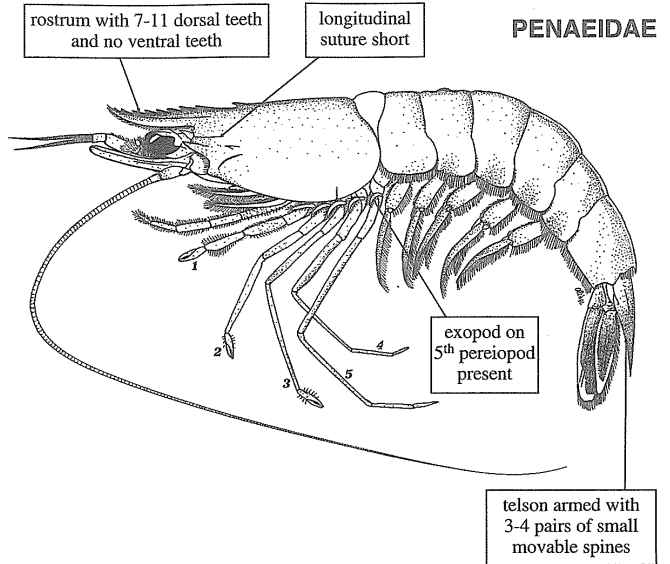
**FAO names:** En - Cocktail shrimp; Fr - Crevette cocktail.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Males to 8.1 cm, females to 10.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On sand and mud from depths of 10 to 300 m.

**SERGESTIDAE****Sergestid shrimps*****Acetes erythraeus* Nobili, 1905**

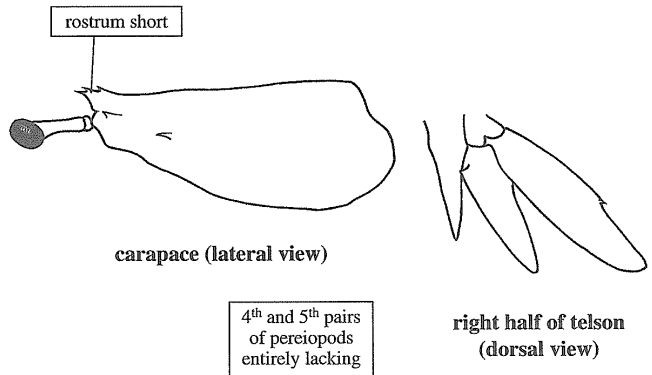
**FAO names:** En - Tsivakihini paste shrimp; Fr - Crevette tsivakihini.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 48 cm.

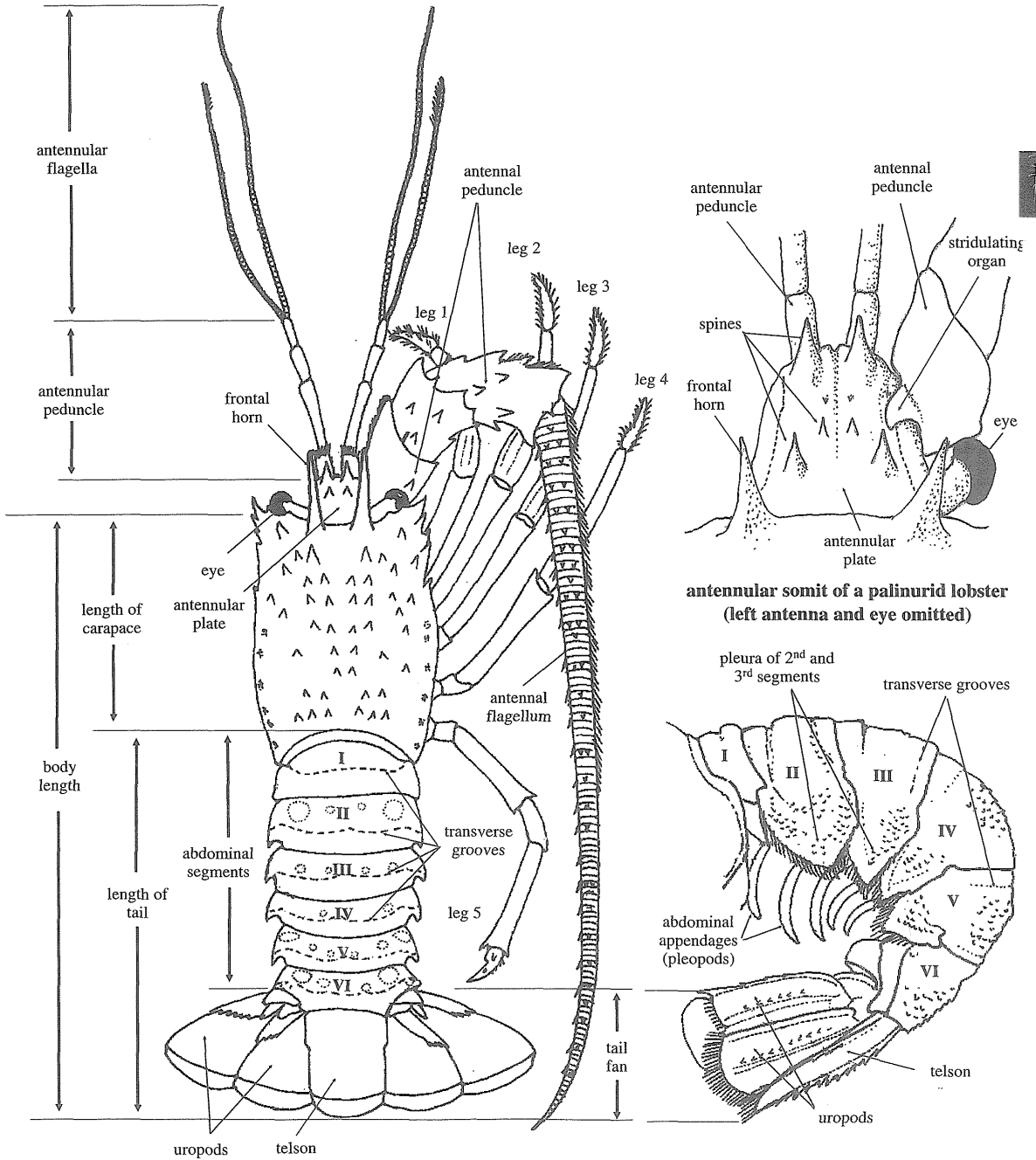
**Fisheries:** Caught with pushnets, bagnets, and seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Marine and brackish habitats; on muddy or sandy bottoms to depths of 55 m.



# LOBSTERS

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



general shape (dorsal view) of a spiny lobster  
(*Panulirus* sp., no rostrum, no pincers)

tail (abdomen) in lateral view

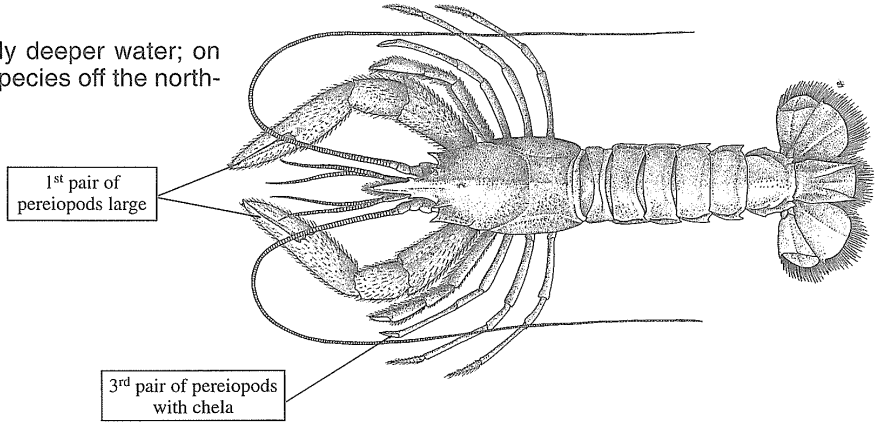
### GUIDE TO FAMILIES

#### NEPHROPIDAE

Page 23

##### True lobsters

To 15 cm. Marine, mainly deeper water; on soft substrates. Three species off the northern coast of Somalia.

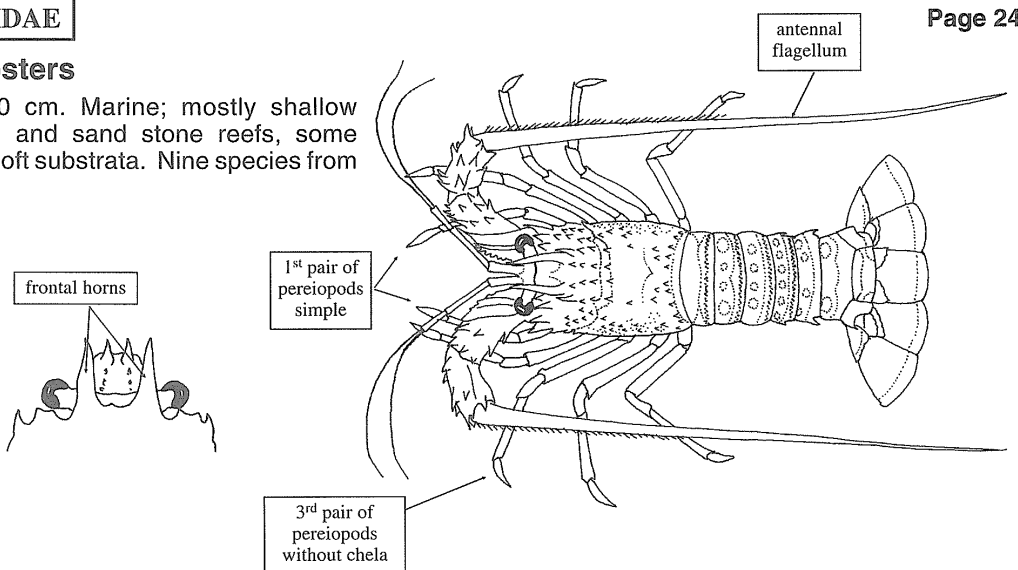


#### PALINURIDAE

Page 24

##### Spiny lobsters

To about 50 cm. Marine; mostly shallow water; coral and sand stone reefs, some species on soft substrata. Nine species from Somalia.

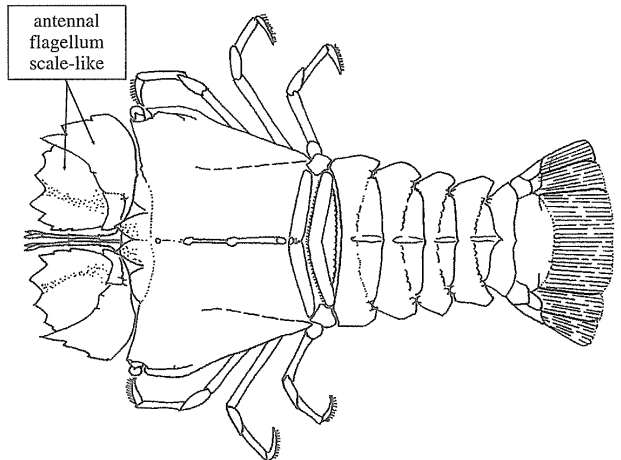


#### SCYLLARIDAE

Page 28

##### Slipper lobsters

To about 25 cm. Marine; shallow and deep water, down to depths of 484 m; on soft substrates. Six species from Somalia.





**NEPHROPIDAE**

**True lobsters**

*Nephropsis ensirostris* Alcock, 1901

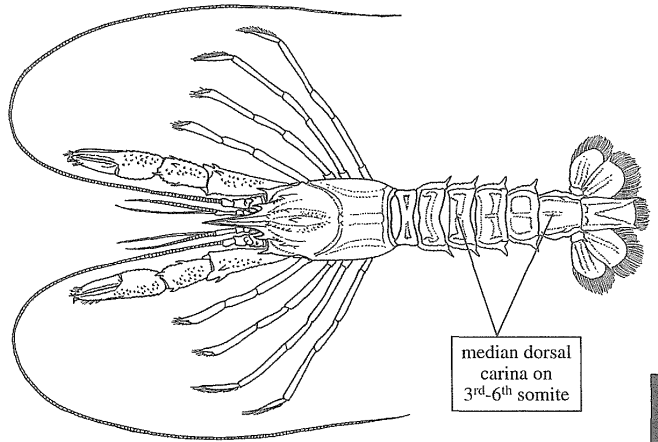
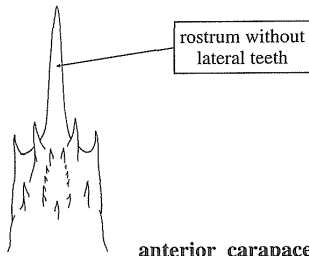
**FAO names:** En - Gladiator lobsterette.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 6 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in deep waters, off the northern coast of Somalia.



anterior carapace (dorsal view)

*Nephropsis stewarti* Wood-Mason, 1872

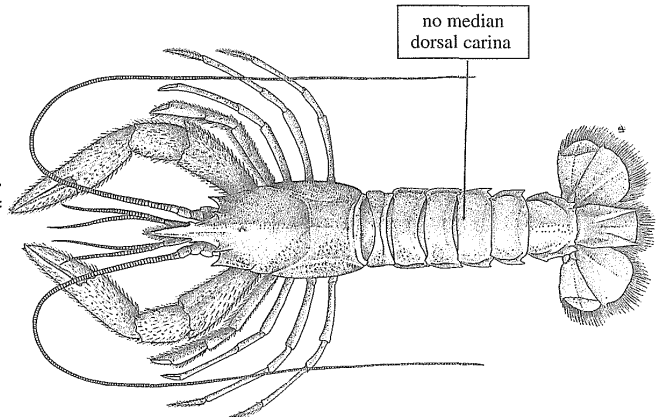
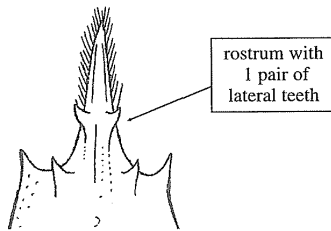
**FAO names:** En - Indian Ocean lobsterette; Fr - Langoustine indienne.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 15 cm body length, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on muddy substrates between depths of 170 to 1060 m off the northern coast of Somalia.



anterior carapace (dorsal view)

**NEPHROPIDAE**

*Nephropsis suhmi* Bate, 1888

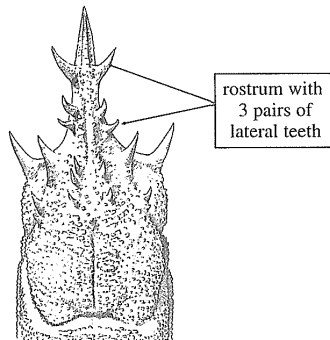
**FAO names:** En - Red and white lobsterette.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 11 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy substrates between depths of 780 and 2030 m off the northern coast of Somalia.



no median dorsal carina on abdomen

anterior carapace (dorsal view)

**NEPHROPIDAE**

**PALINURIDAE****Spiny lobsters***Linuparus somniosus* Berry & George, 1972

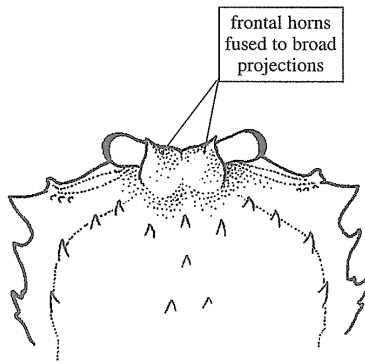
**FAO names:** En - African spear lobster;  
Fr - Langouste javelot d'Afrique.

**Local names:** Aarigoosto.

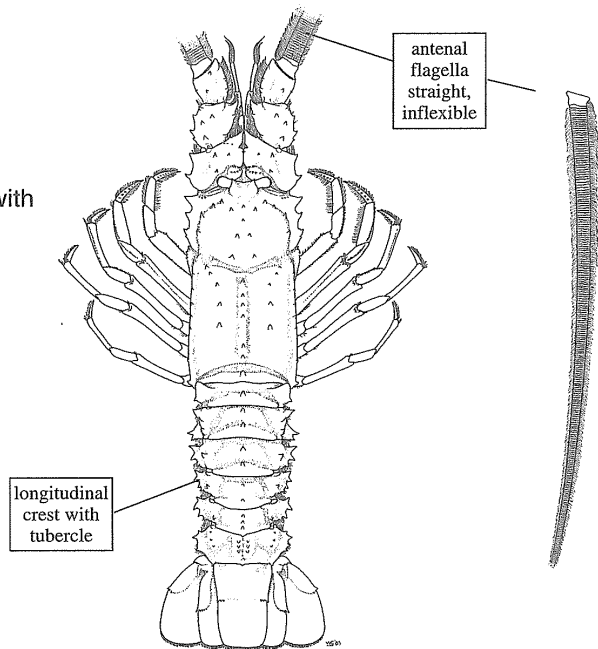
**Size:** To about 35 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On rough substrate with sand and mud from depths of 216 to 375 m.



anterior carapace (dorsal view)

*Palinustus mossambicus* Barnard, 1926

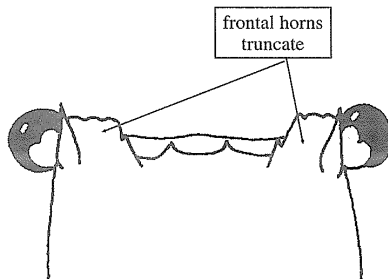
**FAO names:** En - Buffalo blunt-horn lobster.

**Local names:**

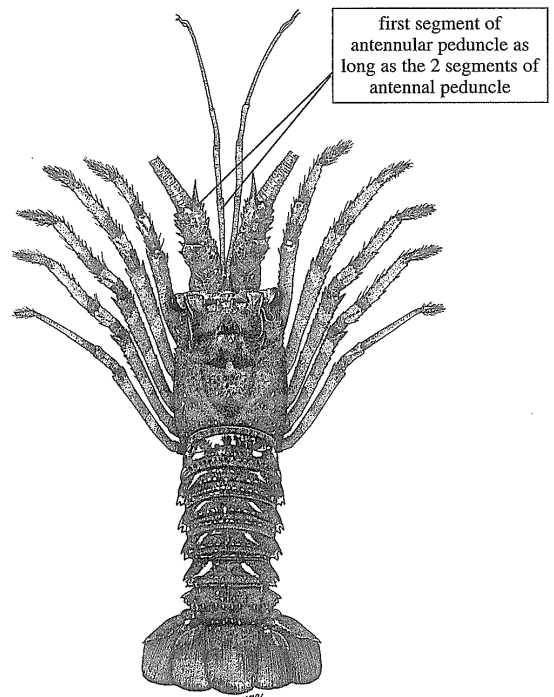
**Size:** To 9.5 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Reported from muddy substrate from depths of 59 to 406 m.



anterior carapace (dorsal view)

**PALINURIDAE**

*Panulirus homarus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

PALINURIDAE

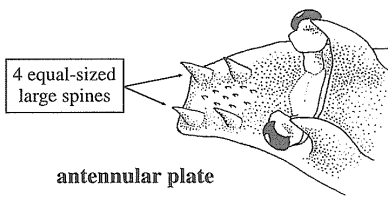
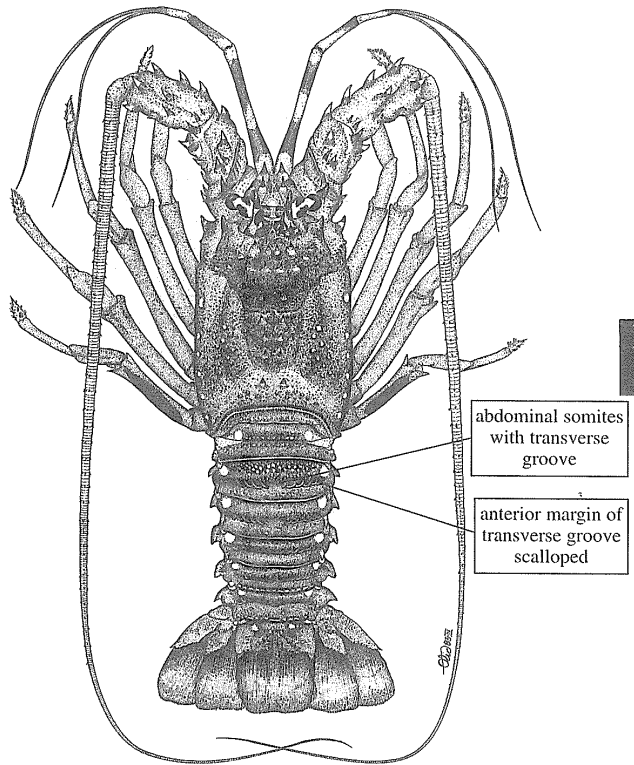
**FAO names:** En - Scalloped spiny lobster; Fr - Langouste festonnée.

**Local names:** Aarigoosto-Shiikgaaley.

**Size:** To 31 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with baited lines, baited nets, and traps. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shallow waters between depths of 1 and 90 m; found among rocks, often in the surf zone; gregarious and nocturnal.



antennular plate

*Panulirus longipes* (A. Milne-Edwards, 1868)

PALINURIDAE

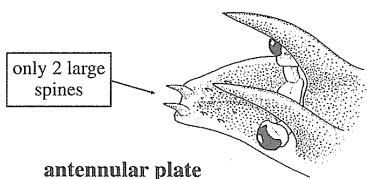
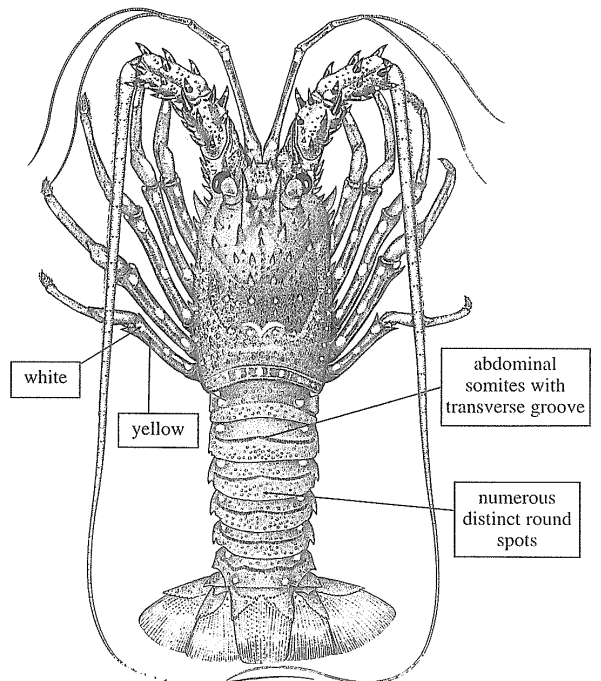
**FAO names:** En - Longlegged spiny lobster; Fr - Langouste diabolin.

**Local names:** Aarigoosto-Shiikgaaley.

**Size:** To 30 cm body length, average between 20 to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mostly by hand by divers, or with spears; also with traps, tangle nets, and lobster pots.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits clear or slightly turbid waters at depths of 1 to 18 m; in rocky areas and on coral reefs; nocturnal.



antennular plate

*Panulirus ornatus* (Fabricius, 1798)

## PALINURIDAE

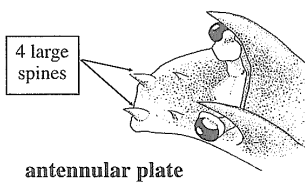
**FAO names:** En - Ornate spiny lobster;  
Fr - Langouste ornée.

**Local names:** Aarigoosto-Deelley.

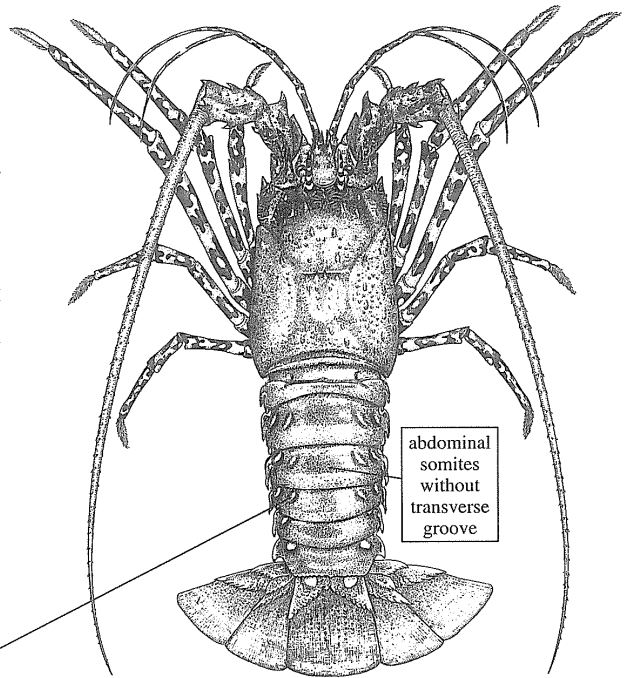
**Size:** To 50 cm body length, common between 30 and 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mostly by hand by divers, or speared; also with handnets. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shallow, sometimes slightly turbid coastal waters, usually at depths of 1 to 8 m; on sandy and muddy substrates, but also on coral reefs and on rocky bottoms.



large eyespot near base of pleura accompanied by an oblique pale streak

*Panulirus penicillatus* (Olivier, 1791)

## PALINURIDAE

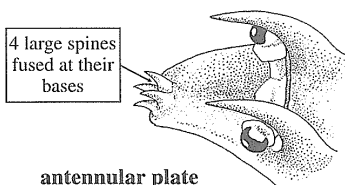
**FAO names:** En - Pronghorn spiny lobster;  
Fr - Langouste fourchette.

**Local names:** Aarigoosto-Deelley.

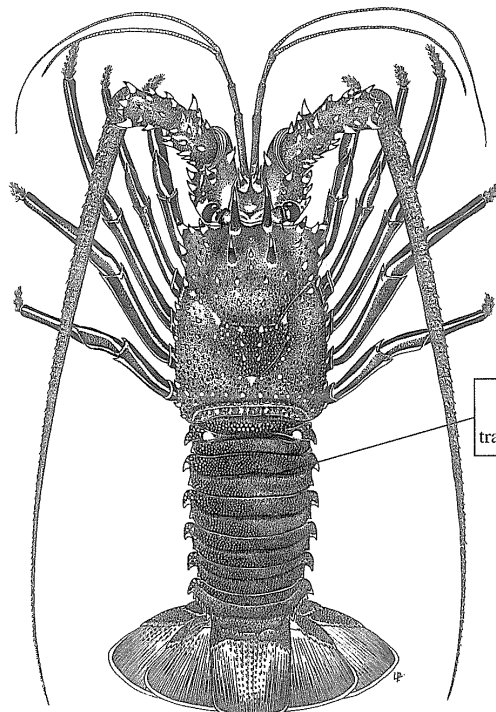
**Size:** To about 40 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hand by divers, or speared; also with trammel nets. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** In clear waters over rocky substrates from depths of 1 to 4 m; nocturnal.



abdominal somites with transverse groove



*Panulirus versicolor* (Latreille, 1804)

PALINURIDAE

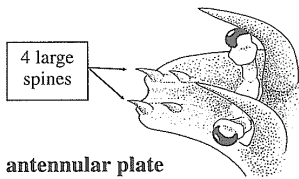
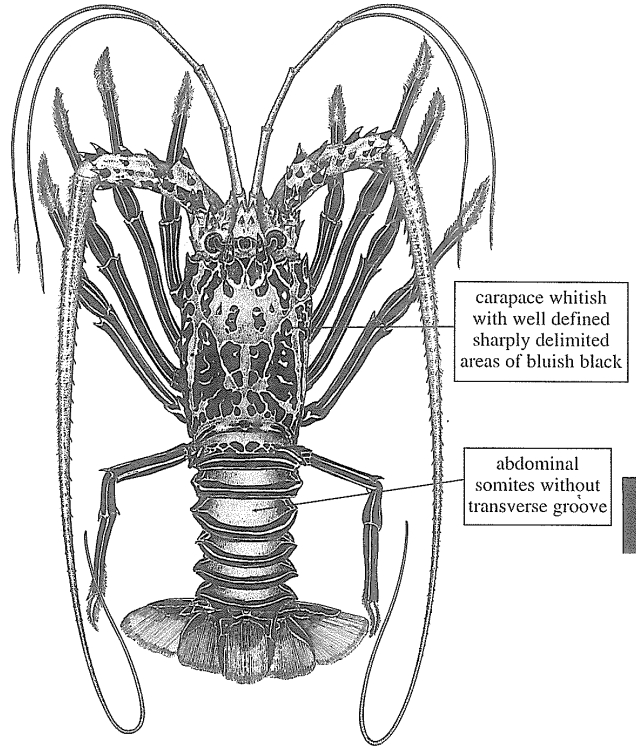
**FAO names:** En - Painted spiny lobster; Fr - Langouste barriolée.

**Local names:** Aarigoosto-Sharaxley.

**Size:** To 40 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught by divers, either by hand or with spears. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters, from the sublittoral down to a depth of 15 m; on coral reefs, often on the seaward edges of the reef plateau; nocturnal.



*Puerulus angulatus* (Bate, 1888)

PALINURIDAE

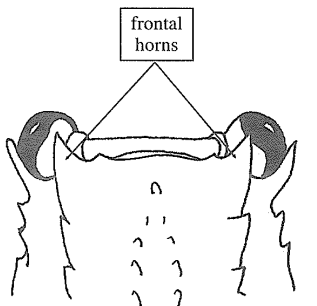
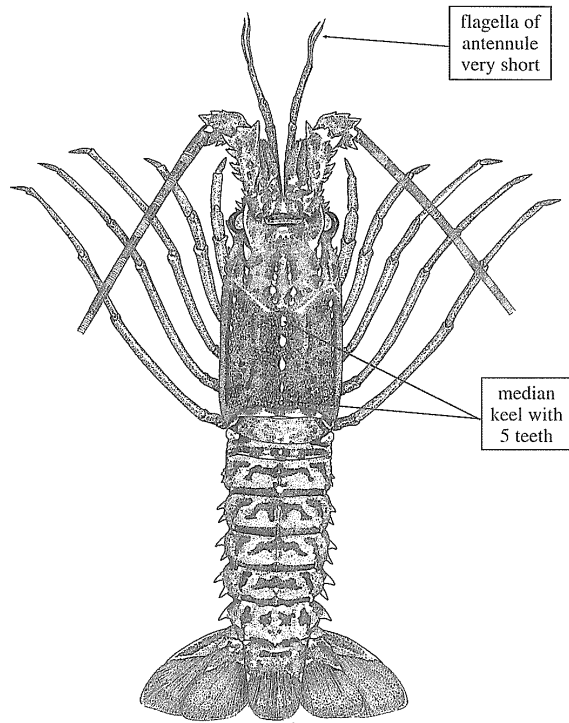
**FAO names:** En - Banded whip lobster.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 21 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Experimental fishing with various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Over sand or mud substrates from depths of 274 to 536 m.



anterior carapace (dorsal view)

***Puerulus sewelli* Kamadan, 1938**

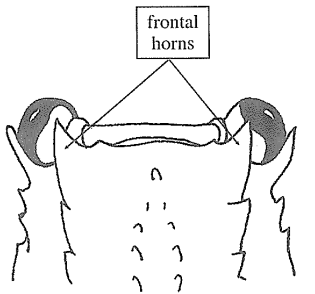
**FAO names:** En - Arabian whip lobster;  
Fr - Langoustie fouet arabe.

**Local names:**

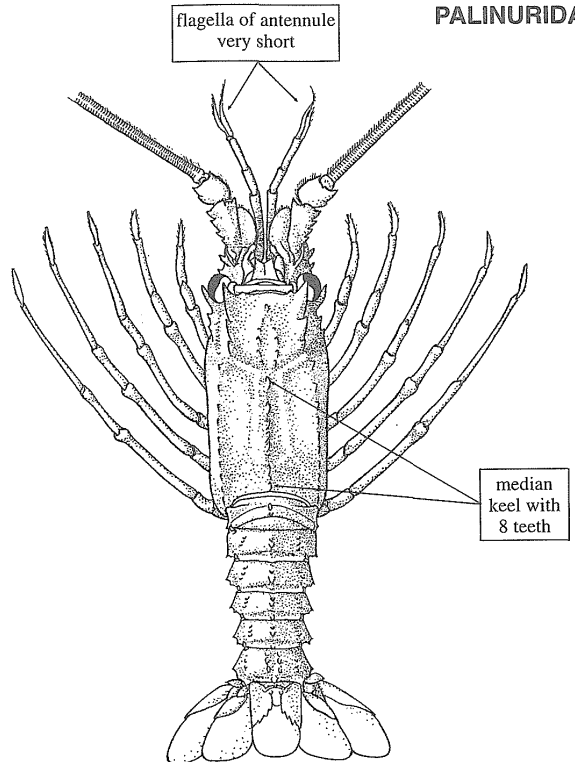
**Size:** To about 20 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** On substrate of coarse sand, hard mud, and shells at depths between 180 to 1300 m.



anterior carapace (dorsal view)

**PALINURIDAE****SCYLLARIDAE****Slipper lobsters*****Scyllarides haanii* (De Haan in von Siebold, 1841)**

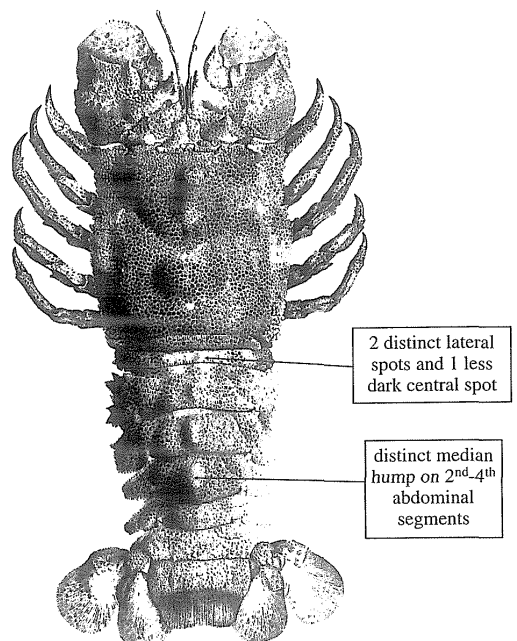
**FAO names:** En - Aesop slipper lobster.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 50 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with lobster pots.

**Habitat and biology:** Known from depths between 10 and 135 m.



2 distinct lateral spots and 1 less dark central spot

distinct median hump on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> abdominal segments

*Scyllarides squammosus* (H. Milne Edwards, 1837)

SCYLLARIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Blunt slipper lobster;

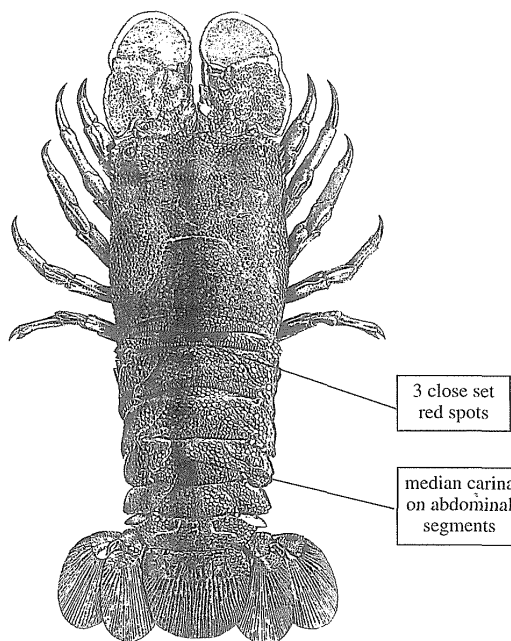
Fr - Cigale grenue.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 40 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught usually by hand by divers, also with traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurring on reefs and in rocky areas, mainly between depths of 20 and 50 m; nocturnal.



*Scyllarides tridacnophaga* Holthuis, 1967

SCYLLARIDAE

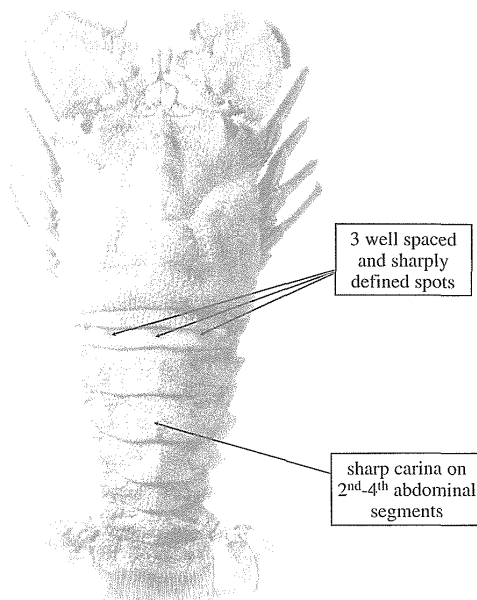
**FAO names:** En - Clamkiller slipper lobster.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 30 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Found at depths of 5 to 112 m; the species has been observed to open live *Tridacna* shells; eats also other molluscs and dead fish.



*Scyllarus batei* Holthuis, 1946

**FAO names:** En - Soft locust lobster; Fr - Cigale douce.

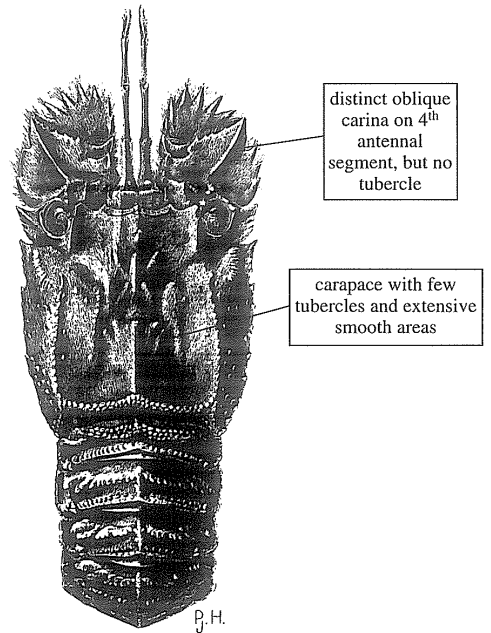
**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 7 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On sandy and muddy substrates, from depths of 160 to 484 m.

## SCYLLARIDAE

*Scyllarus rugosus* H. Milne Edwards, 1837

**FAO names:** En - Hunchback locust lobster.

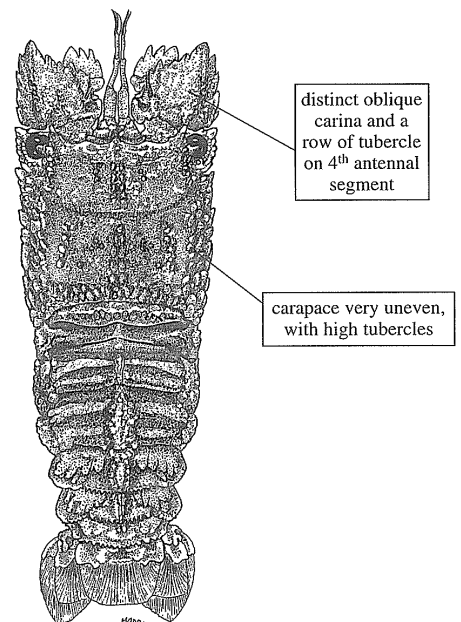
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 6 cm body length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Usually on sandy and muddy bottoms, mainly between depths of 20 to 60 m.

## SCYLLARIDAE





***Thenus orientalis*** (Lund, 1793)**SCYLLARIDAE**

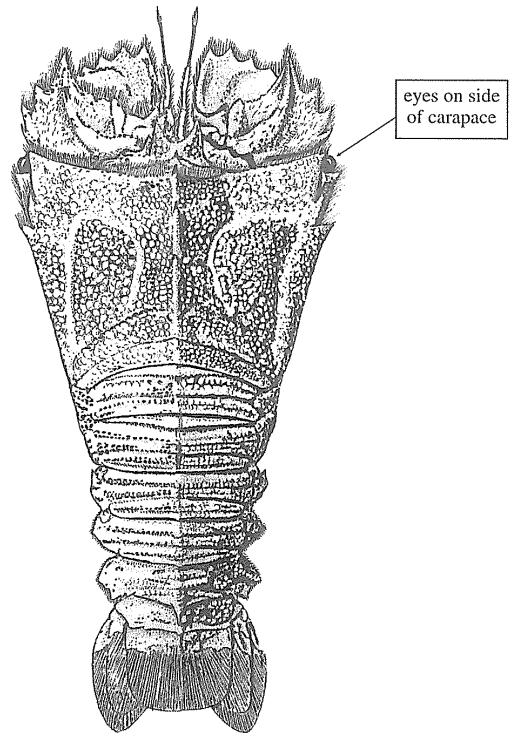
**FAO names:** En - Flathead lobsters; Fr - Cigale raquette.

**Local names:** Aarigoosto-Baxareed.

**Size:** To about 25 cm body length.

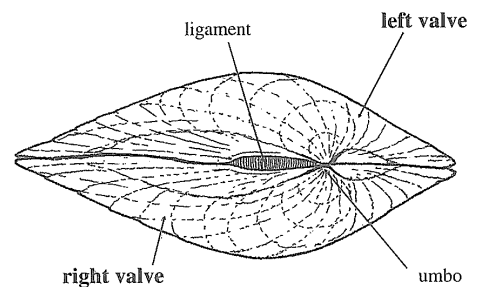
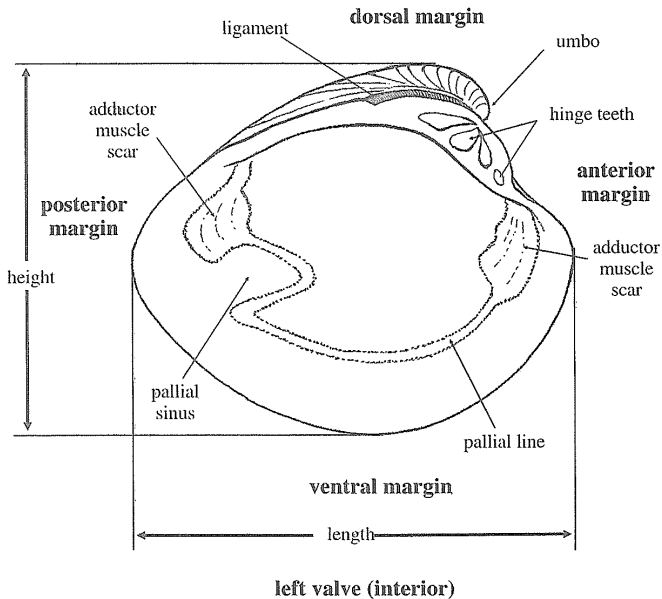
**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls. Of importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** On mud and/or sand bottoms, from depths of 8 to 100 m.



# BIVALVES

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



**bivalve shell (dorsal view)**

**Adductor muscle:** Muscle connecting the two valves of a shell, tending to draw them together.

**Byssus:** Clump of horny threads spun by the foot, by which a Bivalve can anchor to a hard substrate.

**Chomata:** Small denticles and corresponding pits located on the inner margin of the valves (families Ostreidae and Gryphaeidae).

**Concentric:** Parallel to lines of growth.

**Equilateral:** The condition of a valve when growth on either side of umbo is symmetrical.

**Equivalve:** The condition of a shell when valves are of same shape and size.

**Hinge:** Top interlocking margin of the valves, often with shelly projections (teeth) and corresponding recesses (sockets).

**Ligament:** Horny, elastic structure joining the two valves dorsally.

**Mantle:** Fleshy sheet surrounding vital organs and composed of two lobes, one lining and secreting each valve.

**Muscle scar:** Impression marking the place of attachment of a muscle inside the shell.

**Pallial line:** A line near internal margin of valve, marking the site of attachment of the mantle edge.

**Radial (or radiating):** Diverging from umbo, like the spokes of a wheel.

**Socket:** See hinge.

**Tooth:** See hinge.

**Umbo (pl. umbones):** The first formed part of a valve, usually above the hinge.

**Valve:** One of the main shelly halves of a Bivalve.

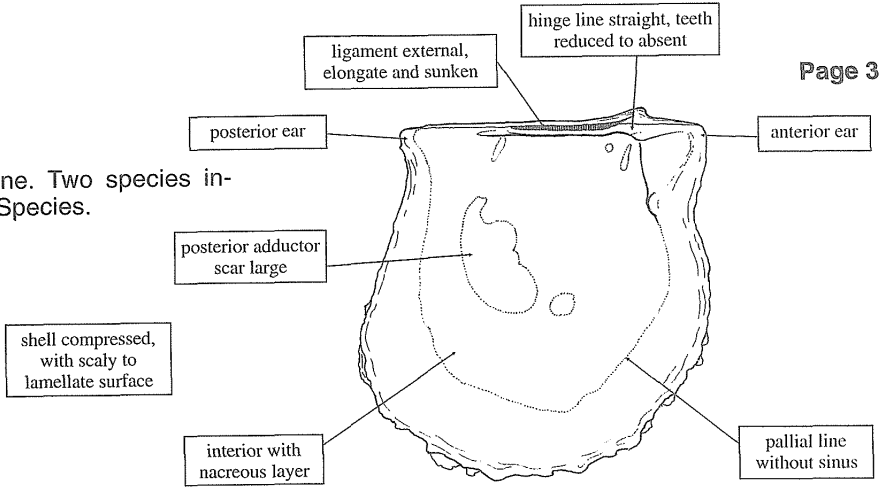
GUIDE TO FAMILIES

**PTERIIDAE**

Page 35

**Pearl oysters**

To about 20 cm. Marine. Two species included in the Guide to Species.

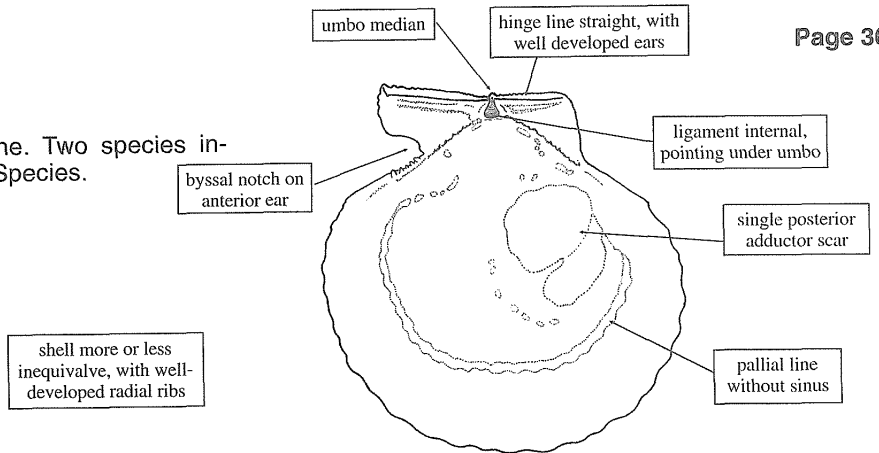


**PECTINIDAE**

Page 36

**Scallops**

To about 11 cm. marine. Two species included in the Guide to Species.

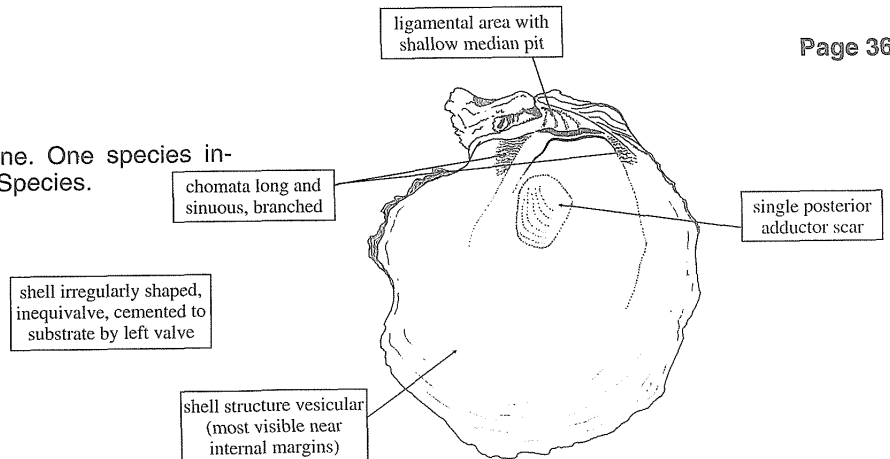


**GRYPHAEIDAE**

Page 36

**Oysters**

To about 30 cm. Marine. One species included in the Guide to Species.



**OSTREIDAE**

**Oysters**

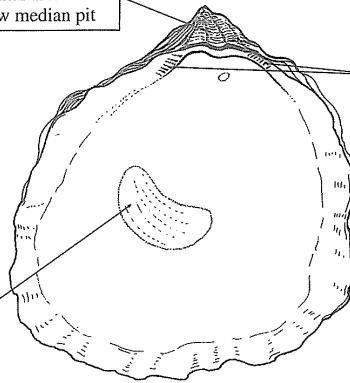
To about 20 cm. Marine and estuarine. Three species included in the Guide to Species.

shell irregularly shaped, inequivalve, cemented to substrate by left valve

single posterior adductor scar

ligamental area with shallow median pit

chomata, when present, simple and short



**TRIDACNIDAE**

**Giant clams**

To about 35 cm. Marine. Two species included in the Guide to Species.

shell thick and heavy, with strong radial folds

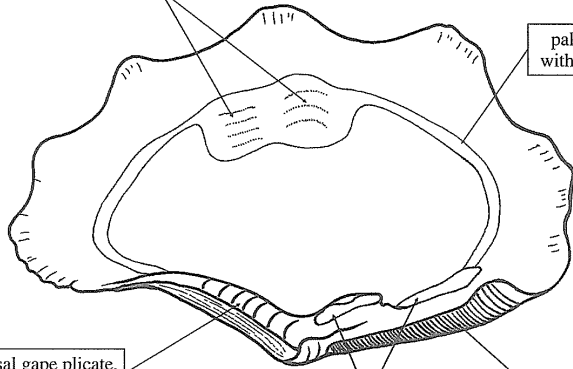
single posterior adductor scar, associated a foot retractor scar

pallial line without sinus

byssal gape plicate, near the umbo

two ridge-like teeth

ligament external



**PTERIIDAE**

*Pinctada margaritifera* (Linnaeus, 1758)

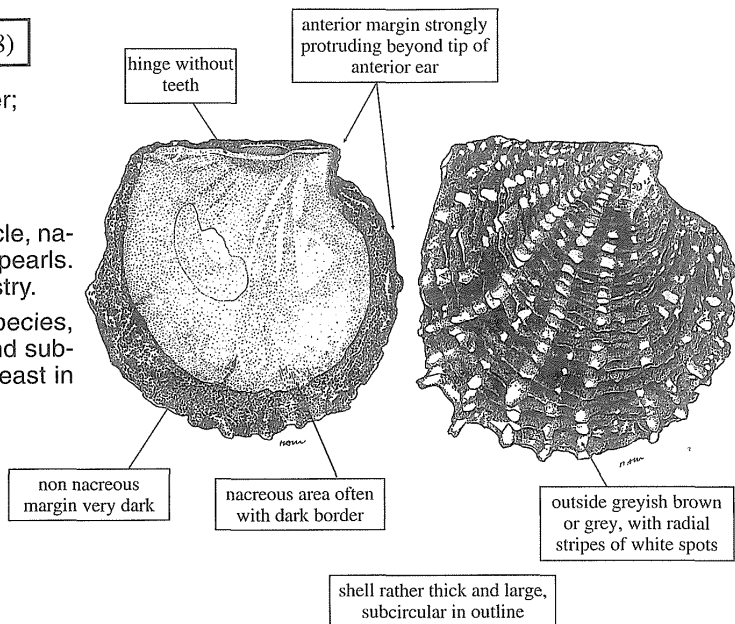
**FAO names:** En - Black-lip pearl oyster; Fr - Pintadine à lèvres noire.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell height to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected for its edible muscle, nacreous shell and ability to develop pearls. Shell used in the mother-of-pearl industry.

**Habitat and biology:** Gregarious species, often forming natural beds in littoral and sublittoral zones. Attached by byssus, at least in the young stages.



*Pinctada radiata* (Leach, 1814)

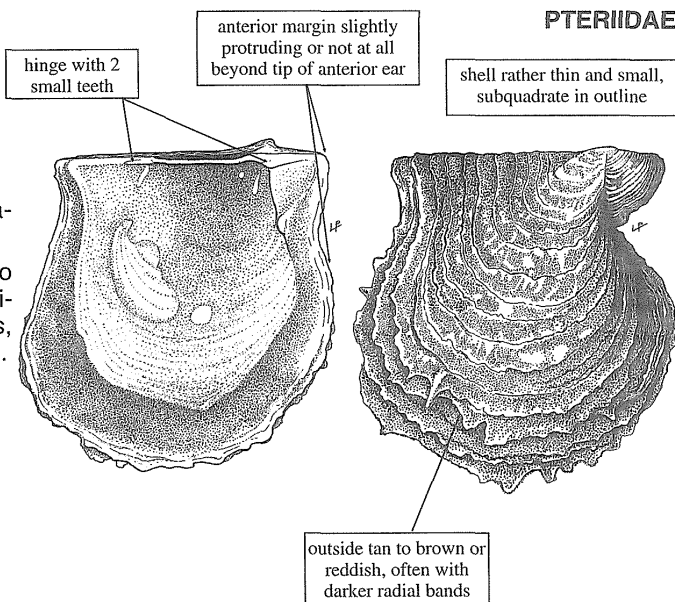
**FAO names:** En - Rayed pearl oyster; Fr - Pintadine radiée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell height to 9.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected for its edible muscle, nacreous shell and ability to develop pearls.

**Habitat and biology:** Byssally attached to seagrass leaves, rocks, dead corals, and various hard objects. Often forming natural banks, from low tide levels to depths of about 30 m.



## PECTINIDAE

*Chlamys senatoria* (Gmelin, 1791)

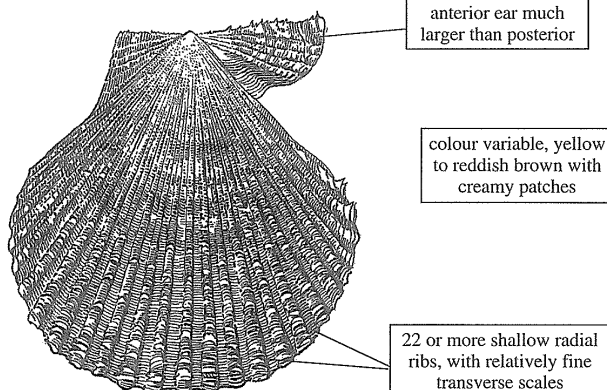
**FAO names:** En - Senatorial scallop;  
Fr - Pétoncle sénateur.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell height to 8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected for subsistence by coastal people.

**Habitat and biology:** Attached by byssus to hard elements, usually in sandy to muddy bottoms with gravel, coral and shell debris, or rocks. Littoral and sublittoral zones.

*Gloripallium pallium* (Linnaeus, 1758)

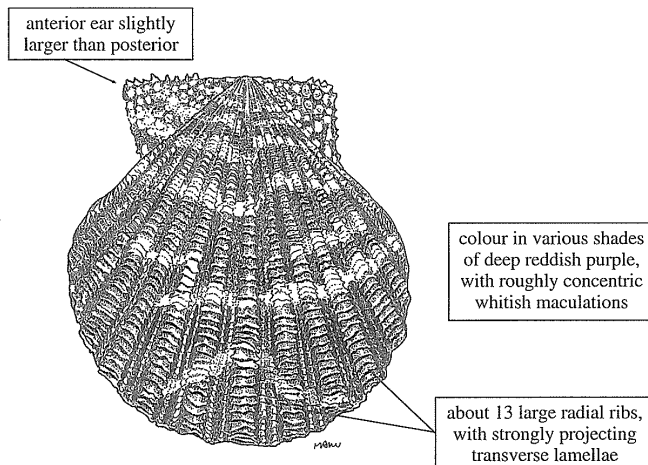
**FAO names:** En - Royal cloak scallop;  
Fr - Pétoncle manteau.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell height to 11 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected by coastal people for subsistence purposes.

**Habitat and biology:** Attached by byssus under coral heads and rocks, in the intertidal and sublittoral zones, to a depth of about 30 m. Can actively swim for some distance when detached.



## GRYPHAEIDAE

*Hyotissa hyotis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

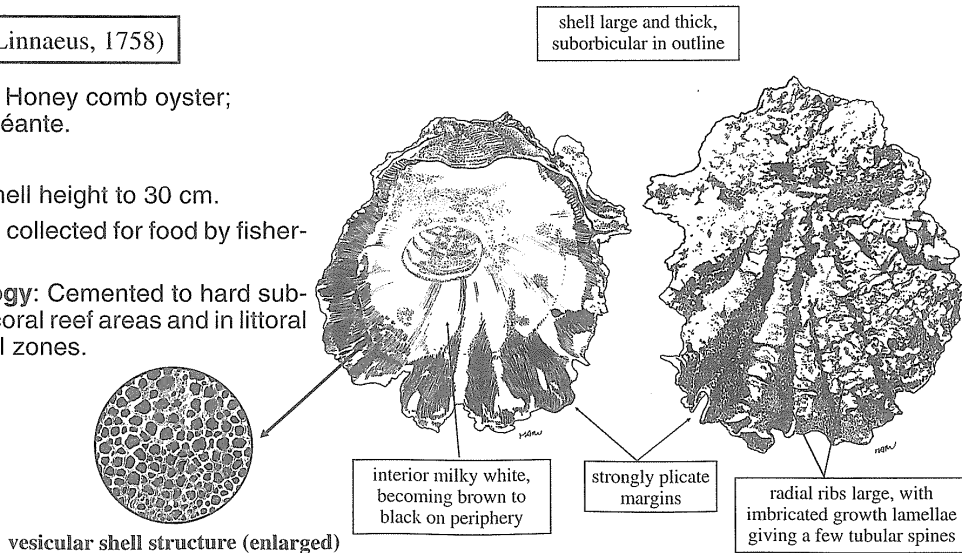
**FAO names:** En - Honey comb oyster;  
Fr - Pycnodonte géante.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell height to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Locally collected for food by fishermen.

**Habitat and biology:** Cemented to hard substrates, mostly in coral reef areas and in littoral to shallow subtidal zones.



**OSTREIDAE**

*Dendostrea folium* (Linnaeus, 1758)

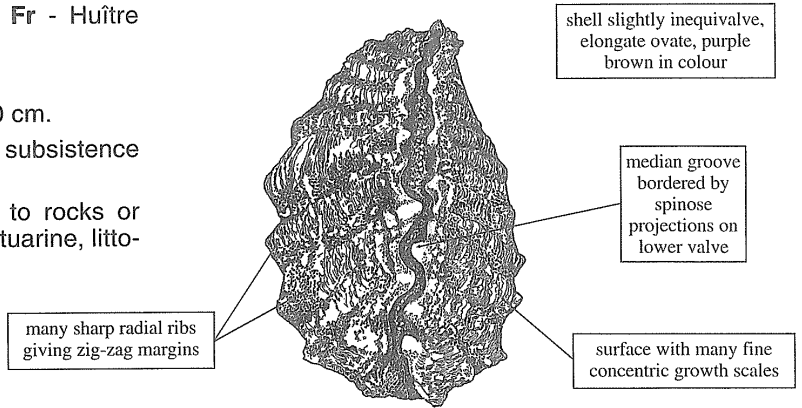
**FAO names:** En - Leaf oyster; Fr - Huître feuille.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell height to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Locally collected for subsistence by fishermen.

**Habitat and biology:** Attached to rocks or seawhip stems, in marine and estuarine, littoral to sublittoral environments.



*Lopha cristagalli* (Linnaeus, 1758)

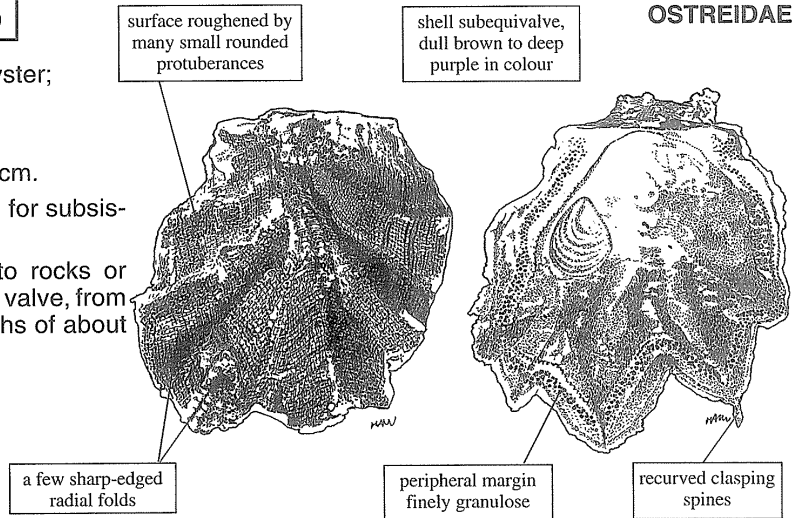
**FAO names:** En - Cock's comb oyster; Fr - Huître crête-de-coq.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected by fishermen for subsistence purpose.

**Habitat and biology:** Attached to rocks or corals by clasping spines of the left valve, from low in the intertidal zone to a depths of about 30 m.



**OSTREIDAE**

*Saccostrea cucullata* (Born, 1778)

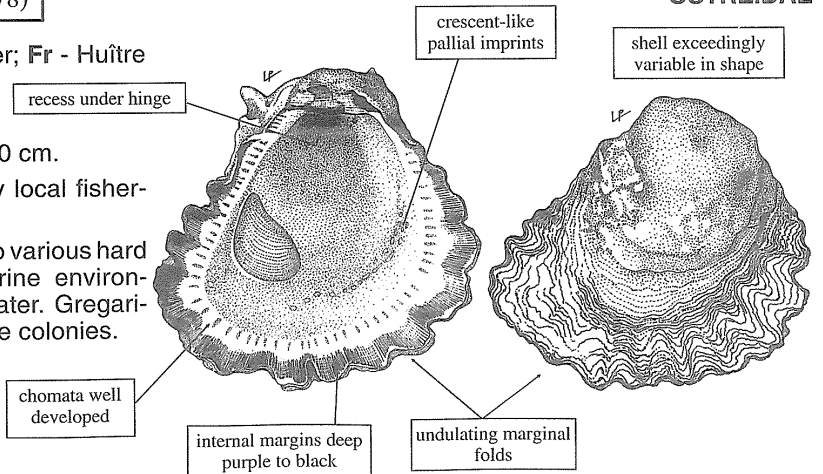
**FAO names:** En - Hooded oyster; Fr - Huître capuchon.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell height to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected for food by local fishermen.

**Habitat and biology:** Attached to various hard substrates in marine to estuarine environments. Intertidal and shallow water. Gregarious species, often forming dense colonies.



**OSTREIDAE**

## TRIDACNIDAE

*Tridacna maxima* (Röding, 1798)

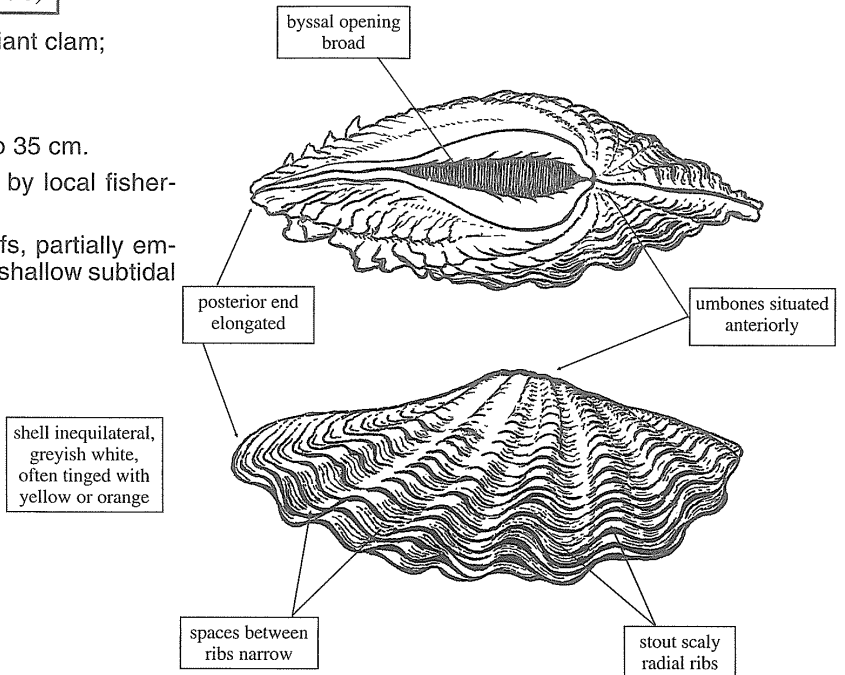
**FAO names:** En - Elongate giant clam;  
Fr - Bénitier allongé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected for food by local fishermen in coral reef flats.

**Habitat and biology:** On reefs, partially embedded in coral, in littoral and shallow subtidal waters.

*Tridacna squamosa* Lamarck, 1819

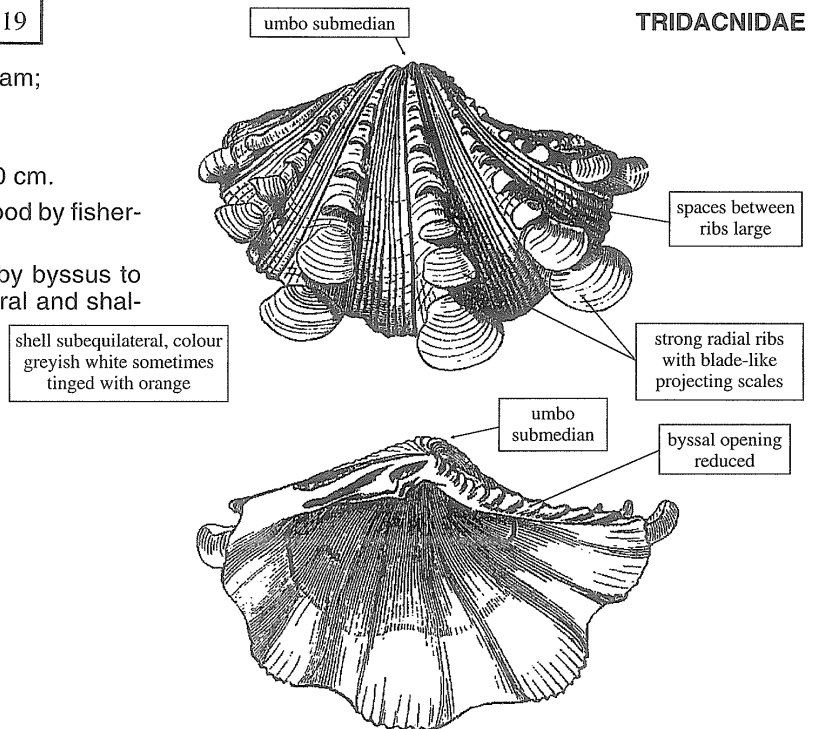
**FAO names:** En - Fluted giant clam;  
Fr - Bénitier écailléux.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Locally collected for food by fishermen in coral reef areas.

**Habitat and biology:** Attached by byssus to the surface of coral reefs, in littoral and shallow waters.

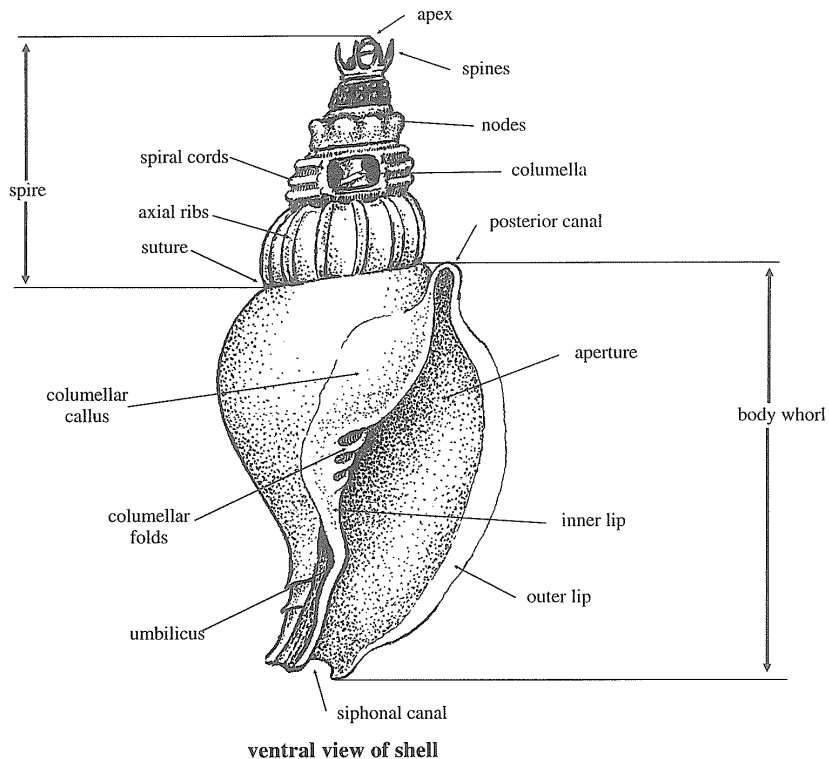


## TRIDACNIDAE



# GASTROPODS

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



**Aperture:** Opening of shell, at the last formed margin; in a spiral shell, the margin nearer to the coiling axis forms the inner lip, and the opposite margin the outer lip.

**Axial:** See sculpture.

**Base:** Lower part of shell, anterior to level of periphery of body whorl.

**Body whorl:** The largest, last turn of the spiral in a coiled shell.

**Callus:** Thick secondary deposit of lime, generally shiny and porcellaneous.

**Columella:** Coiling axis of shell, forming the lower part of inner lip.

**Lip:** See aperture.

**Nucleus:** Earliest formed part of the operculum.

**Operculum:** Horny or calcareous part attached to the foot, sealing aperture when animal retracts within the shell.

**Sculpture:** Relief pattern on shell surface. When parallel to the curve of whorls, sculptural elements are spiral; when parallel to the coiling axis, they are axial.

**Shoulder:** Distinct spiral angulation of a whorl.

**Siphonal canal:** Trough-like or tubular extension of aperture anteriorly, for inclosure of a fleshy siphon.

**Spiral:** See sculpture.

**Spire:** All the whorls of a shell, except the last one.

**Suture:** Spiral line or groove of shell surface, where adjacent whorls meet.

**Umbilicus:** Opening at base of shell made around the coiling axis when columella is hollow.

**Varix (pl.varices):** Axial rib-like thickening of the outer surface of shell, representing a previous growth halt during which the outer lip of aperture thickened.

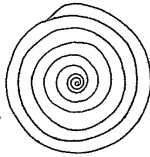
GUIDE TO FAMILIES

**TROCHIDAE**

**Top shells**

To about 8 cm. Marine. One species included in the Guide to Species.

corneous, with many whorls



operculum

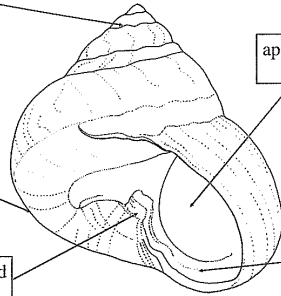
shape conical to globose

aperture nacreous within

base more or less flattened

umbilicus opened to closed

no siphonal canal



**STROMBIDAE**

**Conchs**

To about 45 cm. Marine. Two species included in the Guide to Species.

thick and corneous, hook-shaped



operculum

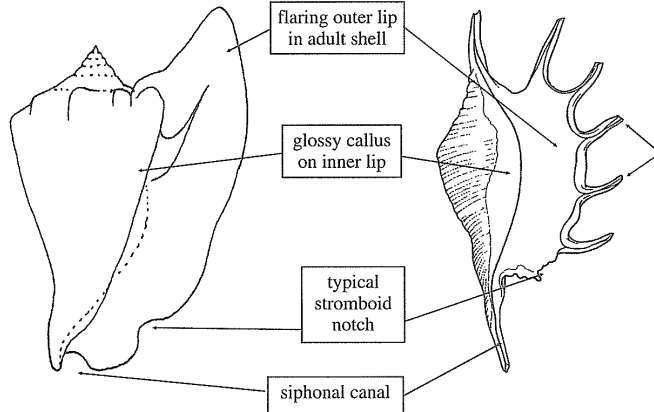
flaring outer lip in adult shell

glossy callus on inner lip

outer lip sometimes digitate

typical stromboid notch

siphonal canal

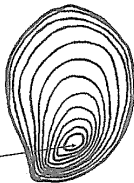


**MURICIDAE**

**Murex shells**

To about 30 cm. Marine. One species included in the Guide to Species.

corneous nucleus generally near anterior end



operculum

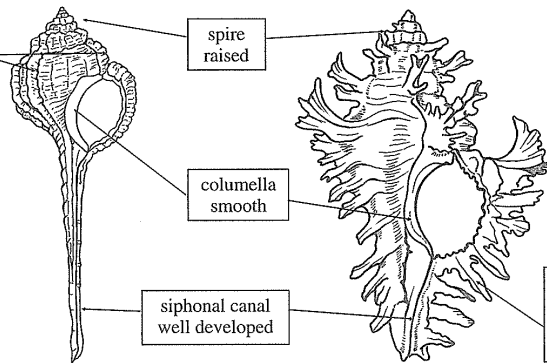
axial varices present

spire raised

columella smooth

siphonal canal well developed

sculpture strong, often with spines or lamellate processes



**TURBINELLIDAE**

**Vase shells**

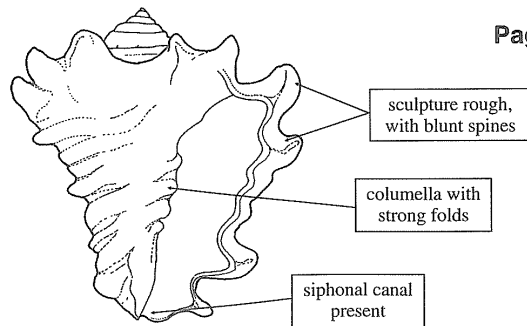
To about 15 cm. Marine. One species included in the Guide to Species.

shell thick and heavy

sculpture rough, with blunt spines

columella with strong folds

siphonal canal present



**TROCHIDAE**

*Tectus dentatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

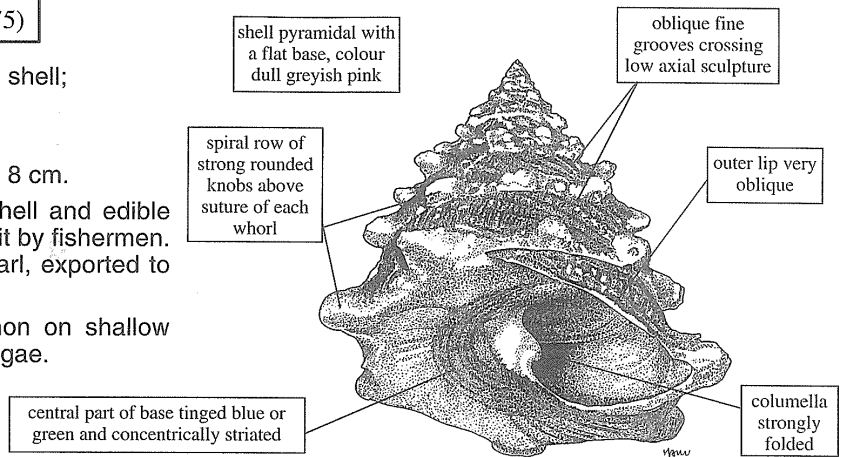
**FAO names:** En - Dentate top shell;  
Fr - Troquée pyramidal.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected for its shell and edible flesh which is also used as bait by fishermen. Shell valued for mother-of-pearl, exported to the Sudanese market.

**Habitat and biology:** Common on shallow reef flats where it grazes on algae.



**STROMBIDAE**

*Lambis truncata* (Humphrey, 1786)

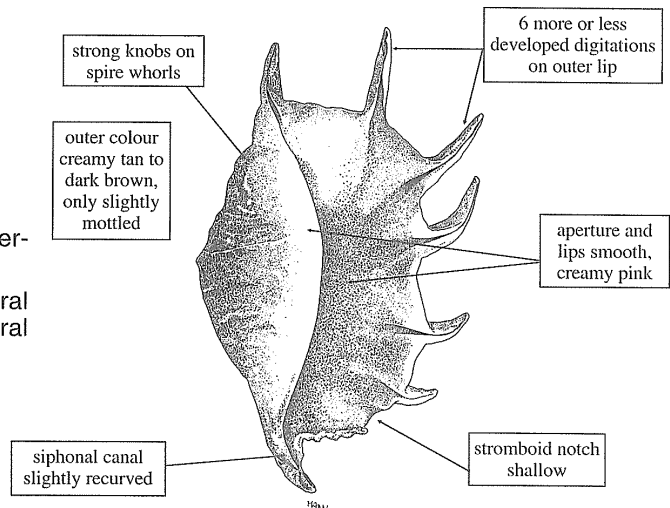
**FAO names:** En - Giant spider conch;  
Fr - Ptérocère géant.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected for food by local fishermen.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow water of coral reef flats, mainly on sandy, algal, and coral rubble bottoms.



*Strombus tricornis* Humphrey, 1786

**STROMBIDAE**

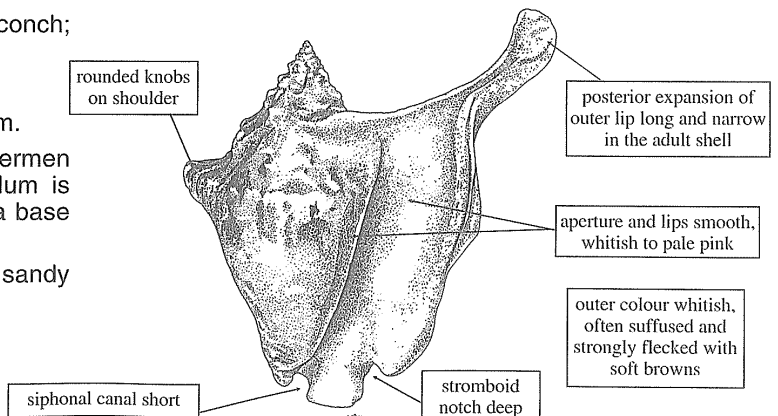
**FAO names:** En - Three-knobbed conch;  
Fr - Strombe tricolore.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected for food by fishermen in the Gulf of Oman. The operculum is exported to Sudan, to be used as a base for perfume manufacture.

**Habitat and biology:** Common on sandy bottoms in very shallow reef flats.



## MURICIDAE

*Chicoreus ramosus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

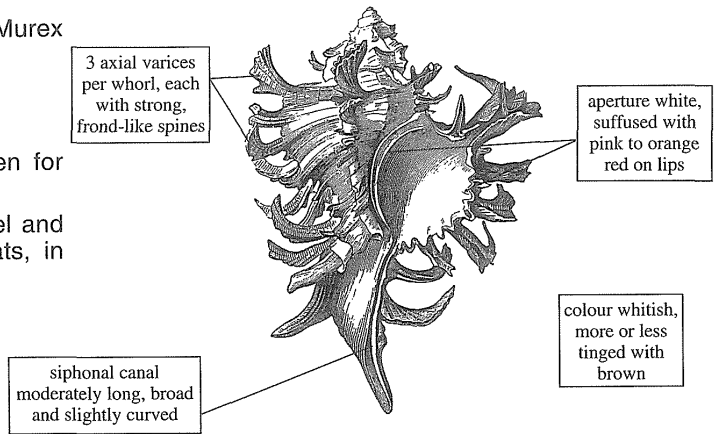
**FAO names:** En - Ramose murex; Fr - Murex rameux.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 32.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** Collected by local fishermen for food and bait.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy gravel and coarse sand bottoms of coral reef flats, in littoral zone and shallow subtidal water.

*Chicoreus virgineus* (Röding, 1798)

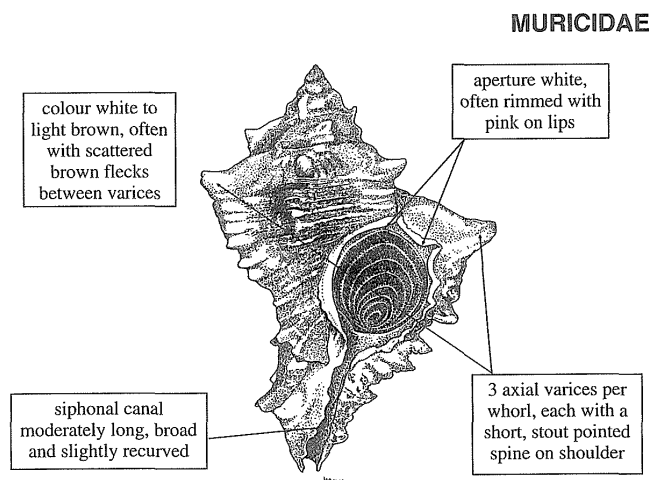
**FAO names:** En - Virginal murex; Fr - Murex virginal.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Locally collected by fishermen for subsistence or bait purposes.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow water, often half buried in sand of reef flats.



## TURBINELLIDAE

*Vasum turbinellus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

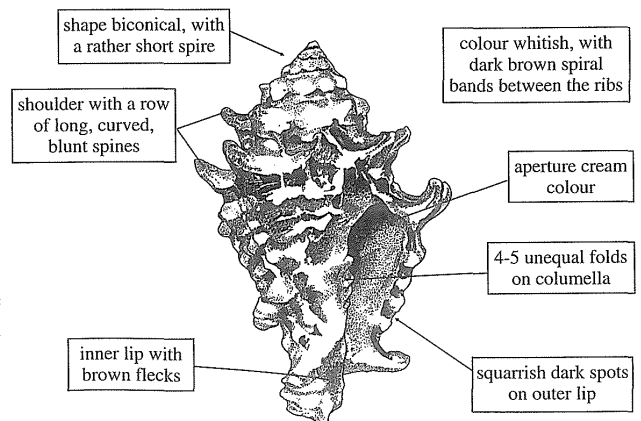
**FAO names:** En - Top vase; Fr - Turbinelle corne.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum shell length to 8.5 cm

**Fisheries:** Collected by hand on the reef flats. Used as food or as bait by the fishermen.

**Habitat and biology:** On sandy or stony bottoms, specially in coral reef areas. During the day, often sheltered under dead coral rocks of the reef flats. Feed on marine worms. Abundant in intertidal and shallow subtidal waters, to a depths of few meters.

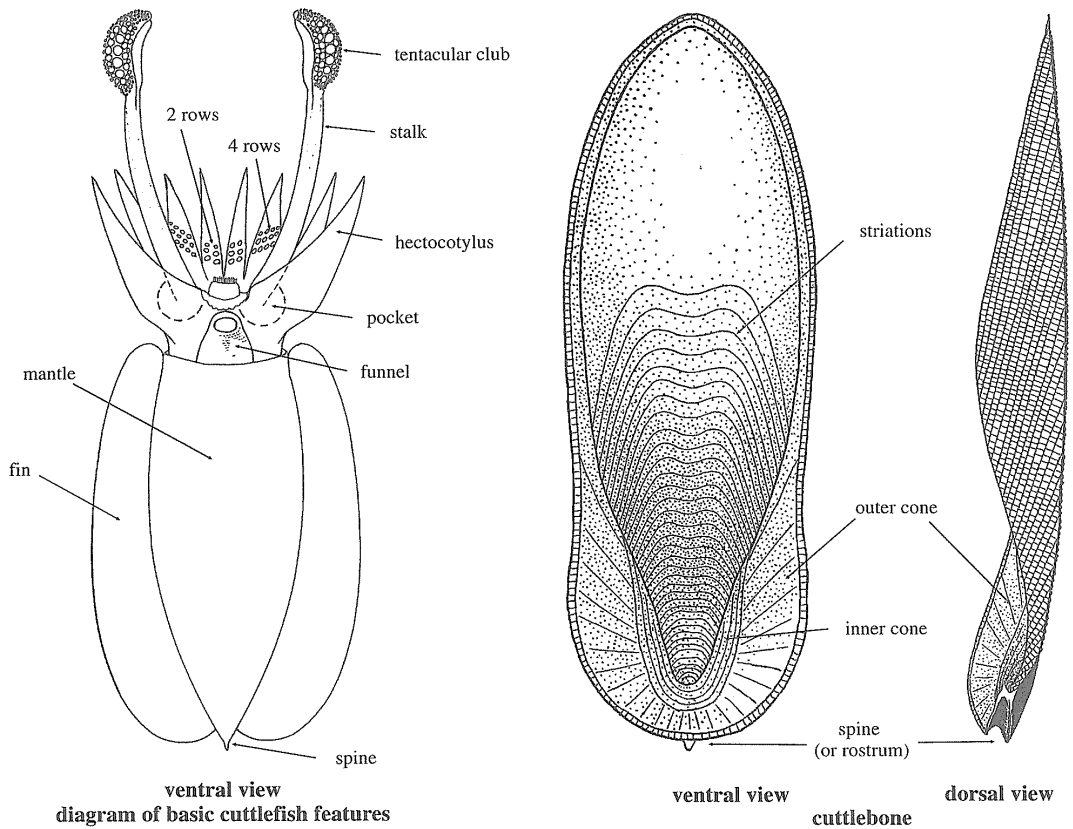


# CEPHALOPODS

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS AND GUIDE TO ORDERS

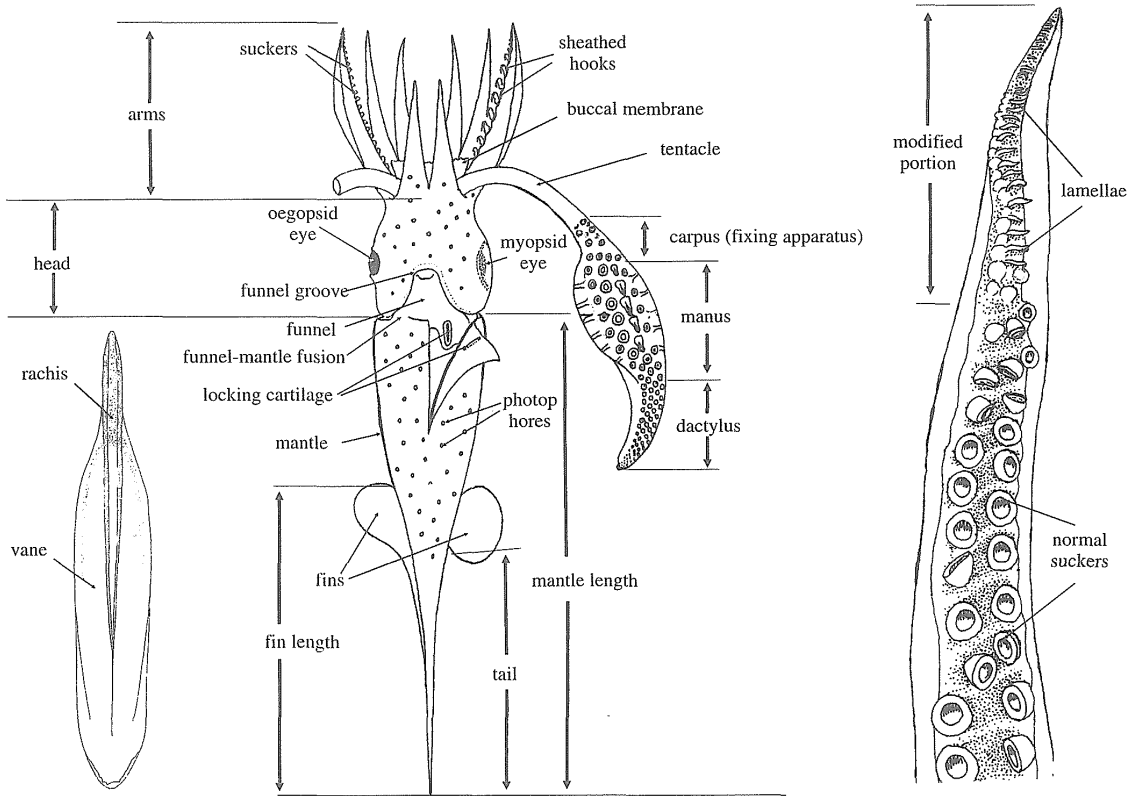
### Order SEPIOIDEA - Cuttlefishes

Sepion (internal shell) large, chalky, rigid; 8 arms and 2 retractile tentacles.



**Order TEUTHOIDEA - Squids**

Gladius (or internal shell) chitinous, flexible, pen-shaped; 8 arms and 2 non-retractile tentacles.



gladius of squid

composite diagram illustrating basic squid (teuthoid) features

example of hectocotylized arm in male (*Illex*)

**Order OCTOPODA - Octopuses and Argonauts**

Internal shell reduced or absent; 8 arms, no tentacles.

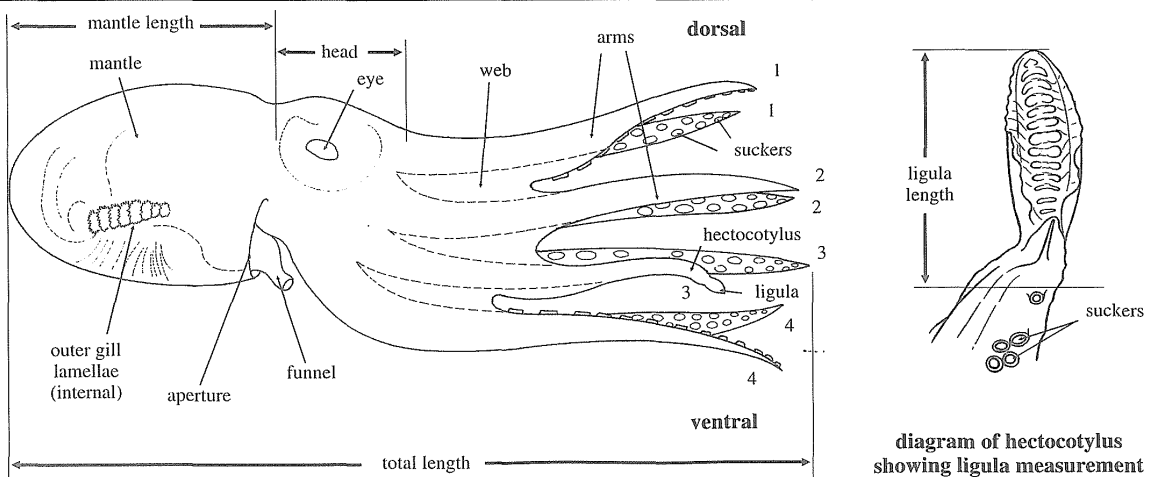


diagram of basic octopus features (lateral view)

diagram of hectocotylus showing ligula measurement

**SEPIIDAE**

**Cuttlefishes**

*Sepia arabica* Massy, 1916

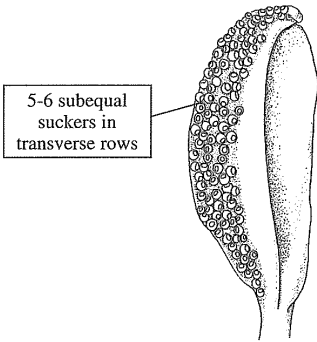
**FAO names:** En - Arabian cuttlefish;  
Fr - Seiche d'Arabie.

**Local names:**

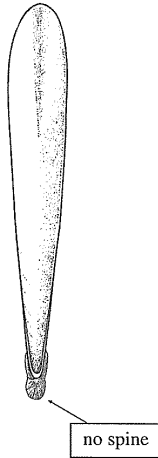
**Size:** To 7 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

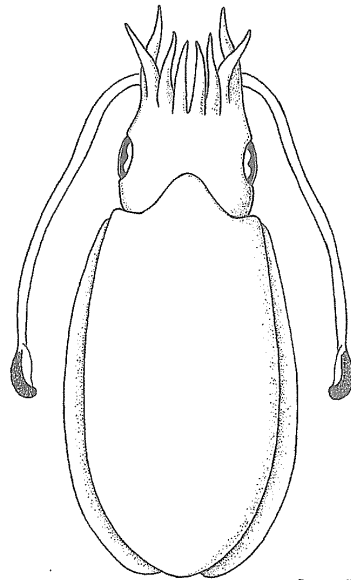
**Habitat and biology:** Unknown.



tentacular club



cuttlebone



dorsal view

*Sepia australis* Quoy & Gaimard, 1832

**FAO names:** En - Southern cuttlefish;  
Fr - Seiche australe.

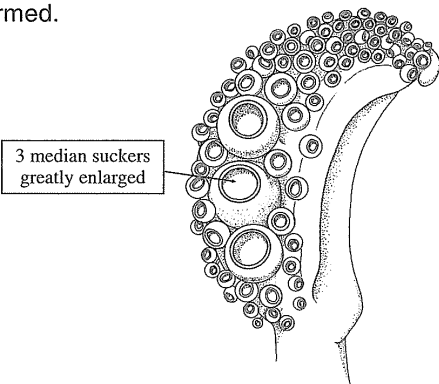
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 5.5 cm mantle length.

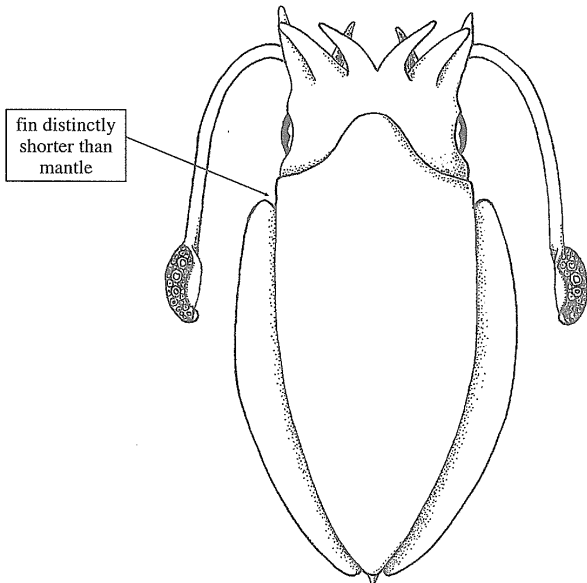
**Fisheries:** No information.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, abundant on the upper shelf from depths of 50 to 100 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



tentacular club



dorsal view

**SEPIIDAE**



***Sepia latimanus*** Quoy and Gaimard, 1832**SEPIIDAE**

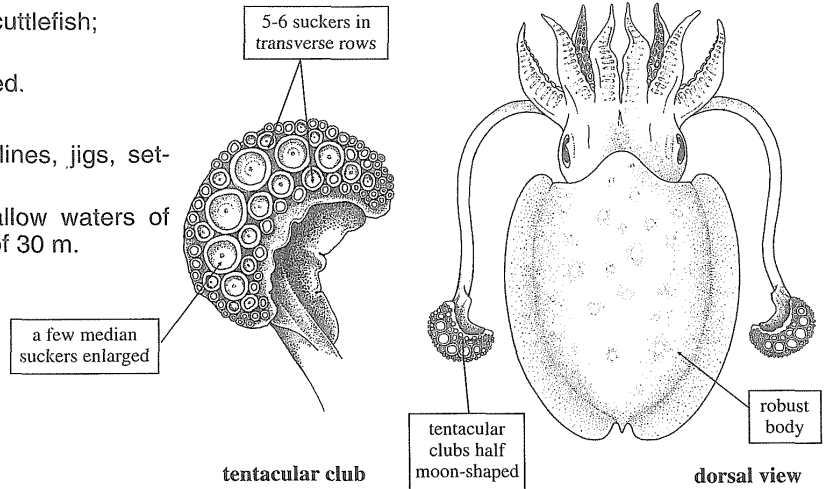
**FAO names:** En - Broadclub cuttlefish; Fr - Seiche grandes mains.

**Local names:** Duusho-Dhuleed.

**Size:** To 50 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, jigs, set-nets, and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters of tropical coral reefs to depths of 30 m.

***Sepia murrayi*** Adam & Rees, 1966**SEPIIDAE**

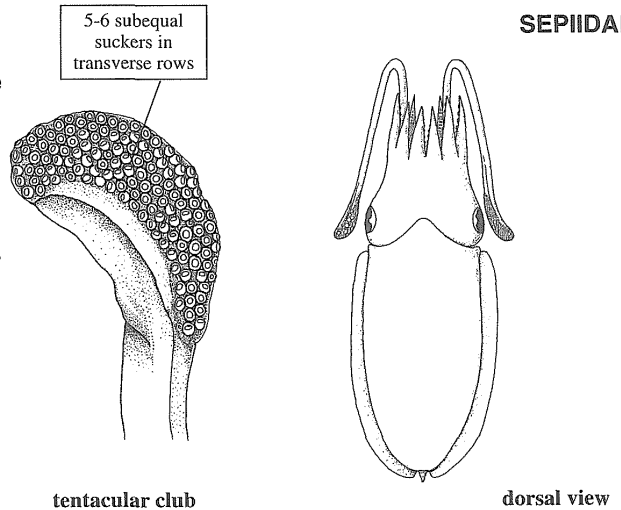
**FAO names:** En - Frog cuttlefish; Fr - Seiche grenouille.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 4.5 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A neritic demersal species.

***Sepia pharaonis*** Ehrenbergh, 1831**SEPIIDAE**

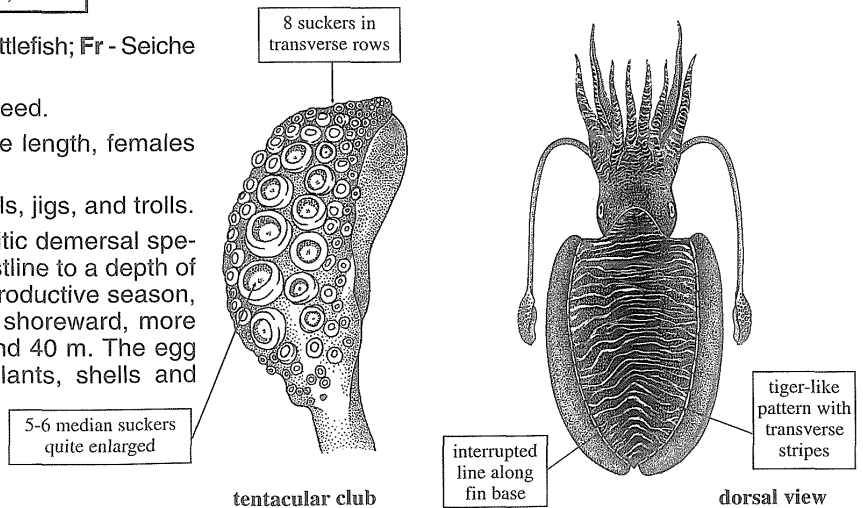
**FAO names:** En - Pharaoh cuttlefish; Fr - Seiche pharaon.

**Local names:** Duusho-Dhuleed.

**Size:** Males to 43 cm mantle length, females to 33 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, jigs, and trolls.

**Habitat and biology:** A neritic demersal species occurring from the coastline to a depth of about 110 m; during the reproductive season, when the species migrates shoreward, more abundant in depths of around 40 m. The egg clusters are attached to plants, shells and other substrates.





*Sepia prashadi* Winckworth, 1936

SEPIIDAE

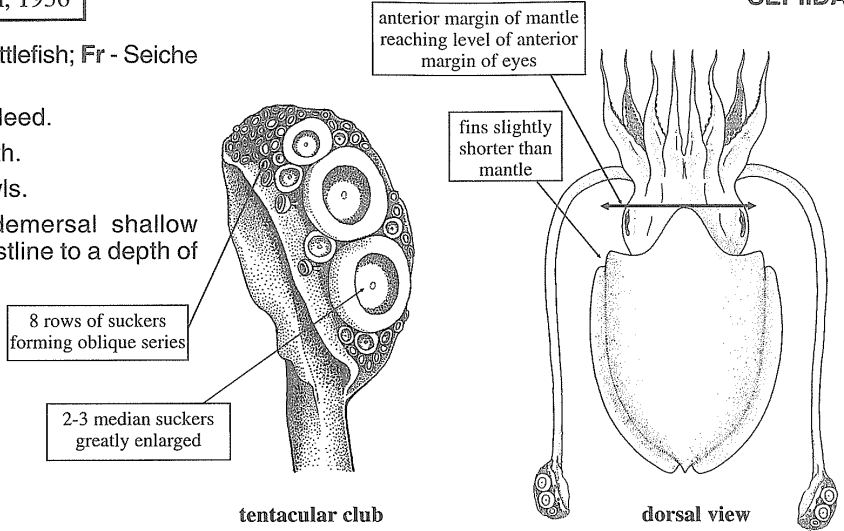
**FAO names:** En - Hooded cuttlefish; Fr - Seiche capuchon.

**Local names:** Duusho-Dhuleed.

**Size:** To 14 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A demersal shallow water species; from the coastline to a depth of over 40 m .



tentacular club

dorsal view

*Sepia savignyi* Blainville, 1827

SEPIIDAE

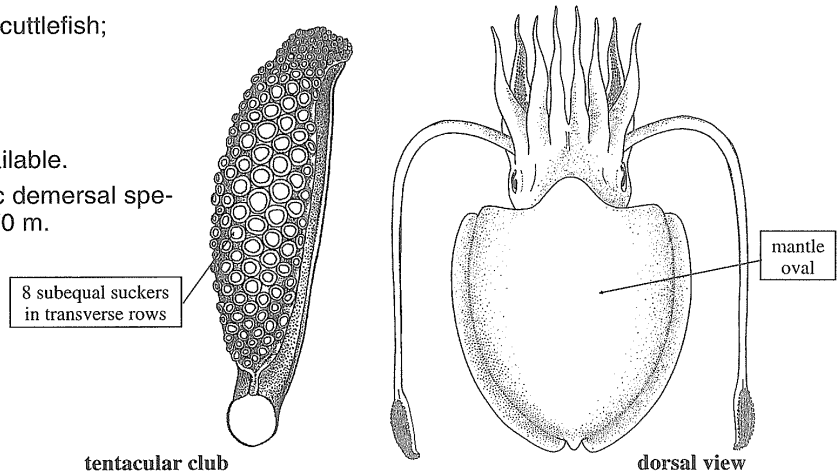
**FAO names:** En - Broadback cuttlefish; Fr - Seiche gros dos.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 13 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** A neritic demersal species; depth range from 25 to 70 m.



tentacular club

dorsal view

*Sepia trygonia* (Rochebrune, 1884)

SEPIIDAE

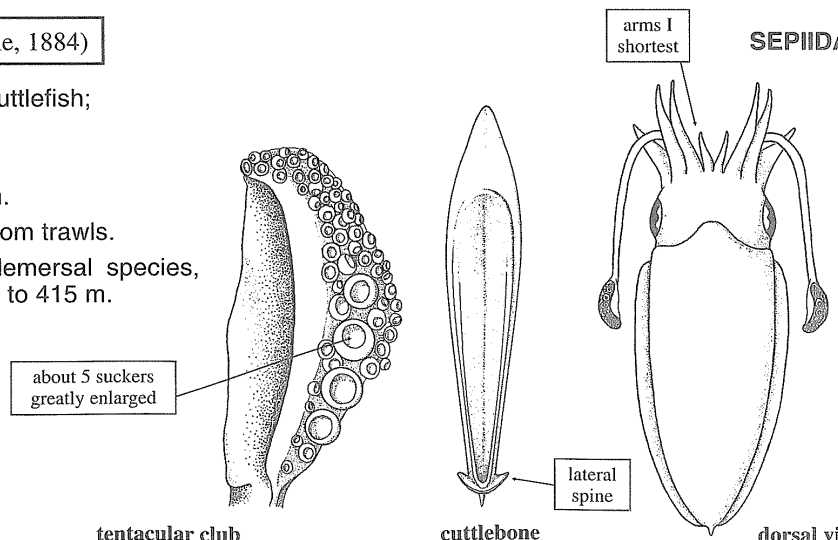
**FAO names:** En - Trident cuttlefish; Fr - Seiche trident.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 5 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A demersal species, occurring from depths of 35 to 415 m.



tentacular club

cuttlebone

dorsal view

*Sepiella inermis* Orbigny, 1848

## SEPIIDAE

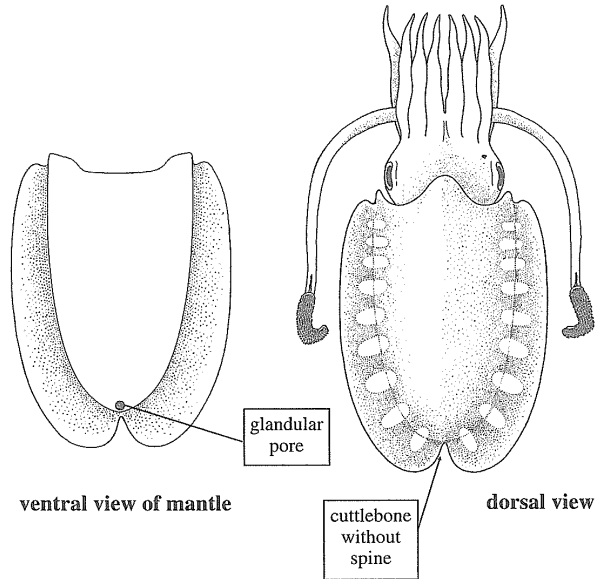
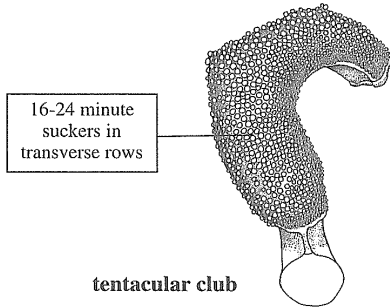
**FAO names:** En - Spineless cuttlefish;  
Fr - Sépia inermis.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 12.5 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, beach seines, and fixed bagnets.

**Habitat and biology:** A demersal shallow-water species occurring to depths of about 40 m.



## LOLIGINIDAE

*Loligo duvauceli* Orbigny, 1848

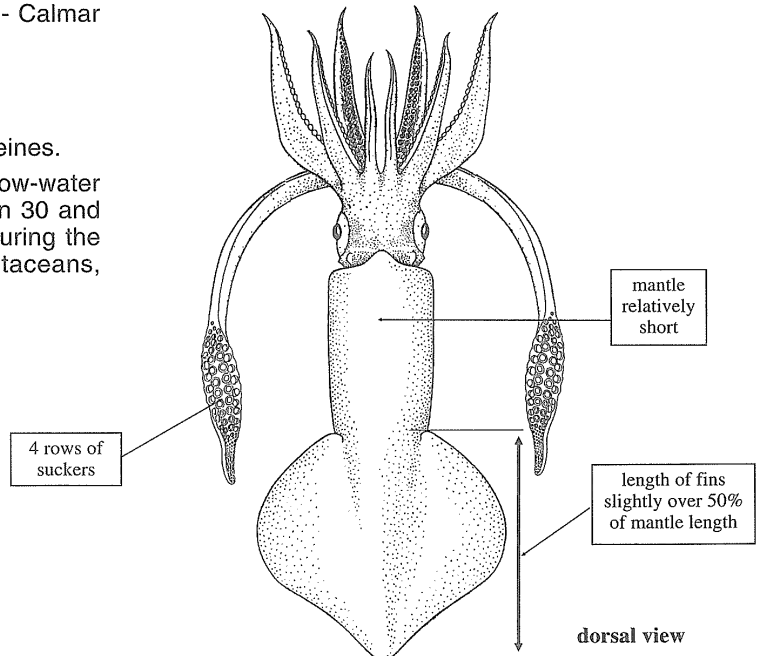
**FAO names :** En - Indian squid; Fr - Calmar indien.

**Local names:** Duusho-Baxareed.

**Size:** To 29 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls and seines.

**Habitat and biology:** A neritic shallow-water species occurring in depths between 30 and 170 m. Forms large aggregations during the spawning season. Feeds on crustaceans, fishes, and squids.



*Loligo forbesi* Steenstrup, 1856

LOLIGINIDAE

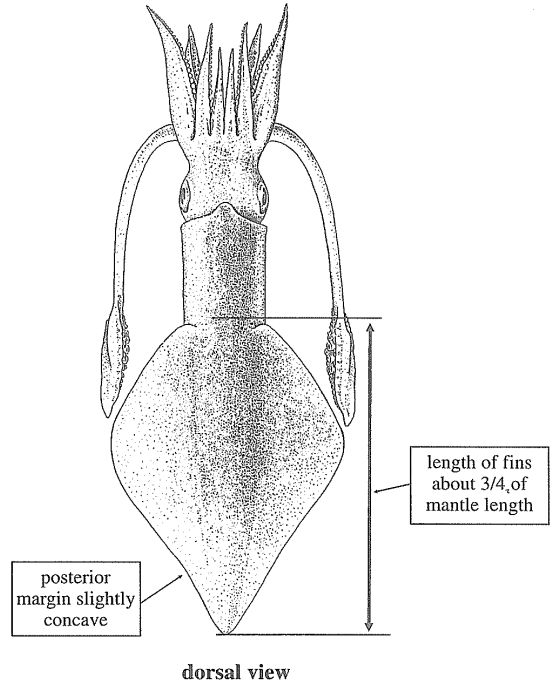
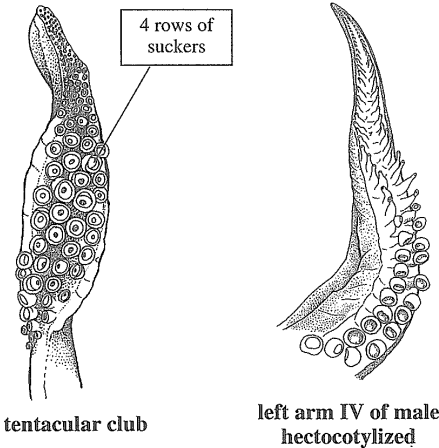
**FAO names:** En - Veined squid; Fr - Encornet veiné.

**Local names:** Kalamaare, Duusho.

**Size:** Males to 90 cm mantle length, females to 41 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, and jigs.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in tropical and temperate waters. The entire depth range extends from about 100 to 400 m. Feeds mainly on small and juvenile fishes, but also on other cephalopods, crustaceans, and polychaetes.



*Sepioteuthis lessoniana* Lesson, 1830

LOLIGINIDAE

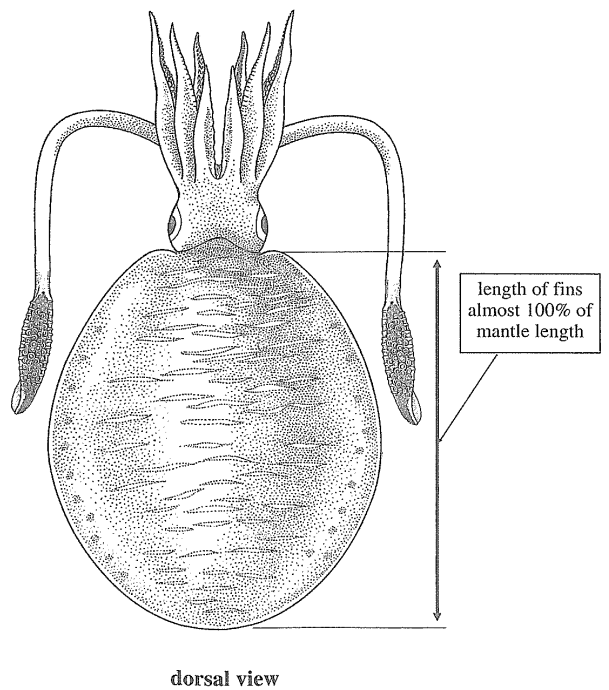
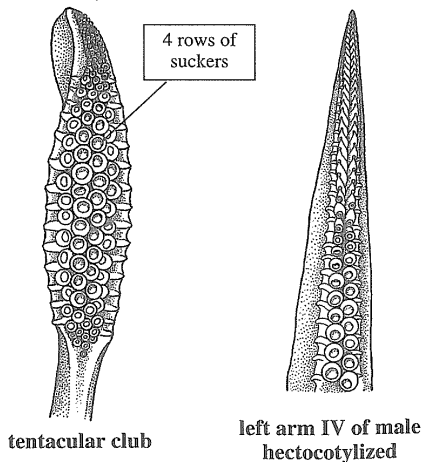
**FAO names:** En - Bigfin reef squid; Fr - Calmar tonnelet.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 36 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with lure-hooks, seines, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Neritic, occurring from the surface down to a depth of at least 100 m. Feeds mainly on prawns and fishes, occasionally on stomatopods and crabs.



### ONYCHOTEUTHIDAE

#### *Onychoteuthis banksi* (Leach, 1817)

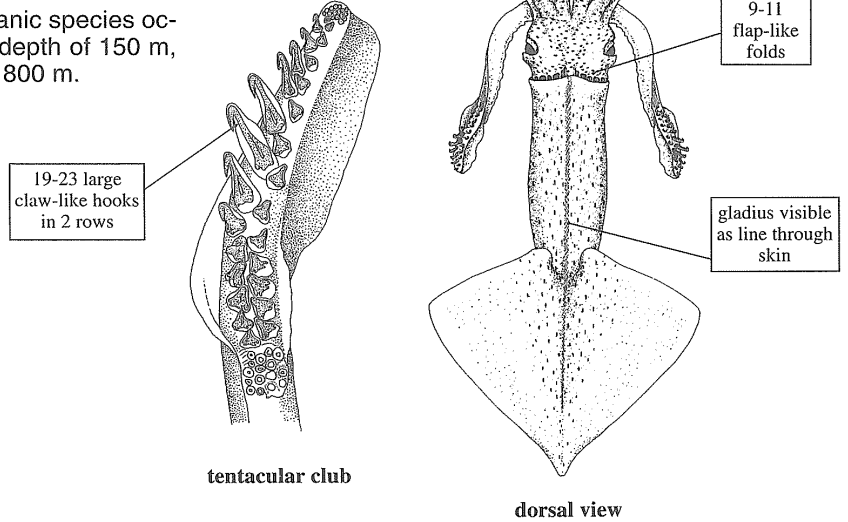
**FAO names:** En - Common clubhook squid;  
Fr - Cornet crochu.

**Local names:** Tootone, Duusho.

**Size:** To 30 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with dipnets.

**Habitat and biology:** An oceanic species occurring from the surface to a depth of 150 m, but may be found as deep as 800 m.



### OMMASTREPHIDAE

#### *Ommastrephes bartrami* (LeSueur, 1821)

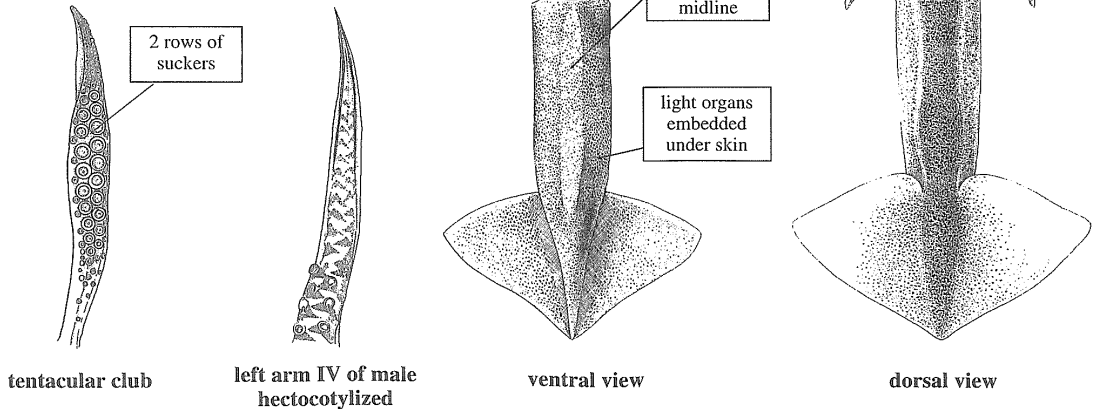
**FAO names:** En - Neon flying squid;  
Fr - Encornet volant.

**Local names:** Tootone, Duusho.

**Size:** Females to 50 cm mantle length, males somewhat smaller.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drift gillnets and jigging machines.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, occurring from the surface to depths of about 1500 m.



*Symplectoteuthis oualaniensis* (Lesson, 1830)

OMMASTREPHIDAE

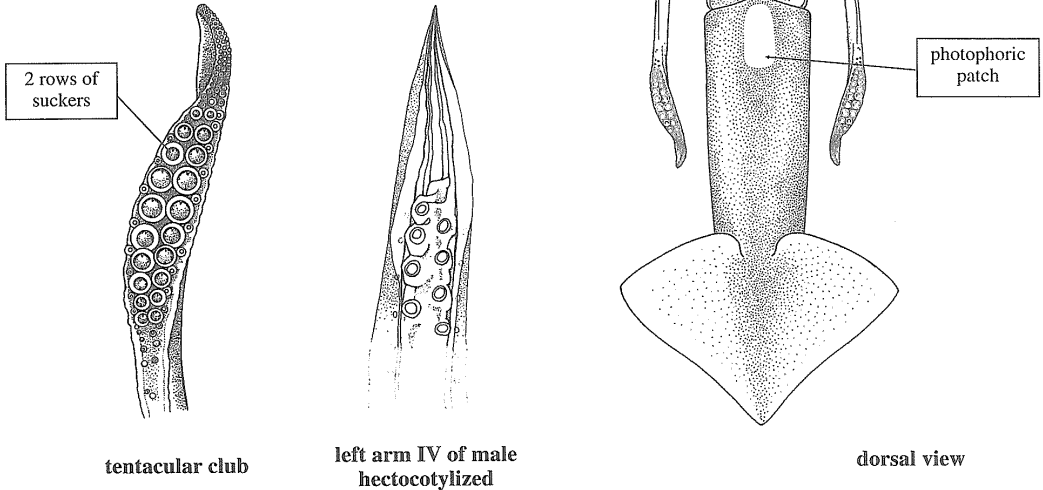
**FAO names:** En - Purpleback flying squid;  
Fr - Encornet bande violette.

**Local names:** Tootone, Duusho.

**Size:** To 35 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with dipnets and jigs.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, occurring from the surface to probably depths of 1000 m.



tentacular club

left arm IV of male  
hectocotylized

dorsal view



THYSANOTEUTHIDAE

*Thysanoteuthis rhombus* Troschel, 1857

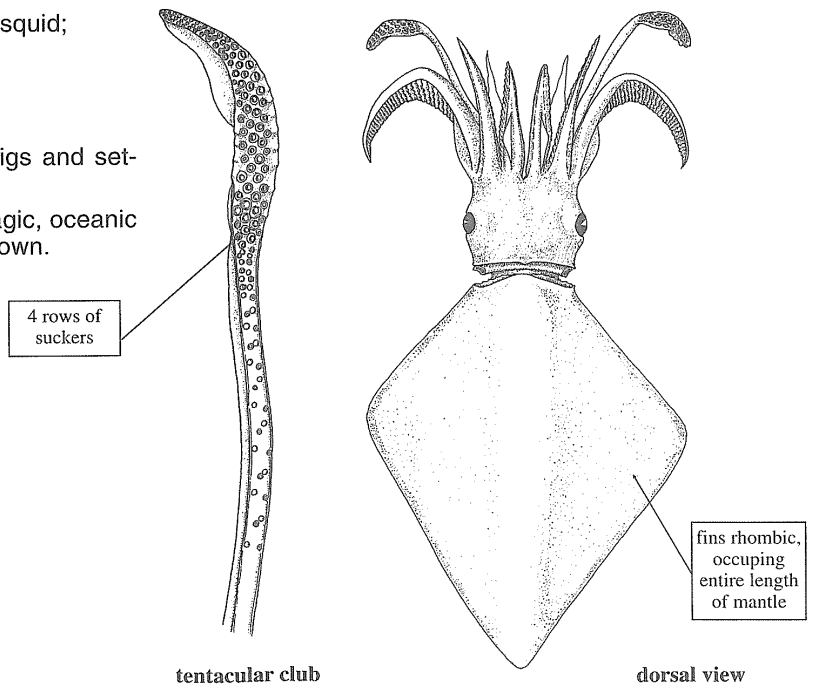
**FAO names:** En - Diamondback squid;  
Fr - Chipiloua commun.

**Local names:** Duusho.

**Size:** To 1.0 m mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drifting jigs and set-nets.

**Habitat and biology:** An epipelagic, oceanic species; exact depth range unknown.



tentacular club

dorsal view

fins rhombic,  
occupying  
entire length  
of mantle

**OCTOPODIDAE**

**Octopuses**

*Octopus aegina* Gray, 1849

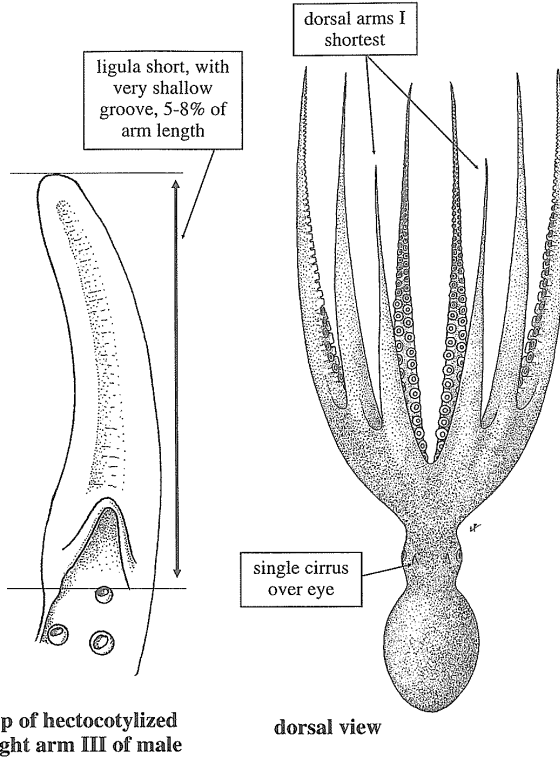
**FAO names:** En - Sandbird octopus;  
Fr - Poulpe des sables.

**Local names:** Yaambo.

**Size:** To 30 cm total length (10 cm mantle length).

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, traps, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** A benthic species, common on the continental shelf from depths of 30 to 120 m.



tip of hectocotyized right arm III of male

dorsal view

*Octopus cyaneus* Gray, 1849

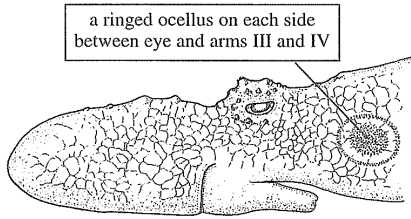
**FAO names:** En - Big blue octopus; Fr - Gros poulpe bleu.

**Local names:** Yaambo.

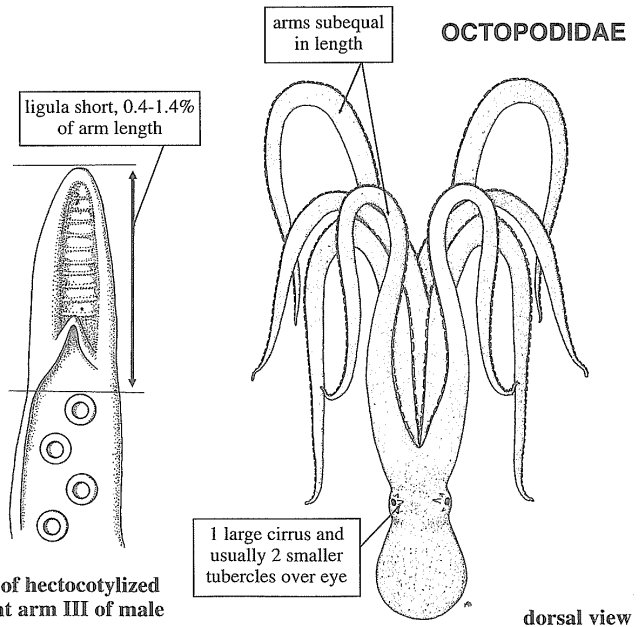
**Size:** To 1.2 m total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps and with spears at night.

**Habitat and biology:** A benthic species occurring in shallow waters on coral reefs.



lateral view of body and head



tip of hectocotyized right arm III of male

dorsal view

**OCTOPODIDAE**

*Octopus defilippi* Verany, 1851

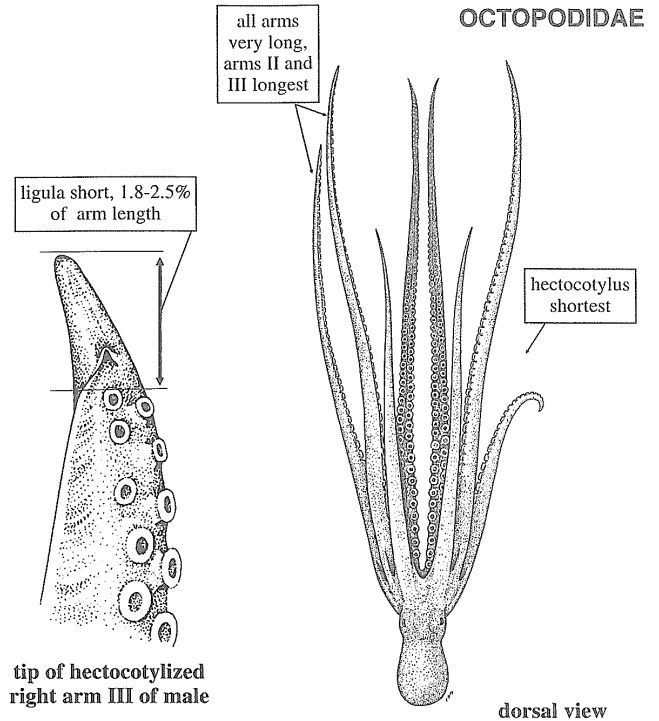
**FAO names:** En - Lilliput longarm octopus;  
Fr - Poulpe à longs bras.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 9 cm mantle length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A benthic species, found over sandy or muddy bottoms from depths of 6 to 60 m, occasionally down to 200 m.



*Octopus macropus* Risso, 1826

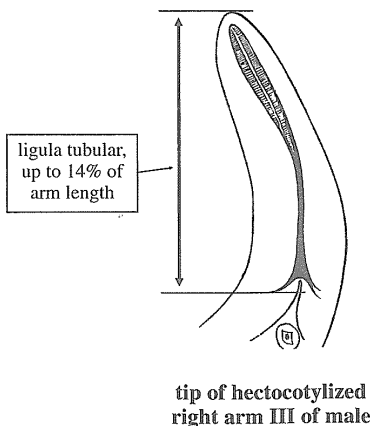
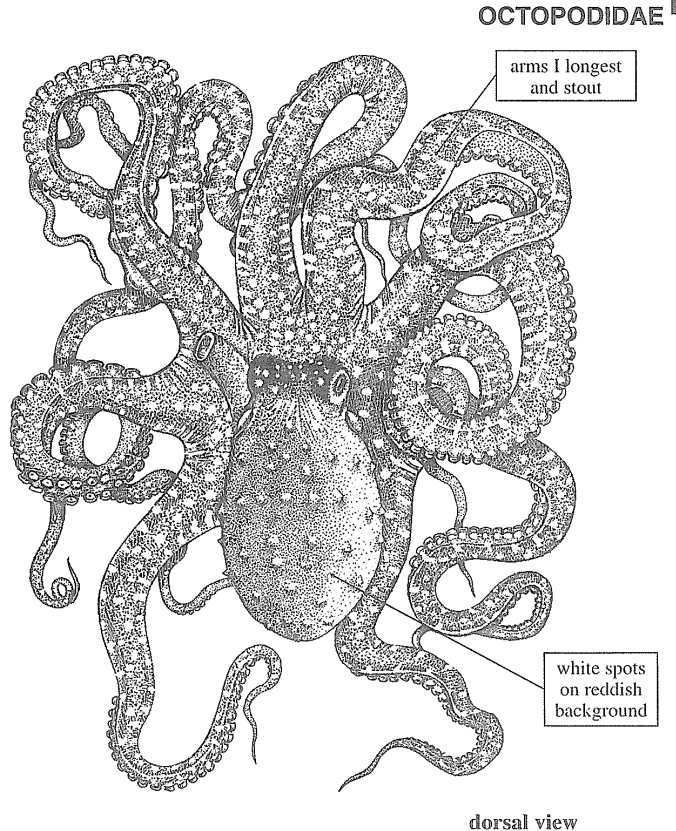
**FAO names:** En - White-spotted octopus;  
Fr - Poulpe tacheté.

**Local names:** Yaambo.

**Size:** To 1.5 m total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with spears, hooks, lures, trawls, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** A benthic, shallow-water species occurring in coral reefs, reef flats and on open bottoms. Feeds on crustaceans, molluscs, and occasionally fishes.



*Octopus membranaceus* Quoy and Gaimard, 1832

## OCTOPODIDAE

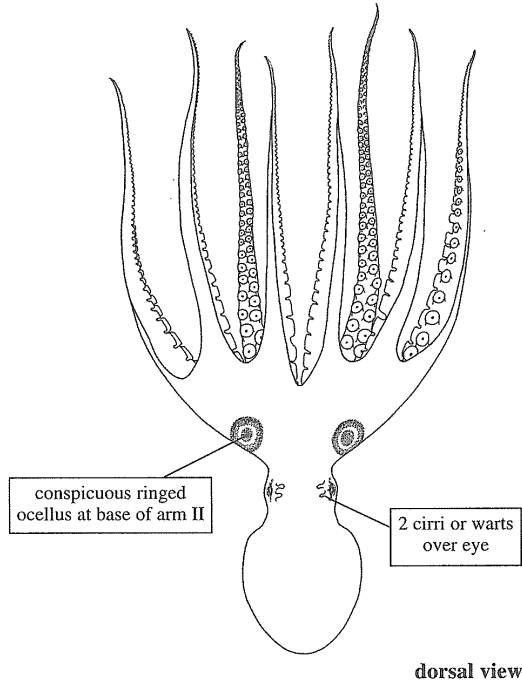
**FAO names:** En - Webfoot octopus;  
Fr - Poulpe à quatre yeux.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with pots and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A benthic shallow-water species occurring down to a depth of 60 m. Hides in holes on flat bottoms.



dorsal view

*Octopus vulgaris* Lamarck, 1798

## OCTOPODIDAE

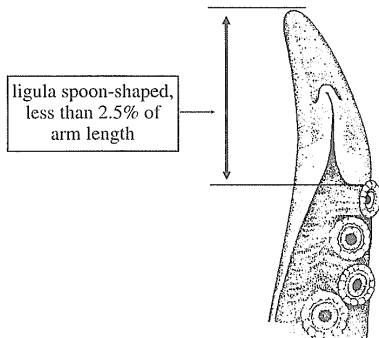
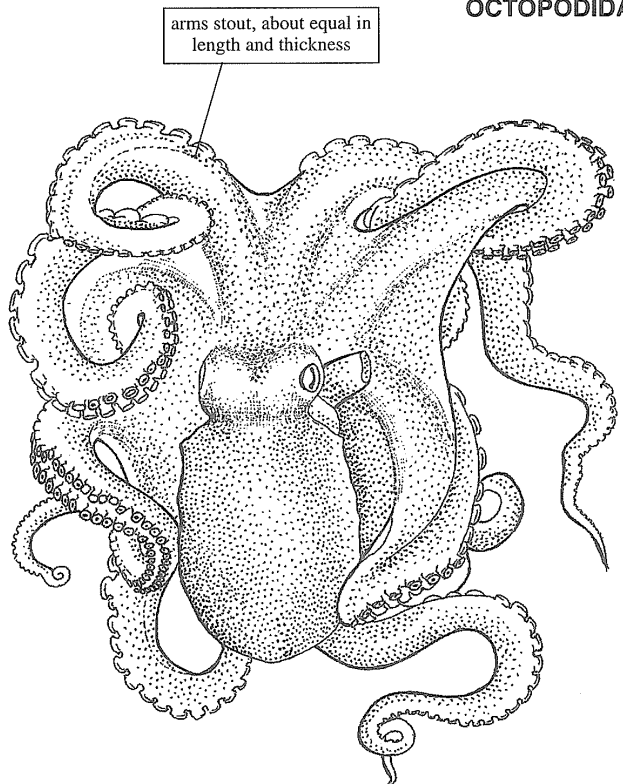
**FAO names:** En - Common octopus;  
Fr - Pieuvre.

**Local names:** Yaambo-Baxareed.

**Size:** Males to 1.3 m total length, females to 1.2 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with lures, hook-and-lines, pots, spears, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A benthic species occurring from the coastline to the outer edge of the continental shelf, to a depth of 200 m; over rocks, on coral reefs and seagrass beds.

tip of hectocotylized  
right arm III of male

dorsal view



## ARGONAUTIDAE

## Argonauts

*Argonauta argo* Linnaeus, 1758

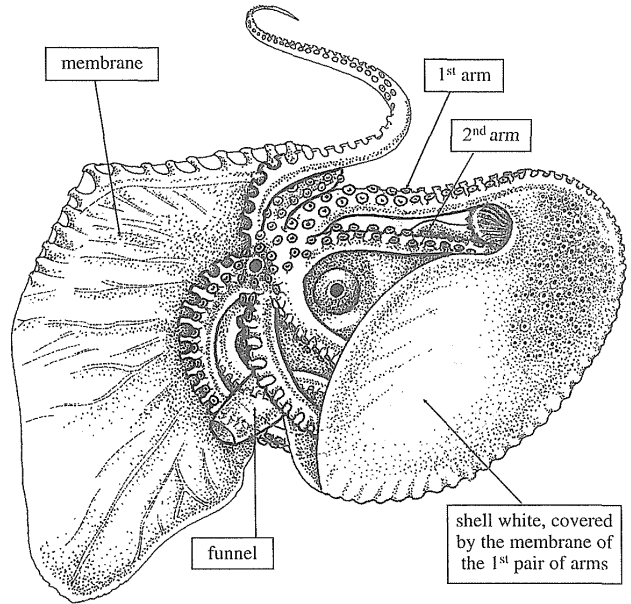
**FAO names:** En - Greater argonaut;  
Fr - Argonaute papier.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Length of shell in females to 30 cm, mantle length to 12 cm; males dwarf size, only 1.5 to 2 cm total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** An epipelagic, oceanic species, occurring in near-surface waters.



female

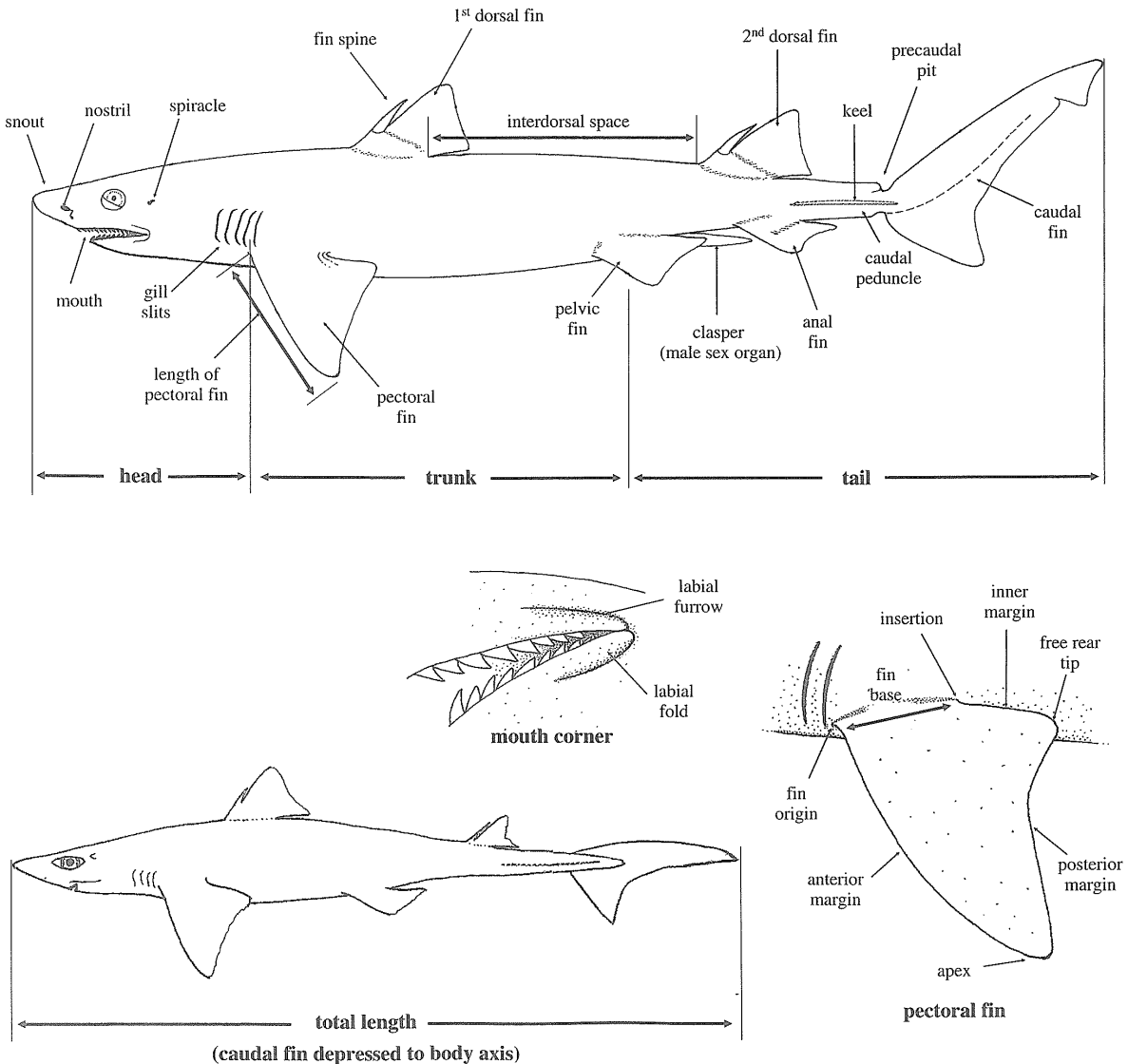


# SHARKS

The purpose of this guide is to ensure correct identification of all shark families recorded from Somalian waters. In order to avoid erroneous identification, certain families of no interest to fisheries, but which might be confused with important ones, are included here.

**Note:** Families in the guide are arranged by order using the classification adopted by Eschmeyer (1990) which best reflects current use. Page numbers refer to those families that are treated in more detail in the species identification guide. All features utilized in the guide apply only to the species which occur in Somalia.

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



**GUIDE TO ORDERS AND FAMILIES**

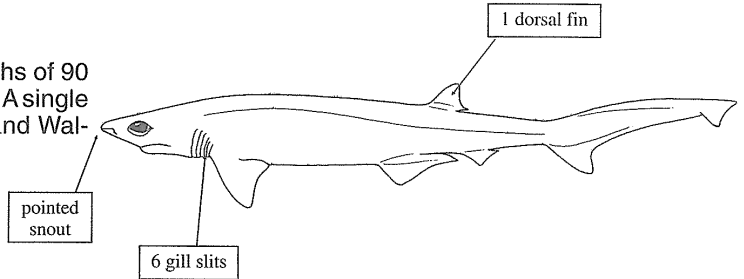
**Order Hexanchiformes - Frilled and Cow Sharks**

Six or 7 pairs of gill slits; single dorsal fin; anal fin present.

**HEXANCHIDAE**

**Sixgill sharks**

To 1.8 m. Mainly demersal, from depths of 90 to 600 m. Of little interest to fisheries. A single species: *Hexanchus vitulus* Springer and Waller, 1969.



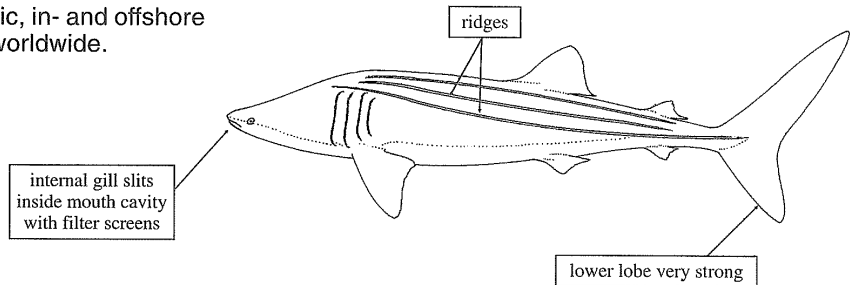
**Order Orectolobiformes - Carpet Sharks**

Five pair of gill slits, often the fifth overlapping the fourth; 2 dorsal fins without spines; mouth transverse, confined to well in front of eyes, usually with barbels (*Rhincodon typus* with broad head and wide mouth).

**RHINCODONTIDAE**

**Whale sharks**

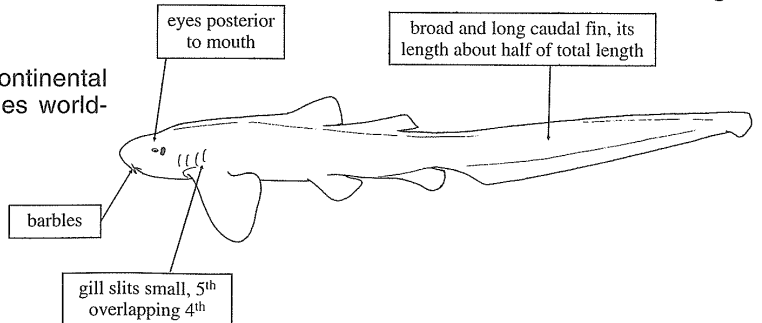
Possibly to 18 m. Epipelagic, in- and offshore waters. A single species worldwide.



**STEGOSTOMATIDAE**

**Zebra sharks**

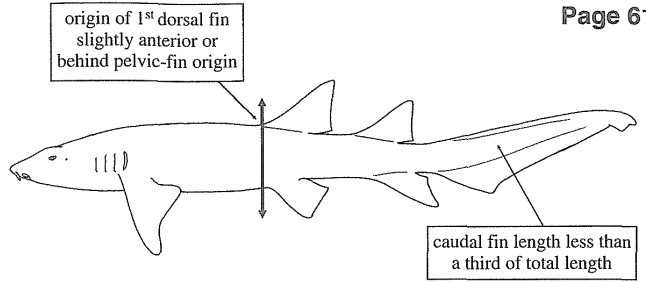
Possibly to 3.5 m. Demersal on continental and insular shelves. A single species worldwide.



**GINGLYMOSTOMATIDAE**

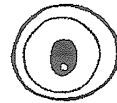
**Nurse sharks**

To 3.2 m. Demersal, from the intertidal zone to a depth of at least 70 m. Two species.



**Order LAMNIFORMES - Mackerel Sharks and allies**

Five pairs of gill slits; 2 dorsal fins without spines; anal fin present; mouth strongly arched, extending well behind eyes; no movable nictitating eyelid; intestinal valve of ring type.

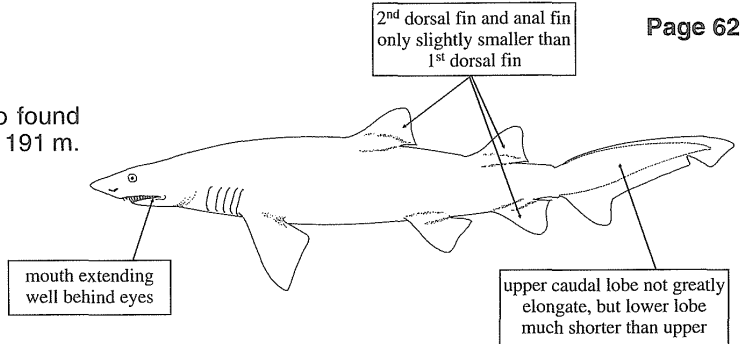


no movable nictitating eyelid

**ODONTASPIDIDAE**

**Sand tiger sharks**

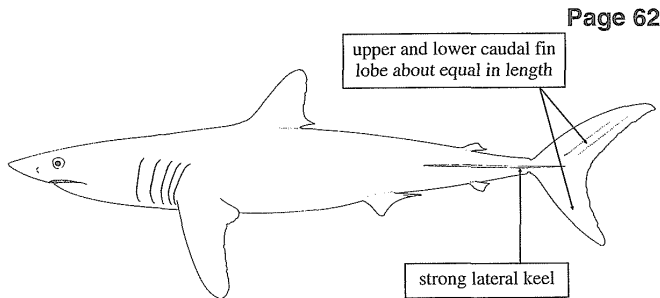
To 3.2 m. Usually demersal, but also found pelagic, from the surface to depths of 191 m. A single species.



**LAMNIDAE**

**Mackerel sharks**

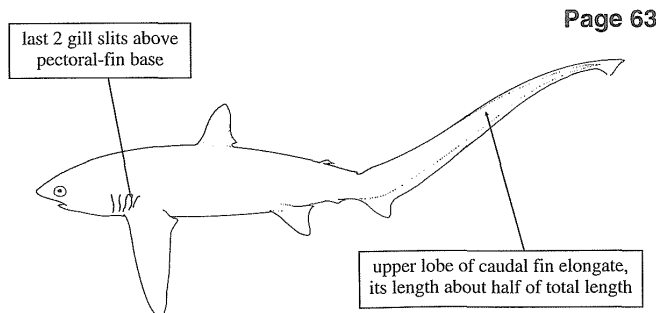
To 4 m. Mainly epipelagic, from the surface to depths of at least 152 m. A single species.



**ALOPIIDAE**

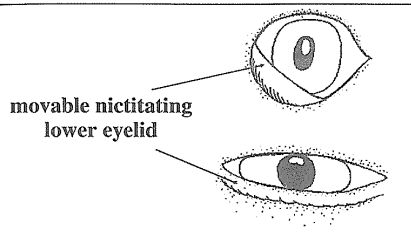
**Threshersharks**

To 5.5 m. Pelagic, but also near the bottom in greater depths, from the surface to depths at least 500 m. Three species.



**Order CARCHARHINIFORMES - Ground Sharks and allies**

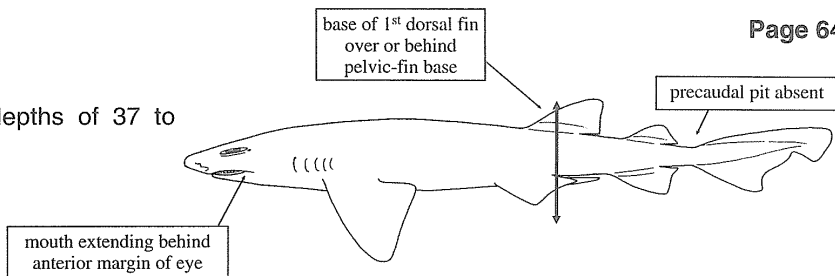
Five pairs of gill slits; 2 dorsal fins without spines; anal fin present; mouth arched, extending behind anterior end of eyes; a movable nictitating eyelid; intestinal valve of scroll or spiral type.



**SCYLIORHINIDAE**

**Catsharks**

To 1 m. Demersal, from depths of 37 to 1840 m. Six species.

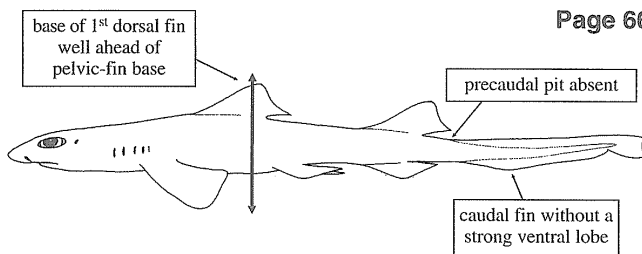


Page 64

**PROSCYLLIIDAE**

**Finback catsharks**

To 46 cm. Demersal, from depths of 70 to 766 m. Two species.

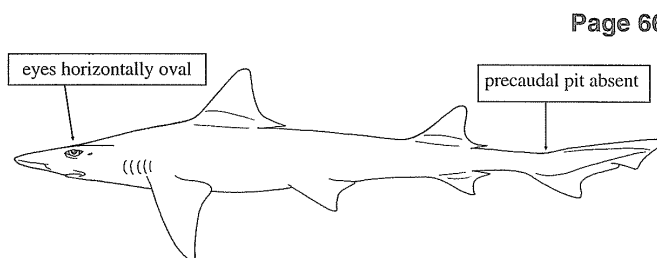


Page 66

**TRIAKIDAE**

**Houndsharks**

To 1.5 m. Demersal, from the intertidal region to a depth of at least 1000 m. Three species.

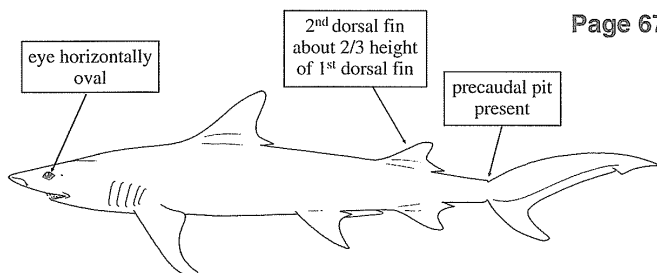


Page 66

**HEMIGALEIDAE**

**Weasel sharks**

To 2.4 m. Demersal, from depths of 1 to 30 m. A single species.



Page 67



intestinal valve of spiral type

**CARCHARHINIDAE**

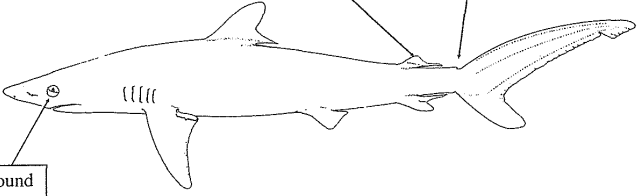
**Requiem sharks**

To 4 m. Demersal to epipelagic, from the surface to a depth of 800 m. Possibly 21 species in Somalia, but many of these need confirmation.

2<sup>nd</sup> dorsal fin much smaller than 1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin, except in *Negaprion* and *Triaenodon*

precaudal pit present

eye round



rolled



unrolled

intestinal valve of scroll type

**SPHYRNIDAE**

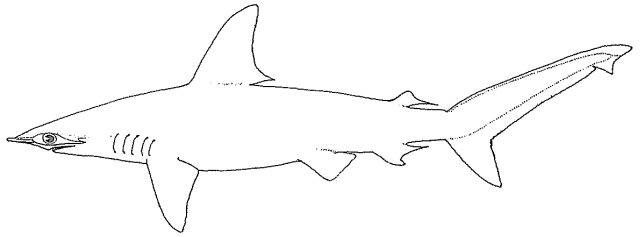
**Hammerhead sharks**

To 6 m. Coastal and oceanic waters, near the surface. Two species.

head laterally expanded in "hammer" form



underside of head



**Order SQUALIFORMES - Dogfish Sharks and allies**

Five pairs of gill slits; 2 dorsal fins, usually with spines in front of each fin or without spines; anal fin absent.

**SQUALIDAE**

**Dogfish sharks**

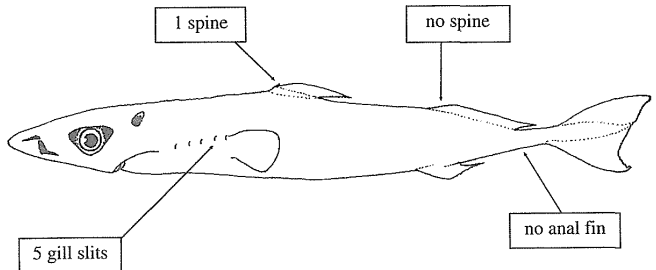
To 25 cm. Epipelagic, from depths of 200 to 500 m. One species.

1 spine

no spine

5 gill slits

no anal fin



**RHINCODONTIDAE**

**Whale sharks**

*Rhincodon typus* Smith, 1828

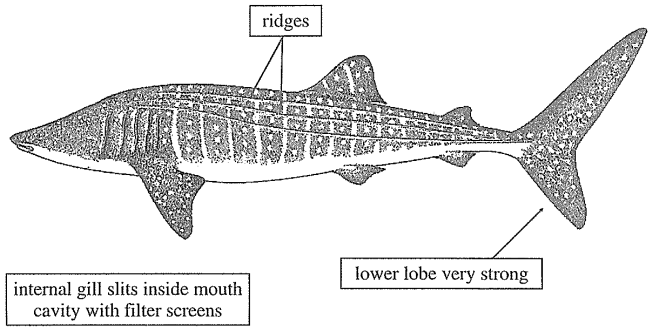
**FAO names:** En - Whale shark; Fr - Requin baleine.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 12 m, possibly to 21 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating gillnets and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic filter feeder, occurring singly or in schools; often near the surface. Feeds on small pelagic crustaceans, schooling fishes, and squids.



**STEGOSTOMATIDAE**

**Zebra sharks**

*Stegostoma fasciatum* (Hermann, 1783)

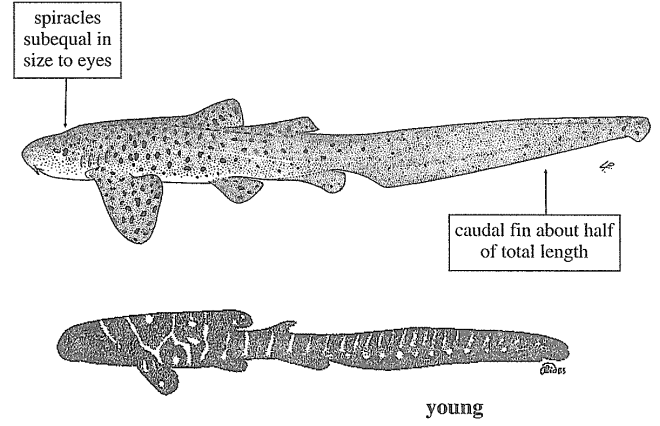
**FAO names:** En - Zebra shark; Fr - Requin zèbre.

**Local names:** Farluuq Shabeellow.

**Size:** To possibly 3.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, floating and fixed bottom gillnets, longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Very common on coral reefs. Feeds on molluscs and crustaceans.



**GINGLYMOSTOMATIDAE**

**Nurse sharks**

*Ginglymostoma brevicaudatum* Günther, 1866

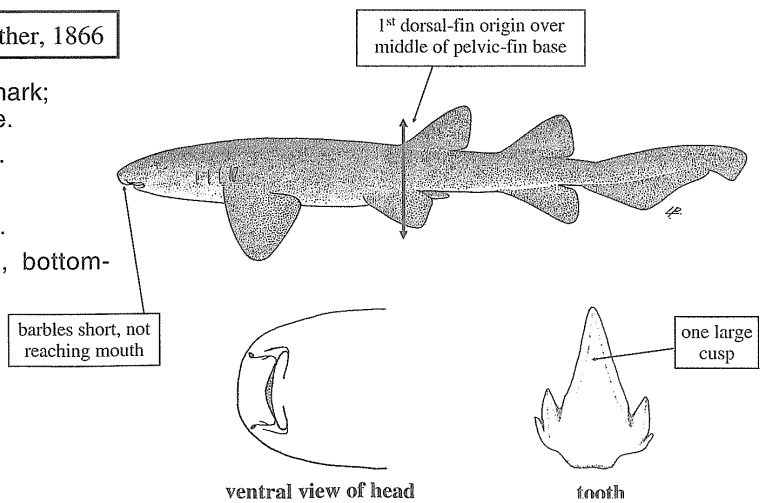
**FAO names:** En - Shorttail nurse shark; Fr - Requin-nourrice à queue courte.

**Local names:** Libaax, Gacan Jebis.

**Size:** To about 75 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** A sluggish, bottom-dwelling, shallow-water shark.



***Nebrius ferrugineus* (Lesson, 1830)**

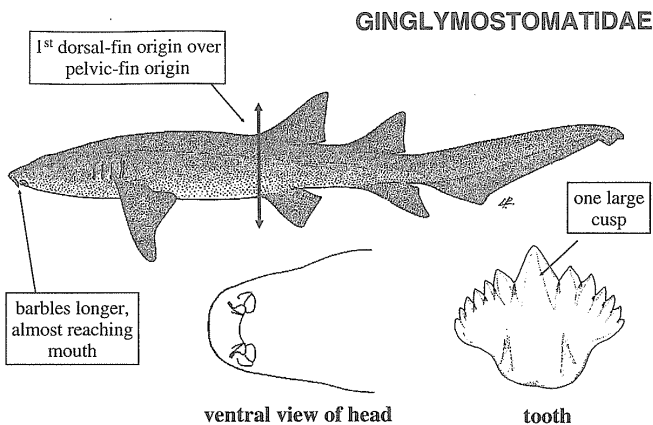
**FAO names:** En - Tawny nurse shark; Fr - Requin nourrice fauve.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Reported to 3.2 m, common to 2.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets and line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters from the intertidal zone to a depth of at least 70 m. Demersal, on coral and rocky reefs, in lagoons and on sand flats. Feeds on a variety of bottom invertebrates and small fishes.

**ODONTASPIDIDAE****Sand tiger sharks*****Carcharias taurus* (Rafinesque, 1810)**

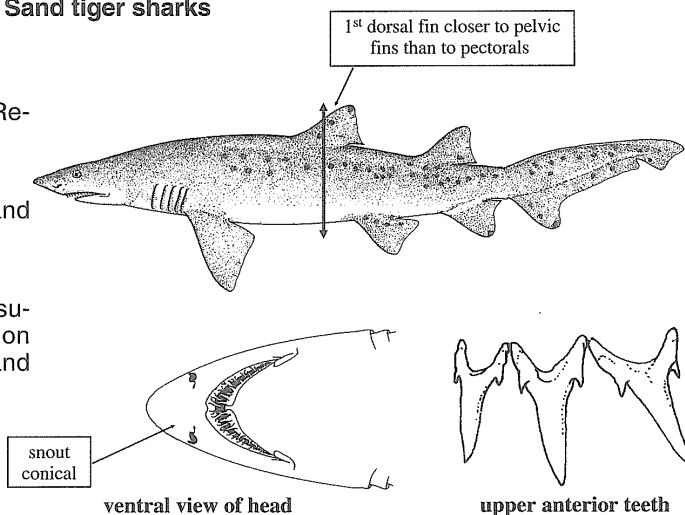
**FAO names:** En - Sand tiger shark; Fr - Requin taureau.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 3.2 m, common between 2.2 and 2.8 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, usually near the bottom; migratory. Feeds on small bony fishes, small sharks and rays, and occasionally on crabs and lobsters.

**LAMNIDAE****Makos*****Isurus oxyrinchus* Rafinesque, 1810**

**FAO names:** En - Shortfin mako; Fr - Taupe bleu.

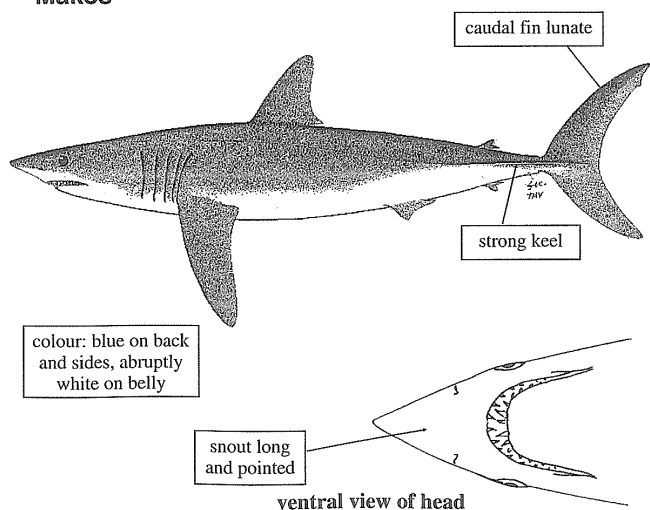
**Local names:** Cawar.

**Size:** To 4.0 m, common to 2.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drifting longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic and coastal, usually in surface waters. Feeds on schooling fishes, also attacks sharks.

**Remarks:** Considered dangerous, responsible for unprovoked attacks on swimmers and boats.





**ALOPIIDAE**

**Threshersharks**

*Alopias pelagicus* Nakamura, 1835

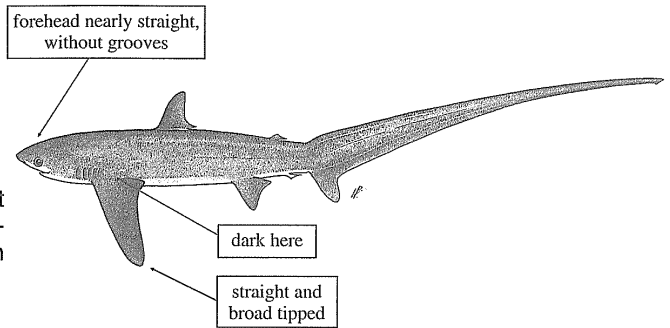
**FAO names:** En - Pelagic thresher;  
Fr - Renard pélagique.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 3.3 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, epipelagic, but sometimes caught near shore, from the surface to a depth of 152 m. Presumably feeds on small fishes and squids.



*Alopias superciliosus* (Lowe, 1839)

**ALOPIIDAE**

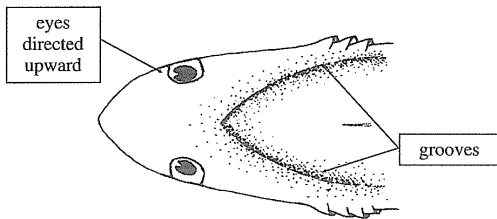
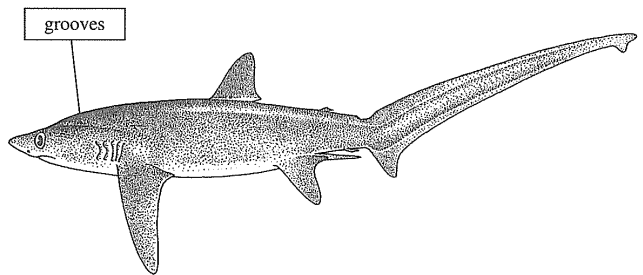
**FAO names:** En - Bigeye thresher;  
Fr - Renard à gros yeux.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 4.7 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, fixed bottom and pelagic gillnets, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, in depths to 500 m. Feeds mostly on pelagic and benthic fishes, but also on squids.



dorsal view of head

*Alopias vulpinus* (Bonaterre, 1788)

**ALOPIIDAE**

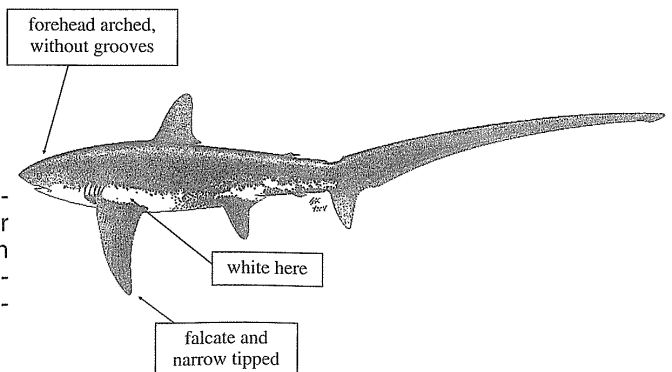
**FAO names:** En - Thintail thresher;  
Fr - Renard.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 5.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with pelagic longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal over the continental and insular shelves and epipelagic far from land; young often close inshore and in shallow bays. Feeds mainly on small schooling fishes, but also on cephalopods and pelagic crustaceans.



## SCYLIORHINIDAE

## Catsharks

*Apristurus indicus* (Brauer, 1906)

**FAO names:** En - Smallbelly catshark;  
Fr - Holbiche artouca.

**Local names:**

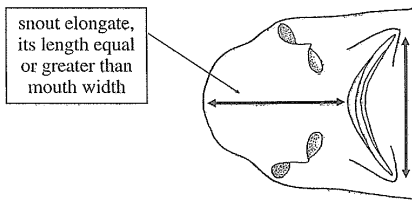
**Size:** To at least 34 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught probably with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Little information available; in deep waters from depths of 1289 to 1840 m.



anal fin reaching close to caudal fin



snout elongate, its length equal or greater than mouth width

ventral view of head

*Cephaloscyllium sufflans* (Regan, 1921)

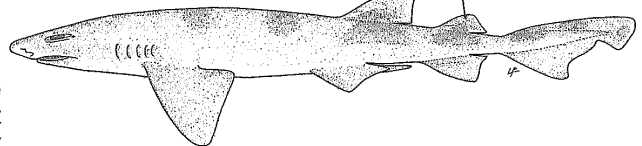
**FAO names:** En - Ballon shark; Fr - Holbiche soufflue.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs offshore on the continental shelf and uppermost slope at depths from 40 to 400 m. Feeds on a variety of bottom-dwelling animals.



2<sup>nd</sup> dorsal fin about half size of 1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin

## SCYLIORHINIDAE

*Halaelurus boesemani* Springer & D'Aubrey, 1972

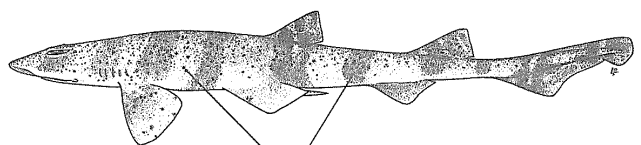
**FAO names:** En - Speckled catshark;  
Fr - Holbiche mouchetée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 48 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught probably with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Bottom-dwelling on the continental and insular shelves, at depths of 37 to 91 m.



irregular blotches and spots

## SCYLIORHINIDAE

***Halaelurus lutarius*** Springer & D'Aubrey, 1972

## SCYLORHINIDAE

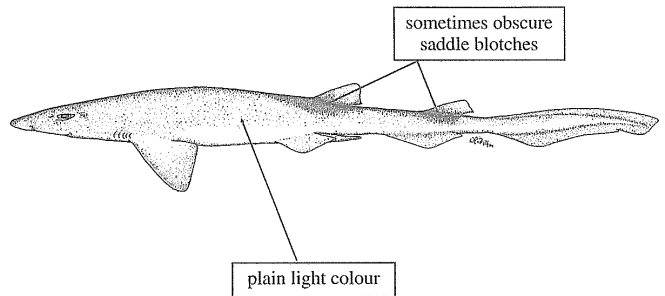
**FAO names:** En - Mud catshark; Fr - Holbiche des vases.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 39 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught probably with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Bottom-dwelling on the continental slope, at depths of 338 to 766 m. Feeds on cephalopods, small bony fishes, and crustaceans.

***Halaelurus quagga*** (Alcock, 1899)

## SCYLORHINIDAE

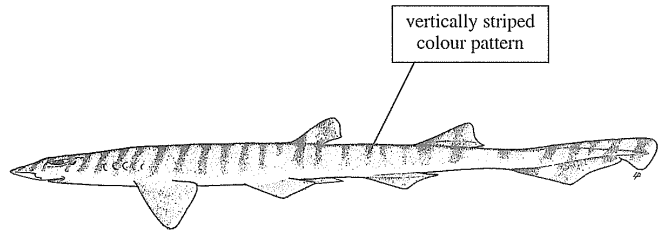
**FAO names:** En - Quagga catshark; Fr - Holbiche quagga.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on or near the bottom at depths of 54 to 186 m.

***Holohalaelurus regani*** (Gilchrist, 1922)

## SCYLORHINIDAE

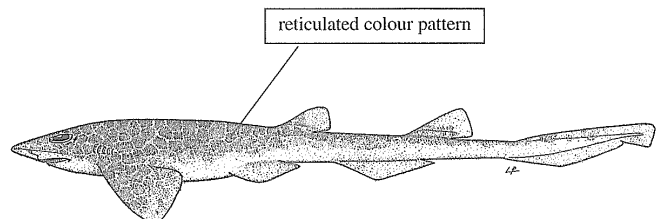
**FAO names:** En - Izak catshark; Fr - Holbiche isard.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 61 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On or near the bottom on the outer continental shelf and upper slope at depths of 160 to 740 m. Feeds on cephalopods.



## PROSCYLLIIDAE

## Finback catsharks

*Ctenacis fehlmanni* (Springer, 1968)

**FAO names:** En - Harlequin catshark;

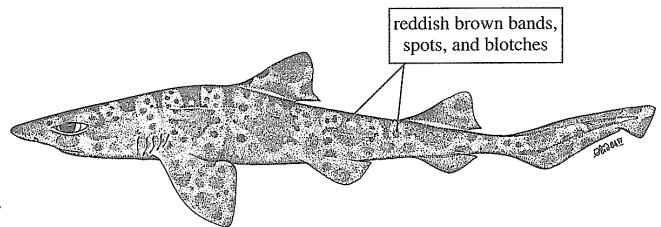
Fr - Requin chat arlequin.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 46 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Poorly known; bottom-dwelling on the outer continental shelf.



*Eridacnis radcliffei* Smith, 1913

**FAO names:** En - Pygmy ribbontail catshark;

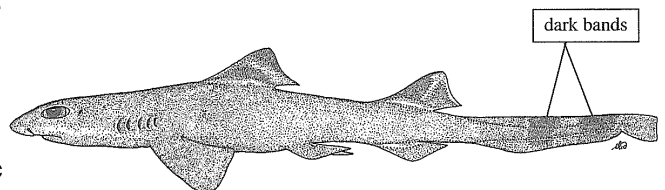
Fr - Requin chat pygmé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 24 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A deepwater benthic shark often found over mud bottoms on the upper continental and insular slopes and the outer shelves at depths from 71 to 766 m. Feeds primarily on small bony fishes and crustaceans.



## PROSCYLLIIDAE

## TRIAKIDAE

## Houndsharks, smoothhounds, topes

*Iago omanensis* (Norman, 1939)

**FAO names:** En - Bigeye houndshark;

Fr - Requin-hâ à gros yeux.

**Local names:**

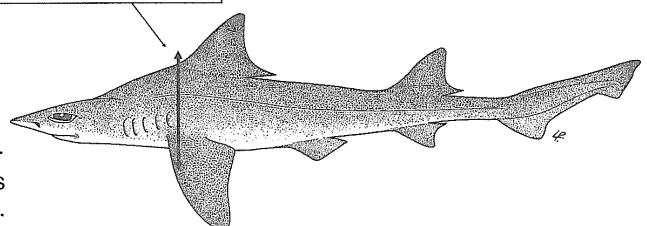
**Size:** To 58 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in deep waters from 110 m or less to depths of at least 1000 m. Feeds on bony fishes and cephalopods.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

origin of 1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin far forward, over pectoral-fin base



*Mustelus mosis* Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1899

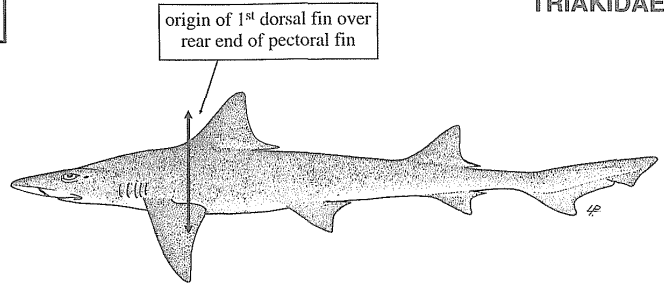
**FAO names:** En - Arabian smooth-hound;  
Fr - Emissole d'Arabie.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, fixed bottom and floating gillnets, and line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Bottom-dwelling in in-shore and offshore waters, also on coral reefs. Feeds on small bottom fishes, molluscs, and crustaceans.



TRIAKIDAE

## HEMIGALEIDAE

### Weasel sharks

*Hemipristis elongatus* (Klunzinger, 1871)

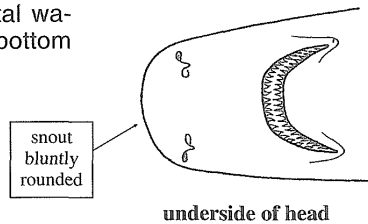
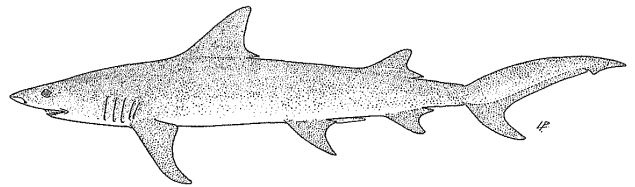
**FAO names:** En - Snaggletooth shark;  
Fr - Milandre chicor.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Reported to 2.4 m, most adults below 2.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating and fixed bottom gillnets and floating longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in coastal waters. Feeds on inshore pelagic and bottom fishes.



## CARCHARHINIDAE

### Requiem sharks

*Carcharhinus albimarginatus* (Rüppell, 1837)

**FAO names:** En - Silvertip shark; Fr - Requin pointe blanche.

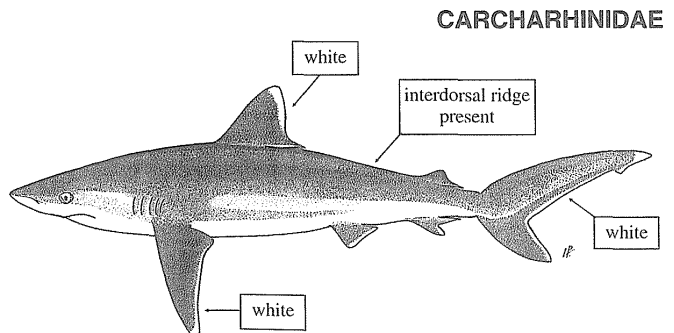
**Local names:**

**Size :** To 3.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs inshore and offshore from the surface to a depth of 800 m. Feeds on both bottom and pelagic fish, including rays and cephalopods.

**Remarks:** Potentially dangerous to divers.



CARCHARHINIDAE

***Carcharhinus amblyrhynchoides* (Whitley, 1934)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Graceful shark; Fr - Requin gracile.

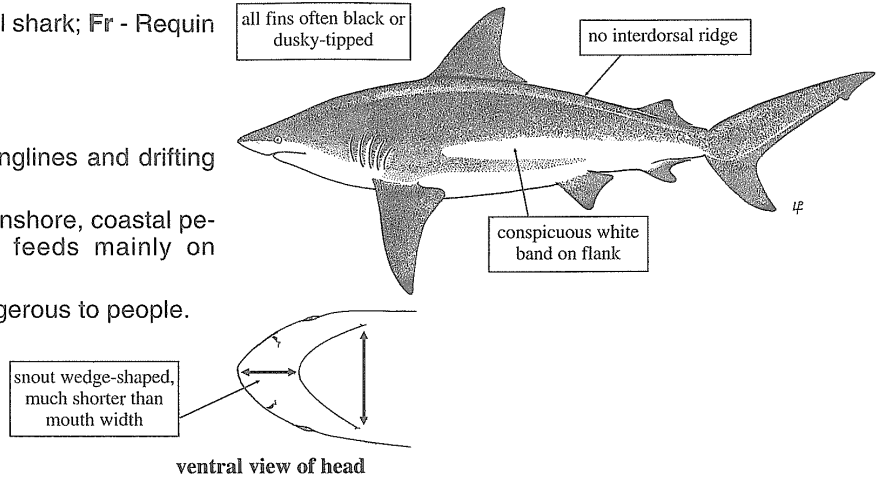
**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 1.67 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines and drifting gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** An inshore, coastal pelagic species. Probably feeds mainly on fishes.

**Remarks:** Potentially dangerous to people.

***Carcharhinus amboinensis* (Müller and Henle, 1839)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Pigeye shark; Fr - Requin balestine.

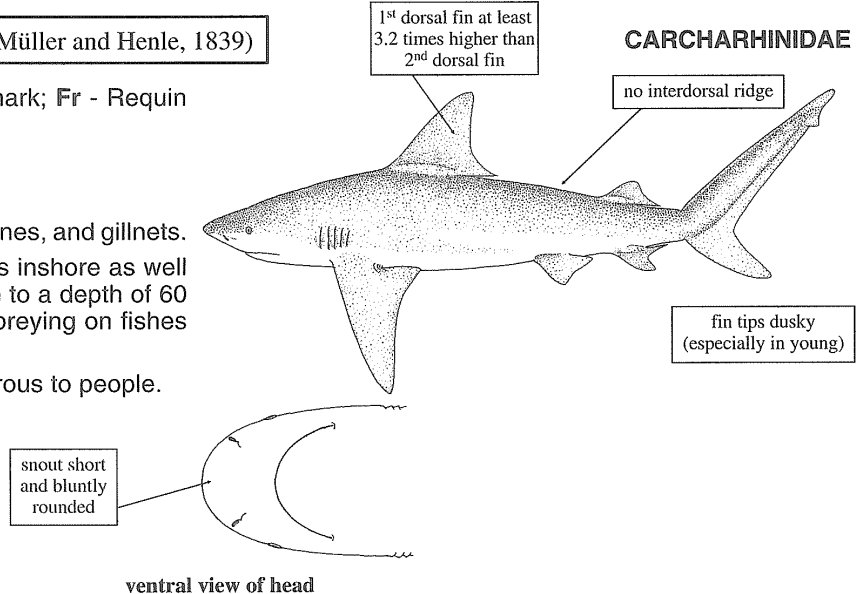
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 2.8 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs inshore as well as offshore, from the surfline to a depth of 60 m. A bottom-feeding shark, preying on fishes and shrimps.

**Remarks:** Potentially dangerous to people.

***Carcharhinus brevipinna* (Müller and Henle, 1839)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

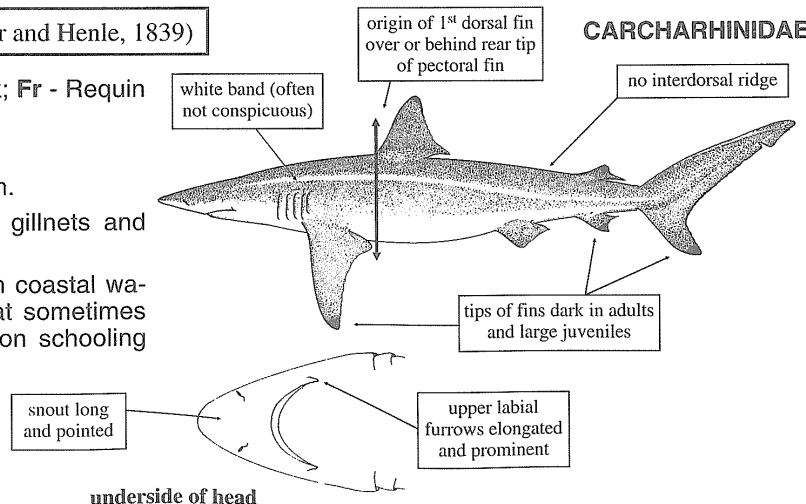
**FAO names:** En - Spinner shark; Fr - Requin tisserand.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 2.8 m, common to 2.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drifting gillnets and longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters. A fast-swimming shark that sometimes leaps out of the water. Feeds on schooling fishes and squids.



***Carcharhinus falciformis* (Bibron in Müller & Henle, 1839)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Silky shark; Fr - Requin soyeux.

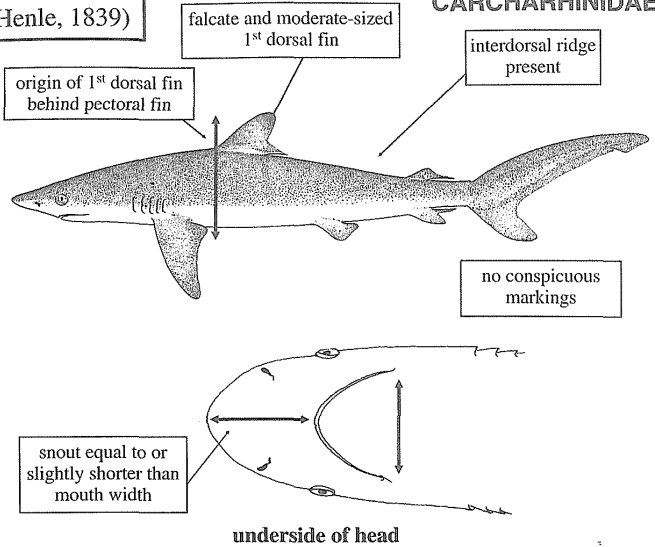
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 3.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits oceanic waters near and beyond the continental slopes but also found in coastal waters; usually near the surface, but also found at depths to 500 m. Feeds mainly on fishes, squids, and pelagic octopods.

**Remarks:** Reported to be dangerous to humans. Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

***Carcharhinus leucas* (Valenciennes in Müller & Henle, 1839)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Bull shark; Fr - Requin bouledogue.

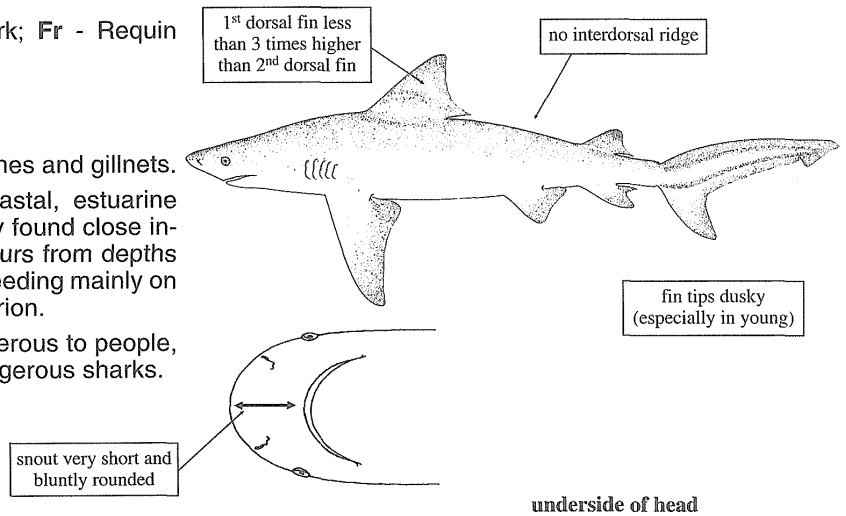
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 3.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal, estuarine and lacustrine waters, usually found close in-shore in marine habitats; occurs from depths of 1 to 152 m. Omnivorous, feeding mainly on fishes, invertebrates, and carrion.

**Remarks:** Known to be dangerous to people, probably one of the most dangerous sharks.

***Carcharhinus limbatus* (Valenciennes in Müller & Henle, 1839)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

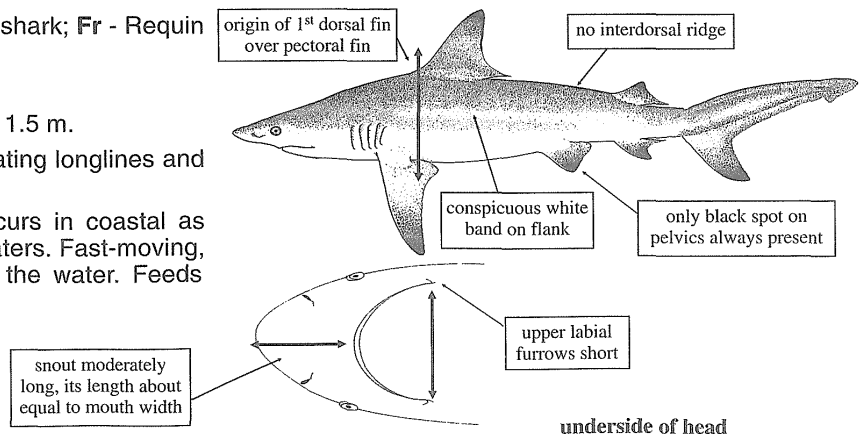
**FAO names:** En - Blacktip shark; Fr - Requin bordé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 2.5 m, common to 1.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating longlines and floating gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in coastal as well as offshore surface waters. Fast-moving, sometimes leaping out of the water. Feeds mainly on schooling fishes.



*Carcharhinus longimanus* (Poey, 1861)

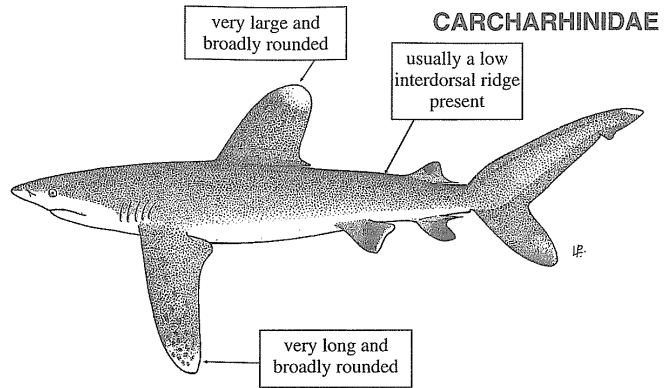
**FAO names:** En - Oceanic whitetip shark;  
Fr - Requin océanique.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 3.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating longlines, drifting gillnets, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in oceanic waters but also occasionally in coastal waters. A sluggish species, often accompanied by pilot fishes. Feeds mainly on fishes and squids.

*Carcharhinus macloti* (Müller and Henle, 1839)

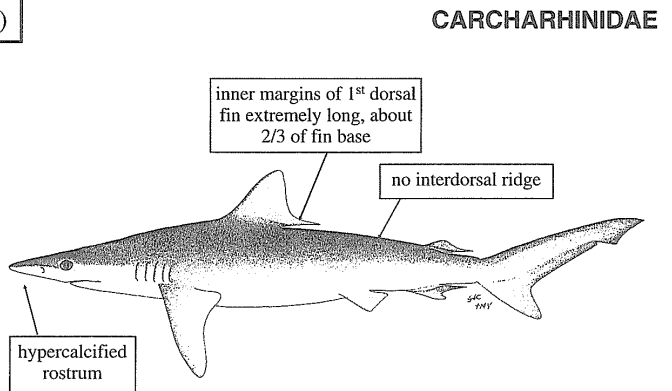
**FAO names:** En - Hardnose shark; Fr - Requin à nez rude.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating gillnets, bottom gillnets, and longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in inshore and offshore continental waters. Feeds probably on small fishes, cephalopods, and crustaceans.

*Carcharhinus melanopterus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

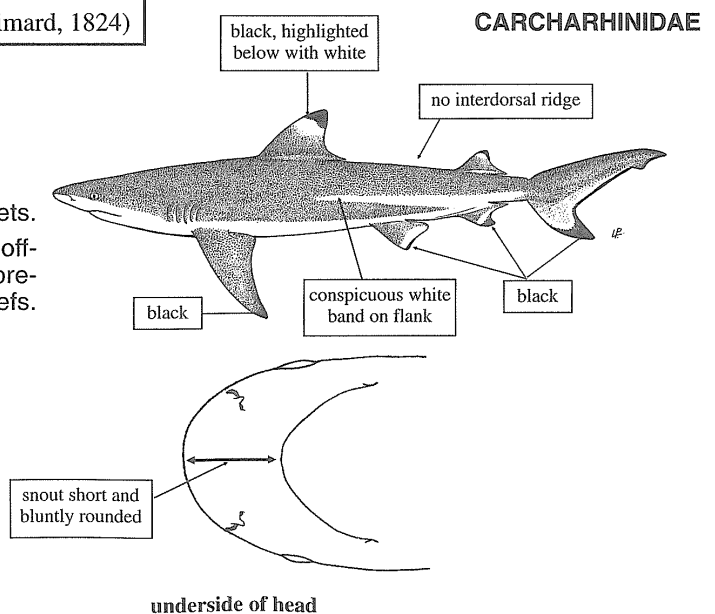
**FAO names:** En - Blacktip reef shark;  
Fr - Requin pointes noires.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.8 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs inshore and offshore on continental and insular shelves; prefers shallow water on and around coral reefs. Feeds on small fishes and cephalopods.





*Carcharhinus plumbeus* (Nardo, 1827)

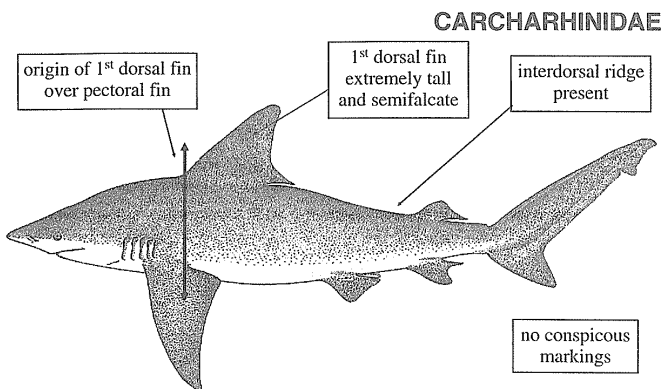
**FAO names:** En - Sandbar shark; Fr - Requin gris.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To possibly 3.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, hook-and-line, and bottom set nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal-pelagic, found on continental and insular shelves and in deeper water adjacent to them; from the intertidal zone to a depth of 280 m. Feeds primarily on small bottom fishes.



*Carcharhinus sealei* (Pietschmann, 1916)

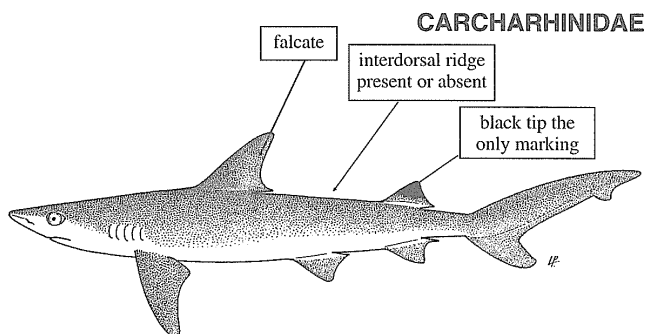
**FAO names:** En - Blackspot shark; Fr - Requin à taches noires.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 95 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in coastal waters on the continental and insular shelves, from the surf line to a depth of 40 m. Feeds on small fishes, squids, and prawns.



*Carcharhinus sorrah* (Valenciennes, 1839)

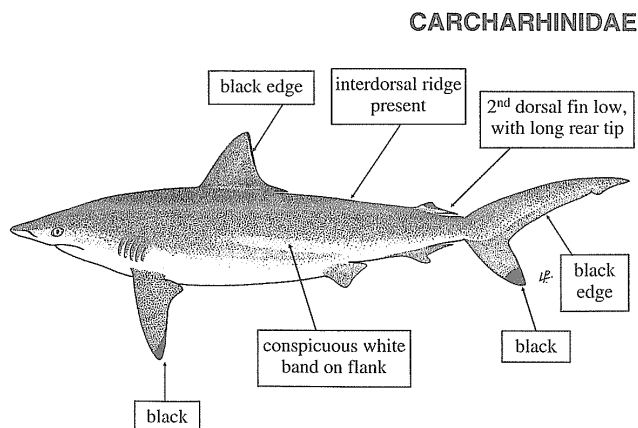
**FAO names:** En - Spottail shark; Fr - Requin à queue tachetée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.6 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating gillnets and longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in inshore and sometimes offshore waters; often found around coral reefs; from the surface to a depth of 140 m. Feeds on small bony fishes and cephalopods.



***Carcharhinus wheeleri* Garrick, 1982**

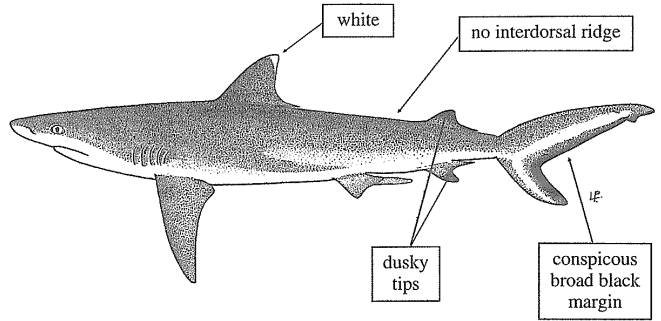
**FAO names:** En - Blacktail reefshark;  
Fr - Requin à queue noire.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.8 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in inshore and offshore waters, associated with coral reefs; from the surface to a depth of 140 m. Feeds on surface and bottom bony fishes and cephalopods.

**CARCHARHINIDAE*****Galeocerdo cuvier* (Peron and Le Seuer, 1822)**

**FAO names:** En - Tiger shark; Fr - Requin tigre commun.

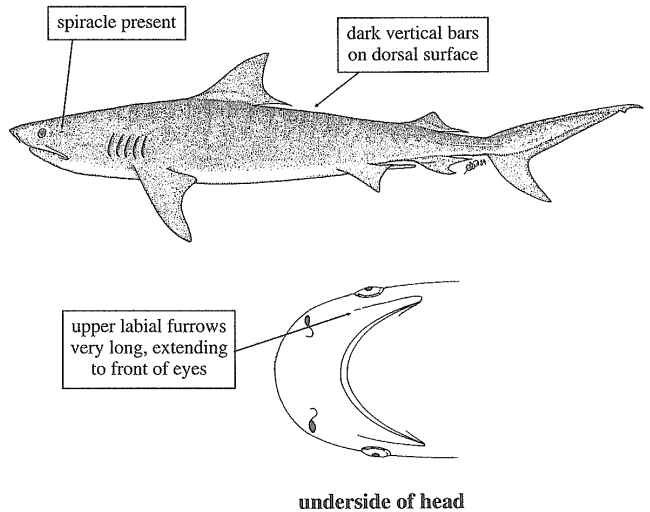
**Local names:**

**Size:** Exceptionally to 7.4 m, common to 4 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating and bottom gillnets and line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in inshore as well as offshore waters, near the surface and bottom; often found in shallow inshore waters, including rivers and estuaries. A voracious, indiscriminate predator feeding on all kinds of fish, marine mammals, turtles, seabirds, sea snakes, squids, molluscs, and crabs.

**Remarks:** One of the most dangerous sharks; attacks divers, swimmers, and even boats.

**CARCHARHINIDAE*****Loxodon macrorhinus* Müller and Henle, 1839**

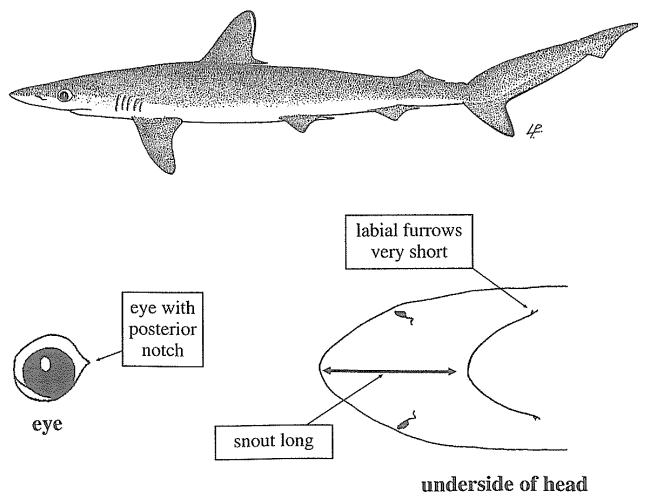
**FAO names:** En - Sliteye shark; Fr - Requin sagrin.

**Local names:** Libax, Jeer-Jeer.

**Size:** To 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating and bottom gillnets and line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in tropical, coastal, clear waters, near the surface and bottom; at depths from 7 to 80 m. Probably feeding on small fishes and crustaceans.

**CARCHARHINIDAE**

***Negaprion acutidens* (Rüppell, 1837)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

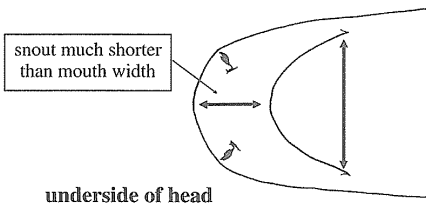
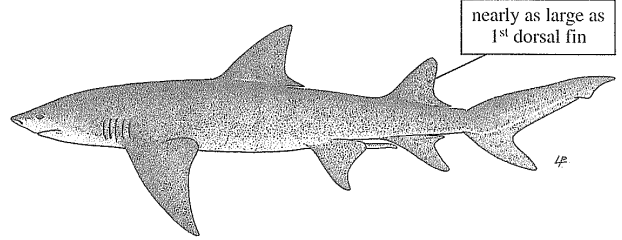
**FAO names:** En - Sicklefim lemon shark; Fr - Requin limon faucille.

**Local names:** Libax, Farluuq.

**Size:** To 3.1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating and bottom gillnets and line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shallow in-shore and offshore waters near the bottom; often around coral reefs and sandy plateaus near coral, at depths down to at least 23 m. Feeds on fishes.

***Prionace glauca* (Linneaus, 1758)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Blue shark; Fr - Peau bleue.

**Local names:**

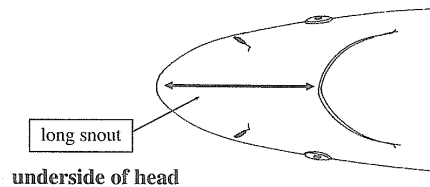
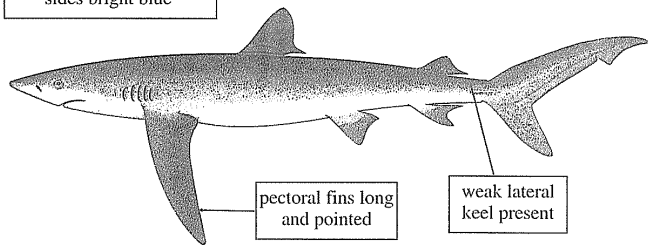
**Size:** To 3.83 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with pelagic longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic-epipelagic, usually well offshore near the surface. Feeds on bony fishes, small sharks, squids, pelagic crustaceans, and occasionally sea birds and carrion.

**Remarks:** Considered a dangerous shark.

colour: dark blue on back, sides bright blue

***Rhizoprionodon acutus* (Rüppell, 1837)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

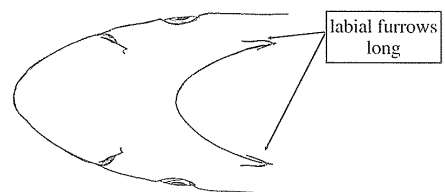
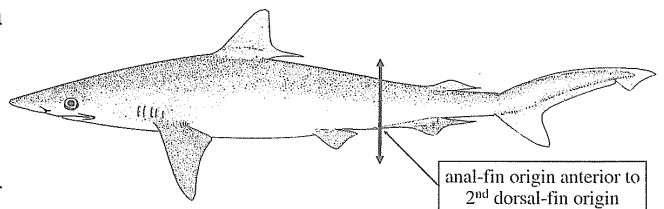
**FAO names:** En - Milk shark; Fr - Requin à museau pointu.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.78 m, common to less than 1.1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs inshore and offshore, from the surfline to depths of at least 50 m. Feeds on small bony fishes and small crustaceans.



***Scoliodon laticaudus* Müller and Henle, 1838****CARCHARHINIDAE**

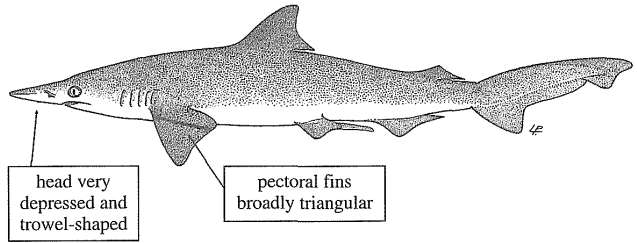
**FAO names:** En - Spadenose shark; Fr - Requin épée.

**Local names:** Libaax, Baal Madoobe.

**Size:** To 74 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, longlines, floating and bottom gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs close inshore on the continental and insular shelves. Feeds on bottom-living bony fishes.

***Triaenodon obesus* (Rüppell, 1837)****CARCHARHINIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Whitetip reef shark; Fr - Requin corail.

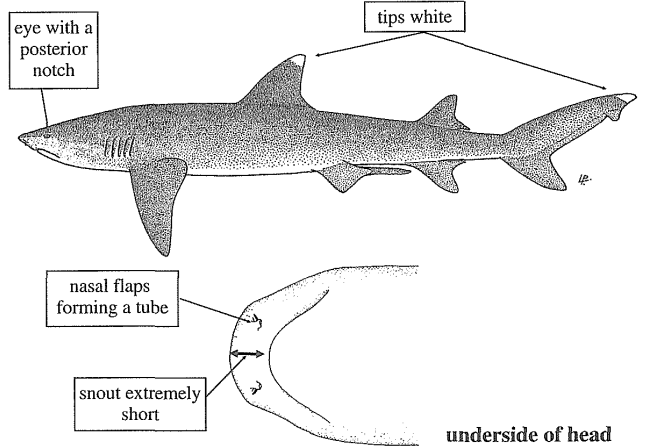
**Local names:** Libaax, Daaha.

**Size:** Said to attain 2.13 m, common to 1.6 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating and bottom gillnets, and line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in coastal clear waters, usually on and around coral reefs. Feeds on wide variety of reefs fishes, but also on cephalopods and larger crustaceans.

**Remarks:** Attacks on divers have been reported.

**SPHYRNIDAE****Hammerhead sharks, bonnethead sharks*****Sphyrna lewini* (Griffith and Smith, 1834)**

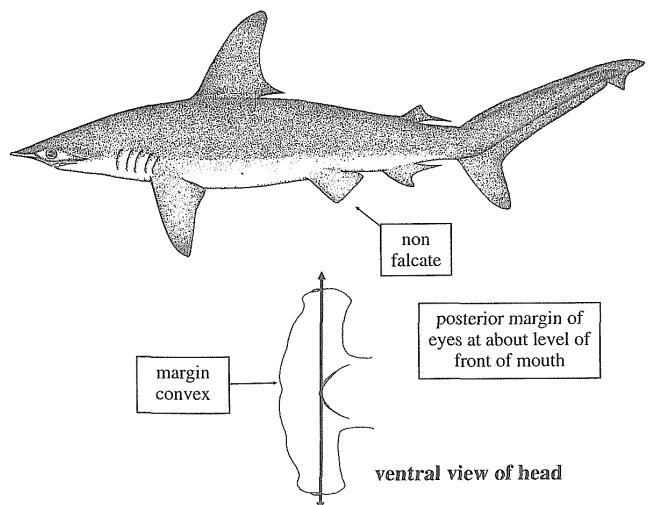
**FAO names:** En - Scalloped hammerhead; Fr - Requin-marteau halicorne.

**Local names:** Manyaso.

**Size:** To 4.2 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating and bottom gillnets and floating longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in estuarine and inshore waters, also well offshore and semi-oceanic. Feeds on pelagic fishes, squids, lobsters, shrimps, and crabs.



***Sphyrna mokarran* (Rüppell, 1837)****SPHYRNIDAE**

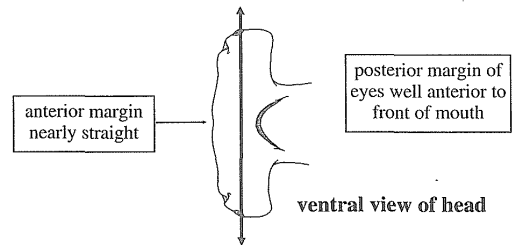
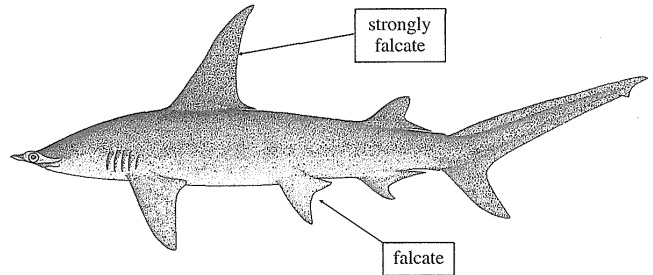
**FAO names:** En - Great hammerhead; Fr - Grand requin-marteau.

**Local names:** Cawar.

**Size:** To 6 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with floating gillnets and floating longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Semi-oceanic, also in inshore waters, often found around and on coral reefs. Feeds on bony fishes, other sharks, squids, and lobsters.

**SQUALIDAE****Dogfish sharks*****Squaliolus laticaudus* Smith & Radcliff, 1912**

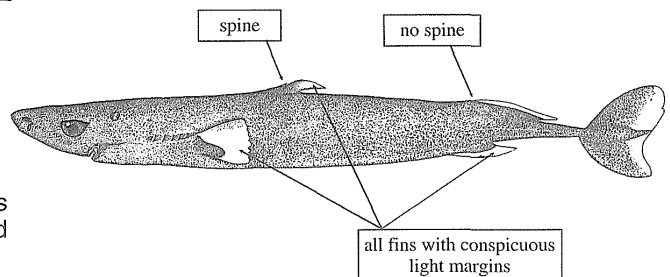
**FAO names:** En - Spined pygmy shark; Fr - Squale nain.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic, at depths from 200 to 500 m. Feeds on deepwater squid and deepwater fishes.

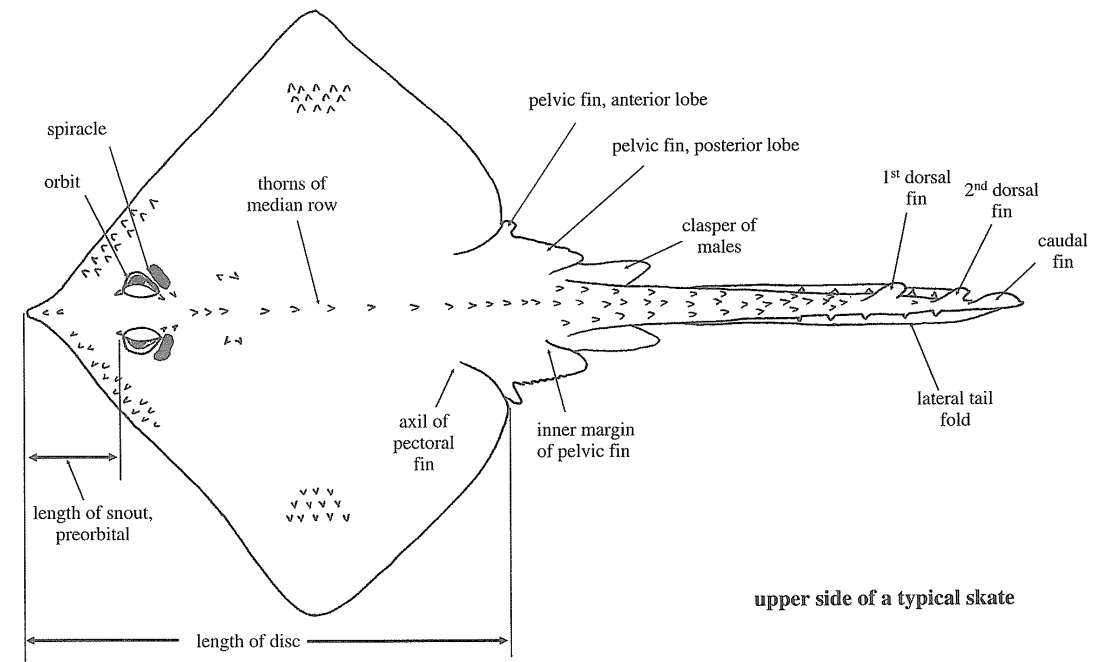


# BATOID FISHES

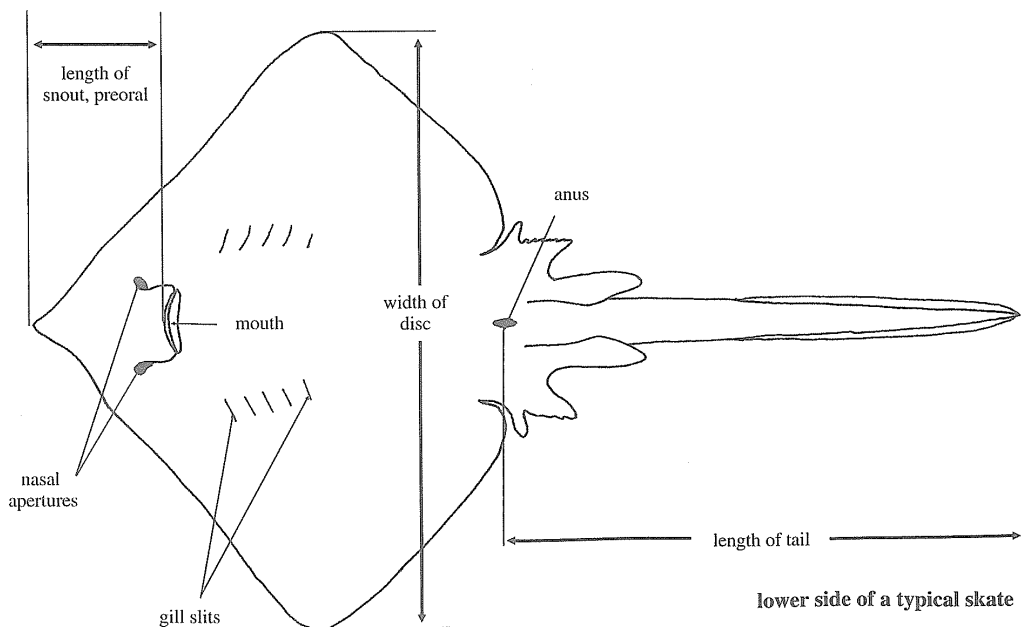
The purpose of this guide is to ensure correct identification of all batoid families recorded from Somalian waters. Families which are of little interest to fisheries, but which might be confused with important ones, also are included here.

**Note:** Families in the guide are arranged by order using the classification adopted by Eschmeyer (1990) which best reflects current use. Page numbers refer to those families that are treated in more detail in the species identification guide. All features utilized in the guide apply only to the species which occur in Somalia. It should be noted that the taxonomy of batoid fishes is in a confused state, and many families are in urgent need of revision.

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



upper side of a typical skate



lower side of a typical skate

### GUIDE TO ORDERS AND FAMILIES

#### Order PRISTIFORMES - Sawfishes

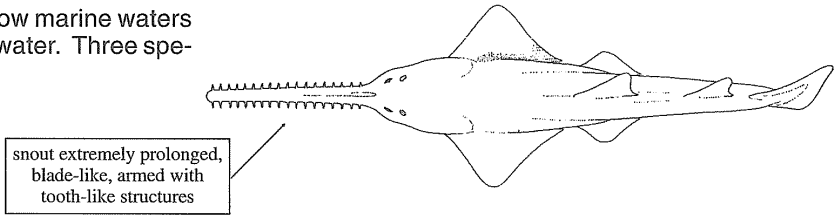
Body shark-like with a saw-like elongated snout bearing a row of strong lateral teeth on each side.

#### PRISTIDAE

Page 80

#### Sawfishes

To 7.3 m. Demersal in shallow marine waters and estuaries, enters freshwater. Three species.



#### Order TORPEDINIFORMES - Electric rays

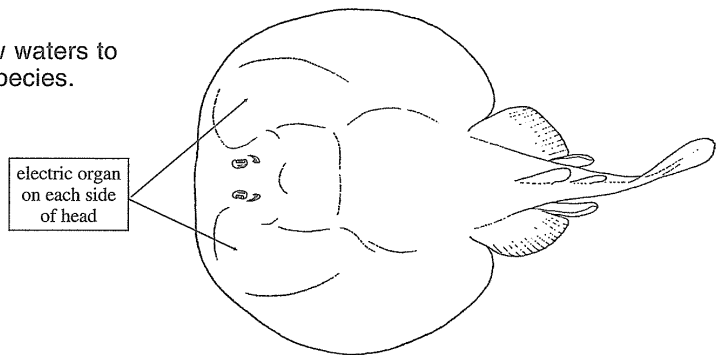
Pectoral fins greatly expanded and fused with head and trunk, forming a large oval disc; tail stout, without a spine. A large electric organ on each side of head, usually visible through the skin as a pattern of hexagonal markings.

#### TORPEDINIDAE

Page 81

#### Electric rays

To 1.3 m. Demersal, from shallow waters to depths of 200 m. Probably two species.



**Order RAJIFORMES - Guitarfishes and skates**

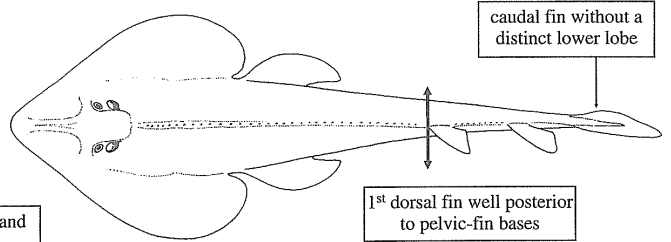
Body elongate and shark-like with pectoral fins expanded and fused with head and trunk; tail stout, not marked off from body, and without a spine.

**RHINOBATIDAE**

Page 81

**Guitarfishes**

To 3 m. Demersal, in shallow coastal waters. Probably 5 species.

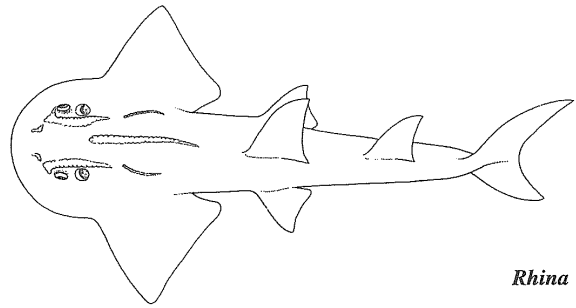


body elongate and shark-like

1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin well posterior to pelvic-fin bases

caudal fin without a distinct lower lobe

*Rhynchobates*



*Rhina*

**Order MYLIOBATIFORMES - Stingrays**

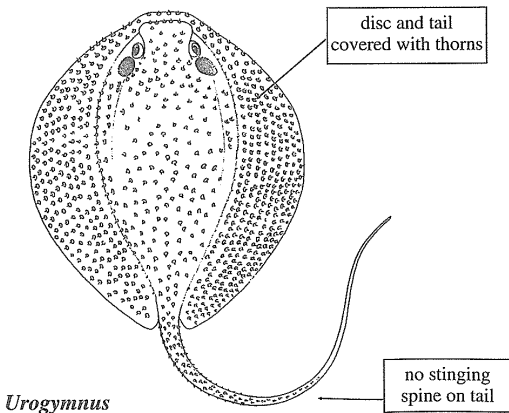
Body flattened with pectoral fins greatly expanded and fused with head and trunk; tail slender or whip-like, usually with a spine; usually with a single dorsal fin, but no caudal fin. No electric organ.

**DASYBATIDIDAE**

Page 83

**Stingrays**

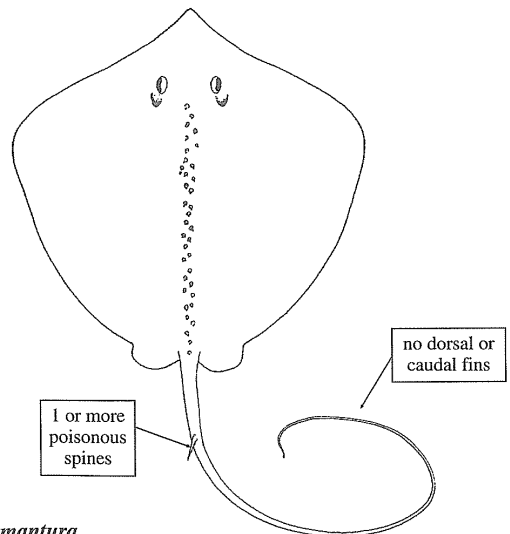
To 2 m disc width. Demersal, in coastal marine waters, enters freshwater. Nine species.



disc and tail covered with thorns

no stinging spine on tail

*Urogymnus*



no dorsal or caudal fins

1 or more poisonous spines

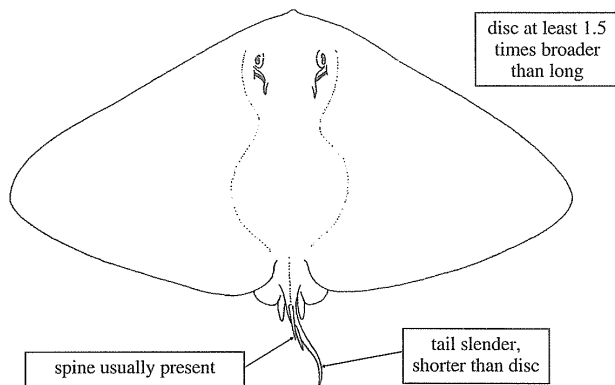
*Himantura*



**GYMNURIDAE**

**Butterfly rays**

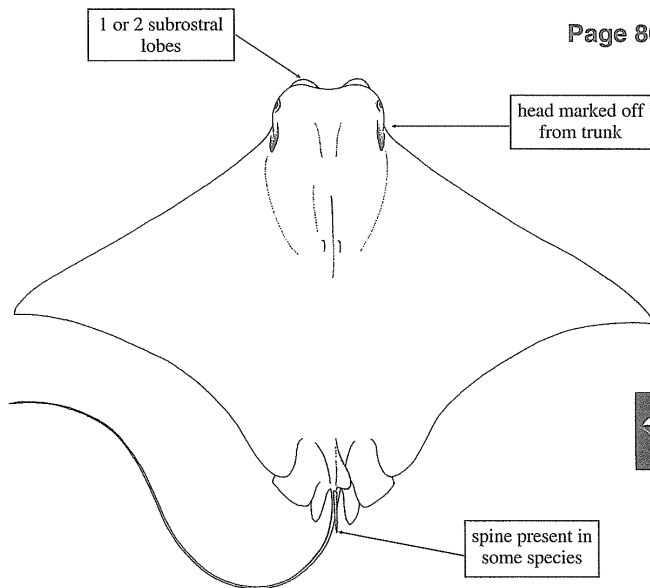
To 2.5 m disc width. Demersal, inshore waters and offshore banks. A single species.



**MYLIOBATIDIDAE**

**Eagle rays and Cownose rays**

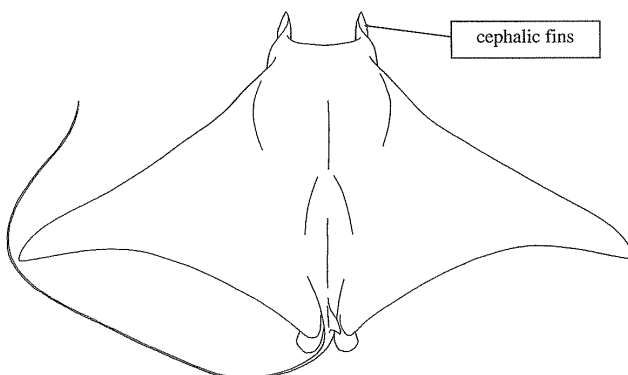
To 2.3 m disc width. Demersal, but often swim above the bottom, coastal waters. Three species.



**MOBULIDAE**

**Manta rays and Devil rays**

To at least 6.7 m disc width. Pelagic, in coastal and oceanic waters. Three species.



## PRISTIDAE

## Sawfishes

*Anoxypristis cuspidatus* (Latham, 1794)

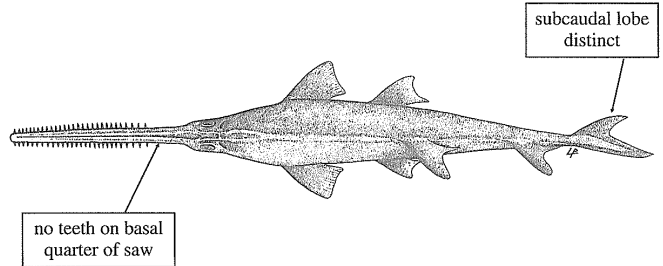
**FAO names:** En - Narrow sawfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Reported to attain 6 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught for its flesh in parts of Asia, liver rich in oil.

**Habitat and biology:** Inshore coastal waters, enters freshwater.



*Pristis pectinata* Latham, 1794

PRISTIDAE

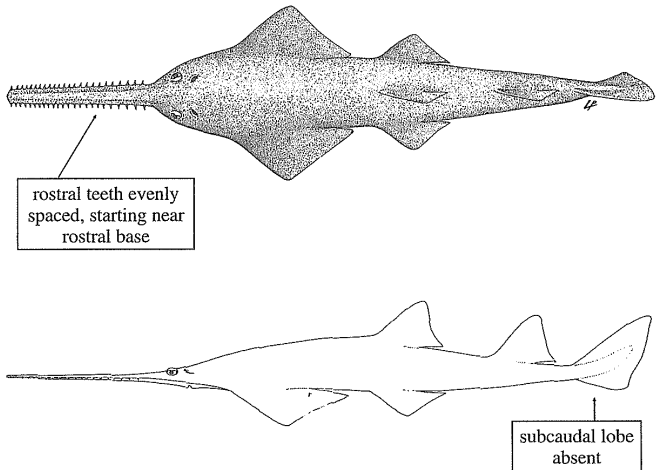
**FAO names:** En - Largetooth sawfish;  
Fr - Poisson-scie tident.

**Local names:** Libaax-Miinshaar, Zaraacimo.

**Size:** Probably to 7.6 m, common to 5.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and bottom trawls. Flesh of good quality.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow bays, lagoons and estuaries, also enters freshwater.



*Pristis zijsron* Bleeker, 1851

PRISTIDAE

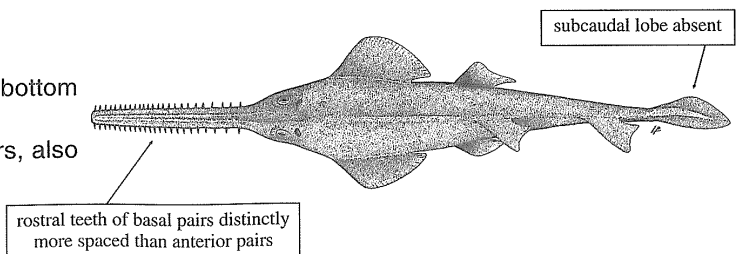
**FAO names:** En - Longcomb sawfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Reported to reach 7.3 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and bottom trawls. Flesh of good quality.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters, also enters freshwater.



**TORPEDINIDAE**

*Torpedo panthera* Olfers, 1831

**FAO names:** En - Panther electric ray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and hook-and-line.

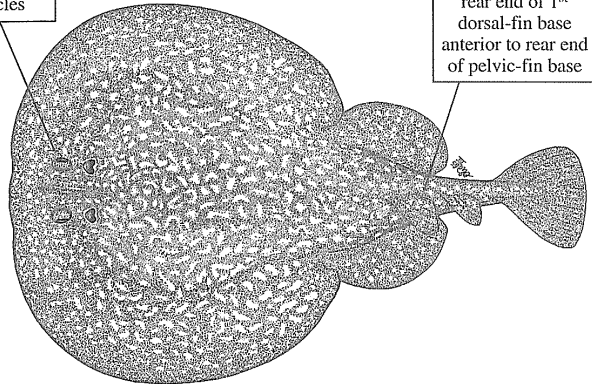
**Habitat and biology:** On mud or sandy bottoms, from shallow water to depths of 110 m. Can deliver a strong electric shock.

**Remarks:** A third species that may occur in Somalia is *Torpedo fuscomaculata* Peters, 1855. It can be distinguished from *T. panthera* for having the eyes much nearer to the spiracles than to the anterior margin of the snout and for having a greater distance between the first and second dorsal fin than the distance from second dorsal to caudal fin.

**Electric rays**

eyes moderate, as large as spiracles

rear end of 1<sup>st</sup> dorsal-fin base anterior to rear end of pelvic-fin base



at least half the distance between the first and second dorsal fin is greater than the distance from the second dorsal fin to the caudal fin.

*Torpedo sinuspersici* Olfers, 1831

**FAO names:** En - Marbled electric ray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.3 m total length, 90 cm disc with.

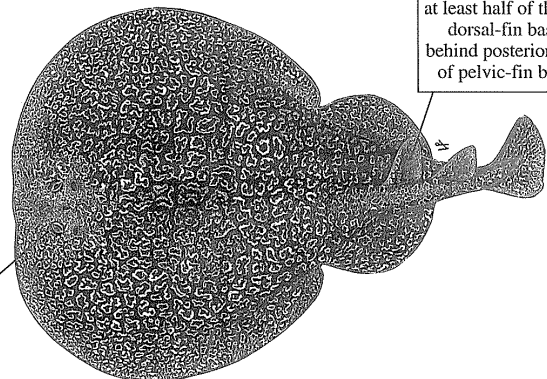
**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and bottom trawls. Flesh edible.

**Habitat and biology:** Inshore waters over sandy bottoms, down to a depth of 200 m. Can deliver a strong electric shock.

**TORPEDINIDAE**

at least half of the 1<sup>st</sup> dorsal-fin base behind posterior end of pelvic-fin base

eyes smaller than spiracles



**RHINOBATIDAE**

**Guitarfishes, Shovelnose rays**

*Rhina ancylostoma* Bloch and Schneider, 1801

**FAO names:** En - Bowmouth guitarfish; Fr - Angelot.

**Local names:** Oolo-Oolo Tuurey.

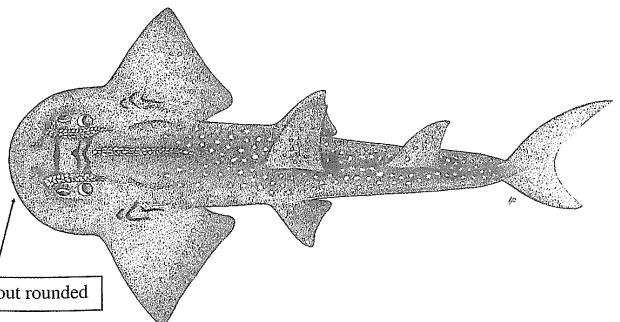
**Size:** Reported to reach 2.7 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawl. Commercially caught off Asia.

**Habitat and biology:** A bottom living species that occurs close inshore and on offshore reefs, from depths of 3 to 90 m. Feeds on crabs and shellfish.

**Remarks:** Some authors place this species in a separate family, Rhinidae or Rhynchobatidae.

snout rounded



***Rhinobatos granulatus*** Cuvier, 1829

## RHINOBATIDAE

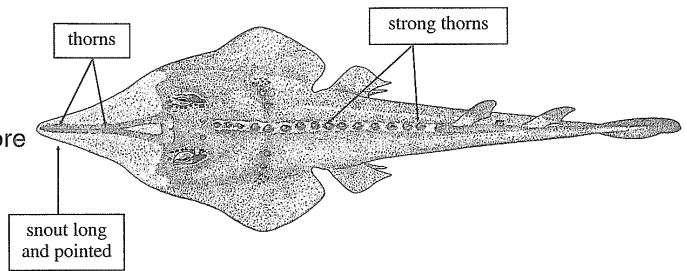
**FAO names:** En - Granulated guitarfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 2.8 m.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, in inshore coastal waters.

***Rhinobatos halavi*** (Forsskål, 1775)

## RHINOBATIDAE

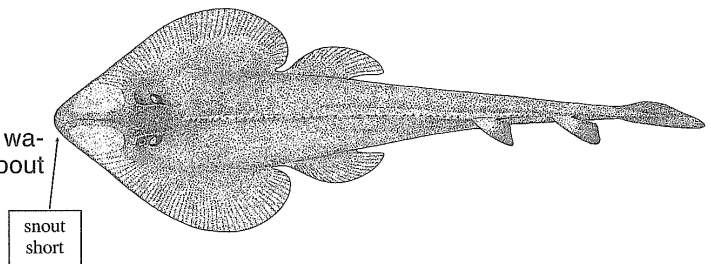
**FAO names:** En - Halavi's guitarfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.2 m.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow coastal waters, from the surface to depths of about 40 m.

***Rhinobatos schlegelii*** Müller and Henle, 1841

## RHINOBATIDAE

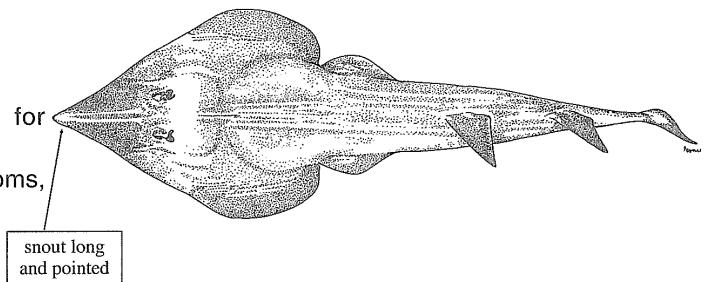
**FAO names:** En - Yellow guitarfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1 m.

**Fisheries:** Edible, dried fins are used for shark-fin soup.

**Habitat and biology:** On sandy-mud bottoms, down to a depth of 200 m.

***Rhynchobatus djiddensis*** (Forsskål, 1775)

## RHINOBATIDAE

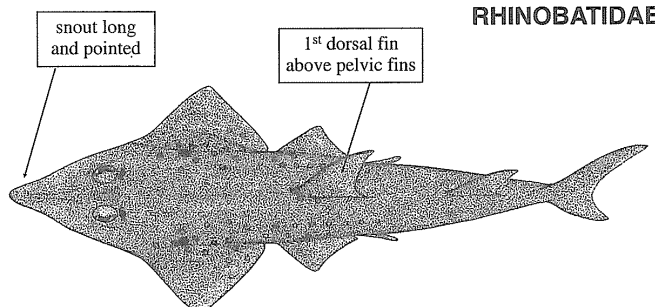
**FAO names:** En - Giant guitarfish; Fr - Poisson paille à pois.

**Local names:** Oolo-Oolo Shabeelley.

**Size:** To at least 3 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear. Reasonable food fish, fins sought after in Asian markets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shallow inshore waters, on sandy bottoms, from depths of 2 to 50 m. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



**DASYATIDIDAE**

**Stingrays**

*Dasyatis kuhlii* (Müller and Henle, 1841)

**FAO names:** En - Bluespotted stingray.

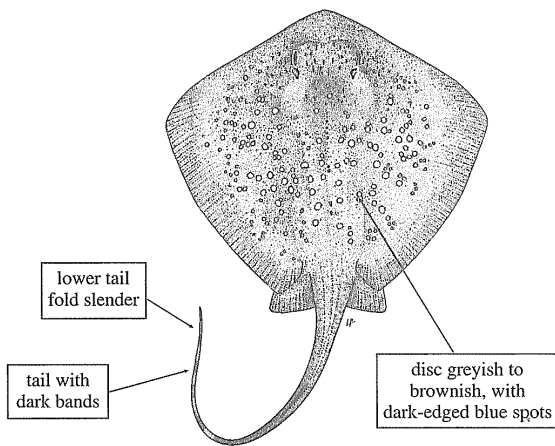
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 38 cm disc width and about 67 cm total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, to a depth of 90 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Himantura gerrardi* (Gray, 1851)

**DASYATIDIDAE**

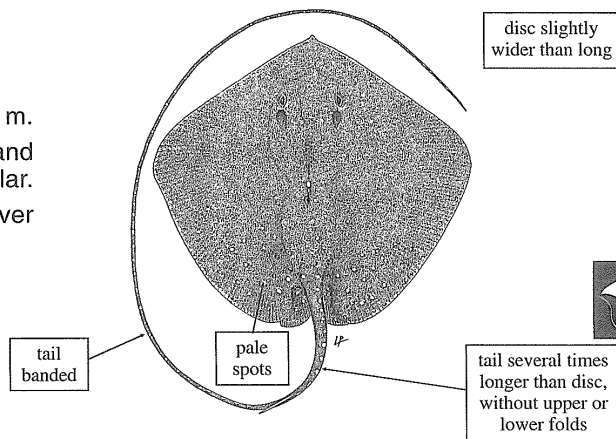
**FAO names:** En - Sharpnose stingray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 90 cm disc width, total length to about 2.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear, beach seine, and bottom trawls. Flesh excellent eating, but not popular.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow inshore waters, over sandy and mud bottoms, to a depth of 50 m.



*Himantura imbricatus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

**DASYATIDIDAE**

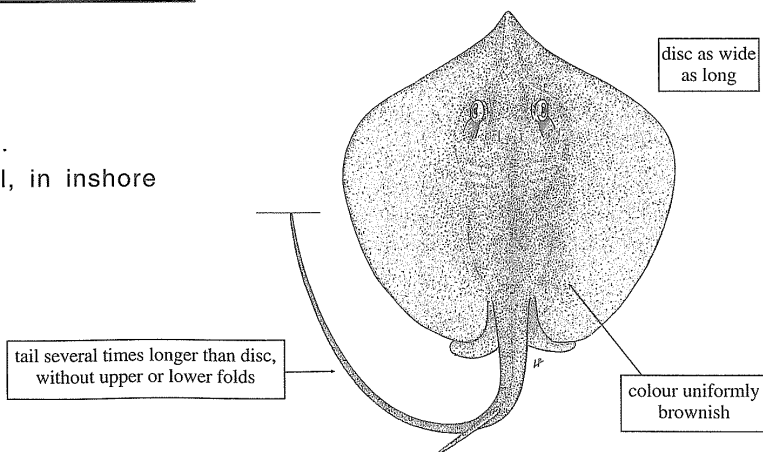
**FAO names:** En - Scaly stingray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm disc width.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, in inshore coastal waters.



*Himantura jenkinsii* (Annandale, 1909)

## DASYATIDIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Pointed-nose stingray; Fr - Pas-tenague à nez pointu.

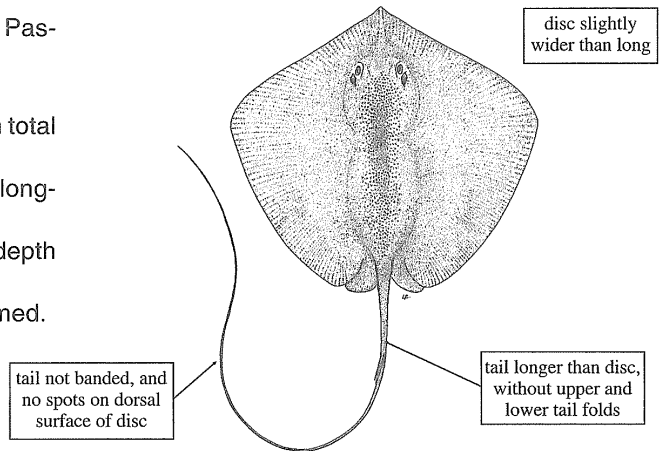
**Local names:** Shafane.

**Size:** To at least 1 m disc width and about 2 m total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and long-lines.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal water to a depth of about 50 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

*Himantura uarnak* (Forsskål, 1775)

## DASYATIDIDAE

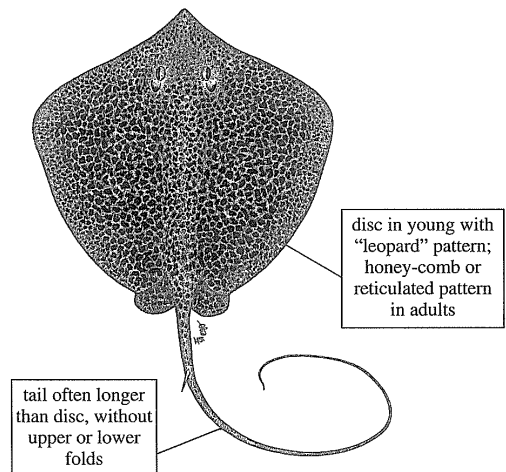
**FAO names:** En - Honeycomb stingray; Fr - Pas-tenague léopard.

**Local names:** Shafane Shabeellow.

**Size:** To 2 m disc width and more than 6.0 m total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear. Flesh palatable, but not highly esteemed.

**Habitat and biology:** On sandy bottoms and in shallow estuaries and lagoons, to a depth of 50 m. Feeds on bivalves, crabs, shrimps, and worms.

*Pastinachus sephen* (Forsskål, 1775)

## DASYATIDIDAE

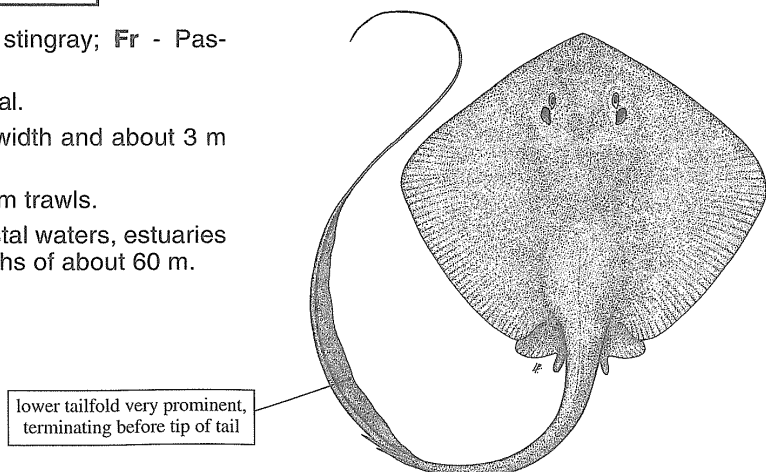
**FAO names:** En - Cowtail stingray; Fr - Pas-tenague plumetée.

**Local names:** Shafane Cordaal.

**Size:** To at least 1.8 m disc width and about 3 m total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, estuaries and freshwater, down to depths of about 60 m.



***Taeniura lymma* (Forsskål, 1775)**

**DASYATIDIDAE**

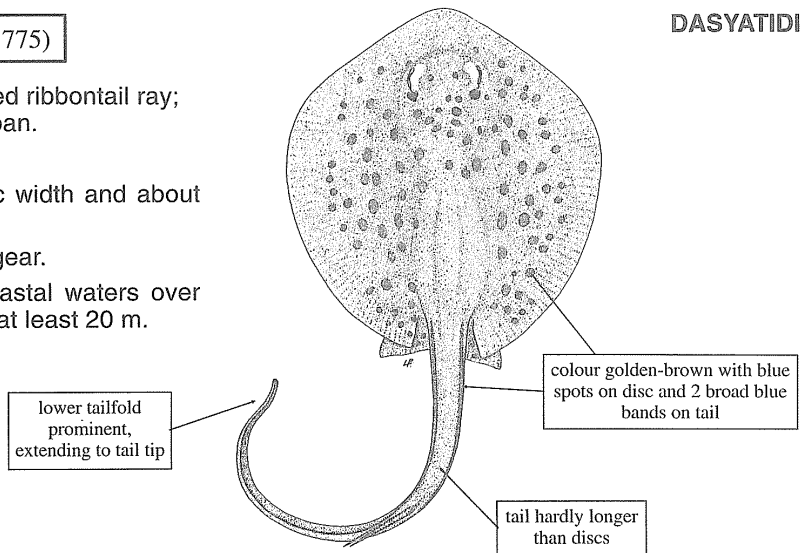
**FAO names:** En - Bluespotted ribbontail ray;  
Fr - Pastenague queue à ruban.

**Local names:** Shafane.

**Size:** To at least 30 cm disc width and about 70 cm total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters over sandy bottoms, to depths of at least 20 m.



***Taeniura meyeni* Müller and Henle, 1841**

**DASYATIDIDAE**

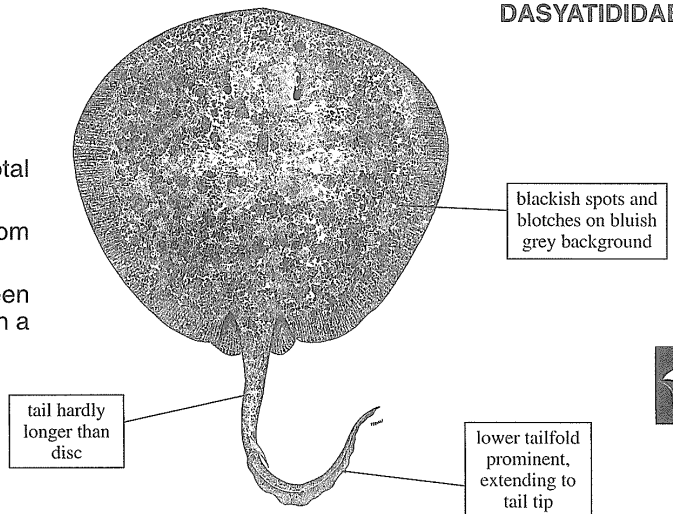
**FAO names:** En - Blotched fantail ray;  
Fr - Pastenague éventail.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 1.8 m disc width and 3.3 m total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Most common between depths of 20 and 60 m, but known to occur in a depth of 450 m.



***Urogymnus asperrimus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)**

**DASYATIDIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Porcupine ray.

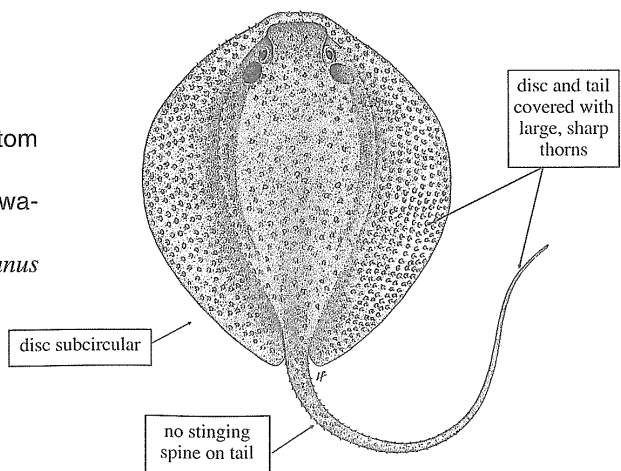
**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 1 m disc width.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, in inshore waters.

**Remarks:** Often recorded as *U. africanus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801).



## GYMNURIDAE

## Butterfly rays

*Gymnura poecilura* (Shaw, 1804)

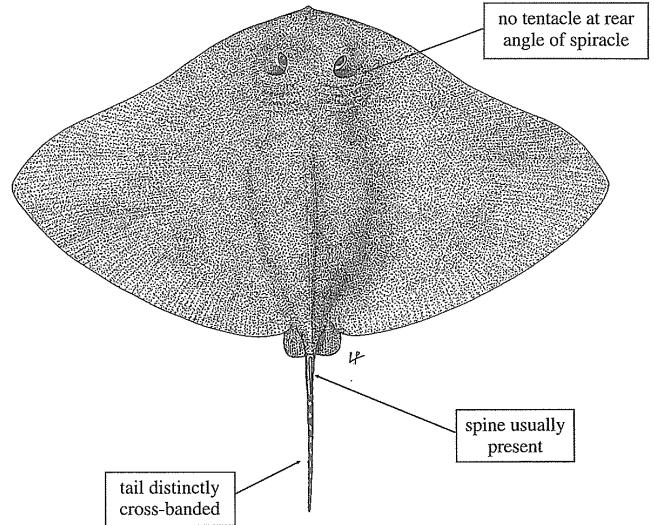
**FAO names:** En - Longtail butterfly ray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 2.5 m disc width.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, incidentally by hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Inshore waters on sandy bottoms and offshore banks.



## MYLIOBATIDIDAE

## Eagle rays, Cownose rays

*Actobatus narinari* (Euphrasen, 1790)

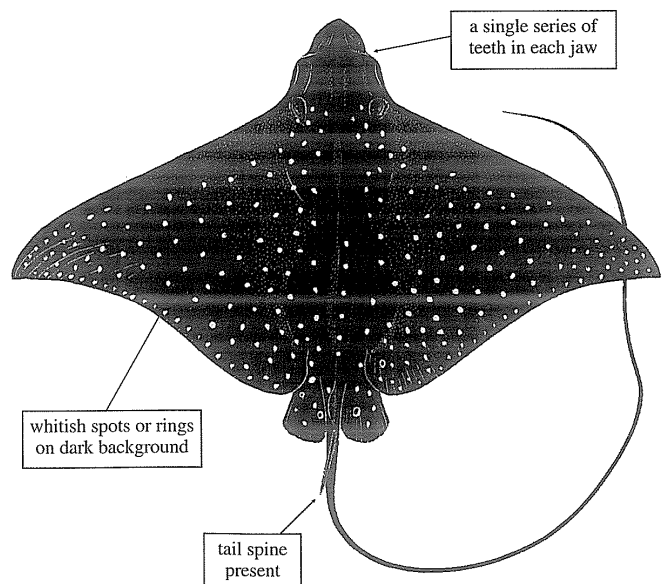
**FAO names:** En - Spotted eagle ray;  
Fr - Aigle de mer léopard.

**Local names:** Maylan.

**Size:** To at least 3 m disc width and 8.8 m total length when tail undamaged.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and harpoons. Flesh edible.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in coastal waters, to depths of 60 m. Can leap out of the water. Feeds mainly on bivalves, but also on shrimps, crabs, octopus, and worms.

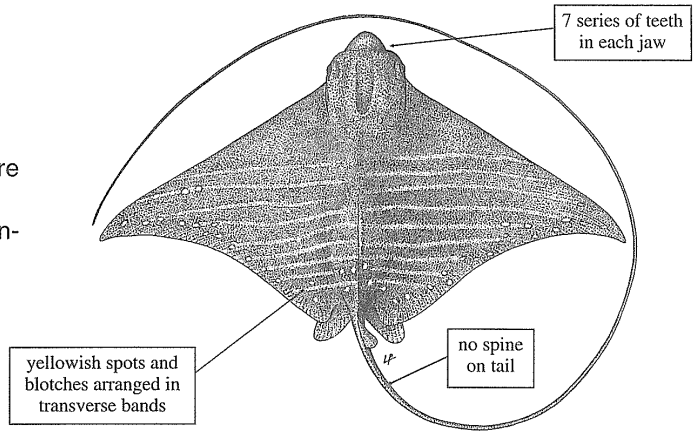




**MYLIOBATIDIDAE**

*Aetomylaeus maculatus* (Gray, 1834)

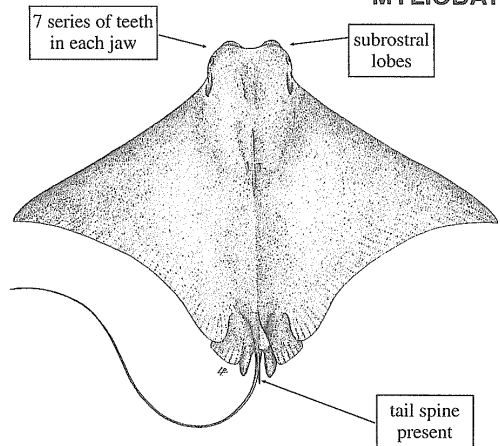
**FAO names:** En - Mottled eagle ray.  
**Local names:**  
**Size:** To at least 2 m disc width.  
**Fisheries:** No information available.  
**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in inshore coastal waters.  
**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Rhinoptera javanica* (Müller and Henle, 1841)

**FAO names:** En - Javanese cownose ray; Fr - Mourine javanaise.  
**Local names:** Mayla-Cadde.  
**Size:** To 1.5 m disc width.  
**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, shore seines, setnets, and trawls. Edible.  
**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters. Gregarious, often occurring in large numbers. Feeds mainly on bivalves.  
**Remarks:** Placed by some authors in a separated family, Rhinopteridae.

**MYLIOBATIDIDAE**

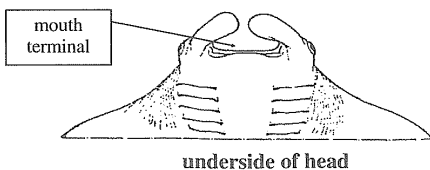
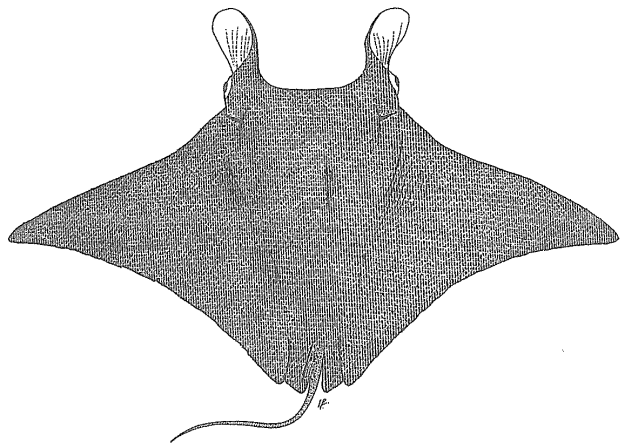


**MOBULIDAE**

Mantas, devil rays

*Manta birostris* (Donndorff, 1798)

**FAO names:** En - Giant manta; Fr - Mante géante.  
**Local names:** Gaangish.  
**Size:** To at least 6.7 m disc width and about 2 tons in weight.  
**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear and trawls.  
**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, occurs in coastal and oceanic waters. Can leap out of the water. Feeds on plankton.



underside of head

***Mobula eregoodootenkee* (Cuvier, 1829)****MOBULIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Pygmy devilray.

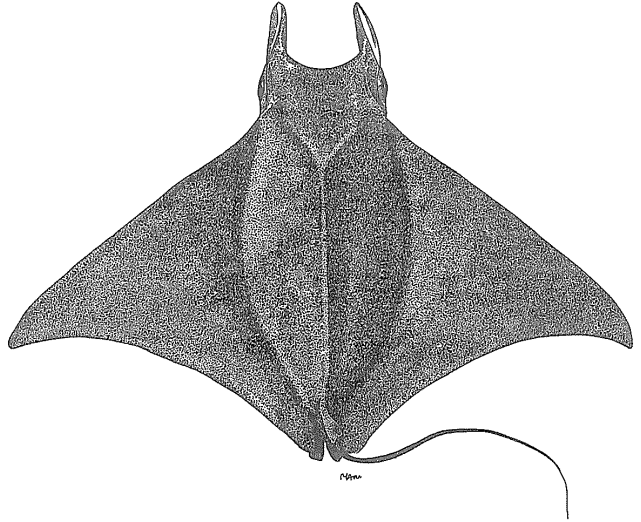
**Local names:** Gaangish.

**Size:** Probably to at least 1 m disc width.

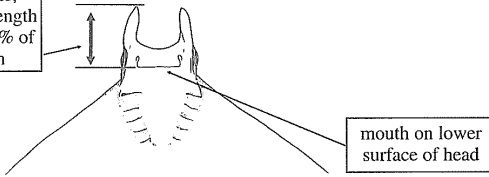
**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear, gillnets, and harpoons.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, occurs in coastal and oceanic waters. Feeds on plankton.

**Remarks:** Previously often misidentified as *M. diabolus* (Shaw, 1804), a species that does not occur in Somalia.



head and cephalic fins elongate, cephalic-fin length more than 16% of disc width



mouth on lower surface of head

**underside of head**

***Mobula kuhlii* (Valenciennes in Müller and Henle, 1841)****MOBULIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Lesser devilray; Fr - Petit diable.

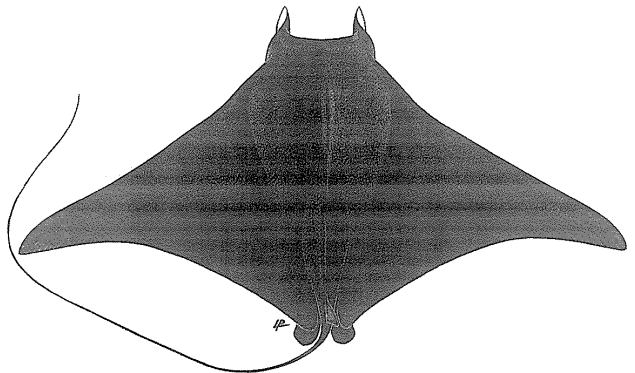
**Local names:** Gaangish.

**Size:** Probably to at least 1 m disc width.

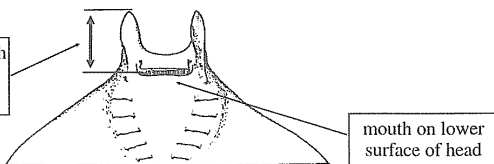
**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear, gillnets, and harpoons.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, occurs in coastal and oceanic waters. Feeds on plankton.

**Remarks:** Previously often misidentified as *M. diabolus* (Shaw, 1804), a species that does not occur in Somalia.



cephalic-fin length less than 16% of disc width



mouth on lower surface of head

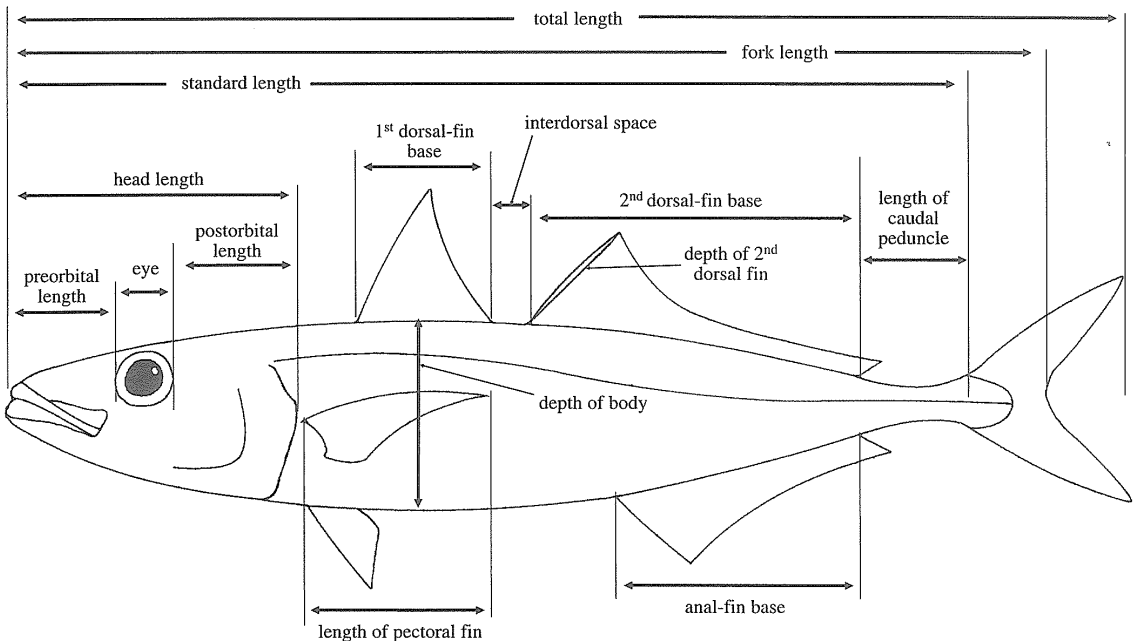
**underside of head**

# BONY FISHES

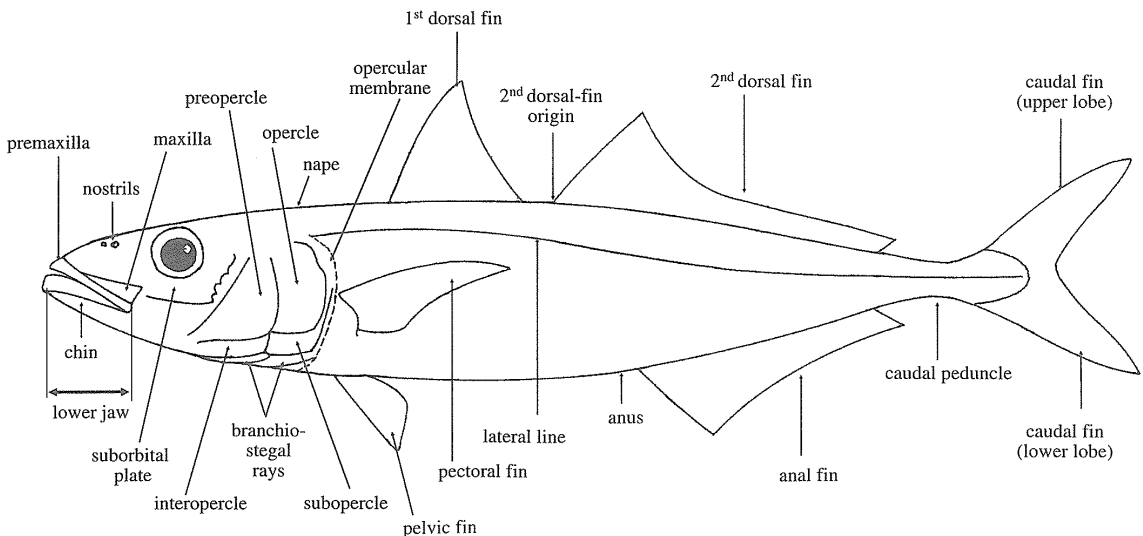
The purpose of this guide is to ensure correct identification of all families recorded from or are expected to be found in Somalian waters. In order to avoid erroneous identification, certain families of little or no interest to fisheries, but which might be confused with important ones, are included here. The guide also allows the identification of some genera, particularly in the case of some highly polymorphic families.

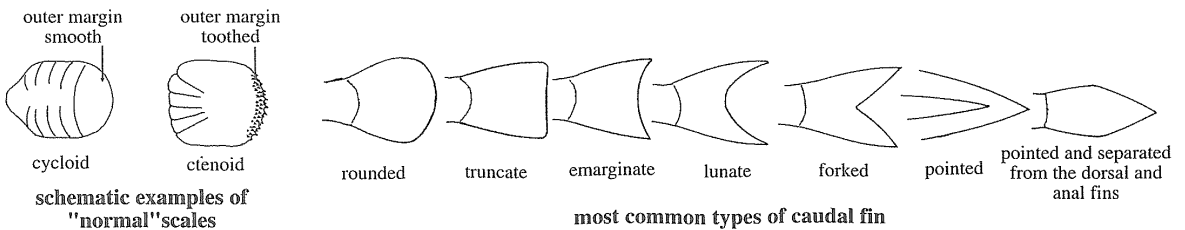
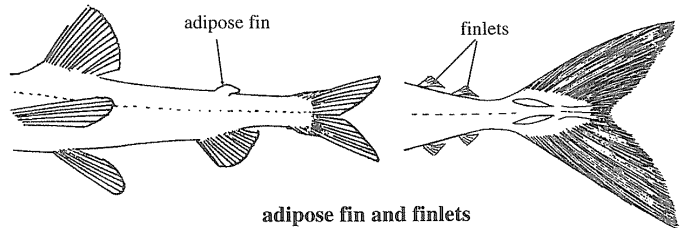
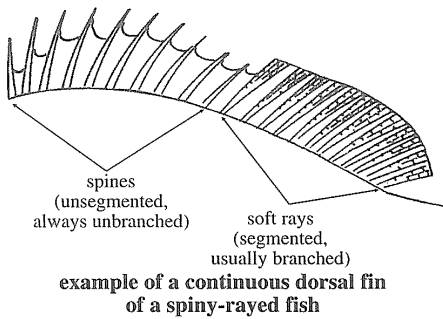
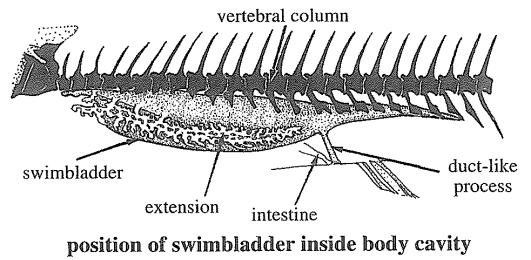
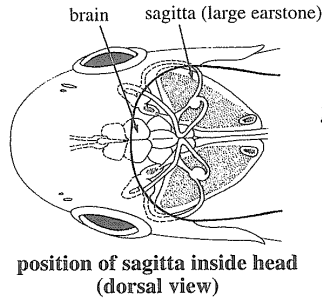
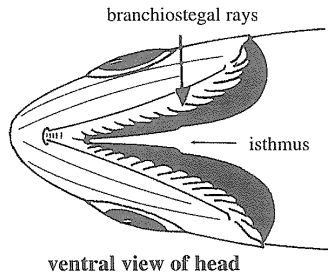
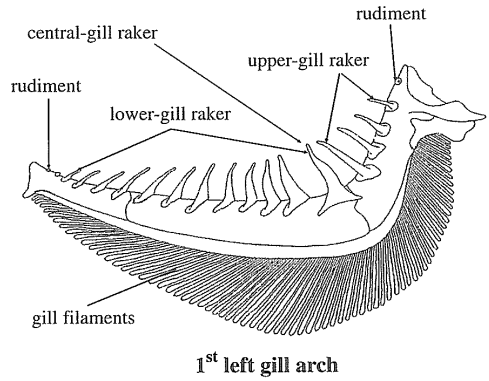
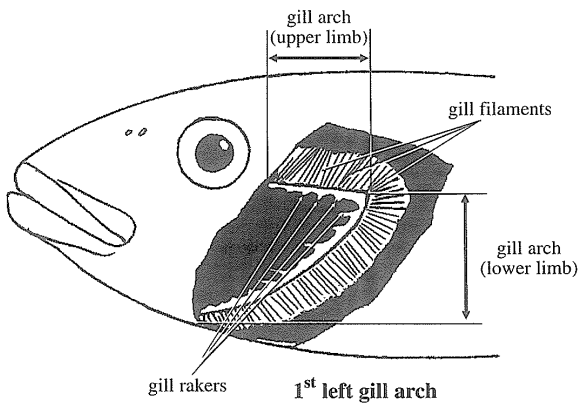
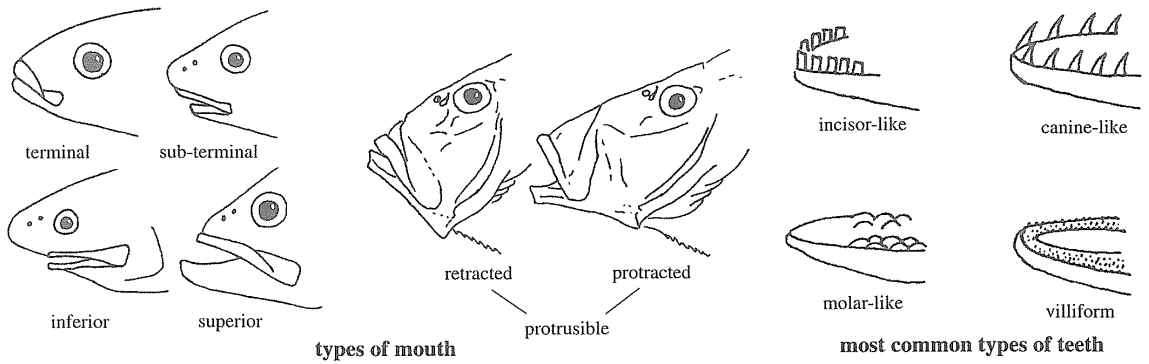
**Note:** Families in the guide are arranged by order (and suborder in the case of some Perciformes) using the classification adopted by Eschmeyer (1990) which best reflects current use. Page numbers refer to those families that are treated in more detail in the species identification guide. The species identification guide does not include those families which are of interest only to the aquarium fish trade, except where they may be important also as food. The features utilized in the guide apply only to the species which occur in Somalia.

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



General Nomenclature of the External Morphology





**GUIDE TO ORDERS AND FAMILIES**

**Order ELOPIFORMES - Tarpons and allies**

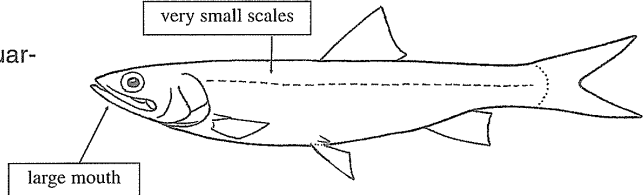
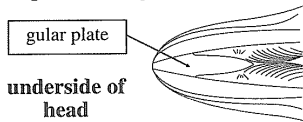
Fin spines absent; a single dorsal fin located above middle of body; pelvic fins in abdominal position; lateral line present; branchiostegal rays 23-25; upper jaw extending past eye; tip of snout not overhanging mouth; colour silvery.

**ELOPIDAE**

Page 133

**Ladyfishes**

To 90 cm. Coastal marine waters and estuaries; pelagic. A single species.

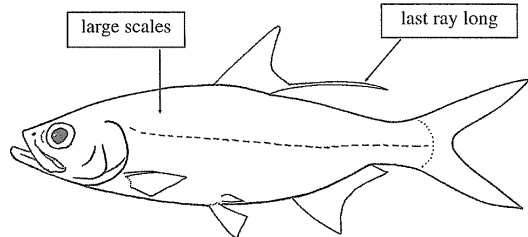
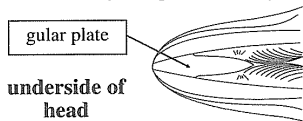


**MEGALOPIDAE**

Page 133

**Tarpons**

To 55 cm. Coastal marine waters, estuaries, and freshwater; pelagic. A single species.



**Order ALBULIFORMES - Bonefishes**

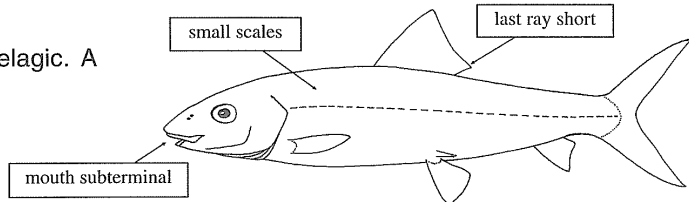
Fin spines absent; a single dorsal fin located above middle of body; pelvic fins in abdominal position; lateral line present; branchiostegal rays 6-16; upper jaw not extending as far as front of eye; tip of snout overhanging mouth; colour silvery.

**ALBULIDAE**

Page 134

**Bonefishes**

To 1 m. Coastal marine waters; pelagic. A single species.



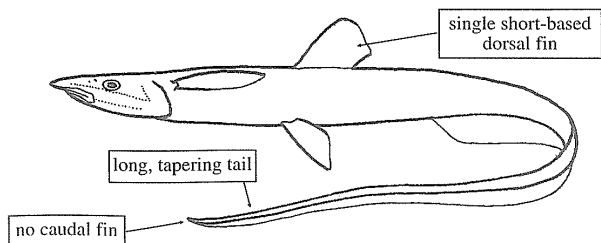
**Order NOTACANTHIFORMES - Spiny Eels**

Body very elongate; snout projecting; a single short-based and soft-rayed dorsal fin; anal fin long.

**HALOSAURIDAE**

**Halosaurs**

To about 50 cm. Marine, from depths of 1000-2500 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Probably only one species: *Halosaurus affinis* (Günther, 1877).



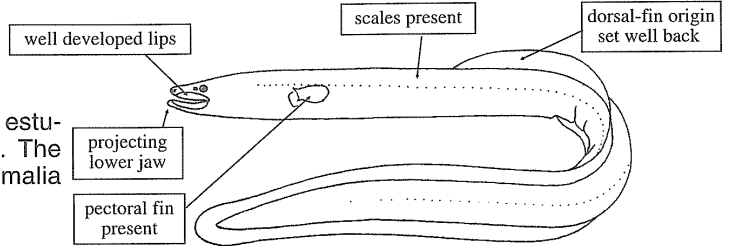
**Order ANGUILLIFORMES - Eels**

Body very elongate; fin-spines absent; pelvic fins absent; usually scaleless.

**ANGUILLIDAE**

**Freshwater eels**

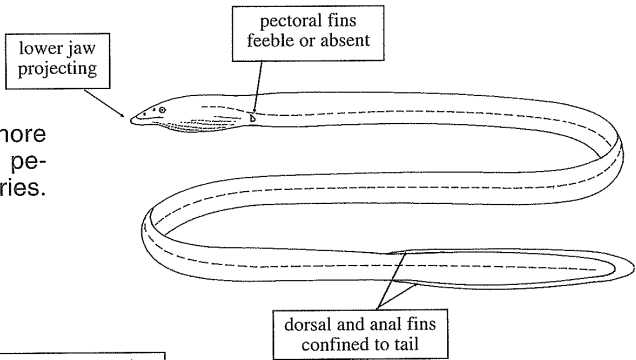
To 120 cm. Mainly freshwater but enter estuaries; benthic. Of interest to fisheries. The presence of possibly 2 species in Somalia needs to be confirmed.



**MORINGUIDAE**

**Spaghetti eels**

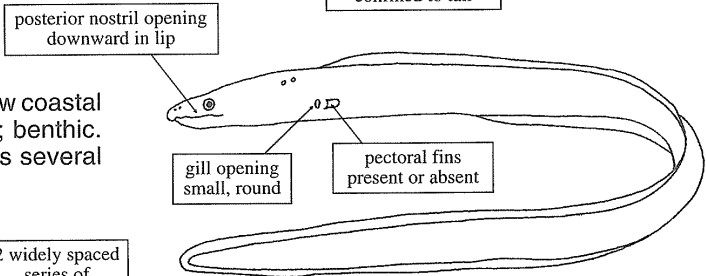
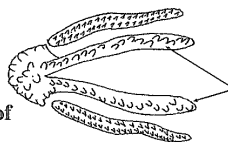
To at least 50 cm. Marine; mostly inshore waters; benthic, burrowing by day, but pelagic at night. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**CHLOPSIDAE**

**False morays**

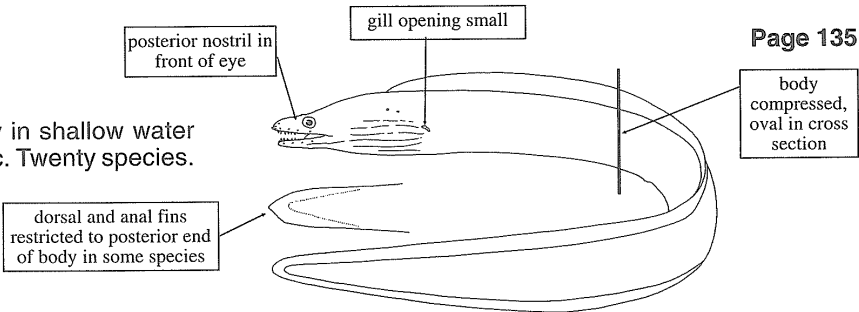
To about 50 cm. Marine, from shallow coastal waters to depths of at least 300 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**MURAENIDAE**

**Morays**

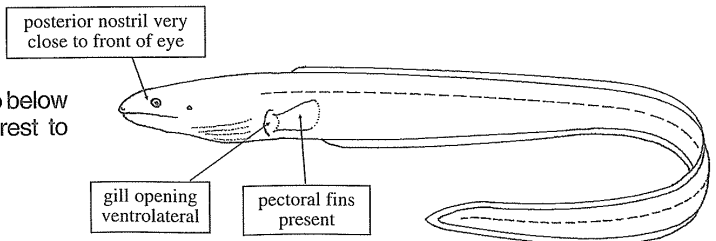
To 400 cm. Marine, mostly in shallow water to a depth of 165 m; benthic. Twenty species.



**SYNAPOBRANCHIDAE**

**Cutthroat eels**

To about 100 cm. Marine, coastal waters to below a depth of 4000 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.

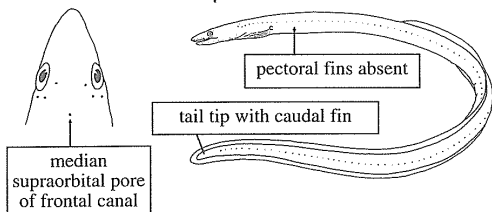
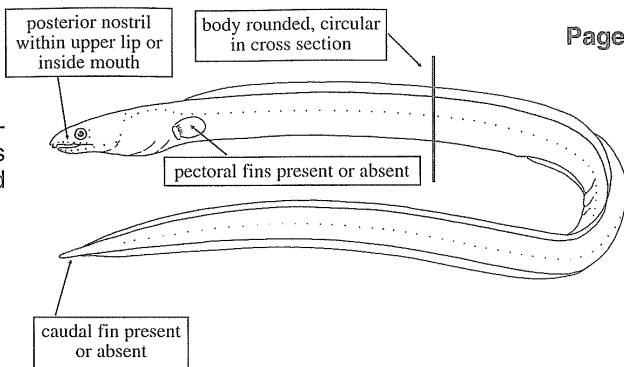


**OPHICHTHIDAE**

Page 140

**Snake eels, worm eels**

To 100 cm. Marine and estuarine, one species entering fresh water; benthic. Numerous species but poorly known, 3 species included in the Guide to Species.

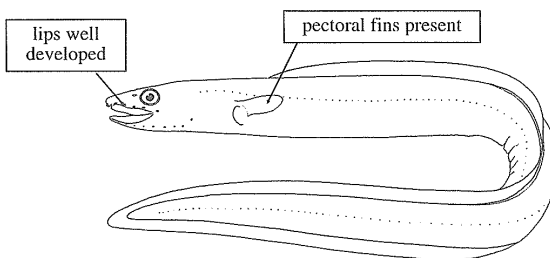


**CONGRIDAE**

Page 141

**Conger eels**

To 80 cm. Marine, coral reefs, and mud banks; benthic. Many species, of which 2 are included in the Guide to Species.

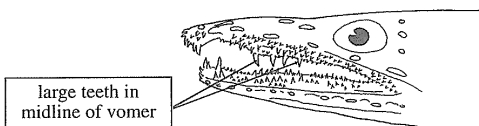
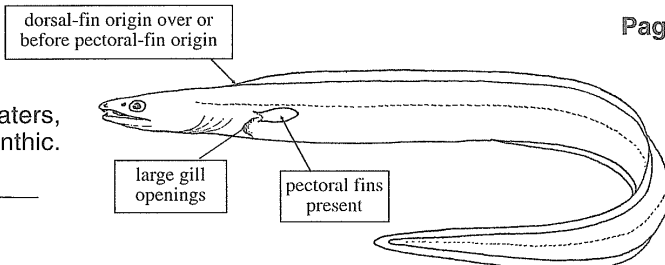


**MURAENESOCIDAE**

Page 141

**Pike congers**

To 250 cm. Marine, shallow coastal waters, and estuaries to a depth of 100 m; benthic. Three species.



**Order CLUPEIFORMES - Herrings and allies**

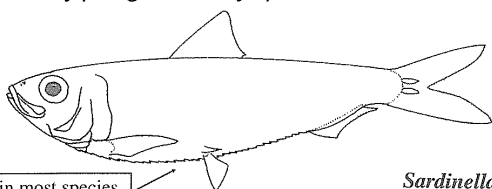
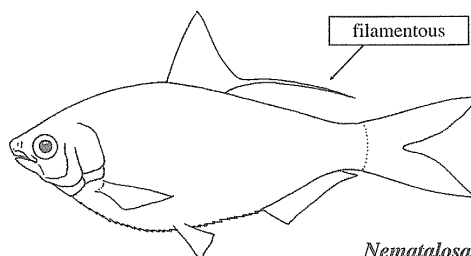
Fin spines absent; a single dorsal fin located above middle of body; pelvic fins in abdominal position; lateral line absent; a row of scutes along ventral profile (except in Chirocentridae, some Clupeidae and some Engraulididae); colour silvery.

**CLUPEIDAE**

Page 142

**Sardines, sardinellas**

To 25 cm. Coastal marine waters, estuaries and freshwater; mainly pelagic. Twenty species.



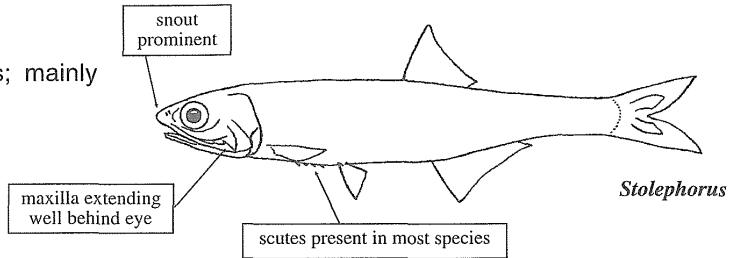
*Sardinella*

*Nematalosa*

**ENGRAULIDIDAE**

**Anchovies**

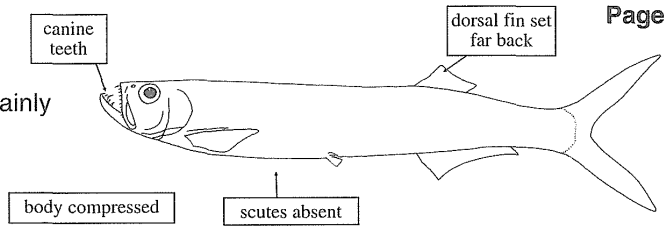
To 18 cm. Coastal marine waters; mainly pelagic. Ten species.



**CHIROCENTRIDAE**

**Wolf-herrings**

To 100 cm. Coastal marine waters; mainly pelagic. Two species.



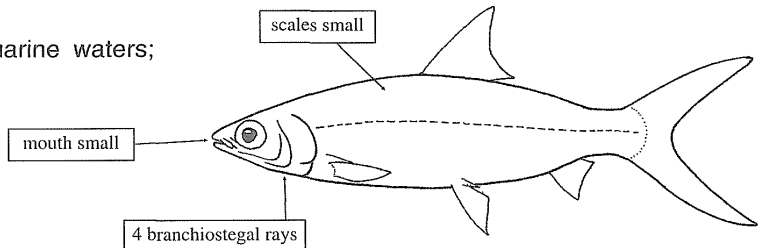
**Order GONORHYNCHIFORMES - Milkfish and allies**

Fin spines absent; a single dorsal fin located above middle of body; pelvic fins in abdominal position; lateral line present; branchiostegal rays 4; mouth small, jaws toothless or teeth reduced; colour silvery.

**CHANIDAE**

**Milkfish**

To 180 cm. Marine and estuarine waters; pelagic. A single species.



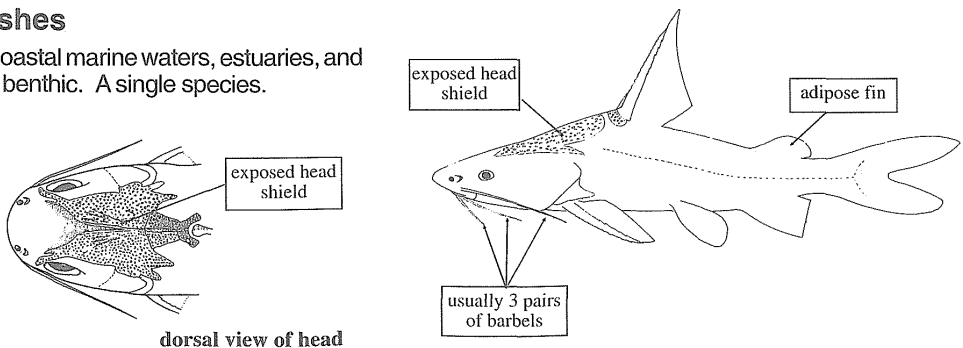
**Order SILURIFORMES - Catfishes**

Barbels present around mouth; a strong spine usually present at front of dorsal and pectoral fins; an adipose fin often present; scales absent, but a bony head shield often present.

**ARIIDAE**

**Sea catfishes**

To 180 cm. Coastal marine waters, estuaries, and freshwaters; benthic. A single species.

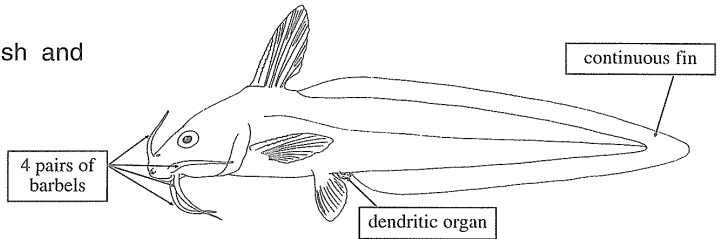




**PLOTOSIDAE**

**Eel catfishes**

To 41 cm. Marine, entering brackish and freshwaters; benthic. Two species.



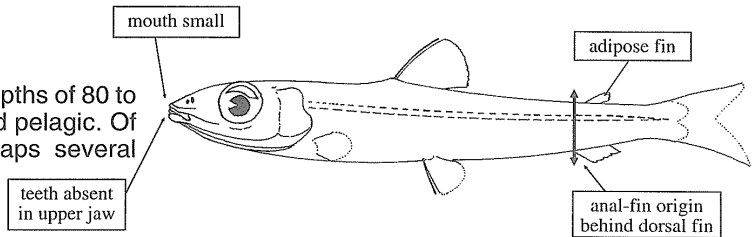
**Order SALMONIFORMES - Argentines and allies**

A diverse assemblage of families characterized by the inclusion of the maxilla in the gape of mouth; fin spines absent; adipose fin often present.

**ARGENTINIDAE**

**Argentines**

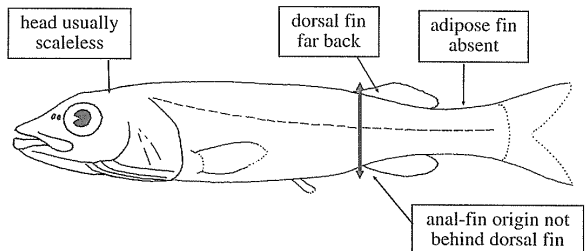
To about 40 cm. Marine, from depths of 80 to about 400 m; benthopelagic and pelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**ALEPOCEPHALIDAE**

**Slickheads**

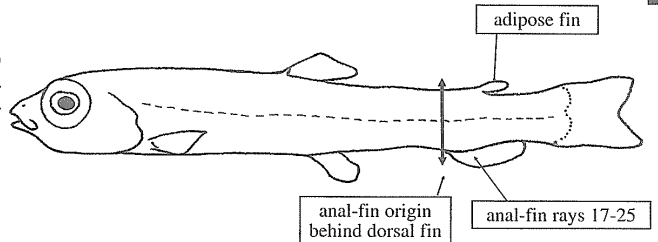
To about 70 cm. Marine; usually at depths of below 1000 m; benthopelagic. Of little interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**BATHYLAGIDAE**

**Deepsea smelts**

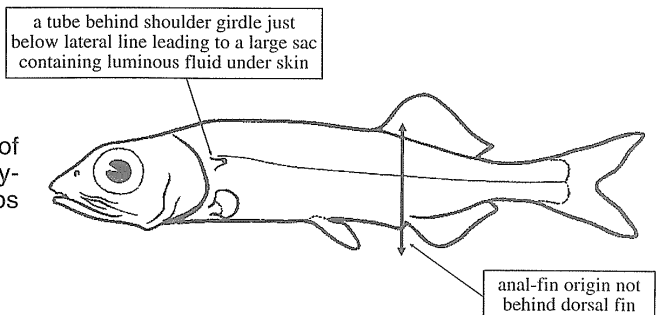
To about 20 cm. Marine; from the surface to a depth of below 200 m, epipelagic to bathypelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Probably one species: *Bathylagus antarcticus* Günther, 1878.



**PLATYTROCTIDAE**

**Tube shoulders**

To about 20 cm. Marine; between depths of 200 and below 4000 m; meso- and bathypelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**Order STOMIIFORMES - Hatchetfishes, Viperfishes and allies**

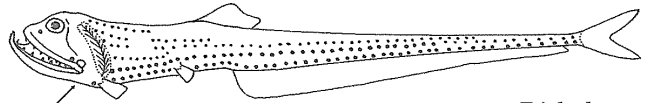
Deepsea fishes, having light organs (photophores); chin barbels present in some; premaxilla and maxilla both with teeth, and included in gape of mouth; ventral adipose fin present in some.

**GONOSTOMATIDAE**

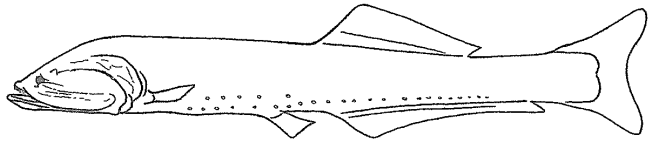
**Bristlemouth**

To about 25 cm. Marine, mostly deeper water at depths below 200 m; meso- to bathypelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.

12-16 branchiostegal rays



*Triplophus*



*Cyclothone*

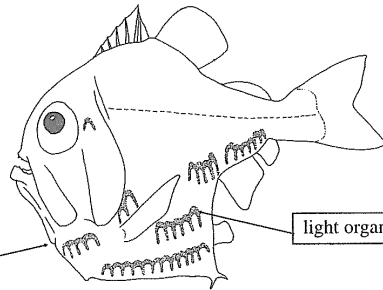
**STERNOPTYCHIDAE**

**Marine hatchetfishes**

To 20 cm. Marine, from the surface to depths below 300 m; meso- and bathypelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.

6-10 branchiostegal rays

light organs



**CHAULIODONTIDAE**

**Viperfishes**

To 40 cm. Marine, deep water, often migrating to near-surface at night. Of no interest to fisheries. A single species: *Chauliodus sloani* Bloch and Schneider, 1801.

dorsal fin shortly behind head

fang-like teeth

large pelvic fin



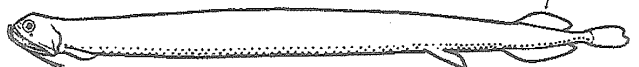
**STOMIIDAE**

**Scaly dragonfishes**

To about 40 cm. Marine, deep water, often migrating to near-surface at night. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.

dorsal fin far back

barbel with light organ

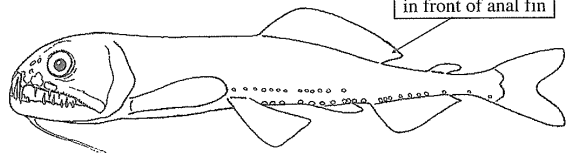


**ASTRONESTHIDAE**

**Snaggletooths**

To about 20 cm. Marine, from a depth of about 150 m to below 2000 m; mesopelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.

dorsal fin ends well in front of anal fin



**Order AULOPIFORMES - Greeneyes, Lizardfishes and allies**

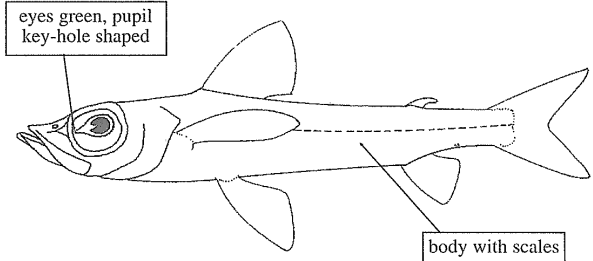
Premaxilla forming the gape of the mouth (maxilla excluded); upper jaw not protrusible; adipose fin present; caudal fin forked.

**CHLOROPHTHALMIDAE**

Page 154

**Greeneyes**

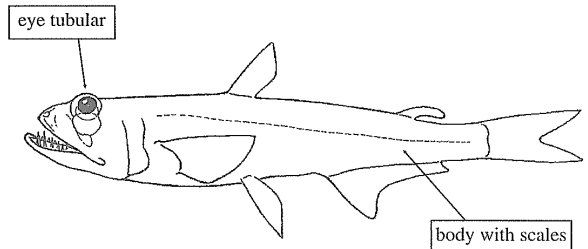
To 17 cm. Deep water, from depths of 150-379 m; benthic; often in great abundance, and of potential interest to fisheries. Two species.



**SCOPELARCHIDAE**

**Pearleyes**

To 13 cm. Marine, from the surface to depths below 2300 m; mostly below 300 m; meso- and bathypelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.

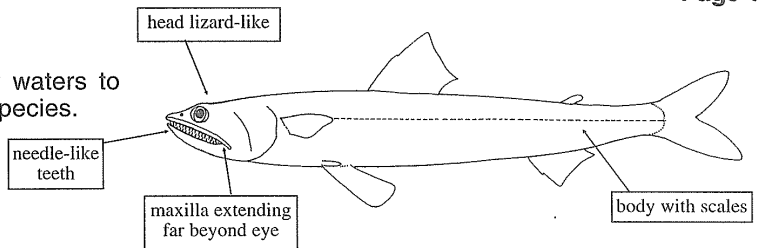


**SYNODONTIDAE**

Page 154

**Lizardfishes**

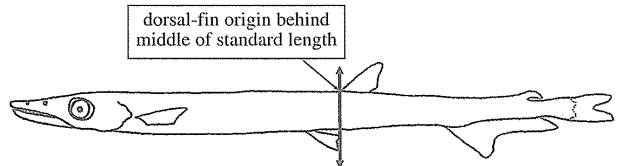
To 50 cm. Marine, from shallow waters to depths of 200 m; benthic. Nine species.



**PARALEPIDIDAE**

**Barracudinas**

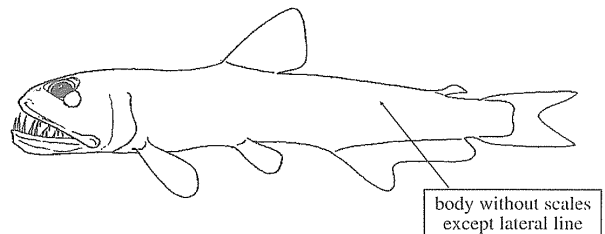
To 13 cm. Marine, from shallow water to depths of 2000 m; pelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



**EVERMANNELIDAE**

**Sabertooth fishes**

To 12 cm. Marine, mesopelagic, but raising to the surface at night. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



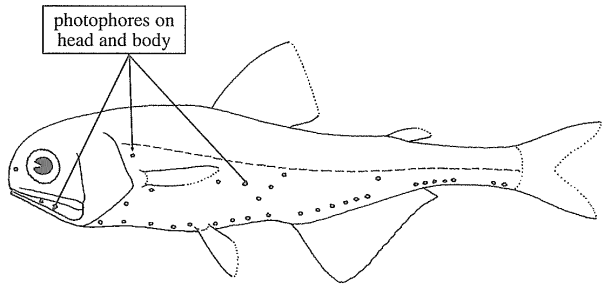
**Order MYCTOPHIFORMES - Lanternfishes and allies**

Fin spines absent; adipose fin present; light organs (photophores) sometimes present; deep sea fishes.

**MYCTOPHIDAE**

**Lanternfishes**

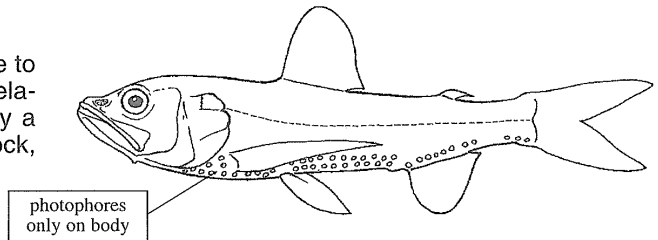
To 30 cm, but most species less than 10 cm. From the surface (at night) to depths below 2000 m; mesopelagic to bathypelagic. Currently of little interest to fisheries. Numerous species.



**NEOSCOPELIDAE**

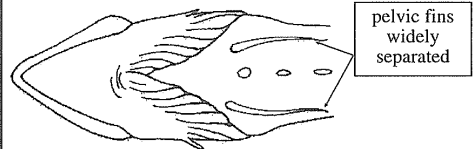
**Neoscopelids**

To about 30 cm. Marine, from the surface to depths below 500 m; pelagic or benthopelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Probably a single species: *Scopelengys tristis* Alcock, 1890.



**Order GADIFORMES - Cods, Hakes, and allies**

No sharp spines in fins (except in dorsal fin of some macrourids); pelvic fins below or anterior to pectoral fins and widely separated from each other, usually entire, but reduced to filaments in some species; barbels often present on chin.



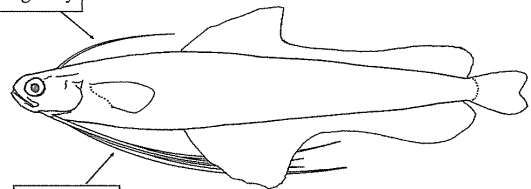
underside of head

**BREGMACEROTIDAE**

**Codlets**

To 10 cm; but usually smaller. Marine, from the surface to depths of 2000 m; pelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.

1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin with a single ray

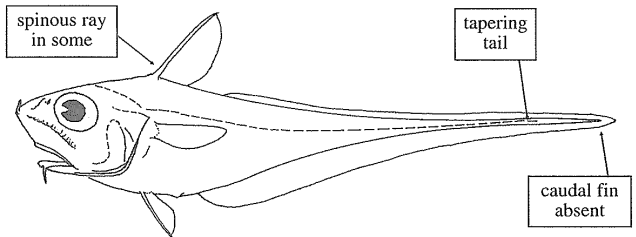


pelvic fin

**MACROURIDAE**

**Grenadiers**

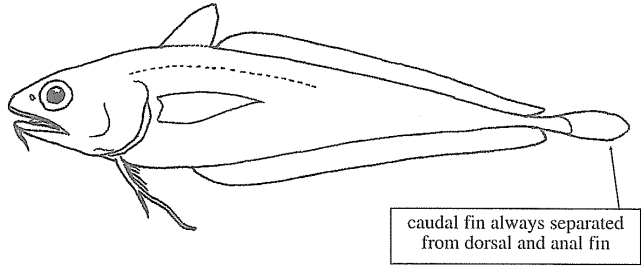
To 52 cm. Marine, from depths of about 200 to 1000 m; benthopelagic. Of little interest to fisheries. Numerous species in the Indian Ocean, most poorly known, 2 species included in the Guide to Species.



**MORIDAE**

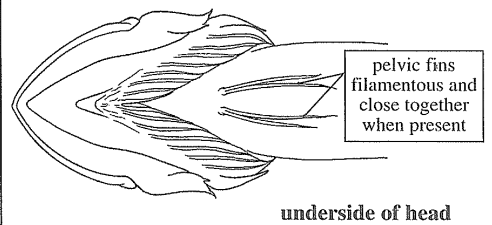
**Codlings**

To about 25 cm. Marine, in deeper water; benthopelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



**Order OPHIDIIFORMES - Cusk Eels, Brotulas, and allies**

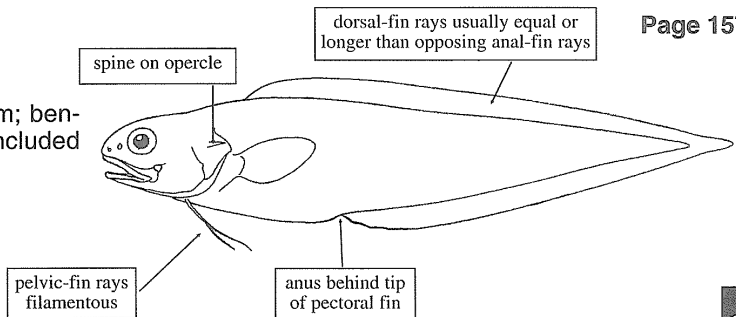
No sharp spines in fins; pelvic fins absent in some species; when present, these fins are placed anterior to pectoral fins, sometimes far forward on underside of head; they are always close together and filamentous, each with not more than 2 rays; caudal fin separate or joined to dorsal and anal fins; snout without barbels.



**OPHIDIIDAE**

**Cusk eels**

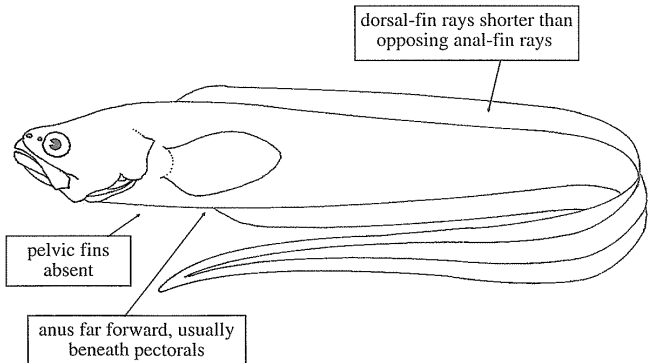
To 50 cm. Marine, at depths of 650 m; benthic. Several species, of which 1 is included in the Guide to Species.



**CARAPIDAE**

**Pearlfishes**

To about 20 cm. Marine, shallow coastal waters; benthic, living as commensals in holothurians, molluscs and ascidians, which they enter tail first. Poorly known; of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



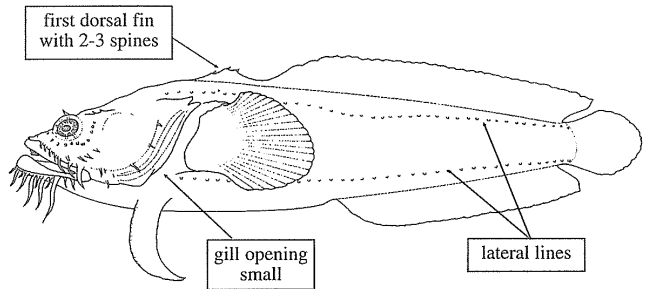
**Order BATRACHOIDIFORMES - Toadfishes**

Head large and depressed, body compressed; two dorsal fins, the first with 2 or 3 spines; pelvic fins under throat; gill openings restricted to sides of head; one to several lateral lines on body.

**BATRACHOIDIDAE**

**Toadfishes**

To about 20 cm. Coastal waters; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Probably a single species: *Thalassothia cirrhosa* (Klunzinger, 1871).



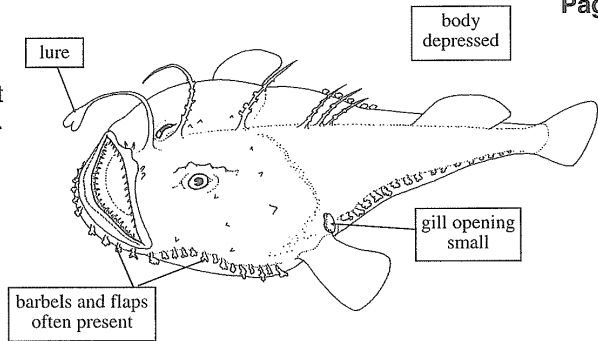
**Order LOPHIIFORMES - Anglerfishes and allies**

Body globulose or depressed; first spine of dorsal fin modified to form a 'fishing pole'; gill openings small and circular, usually located below or behind pectoral fins.

**LOPHIIDAE**

**Anglerfishes**

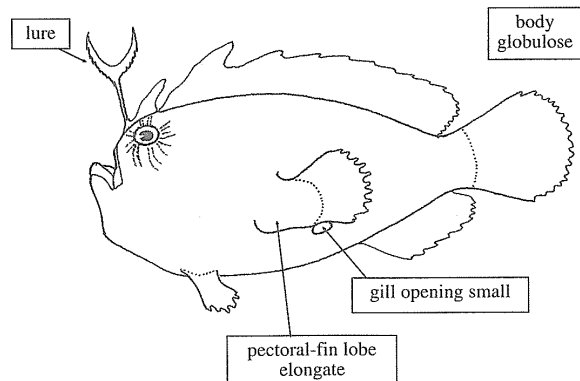
To 45 cm. Marine, mainly deep water, at depths of 70 to 500 m; benthic. Two species.



**ANTENNARIIDAE**

**Frogfishes**

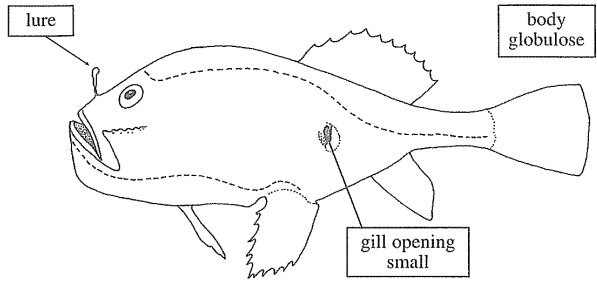
To 25 cm. Marine, coastal and surface waters to a depth of 100 m; mostly benthic. Of little interest to fisheries. Several species.



**CHAUNACIDAE**

**Sea toads**

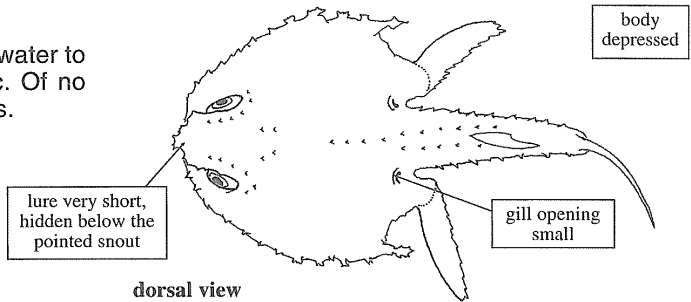
To about 45 cm. Marine, offshore waters in depths of about 300 to 1000 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Probably several species.



**OGCOCEPHALIDAE**

**Batfishes**

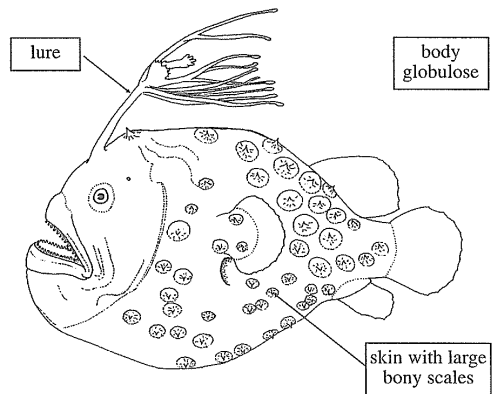
To 20 cm. Marine, coastal and deep water to at least a depth of 2000 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



**HIMANTOLOPHIDAE**

**Footballfishes**

To about 60 cm. Marine, from near the surface to depths below 500 m, pelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. A single species: *Himantolophus groenlandicus* Reinhard, 1837.



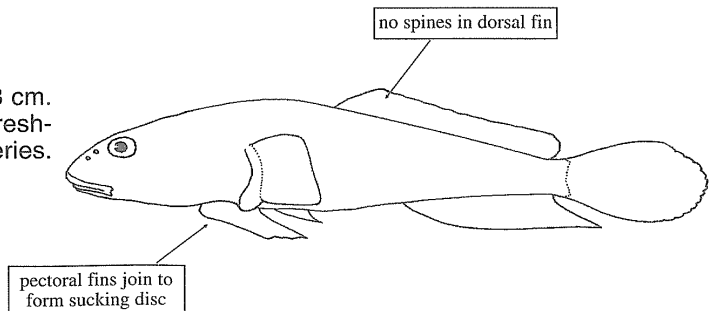
**Order GOBIESOCIFORMES - Clingfishes**

Pectoral fins joined to form an adhesive disc on ventral surface of body at juncture of head and body; 1 dorsal fin without spines.

**GOBIESOCIDAE**

**Clingfishes**

To 15 cm, but most species less than 8 cm. Marine, entering also estuaries and fresh-water; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



### Order ATHERINIFORMES - Silversides and allies

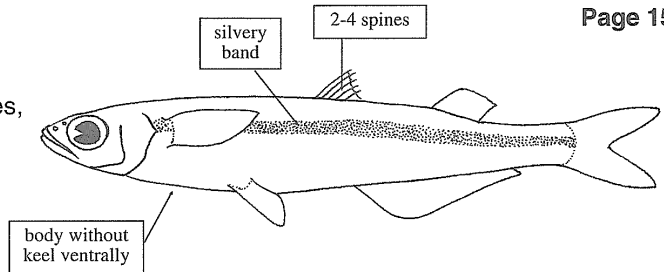
Small fishes; 2 well separated dorsal fins, the first spiny, but often inconspicuous; a silvery stripe on sides.

#### ATHERINIDAE

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##### Silversides

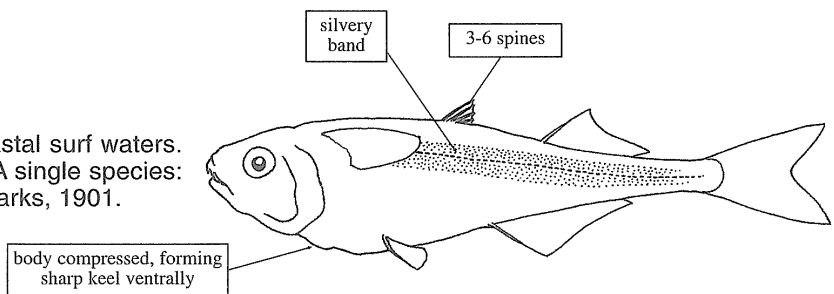
To 15 cm. Coastal marine waters, estuaries, coastal lagoons; pelagic. Three species.



#### NOTOCHEIRIDAE

##### Surf sardines

To about 9 cm. Marine, coastal surf waters. Of no interest to fisheries. A single species: *Iso natalensis* Jordan and Starks, 1901.



### Order BELONIFORMES - Flyingfishes and allies

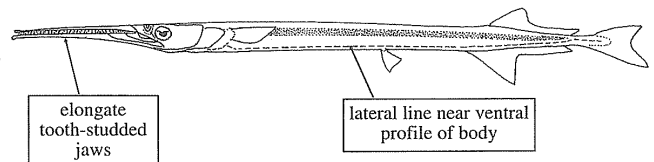
Either snout beak-like with upper or lower jaws greatly prolonged, or with enlarged, wing-like pectoral, and sometimes also pelvic fins; lateral line near ventral profile of body; a single dorsal fin consisting of soft rays; pelvic fins abdominal.

#### BELONIDAE

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##### Needlefishes

To about 150 cm. Marine, coastal and offshore waters, estuaries and freshwater, near the surface. Five species.

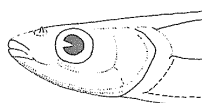


#### HEMIRAMPHIDAE

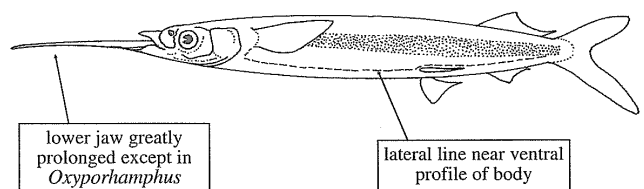
Page 161

##### Halfbeaks

To 44 cm. Marine, coastal and offshore waters, some entering estuaries and even freshwater; generally pelagic, swimming near surface. Six species.



*Oxyporhamphus*

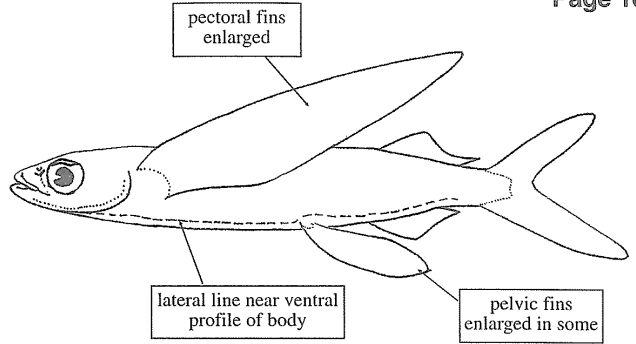




**EXOCOETIDAE**

**Flyingfishes**

To 30 cm. Marine; pelagic in surface waters; capable of jumping out of the water and gliding for long distances. Twelve species.



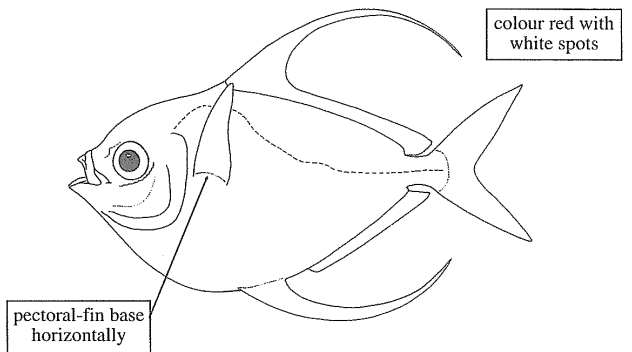
**Order LAMPRIFORMES - Opahs and allies**

A diverse group of often strange looking fishes. No true spines in fins; pelvic fins under bases of pectoral fins.

**LAMPRIDAE**

**Opahs**

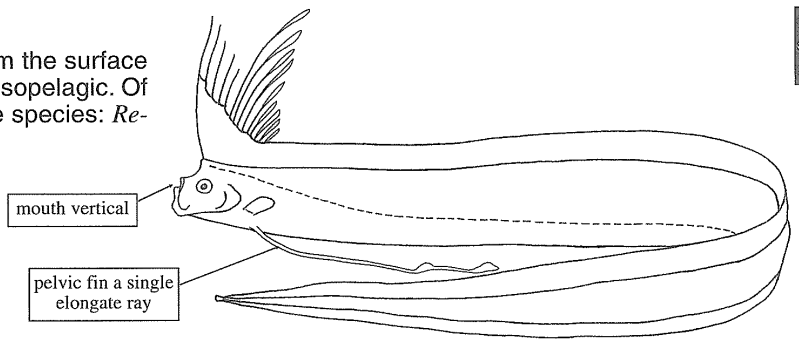
To 180 cm. Marine, well offshore; epipelagic. Of little interest to fisheries, but flesh excellent. A single species: *Lampris guttatus* (Bünnich, 1788).



**REGALECIDAE**

**Oarfishes**

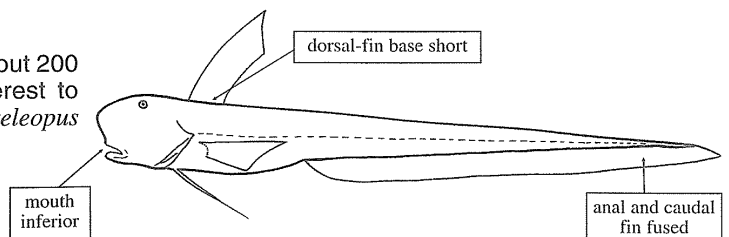
To at least 700 cm. Marine, from the surface to a depth of 1000 m; epi- to mesopelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. A single species: *Regalecus glesne* Ascanius, 1772.



**ATELEOPODIDAE**

**Ateleopodids**

To 180 cm. Marine, from depths of about 200 to 660 m; benthopelagic. Of no interest to fisheries. At least one species: *Ateleopus natalensis* Regan, 1921.



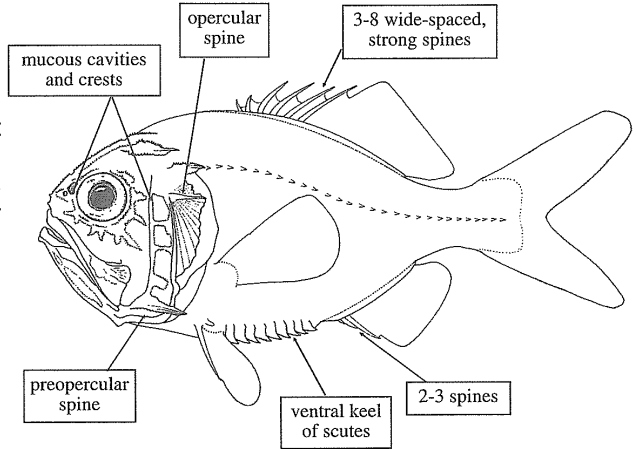
**Order BERYCIFORMES - Squirreelfishes and allies**

Head spines or crests well developed; fin spines well developed; scales heavy and strongly ctenoid (rough).

**TRACHICHTHYIDAE**

**Slimeheads**

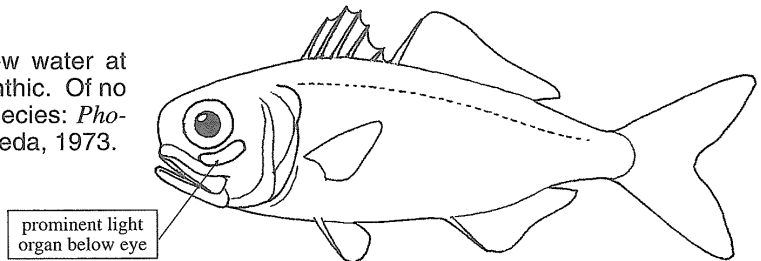
To about 60 cm. Marine, from depths of about 100 to 1000 m, rarely below 600 m; benthic. Where they occur in abundance of potential interest to fisheries. Probably several species.



**ANOMALOPIDAE**

**Lanterneye fishes**

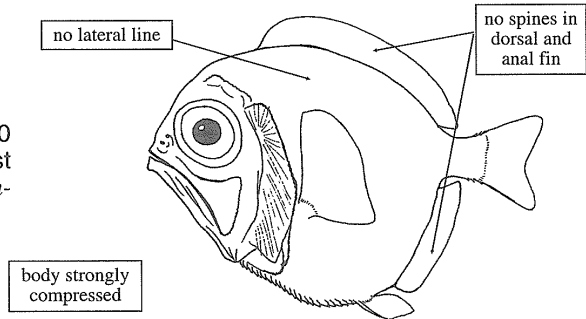
To 30 cm. Marine, from shallow water at night to depths below 100 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. A single species: *Photoblepharon steinitzi* Abe and Haneda, 1973.



**DIRETMIDAE**

**Diretmids**

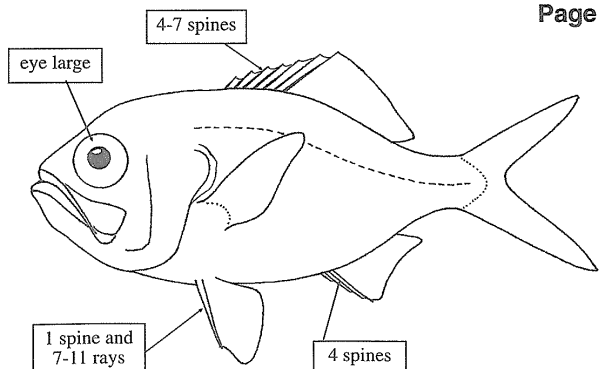
To 15 cm. Marine, from depths of 500 to 700 m; benthic. Taken as bycatch, of no interest to fisheries. A single species: *Diretmus argenteus* Johnson, 1863.



**BERYCIDAE**

**Alfonsinos**

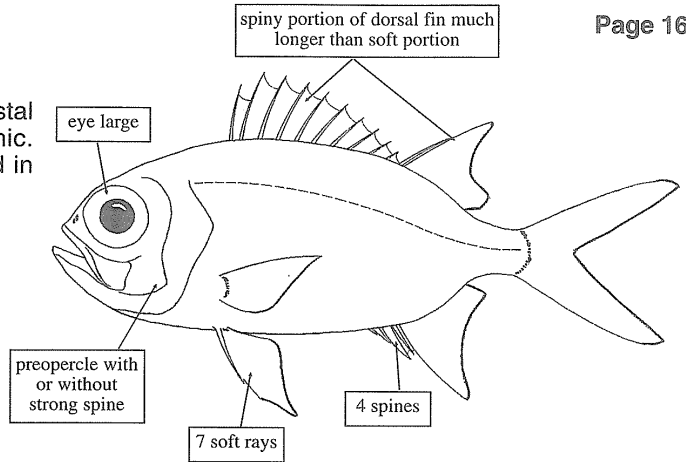
To 70 cm. Marine; from depths of 200 to 600 m; bathypelagic. At least 2 species, which are both included in the Guide to Species.



**HOLOCENTRIDAE**

**Squirrelfishes, soldierfishes**

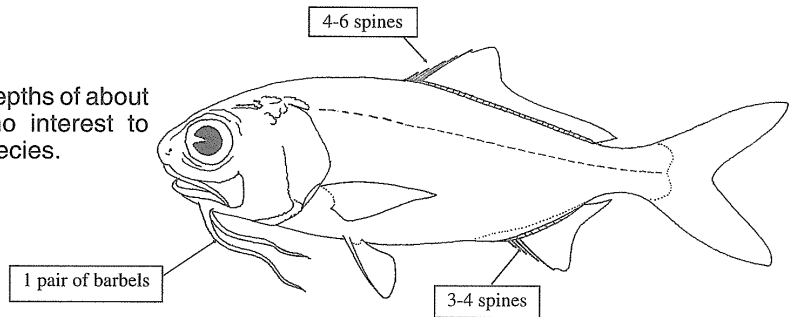
To about 45 cm. Marine, from shallow coastal waters to depths below 200 m; benthic. Twenty species of which 18 are included in the Guide to Species.



**POLYMIXIDAE**

**Beardfishes**

To about 35 cm. Marine, from depths of about 100 to 650 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Probably several species.



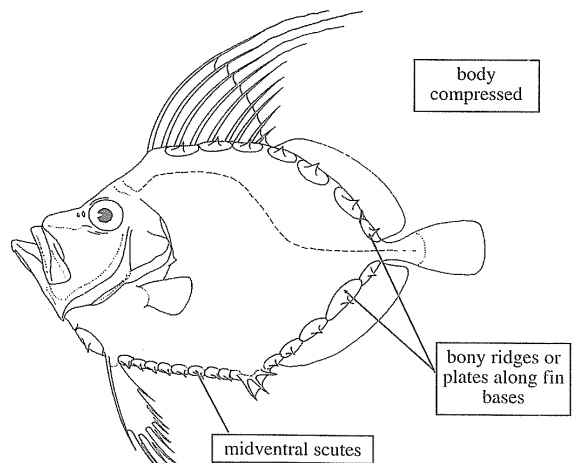
**Order ZEIFORMES - Dories and allies**

Body usually compressed and deep; jaws greatly distensible; prominent spines in anterior part of dorsal fin.

**ZEIDAE**

**Dories**

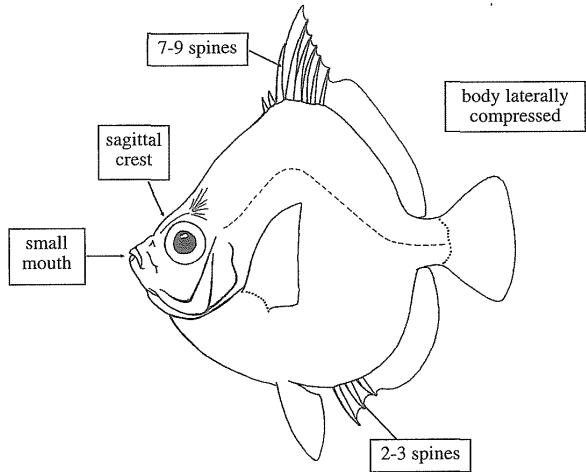
To 70 cm. Marine; outer continental slope from depths of 90 to 300 m; benthic. Two species.



**CAPROIDAE**

**Boarfishes**

To 22 cm. Marine, from depths of 65 to 600 m. Of no interest to fisheries. A single species.



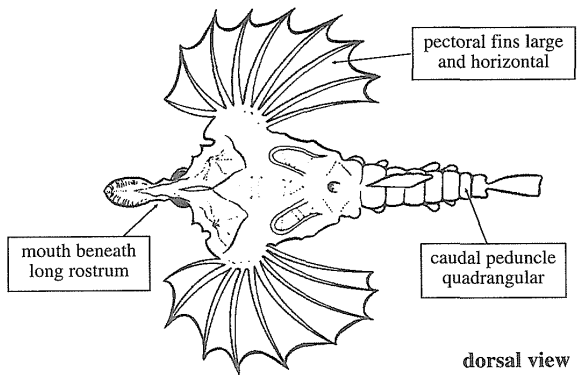
**Order GASTEROSTEIFORMES - Tubesnouts, Seamoths, and Sticklebacks**

Reduced number of branchiostegal rays (1-5); small mouth, often tubular snout; body covered with armour of dermal plates in most members.

**PEGASIDAE**

**Seamoths**

To about 16 cm. Coastal waters; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. At least one species: *Eurypegasus draconis* (Linnaeus, 1766).



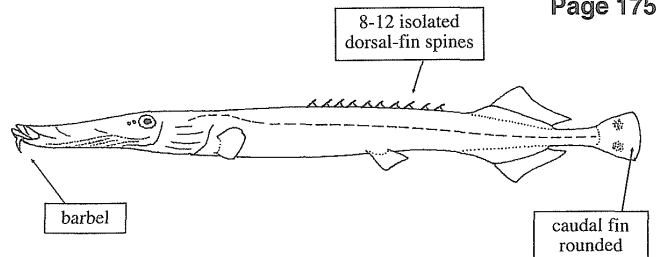
**Order SYNGNATHIFORMES - Pipefishes and allies**

Body elongate, snout tube-like, mouth small; scales sometimes modified to form series of body plates.

**AULOSTOMIDAE**

**Trumpetfishes**

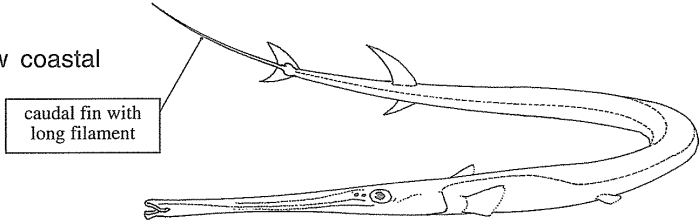
To about 75 cm. Marine, shallow coastal waters. A single species.



**FISTULARIIDAE**

**Cornetfishes, flutemouths**

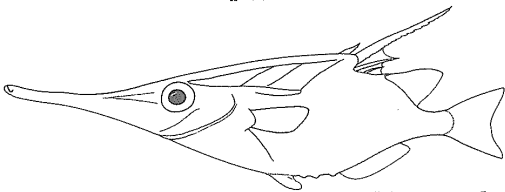
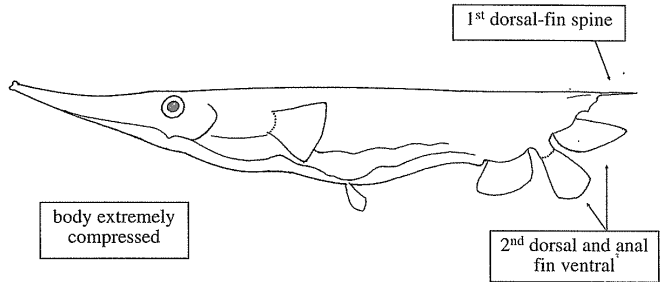
To about 200 cm. Marine, shallow coastal waters. Two species.



**CENTRISCIDAE**

**Snipefishes and shrimpfishes**

To about 20 cm. Coastal marine waters to depths of 80 m. Of little interest to fisheries. Perhaps 3 species, the presence of *Macroramphosus scolopax* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Somalia needs to be confirmed.

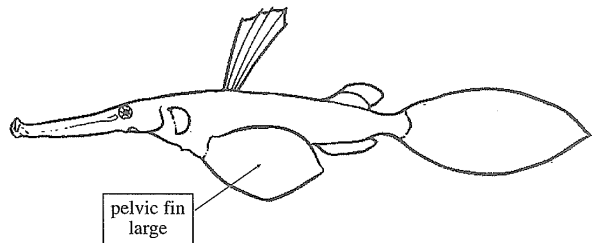


*Macroramphosus*

**SOLENOSTOMIDAE**

**Ghost pipefishes**

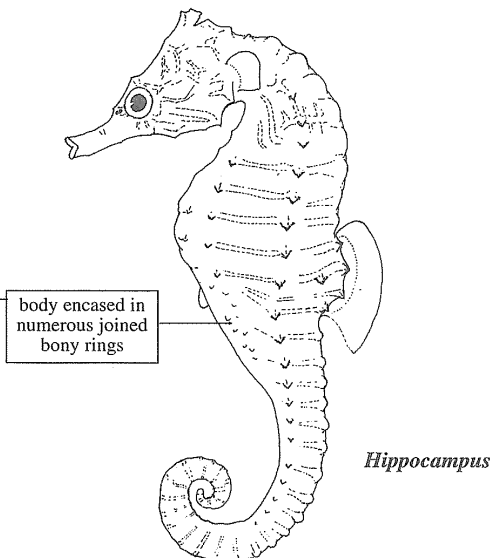
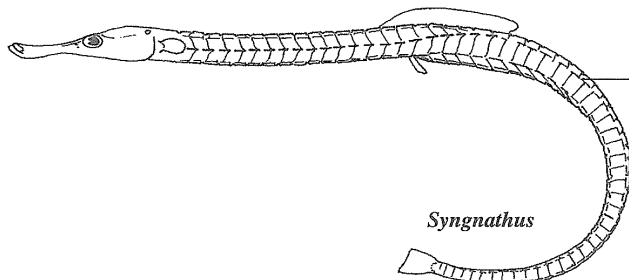
To about 15 cm. Marine, coastal waters. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps 2 species.



**SYNGNATHIDAE**

**Pipefishes and seahorses**

To about 30 cm. Coastal marine waters to depths of about 90 m, littoral pools, lagoons, estuaries, and freshwater; mostly benthic. Of no interest to fisheries, some species of interest to the aquarium trade. Many species.



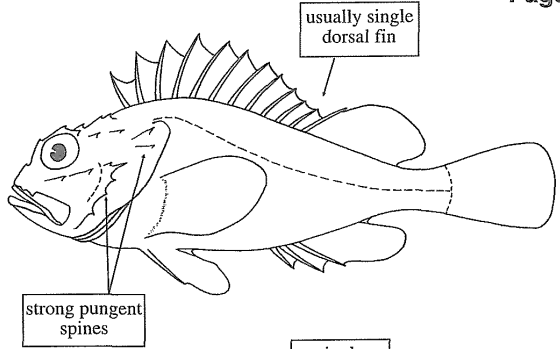
**Order SCORPAENIFORMES - Scorpionfishes and allies**

Cheeks with a bony strut (posterior extension of suborbital bone to preopercle), usually well developed spines on head and prominent spines in dorsal fin; pectoral fins usually rounded, sometimes greatly enlarged; membranes between lower rays often incised; caudal fin rarely forked.

**SCORPAENIDAE**

**Scorpionfishes, rockfishes**

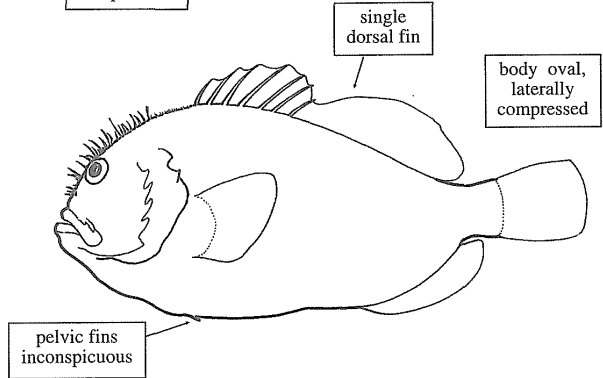
To 40 cm. Marine, from the coastline to depths of 400 m; benthic. Eight species.



**CARACANTHIDAE**

**Velvetfish**

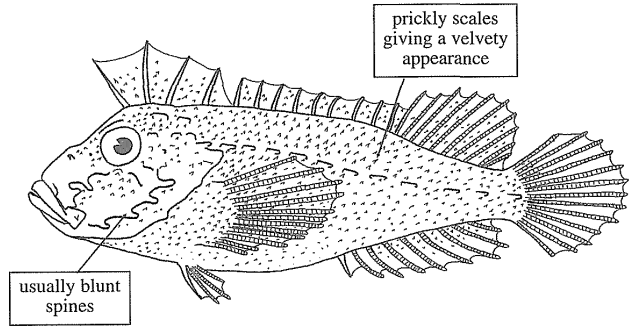
To about 5 cm. Marine, coastal waters; demersal, usually associated with corals. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps 2 species.



**APLOACTINIDAE**

**Little velvetfish**

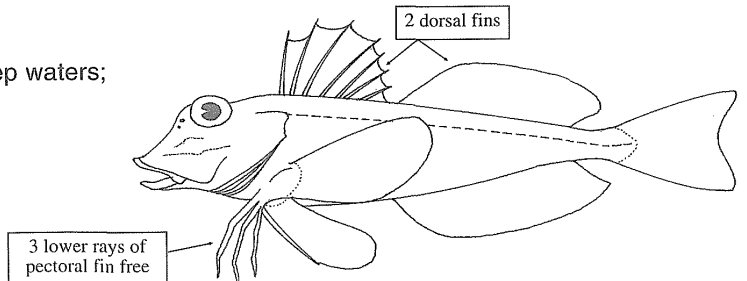
To about 12 cm. Marine, coastal waters. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**TRIGLIDAE**

**Gurnards**

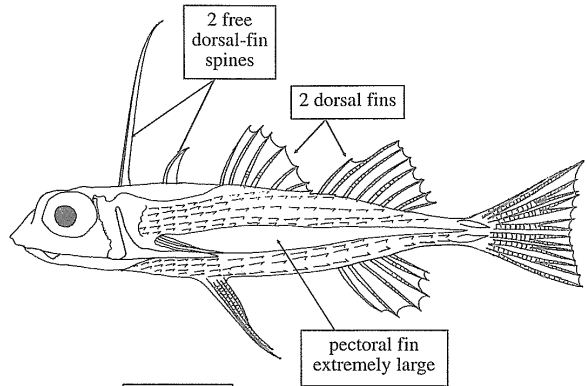
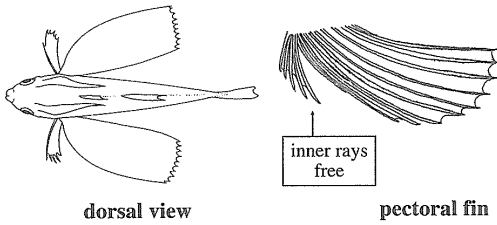
To 16 cm. Marine, coastal and deep waters; benthic. Six species.



**DACTYLOPTERIDAE**

**Flying gurnards**

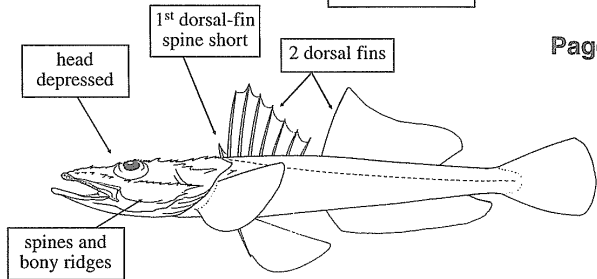
To 40 cm. Marine, shallow coastal waters; benthic. A single species.



**PLATYCEPHALIDAE**

**Spiny flatheads**

To 100 cm. Marine, on sand or mud bottoms down to a depth of about 70 m. Several species, 8 included in the Guide to Species.



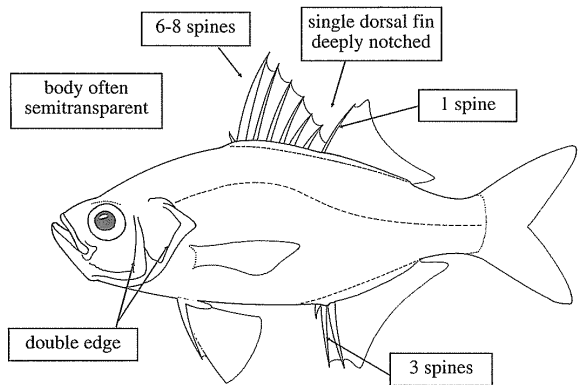
**Order PERCIFORMES: PERCOIDEI - Perch-like Fishes**

Shape extremely variable; either 2 dorsal fins, or 1 dorsal fin with anterior elements being sharp spines; pelvic fins usually with 1 spine and 5 soft rays, placed well forward on ventral surface of body; maxillary bone not included in gape of mouth, but dorsal to the tooth-bearing premaxilla.

**AMBASSIDAE**

**Perchlets, glassfishes**

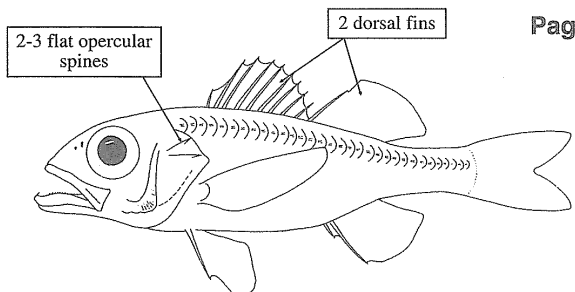
To about 15 cm. Shallow coastal waters and estuarine, entering freshwater. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps 2 species.



**ACROPOMATIDAE**

**Glow-bellies, splitfins**

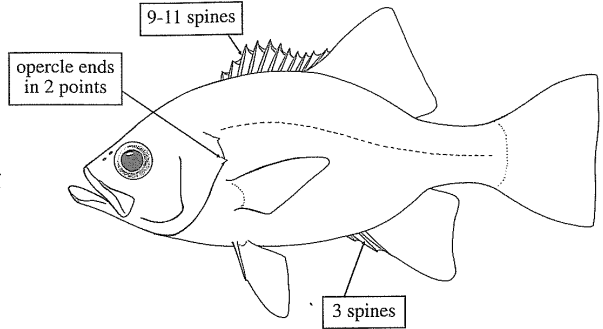
To 30 cm. Marine, from depths of 100 to 600 m; benthic. Three species.



**DINOPERCIDAE**

**Cavebasses**

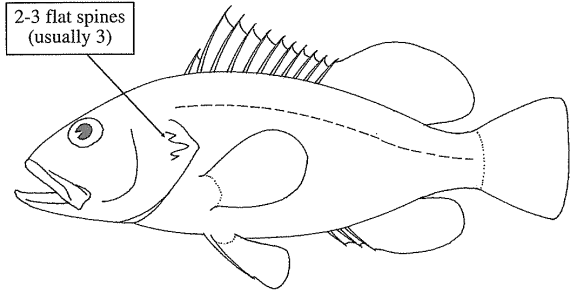
To 65 cm. Marine, on rocky reefs to depths beyond 50 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. A single species: *Dinoperca petersi* (Day, 1875). The presence of this species in Somalia needs to be confirmed.



**SERRANIDAE**

**Groupers, seabasses, rockcods, hinds, combers, coral trouts, lyretails, soapfishes**

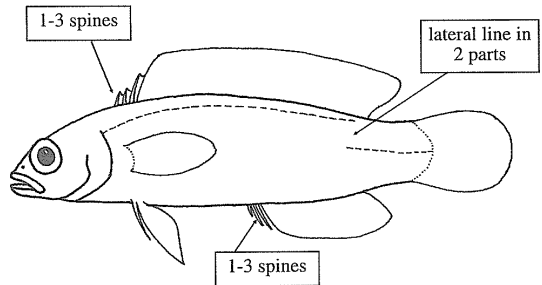
To 250 cm. Marine, from the coastline to depths beyond 380 m; also in lower reaches of estuaries; mostly benthic; a large and diverse family. 41 species.



**PSEUDOCHROMIDAE**

**Dottybacks**

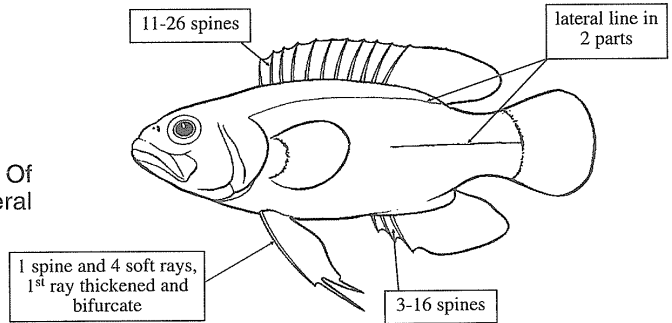
To about 10 cm, but most species less than 5 cm. Shallow coastal waters, especially coral reefs, to depths of about 100 m; benthic. Of interest to the aquarium trade. Numerous species, poorly known.



**PLESIOPIDAE**

**Roundheads**

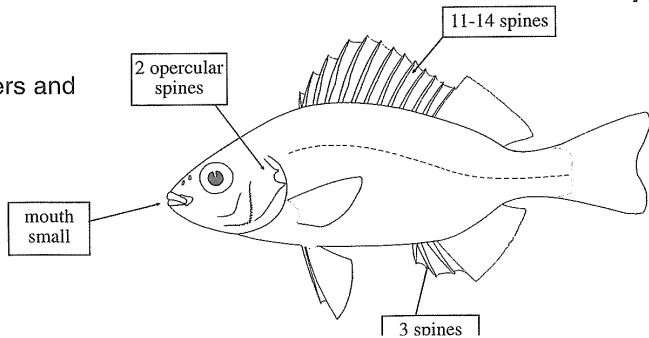
To about 25 cm. Marine coastal waters. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**TERAPONTIDAE**

**Terapon perches, terapons**

To about 30 cm. Marine, coastal waters and estuaries. Four species.

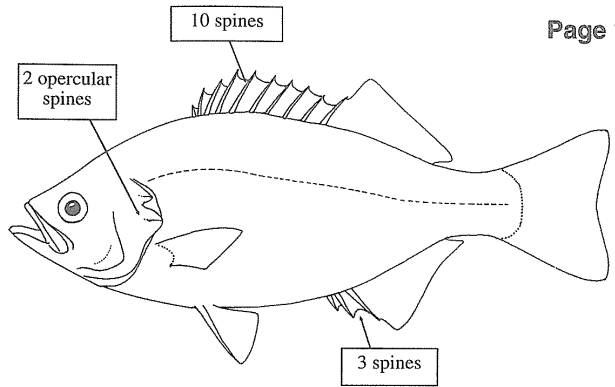




**KUHLIIDAE**

**Flagtails, daras**

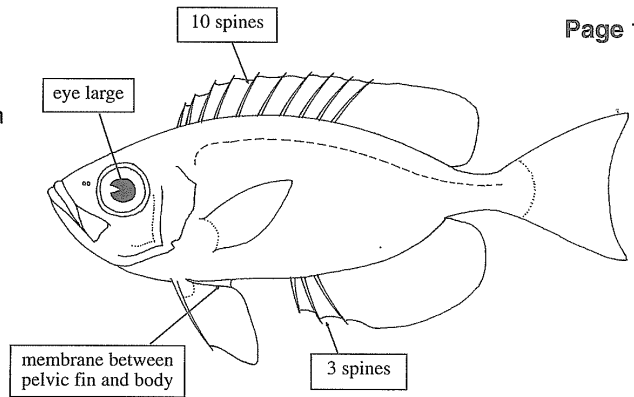
To 40 cm. Marine coastal waters, estuaries, and entering freshwater. Two species.



**PRIACANTHIDAE**

**Bigeyes, glasseyes**

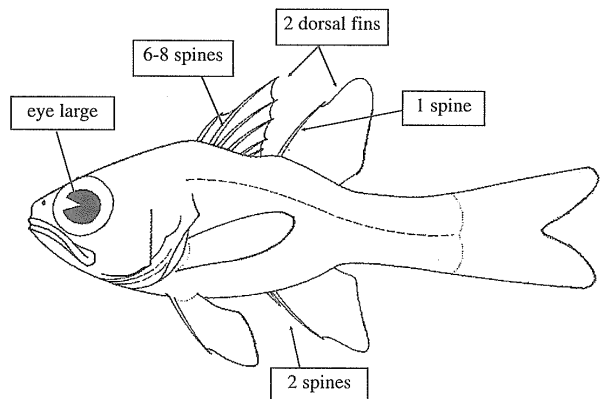
To 50 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 200 m; benthic. Seven species.



**APOGONIDAE**

**Cardinalfishes**

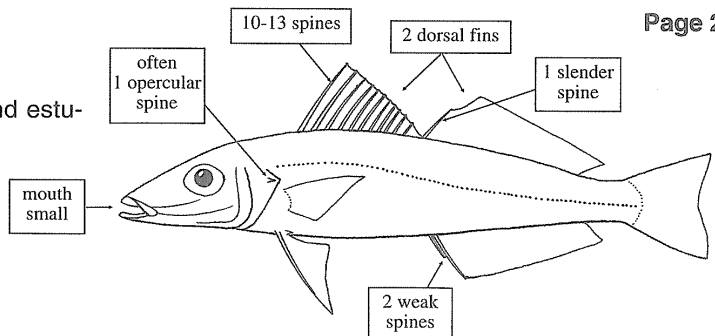
To about 20 cm, but most species smaller than 12 cm. Marine, mostly in shallow water; also some in brackish waters and freshwater; benthic, benthopelagic at night. Of interest mainly to the aquarium trade. Numerous species.



**SILLAGINIDAE**

**Whitings**

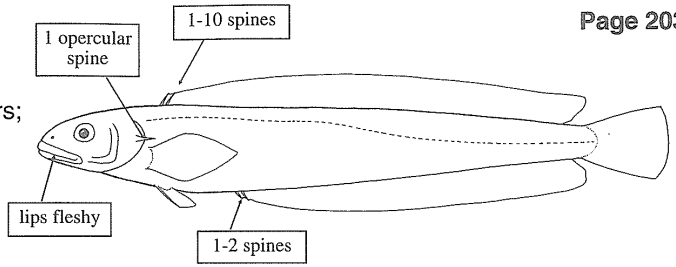
To 35 cm. Marine, coastal waters and estuaries; benthic. Three species.



**MALACANTHIDAE**

**Tilefishes**

To 45 cm. Marine, shallow coastal waters; benthic. Two species.

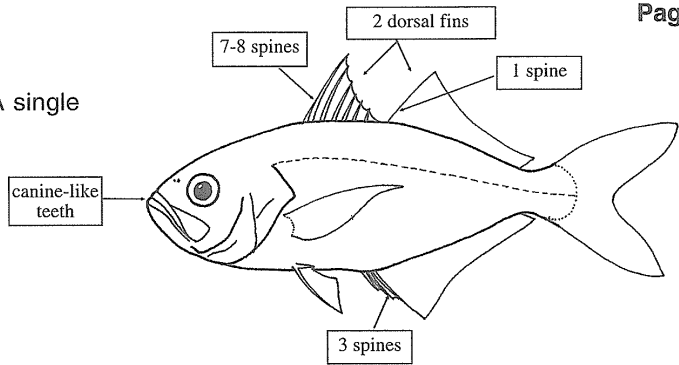


Page 203

**LACTARIDAE**

**False trevallies**

To 40 cm. Marine, coastal waters. A single species.

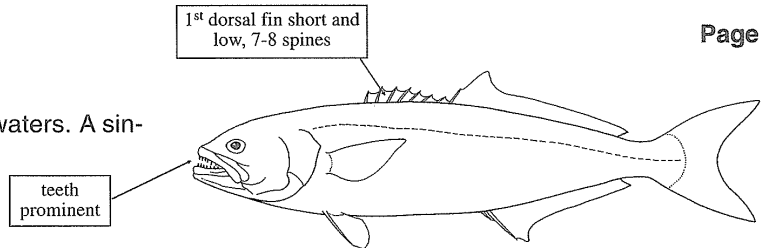


Page 203

**POMATOMIDAE**

**Bluefishes**

To 120 cm. Marine, in coastal waters. A single species.

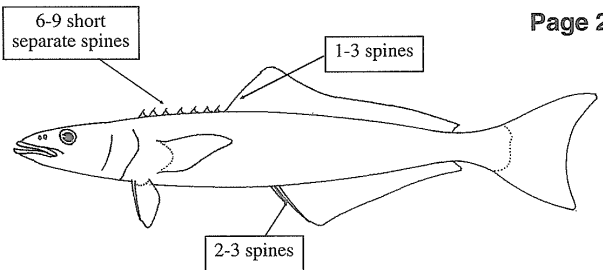


Page 204

**RACHYCENTRIDAE**

**Cobias**

To 200 cm. Marine, pelagic in coastal waters, occasionally in estuaries. A single species.

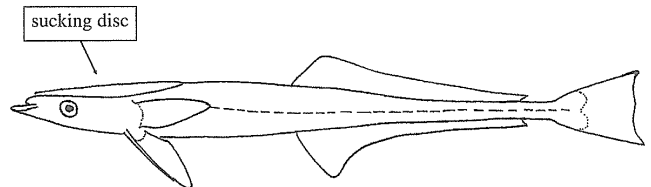


Page 204

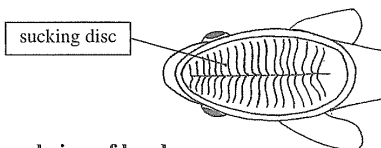
**ECHENEIDAE**

**Remoras, sharksuckers**

To about 90 cm. Marine, pelagic; attaches to larger marine animals such as sharks, turtles, and marine mammals. Several species, 1 included in the Guide to Species.



Page 204

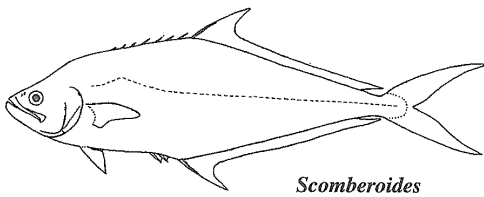
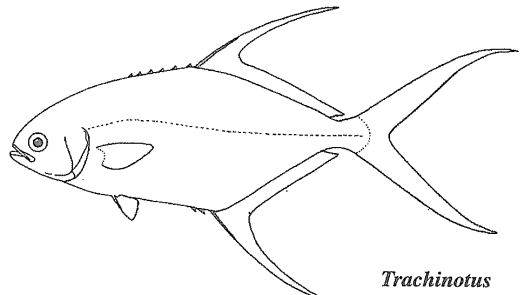
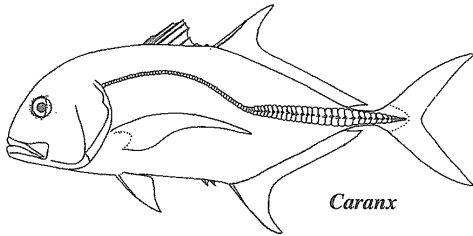
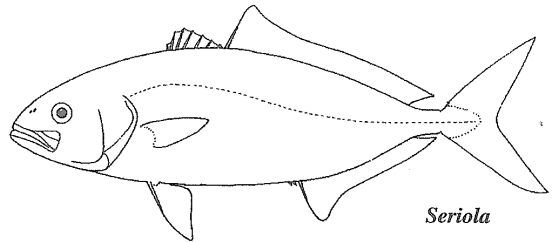
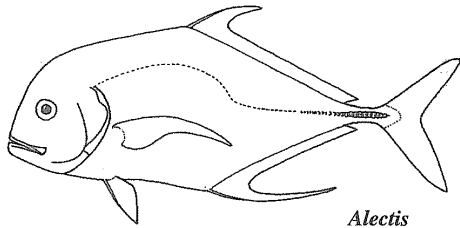
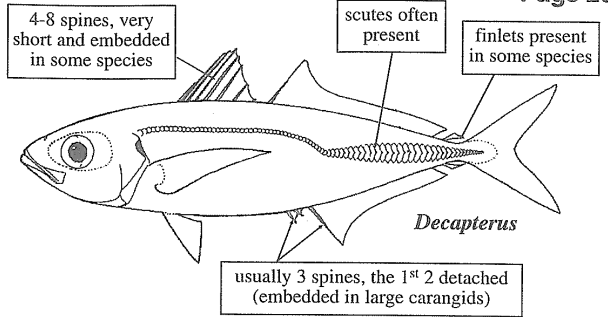


dorsal view of head

**CARANGIDAE**

**Jacks, trevallies, scads, queenfishes, runners, pompanos**

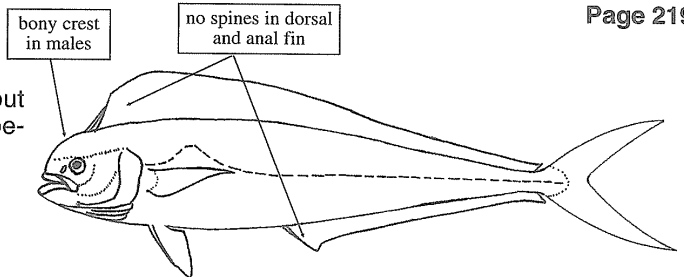
To about 165 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of 200 m; a few species entering brackish waters; benthic, coastal pelagic or oceanic pelagic; a large and diverse family. 42 species.



**CORYPHAENIDAE**

**Dolphinfishes**

To 200 cm. Marine, oceanic pelagic, but sometimes approaching the coast. Two species.

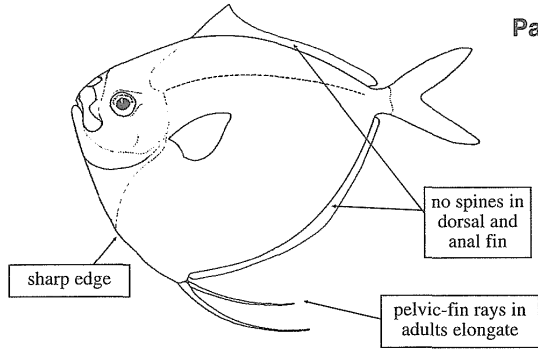


**MENIDAE**

Page 220

**Moonfishes**

To 24 cm. Marine, coastal waters, entering estuaries. A single species.

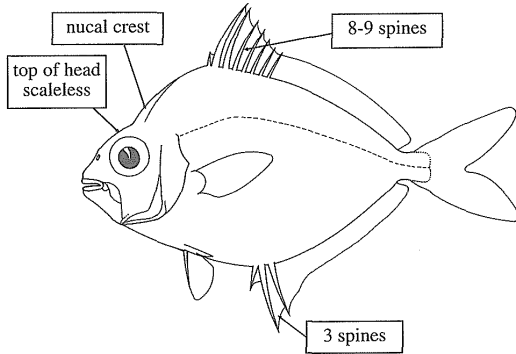
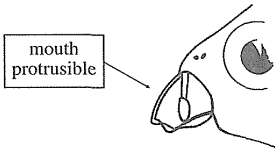


**LEIOGNATHIDAE**

Page 220

**Ponyfishes, slipmouths, toothponies**

To 21 cm. Marine, coastal waters to a depth of 25 m and estuaries; schooling, benthic. A single species.

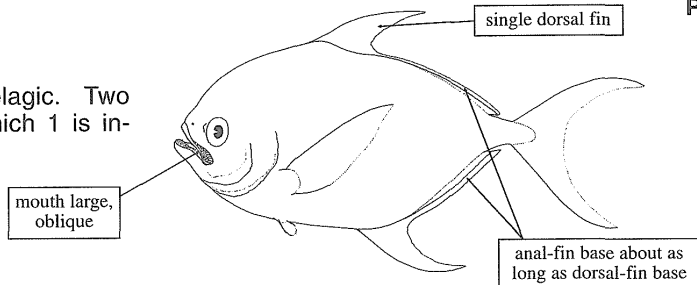


**BRAMIDAE**

Page 224

**Pomfrets, ocean breams**

To about 60 cm. Marine; epipelagic. Two species may be present, of which 1 is included in the Guide to Species.

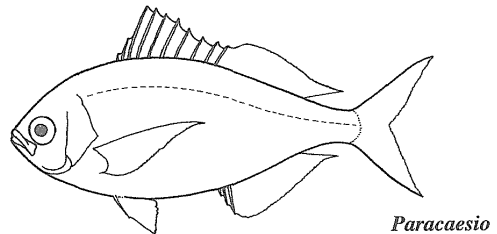
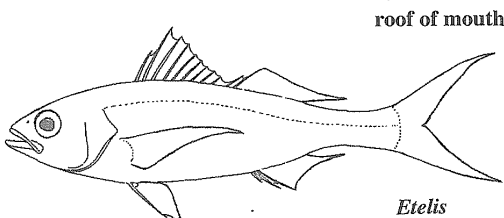
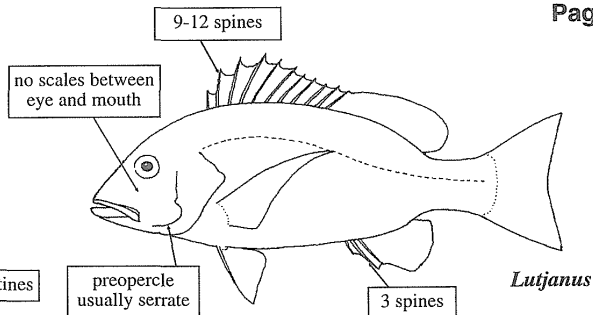
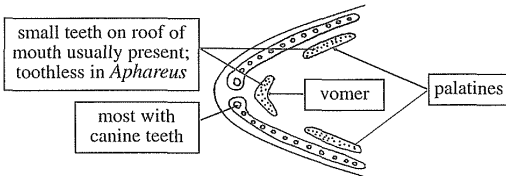


**LUTJANIDAE**

Page 224

**Snappers**

To 120 cm. Mostly marine, from the coastline to a depth of 360 m; some species enter estuaries and even rivers; benthic. 28 species.

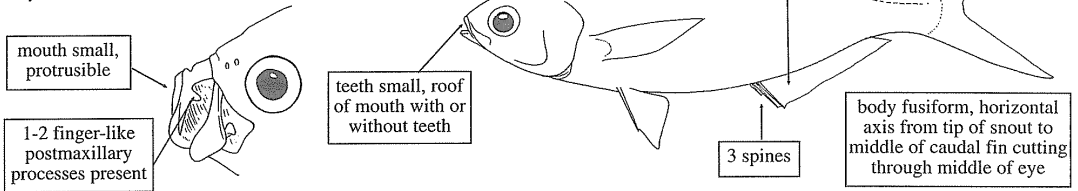


**CAESIONIDAE**

Page 234

**Fusiliers**

To about 40 cm. Marine, coastal waters, associated with reefs, to a depth of about 60 m. Twelve species.

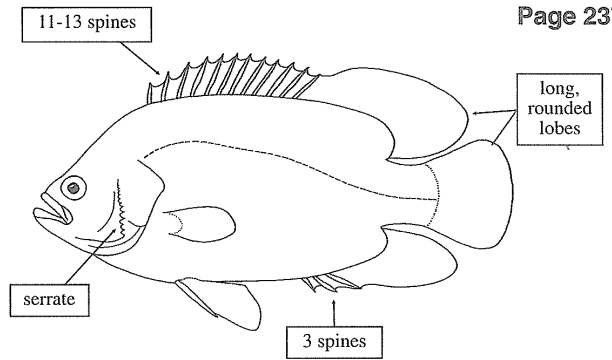


**LOBOTIDAE**

Page 237

**Tripletails**

To 100 cm. Marine, oceanic-pelagic, drifting near surface. A single species.

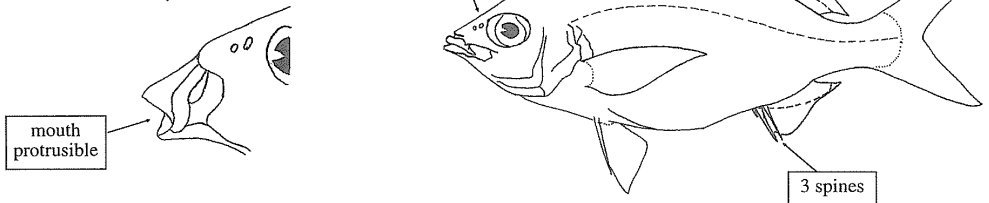


**GERREIDAE**

Page 238

**Silverbiddies, mojarras**

To 35 cm. Coastal marine waters to depths of about 60 m; also estuaries, coastal lagoons and freshwater; benthic. Four species.

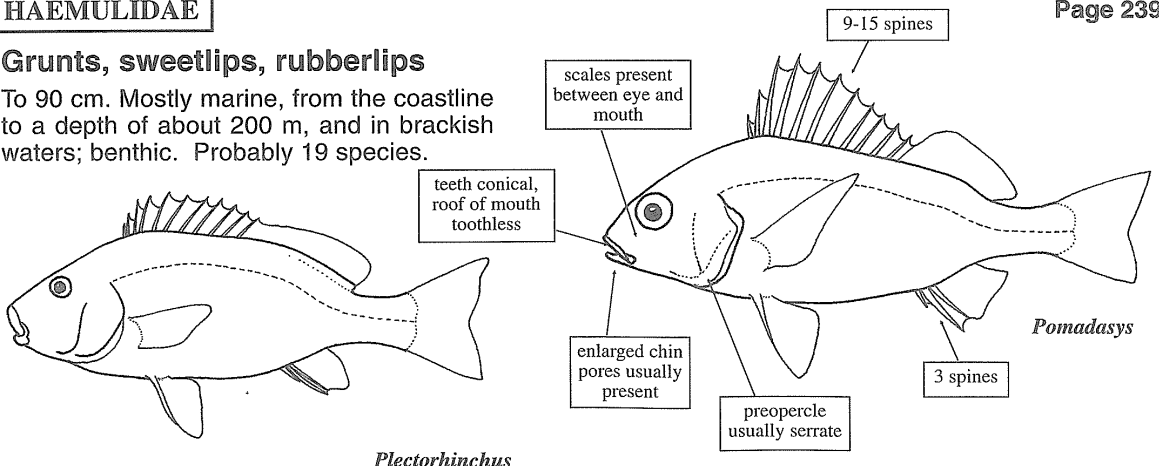


**HAEMULIDAE**

Page 239

**Grunts, sweetlips, rubberlips**

To 90 cm. Mostly marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 200 m, and in brackish waters; benthic. Probably 19 species.

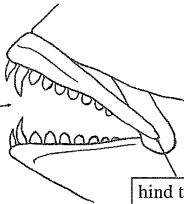


**SPARIDAE**

**Porgies, seabreams, pinfishes**

To 90 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 150 m, occasionally entering estuaries; benthic. Ten species.

teeth canine-like, conical or incisor-like, molars often present, roof of mouth toothless



hind tip of premaxilla overlapping maxilla

no scales between eye and mouth

cheek scaled

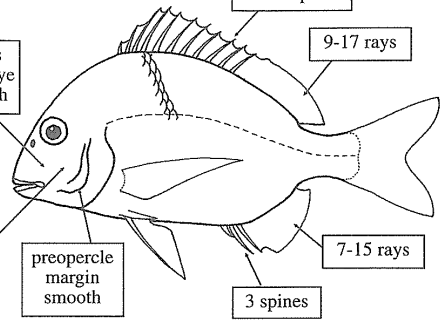
preopercle margin smooth

10-13 spines

9-17 rays

7-15 rays

3 spines



**LETHRINIDAE**

**Emperors, pigface breams**

To 100 cm. Marine, in coastal waters to a depth of about 185 m; benthic. Twelve species.

outer teeth canine-like or conical, molars often present, inner teeth villiform, roof of mouth toothless

no scales between eye and mouth

cheek and preopercle scaleless in *Lethrinus*

preopercle margin smooth

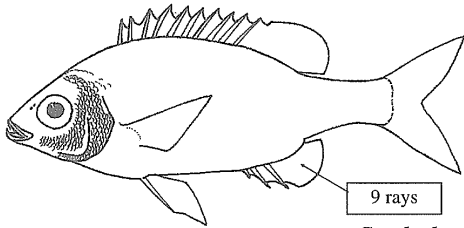
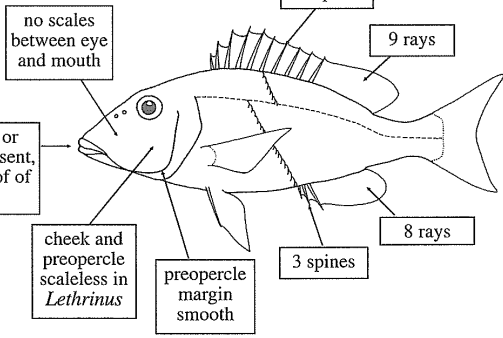
10 spines

9 rays

8 rays

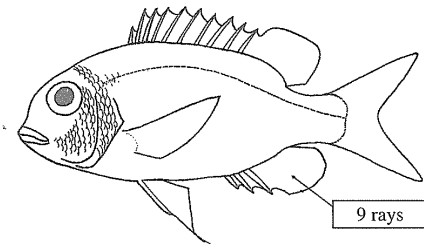
3 spines

*Lethrinus*



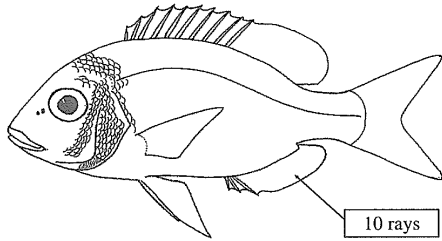
9 rays

*Gnathodentex*



9 rays

*Monotaxis*



10 rays

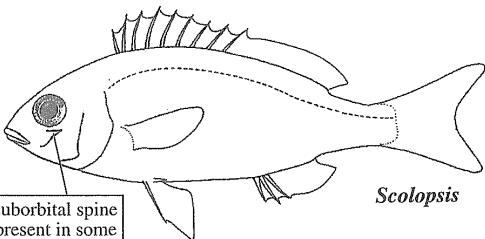
*Gymnocranius*

**NEMIPTERIDAE**

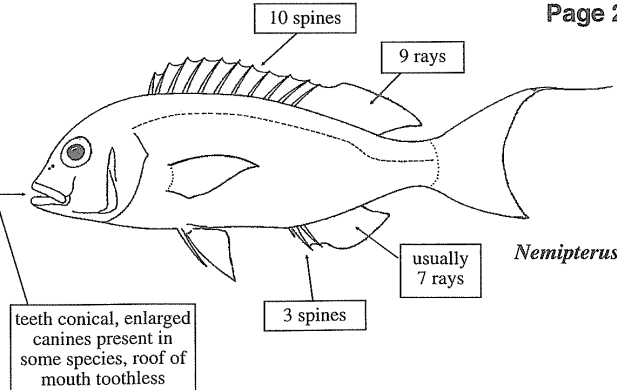
**Threadfin breams, monocle breams, dwarf monocle breams**

To 30 cm. Marine, coastal waters to depths of about 400 m; benthic. Eleven species.

suborbital spine present in some species



*Scolopsis*



10 spines

9 rays

usually 7 rays

3 spines

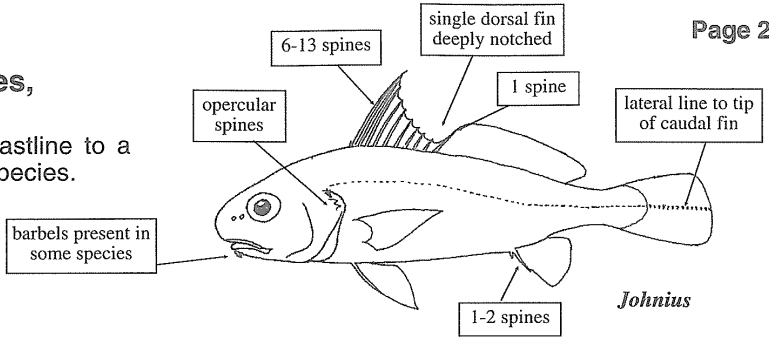
teeth conical, enlarged canines present in some species, roof of mouth toothless

*Nemipterus*

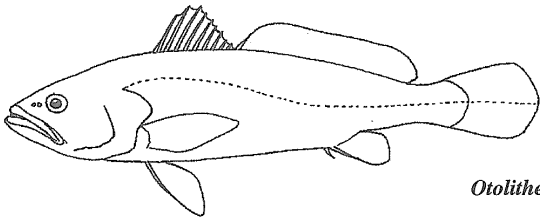
**SCIAENIDAE**

**Croakers, drums, meagres, weakfishes**

To 80 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of 100 m; benthic. Four species.



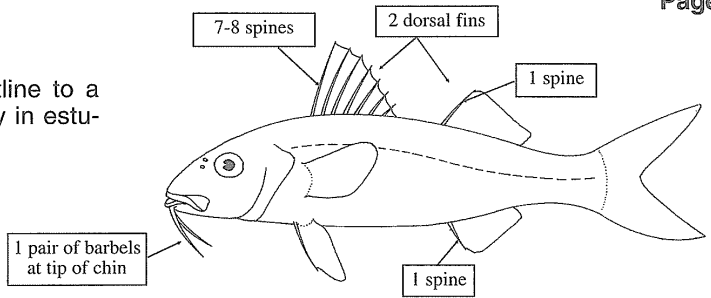
*Johnius*



**MULLIDAE**

**Goatfishes, red mullets**

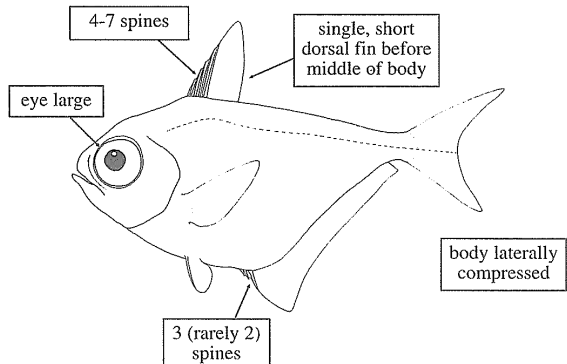
To 50 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 100 m; occasionally in estuaries; benthic. 17 species.



**PEMPHERIDIDAE**

**Sweepers**

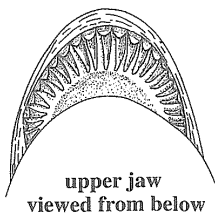
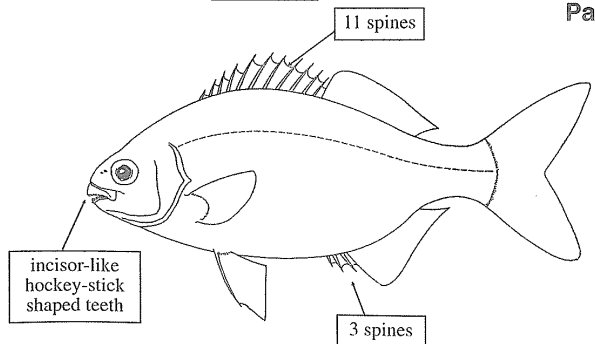
To about 17 cm. Marine, coastal waters. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



**KYPHOSIDAE**

**Seachubs, rudderfishes, stonebreams**

To 75 cm. Marine, reef areas; benthic. Three species.

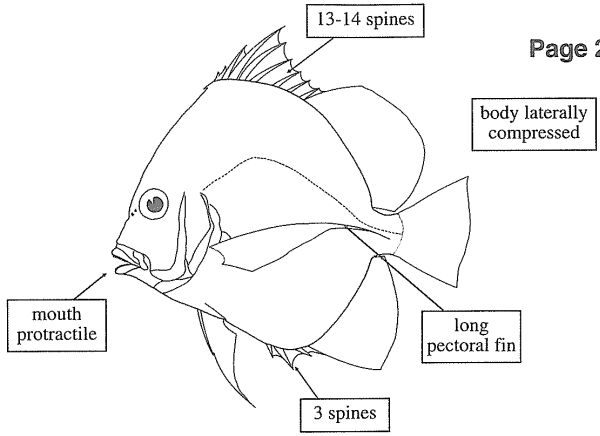


**DREPANIDAE**

**Sicklefishes**

To 40 cm. Marine, mud banks, to a depth of 40 m; benthic. Two species.

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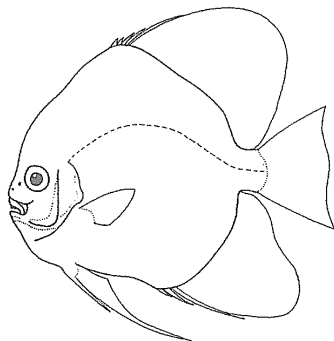


**EPHIPPIDAE**

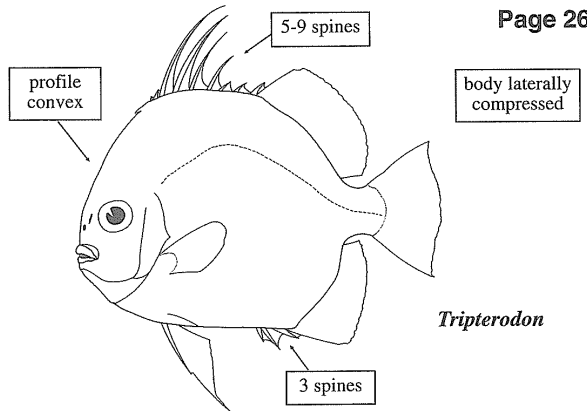
**Spadefishes, batfishes**

To 75 cm. Marine, shallow waters on mud banks; benthic. Four species.

Page 265



*Platax*



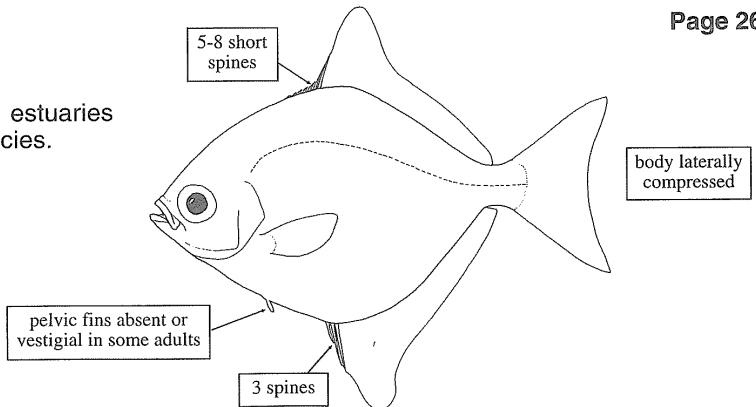
*Tripterodon*

**MONODACTYLIDAE**

**Moonies**

To 25 cm. Marine, coastal waters, estuaries and entering freshwater. Two species.

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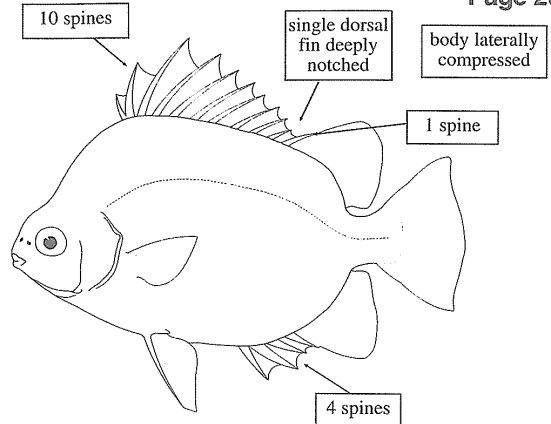




**SCATOPHAGIDAE**

**Scats**

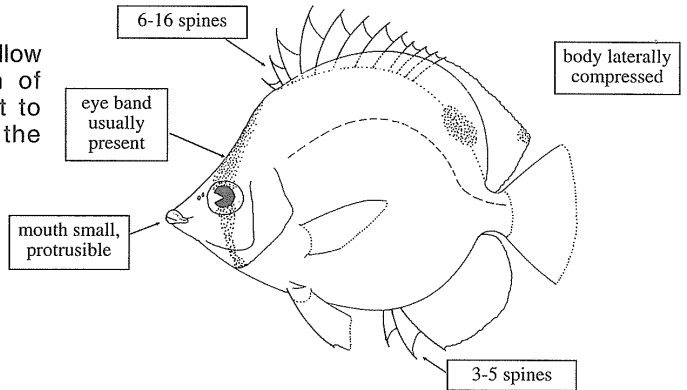
To about 30 cm. Marine and estuarine. A single species.



**CHAETODONTIDAE**

**Butterflyfishes**

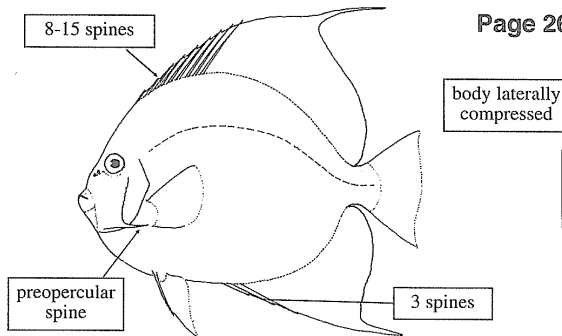
To about 20 cm. Marine, usually in shallow waters but occasionally to a depth of about 100 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries; some species of interest to the aquarium trade. Several species.



**POMACANTHIDAE**

**Angelfishes**

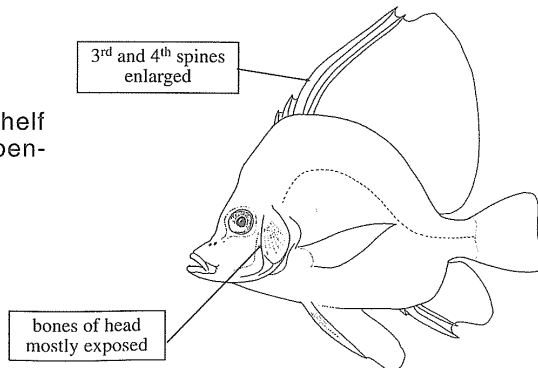
To 50 cm. Marine, from the coastline to 70 m depth; benthic. Several species, 8 included in the Guide to Species.



**PENTACEROTIDAE**

**Armourheads**

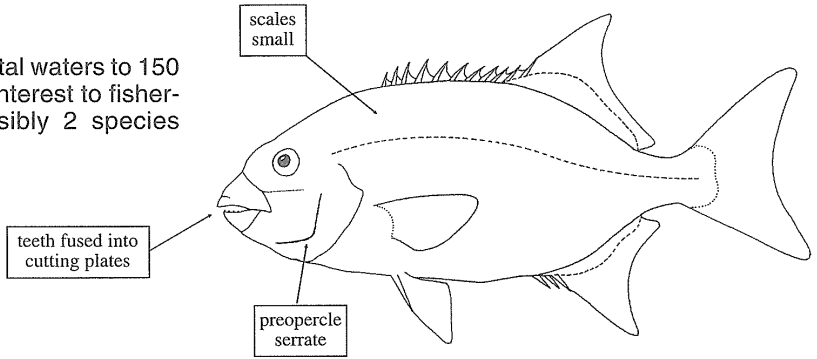
To 35 cm. Marine, on continental shelf and slope at depths of about 400 m; benthic. A single species.



**OPLEGNATHIDAE**

**Knifejaws**

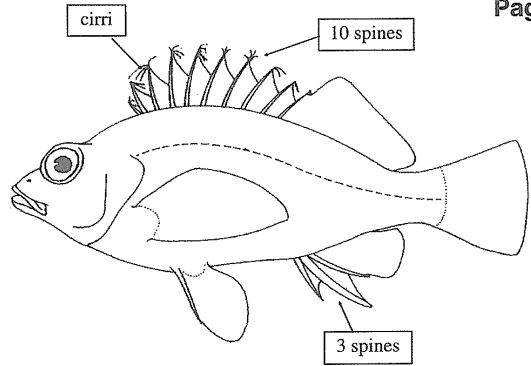
To 75 cm. Marine, from coastal waters to 150 m depth, benthic. Of some interest to fisheries. The presence of possibly 2 species needs to be confirmed.



**CIRRHITIDAE**

**Hawkfishes, curleyfins**

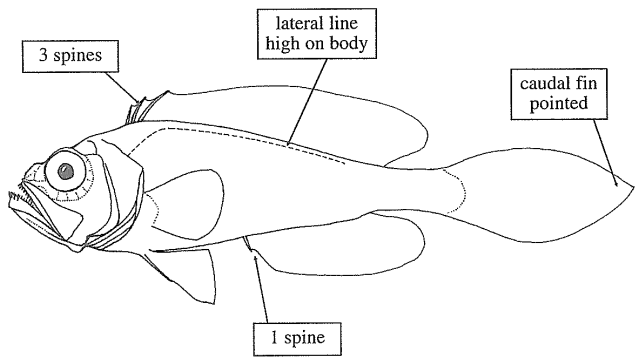
To 30 cm. Marine, in shallow waters to depths of 120 m; benthic. Smaller species of some interest to the aquarium trade. Several species, 2 included in the Guide to Species.



**CEPOLIDAE**

**Bandfishes**

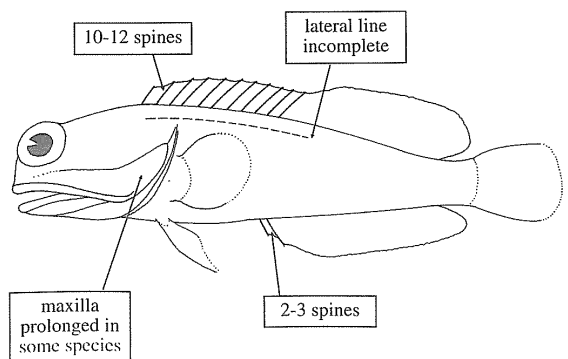
To about 52 cm. Marine, from shallow water to a depth of about 475 m; benthic. Of little interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**OPISTOGNATHIDAE**

**Jawfishes**

To about 35 cm, but most species smaller than 11 cm. Marine, in shallow water to depths of 200 m; benthic on sandy bottoms. Of little interest to fisheries. Several species.



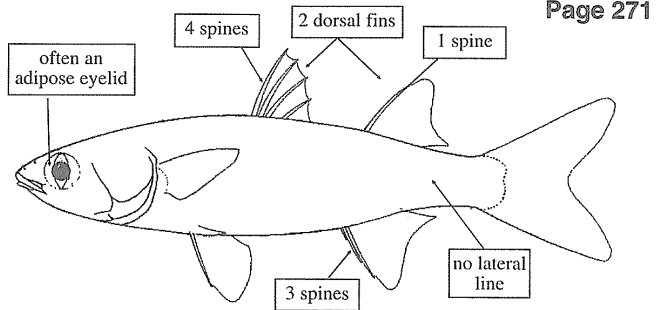
**Order PERCIFORMES: MUGILOIDEI - Mulletts**

Body elongate; head flattened; mouth small; pectoral fins high on body; 2 dorsal fins; sides silvery; no lateral line.

**MUGILIDAE**

**Mulletts**

To 90 cm. Coastal marine, estuaries and freshwater, at shallow depths (less than 20 m); mostly benthic in food habits, but usually swim near the surface. Eleven species.



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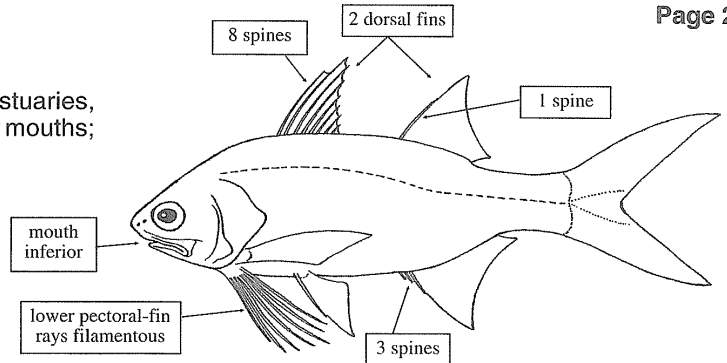
**Order PERCIFORMES: POLYNEMOIDEI - Threadfins**

Snout conical, projecting beyond mouth; pectoral fins in 2 parts, the lower with 3 or more free filamentous rays.

**POLYNEMIDAE**

**Threadfins**

To 45 cm. Marine coastal waters, estuaries, coastal lagoons and freshwater river mouths; benthic. Two species.



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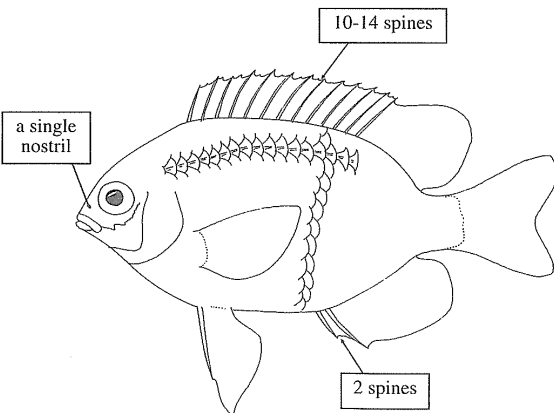
**Order PERCIFORMES: LABROIDEI - Wrasses and allies**

Well developed teeth, coalesced into plates in the Scaridae; scales usually large and cycloid (smooth); body compressed; usually colourful species.

**POMACENTRIDAE**

**Damselfishes**

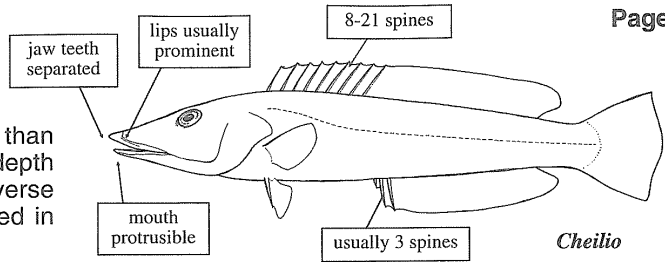
To about 25 cm, but most species smaller than 5 cm. Marine, coastal waters usually in depths less than 20 m; also in estuaries; mostly benthic; some species of interest to the aquarium trade. Several species.



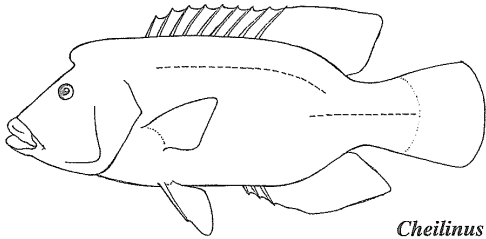
**LABRIDAE**

**Wrasses, hogfishes, coris, tuskfishes**

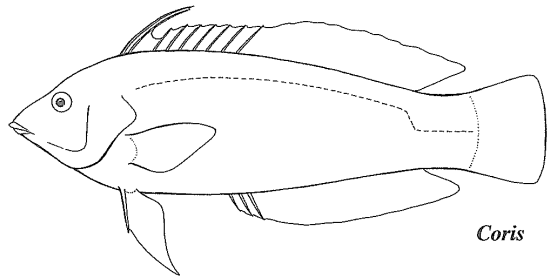
To about 200 cm (but most species less than 25 cm). Marine from the coastline to a depth of about 160 m; benthic. A large and diverse group, of which 62 species are included in the Guide to Species.



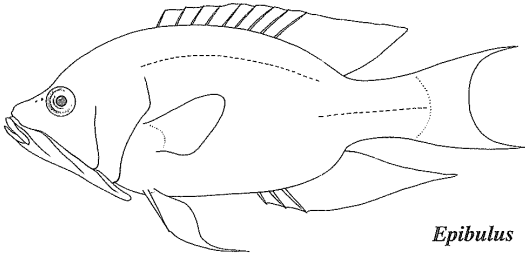
*Cheilio*



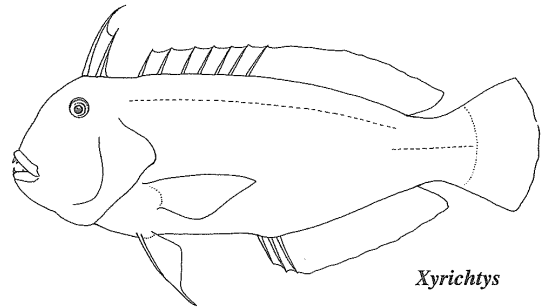
*Cheilinus*



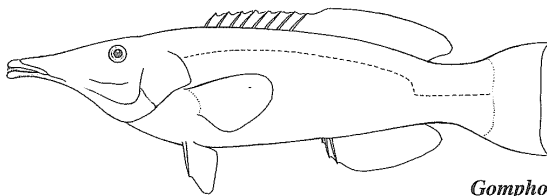
*Coris*



*Epibulus*



*Xyrichtys*

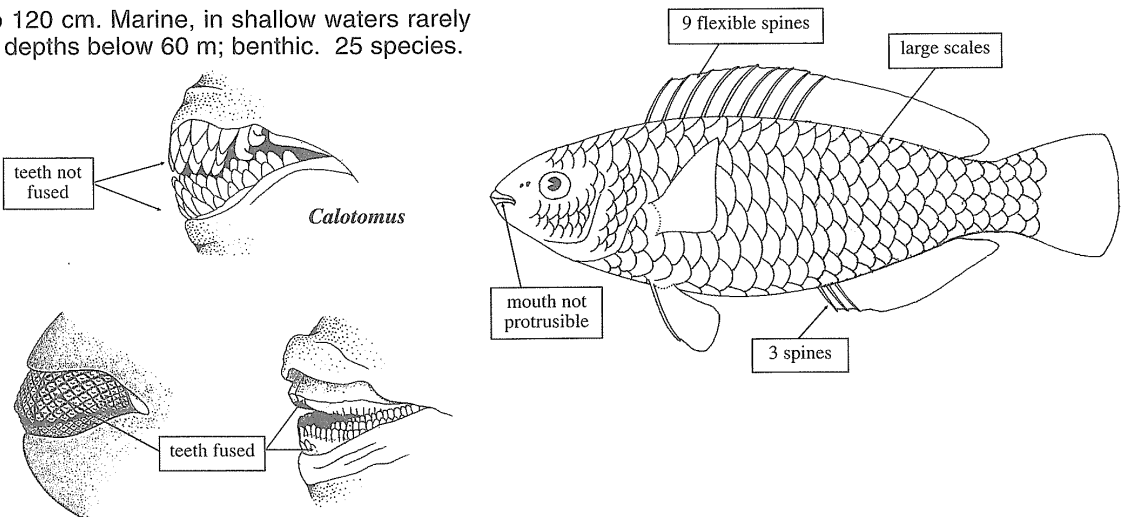


*Gomphosus*

**SCARIDAE**

**Parrotfishes**

To 120 cm. Marine, in shallow waters rarely in depths below 60 m; benthic. 25 species.



*Calotomus*

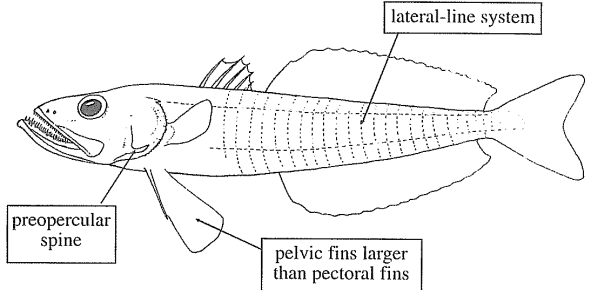
**Order PERCIFORMES: TRACHINOIDEI - Weeverfishes and allies**

A diverse assemblage of families difficult to characterize as a group; this suborder must be regarded as provisional.

**CHAMPSODONTIDAE**

**Gapers**

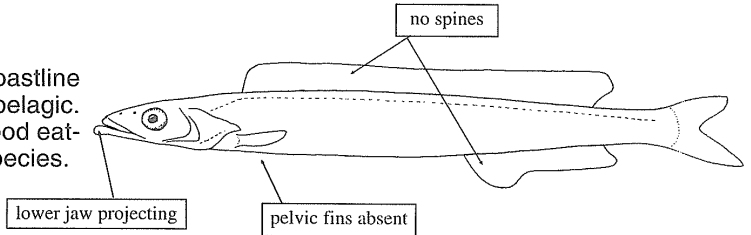
To about 20 cm. Marine, from surface at night to a depth of 500 m, mesopelagic. Of little interest to fisheries. Several species.



**AMMODYTIDAE**

**Sandlances**

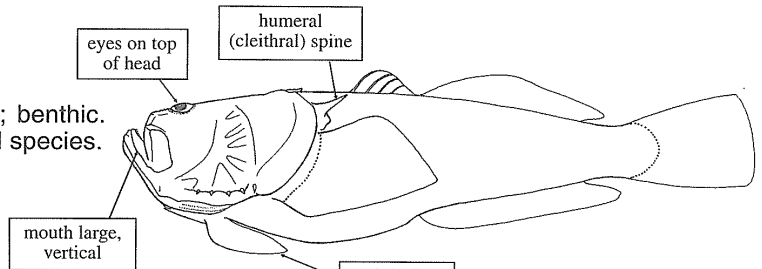
To about 30 cm. Marine; from the coastline to a depth of about 50 m; benthic or pelagic. Too small to be of importance, but good eating; used as bait. Perhaps several species.



**URANOSCOPIDAE**

**Stargazers**

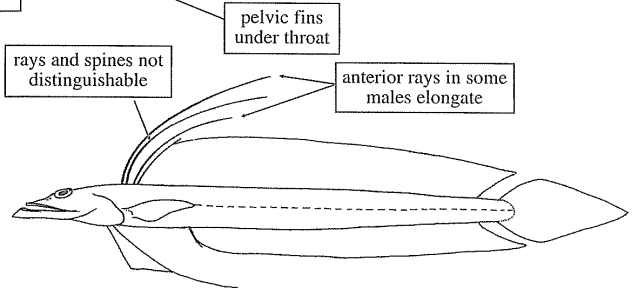
To about 60 cm. Mainly estuarine; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



**TRICHONOTIDAE**

**Sand eels**

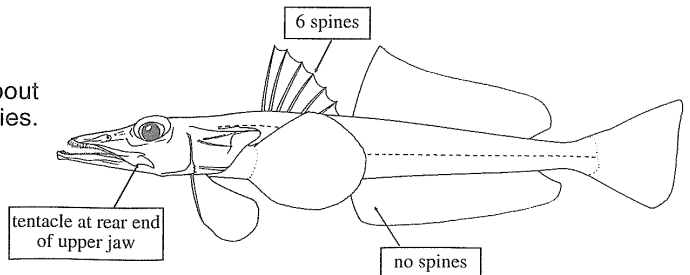
To about 18 cm. Marine, coastal waters. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.



**PERCOPHIDAE**

**Duckbills**

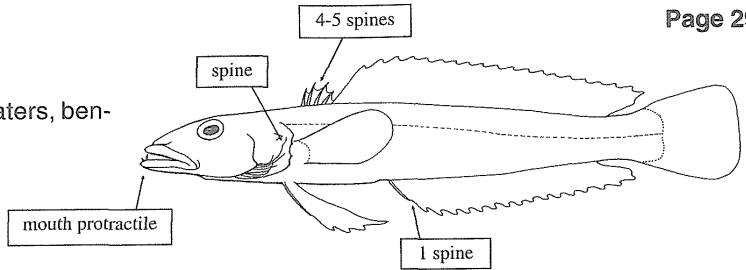
To about 25 cm. Marine, from depths of about 250 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Probably several species.



**PINGUIPEDIDAE**

**Grubfishes**

To about 30 cm. Marine, coastal waters, benthic. Five species.



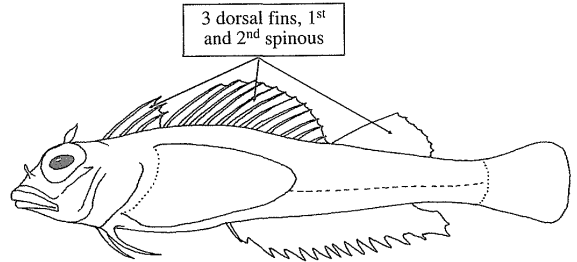
**Order PERCIFORMES: BLENNIOIDEI - Blennies and allies**

Dorsal fin long; pelvic fins reduced, with 1 hidden spine and 2 to 4 soft rays, located ahead of pectoral fins; tentacles often present on head; 2 anal-fin spines (one of them often difficult to see).

**TRIPTERYGIIDAE**

**Triplefins**

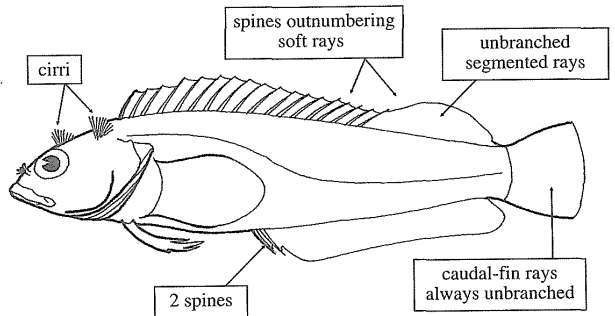
To about 6 cm. Marine, in shallow coastal waters; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



**CLINIDAE**

**Clinids**

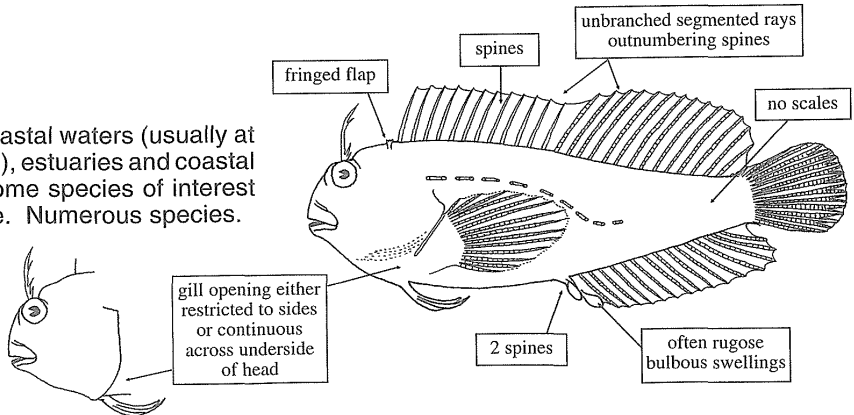
To about 20 cm. Marine, usually in shallow water; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Numerous species.



**BLENNIIDAE**

**Blennies**

To 20 cm; marine. Coastal waters (usually at depths less than 20 m), estuaries and coastal lagoons; benthic. Some species of interest to the aquarium trade. Numerous species.



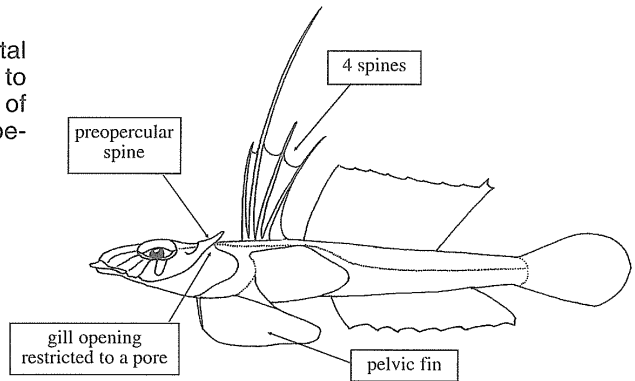
**Order PERCIFORMES: CALLIONYMOIDEI - Dragonets**

A sharp preopercular spine; a small gill opening on upper part of head; size usually less than 25 cm.

**CALLIONYMIDAE**

**Dragonets**

To about 25 cm. Marine, mainly from coastal reefs; benthic. Some species of interest to the aquarium trade. Numerous species, of which one is included in the Guide to Species.



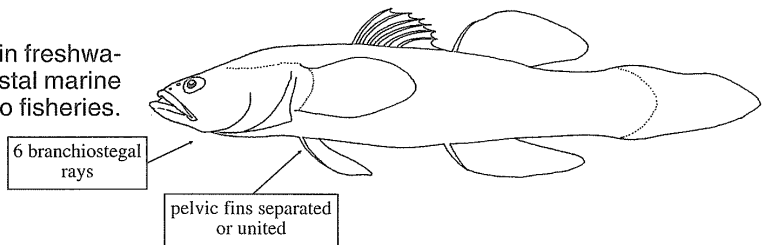
**Order PERCIFORMES: GOBIOIDEI - Gobies and allies**

Usually small fishes with pelvic fins either very close together or united into a single cup-like structure.

**ELEOTRIDIDAE**

**Gudgeons**

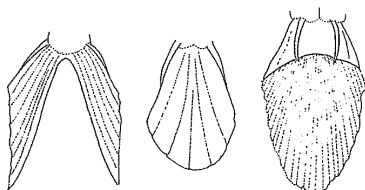
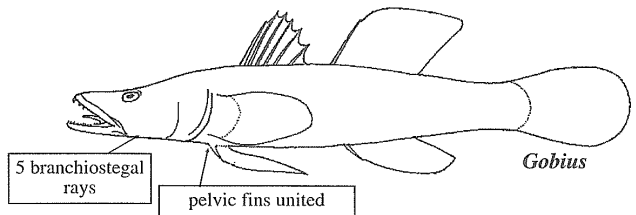
To about 30 cm. Adults generally in freshwater, but entering brackish and coastal marine waters; benthic. Of little interest to fisheries. Several species.



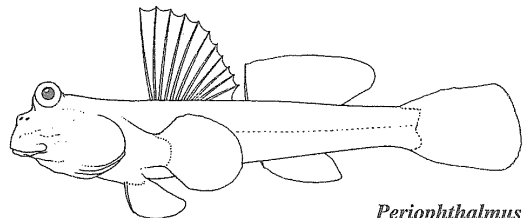
**GOBIIDAE**

**Gobies**

To about 30 cm, but most species less than 10 cm. Marine and brackish waters and a few in freshwaters; usually in shallow water, but a few species to a depth of below 150 m; benthic. The largest family of fishes; of no interest to fisheries, but some species of interest to the aquarium trade. Numerous species.



pelvic fins united



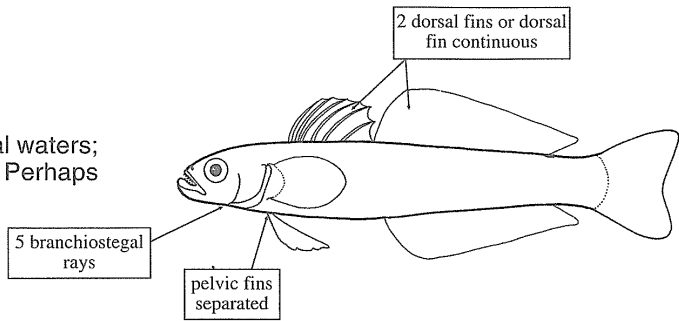
*Periophthalmus*



**MICRODESMIIDAE**

**Wormfishes and dartfishes**

To 28 cm. Marine, in shallow coastal waters; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Perhaps several species.

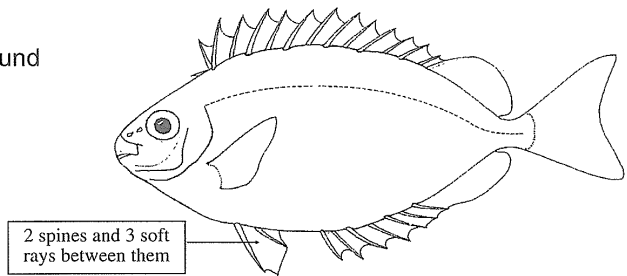


**Order PERCIFORMES: ACANTHUROIDEI - Surgeonfishes**  
 Small scales; one or more strong, moveable, forward-projecting spine(s) mid-laterally on caudal peduncle.

**SIGANIDAE**

**Rabbitfish**

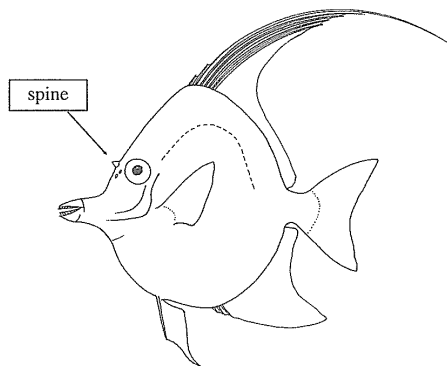
To 45 cm. Marine, coastal waters around reefs. Five species.



**ZANCLIDAE**

**Moorish idol**

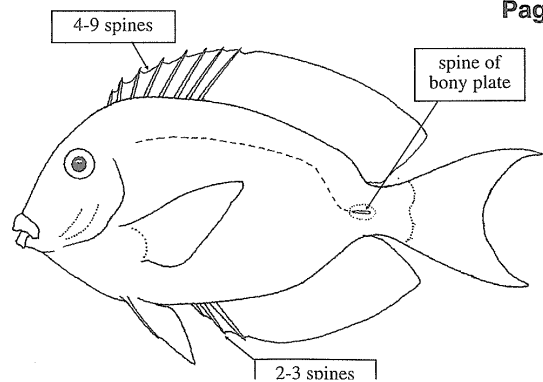
To about 20 cm. Marine, coral reefs. Of no interest to fisheries. A single species: *Zanclus cornutus* (Linnaeus, 1758).



**ACANTHURIDAE**

**Surgeonfishes, tangs, unicornfishes**

To about 70 cm. Marine, in shallow waters, associated with reefs, usually at a depth of less than 50 m; benthic. 27 species.





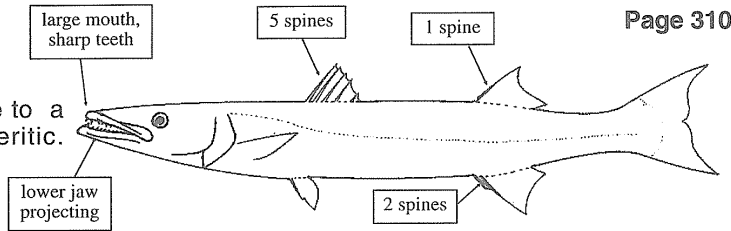
**Order PERCIFORMES: SPHYRAENOIDEI - Barracudas**

Body elongate, generally silvery on sides; head and snout both very long; teeth strong; 2 dorsal fins.

**SPHYRAENIDAE**

**Barracudas**

To 180 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 100 m; pelagic neritic. Eight species.



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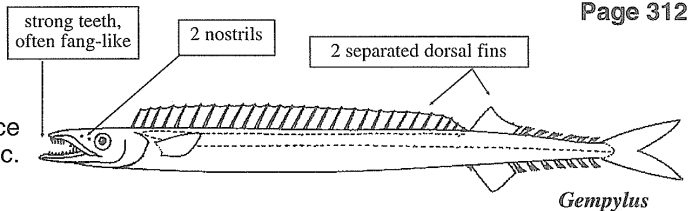
**Order PERCIFORMES: SCOMBROIDEI - Tunas and allies**

Finlets usually present at posterior ends of dorsal and anal fins; 1 to 3 keels on either side of caudal peduncle (except in most species of Gempylidae).

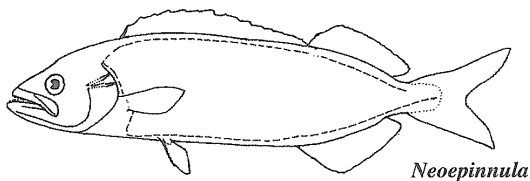
**GEMPYLIDAE**

**Snake mackerels, barracoutas, escolars, oilfishes**

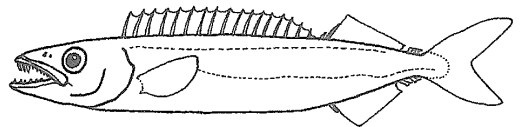
To about 200 cm. Marine, from the surface (at night) to depths below 600 m; pelagic. Seven species.



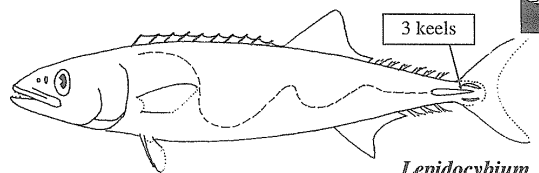
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*Neoepinnula*



*Rexea*



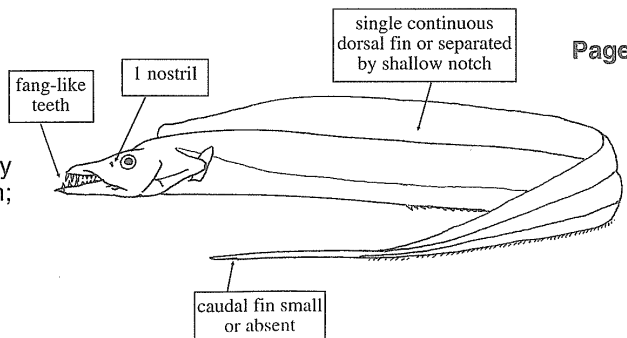
*Lepidocybium*



**TRICHIURIDAE**

**Cutlassfishes, hairtailfishes, frostfishes, scabbardfishes**

To 120 cm. Marine, from the surface (mainly at night) to below depths of about 1000 m; benthic and pelagic. Five species.

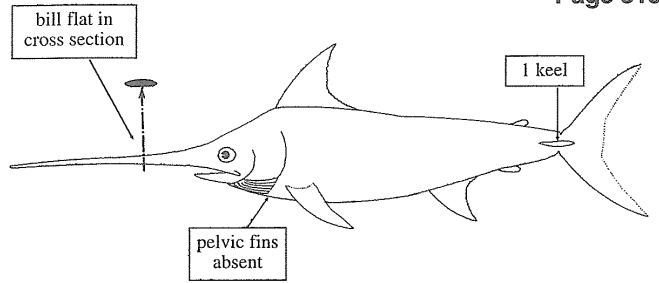


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**XIPHIIDAE**

**Swordfishes**

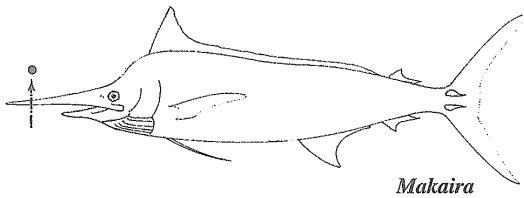
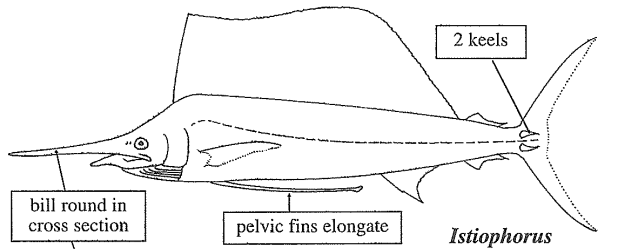
To 445 cm. Marine, from surface waters to depths below 800 m; pelagic. A single species.



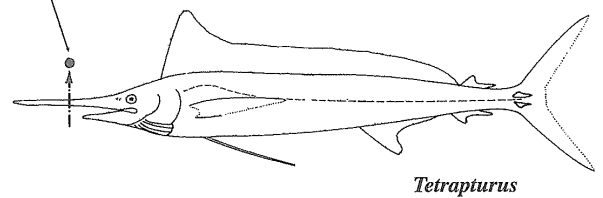
**ISTIOPHORIDAE**

**Marlins, sailfishes, spearfishes**

To 460 cm. Marine, pelagic oceanic, usually above the thermocline. Five species.



*Makaira*

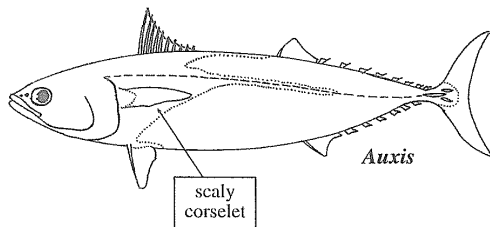
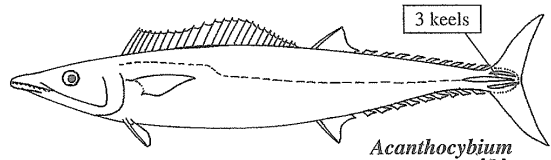


*Tetrapturus*

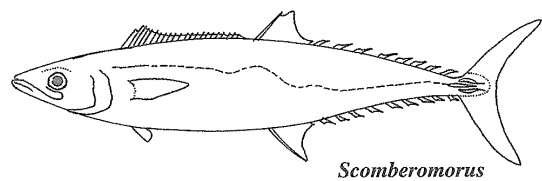
**SCOMBRIDAE**

**Albacores, bonitos, kawakawas, mackerels, seerfishes, tunas, wahoos**

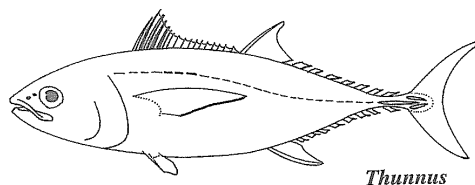
To 250 cm. Marine, from surface waters to depths below 200 m; pelagic. 15 species.



*Auxis*



*Scomberomorus*



*Thunnus*

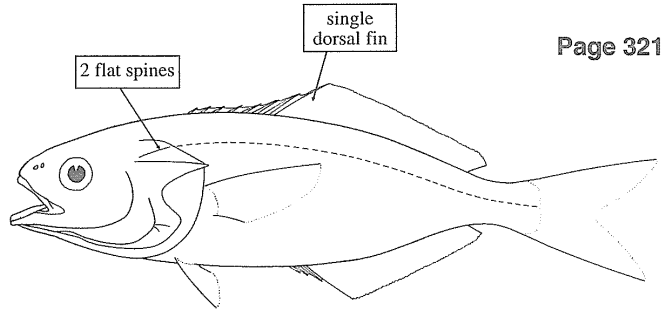
**Order PERCIFORMES: STROMATOIDEI - Harvestfishes and allies**

Shape variable; snout blunt and thick; toothed saccular outgrowths (pharyngeal sacs) present in the gullet immediately behind the last gill arch; teeth small, approximately uniserial.

**CENTROLOPHIDAE**

**Ruffs**

To 20 cm. Marine; between depths of 250 and 300 m; mesopelagic to demersal. Numerous species, of which one is included in the Guide to Species.

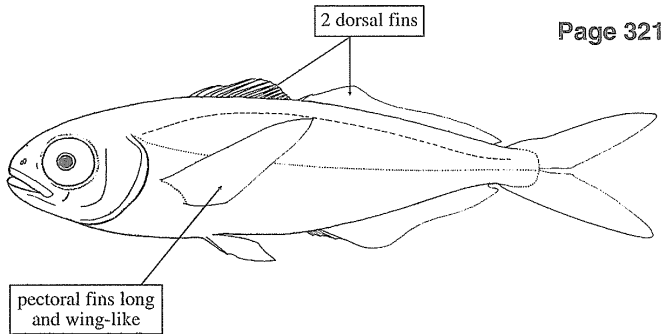


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**NOMEIDAE**

**Man-of-war fishes, driftfishes**

To 18 cm. Marine; deeper water of the continental slope; epi- to mesopelagic. Perhaps 3 species, 2 included in the Guide to Species.

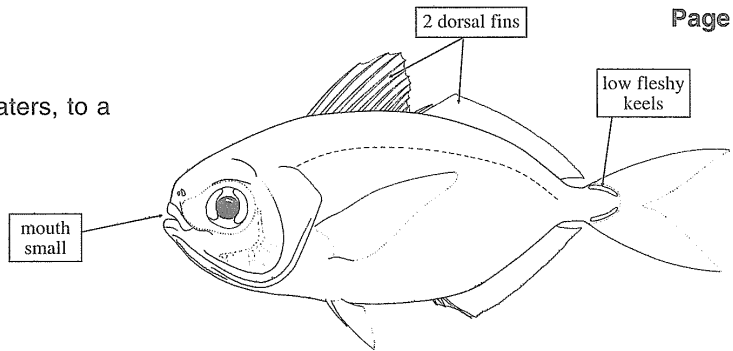


Page 321

**ARIOMMATIDAE**

**Ariommas, driftfishes**

To 250 cm. Marine; continental waters, to a depth of 300 m. A single species.



Page 322



**Order PLEURONECTIFORMES - Flatfishes**

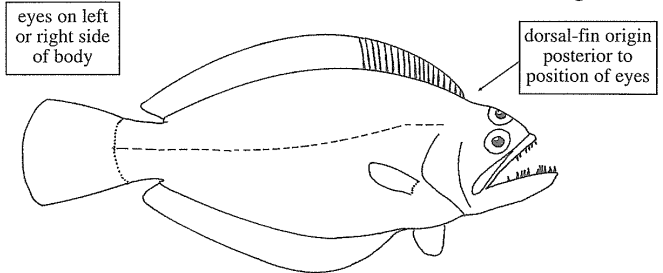
Flattened body shape; eyes present on one side of body only.

**PSETTODIDAE**

**Spiny turbot**

To 60 cm. Marine, coastal waters to depths of 100 m. A single species.

Page 322



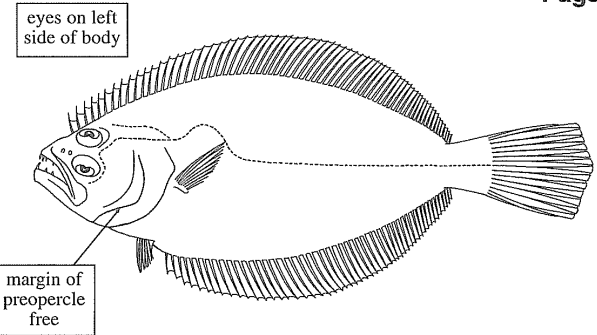
**PARALICHTHYIDAE**

**Short pelvic flounders**

To about 35 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 200 m; benthic. Two species.

Page 323

pelvic-fin bases nearly symmetrical



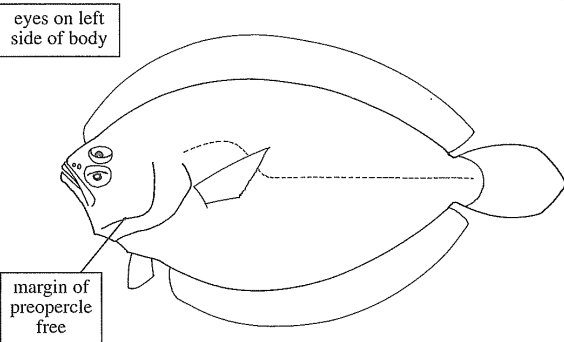
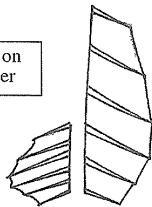
**BOTHIDAE**

**Lefteye flounders**

To about 40 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 600 m; benthic. Numerous species of which 5 are included in the Guide to Species.

Page 323

pelvic-fin base on eyed side longer

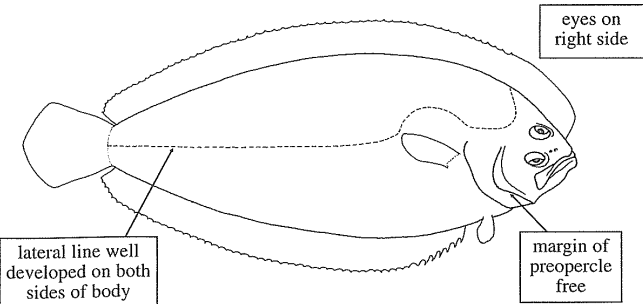


**PLEURONECTIDAE**

**Righteye flounders**

To 17 cm. Marine, mainly in deeper waters. Several species of which one is included in the Guide to Species.

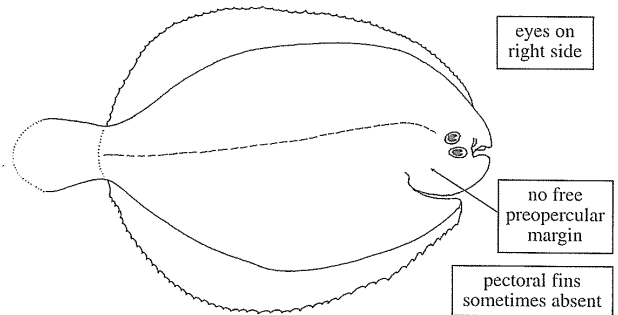
Page 325



**SOLEIDAE**

**Soles**

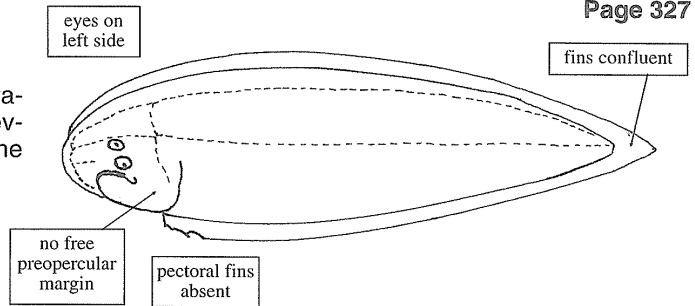
To 32 cm. Marine, shallow coastal waters; some species in estuaries; benthic. Several species of which 6 are included in the Guide to Species.



**CYNOGLOSSIDAE**

**Tonguesoles**

To 46 cm. Marine from shallow coastal waters to depths of about 200 m; benthic. Several species of which 5 are included in the Guide to Species.



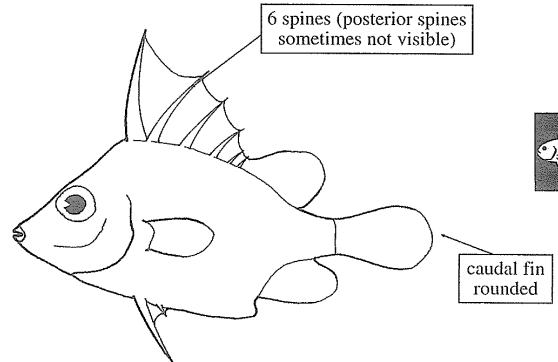
**Order TETRAODONTIFORMES - Pufferfishes and allies**

Pelvic fins absent or strongly reduced; a small mouth with strong teeth, frequently coalesced into a biting plate; a small gill opening; skin thick or rough, sometimes with prickles, spines or scaly plates.

**TRIACANTHODIDAE**

**Spikefishes**

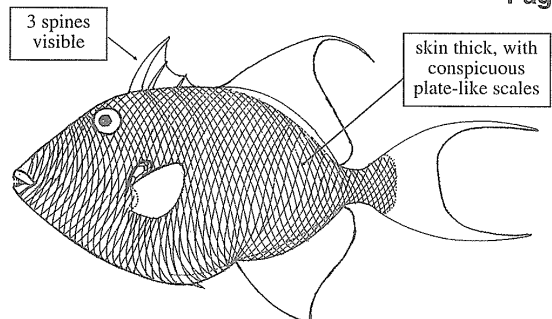
To 25 cm. Marine, from depths 30 of to 300 m; benthic. Of no interest to fisheries. Several species.



**BALISTIDAE**

**Triggerfishes and durgons**

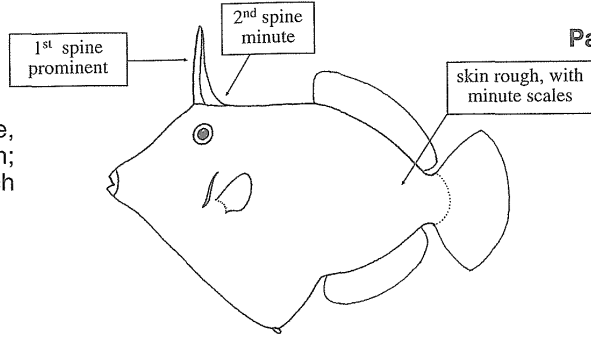
To about 70 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 100 m; mostly benthic, a few benthopelagic. 19 species.



**MONACANTHIDAE**

**Filefishes, leatherjackets**

To 1 m, but most smaller than 10 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 100 m; mostly benthic. Numerous species of which 9 are included in the Guide to Species.

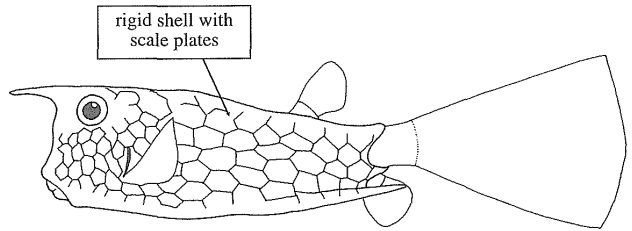


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**OSTRACIIDAE**

**Boxfishes, cowfishes**

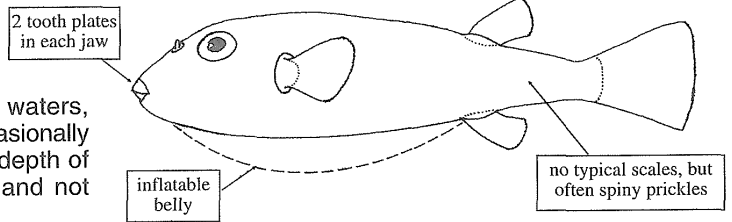
To 50 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 100 m; benthic. Not eaten, but some of interest to aquarium trade. Several species.



**TETRAODONTIDAE**

**Puffers**

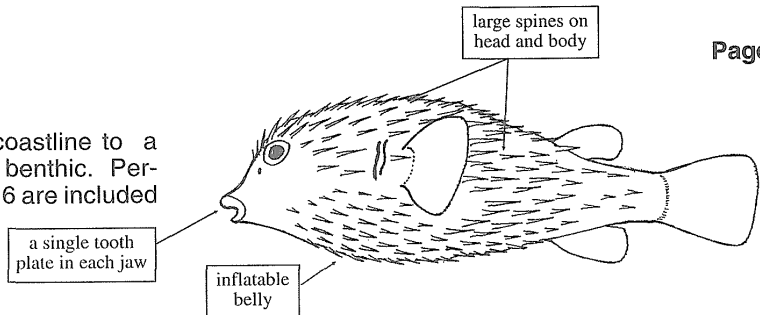
To about 100 cm. Coastal marine waters, estuaries, brackish lagoons, and occasionally freshwater; from the coastline to a depth of about 180 m; benthic. Poisonous and not eaten. Numerous species.



**DIODONTIDAE**

**Porcupinefishes**

To 60 cm. Marine, from the coastline to a depth of about 100 m; mostly benthic. Perhaps several species of which 6 are included in the Guide to Species.

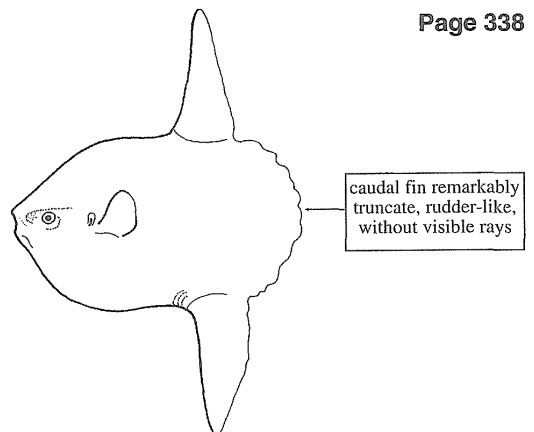


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**MOLIDAE**

**Molas, ocean sunfishes, headfishes**

To 300 cm or more. Marine, from the surface to a depth of about 360 m; pelagic oceanic. Three species worldwide.



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**ELOPIDAE**

**Ladyfishes, tenpounders**

*Elops machnata* (Forsskål, 1775)

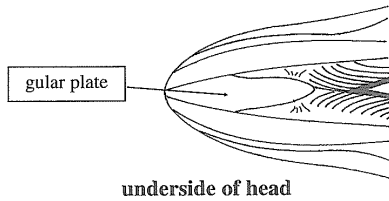
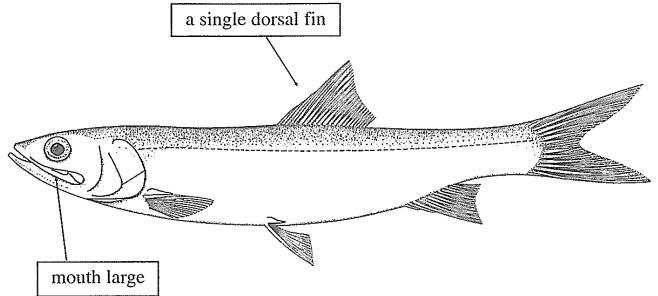
**FAO names:** En - Tenpounder; Fr - Guinée saumon.

**Local names:** Ilweyn.

**Size:** To 90 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, gillnets, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, entering lagoons and estuaries. Feeds on crustaceans and small fish.



underside of head

**MEGALOPIDAE**

**Tarpons**

*Megalops cyprinoides* (Broussonet, 1782)

(plate I, 1)

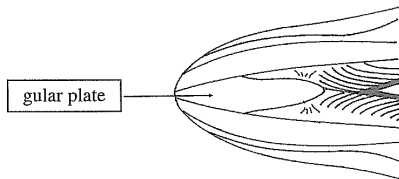
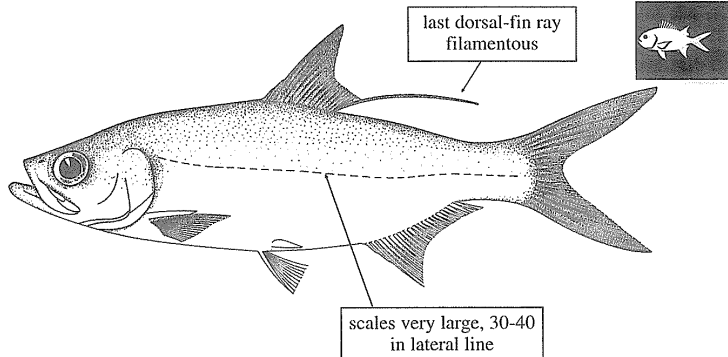
**FAO names:** En - Indo-Pacific tarpon; Fr - Tarpon indo-pacifique.

**Local names:** Samaduul.

**Size:** To 1.0 m, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, seines, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, entering lagoons and estuaries.



underside of head

## ALBULIDAE

## Bonefishes

*Albula glossodonta* (Forsskål, 1775)

**FAO names:** En - Roundjaw bonefish;  
Fr - Banane lèvres ronde.

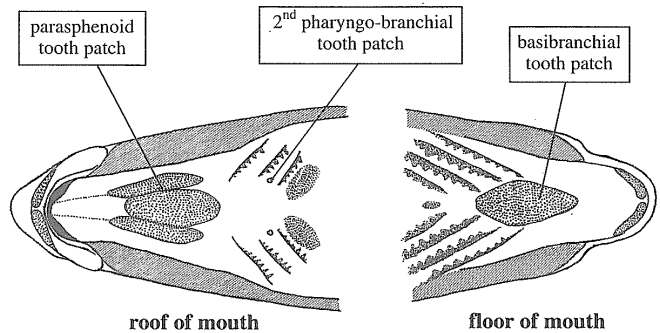
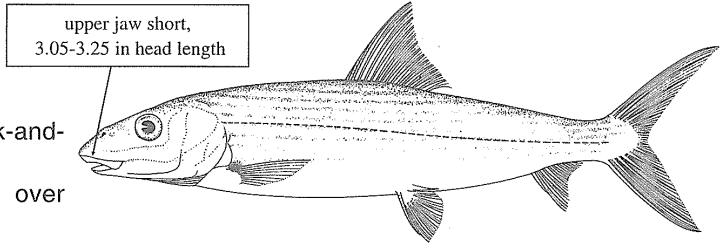
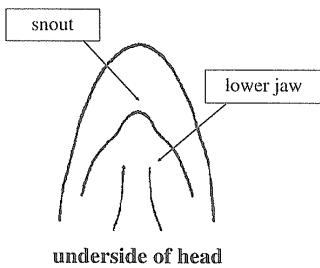
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gill nets and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic neritic; over trawling grounds.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed, previously often misidentified as *A. vulpes*.

*Albula forsteri* Valenciennes, 1846

## ALBULIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Sharpjaw bonefish;  
Fr - Banane lèvres aigue.

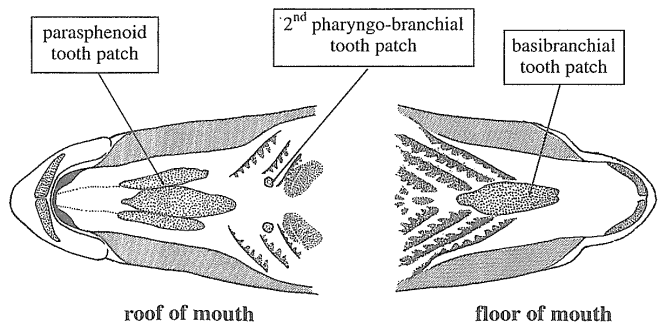
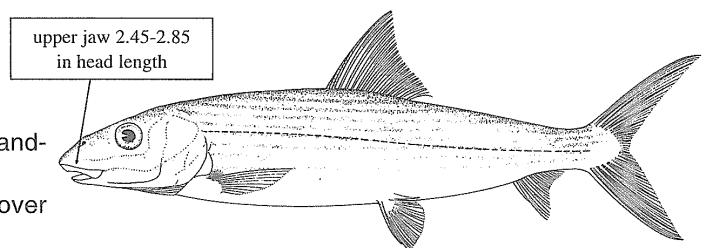
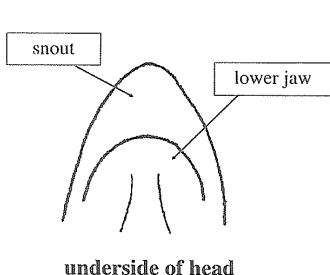
**Local names:**

**Size:** Maximum to 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gill nets and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic neritic; over trawling grounds.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed. Previously misidentified as *A. vulpes* and *A. neoguinaica*.





**MURAENIDAE**

**Morays**

*Echidna nebulosa* (Ahl, 1789)

**FAO names:** En - Starry moray ; Fr - Murène étoilée.

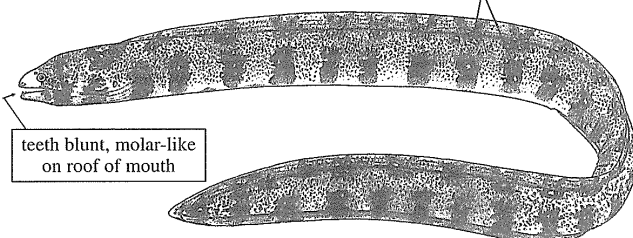
**Local names:** Kal.

**Size:** To about 80 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught incidentally with various hook-and-line gear, nets, traps, and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in shallow reef areas, from depths of 2 to 30 m.

body yellowish brown, with 2-3 longitudinal series of darker, star-shaped blotches, with a yellow centre



teeth blunt, molar-like on roof of mouth

*Echidna polyzona* (Richardson, 1845)

**FAO name:** En - Striped moray.

**Local names:**

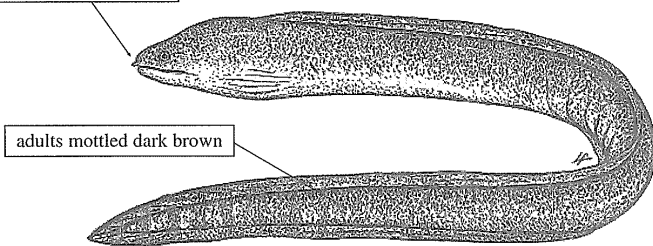
**Size:** To at least 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** No information available.

teeth blunt, molar-like on roof of mouth

**MURAENIDAE**



adults mottled dark brown



juvenile

juveniles brown, with 25-30 greyish yellow bars

*Echidna zebra* (Shaw, 1797)

**FAO names:** En - Zebra moray; Fr - Murène zébrée.

**Local names:** Marisa.

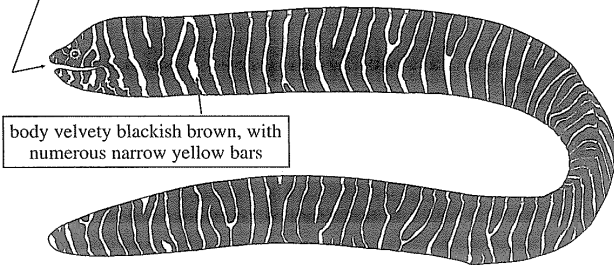
**Size:** To 150 cm, common to about 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught incidentally with hook-and-line, net, trap, and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow reefs, from depths of 10 to 50 m. Feeds on a variety of small reef animals.

teeth blunt, molar-like on roof of mouth

**MURAENIDAE**



body velvety blackish brown, with numerous narrow yellow bars



*Gymnothorax favagineus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

**FAO names:** En - Blackspotted moray.

**Local names:**

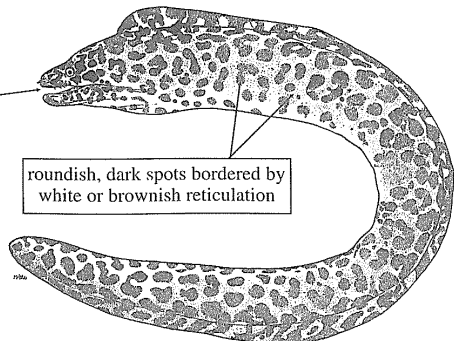
**Size:** To at least 1.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in shallow water, on coral and rocky reefs, from depths of 5 to 40 m. Feeds on cephalopods and small fishes.

teeth on roof of mouth sharp, fang-like, in 1 row

**MURAENIDAE**



roundish, dark spots bordered by white or brownish reticulation

*Gymnothorax flavimarginatus* (Rüppell, 1830)

## MURAENIDAE

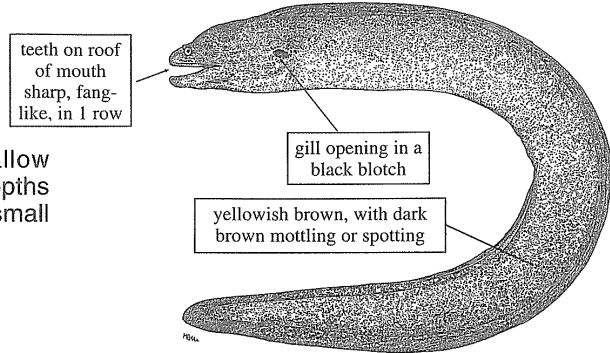
**FAO name:** En - Yellowmargin moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 1.2 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in shallow water, on coral and rocky reefs, from depths of 3 to 60 m. Feeds on cephalopods and small fishes.

*Gymnothorax javanicus* (Bleeker, 1856)

## MURAENIDAE

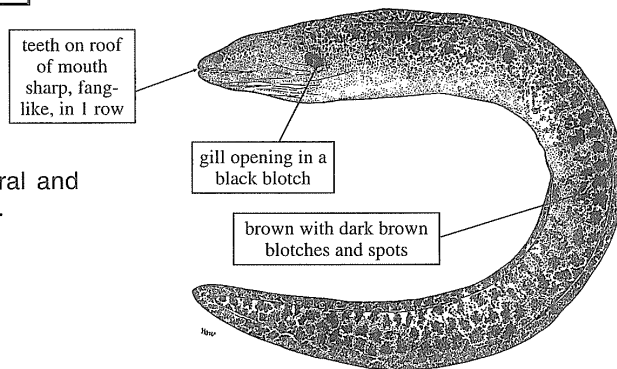
**FAO names:** En - Giant moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** Probably to 3 m.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on coral and rocky reefs, from depths of 10 to 50 m.

*Gymnothorax meleagris* (Shaw and Nodder, 1795)

## MURAENIDAE

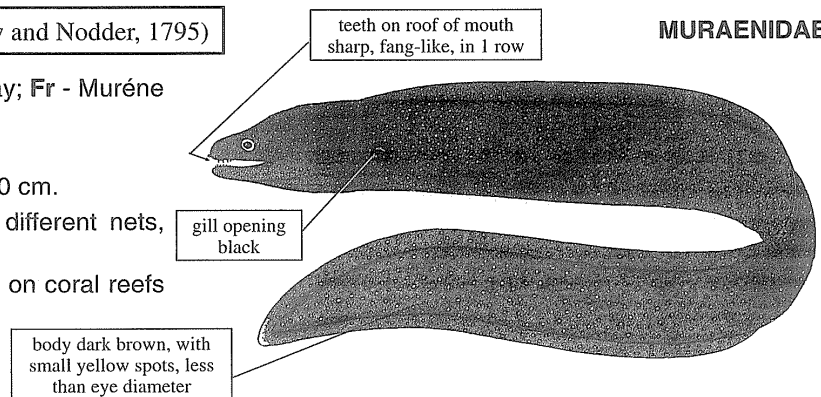
**FAO names:** En - Turkey moray; Fr - Murène voie lactée.

**Local names:** Kal.

**Size:** To 120 cm, common to 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly by different nets, traps, and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on coral reefs and rocks, to depths of 36 m.

*Gymnothorax monochrous* (Bleeker, 1856)

## MURAENIDAE

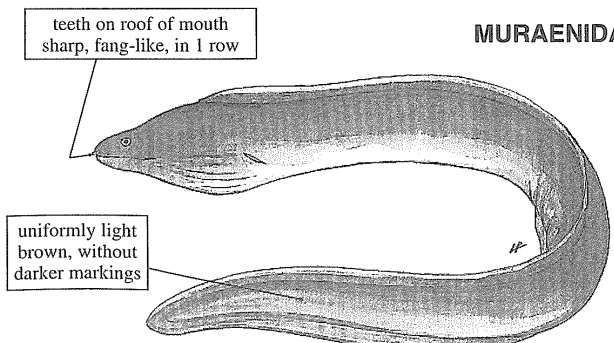
**FAO names:** En - Drab morey.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 56 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal reefs.



*Gymnothorax nudivomer* (Playfair and Günther, 1866)

MURAENIDAE

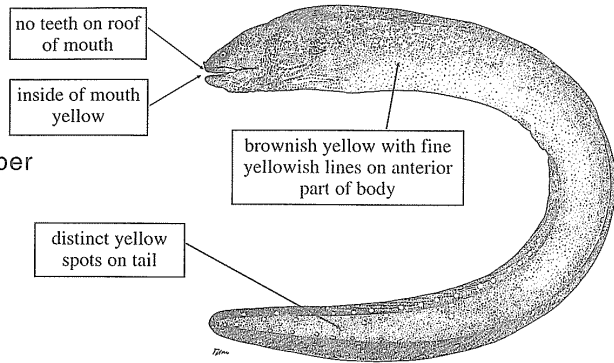
**FAO names:** En - Yellowmouth moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1 m.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in deeper coastal areas, from depths of 4 to 165 m.



*Gymnothorax punctatus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

MURAENIDAE

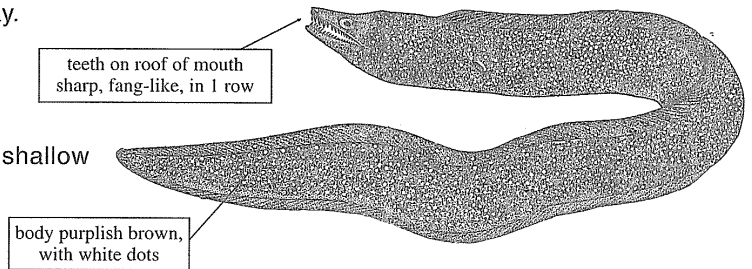
**FAO names:** En - Whitespotted moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal coral and rocky reefs.



*Gymnothorax ruepelliae* (McClelland, 1845)

MURAENIDAE

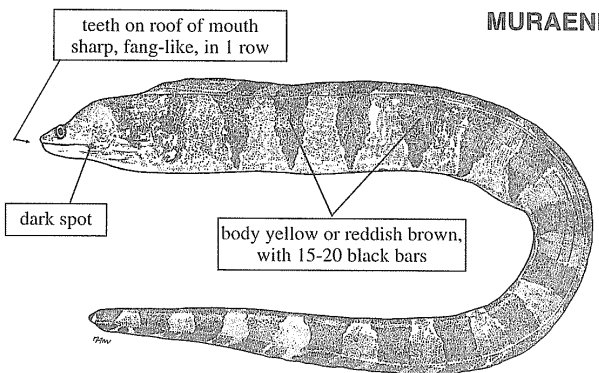
**FAO names:** En - Rüppell's moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 55 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal reefs, from depths of 3 to 30 m.



*Gymnothorax undulatus* (Lacepède, 1803)

MURAENIDAE

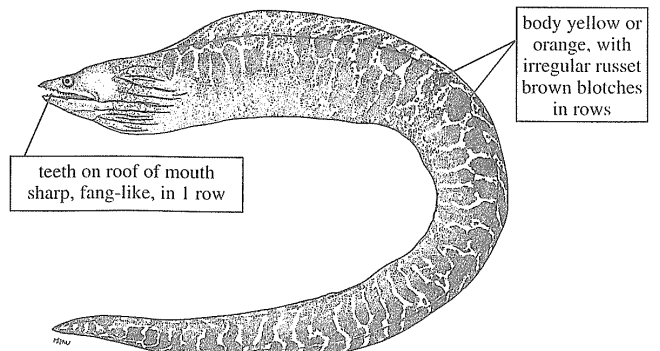
**FAO names:** En - Undulated moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 150 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on coral reefs and rocks, deeper water, to a depth of about 30 m.



*Pseudechina brummeri* (Bleeker, 1858)

## MURAENIDAE

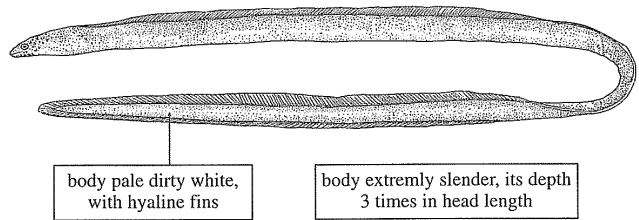
**FAO names:** En - Brummer's moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 1 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal waters.

*Siderea grisea* (Lacepède, 1803)

## MURAENIDAE

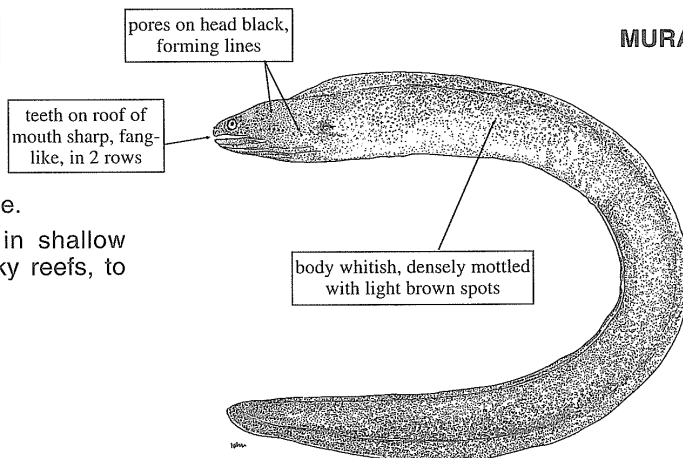
**FAO names:** En - Grey moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 65 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal waters, on coral and rocky reefs, to depths of 40 m.

*Siderea picta* (Ahl, 1789)

## MURAENIDAE

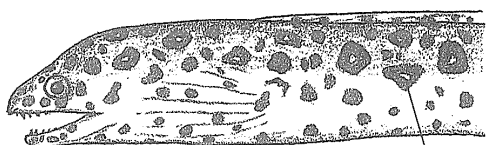
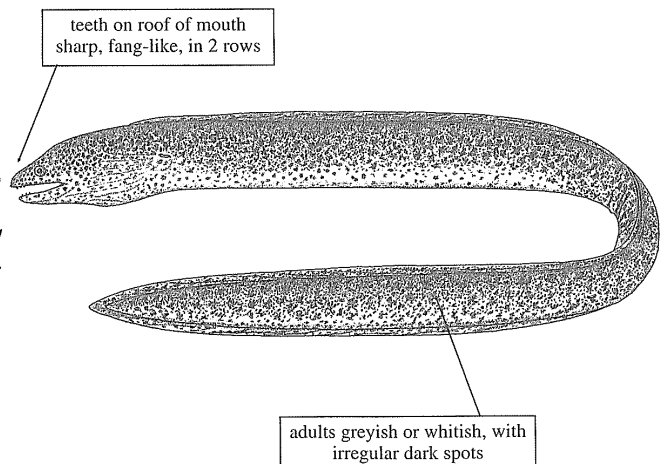
**FAO names:** En - Speckled sidereal moray; Fr - Murène sidérale.

**Local names:** Magungi.

**Size:** To 140 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with various types of nets, traps, and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal waters, on coral and rocky reefs. Feeds on small reef animals.



juvenile

yellow, with dark blotches

*Thyrsoidea macrura* (Bleeker, 1854)

MURAENIDAE

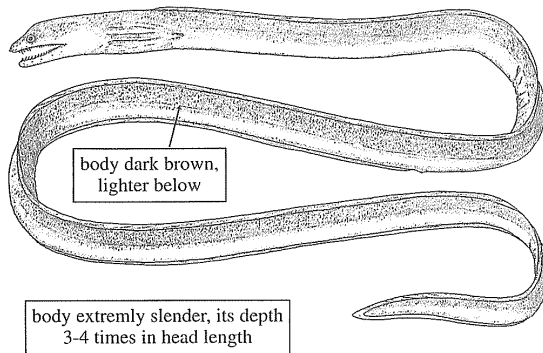
**FAO names:** En - Giant slender moray;  
Fr - Murène fil géante.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 4 m, common to 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with various hook-and-line, traps, and sometimes in offshore trawl nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal waters, muddy areas, estuaries and river mouths. Feeds on different small fishes and crustaceans.



*Uropterygius concolor* (Rüppell, 1835)

MURAENIDAE

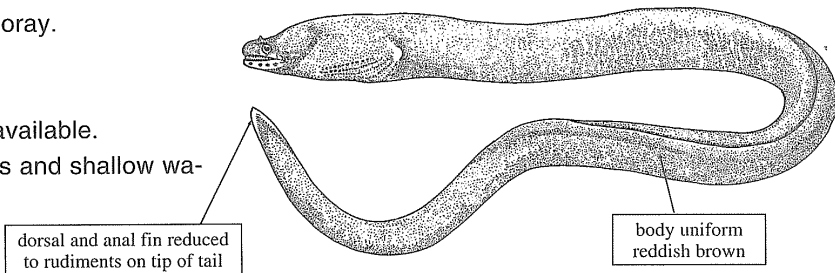
**FAO names:** En - Brown moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Reefs and shallow waters.



*Uropterygius marmoratus* (Lacepède, 1803)

MURAENIDAE

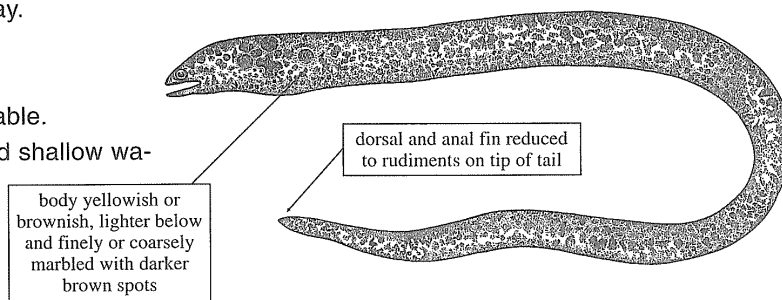
**FAO names:** En - Marbled moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Reefs and shallow waters.



*Uropterygius tigrinus* (Lesson, 1829)

MURAENIDAE

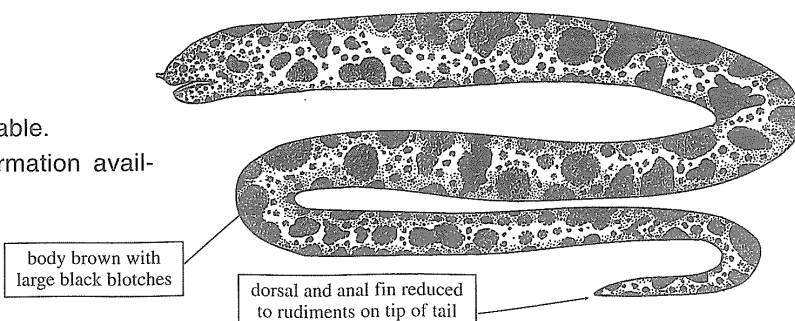
**FAO names:** En - Tiger moray.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 105 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** No information available.



**OPHICHTHIDAE**  
Snake eels, worm eels

*Lamnostoma orientalis* (McClelland, 1844)

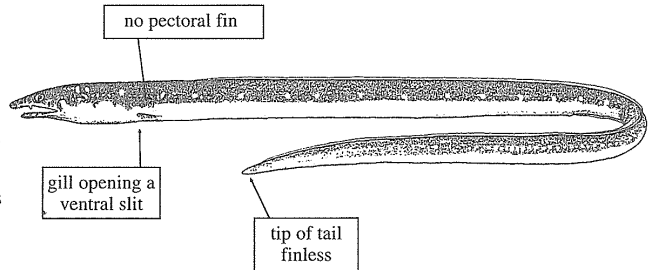
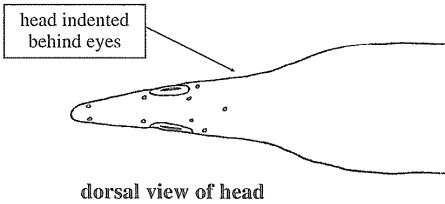
**FAO names:** En - Oriental worm eel;  
Fr - Serpention oriental.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly in nets and by hand. Used fresh as bait.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in estuaries and inshore areas of turbid waters.



*Muraenichthys schultzei* (Bleeker, 1857)

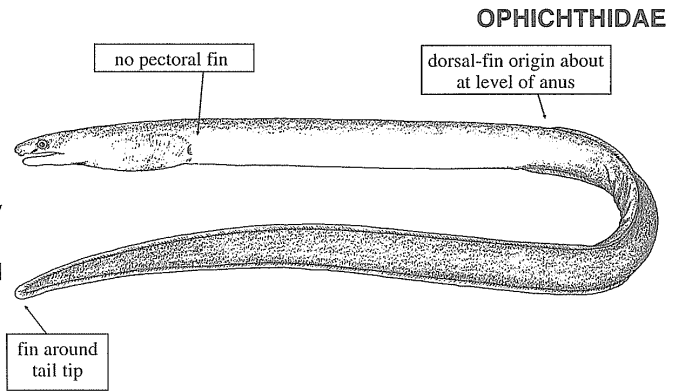
**FAO names:** En - Mained snake eel;  
Fr - Serpention manchot.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm; common to 8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly in bag or nets, or by digging. Used live or fresh as shark bait.

**Habitat and biology:** In inshore waters and tide pools. Burrowing in soft sediment.



*Pisodonophis boro* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

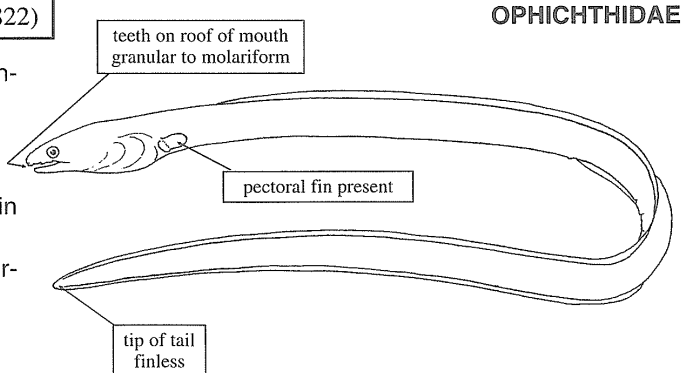
**FAO names:** En - Rice-paddy eel; Fr - Serpention des rizières.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 100 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught incidentally, for example in bag nets. Used fresh as bait.

**Habitat and biology:** In Lagoons and estuaries, entering freshwater and paddy fields.



## CONGRIDAE

## Conger eels

*Conger cinereus cinereus* (Rüppell, 1828)

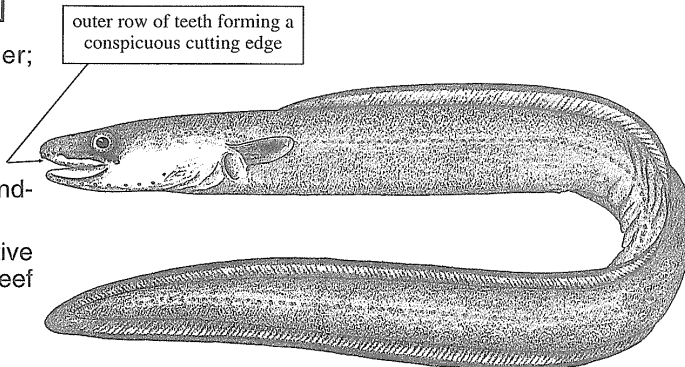
**FAO names:** En - Longfin African conger; Fr - Congre oiro.

**Local names:** Maguungi.

**Size:** To 1.0 m, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on reefs, active at night. Feeds on a variety of small reef animals.



*Uroconger lepturus* (Richardson, 1848)

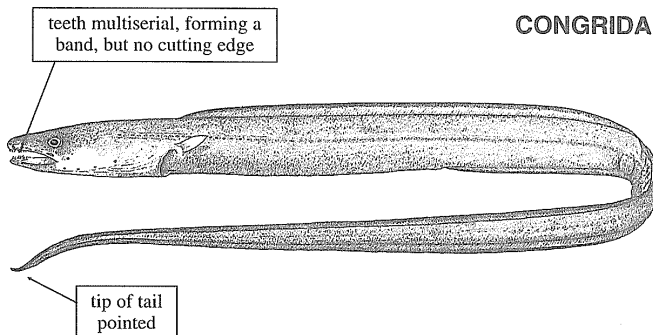
**FAO names:** En - Slender conger; Fr - Congre gracile.

**Local names:** Maguungi.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught in fine-meshed shrimp trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Offshore, on soft sandy mud. Feeds on small bottom-living crustaceans.



CONGRIDAE

## MURAENESOCIDAE

## Pike congeners

*Congresox talabonoides* (Bleeker, 1853)

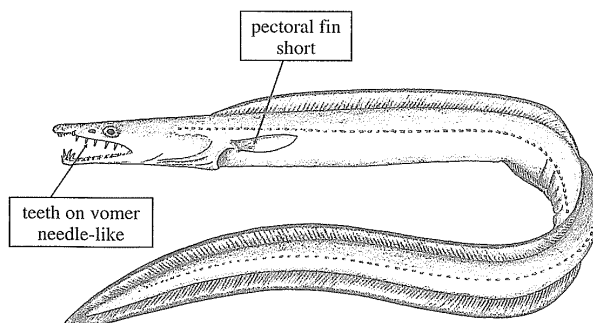
**FAO names:** En - Indian pike conger; Fr - Morénésoce indien.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 2.5 m, common to 1.8 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, trawls, drift nets, and bag nets. Marketed fresh.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in coastal waters and estuaries, on soft bottom down to a depth of 100 m. A nocturnal fish, feeding on bottom fish and crustaceans.



*Muraenesox bagio* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

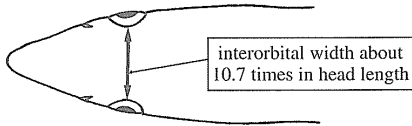
**FAO names:** En - Common pike conger;  
Fr - Morénésoce commun.

**Local names:** Maguungi.

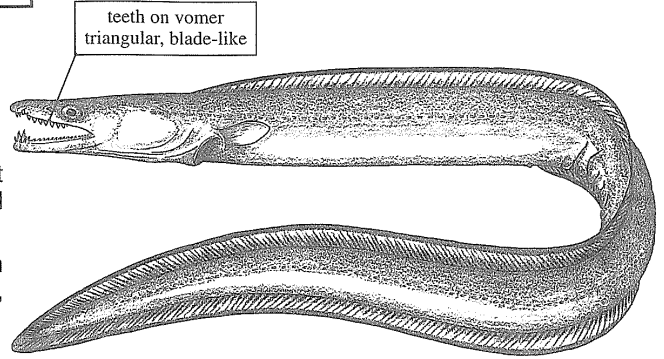
**Size:** To 1.8 m, common to 1.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, trawls, drift nets, and bag nets. Marketed fresh. Good eating.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on soft bottom to depths of about 100 m. A nocturnal fish, feeding on bottom fish and crustaceans.



dorsal view of head



## MURAENESOCIDAE

*Muraenesox cinereus* (Forsskål, 1775)

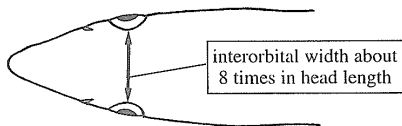
**FAO names:** En - Daggertooth pike conger;  
Fr - Morénésoce dague.

**Local names:**

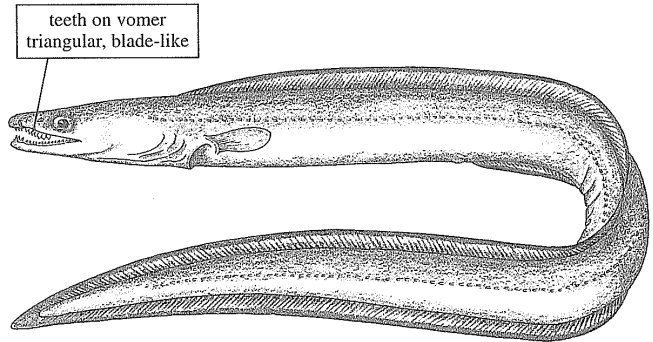
**Size:** To 80 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, trawls, drift nets, and bag nets. Marketed fresh. Excellent eating.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on soft bottoms to depths of 100 m, also in estuaries, lagoons and shallow coastal inlets.



dorsal view of head



## MURAENESOCIDAE

## CLUPEIDAE

Herrings, shads, gizzard shads, sardines, sardinellas, pellonas

*Amblygaster leiogaster* (Valenciennes, 1847)

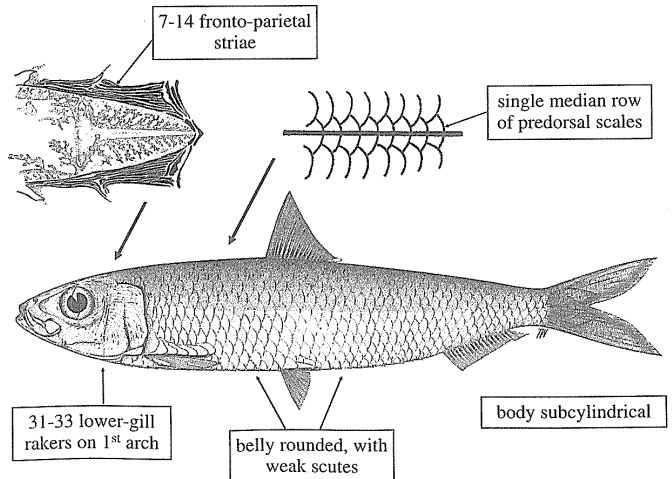
**FAO names:** En - Smoothbelly sardinella;  
Fr - Sardinelle daniva.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 23 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, gillnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.





*Amblyaster sirm* (Walbaum, 1792)

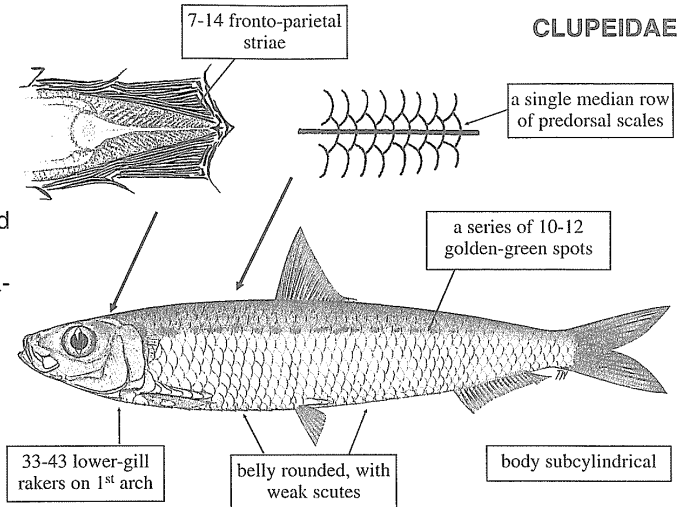
**FAO names:** En - Spotted sardinella;  
Fr - Sardine tachetée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 23 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, gillnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.



**CLUPEIDAE**

*Dussumieria acuta* (Valenciennes, 1847)

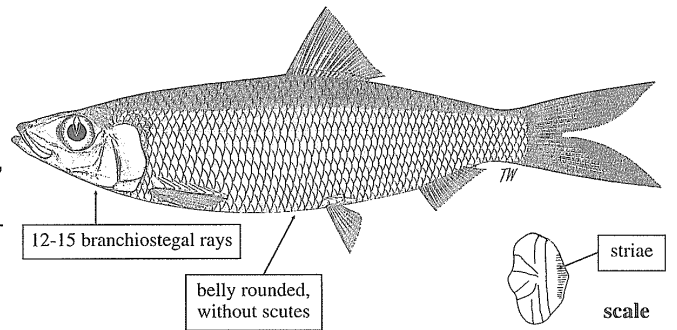
**FAO names:** En - Rainbow sardine;  
Fr - Sardine arc-en-ciel.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with setnets, beach seines, purse seines, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in inshore waters.



**CLUPEIDAE**

*Dussumieria elopsides* Bleeker, 1849

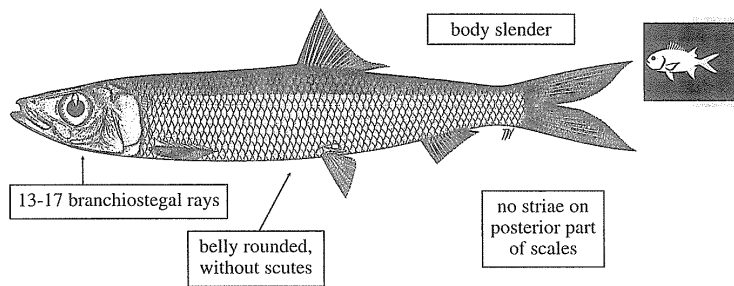
**FAO names:** En - Slender rainbow sardine.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic inshore species.



**CLUPEIDAE**

*Etrumeus teres* (De Kay, 1840)

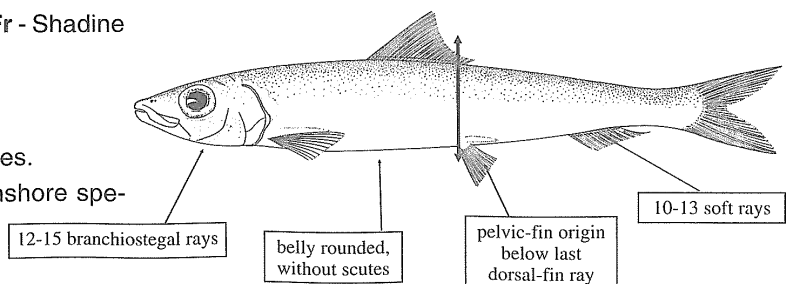
**FAO names:** En - Round herring; Fr - Shadine ronde.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic inshore species.



**CLUPEIDAE**

***Herklotsichthys lossei* Wongratana, 1983**

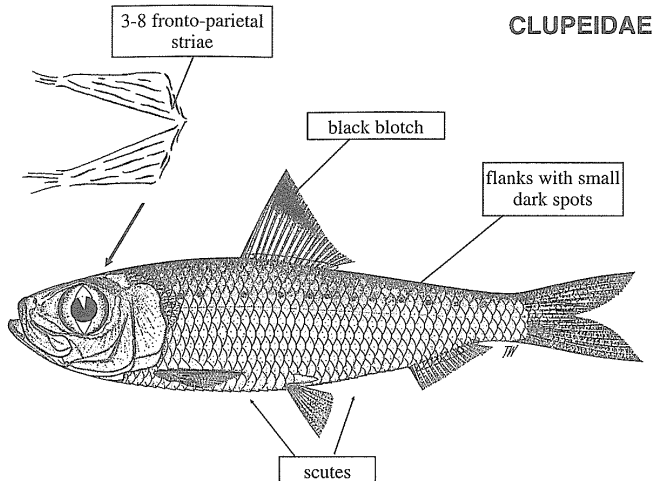
**FAO names:** En - Gulf herring.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 8 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal, pelagic, schooling.

***Herklotsichthys punctatus* (Rüppell, 1837)**

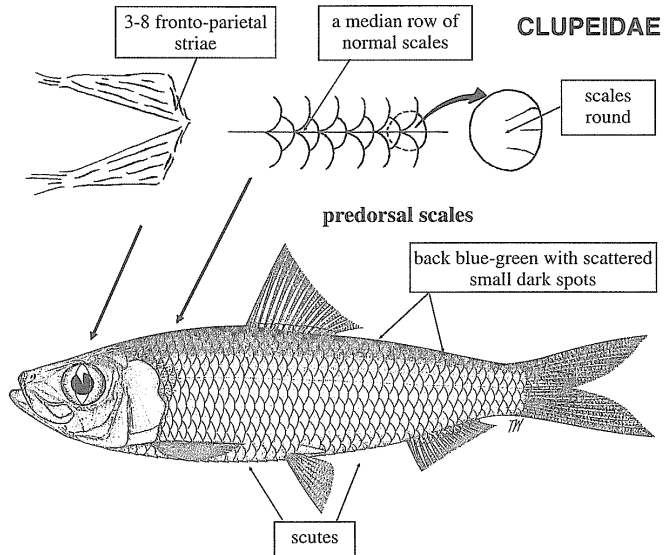
**FAO names:** En - Spotted herring;  
Fr - Hareng tacheté.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 8.5 cm, common to 7 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, liftnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.

***Herklotsichthys quadrimaculatus* (Rüppell, 1837)**

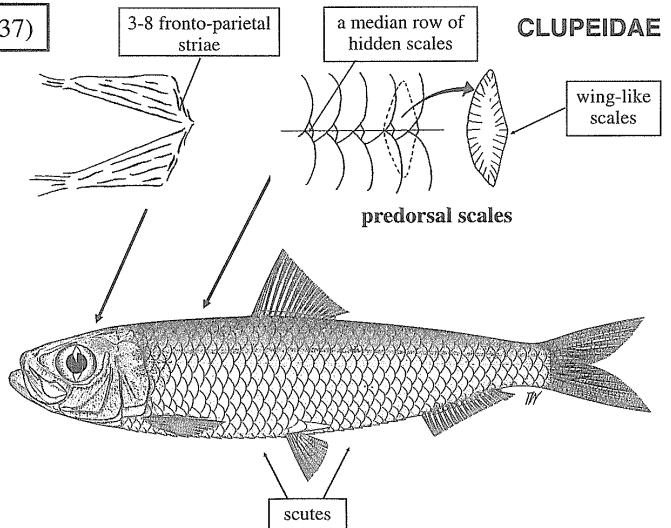
**FAO names:** En - Bluestripe herring;  
Fr - Hareng à bande bleue.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, liftnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.



***Herklotsichthys spilurus* (Guichenot, 1863)**

**CLUPEIDAE**

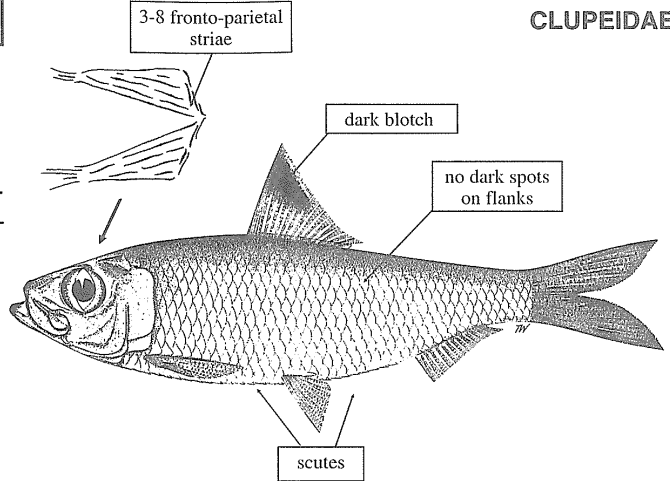
**FAO names:** En - Reunion herring.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 8.5 cm, common to 7 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal fishing gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.



***Hilsa kelee* (Cuvier, 1829)**

**CLUPEIDAE**

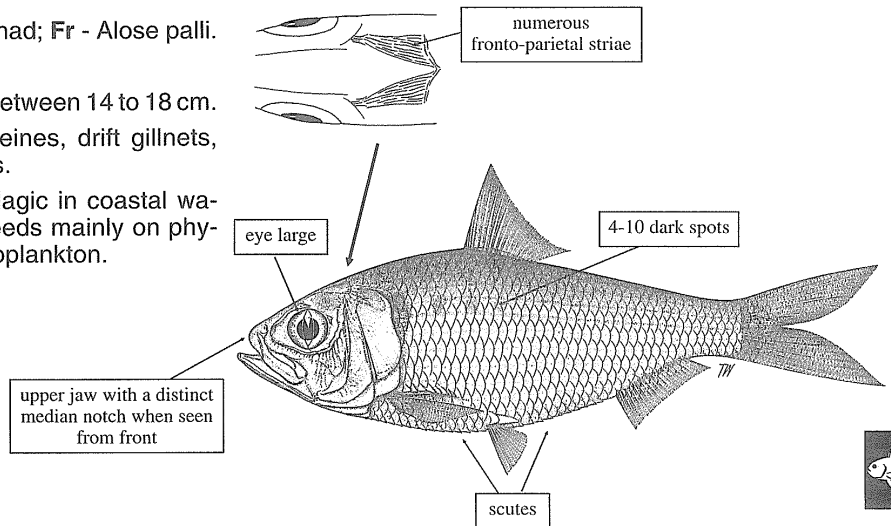
**FAO names:** En - Kelee shad; Fr - Alose palli.

**Local names:** Aarijoog.

**Size:** To 24.4 cm, usually between 14 to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, drift gillnets, liftnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, enters estuaries. Feeds mainly on phytoplankton but also on zooplankton.



***Nematalosa arabica* Regan, 1917**

**CLUPEIDAE**

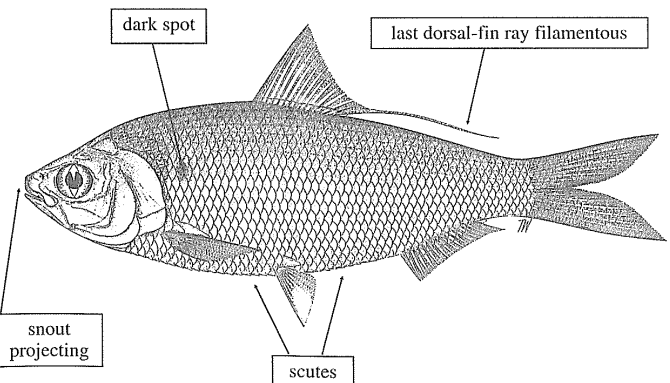
**FAO names:** En - Arabian gizzard shad.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 16.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic.



*Pellona ditchela* Valenciennes, 1847

## CLUPEIDAE

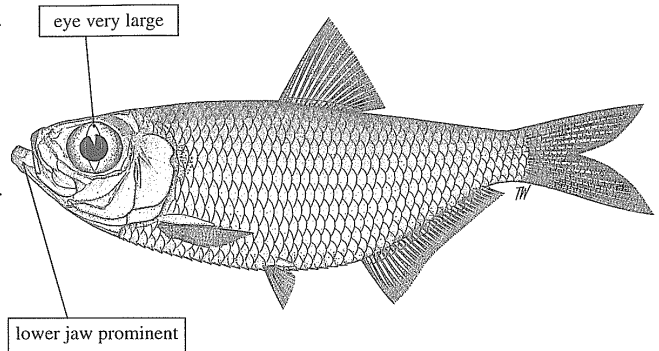
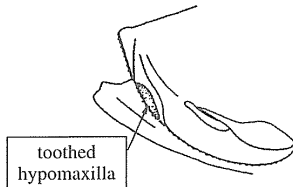
**FAO names:** En - Indian pellona; Fr - Alose-écaille indienne.

**Local names:** Aarijoog.

**Size:** To 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines and liftnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, also estuaries, lagoons, and rivers.

*Sardinella albella* (Valenciennes, 1847)

(plate III, 20)

## CLUPEIDAE

**FAO names:** En - White sardinella;

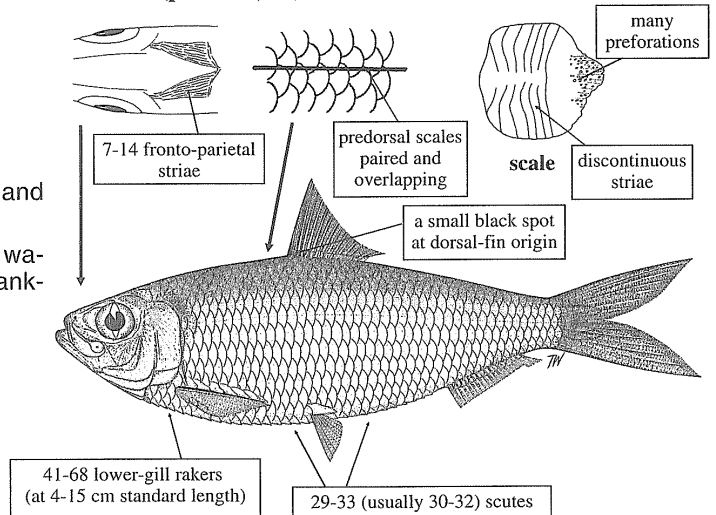
Fr - Sardine blanche.

**Local names:** Aarijoog.

**Size:** To 14 cm, usually to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, gillnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters. Feeds on zooplankton and phytoplankton.

*Sardinella gibbosa* (Bleeker, 1849)

## CLUPEIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Goldstripe sardinella;

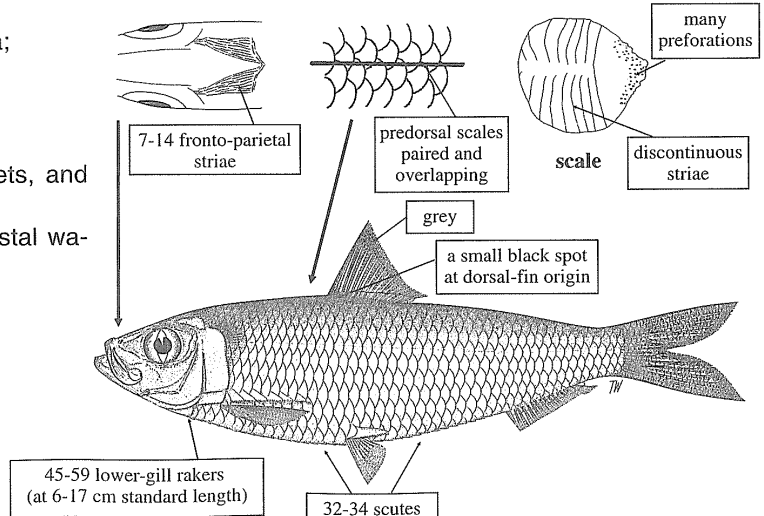
Fr - Sardine dorée.

**Local names:** Aarijoog.

**Size:** To 17 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, gillnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.



***Sardinella longiceps*** (Valenciennes, 1847)

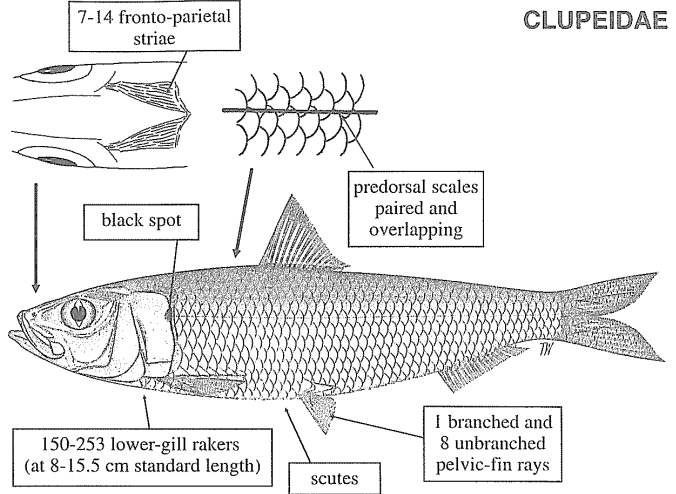
**FAO names:** En - Indian oil sardine;  
Fr - Sardine indienne.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 23 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with boat seines, gillnets, shore seines, and castnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters. Feeds on phytoplankton and on small crustaceans.



***Sardinella melanura*** (Cuvier, 1829)

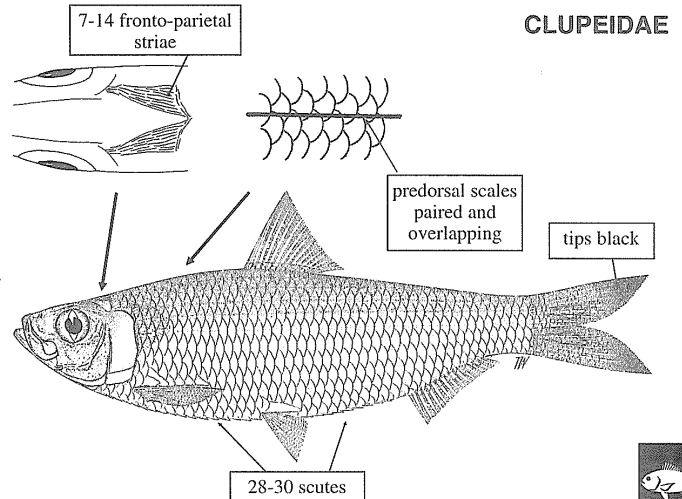
**FAO names:** En - Blacktip sardinella;  
Fr - Sardine queue noire.

**Local names:** Aarijoog.

**Size:** To 12.2 cm, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, gillnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.



***Sardinella neglecta*** Wongratana, 1983

**FAO names:** En - East African sardinella.

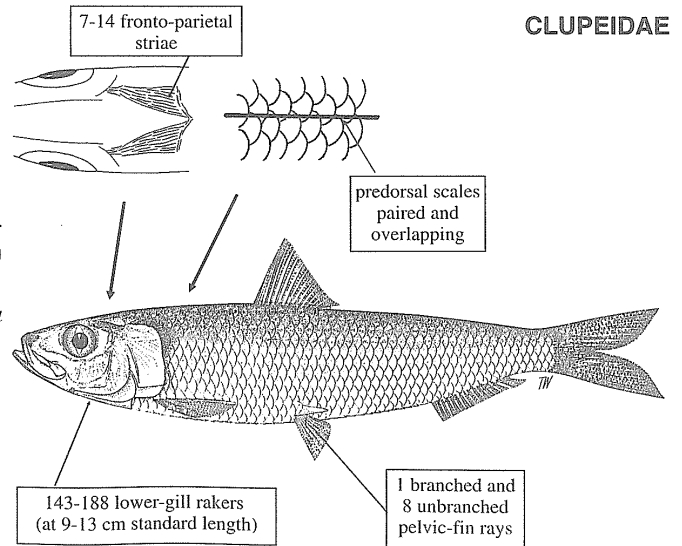
**Local names:** Buraasow.

**Size:** To 13 cm, but probably grows larger.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, in coastal waters, from depths between 1 to 60 m; also in bays.

**Remarks:** Often misidentified as *Sardinella longiceps* Valenciennes, 1847.



*Sardinella sindensis* (Day, 1878)

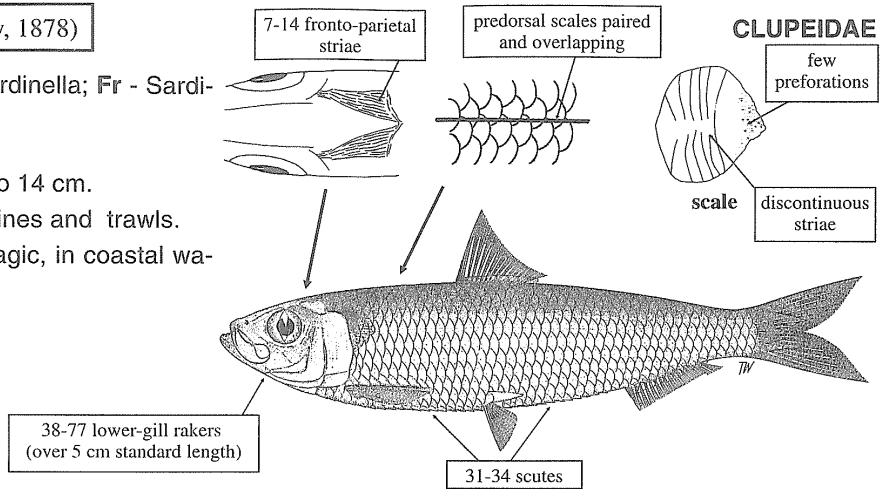
**FAO names:** En - Sind sardinella; Fr - Sardine miyako.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 17 cm, common to 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, in coastal waters.



*Spratelloides delicatulus* (Bennett 1831)

CLUPEIDAE

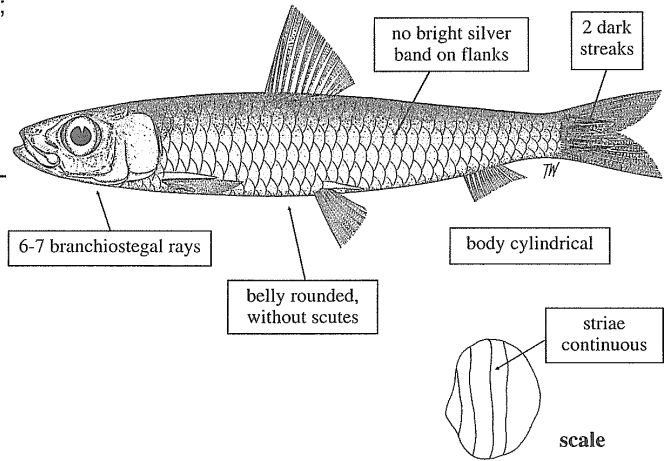
**FAO names:** En - Delicate round herring; Fr - Hareng rond.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 7 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, in shallow waters.



*Spratelloides gracilis* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1846)

CLUPEIDAE

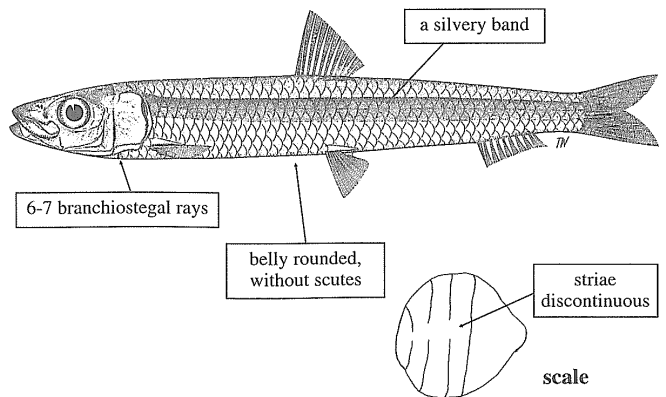
**FAO names:** En - Striped round herring; Fr - Hareng gracile.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 9.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, in shallow waters.



ENGRAULIDIDAE

Anchovies

*Encrasicholina devisi* (Whitley, 1940)

FAO names: En - Devis' anchovy;

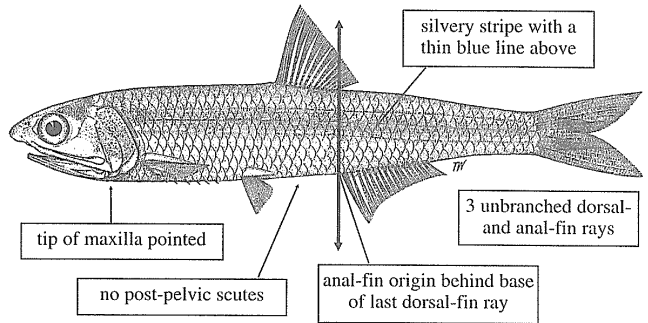
Fr - Anchois devis.

Local names: Samaduul.

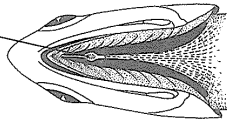
Size: To 8 cm, common to 7 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with seines and stakenets.

Habitat and biology: Pelagic in coastal waters.



a small silvery plate in front of isthmus



underside of head

*Encrasicholina heteroloba* (Rüppell, 1837)

ENGRAULIDIDAE

FAO names: En - Shorthead anchovy;

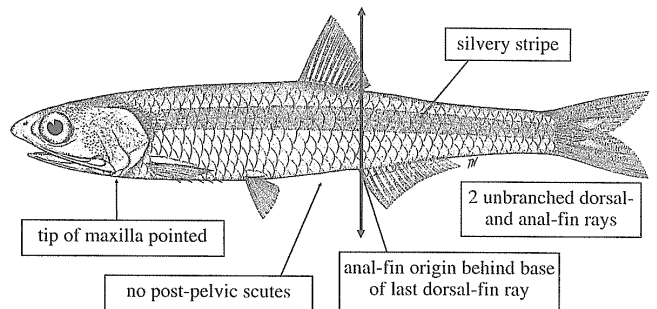
Fr - Anchois douanier.

Local names: Samaduul.

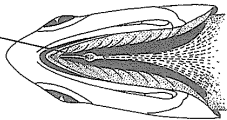
Size: To 8 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with purse seines, ringnets, stakenets, and dipnets.

Habitat and biology: Pelagic in coastal waters.



a small silvery plate in front of isthmus



underside of head

*Encrasicholina punctifer* Fowler, 1938

ENGRAULIDIDAE

FAO names: En - Buccaneer anchovy;

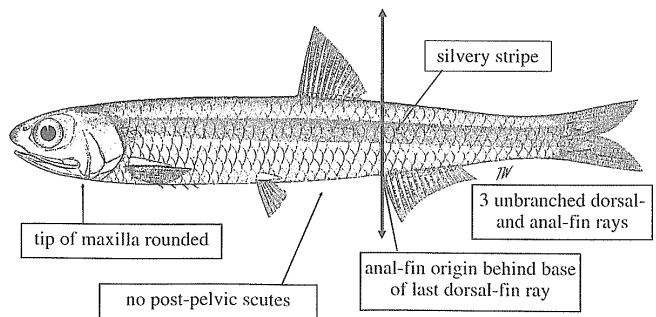
Fr - Anchois boucanier.

Local names: Samaduul.

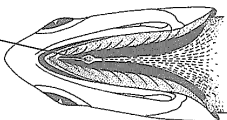
Size: To 9 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with seines and stakenets.

Habitat and biology: Pelagic in coastal waters.



a small silvery plate in front of isthmus



underside of head



*Engraulis capensis* Gilchrist, 1846

## ENGRAULIDIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Southern African anchovy.

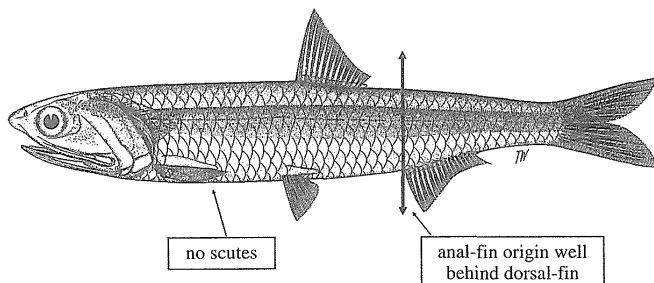
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 13 cm, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, but down to a depth of about 400 m. Feeds on planktonic organisms.

**Remarks:** Often misidentified as *Engraulis japonicus* Schlegel, 1846, which does not occur in Somalia.

*Stolephorus commersonii* Lacepède, 1803

## ENGRAULIDIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Commerson's anchovy;

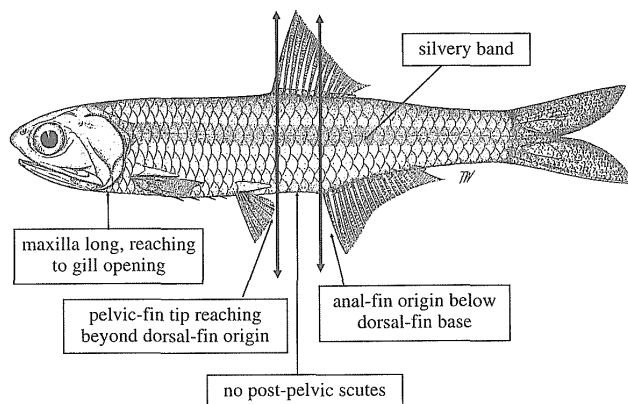
Fr - Anchois bomba.

**Local names:** Samaduul.

**Size:** To 10 cm, common to 8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.

*Stolephorus indicus* (van Hasselt, 1823)

## ENGRAULIDIDAE

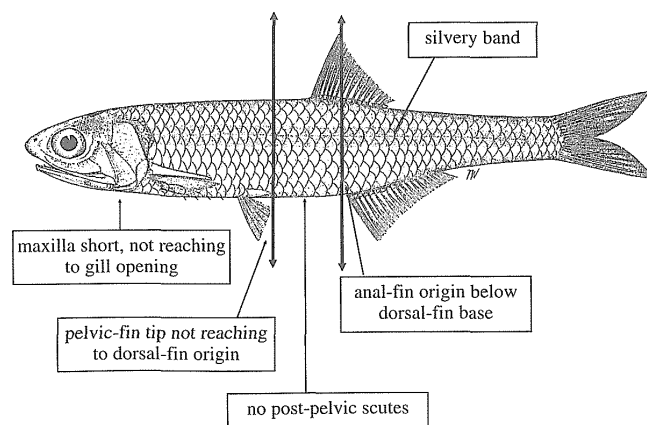
**FAO names:** En - Indian anchovy; Fr - Anchois indien.

**Local names:** Samaduul.

**Size:** To 15.5 cm, common to 12 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, trawls, and stakenets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters.





ENGRAULIDIDAE

*Stolephorus insularis* Hardenberg, 1933

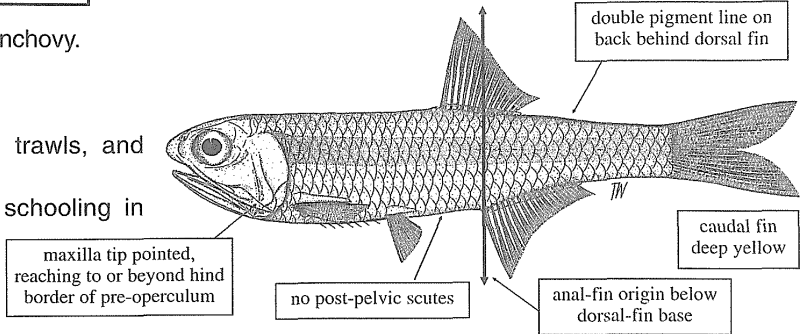
**FAO names:** En - Hardenberg's anchovy.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 6.4 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, trawls, and stakenets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, schooling in coastal waters.



*Thryssa baelama* (Forsskål, 1775)

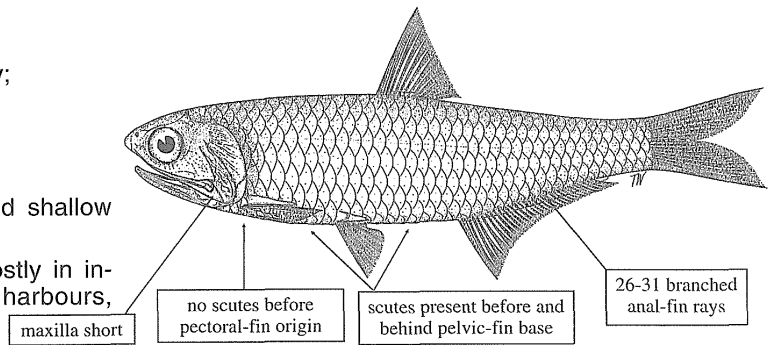
**FAO names:** En - Baelama anchovy; Fr - Anchois-moustache sardin.

**Local names:** Samaduul.

**Size:** To 10.8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, mostly in in-shore waters as bays, lagoons, harbours, mangrove pools and estuaries.



ENGRAULIDIDAE

*Thryssa setirostris* (Broussonet, 1782)

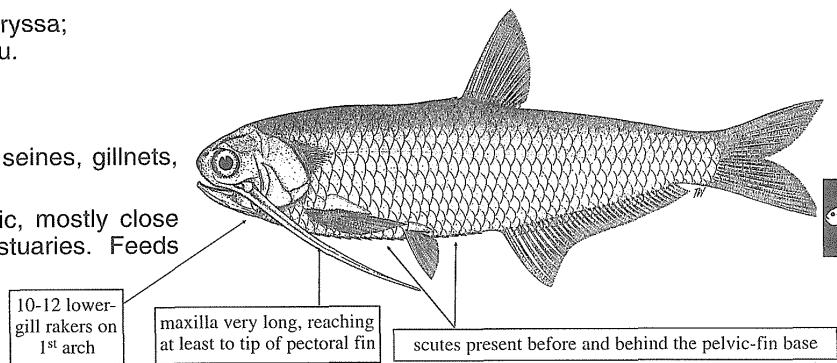
**FAO names:** En - Longjaw thryssa; Fr - Anchois-moustache cornu.

**Local names:** Samaduul.

**Size:** To at least 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with boat seines, gillnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, mostly close inshore, entering bays and estuaries. Feeds mainly on crustaceans.



*Thryssa vitirostris* (Gilchrist and Thompson, 1908)

ENGRAULIDIDAE

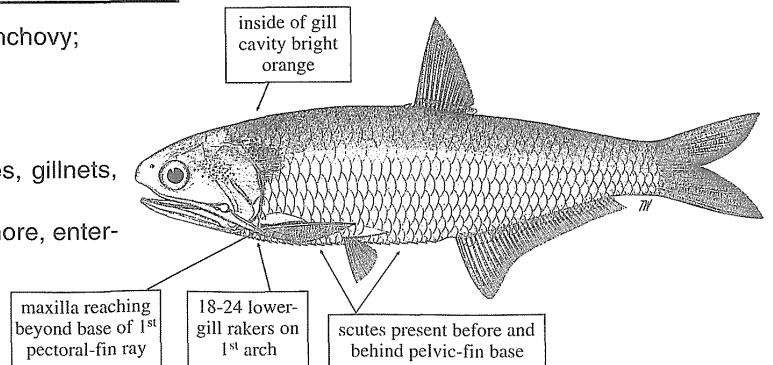
**FAO names:** En - Orangemouth anchovy; Fr - Anchois-moustache cristal.

**Local names:** Samaduul.

**Size:** To 17.8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with boat seines, gillnets, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, inshore, entering estuaries and lagoons.



## CHIROCENTRIDAE

## Wolf-herrings

*Chirocentrus dorab* (Forsskål, 1775)

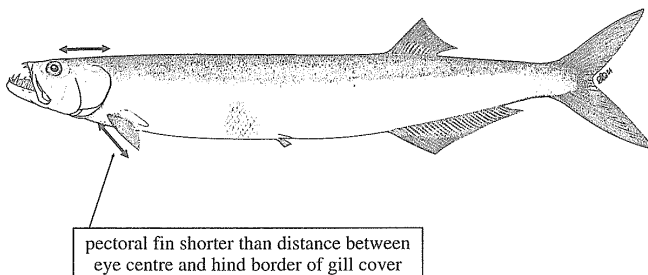
**FAO names :** En - Dorab wolf-herring;  
Fr - Chirocentre dorab.

**Local names:** Sanbelag.

**Size:** To 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, gillnets, seines, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, from the shore to a depth of about 120 m; probably feeding on small fish and crustaceans.



*Chirocentrus nudus* (Swainson, 1839)

## CHIROCENTRIDAE

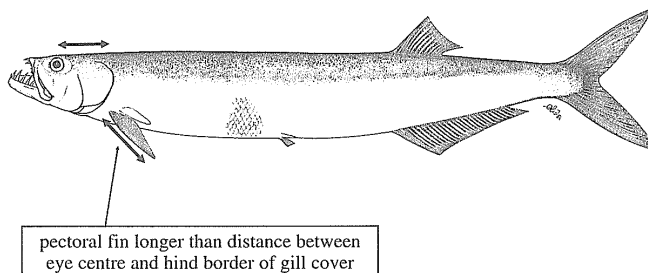
**FAO names:** En - Whitefin wolf-herring;  
Fr - Chirocentre sabre.

**Local names:** Sanbelag.

**Size:** To 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps gillnets, seines, and shallow trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, from the shore to a depth of about 150 m. Feeds on small fish and crustaceans.



## CHANIDAE

## Milkfish

*Chanos chanos* (Forsskål, 1775)

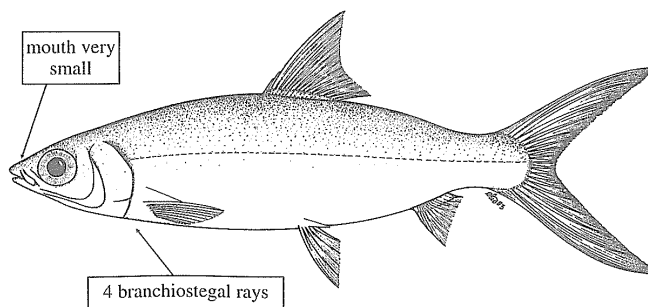
**FAO names:** En - Milkfish; Fr - Chanos.

**Local names:** Ilweyn.

**Size:** To 1.8 m, common to 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with scoop nets, dragnets, setnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** A coastal pelagic species, entering estuaries, rivers, and lakes. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



**ARIIDAE**  
Sea catfishes

*Arius thalassinus* (Rüppell, 1837)

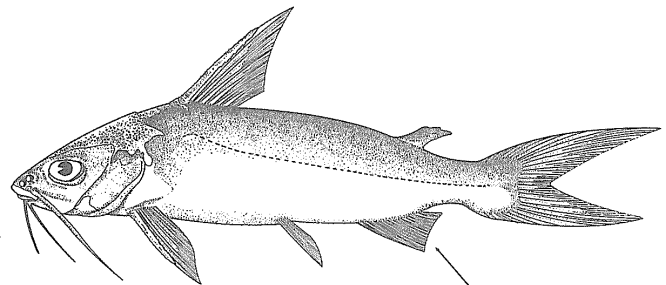
**FAO names :** En - Giant catfish; Fr - Mâchoiron titan.

**Local names:** Funi, Bacoore.

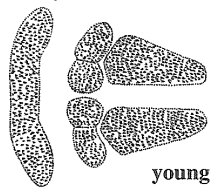
**Size:** To 1.85 m, common between 20 and 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters, down to a depth of about 100 m; often found in estuaries, but rarely in freshwater. Feeds mainly on crabs, prawns, and mantid shrimps.

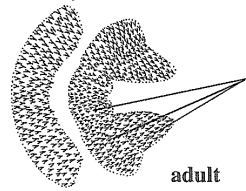


15-18 rays



young

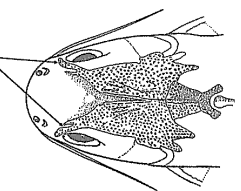
teeth on roof of mouth



adult

3 patches of villiform teeth on each side

preorbital protuberance V-shaped



dorsal view of head

**PLOTOSIDAE**

Stinging catfishes, coral reef catfishes, eel catfishes, barbel eels

*Plotosus limbatus* Valenciennes, 1840

**PLOTOSIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Darkfin eel catfish; Fr - Balibot aile noire.

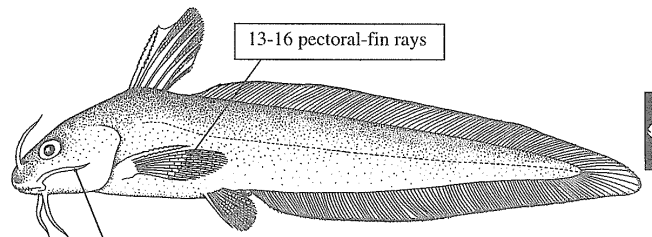
**Local names:** Koonbile.

**Size:** To at least 41 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, seines, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** In estuaries and along open coasts. Feeds mainly on crustaceans, molluscs, and fishes.

**Remarks:** The dorsal and pelvic spines are venomous and may be fatal!



13-16 pectoral-fin rays

maxillary barbels longer



*Plotosus lineatus* (Thunberg, 1787)

**PLOTOSIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Striped eel catfish; Fr - Balibot rayé.

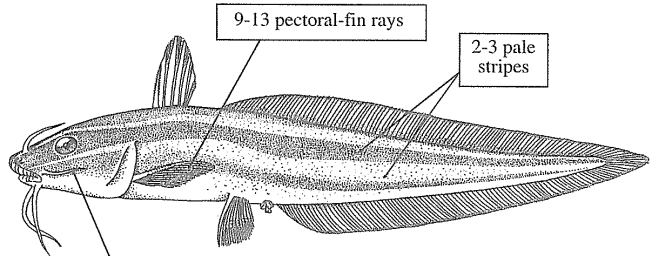
**Local names:** Koonbile.

**Size:** To about 30 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, seines, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** On reefs, along open coasts, in estuaries, and tidal pools. Feeds on small crustaceans, molluscs, and fishes.

**Remarks:** The dorsal and pelvic spines are venomous and may be fatal!



9-13 pectoral-fin rays

2-3 pale stripes

maxillary barbels shorter

## CHLOROPHTHALMIDAE

## Greeneyes

*Chlorophthalmus agassizi* (Bonaparte, 1850)

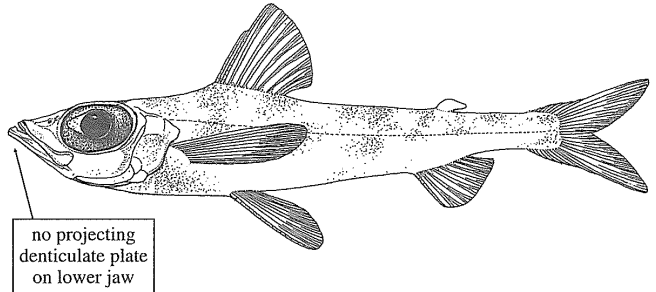
**FAO names:** En - Shortnose greeneye;  
Fr - Verdociil nez court.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 17 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, inhabits shelf and offshore waters in depths between 150 and 980 m. Feeds on invertebrates.



*Chlorophthalmus bicornis* (Norman, 1939)

**FAO names:** En - Spinyjaw greeneye;  
Fr - Verdociil barbu.

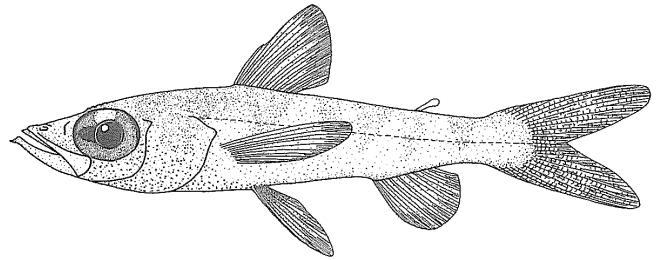
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 15 cm, common to 12 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, inhabits deeper offshore waters, from depths of 270 to 370 m.

## CHLOROPHTHALMIDAE



lower jaw  
terminating in  
a projecting  
denticulate  
plate



underside of head

## SYNODONTIDAE

## Lizardfishes

*Harpadon nehereus* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

**FAO names:** En - Bombay-duck; Fr - Bumalo.

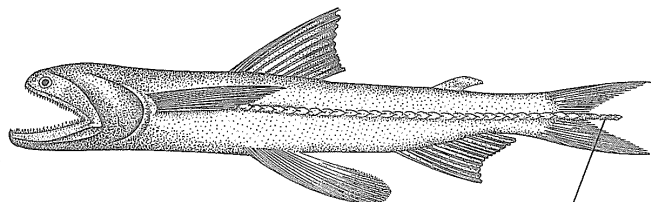
**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 40 cm, common between 10 and 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow grounds in in-shore waters and estuaries.

**Remarks:** This species was placed in the family Harpadontidae in Fischer and Bianchi, 1984.



lateral line extending  
onto median lobe of  
caudal fin

*Saurida gracilis* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)

SYNODONTIDAE

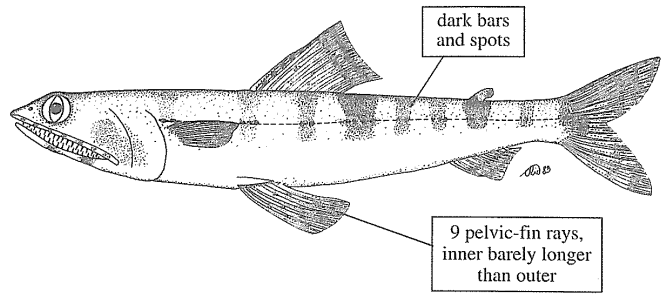
**FAO names:** En - Gracile lizardfish; Fr - Anoli grêle.

**Local names:** Anishow.

**Size:** To about 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters, in sandy areas near coral reefs. Feeds mainly on fishes.



*Saurida tumbil* (Bloch, 1795)

SYNODONTIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Greater lizardfish; Fr - Anoli tumbil.

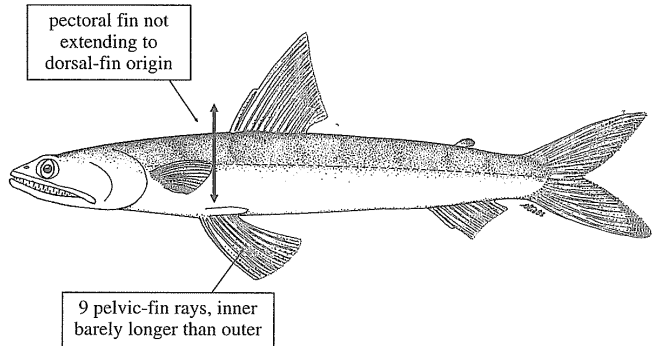
**Local names:** Anishow.

**Size:** To at least 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy bottoms between depths of 20 and 60 m. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans and squids.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Saurida undosquamis* Richardson, 1848

SYNODONTIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Brushtooth lizardfish; Fr - Anoli à grandes écailles;.

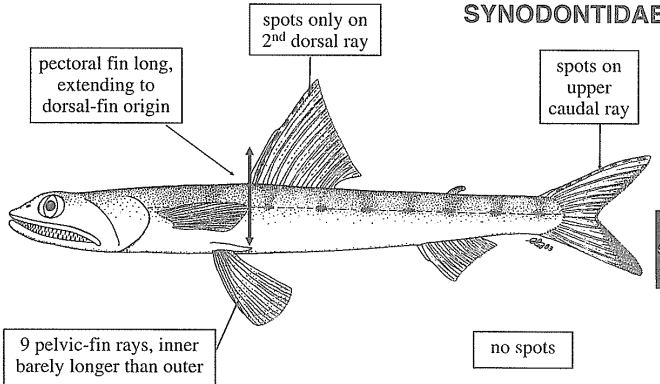
**Local names:** Anishow.

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy bottoms from depths of 20 to at least 200 m. Feeds on fishes and invertebrates.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Synodus binotatus* Schultz, 1953

SYNODONTIDAE

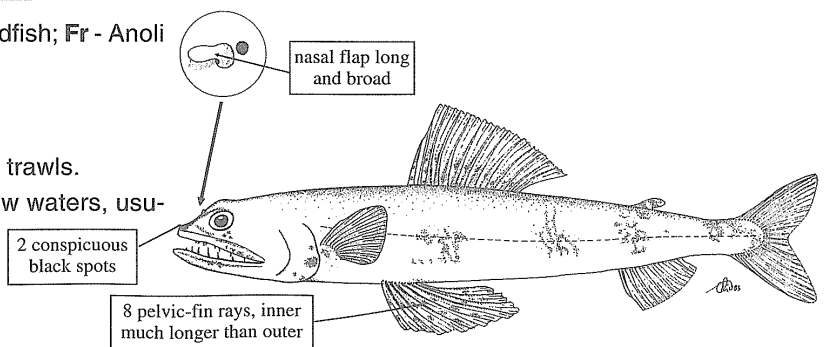
**FAO names:** En - Twospot lizardfish; Fr - Anoli à deux taches.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters, usually at depths less than 10 m.



***Synodus dermatogenys* Fowler, 1912****SYNODONTIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Banded lizardfish;  
Fr - Anoli bigarré.

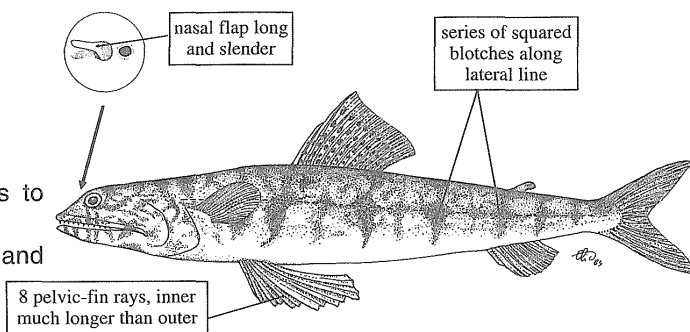
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters to depths of 20 m.

**Remarks:** Often confused and in Fischer and Bianchi, 1984, reported as *S. variegatus*.

***Synodus indicus* (Day, 1873)****SYNODONTIDAE**

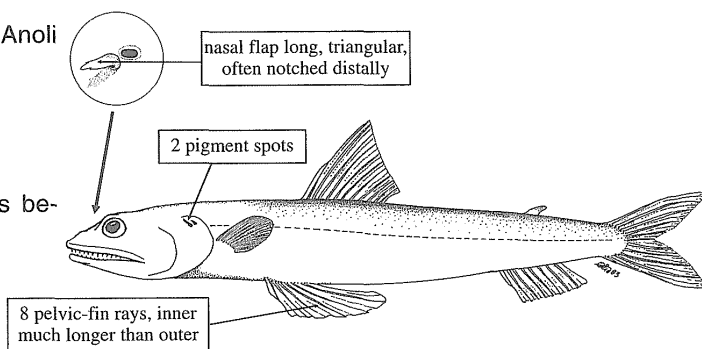
**FAO names:** En - Indian lizardfish; Fr - Anoli indien.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm, common to 12 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters between depths of 20 and 100 m.

***Synodus macrops* Tanaka, 1917****SYNODONTIDAE**

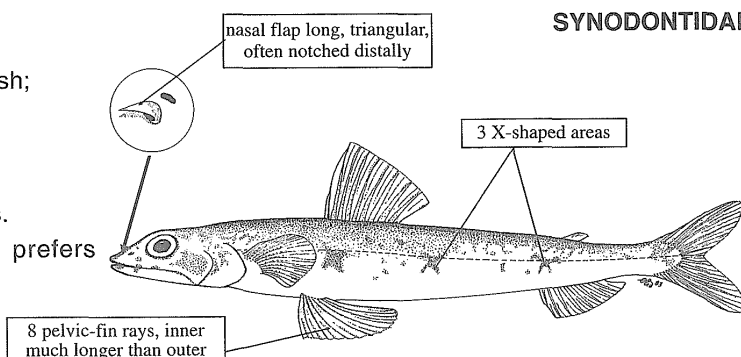
**FAO names:** En - Triplecross lizardfish;  
Fr - Anoli croix.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 18 cm, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Apparently prefers deeper waters from 35 to 150 m.

***Synodus variegatus* (Lacepède, 1803)****SYNODONTIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Variegated lizardfish;  
Fr - Anolie bigarré.

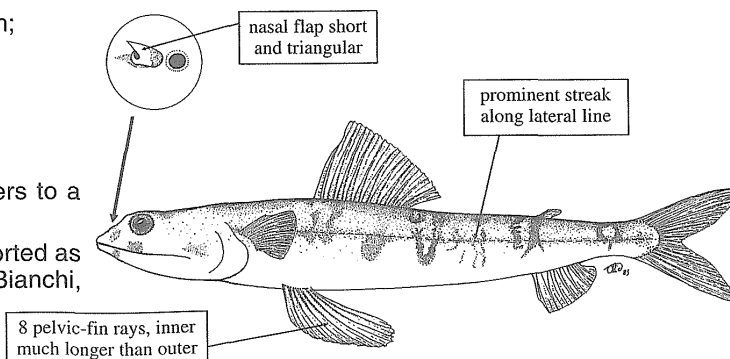
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters to a depth of 10 m.

**Remarks:** This species has been reported as *S. englemani* Schultz, in Fischer and Bianchi, 1984.



## MACROURIDAE

## Grenadiers

*Malacocephalus laevis* (Lowe, 1843)

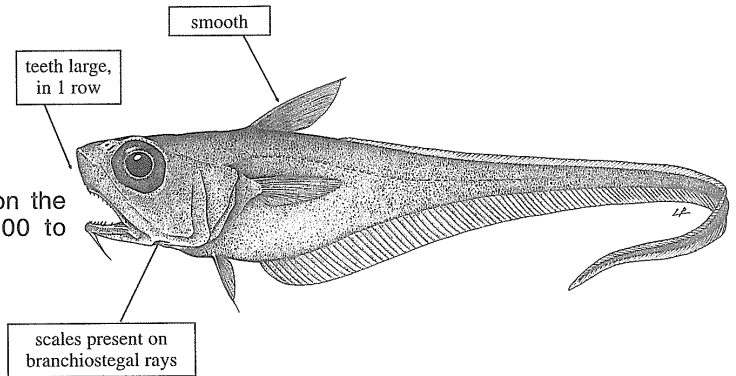
**FAO names:** En - Softhead grenadier;  
Fr - Grenadier barbu.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 52 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic on the continental slope, from depths of 200 to 1000 m.



*Ventrifossa petersoni* (Alcock, 1891)

## MACROURIDAE

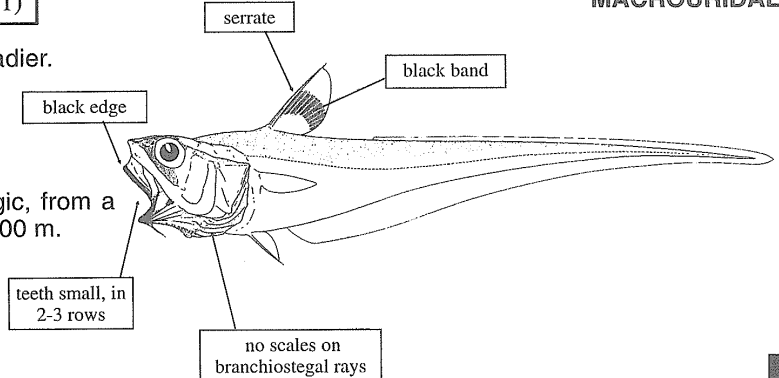
**FAO names:** En - Peterson's grenadier.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 42 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic, from a depth of about 300 m to at least 1000 m.



## OPHIDIIDAE

## Cusk eels, brotulas

*Brotula multibarbata* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1846)

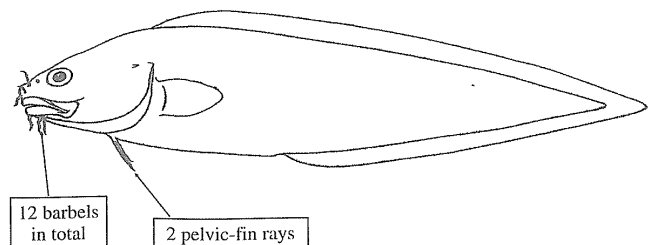
**FAO names:** En - Goastbeard brotula;  
Fr - Brotula barbe-deboue.

**Local names:** Koonbile.

**Size:** To at least 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, in traps, and in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on continental shelf and slope, to a depth of 650 m.



**LOPHIIDAE**

**Anglerfishes**

*Lophiodes mutilus* (Alcock, 1893)

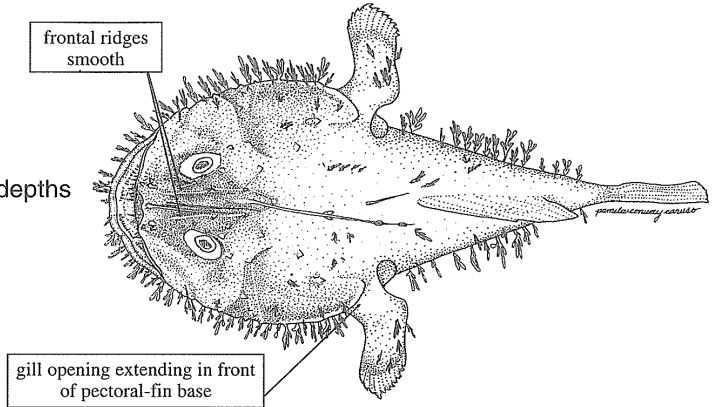
**FAO names:** En - Smooth angler;  
Fr - Bandroie marache.

**Local names:** Shafane.

**Size:** To 45 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found at depths between 300 and 500 m.



*Lophiomus setigerus* (Vahl, 1792)

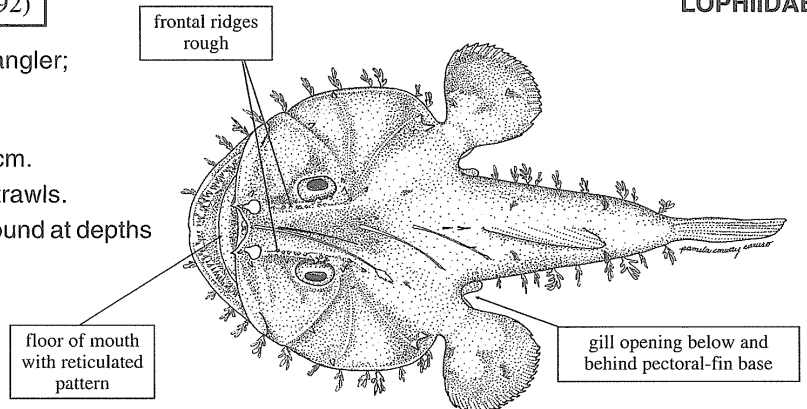
**FAO names:** En - Blackmouth angler;  
Fr - Bandroie bouche noire.

**Local names:** Shafane.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found at depths between 70 and 250 m.



**LOPHIIDAE**

**ATHERINIDAE**

**Silversides**

*Atherinomorus lacunosus* (Forster, 1801)

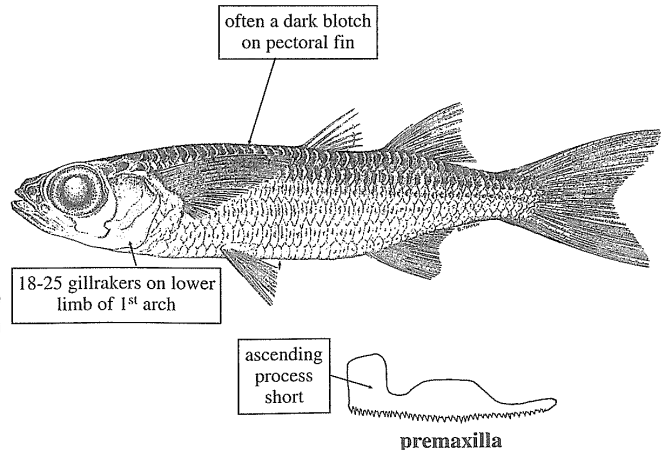
**FAO names:** En - Hardyhead silverside;  
Fr - Athérine tête.

**Local names:** Nusiye.

**Size:** To 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with seines.

**Habitat and biology:** An ubiquitous species; during the day aggregating in large inactive schools close to the shore. At night feeding on planktonic eggs of crustacea and small fish.





*Hypoatherina barnesi* Schultz, 1953

ATHERINIDAE

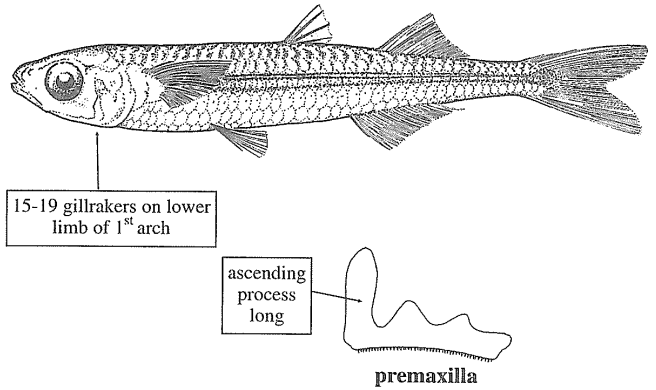
**FAO names:** En - Barnes' silverside;  
Fr - Athérine de Barnes.

**Local names:** Nusiye.

**Size:** To 6.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in coastal waters, lagoons.



*Hypoatherina temminckii* (Bleeker, 1853)

ATHERINIDAE

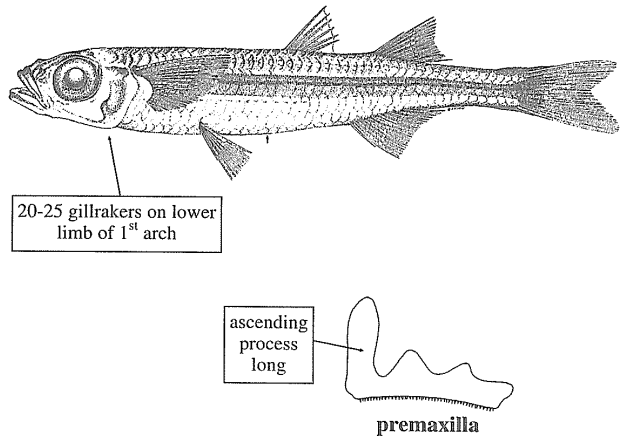
**FAO names:** En - Samoan silverside;  
Fr - Athérine samoan.

**Local names:** Nusiye.

**Size:** To 11 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Appears to be restricted to coastal waters.



BELONIDAE

Needlefishes

*Ablennes hians* (Valenciennes, 1846)

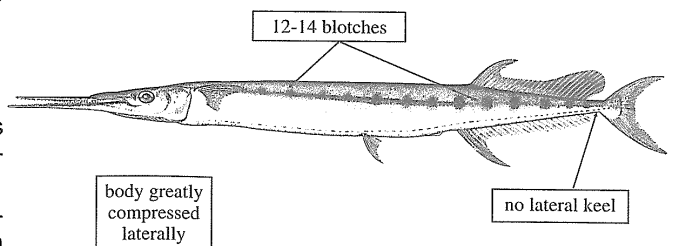
**FAO names:** En - Flat needlefish; Fr - Orphie plate.

**Local names:** Shoolii.

**Size:** To 1.2 m total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught by casting or trolling lures near the surface, also with seines and drift-nets.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic species inhabiting surface waters. Carnivorous, feeding on small fish.



*Platybelone argalus platyura* (Bennett, 1837)

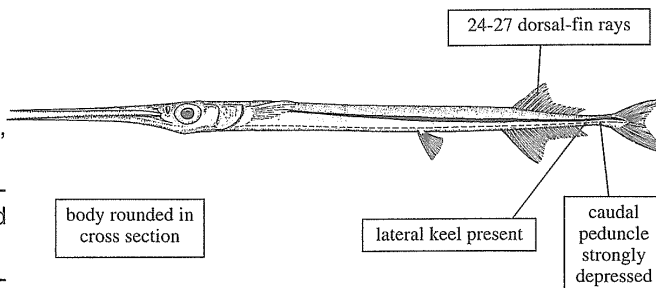
**FAO names:** En - Keeltail needlefish;  
Fr - Orphie carène.

**Local names:** Shoolii.

**Size:** To at least 38.2 cm standard length, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly by casting and trolling lures near surface; also with seines and trammelnet.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in offshore waters.

*Strongylura leiura* (Bleeker, 1850)

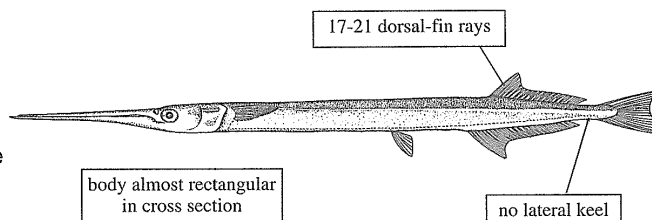
**FAO names:** En - Banded needlefish;  
Fr - Aiguillette ruban.

**Local names:** Shoolii.

**Size:** To 73 cm total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with driftnets, shore seines, and purse seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal areas, also entering estuaries. Feeds on small fish.

*Tylosurus acus melanotus* (Bleeker, 1850)

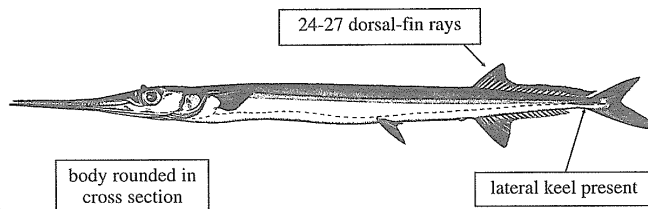
**FAO names:** En - Agujon needlefish;  
Fr - Aiguille voyeuse.

**Local names:** Shoolii.

**Size:** To 90 cm total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught by casting or trolling lures near surface; also with gillnets and seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, inhabiting offshore waters, but also found in coastal waters. Feeds on small fish.

*Tylosurus crocodilus crocodilus* (Peron and Le Seur, 1821)

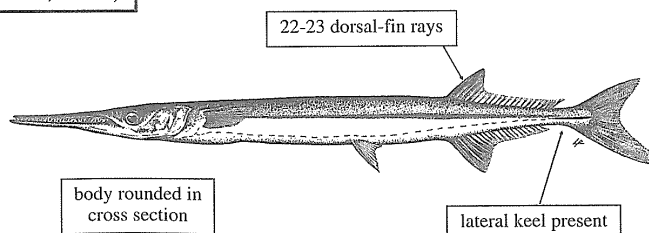
**FAO names:** En - Hound needlefish; Fr - Aiguille crocodile.

**Local names:** Shoolii.

**Size:** Reported to 1.5 m total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught by casting or trolling lures near surface; also with purse seines and driftnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in more coastal waters, but also found offshore. Feeds on small fish.



**HEMIRAMPHIDAE**

**Halfbeaks**

*Euleptorhamphus viridis* (van Hasselt, 1823)

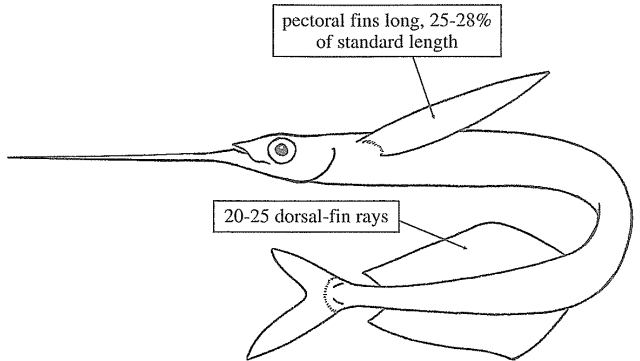
**FAO names:** En - Ribbon halfbeak.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets and shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Well offshore; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the water.



*Hemiramphus far* (Forsskål, 1775)

**FAO names:** En - Blackbarred halfbeak; Fr - Demi-bec bagmard.

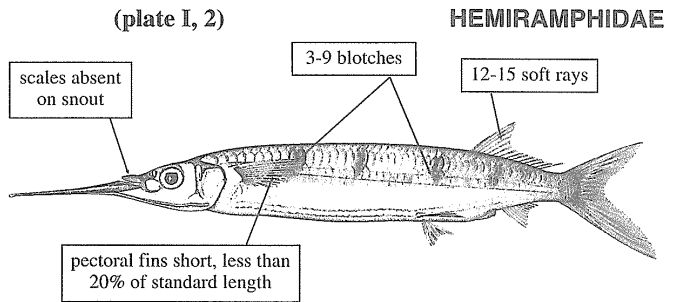
**Local names:** Qaraare.

**Size:** To about 45 cm, common to 27 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets and dragnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Chiefly in areas of rich submerged vegetation; adults feed mainly on sea grasses.

**Remarks:** A similar species that may occur in the Gulf of Aden is *Hemiramphus marginatus* (Forsskål, 1775). It can be distinguished from *H. far* by lacking darks bars on sides and for having its lower jaw shorter than head length.



*Hyporhamphus affinis* (Günther, 1866)

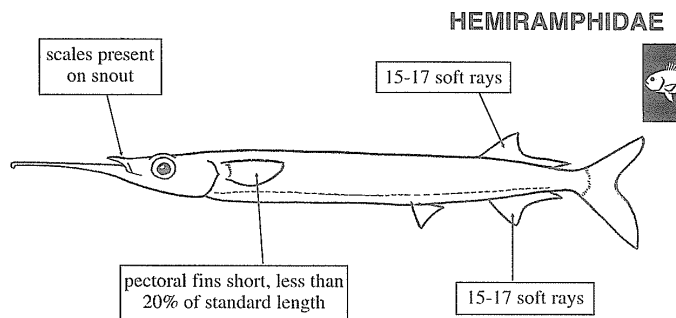
**FAO names:** En - Tropical halfbeak.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 26 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with shore seines and purse seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits clear waters, particularly around reefs.



*Hyporhamphus gamberur* (Lacepède, 1803)

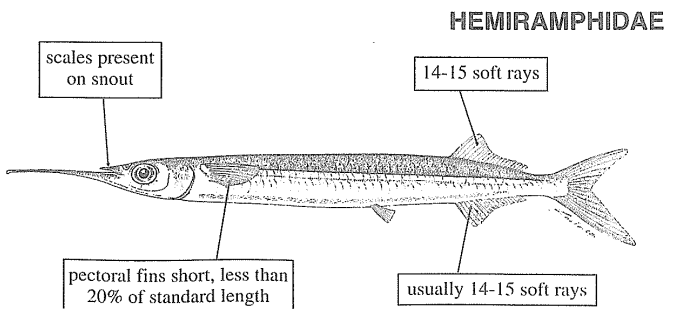
**FAO names:** En - Red Sea halfbeak.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Common around reefs.



*Oxyporhamphus micropterus micropterus* (Valenciennes, 1846)

## HEMIRAMPHIDAE

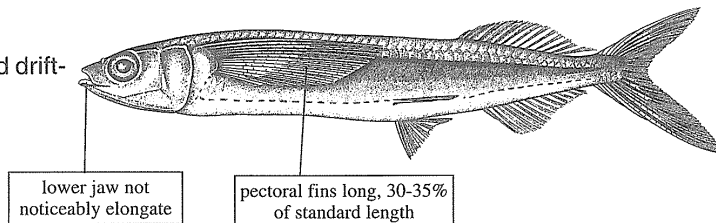
**FAO names:** En - Shortwing flyingfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 19 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines and drift-nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, oceanic.

*Rhynchorhamphus arabicus* Parin & Shcherbachev, 1972

## HEMIRAMPHIDAE

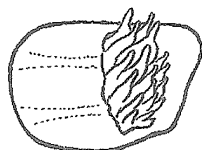
**FAO names:** En - Arabian flyingfish.

**Local names:**

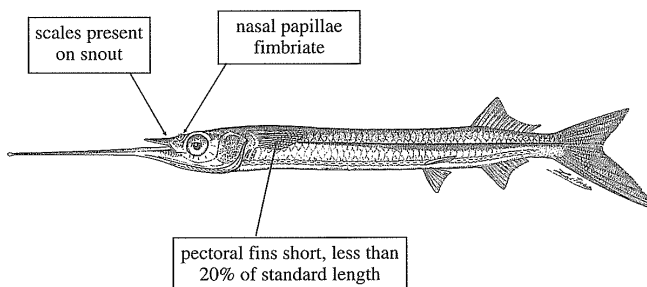
**Size:** To 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** No information available.



nasal papillae



## EXOCOETIDAE

## Flyingfishes

*Cheilopogon atrisignis* (Jenkins, 1904)

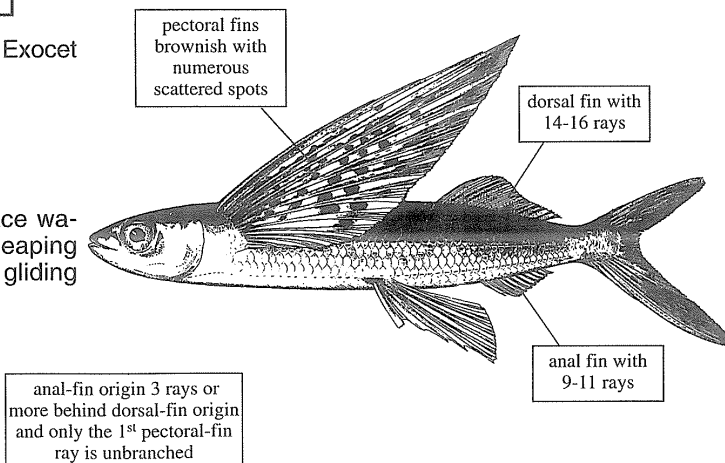
**FAO names:** En - Glider flyingfish; Fr - Exocet planeur.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in surface waters of both oceanic and neritic areas; leaping out of the water from time to time and gliding for long distances above the surface.



*Cheilopogon cyanopterus* (Valenciennes, 1846)

EXOCOETIDAE

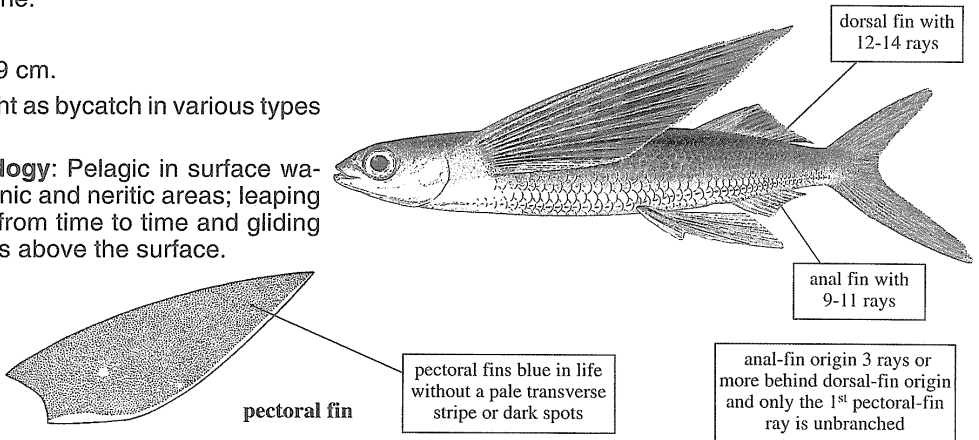
**FAO names:** En - Margined flyingfish;  
Fr - Exocet cadène.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 29 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in surface waters of both oceanic and neritic areas; leaping out of the water from time to time and gliding for long distances above the surface.



*Cheilopogon furcatus* (Mitchill, 1815)

EXOCOETIDAE

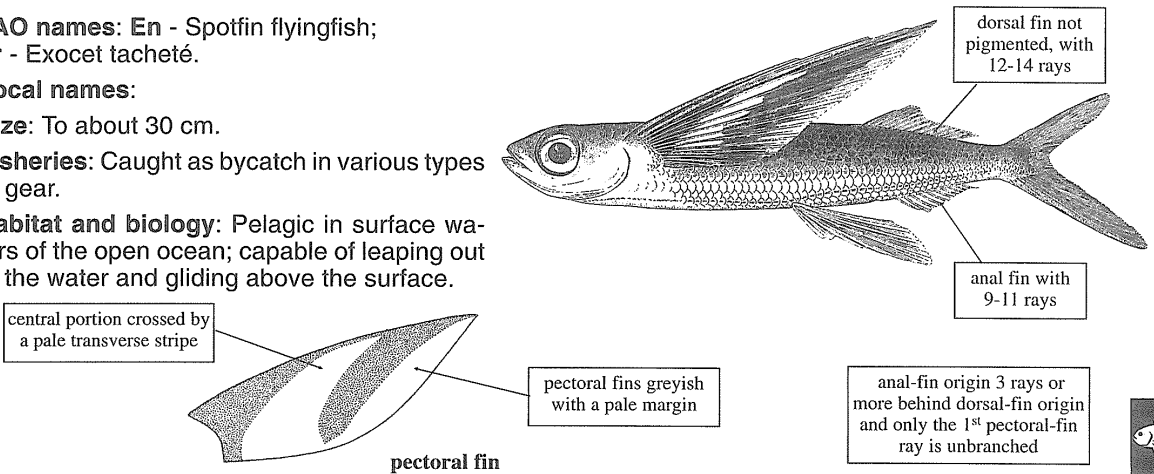
**FAO names:** En - Spotfin flyingfish;  
Fr - Exocet tacheté.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in surface waters of the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.



*Cheilopogon nigricans* (Bennett, 1846)

EXOCOETIDAE

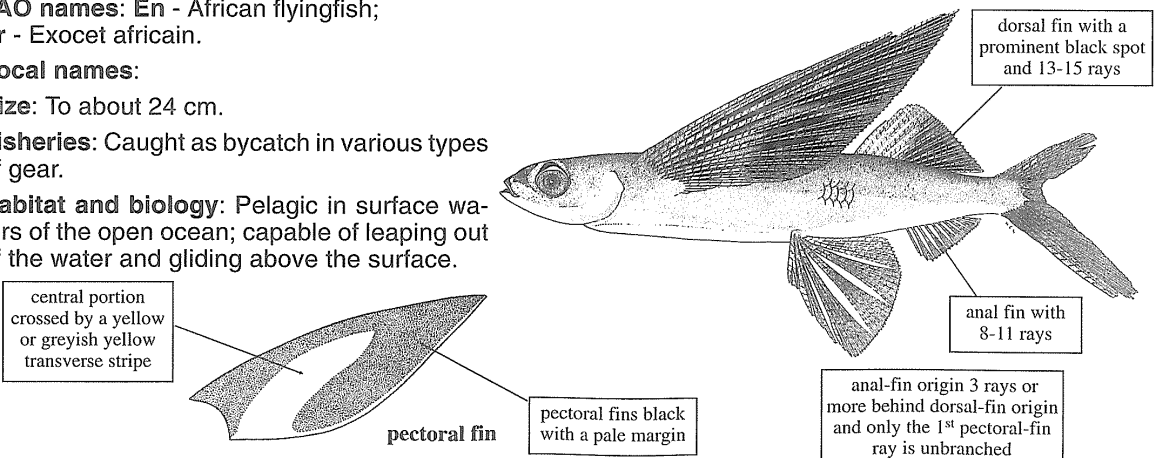
**FAO names:** En - African flyingfish;  
Fr - Exocet africain.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 24 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in surface waters of the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.



*Cheilopogon suttoni* (Whitley and Colefax, 1938)

## EXOCOETIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Sutton's flyingfish;

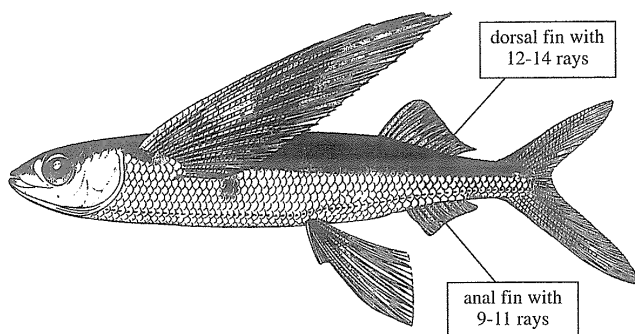
Fr - Exocet de Sutton.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 28 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

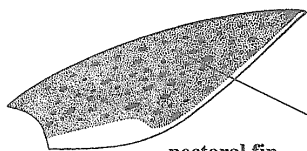
**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in surface waters of both neritic and oceanic areas; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.



dorsal fin with  
12-14 rays

anal fin with  
9-11 rays

anal-fin origin 3 rays or more behind dorsal-fin origin  
and only the 1<sup>st</sup> pectoral-fin ray is unbranched



pectoral fin

pectoral fins grey or  
brownish with numerous  
scattered dark spots

*Cypselurus naresii* (Günther, 1889)

## EXOCOETIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Pharaon flyingfish;

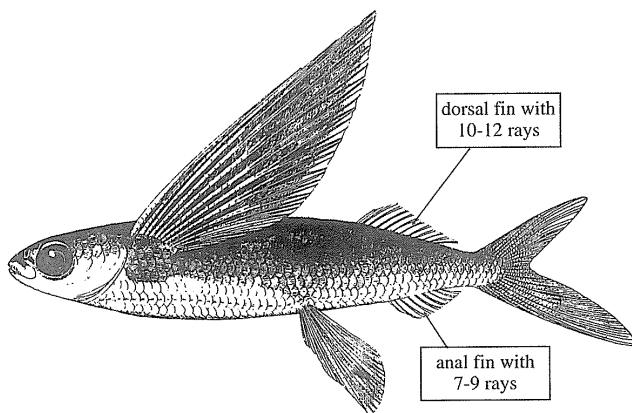
Fr - Exocet pharaon

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 21 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

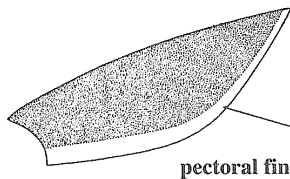
**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in surface waters of both neritic and oceanic areas; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.



dorsal fin with  
10-12 rays

anal fin with  
7-9 rays

anal-fin origin 3 rays or more behind dorsal-fin origin  
and only the 1<sup>st</sup> pectoral-fin ray is unbranched



pectoral fin

pectoral fins uniformly brownish,  
unpigmented below the 9<sup>th</sup> ray

*Cypselurus oligolepis* (Bleeker, 1866)

## EXOCOETIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Largescale flyingfish;

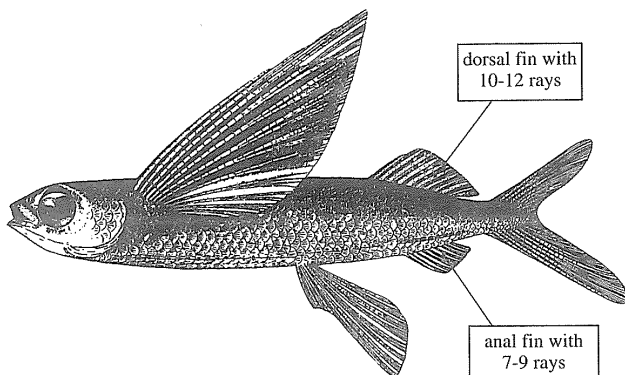
Fr - Exocet à grandes écailles.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 17 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

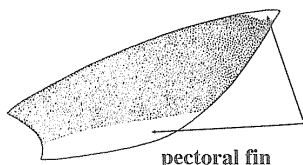
**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in surface waters of inshore areas; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.



dorsal fin with  
10-12 rays

anal fin with  
7-9 rays

anal-fin origin 3 rays or more behind dorsal-fin origin  
and only the 1<sup>st</sup> pectoral-fin ray is unbranched



pectoral fin

pectoral fins greyish brown, lower  
portion and posterior tip colourless

*Cypseturus poecilopterus* (Valenciennes, 1846)

EXOCOETIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Yellow-wing flyingfish;

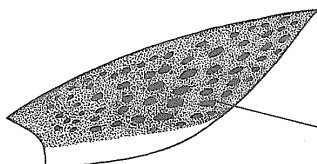
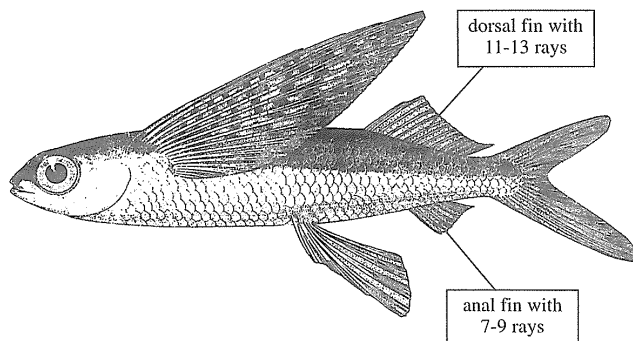
Fr - Exocet aile jaune.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 21 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in neritic surface waters, rare in the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.



pectoral fin

pectoral fins brownish grey (yellowish brown in life) with numerous dark spots

anal-fin origin 3 rays or more behind dorsal-fin origin and only the 1<sup>st</sup> pectoral-fin ray is unbranched

*Exocoetus monocirrhus* Richardson, 1846

EXOCOETIDAE

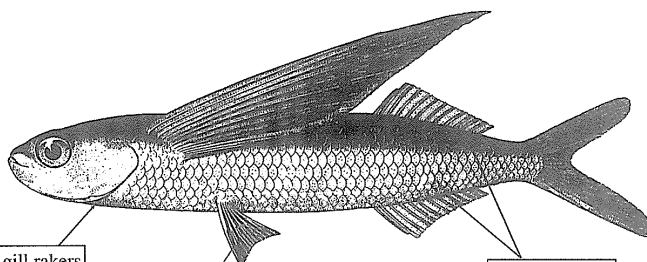
**FAO names:** En - Barbel flyingfish; Fr - Exocet boue.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in open sea surface waters; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.



21-29 gill rakers on 1<sup>st</sup> arch

pelvic fins short, closer to pectoral-fin origin than to anal-fin origin

dorsal- and anal-fin bases opposite



*Hirundichthys coromandelensis* (Hornell, 1923)

EXOCOETIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Coromandel flyingfish;

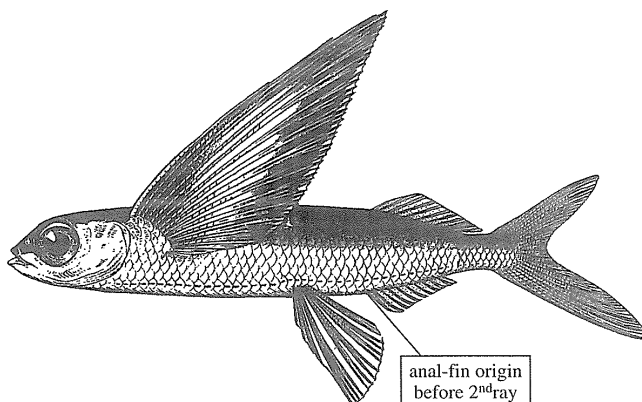
Fr - Exocet coromandel.

**Local names:**

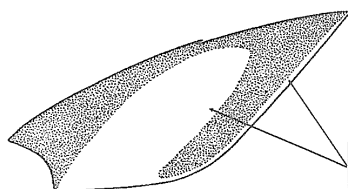
**Size:** To 19 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in surface waters of both neritic and oceanic areas; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.



anal-fin origin before 2<sup>nd</sup> ray of dorsal fin



pectoral fin

pectoral fins dark with a broad pale transverse stripe and a wide pale margin

*Parexocoetus brachypterus* (Richardson, 1846)

## EXOCOETIDAE

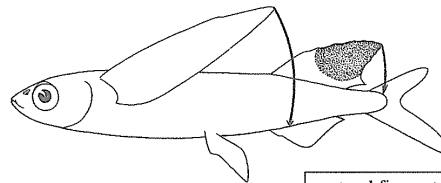
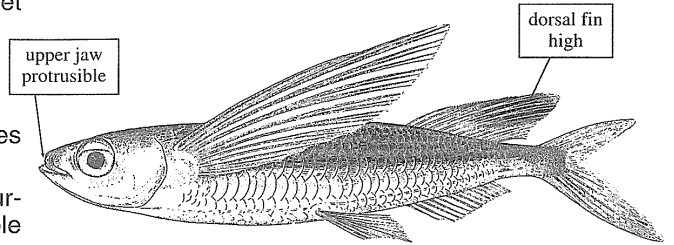
**FAO names:** En - Sailfin flyingfish; Fr - Exocet voilier.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in neritic surface waters, rare in the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.

*Parexocoetus mento* (Valenciennes, 1846)

## EXOCOETIDAE

**FAO names:** En - African sailfin flyingfish; Fr - Exocet voilier africain.

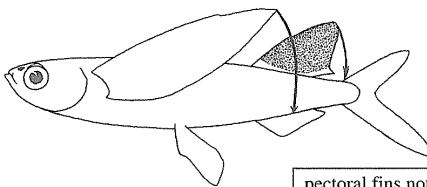
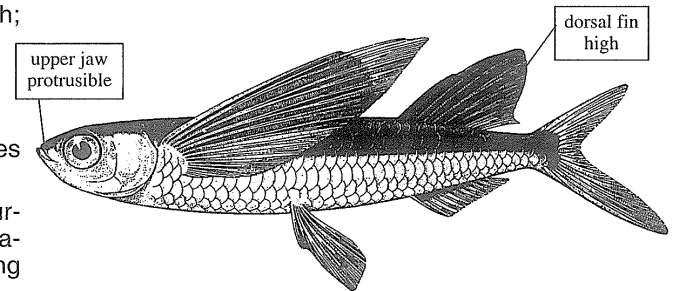
**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in neritic surface waters, absent in the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

*Prognichthys brevipinnis* (Valenciennes, 1846)

## EXOCOETIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Shortfin flyingfish;

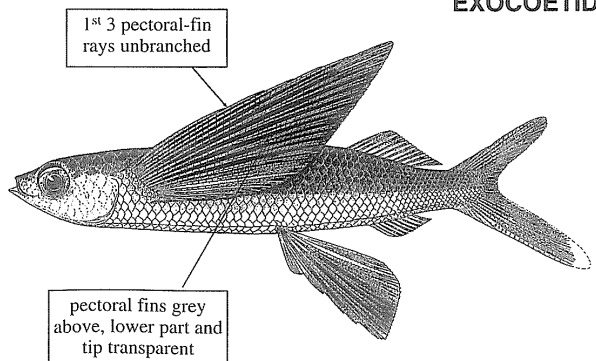
Fr - Exocet aile courte.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 19 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in various types of gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in neritic surface waters, rare in the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding above the surface.





**BERYCIDAE**

**Alfonsinos**

*Beryx decadactylus* Cuvier, 1829

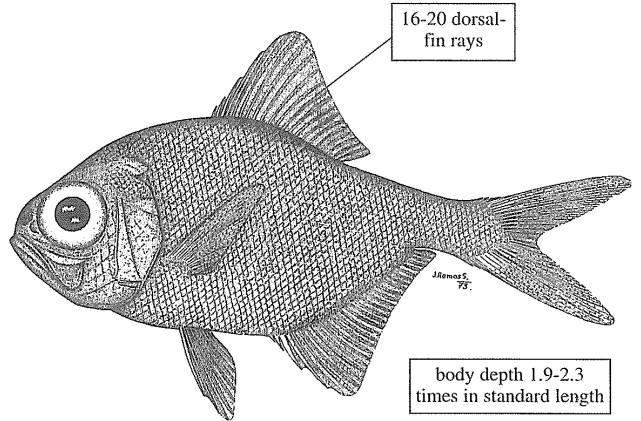
**FAO names:** En - Alfonsino; Fr - Beryx commun.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 60 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Bathypelagic, usually over the continental slope in depths of about 200 to 600 m. Feeds on crustaceans, small fish and cephalopods.



*Beryx splendens* Lowe, 1834

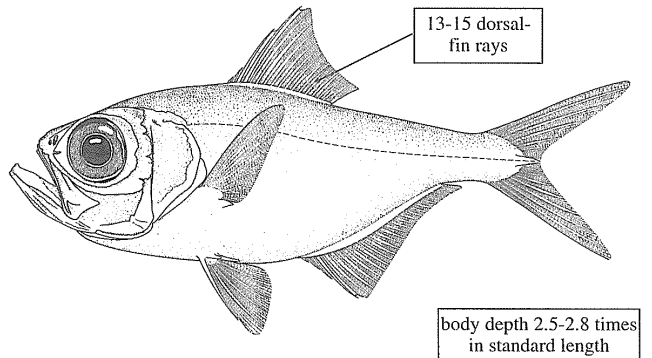
**FAO names:** En - Slender alfonsino; Fr - Beryx long.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 70 cm, common to about 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Bathypelagic, over the continental slope, in depths from about 200 to 600 m.



**BERYCIDAE**

**HOLOCENTRIDAE**

**Squirrelfishes, soldierfishes**

*Myripristis adustus* Bleeker, 1853

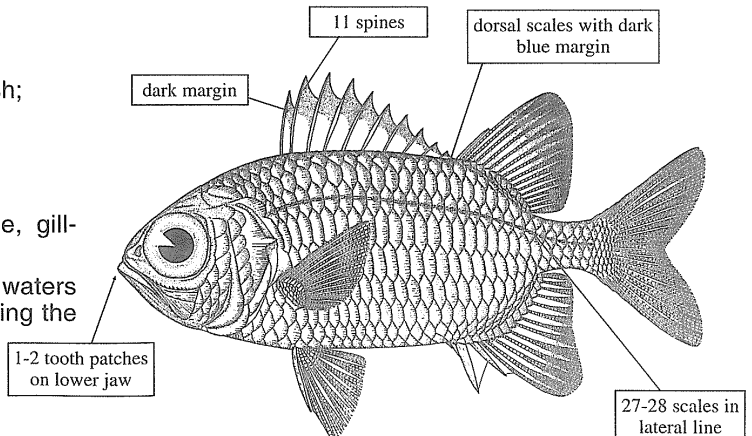
**FAO names:** En - Shadowfin soldierfish; Fr - Marignan ombré.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and by spearing; caught at night.

**Habitat and biology:** Prefers shallow waters around coral reefs; hides in caves during the day.



*Myripristis berndti* Jordan & Evermann, 1903

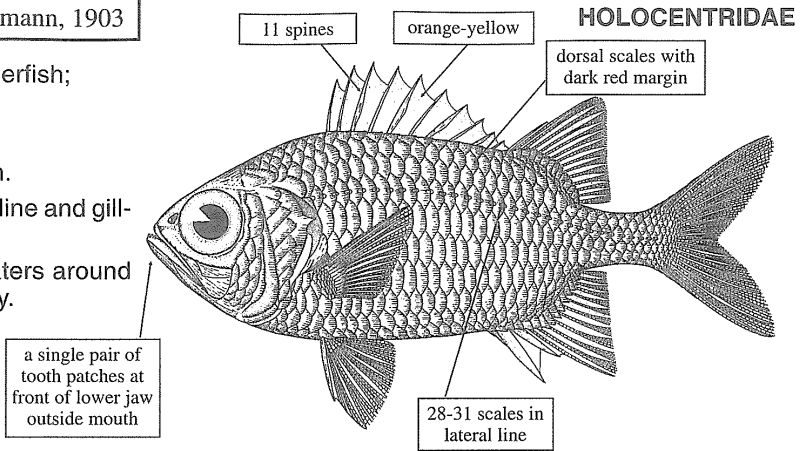
**FAO names:** En - Blotcheye soldierfish;  
Fr - Marignan à ocellères.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 29 cm, common to 22 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and gill-nets; caught at night.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters around coral reefs; a cave resident by day.



*Myripristis kuntzei* (Cuvier, 1831)

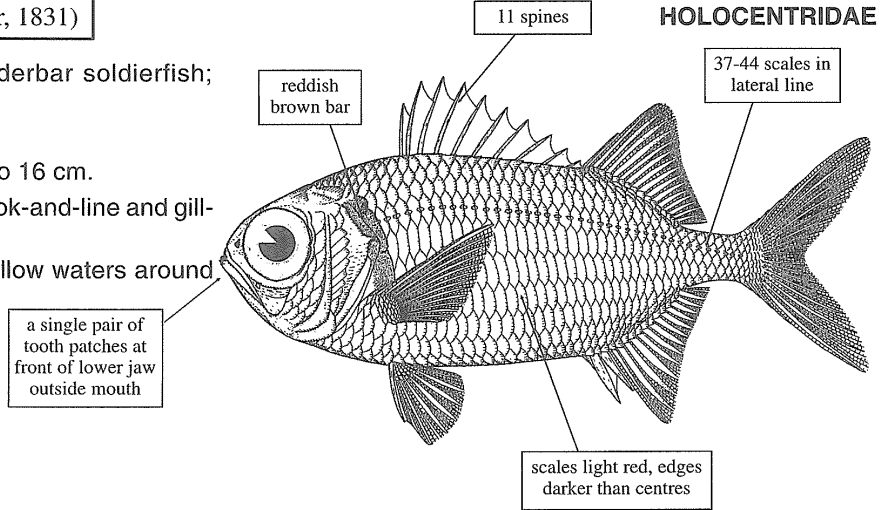
**FAO names:** En - Shoulderbar soldierfish;  
Fr - Marignan ardoisé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm, common to 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and gill-nets; caught at night.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters around coral reefs.



*Myripristis melanostictus* (Bleeker, 1863)

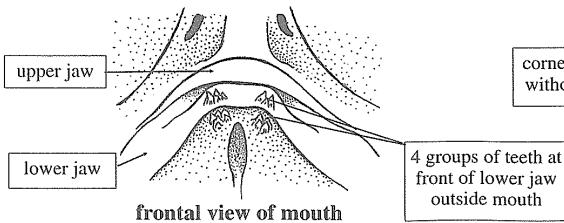
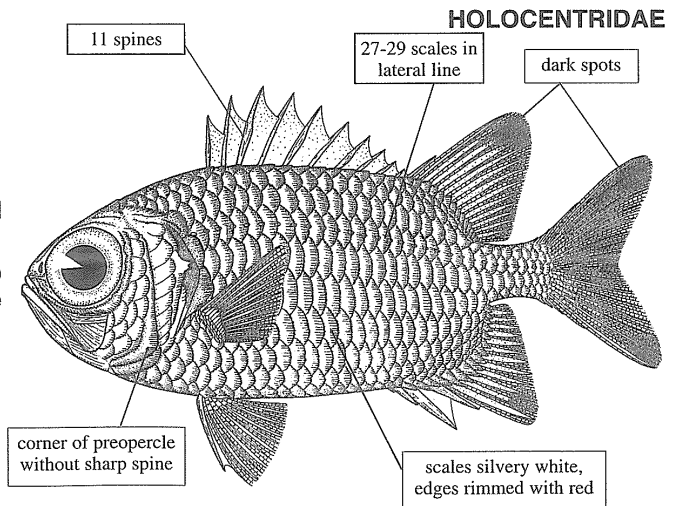
**FAO names:** En - Blacktip soldierfish;  
Fr - Marignan poklé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 28 cm, common to 24 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In moderate to deep water, generally more than 30 m; by day in the shelter of reefs, over open bottoms at night.



***Myripristis murdjan* (Forsskål, 1775)**

**FAO names:** En - Pinecone soldierfish;  
Fr - Marignan pomme de pin.

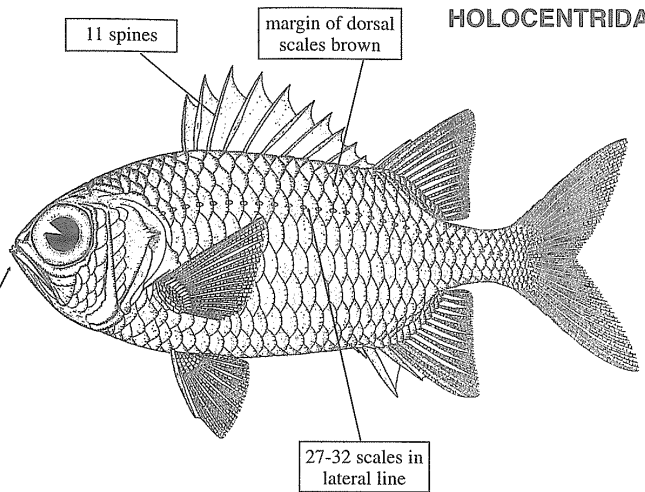
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 23 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and gill-nets; caught at night.

**Habitat and biology:** A coral reef species hiding in caves and crevices by day.

a single pair of tooth patches at front of lower jaw outside mouth



**HOLOCENTRIDAE**

***Myripristis violacea* Bleeker, 1851**

**FAO names:** En - Violet soldierfish;  
Fr - Marignan violacé.

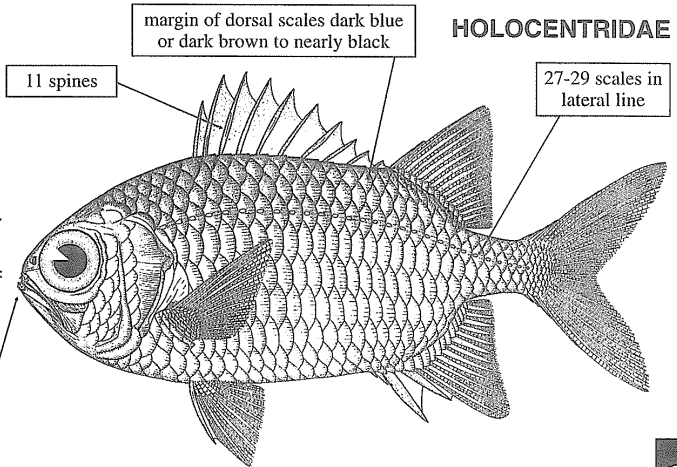
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 23 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and gill-nets; caught at night.

**Habitat and biology:** A coral reef species of shallow waters.

a single pair of tooth patches at front of lower jaw outside mouth



**HOLOCENTRIDAE**



***Neoniphon opercularis* (Valenciennes, 1831)**

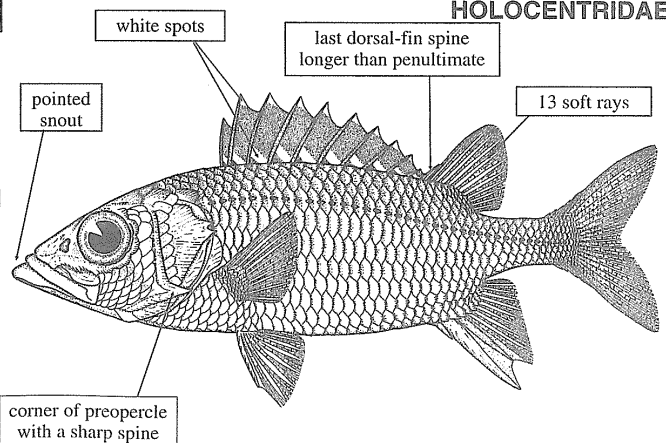
**FAO names:** En - Blackfin squirrelfish;  
Fr - Marignan aile noire.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 32 cm, common to 23 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** A reef species found in shallow to moderate depths.



**HOLOCENTRIDAE**

*Neoniphon sammara* (Forsskål, 1775)

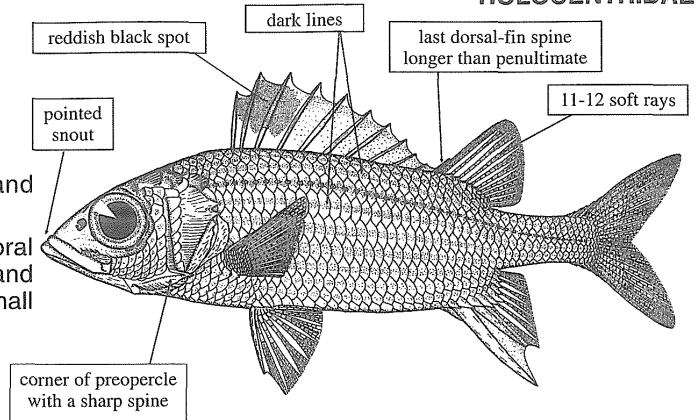
**FAO names:** En - Sammara squirrelfish;  
Fr - Marignan tacheté.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 28 cm, common to 23 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Associated with coral reefs; most often in shallow waters of bays and lagoons. Feeds at night on crabs and small fish.

*Ostichthys archiepiscopus* (Valenciennes, 1862)

**FAO names:** En - Straighthead soldierfish;  
Fr - Marignan cuirassé.

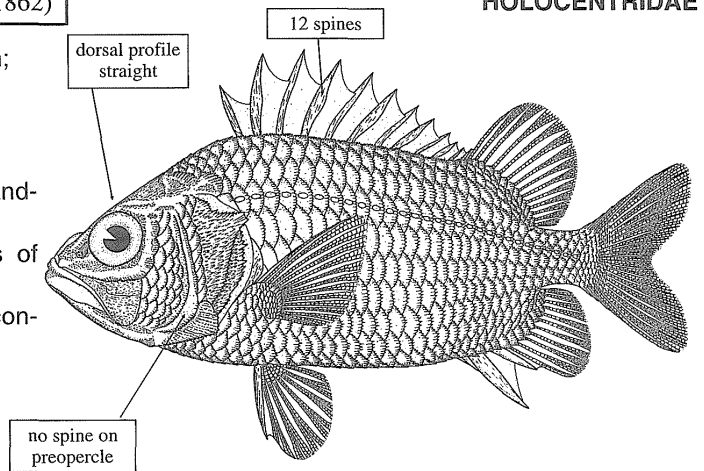
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 28 cm, common to 24 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs at depths of about 200 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

*Sargocentron caudimaculatum* (Rüppell, 1838)

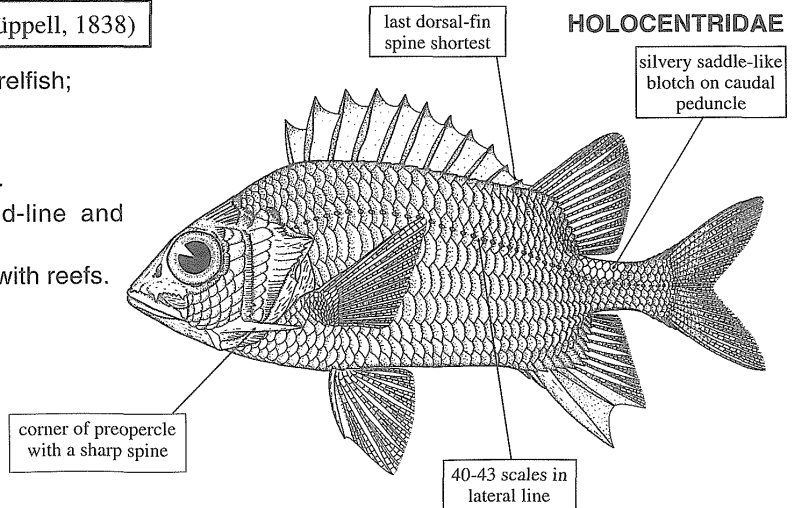
**FAO names:** En - Silverspot squirrelfish;  
Fr - Marignan rouge et argent.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 24 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Associated with reefs.



*Sargocentron diadema* (Lacepède, 1803)

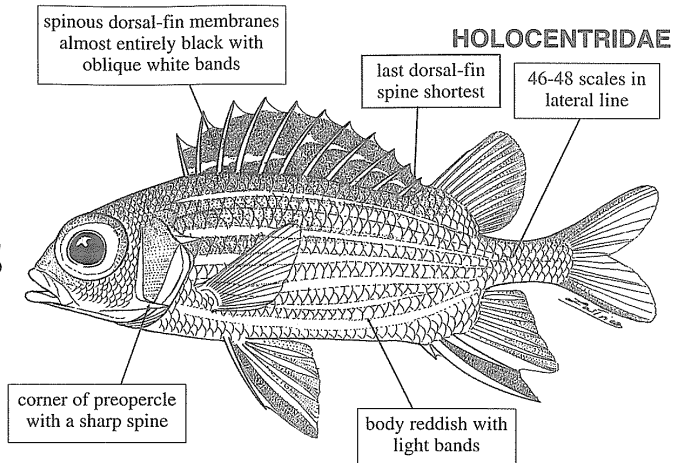
**FAO names:** En - Crown squirrelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 16 cm

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** A coral reef species, usually found in depths of 2 to 30 m; tends to occur in aggregations.



*Sargocentron ittodai* (Jordan & Fowler, 1903)

**FAO names:** En - Samurai squirrelfish.

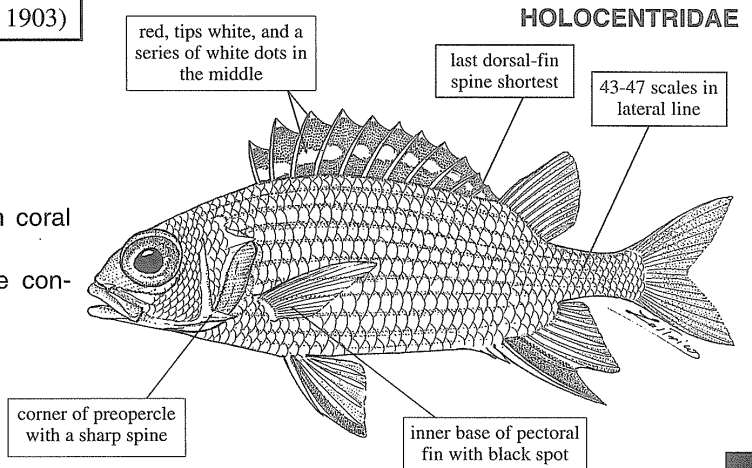
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 17 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Associated with coral reefs.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Sargocentron macrosquamis* Golani, 1984

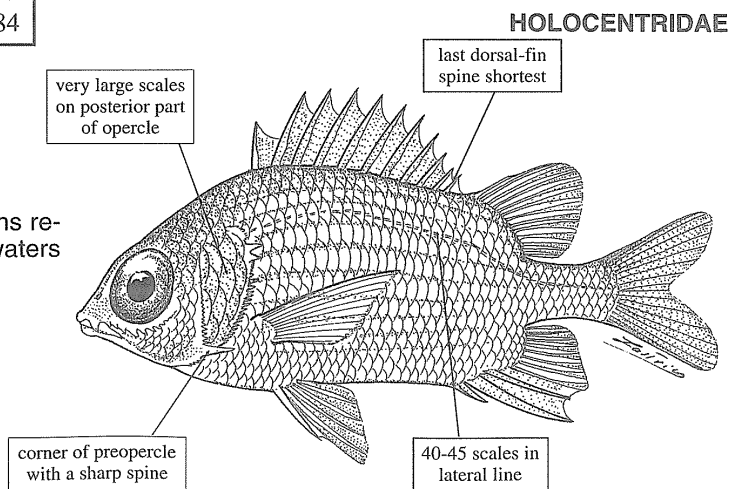
**FAO names:** En - Bigscale squirrelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 9 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** The few specimens recorded so far were collected in shallow waters from depths of 4 to 10 m.



***Sargocentron melanospilos* (Bleeker, 1858)**

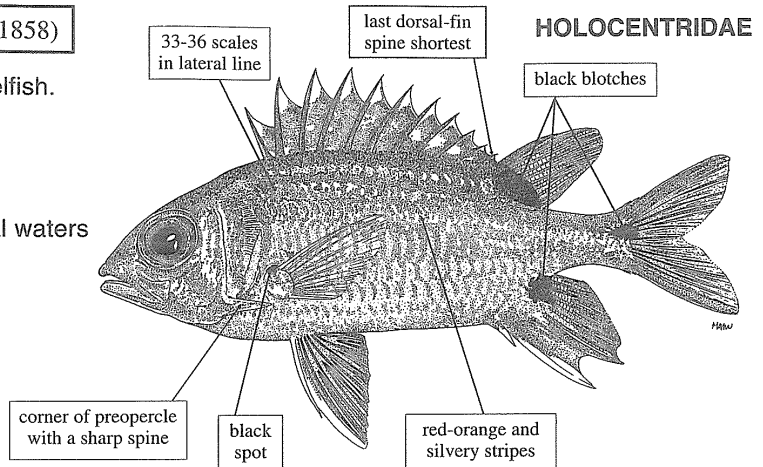
**FAO names:** En - Blackblotch squirrelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 19 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coastal waters to a depth of about 90 m.

***Sargocentron praslin* (Lacepède, 1802)**

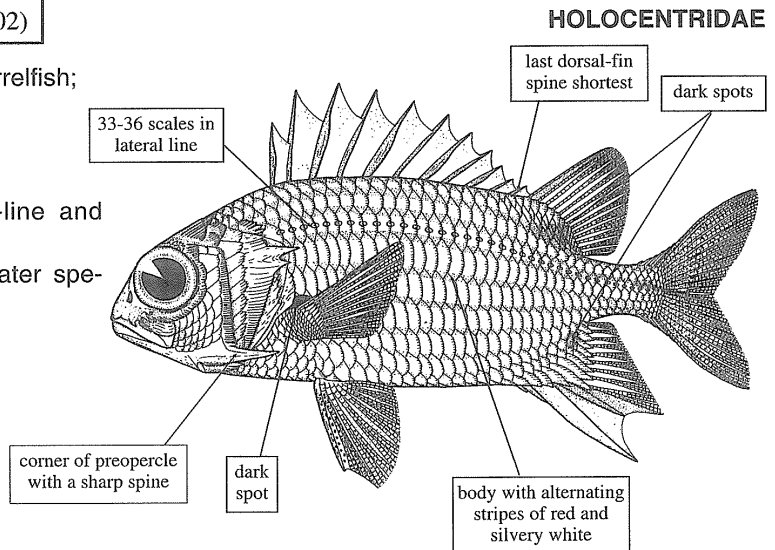
**FAO names:** En - Dark-striped squirrelfish;  
Fr - Marignan rouget.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** A shallow-water species, often found around coral reefs.

***Sargocentron punctatissimum* (Cuvier, 1829)**

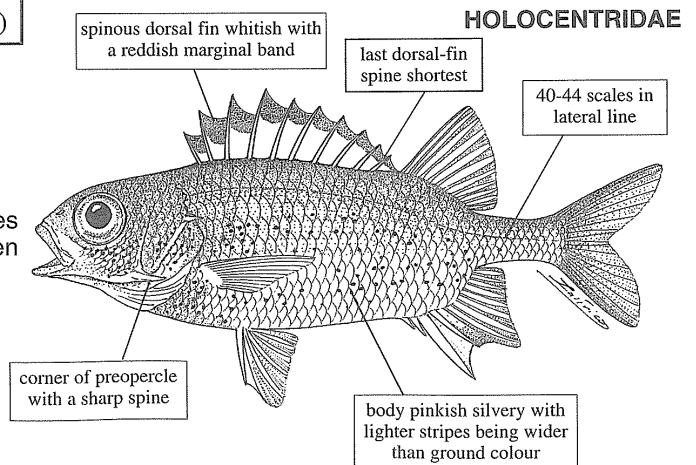
**FAO names:** En - Peppered squirrelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on rocky shores and coral reefs exposed to wave action; often found in very shallow water.



***Sargocentron rubrum* (Forsskål, 1775)**

**FAO names:** En - Redcoat; Fr - Marignan rouget.

**Local name:**

**Size:** To 32 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

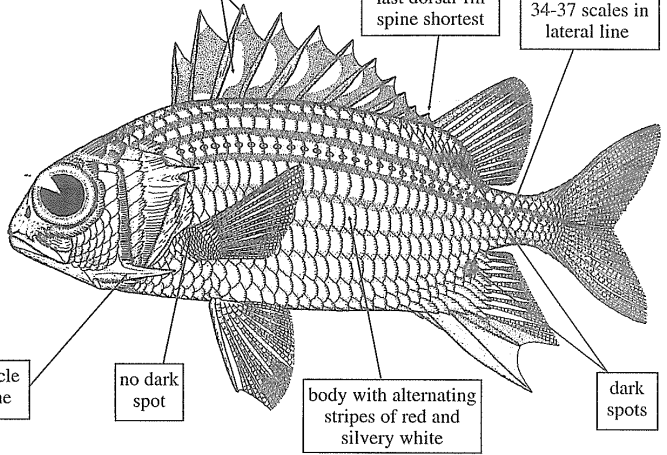
**Habitat and biology:** A shallow-water species found in protected habitats such as bays and lagoons.

spinous dorsal fin red, tips white, a median band of white spots

**HOLOCENTRIDAE**

last dorsal-fin spine shortest

34-37 scales in lateral line



***Sargocentron spiniferum* (Forsskål, 1775)**

**FAO names:** En - Sabre squirrelfish; Fr - Marignan sabre.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 45 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, traps, and by spearing.

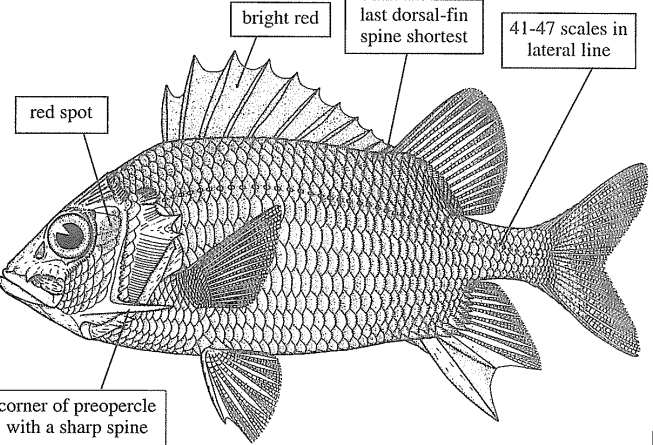
**Habitat and biology:** Associated with coral reefs; hides by day and emerges for foraging with the onset of darkness. Feeds on crustaceans.

**HOLOCENTRIDAE**

bright red

last dorsal-fin spine shortest

41-47 scales in lateral line



**ZEIDAE**

**Dories**

***Cyttopsis roseus* (Lowe, 1843)**

**FAO names:** En - Rosy dory; Fr - Saint Pierre rosé.

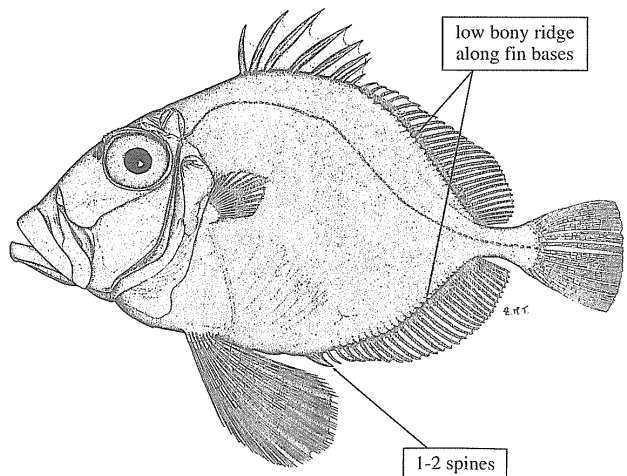
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 22 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Found beyond a depth of 200 m.

low bony ridge along fin bases



***Zenopsis conchifer* (Lowe, 1852)****ZEIDAE**

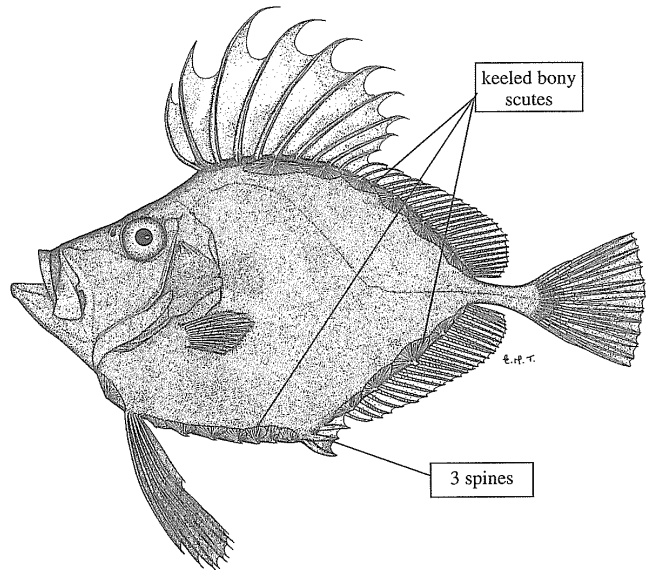
**FAO names:** En - Silvery John dory;  
Fr - Saint Pierre argenté.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Found near the bottom beyond a depth of 90 m.

**CAPROIDAE****Boarfishes*****Antigonia rubescens* (Günther, 1860)**

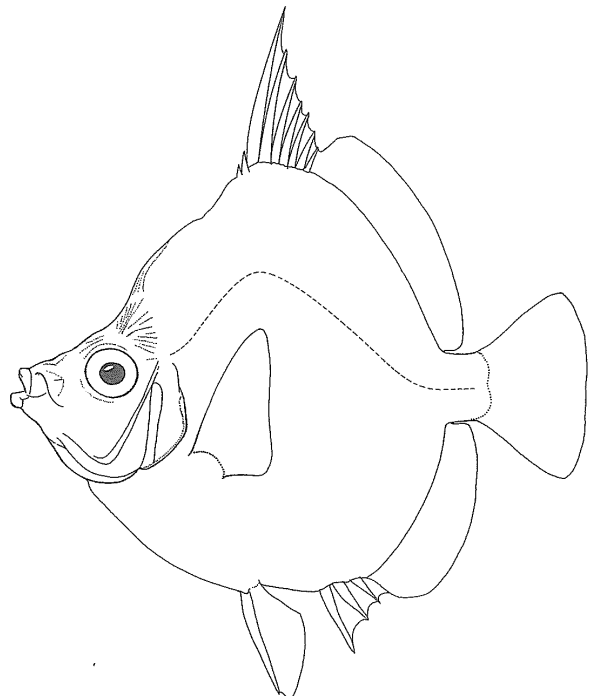
**FAO names:** En - Indo-Pacific boarfish;  
Fr - Sanglier indo-pacifique.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 22 cm.

**Fisheries:** Taken as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Living near the bottom, in depths of 65 to 600 m.





**AULOSTOMIDAE**

**Trumpetfishes**

*Aulostomus chinensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

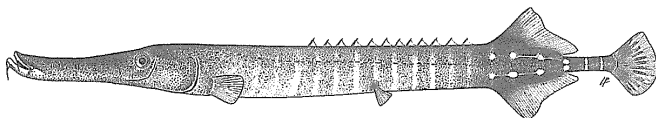
**FAO names:** En - Chinese trumpetfish;  
Fr - Trompette chinoise.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 75 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch with various types of artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shallow clear water; most frequently observed hanging vertically in the water with the head down. Feeds on small fish and shrimps.



**FISTULARIIDAE**

**Cornetfishes, flutemouths**

*Fistularia commersonii* (Rüppell, 1835)

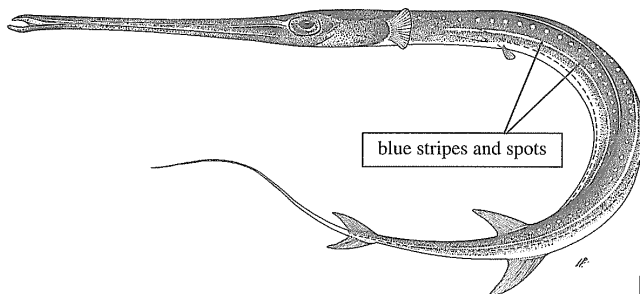
**FAO names:** En - Bluespotted cornetfish;  
Fr - Cornette à taches bleues.

**Local names:** Bustooni.

**Size:** To about 1.6 m, common to 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, gillnets, and lines.

**Habitat and biology:** Most common in sea-grass beds and coral reefs in shallow water. Feeds on small fishes and shrimps.



*Fistularia petimba* (Lacepède, 1803)

**FISTULARIIDAE**

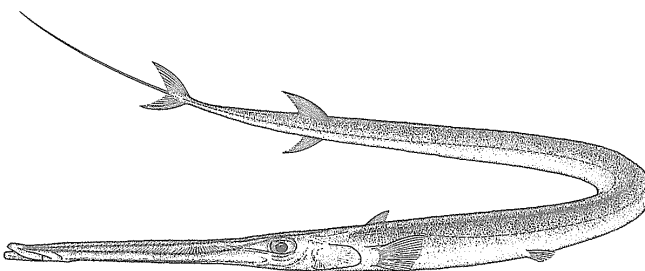
**FAO names:** En - Red cornetfish; Fr - Cornette rouge.

**Local names:** Bustooni.

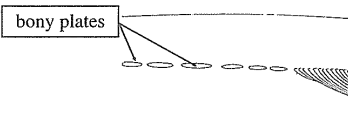
**Size:** To 2.0 m, common to 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, gillnets, and lines.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal areas over soft bottoms, usually at depths greater than 10 m.



red to orange-brown above, silvery below



sector of back in front of dorsal fin

## SCORPAENIDAE

Scorpionfishes, rockfishes, stonefishes, etc.

*Apistus carinatus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

FAO names: En - Ocellated waspfish;  
Fr - Rascasse ocellée.

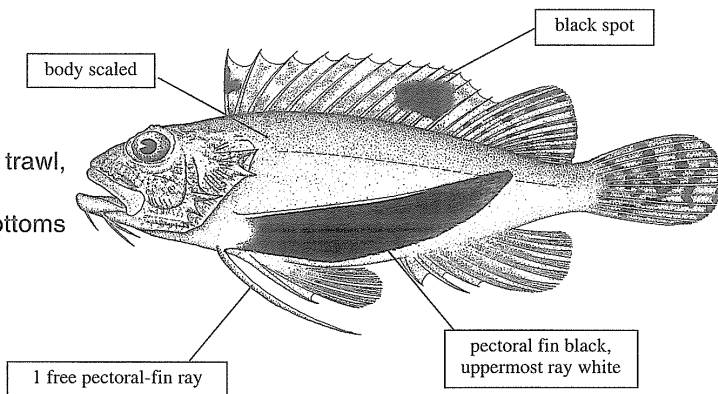
Local names:

Size: To 15 cm standard length.

Fisheries: Caught mainly with bottom trawl, occasionally with shore seine.

Habitat and biology: Benthic, on soft bottoms to a depth of 60 m.

Remarks: Fin spines venomous.

*Minous inermis* Alcock, 1889

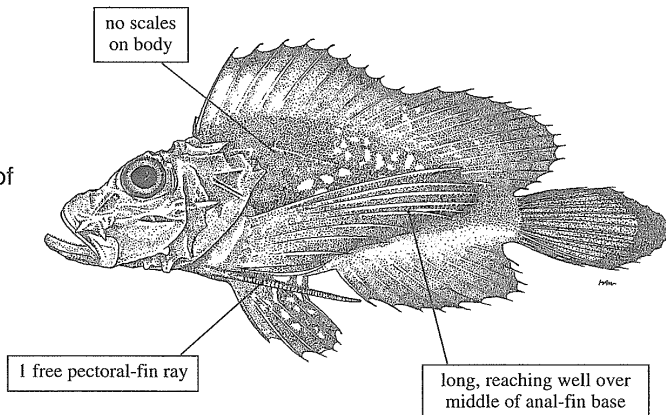
FAO names: En - Alcock's scorpionfish.

Local names:

Size: To at least 10 cm standard length.

Fisheries: Caught with bottom trawl.

Habitat and biology: Benthic, from depths of 35 to 420 m.



SCORPAENIDAE

*Pterois miles* (Bennett, 1828)

FAO names: En - Indian turkeyfish.

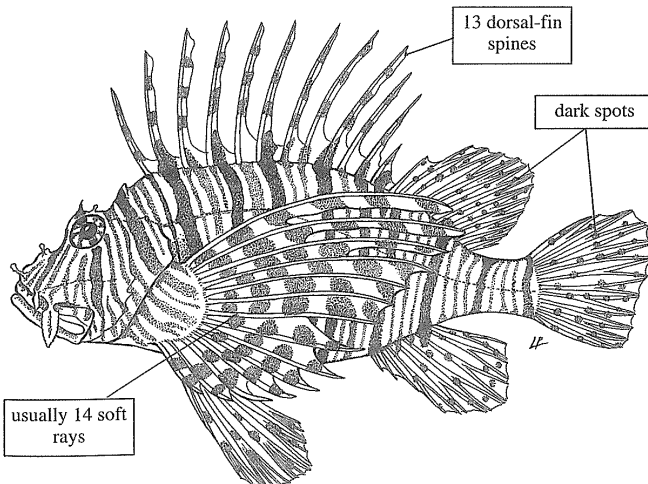
Local names:

Size: To 35 cm standard length.

Fisheries: Caught incidentally with bottom trawl.

Habitat and biology: Benthic, to about 60 m.

Remarks: Fin spines highly venomous, sting can cause death in humans.



SCORPAENIDAE

*Pterois radiata* Cuvier, 1829)

## SCORPAENIDAE

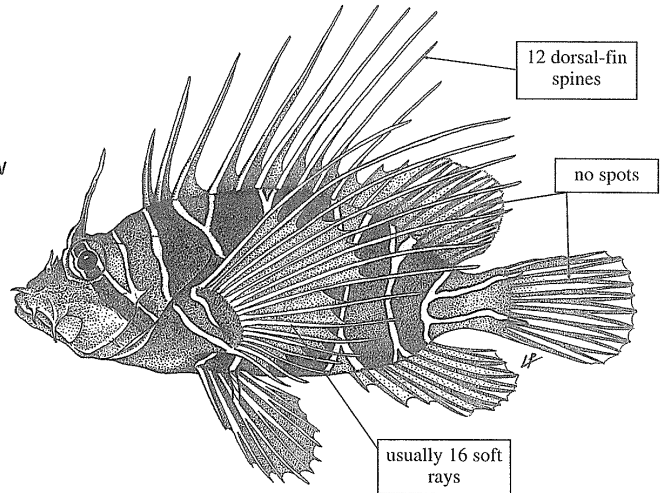
**FAO names:** En - Clearfin turkeyfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow water to a depth of about 30 m.

*Pterois russelli* Bennett, 1831

## SCORPAENIDAE

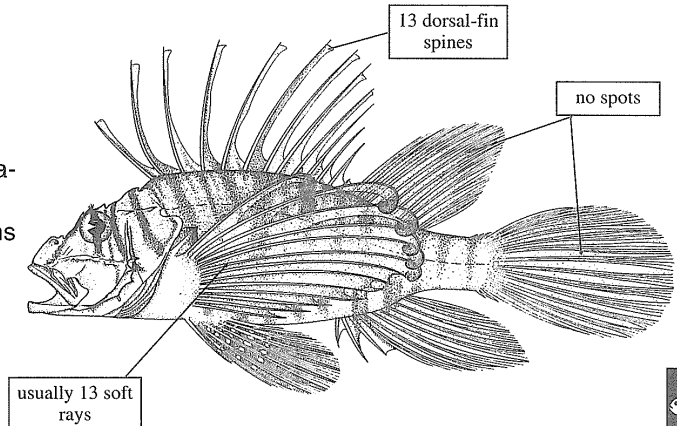
**FAO names:** En - Plaintail turkeyfish;  
Fr - Laffe gouvernail.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawl, occasionally with shore seine.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on soft bottoms to a depth of 60 m.

*Scorpaenopsis barbata* (Rüppell, 1838)

## SCORPAENIDAE

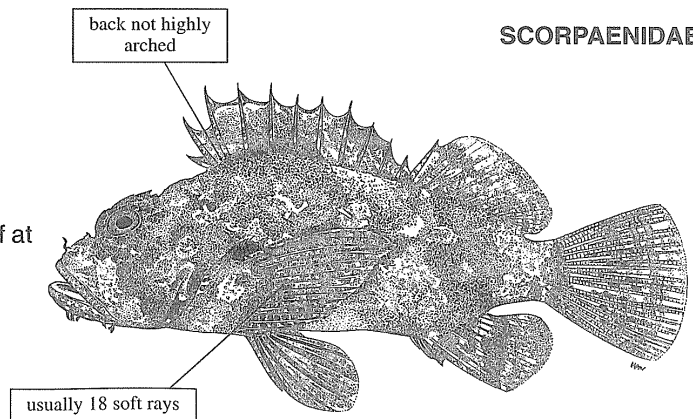
**FAO names:** En - Bearded scorpionfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 22 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, to a depth of at least 30 m.



***Scorpaenopsis gibbosa*** (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)**SCORPAENIDAE**

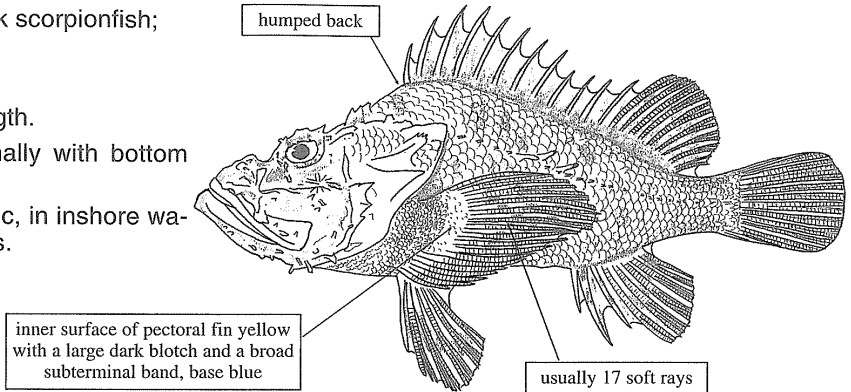
**FAO names:** En - Humpback scorpionfish;  
Fr - Rascasse bossue.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 21 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught occasionally with bottom trawl, also with spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in inshore waters, among rocks and corals.

***Synanceia verrucosa*** Bloch and Schneider, 1801**SCORPAENIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Stonefish; Fr - Poisson pierre commun.

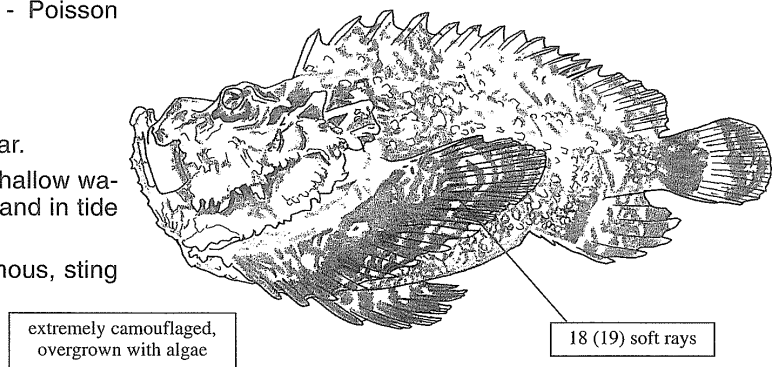
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow waters, around coral reefs and rocks and in tide pools. Very well camouflaged.

**Remarks:** Fin spines highly venomous, sting can cause death in humans.

**TRIGLIDAE****Gurnards, searobins*****Lepidotrigla bentuviai*** Richards & Saksena, 1977

**FAO names:** En - Twohorn gurnard; Fr - Gron-din cornu.

**Local names:**

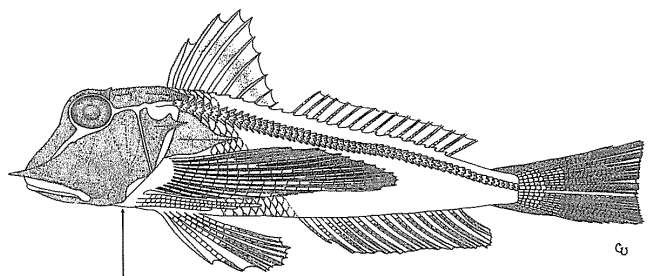
**Size:** Known to reach 12 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught probably by trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** The few specimens collected so far were collected between depths of 25 to 49 m.



rostral process in dorsal view



*Lepidotrigla bispinosa* (Steindachner, 1898)

TRIGLIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Bullhorn gurnard; Fr - Grondin taureau.

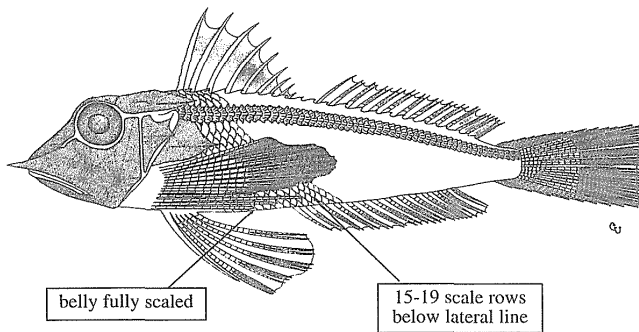
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** At depths between 9 and 115 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



rostral process in dorsal view

*Lepidotrigla faueri* Gilchrist & Thompson, 1914

TRIGLIDAE

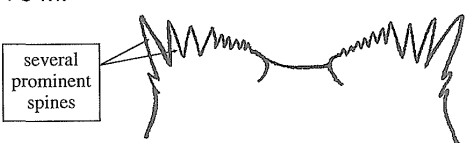
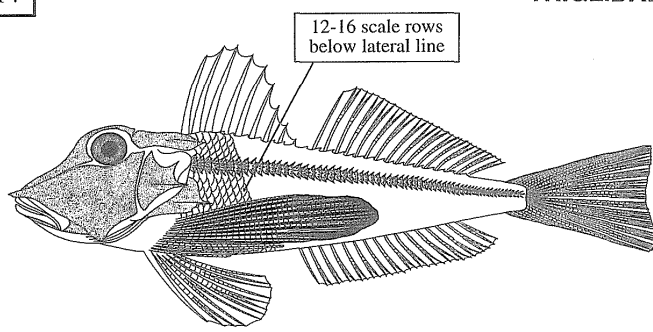
**FAO names:** En - Scalybreast gurnard; Fr - Grondin armure.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** At depths between 50 to 175 m.



rostral process in dorsal view

*Lepidotrigla multispinosa* Smith, 1934

TRIGLIDAE

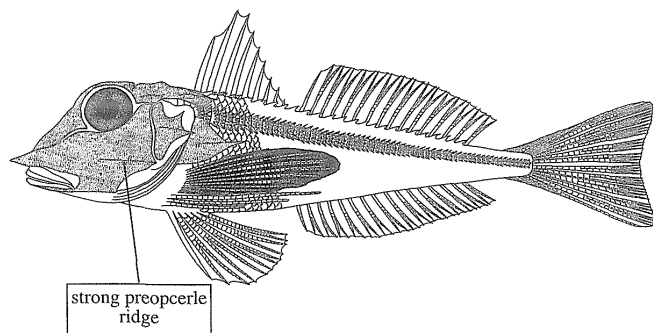
**FAO names:** En - Spiny gurnard; Fr - Grondin épineux.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 15 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In depths from 230 to 335 m.



rostral process in dorsal view



*Lepidotrigla omanensis* Regan, 1905

## TRIGLIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Oman gurnard; Fr - Grondin d'Oman.

**Local names:**

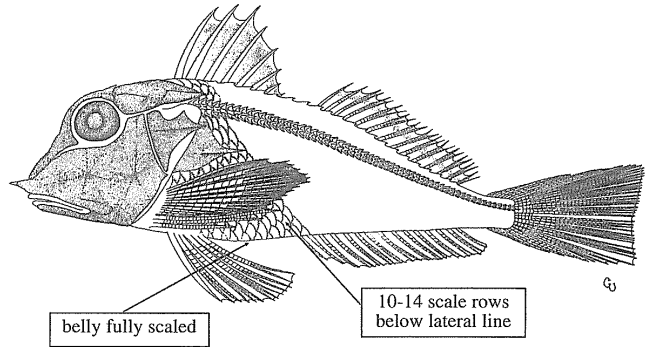
**Size:** To 12.5 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** At depths between 56 to 220 m.



rostral process in dorsal view

*Lepidotrigla spiloptera* Günther, 1880

## TRIGLIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Spottedwing gurnard; Fr - Grondin aile tachetée.

**Local names:**

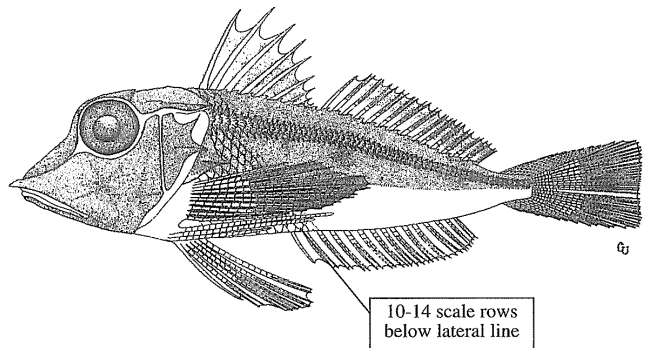
**Size:** To 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** At depths between 76 and 256 m.



rostral process in dorsal view



## DACTYLOPTERIDAE

## Flying gurnards

*Dactyloptena orientalis* (Cuvier, 1829)

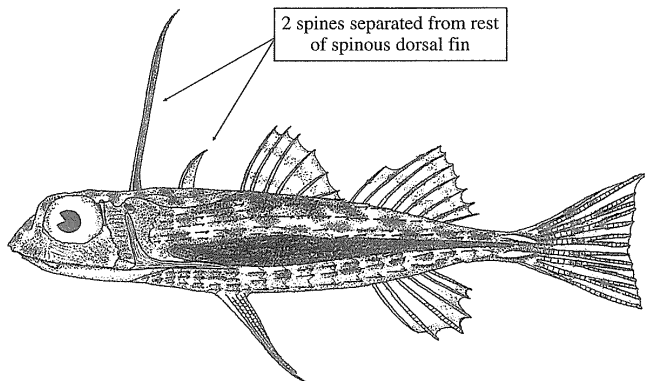
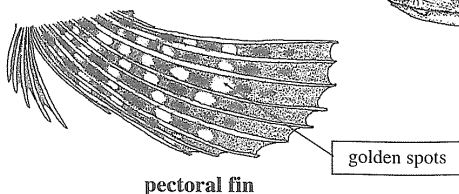
**FAO names:** En - Oriental flying gurnard; Fr - Grondin volant étoilé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on sandy bottoms in coastal waters. Feeds on benthic crustaceans, clams, and small fish.



PLATYCEPHALIDAE

Spiny flatheads

*Cociella crocodila* (Tilesius, 1812)

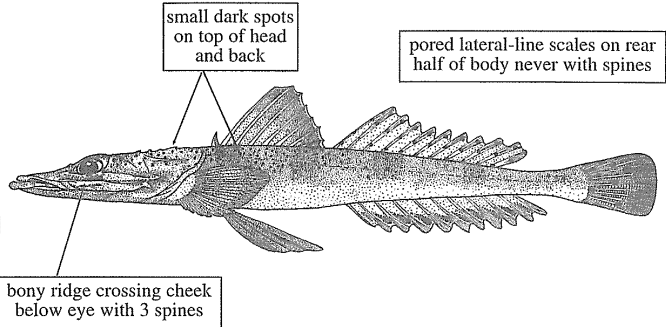
**FAO names:** En - Crocodile flathead;  
Fr - Platycéphale crocodile.

**Local names:** Tixsi gaad.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found on sand or mud bottoms from near the shore to a depth of about 100 m.



*Grammoplites suppositus* (Troschel, 1840)

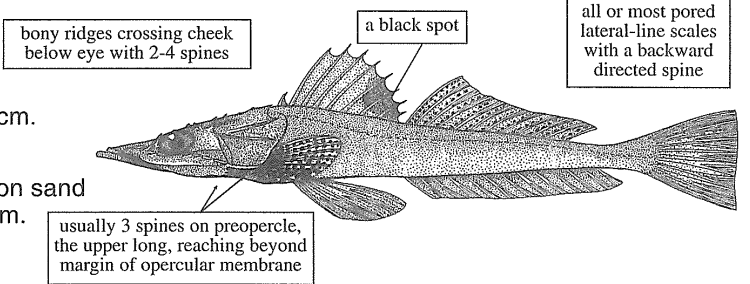
**FAO names:** En - Spotfin flathead;  
Fr - Platycéphale épée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 25 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found on sand or mud bottoms at depths of 45 to 94 m.



PLATYCEPHALIDAE

*Papilloculiceps longiceps* (Cuvier, 1829)

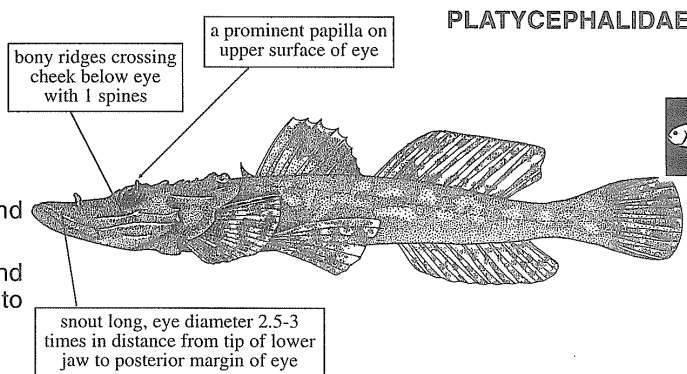
**FAO names:** En - Tentacled flathead;  
Fr - Platycéphale tentaculé.

**Local names:** Tixsi gaad.

**Size:** To about 70 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found on sand bottoms near coral reefs at depths from 1 to 15 m.



PLATYCEPHALIDAE

*Platycephalus indicus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

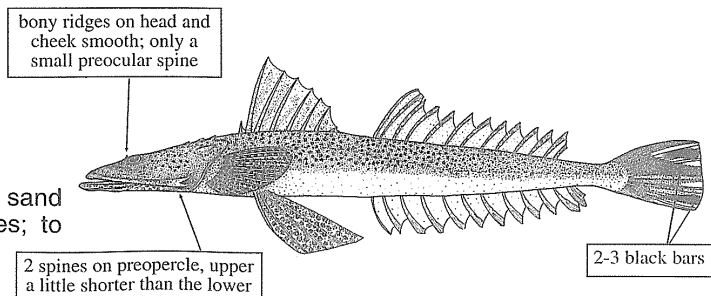
**FAO names:** En - Bartail flathead;  
Fr - Platycéphale indien.

**Local names:** Tixsi gaad.

**Size:** To about 1.0 m, common to 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found on sand bottoms in shallow areas, also estuaries; to depths of about 25 m.



PLATYCEPHALIDAE

*Rogadius pristiger* (Cuvier, 1829)

PLATYCEPHALIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Thorny flathead;  
Fr - Platycéphale épineux.

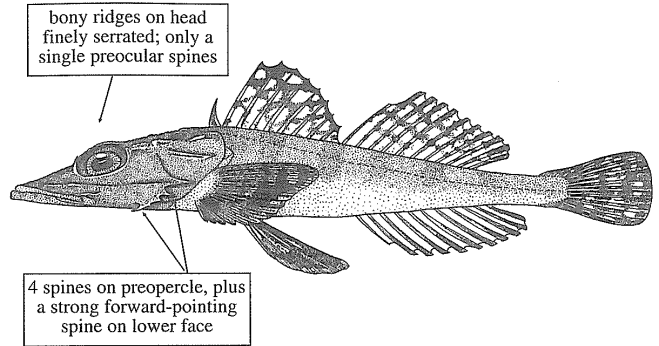
**Local names:** Tixsi gaad.

**Size:** To about 17 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found on sand or mud bottoms at depths from 15 to 95 m.

**Remarks:** In Fischer and Bianchi, 1984, listed as *Rogadius asper* (Cuvier, 1829).



*Sorsogona nigripinna* (Regan, 1905)

PLATYCEPHALIDAE

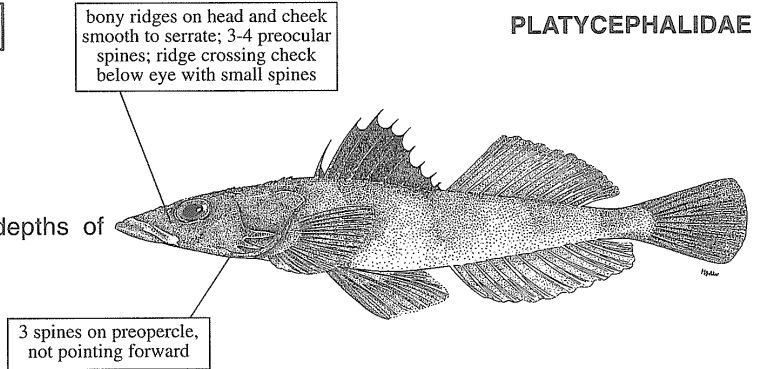
**FAO names:** En - Blackfin flathead.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 11 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, to depths of 70 m.



*Sorsogona prionota* (Sauvage, 1873)

PLATYCEPHALIDAE

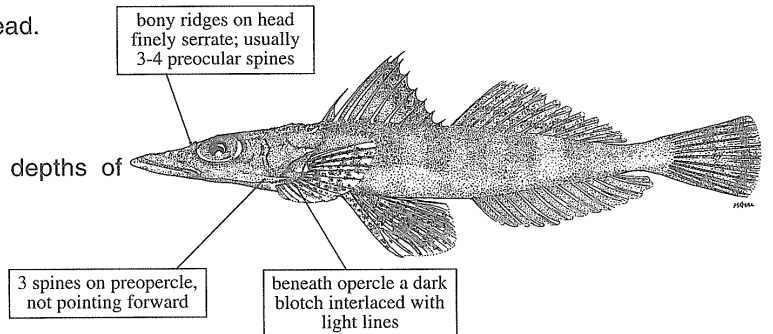
**FAO names:** En - Blackblotch flathead.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 22 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, to depths of 65 m.



*Thysanophrys chiltonae* Schultz, 1966

PLATYCEPHALIDAE

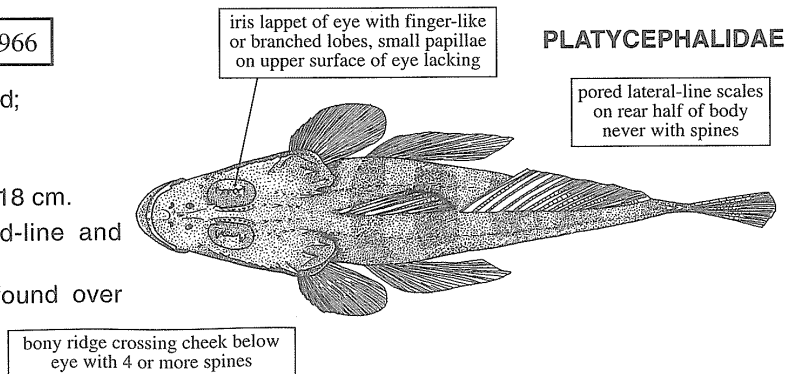
**FAO names:** En - Longsnout flathead;  
Fr - Platycéphale clin d'oeil.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 23 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found over sand in coral reef areas.





**ACROPOMATIDAE**

**Glowbellies, splitfins**

*Acropoma japonicum* Günther, 1859

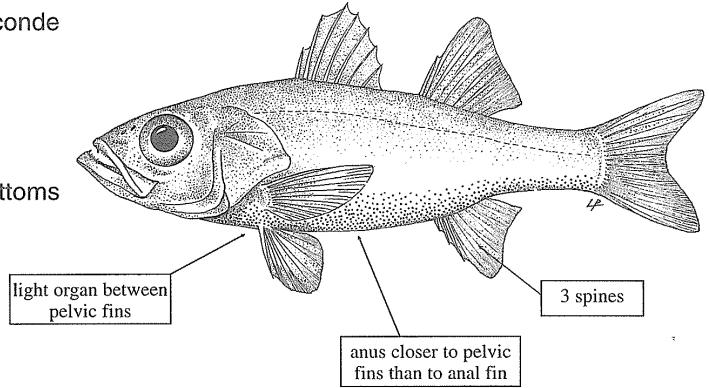
**FAO names:** En - Glowbelly; Fr - Maconde luminaux.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Over trawlable bottoms in depths of 100 to 300 m.



*Synagrops adeni* Kotthaus, 1970

**ACROPOMATIDAE**

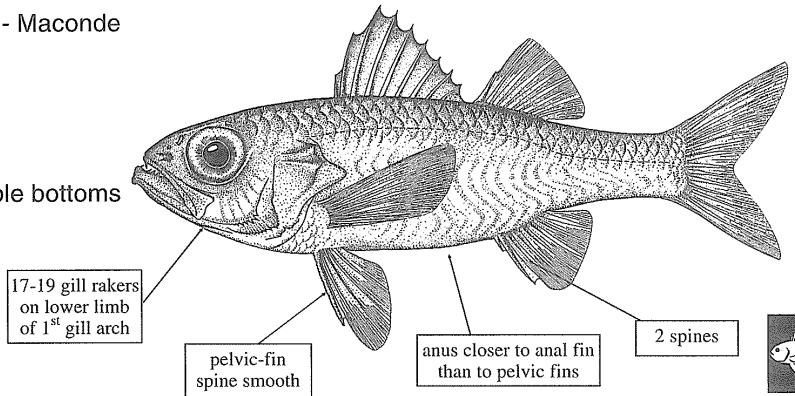
**FAO names:** En - Aden splitfin; Fr - Maconde aden.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 11 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Over trawlable bottoms in depths of 280 to 600 m.



*Synagrops japonicus* (Döderlein, 1884)

**ACROPOMATIDAE**

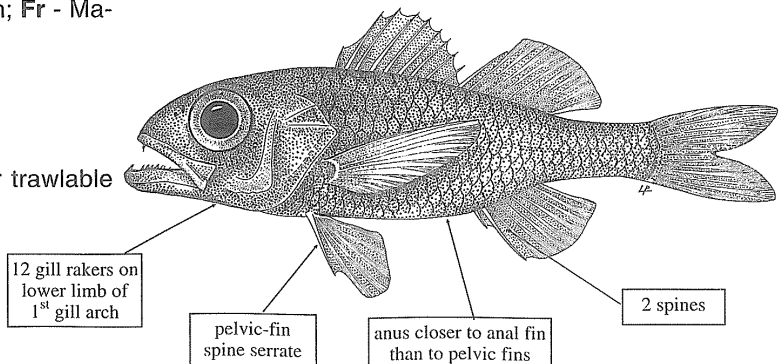
**FAO names:** En - Japanese splitfin; Fr - Maconde bouche noire.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs over trawlable bottoms in depths of 180 to 600 m.



## SERRANIDAE

Groupers, seabasses, rockcods, hinds, combers, coral trouts, lyretails, soapfishes

*Aethaloperca rogae* (Forsskål, 1775)

FAO names: En - Redmouth grouper;  
Fr - Vieille roga.

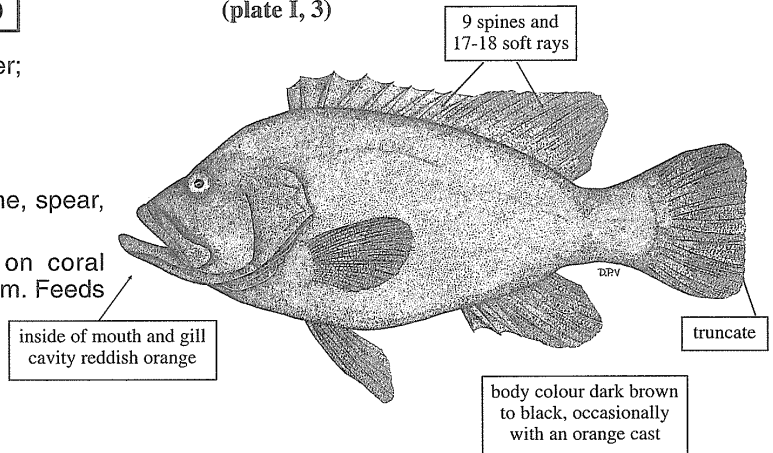
Local names: Caalo (if black).

Size: To 60 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line, spear,  
and probably in traps.

Habitat and biology: Demersal, on coral  
reefs from depths of 3 to at least 60 m. Feeds on  
small fishes and crustaceans.

(plate I, 3)

*Anyperodon leucogrammicus* (Valenciennes, 1828)

FAO names: En - Slender grouper; Fr - Mérrou  
élégant.

Local names: Yaaquuri.

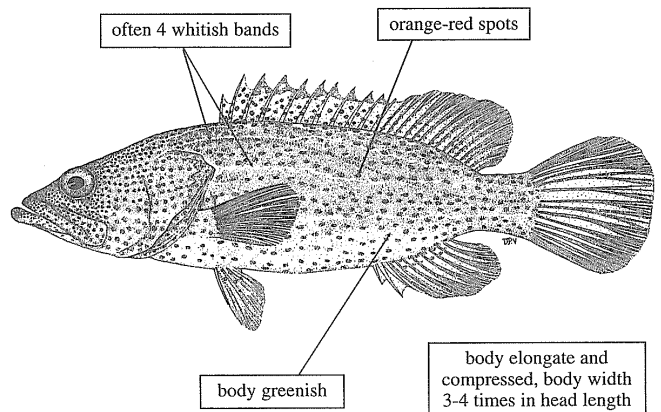
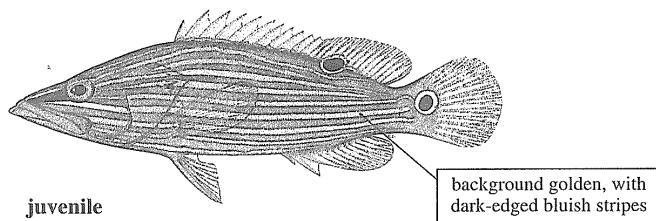
Size: To at least 52 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line, spear,  
and probably in traps.

Habitat and biology: Demersal, on protected  
coral reefs in depths of 5 to 80 m. Feeds on  
small fishes and crustaceans.

(plate I, 4)

SERRANIDAE

*Belonoperca chabanaudi* Fowler & Bean, 1930

FAO names: En - Arrowhead soapfish.

Local names:

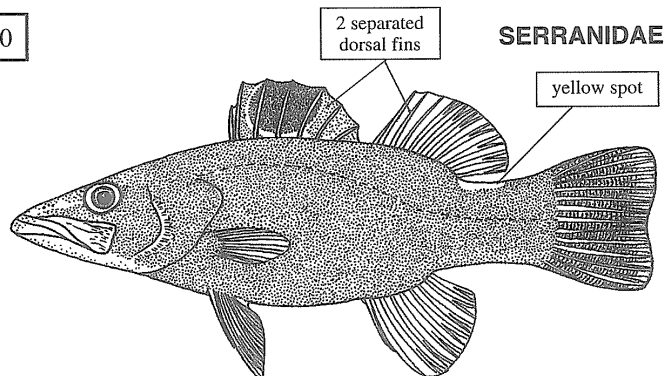
Size: To at least 14.5 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line and  
traps.

Habitat and biology: On reefs, hiding in  
caves; becomes active at dusk.

2 separated  
dorsal fins

SERRANIDAE



*Cephalopholis argus* (Schneider, 1801)

(plate I, 5)

SERRANIDAE

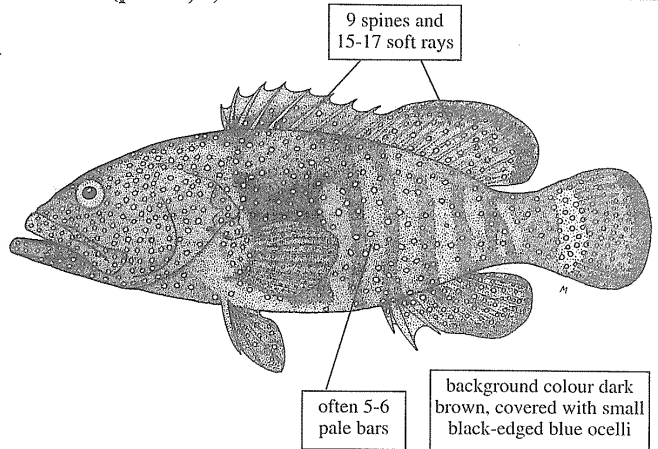
**FAO names:** En - Peacock hind; Fr - Vieille la prude.

**Local names:** Maka.

**Size:** To 55 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, spear, and in traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs from tide pools to a depth of at least 40 m. Feeds primarily on fishes.



*Cephalopholis hemistiktos* (Rüppell, 1830)

(plate I, 6)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Yellowfin hind; Fr - Vielle d'Arabie.

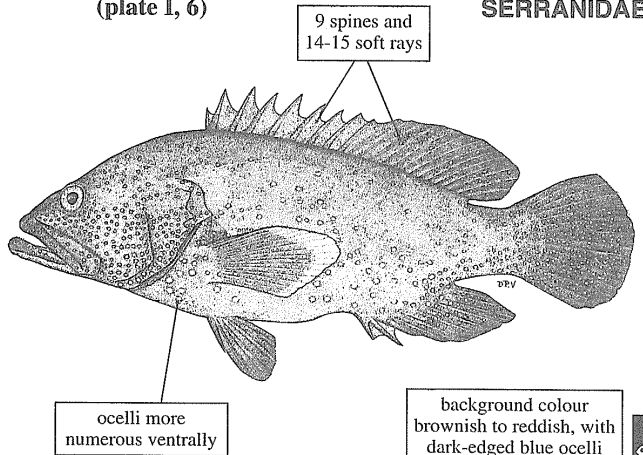
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs from depths of 4 to at least 55 m. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Cephalopholis miniata* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate I, 7)

SERRANIDAE

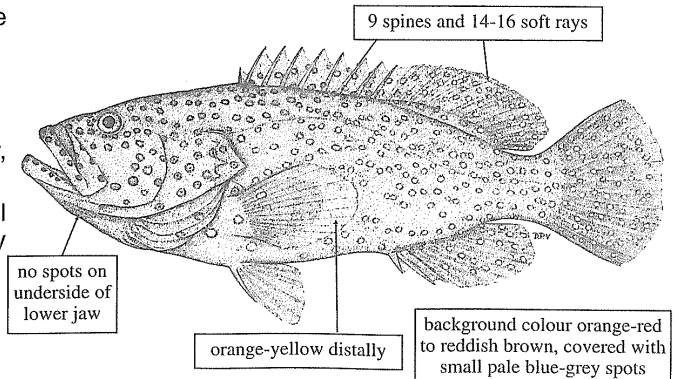
**FAO names:** En - Coral hind; Fr - Vieille de corail.

**Local names:** Guduudow-Filfil.

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, spear, and in traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs from depths of 2 to 150 m. Feeds mainly on small fishes.



*Cephalopholis sexmaculata* (Rüppell, 1828)

(plate I, 8)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Sixblotch hind; Fr - Vieille six tâches.

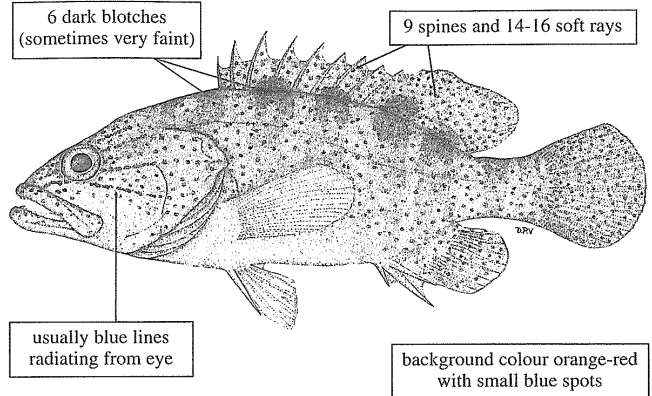
**Local names:** Guduudow.

**Size:** To at least 48 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs from depths of 10 to 150 m. Feeds mainly on fishes; nocturnal in shallow water, diurnal in deeper water.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

*Cephalopholis sonnerati* (Valenciennes, 1825)

(plate II, 9)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Tomato hind; Fr - Vieille ananas.

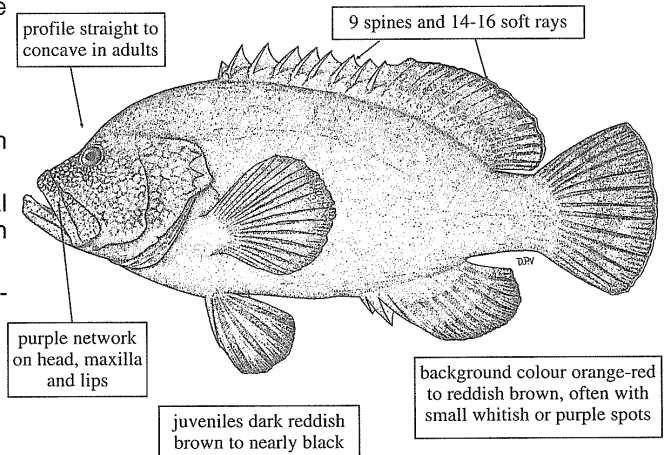
**Local names:** Caalo.

**Size:** To 57 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and in traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs from depths of 30 to 100 m. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

*Dermatolepis striolata* (Playfair, 1867)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Smooth grouper; Fr - Mérou lisse.

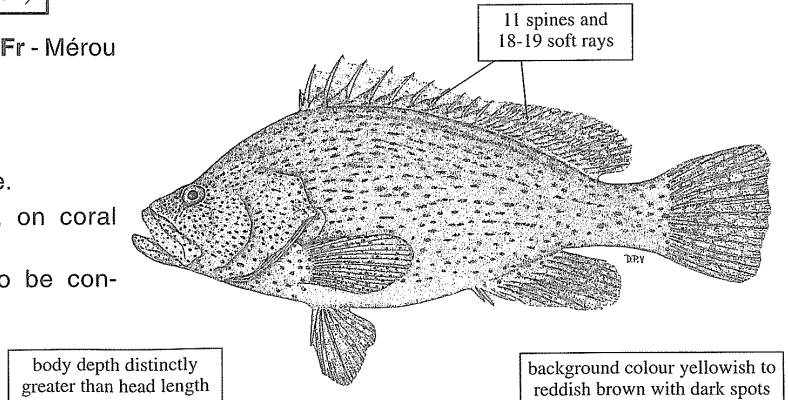
**Local names:** Caalo.

**Size:** To 85 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs to depths of 15 m.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Diploprion drachi* Estéve, 1955

SERRANIDAE

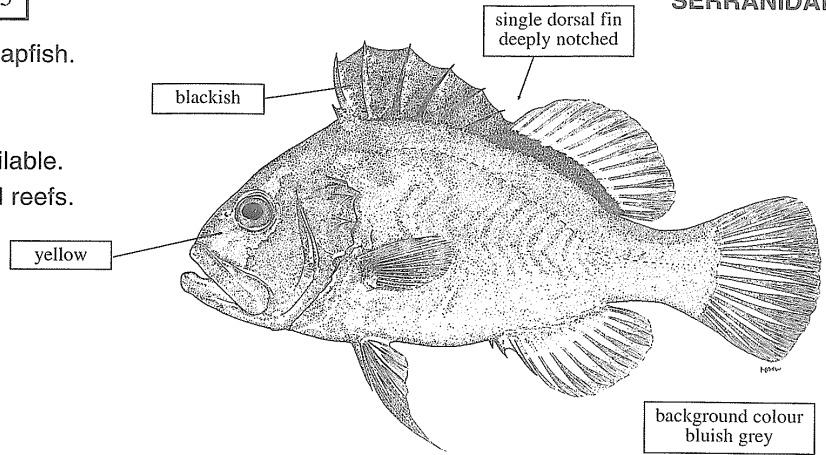
**FAO names:** En - Yellowfin soapfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.



*Epinephelus areolatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate II, 10)

SERRANIDAE

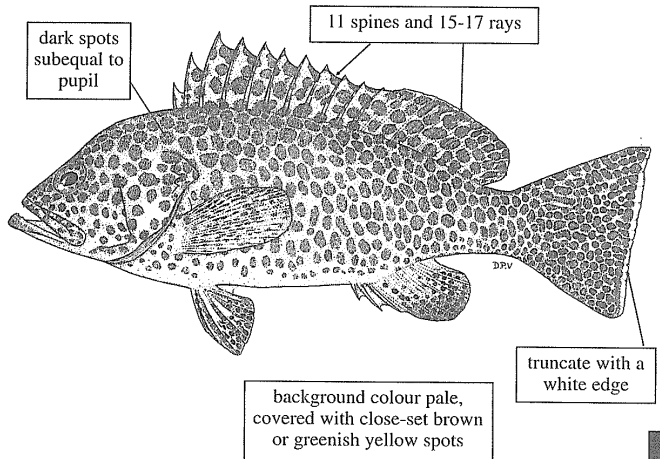
**FAO names:** En - Areolate grouper; Fr - Mérou aréolé.

**Local names:** Sumeyn.

**Size:** To about 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, traps, and in trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, usually in seagrass beds near rocky reefs, dead coral, or alcyonarians; from depths of 6 to 200 m.



*Epinephelus caeruleopunctatus* (Bloch, 1790)

(plate II, 11)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Whitespotted grouper; Fr - Mérou taches blanches.

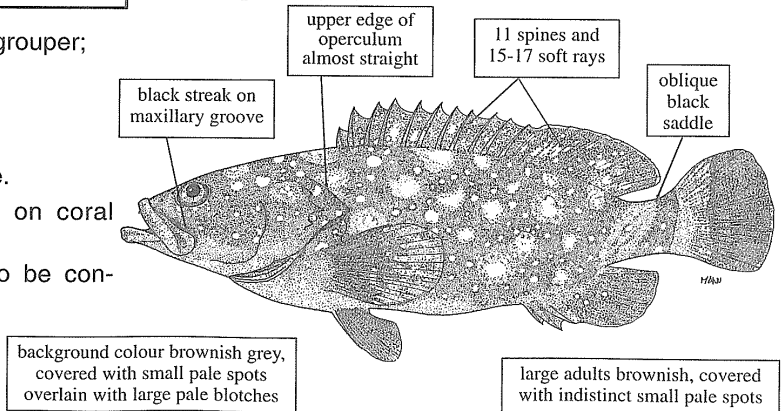
**Local names:** Yaquuri.

**Size:** To 59 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



large adults brownish, covered with indistinct small pale spots

*Epinephelus chabaudi* (Castlenau, 1861)

SERRANIDAE

**Fao names:** En - Moustache grouper;  
Fr - Mérou moustache.

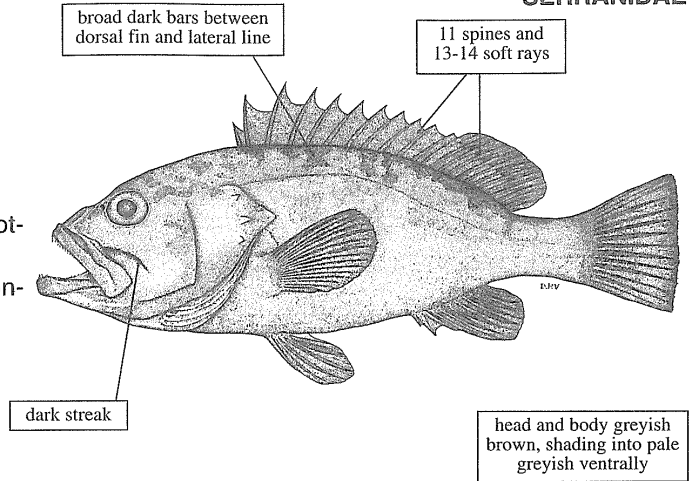
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 137 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on rocky bottoms, in deeper, cooler water.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Epinephelus chlorostigma* (Valenciennes, 1828)

(plate II, 12)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Brownspeckled grouper;  
Fr - Mérou pintade.

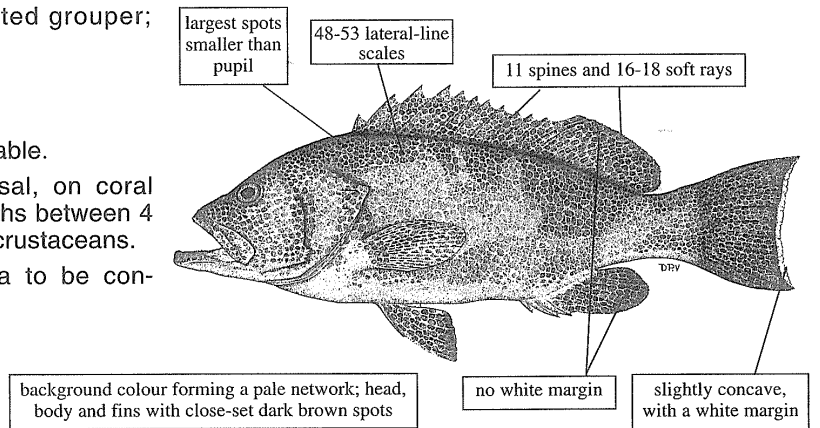
**Local names:** Sumeyn.

**Size:** To 75 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs and mud bottoms, at depths between 4 to 280 m. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Epinephelus coioides* (Hamilton, 1822)

(plate II, 13)

SERRANIDAE

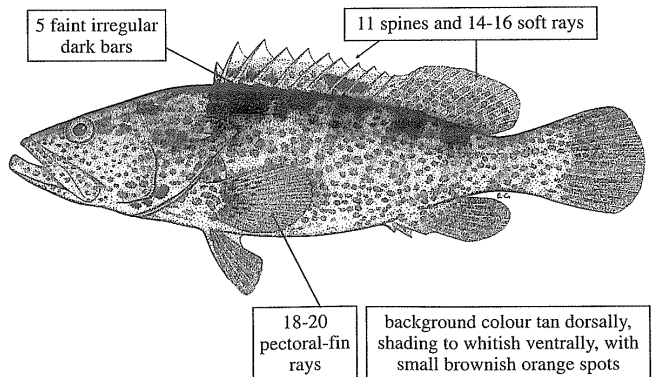
**FAO names:** En - Orangespeckled grouper;  
Fr - Mérou taches oranges.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 95 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, traps, trawls, and liftnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, along continental and island shores, also in estuaries; offshore to depths of 100 m.



*Epinephelus epistictus* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1842)

(plate II, 14)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Dotted grouper; Fr - Mérour pâle.

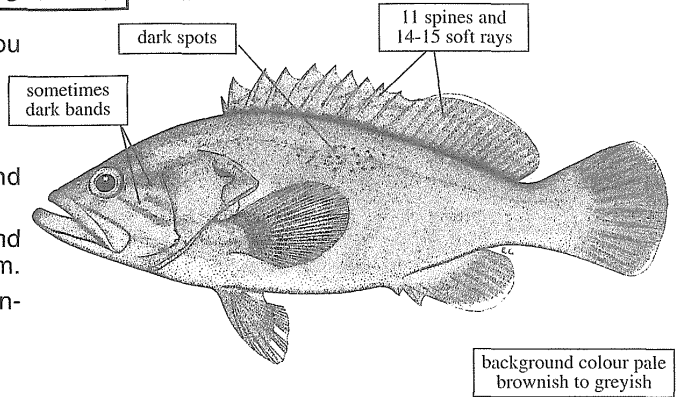
**Local names:** Sumeyn.

**Size:** To at least 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on rocky and trawlable bottoms, from depths of 71 to 290 m.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Epinephelus fasciatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate III, 15)

SERRANIDAE

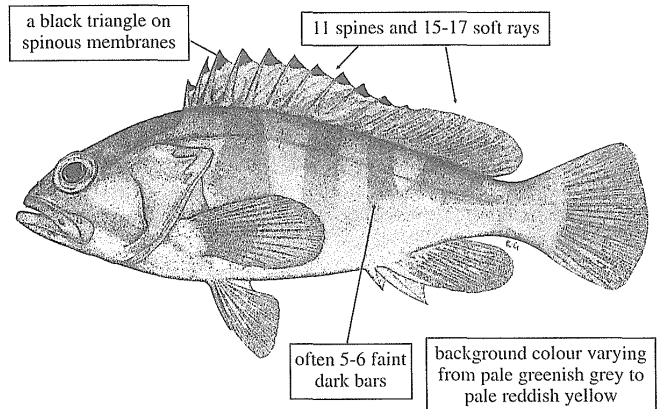
**FAO names:** En - Blacktip grouper; Fr - Mérour oriflamme.

**Local names:** Wayeer.

**Size:** To about 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, spear, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs and rocky bottoms from the shore to a depth of 160 m. Feeds on a variety of crustaceans and on fishes.



*Epinephelus flavocaeruleus* (Lacepède, 1802)

(plate III, 16)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Blue-and-yellow grouper; Fr - Mérour faud.

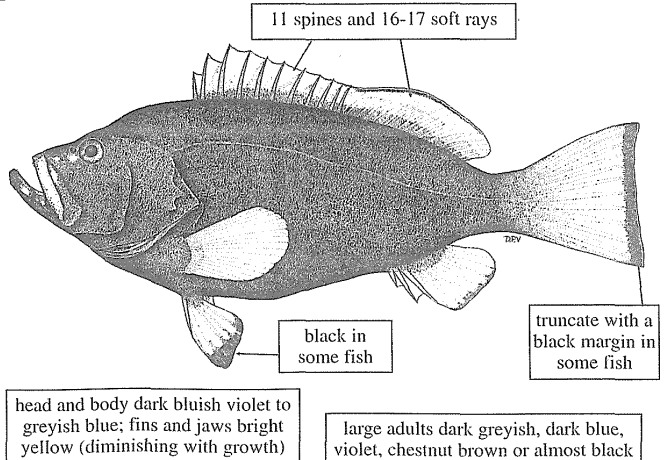
**Local names:** Caalo.

**Size:** To at least 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, juveniles occur on shallow coral reefs, adults on deeper reefs to depths of 150 m. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate III, 17)

SERRANIDAE

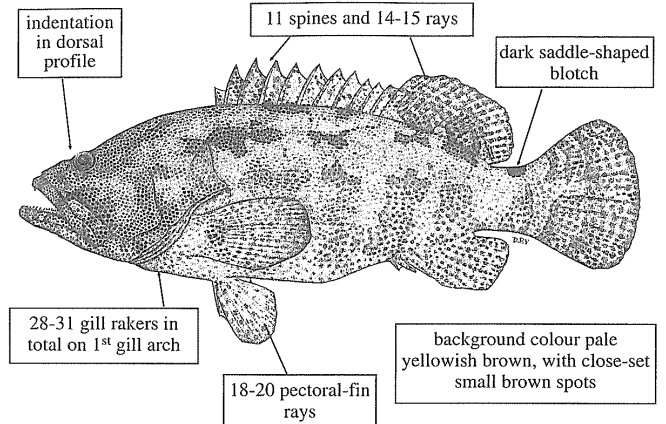
**FAO names:** En - Brownmarbled grouper;  
Fr - Mérou marion.

**Local names:** Caalo.

**Size:** To at least 95 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, traps, and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on shallow coral reefs and rocky bottoms to depths of 60 m; juveniles in seagrass areas. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.

*Epinephelus gabriellae* Randall & Heemstra, 1991

(plate III, 18)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Multispotted grouper;  
Fr - Mérou passoire.

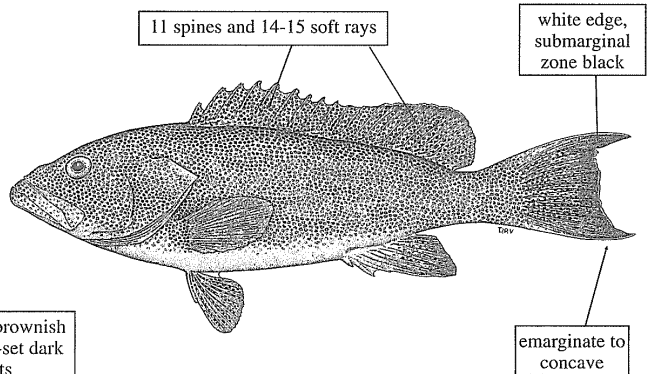
**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 37 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, over rocky bottoms in depths of 40 to 88 m.

background colour pale brownish grey, covered with close-set dark orange-brown spots

*Epinephelus indistinctus* Randall & Heemstra, 1991

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Somali grouper; Fr - Mérou somali.

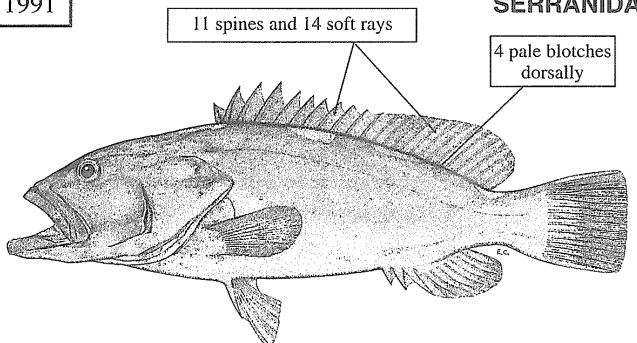
**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** So far only known from the holotype, which was trawled at a depth of 70 to 80 m.

no information on colour pattern of fresh specimen available





*Epinephelus lanceolatus* (Bloch, 1790)

(plate III, 19)

SERRANIDAE

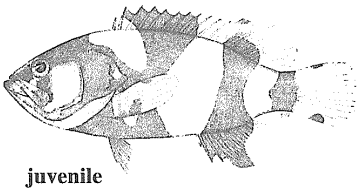
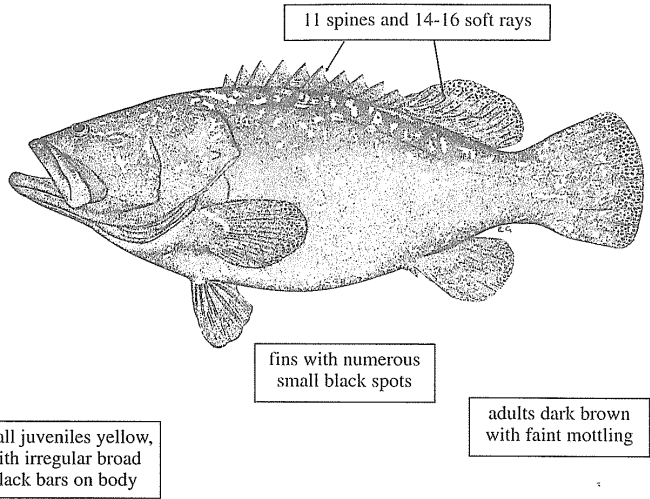
**FAO names:** En - Giant grouper; Fr - Mérou lancéolé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 2.3 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, often found in shallow water but also at depths of 100 m. Feeds on crustaceans and fish.



small juveniles yellow, with irregular broad black bars on body

adults dark brown with faint mottling

*Epinephelus malabaricus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

(plate IV, 20)

SERRANIDAE

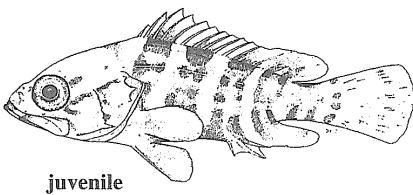
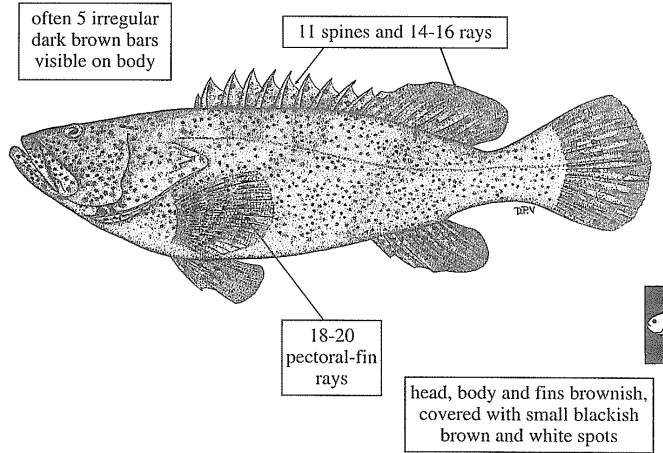
**FAO names:** En - Malabar grouper; Fr - Mérou malabar.

**Local names:** Yaquuri.

**Size:** To 1.15 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, longlines, traps, spear, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral and rocky reefs, tidepools, estuaries, mangrove swamps and sand or mud bottoms; from the shore to depths of 150 m. Feeds mainly on fishes and crustaceans.



often 5 irregular dark brown bars visible on body

11 spines and 14-16 rays

18-20 pectoral-fin rays

head, body and fins brownish, covered with small blackish brown and white spots

*Epinephelus morrhua* (Valenciennes, 1833)

(plate IV, 21)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Comet grouper; Fr - Mérou comète.

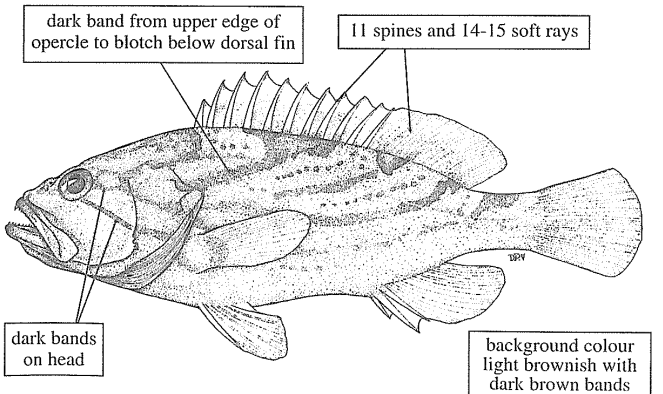
**Local names:** Sumeyn.

**Size:** Perhaps to 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, longlines, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, usually found in depths of 80 to 370 m.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



dark band from upper edge of opercle to blotch below dorsal fin

11 spines and 14-15 soft rays

dark bands on head

background colour light brownish with dark brown bands

*Epinephelus multinotatus* (Peters, 1876)

(plate IV, 22)

SERRANIDAE

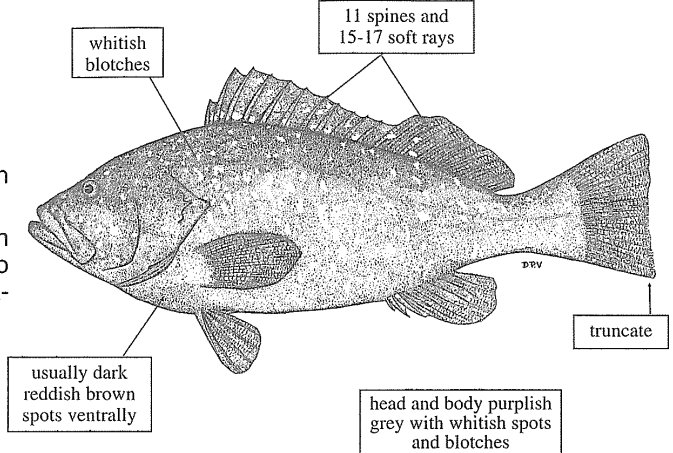
FAO names: En - White-blotched grouper;  
Fr - Mérou plate grise.

Local names: Caalo.

Size: To 1 m.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line and in traps.

Habitat and biology: Demersal, juveniles on inshore coral reefs, adults in deeper waters to a depth of 90 m. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.



*Epinephelus octofasciatus* Griffin, 1926

(plate IV, 23)

SERRANIDAE

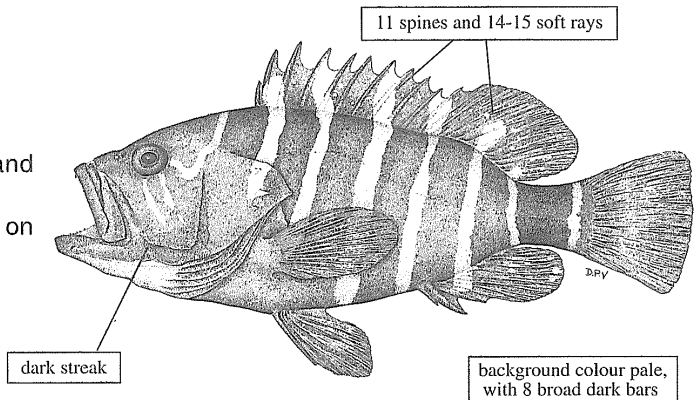
FAO names: En - Eightbar grouper;  
Fr - Mérou huit raies.

Local names:

Size: To 80 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line and longlines.

Habitat and biology: Demersal, probably on rocky reefs, from depths of 150 to 300 m.



*Epinephelus poecilonotus* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1842)

(plate IV, 24)

SERRANIDAE

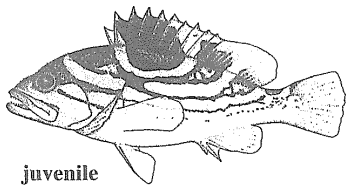
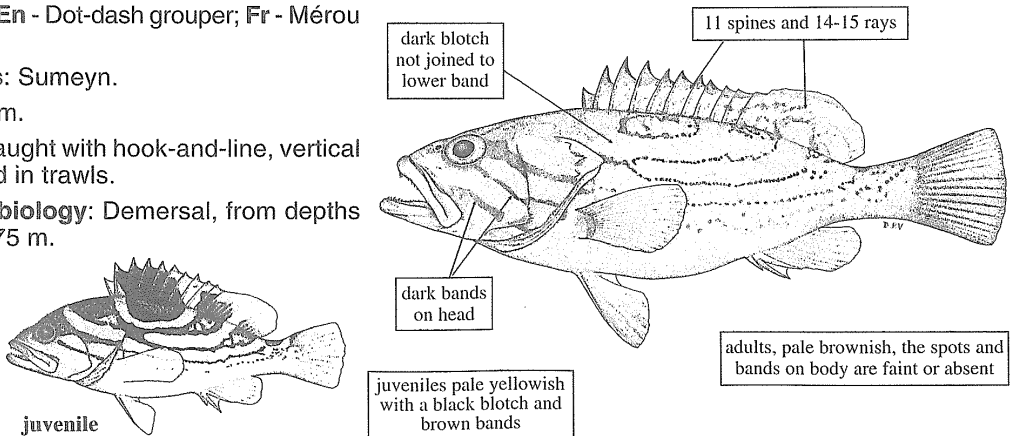
FAO names: En - Dot-dash grouper; Fr - Mérou morse.

Local names: Sumeyn.

Size: To 65 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line, vertical longlines, and in trawls.

Habitat and biology: Demersal, from depths of 45 to of 375 m.



*Epinephelus polylepis* Randall and Heemstra, 1991

(plate V, 25)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Smallscaled grouper;  
Fr - Mérou petites écailles.

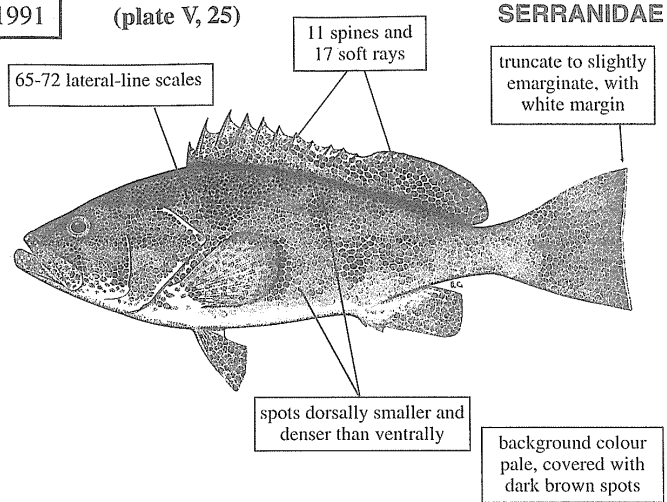
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 61 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, so far known from depths of 33 to 100 m.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Epinephelus polyphkadion* (Bleeker, 1849)

(plate V, 26)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Camouflage grouper;  
Fr - Mérou camouflage.

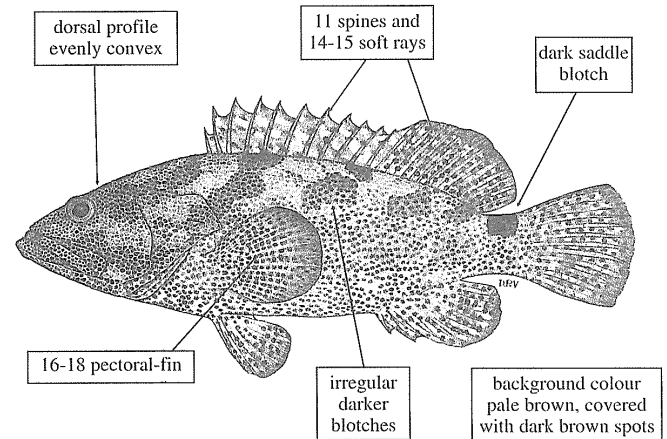
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 75 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, spear, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, in clear water on coral reefs. Feeds on crustaceans and fishes.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Epinephelus radiatus* (Day, 1867)

(plate V, 27)

SERRANIDAE

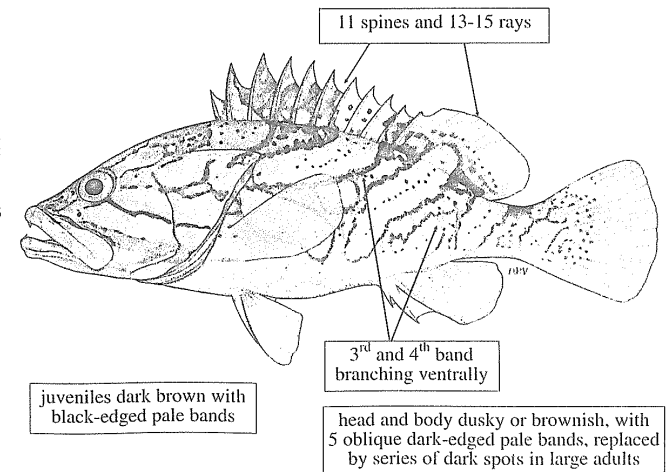
**FAO names:** En - Obliquebanded grouper;  
Fr - Mérou zébré.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and vertical longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, from depths of 80 to 383 m.



*Epinephelus rivulatus* (Valenciennes, 1830)

(plate V, 28)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Halfmoon grouper;  
Fr - Mérou demi-lune.

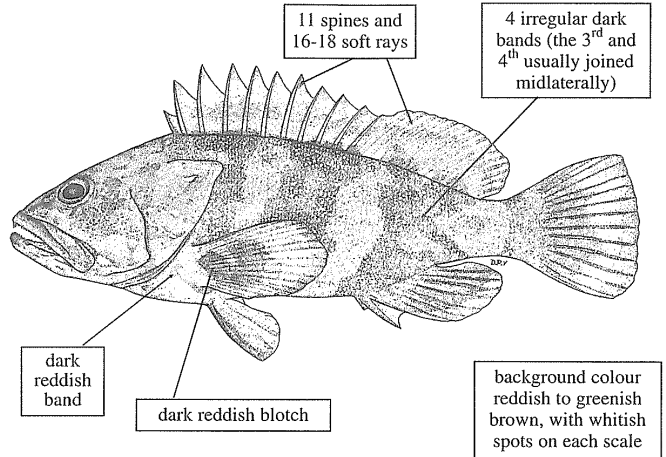
**Local names:** Sumeyn.

**Size:** To 37 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, longlines, gillnets, traps, and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on rocky bottoms or coral reefs from depths of 10 to 150 m. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

*Epinephelus stoliczkae* (Day, 1875)

(plate V, 29)

SERRANIDAE

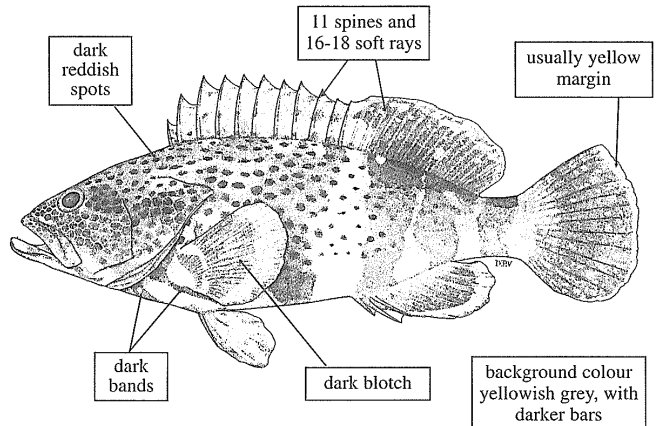
**FAO names:** En - Epaulet grouper; Fr - Mérou épaulette.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 38 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and in traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on shallow sandy bottoms.

*Epinephelus summana* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate V, 30)

SERRANIDAE

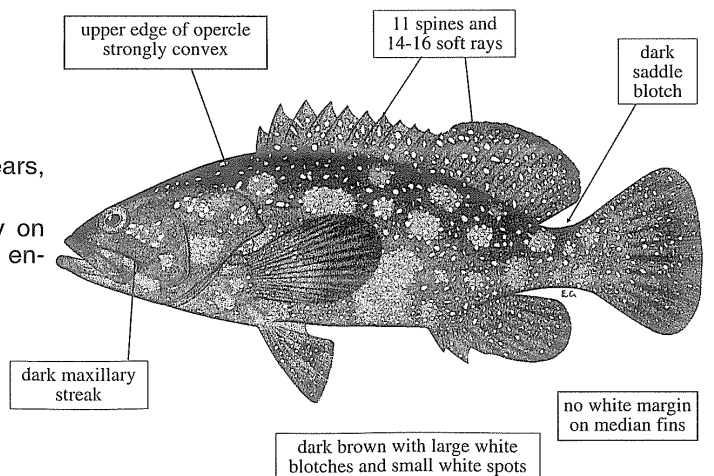
**FAO names:** En - Summan grouper;  
Fr - Mérou summan.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 52 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, spears, and in traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, usually on shallow coral reefs in lagoons or brackish environments.



*Epinephelus tauvina* (Forsskål, 1775)

**FAO names:** En - Greasy grouper; Fr - Méroutre.

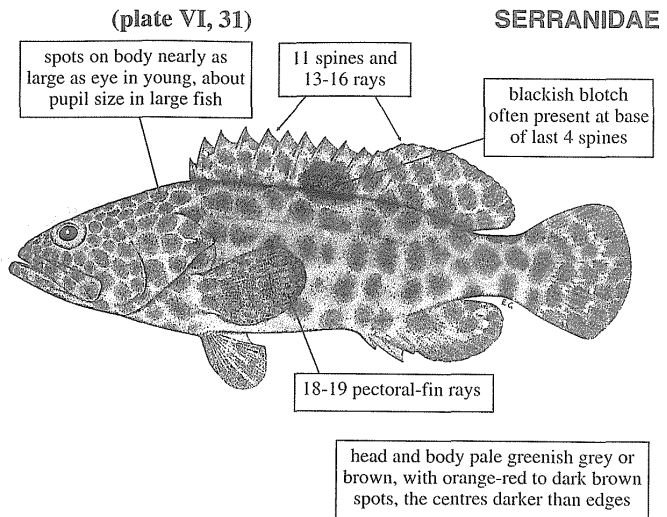
**Local names:** Farey.

**Size:** To 75 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, spear, and in traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, clear water areas on coral reefs, in depths to at least 50 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Epinephelus tukula* Morgans, 1959

**FAO names:** En - Potato grouper; Fr - Méroutate.

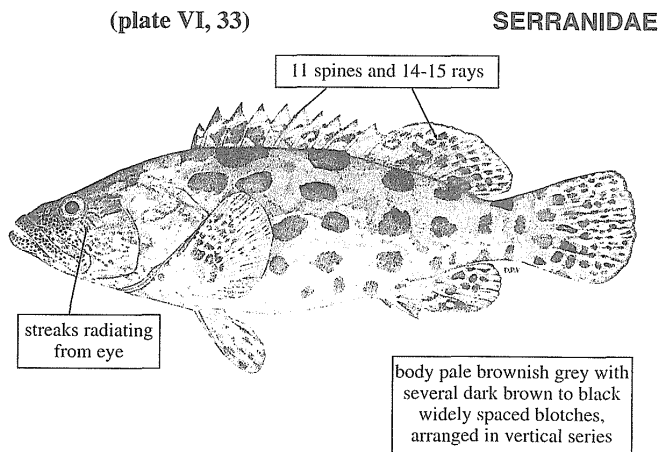
**Local names:** Sumeyn.

**Size:** To 1.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs, in depths of 10 to 150 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Epinephelus undulosus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

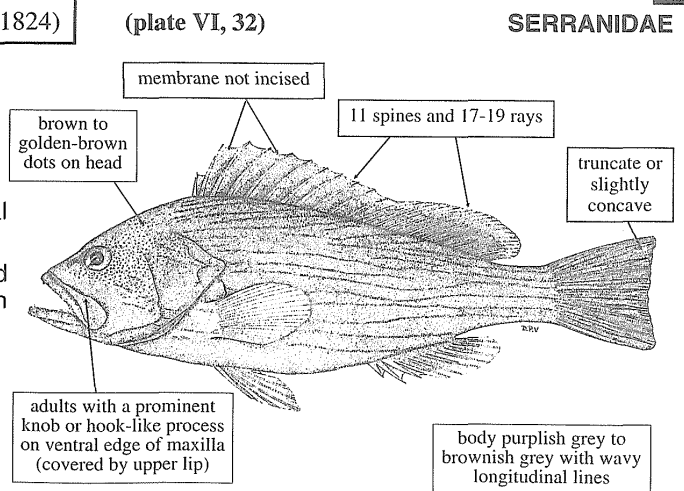
**FAO names:** En - Wavylined grouper; Fr - Merou ondulé.

**Local names:** Sumeyn.

**Size:** To 73 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, vertical longlines, and with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on sand banks, from depths of 24 to 90 m. Feeds on fish, crustaceans, and pelagic tunicates.



*Grammistes sexlineatus* (Thunberg, 1792)

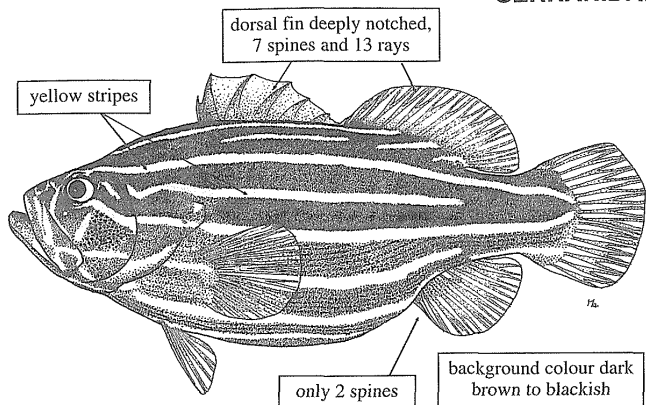
FAO names: En - Sixline soapfish.

Local names:

Size: To 27 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

Habitat and biology: On coral reefs and over rocky bottoms; carnivorous.

*Plectropomus areolatus* Rüppell, 1830

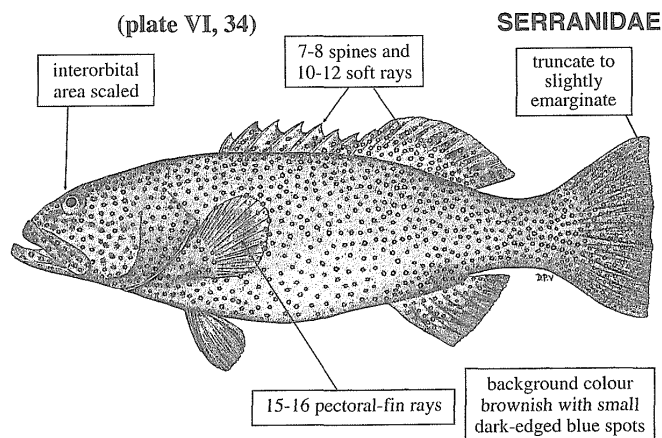
FAO names: En - Squaretail coralgroupier; Fr - Mérrou queue carrée.

Local names:

Size: To 60 cm standard length.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line.

Habitat and biology: Demersal, in lagoons and outer reef areas, from depths of 2 to 20 m.

*Plectropomus laevis* (Lacepède, 1801)

FAO names: En - Blacksaddle coralgroupier; Fr - Mérrou sellé.

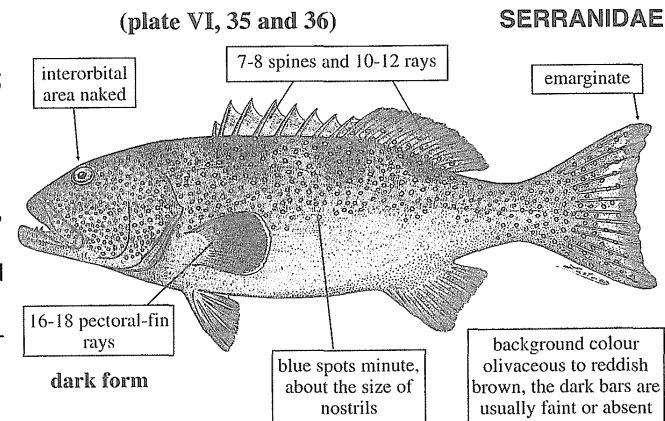
Local names: Wayeer.

Size: To 125 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line, spear, and in traps.

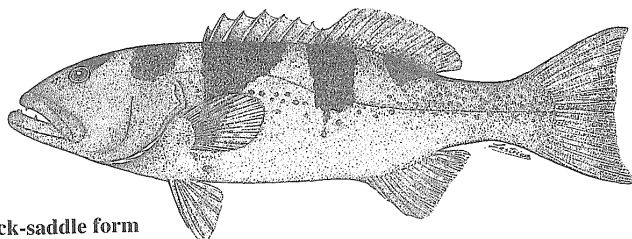
Habitat and biology: Demersal, on coral reefs from depths of 4 to at least 90 m.

Remarks: Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



background colour whitish or pale yellowish with 5 dark brown saddle-like blotches

**pale black-saddle form**



*Plectropomus pessuliferus* (Fowler, 1904)

(plate VII, 37)

SERRANIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Roving coral grouper; Fr - Mérou-loche vagabonde.

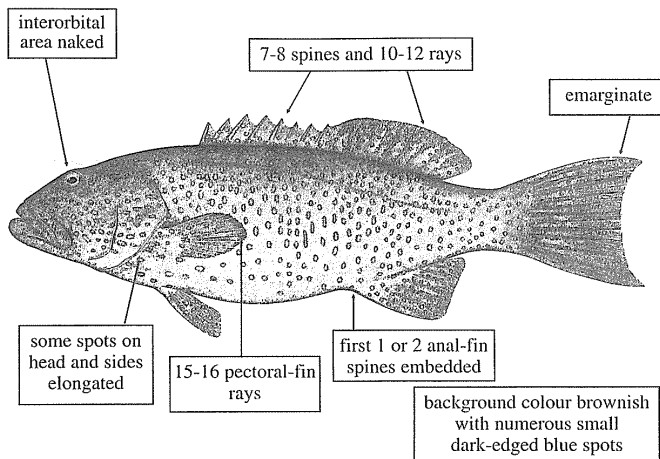
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 120 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, spear, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on or near coral reefs in depths of 25 to 147 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Variola louti* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate VII, 38)

SERRANIDAE

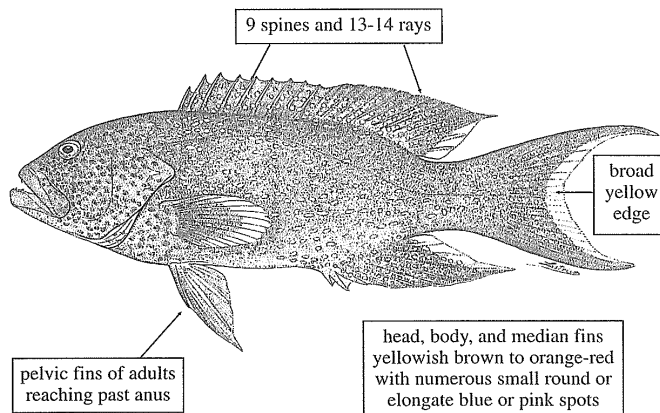
**FAO names:** En - Yellow-edged lyretail; Fr - Croissant queue jaune.

**Local names:** Guduudow-Caydheere.

**Size:** To at least 81 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, spear, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on coral reefs in depths of 3 to 250 m. Feeds on fish and crustaceans.



TERAPONTIDAE

Terapon perches, terapons

*Pelates quadrilineatus* (Bloch, 1790)

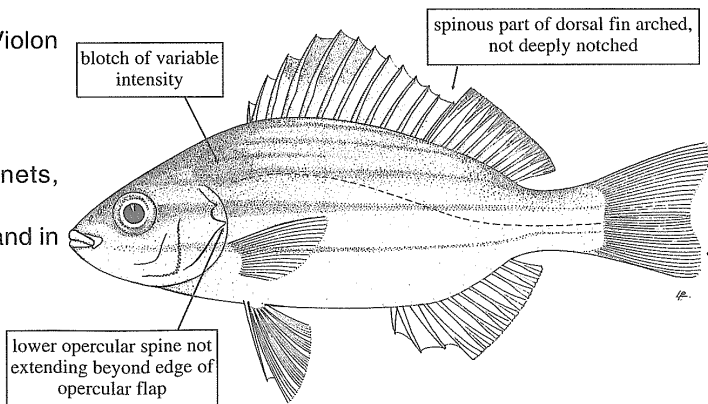
**FAO names:** En - Fourlined terapon; Fr - Violon crépuscule.

**Local names:** Geedow.

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handline, setnets, traps, and castnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In inshore waters and in brackish waters.



***Terapon jarbua*** (Forsskål, 1775)

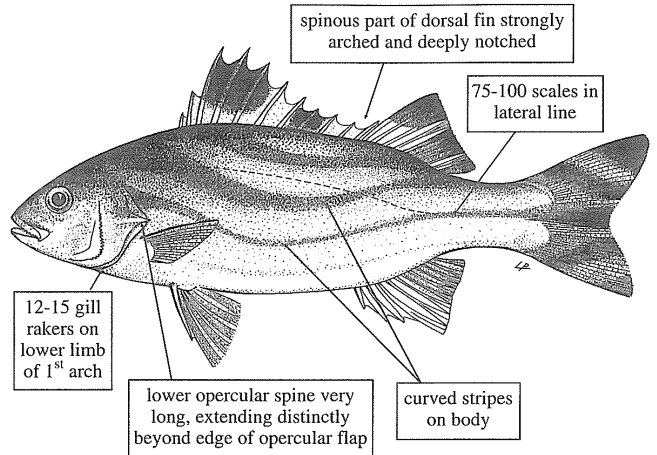
**FAO names:** En - Jarbua terapon; Fr - Violon jarbua.

**Local names:** Geedow.

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handline, setnets, traps, and castnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In inshore waters, often in brackish and freshwaters.

***Terapon puta*** (Cuvier, 1829)

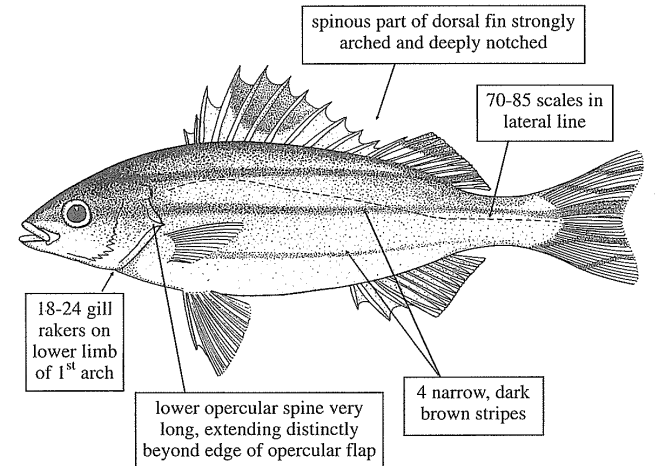
**FAO names:** En - Smallscaled terapon; Fr - Violon grogneur.

**Local names:** Geedow.

**Size:** To 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handline, setnets, traps, and castnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In inshore waters, often in brackish and freshwaters.

***Terapon theraps*** (Cuvier, 1829)

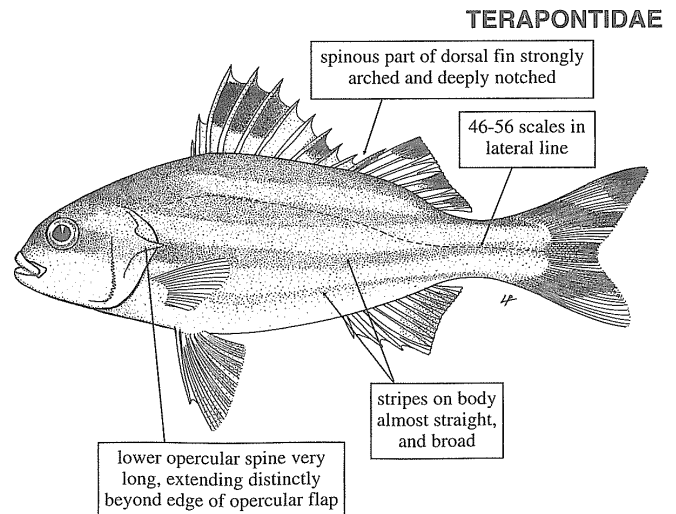
**FAO names:** En - Largescaled terapon; Fr - Violon tigre.

**Local names:** Geedow.

**Size:** To 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handline, setnets, traps, and castnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In inshore waters, sometimes in brackish waters.





**KUHLIIDAE**  
**Flagtails, daras**

*Kuhlia mugil* (Forste, 1801)

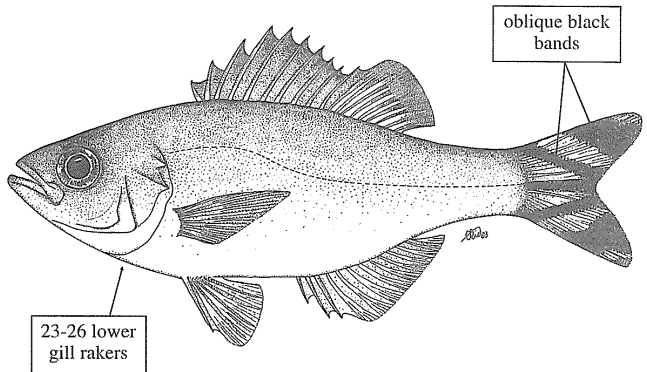
**FAO names:** En - Barred flagtail; Fr - Crocro drapeau.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with small hooks, beach seines, and thrownets.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling near reefs. Feeds on planktonic crustaceans and small fish.



*Kuhlia rupestris* (Lacepède, 1802)

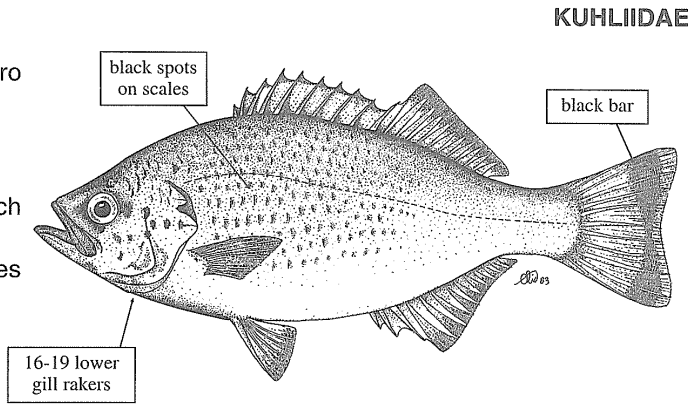
**FAO names:** En - Rock flagtail; Fr - Crocro sauvage.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, beach seines, gill nets, and thrownets.

**Habitat and biology:** Common in estuaries and freshwater.



**KUHLIIDAE**

**PRIACANTHIDAE**  
**Bigeyes, glasseyes, bullseyes**



*Cookeolus japonicus* (Cuvier, 1829)

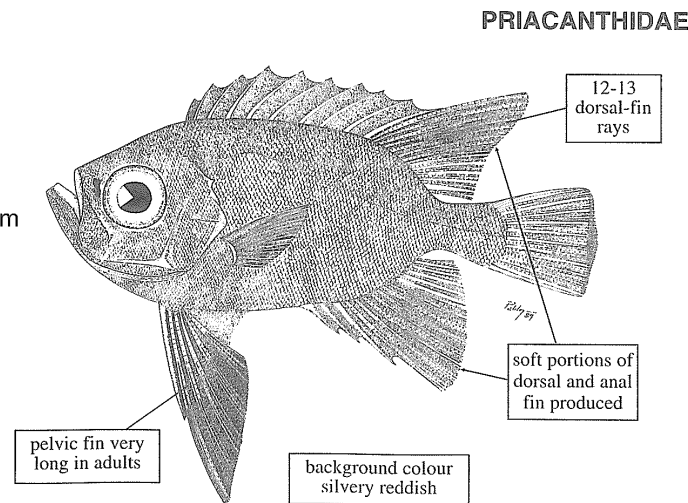
**FAO names:** En - Longfinned bullseye.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In deep waters, from depths of 60 to 400 m.



**PRIACANTHIDAE**

*Heteropriacanthus cruentatus* (Lacepède, 1801)

## PRIACANTHIDAE

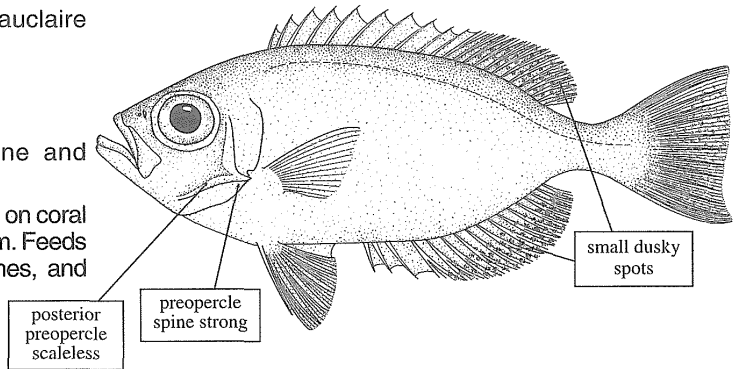
**FAO names:** En - Glasseye; Fr - Beauclaire de roche.

**Local names:** Taraaqo.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters on coral reefs and rocky bottoms, to a depth of 20 m. Feeds on cephalopods, crustaceans, small fishes, and polychaetes.

*Priacanthus blochii* Bleeker, 1853

## PRIACANTHIDAE

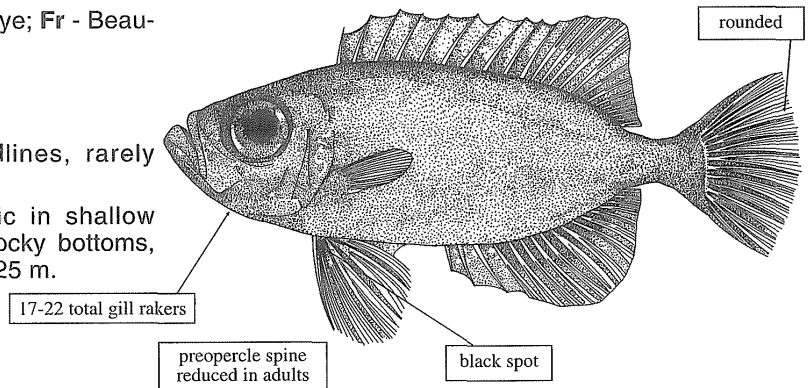
**FAO names:** En - Paeony bulleye; Fr - Beauclaire pivoine.

**Local names:**

**Size:** to at least 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, rarely trawled.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in shallow coastal waters, over reef or rocky bottoms, usually at depths of more than 25 m.

*Priacanthus hamrur* (Forsskål, 1775)

## PRIACANTHIDAE

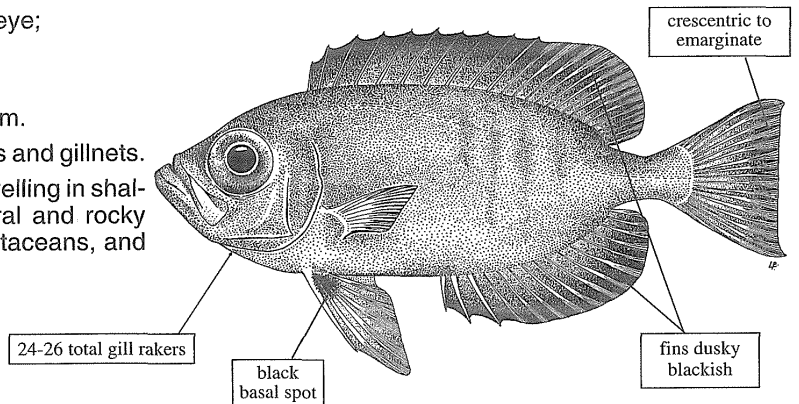
**FAO names:** En - Moontail bullseye; Fr - Beauclaire miroir.

**Local names:** Taraaqo.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Bottom-dwelling in shallow waters, associated with coral and rocky reefs. Feeds on small fish, crustaceans, and other small invertebrates.



*Priacanthus proxilus* Starnes, 1988

PRIACANTHIDAE

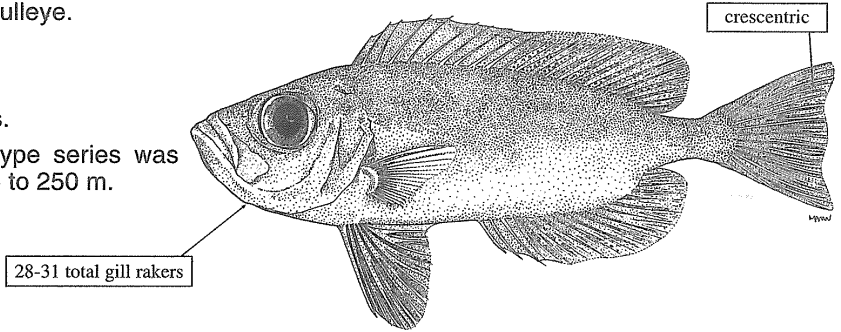
**FAO names:** En - Elongate bulleye.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** The type series was trawled at depths between 35 to 250 m.



*Priacanthus sagittarius* Starnes, 1988

PRIACANTHIDAE

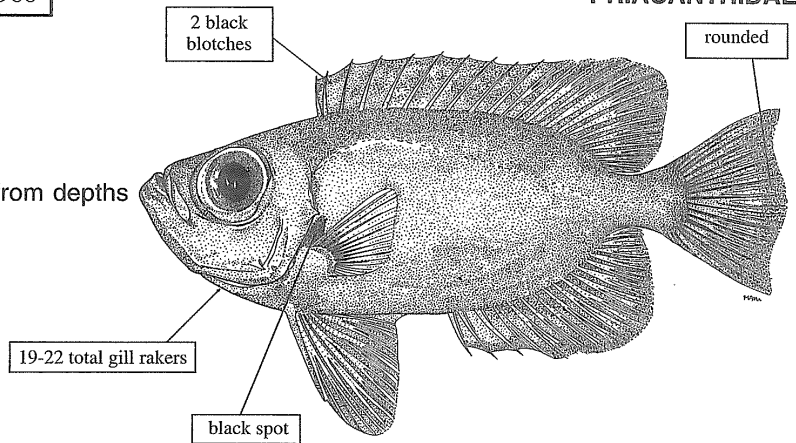
**FAO names:** En - Arrow bulleye.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 28 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Recorded from depths of 60 to 100 m.



*Pristigenys nipponia* (Cuvier, 1829)

PRIACANTHIDAE

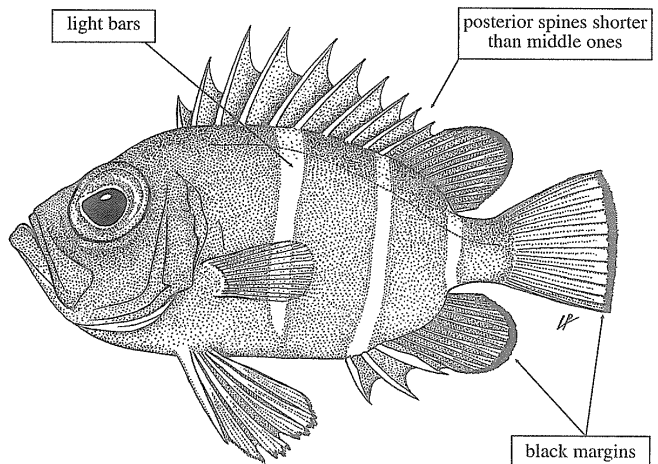
**FAO names:** En - Japanese bigeye.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 27 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters, in rocky habitats, from depths of 80 to 100 m.



## SILLAGINIDAE

## Sillagos

*Sillago aeolus* Jordan and Evermann, 1902

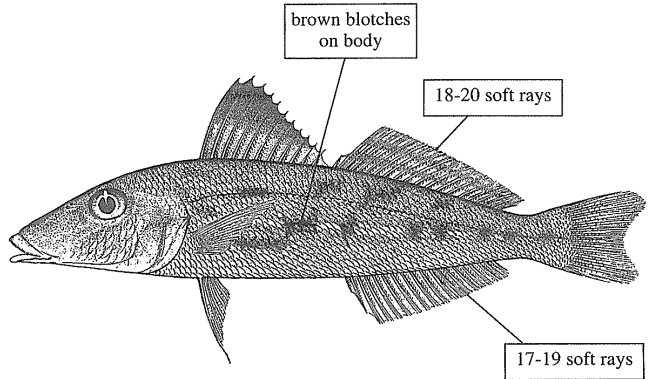
**FAO names:** En - Oriental sillago; Fr - Pêche-madame oriental.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, to a depth of 60 m.



*Sillago chondropus* Bleeker, 1849

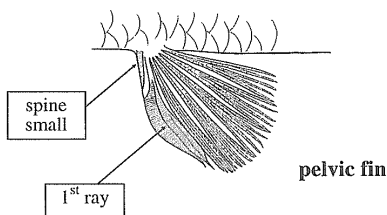
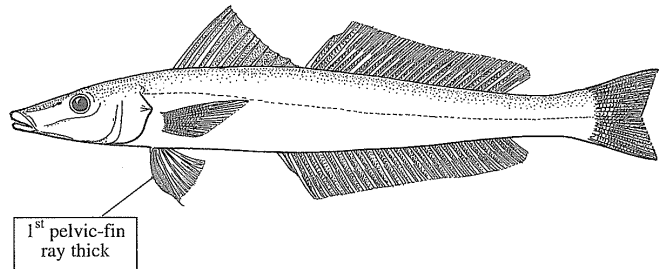
**FAO names:** En - Clubfoot sillago; Fr - Pêche-madame diablotin.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 35 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, in shallow coastal waters, to a depth of 5 m.



## SILLAGINIDAE

*Sillago sihama* (Forsskål, 1775)

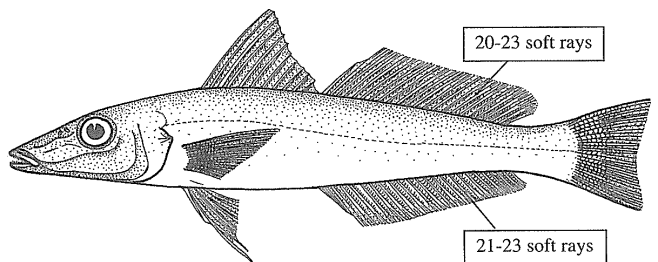
**FAO names:** En - Silver sillago; Fr - Pêche-madame argenté.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 30 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seine and cast nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, in shallow coastal waters and estuaries seldom to a depth of 60 m, over sandy bottoms. Feeds on small polychaetes, crustaceans, fish, and algae.



## SILLAGINIDAE

## MALACANTHIDAE

## Blanquillos, sand tilefishes

*Malacanthus brevirostris* Guichenot, 1848

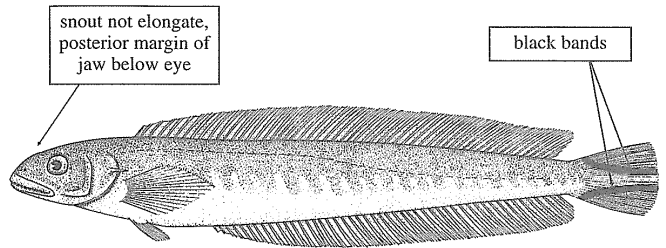
**FAO names:** En - Quakerfish; Fr - Matajuel nez court.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 32 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Bottom-dwelling, in depths of 5 to 33 m; inhabits burrows in pairs.



*Malacanthus latovittatus* (Lacepède, 1801)

**FAO names:** En - Blue blanquillo; Fr - Matajuel bleu.

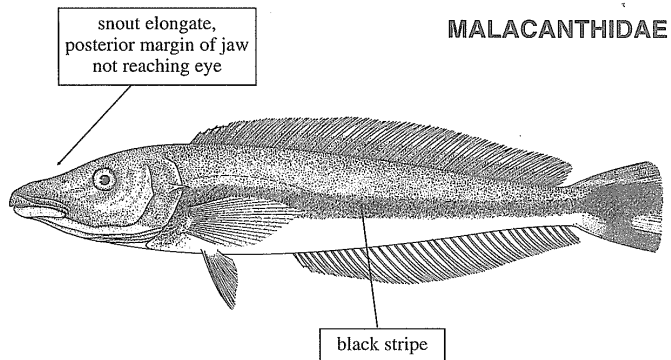
**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 43.5 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits burrows in sand and rubble bottoms near reefs in shallow waters.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



## LACTARIIDAE

## False trevallies, hulk trevallies

*Lactarius lactarius* (Schneider, 1801)

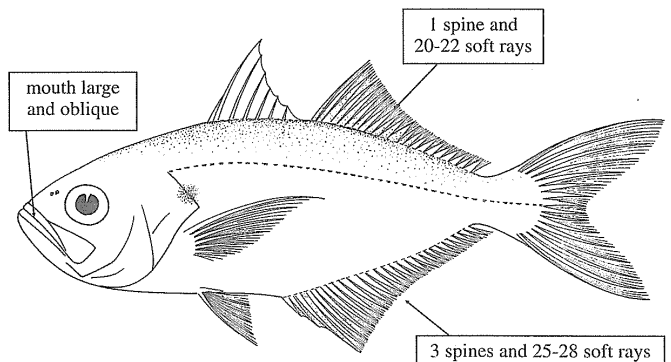
**FAO names:** En - False trevally; Fr - Péliau chanos.

**Local names:** Buraasow.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, boat seines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters to depths of 100 m.



**POMATOMIDAE****Bluefishes**

*Pomatomus saltatrix* (Linnaeus, 1766)

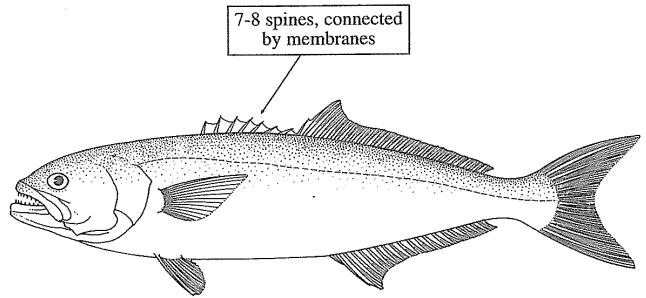
**FAO names:** En - Bluefish; Fr - Tassergal.

**Local names:** Qayac.

**Size:** To 1.2 m, common to 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, lines, and purse seines.

**Habitat and biology:** A voracious predator in warm coastal waters.

**RACHYCENTRIDAE****Cobias**

*Rachycentron canadum* (Linnaeus, 1766)

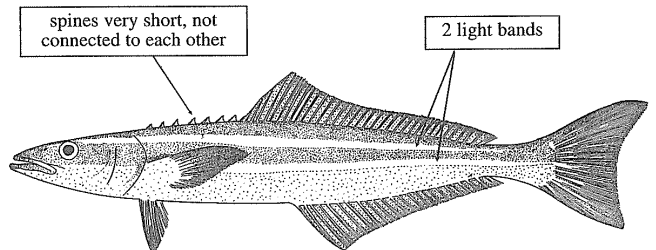
**FAO names:** En - Cobia; Fr - Mafou.

**Local names:** Takho.

**Size:** To 2.0 m, common to 1.1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, bottom trawls, trolling gear, driftnets, and floating gill-nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, but also over shallow coral reefs, occasionally in estuaries. Feeds on crabs, squids and fishes.

**ECHENEIDAE****Remoras, sharksuckers, discfishes**

*Echeneis naucrates* Linnaeus, 1758

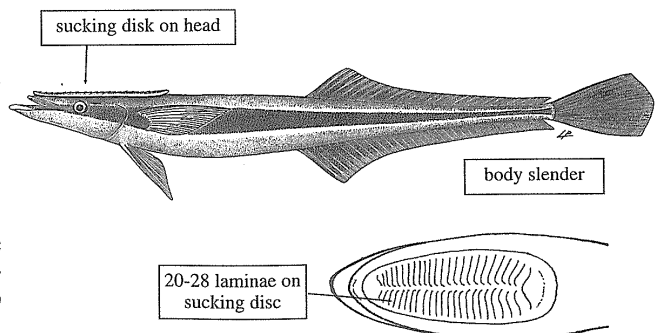
**FAO names:** En - Live sharksucker; Fr - Rémora commun.

**Local names:** Eey-Maanyo.

**Size:** To at least 75 cm.

**Fisheries:** Taken with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal and oceanic waters; remoras attach themselves to a variety of fishes, whales, and floating objects; also found free-swimming.



**CARANGIDAE**

**Jacks, trevallies, scads, queenfishes, runners, pompanos**

*Alectis ciliaris* (Bloch, 1788)

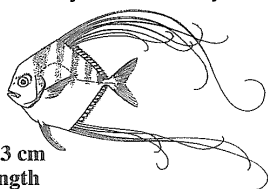
**FAO names:** En - African pompano; Fr - Cordonnier fil.

**Local names:** Dhareerow.

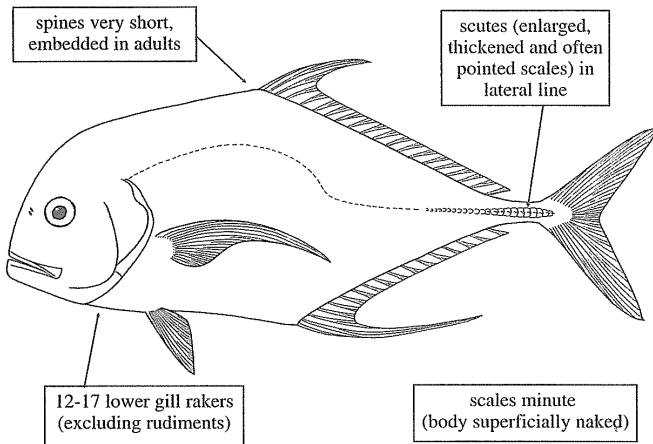
**Size:** To 1.5 m total length, common to 1.0 m fork length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line; juveniles taken in beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Adults are solitary in shallow coastal waters to a depth of about 100 m; young pelagic. Feeds mainly on sedentary crustaceans.



juvenile of 13 cm standard length



*Alectis indicus* (Rüppell, 1830)

(plate VII, 39)

**CARANGIDAE**

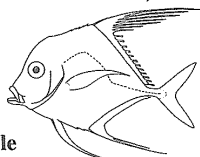
**FAO names:** En - Indian threadfish; Fr - Cordonnier plume.

**Local names:** Dhareerow.

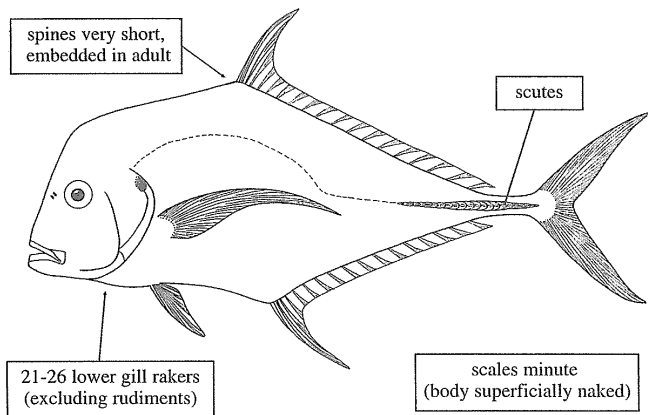
**Size:** To 1.3 m, common to 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, juveniles taken in beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Adults schooling in coastal waters; juveniles solitary and often entering estuaries. Feeds on fish, small squids, and crustaceans.



juvenile



*Alepes djedaba* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate VII, 40)

**CARANGIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Shrimp scad; Fr - Sélar subari.

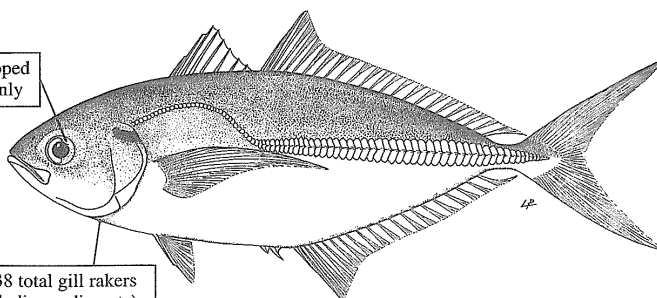
**Local names:** Cawato.

**Size:** To 34 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

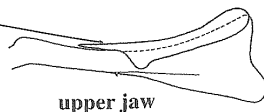
**Habitat and biology:** Common near inshore reefs, often forming schools. Feeds mainly on invertebrates such as shrimps, copepods, and decapod larvae.

adipose eyelid well developed on posterior half of eye only



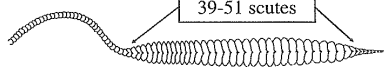
both jaws with a single row of numerous comblike teeth

supramaxilla large, with a spinelike projection



upper jaw

39-51 scutes



lateral line

***Alepes vari* (Cuvier, 1833)****CARANGIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Herring scad; Fr - Sélar harengule.

**Local names:**

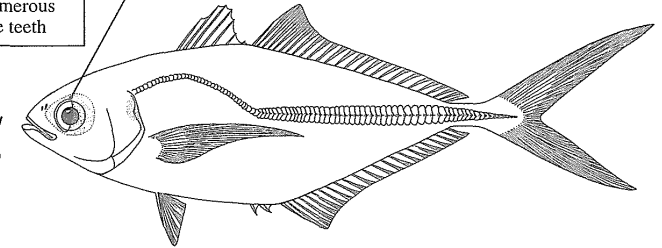
**Size:** To 56 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shallow coastal water. Feeds on shrimps, copepods, decapods, and small fish.

both jaws with a single row of numerous comblike teeth

adipose eyelid well developed on posterior half of eye only



supramaxilla large, with a spinelike projection

48-69 scutes

upper jaw

lateral line

***Atule mate* (Cuvier, 1833)****CARANGIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Yellowtail scad; Fr - Sélar queue jaune.

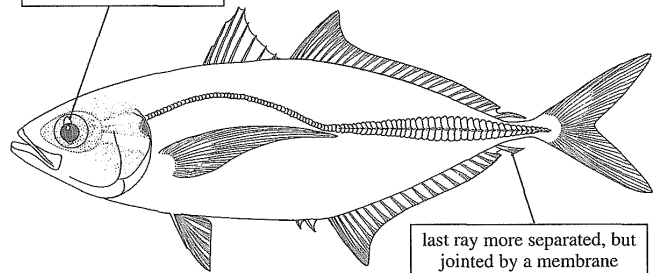
**Local names:** Sisimoole.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 26 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Schools at depths of about 50 m. Feeds mainly on crustaceans and cephalopods.

adipose eyelid completely covering eye except a vertical slit



last ray more separated, but jointed by a membrane

***Carangoides armatus* (Rüppell, 1830)****CARANGIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Longfin trevally; Fr - Carangue sap-sap.

**Local names:** Shiiraan Dhareerow.

**Size:** To 55 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits rocky and coral coastlines, also in shallow lagoons.

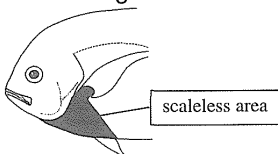
fin lobe longer than head length

19-22 soft rays

16-18 soft rays

31-37 total gill rakers on 1<sup>st</sup> arch (including rudiments)

filaments present in males (more than 21 cm fork length)



scaleless area



*Carangoides bajad* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate VII, 41)

CARANGIDAE

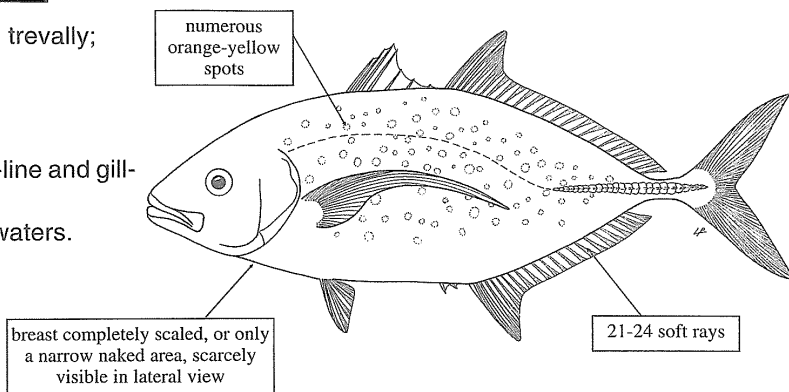
**FAO names:** En - Orangespotted trevally;  
Fr - Carangue lentigine.

**Local names:** Yool.

**Size:** To 55 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and gill-nets.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters.



*Carangoides caeruleopinnatus* (Rüppell, 1830)

CARANGIDAE

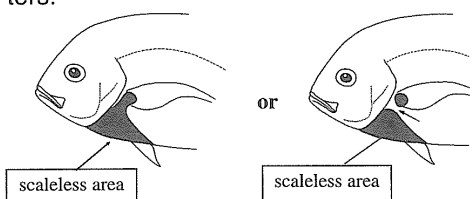
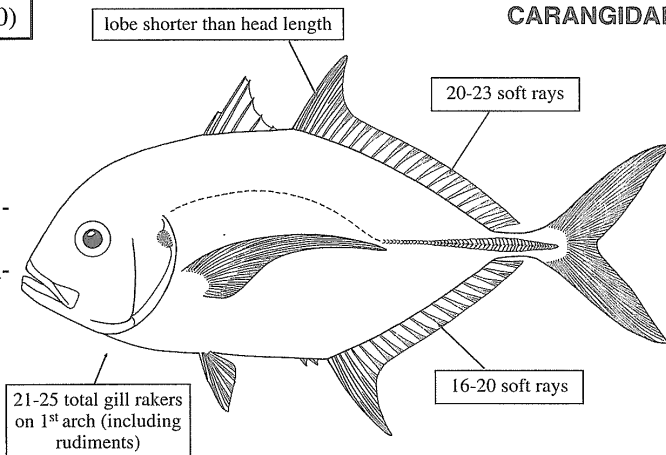
**FAO names:** En - Coastal trevally;  
Fr - Carangue cõtière.

**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Common in coastal waters.



*Carangoides chrysophrys* (Cuvier, 1833)

CARANGIDAE

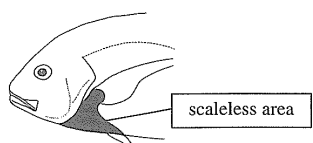
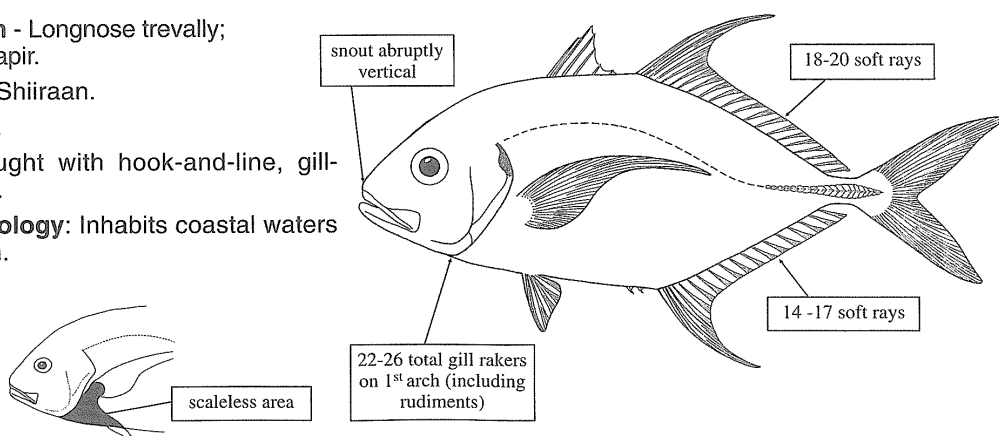
**FAO names:** En - Longnose trevally;  
Fr - Carangue tapir.

**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters to at least 60 m.



*Carangoides equula* (Temminck & Schlegel, 1844)

CARANGIDAE

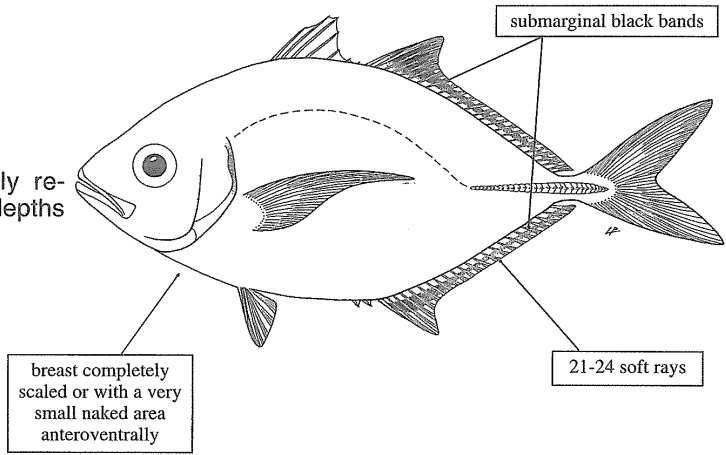
**FAO names:** En - Whitefin trevally;  
Fr - Carangue aile blanche.

**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To 37 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, largely restricted to shelf and slope habitats, at depths of 100 to 200 m.



*Carangoides ferdau* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate VII, 42)

CARANGIDAE

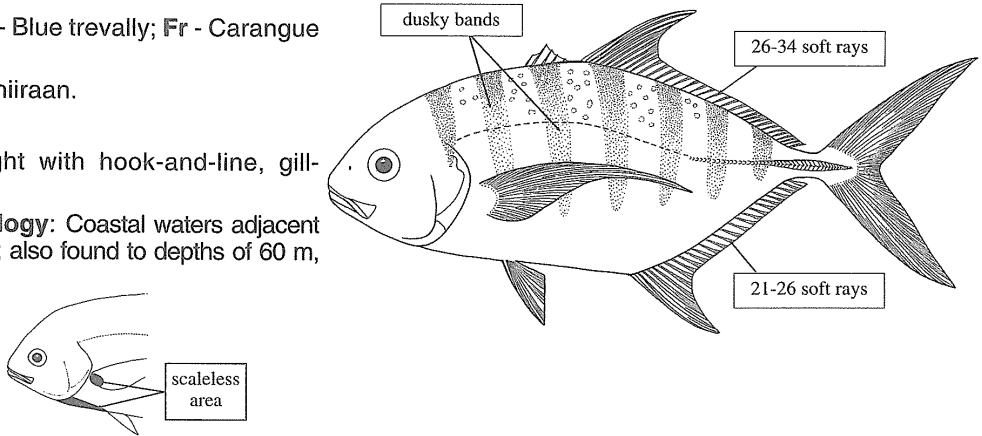
**FAO names:** En - Blue trevally; Fr - Carangue tachetée.

**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters adjacent to sandy beaches; also found to depths of 60 m, often near reefs.



*Carangoides fulvoguttatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

CARANGIDAE

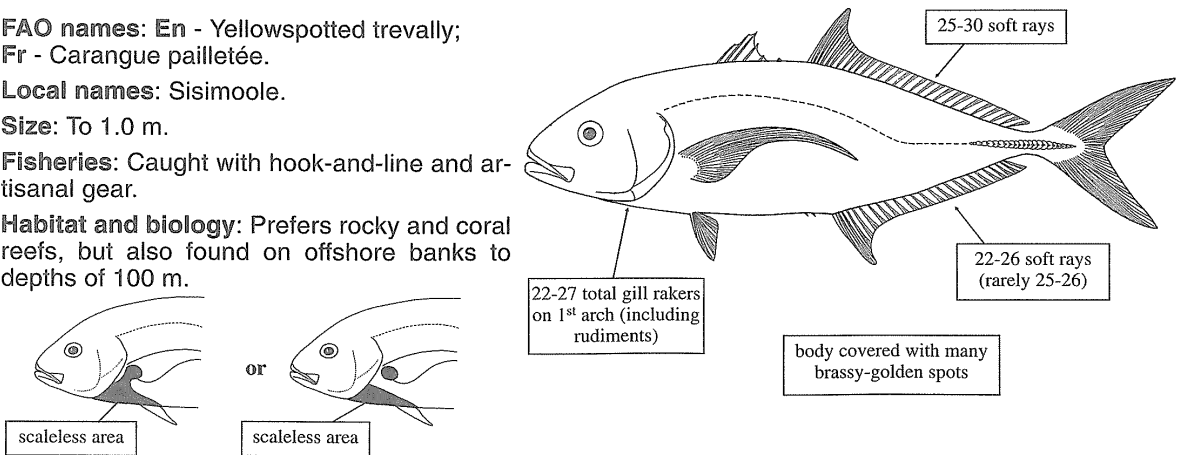
**FAO names:** En - Yellowspotted trevally;  
Fr - Carangue pailletée.

**Local names:** Sisimoole.

**Size:** To 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Prefers rocky and coral reefs, but also found on offshore banks to depths of 100 m.



***Carangoides gymnostethus* (Cuvier, 1833)**

**CARANGIDAE**

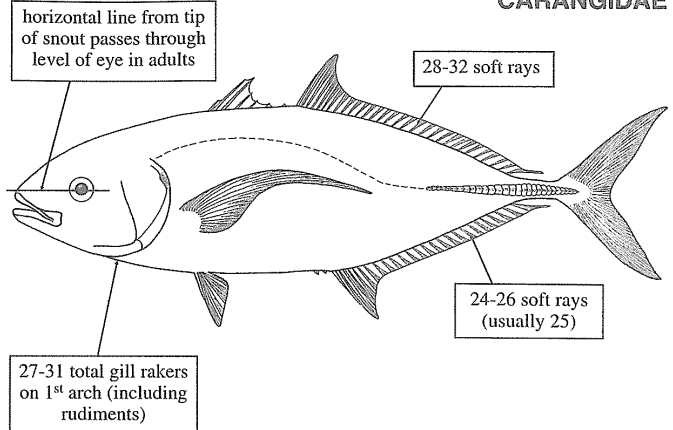
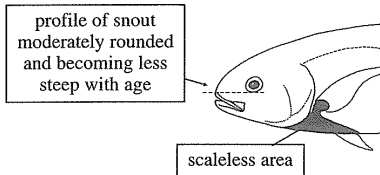
**FAO names:** En - Bludger; Fr - Carangue balo.

**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Common over deeper offshore reefs.



***Carangoides malabaricus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)**

**CARANGIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Malabar trevally;

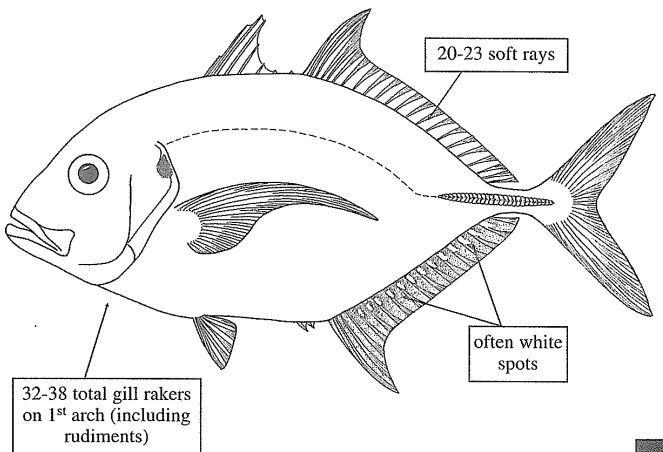
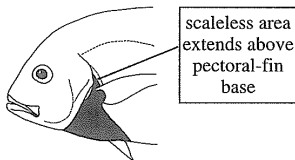
Fr - Carangue monique.

**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To 28 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, bottom trawls, gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Over coral and rocky reefs, but also found in shallow sandy bays.



***Carangoides oblongus* (Cuvier, 1833)**

**CARANGIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Coachwhip trevally;

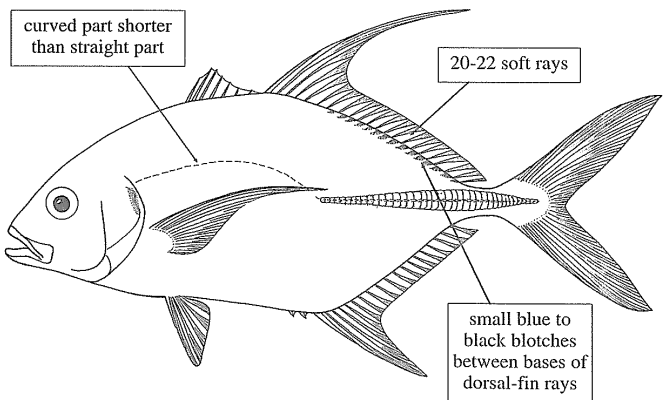
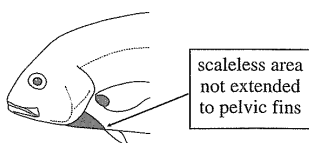
Fr - Carangue postillon.

**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To 46 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.



*Carangoides plagiotænia* (Bleeker, 1851)

CARANGIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Barcheek trevally;  
Fr - Carangue grimée.

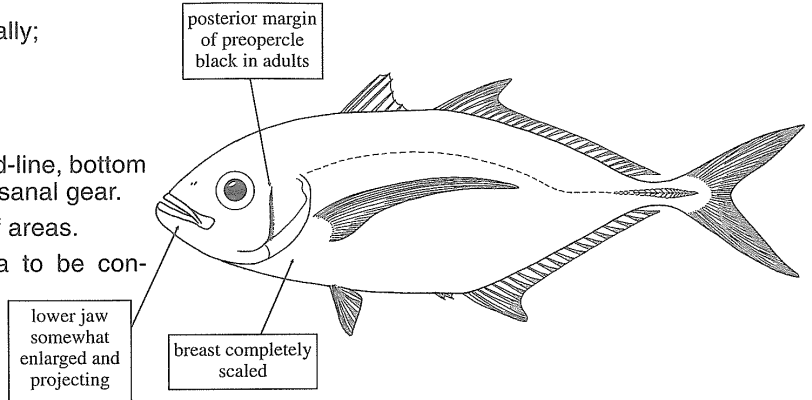
**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To about 41 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, bottom trawls, and different types of artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Outer reef areas.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Caranx heberi* (Bennett, 1830)

CARANGIDAE

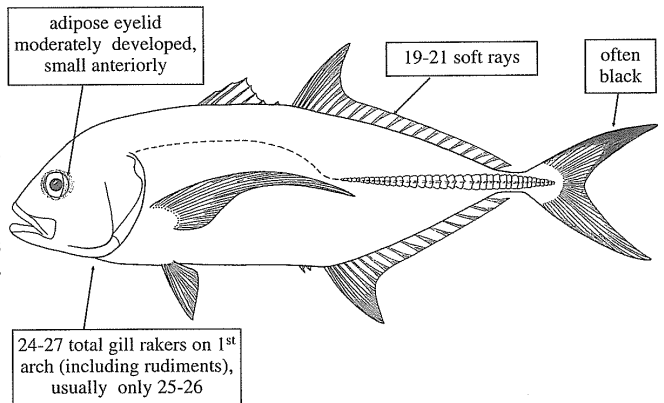
**FAO names:** En - Blacktip trevally;  
Fr - Carangue cocole.

**Local names:**

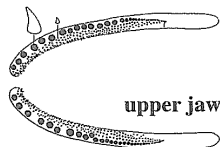
**Size:** To 85 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line and gill-nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Prefers clean, open coastal waters; adults in small aggregations over rocky reefs. Feeds on fish and crustaceans.



upper jaw with an outer series of moderate to strong canines and an inner band of fine teeth



*Caranx ignobilis* (Forsskål, 1775)

CARANGIDAE

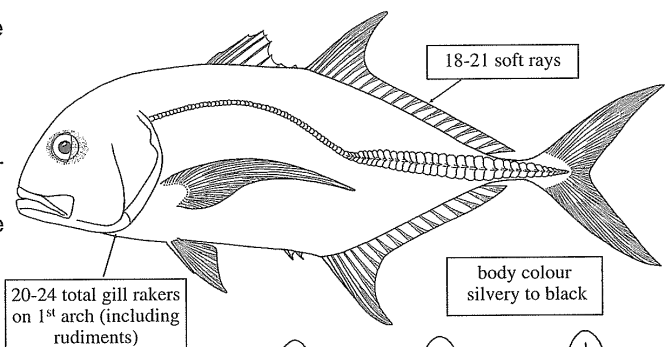
**FAO names:** En - Giant trevally; Fr - Carangue tête.

**Local names:** Baal-Guguud.

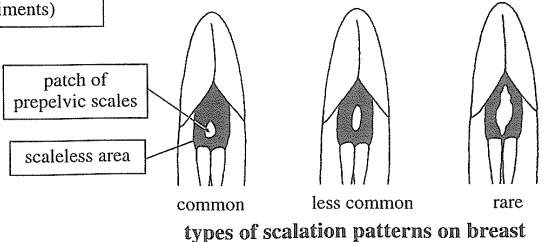
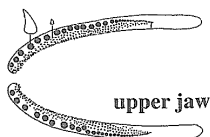
**Size:** To 1.65 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Abundant in all marine habitats. Feeds mainly on fish.



upper jaw with an outer series of moderate to strong canines and an inner band of fine teeth



common less common rare  
types of scalation patterns on breast

*Caranx melampygus* (Cuvier, 1833)

CARANGIDAE

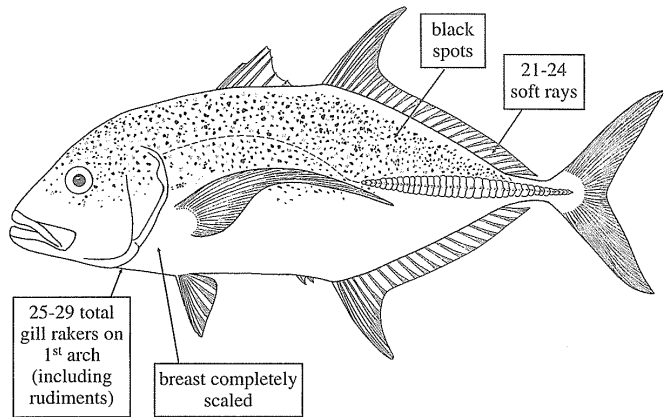
**FAO names:** En - Bluefin trevally;  
Fr - Carangue aile bleue.

**Local names:** Shgiiraan-Sisimoole.

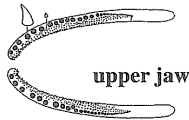
**Size:** To 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Associated with reef habitats. Feeds primarily on fish.



upper jaw with an outer series of moderate to strong canines and an inner band of fine teeth



upper jaw

*Caranx sexfasciatus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

CARANGIDAE

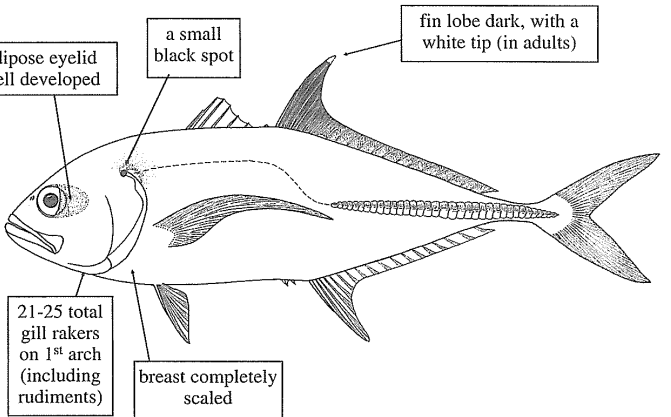
**FAO names:** En - Bigeye trevally;  
Fr - Carangue corace.

**Local names:** Shiiraan Ilweyne.

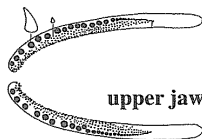
**Size:** To 85 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and purse seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Associated with reefs; juveniles may occur in estuaries. Feeds on fish and crustaceans.



upper jaw with an outer series of moderate to strong canines and an inner band of fine teeth



upper jaw

*Decapterus macarellus* (Cuvier, 1833)

CARANGIDAE

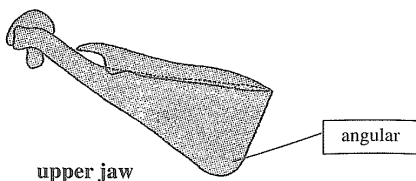
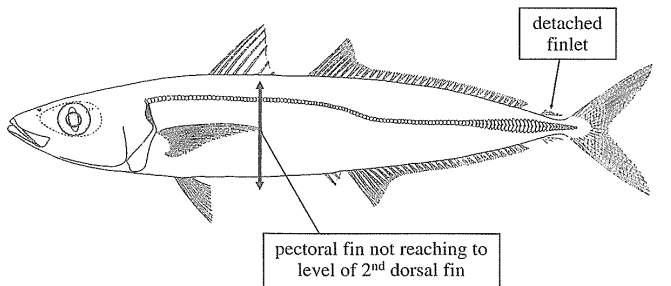
**FAO names:** En - Mackerel scad; Fr - Comète maquereau.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 32 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling in open waters; taken at depths between 40 and 200 m. Feeds on smaller planktonic invertebrates.



upper jaw

angular



*Decapterus macrosoma* (Bleeker, 1851)

## CARANGIDAE

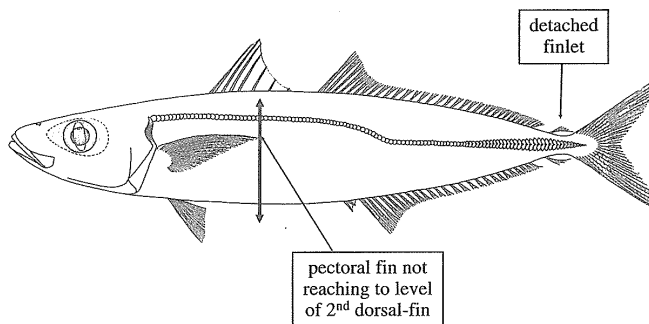
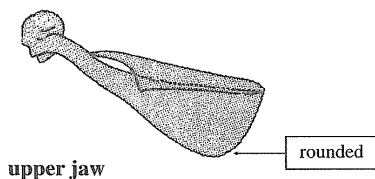
**FAO names:** En - Shortfin scad; Fr - Comète fine.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines and trawls. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** A schooling species; in depths between 30 to at least 170 m. Feeds on small planktonic invertebrates.

*Decapterus russelli* (Rüppell, 1830)

## CARANGIDAE

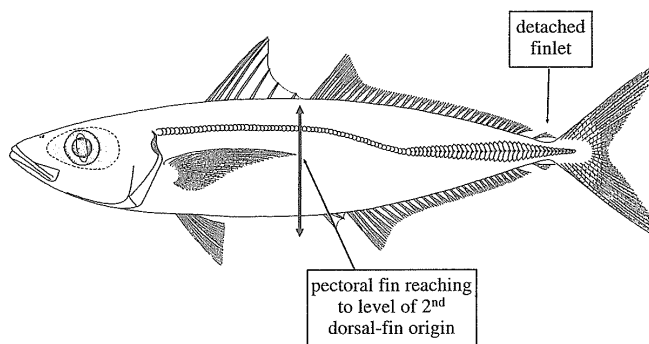
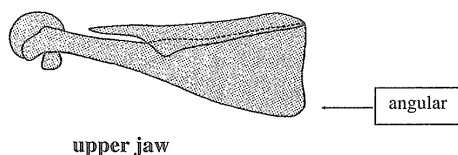
**FAO names:** En - Indian scad; Fr - Comète indienne.

**Local names:** Buraasow.

**Size:** To 38 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines and trawls. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters and on open banks at depths not exceeding 100 m. Feeds on smaller planktonic invertebrates.

*Elagatis bipinnulata* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

## CARANGIDAE

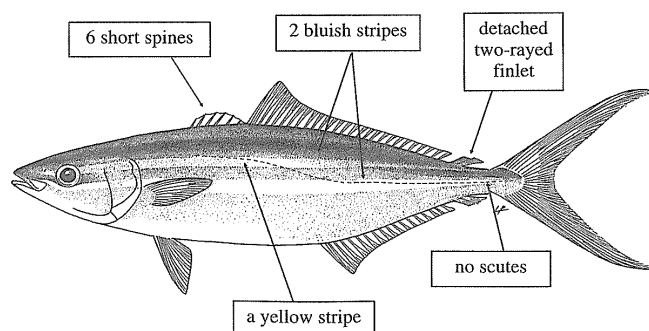
**FAO names:** En - Rainbow runner; Fr - Comète saumon.

**Local names:** Aari-Joog.

**Size:** To 1.2 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, gill-nets, and seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, usually found near the surface; may form schools. Feeds on invertebrates and small fish.



***Gnathanodon speciosus* (Forsskål, 1775)**

**CARANGIDAE**

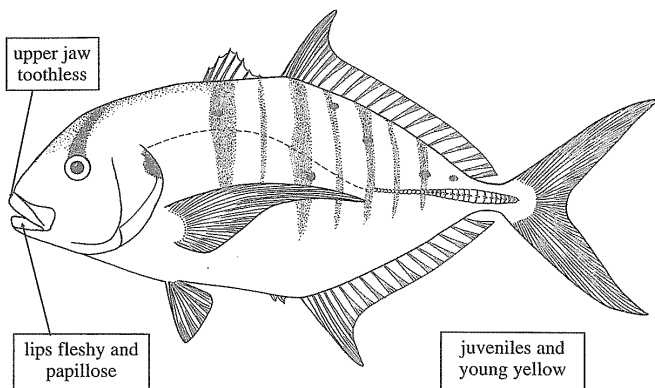
**FAO names:** En - Golden trevally;  
Fr - Carangue royale.

**Local names:** Quoomaar.

**Size:** To 1.1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Found inshore, including rocky reefs, deep lagoons and seaward reefs; a bottom feeder that preys on crustaceans, mollusks and small fish.



***Megalaspis cordyla* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**CARANGIDAE**

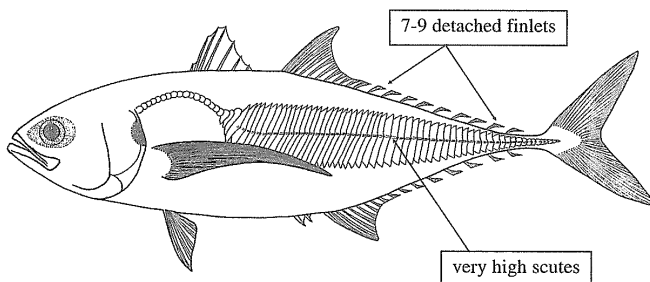
**FAO names:** En - Torpedo scad; Fr - Comète torpille.

**Local names:** Roob ma waaye.

**Size:** To 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, beach seines, trawls, purse seines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic, schooling species. Feeds mainly on other fish.



***Naucrates ductor* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**CARANGIDAE**

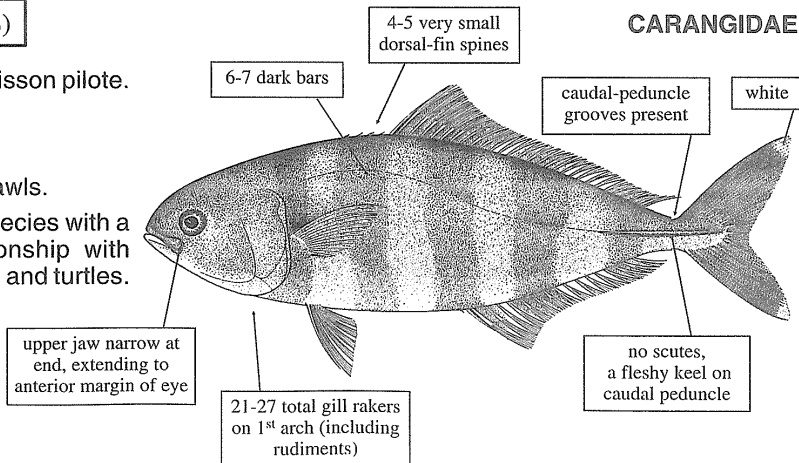
**FAO names:** En - Pilotfish; Fr - Poisson pilote.

**Local names:** Buraasow.

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with pelagic trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic species with a semi-obligate commensal relationship with large sharks, rays and other fishes and turtles.



*Parastromateus niger* (Bloch, 1795)

## CARANGIDAE

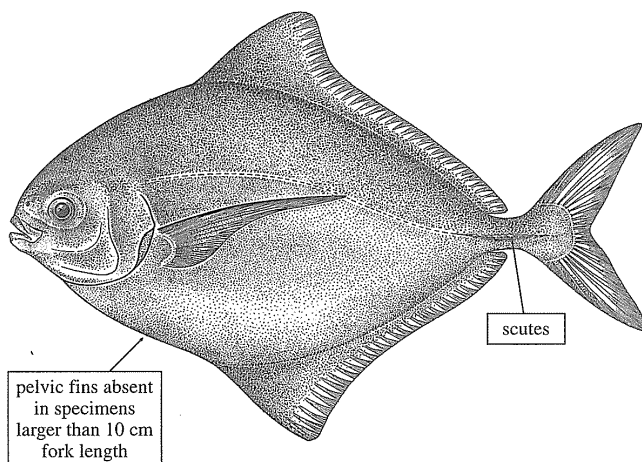
**FAO names:** En - Black pomfret;  
Fr - Castagnoline noire.

**Local names:** Soor yaxaas.

**Size:** To 55 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, boat seines, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic on the continental shelf; usually in depths of 15 to 40 m, over muddy bottoms; near the bottom during the day, near the surface at night. Feeds on zooplankton.

*Pseudocaranx dentex* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

## CARANGIDAE

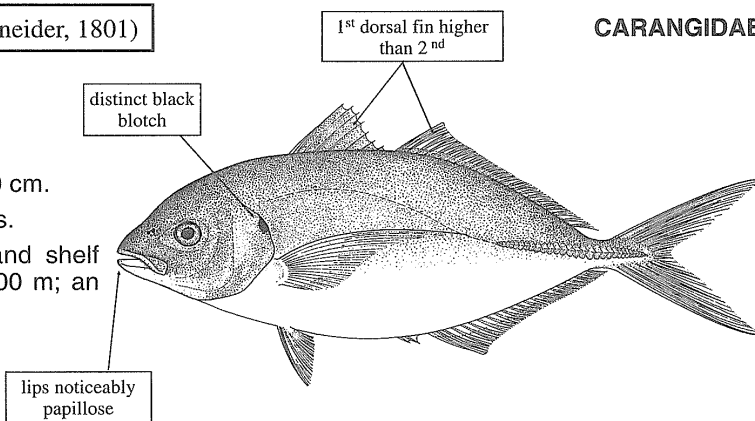
**FAO names:** En - White trevally;  
Fr - Carangue dentue.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 82 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On banks and shelf slope habitats at depths of 80 to 200 m; an opportunistic bottom feeder.

*Scomberoides commersonianus* (Lacepède, 1802)

## CARANGIDAE

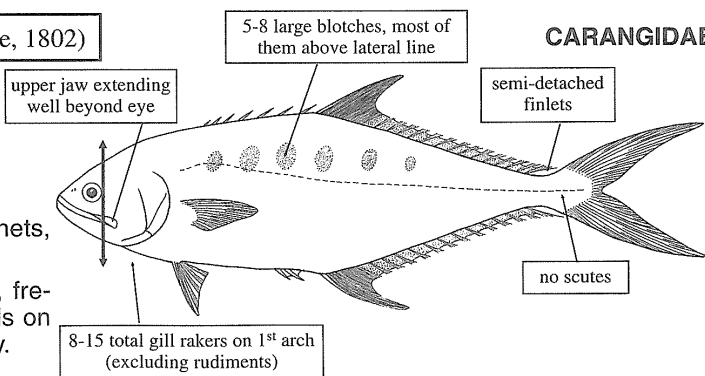
**FAO names:** En - Talang queenfish;  
Fr - Sauteur talang

**Local names:** Jabto.

**Size:** To 12 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drift setnets, gillnets, seines, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, frequents reefs and offshore islands. Feeds on fish, cephalopods, and other pelagic prey.





*Scomberoides lysan* (Forsskål, 1775)

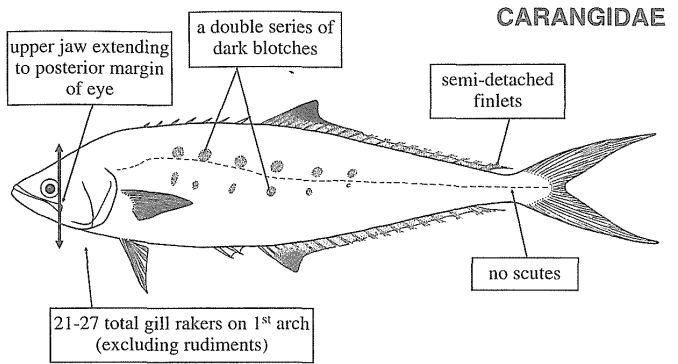
**FAO names:** En - Doublespotted queenfish; Fr - Sauteur sabre.

**Local names:** Jabto calasey.

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drift setnets, gillnets, seines, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits inshore waters from shallow lagoons to offshore areas from the surface to depths of 100 m. Feeds on other fishes and small crustaceans.



*Scomberoides tol* (Cuvier, 1832)

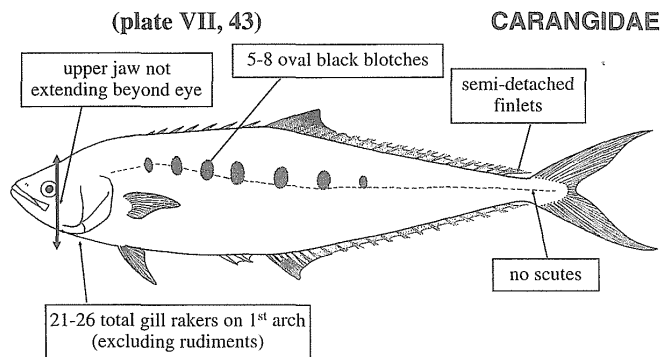
**FAO names:** En - Needlescaled queenfish; Fr - Sauteur leurre.

**Local names:** Jabto calasey.

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drift setnets, gillnets, seines, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling near the surface in coastal waters. Feeds primarily on fish.



*Selar crumenophthalmus* (Bloch, 1793)

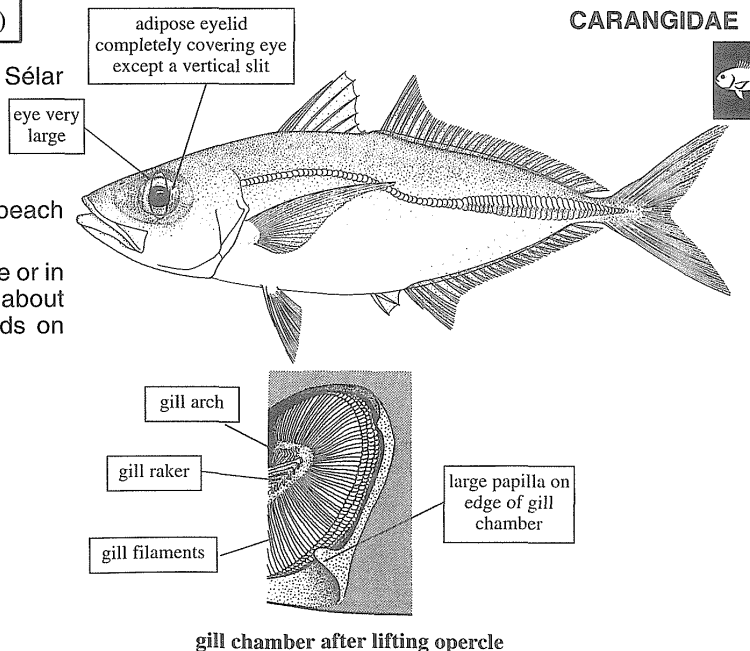
**FAO names:** En - Bigeye scad; Fr - Sélar coulisou.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, beach seines, purse seines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling inshore or in shallow waters, but ranging in depths of about 170 m; also over shallow reefs. Feeds on benthic and planktonic invertebrates.



*Seriola rivoliana* (Valenciennes, 1833)

## CARANGIDAE

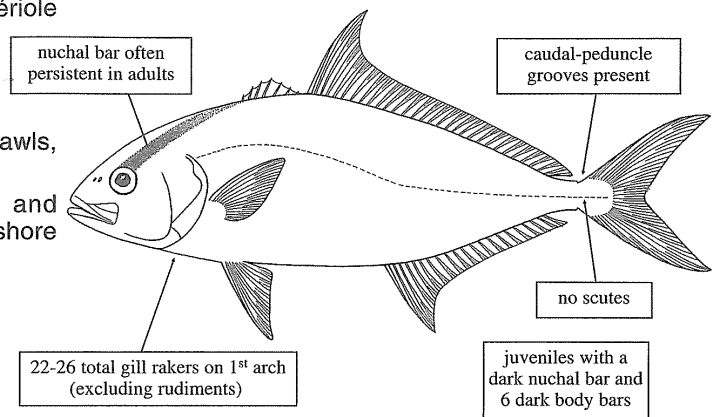
**FAO names:** En - Almaco jack; Fr - Sériole limon.

**Local names:** Shiiraan.

**Size:** To 1.1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, bottom trawls, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Adults pelagic and epibenthic; oceanic, rarely found in inshore waters.

*Seriolina nigrofasciata* (Rüppell, 1829)

## CARANGIDAE

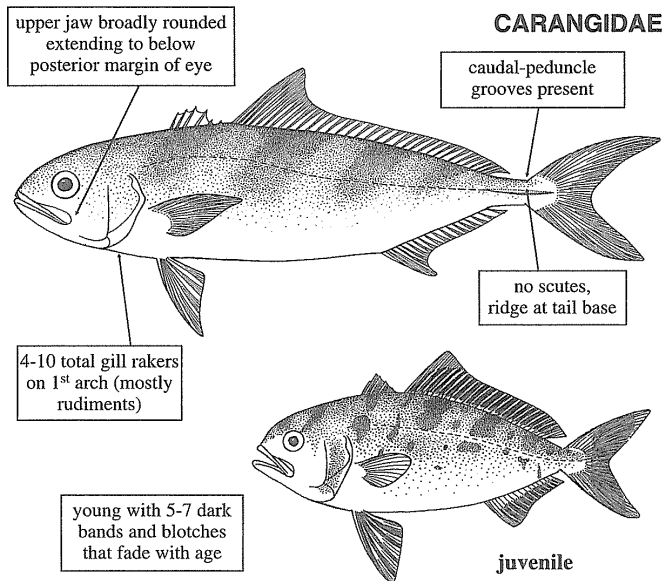
**FAO names:** En - Blackbanded trevally; Fr - Sériole amourez.

**Local names:** Buraasow.

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, traps, gillnets, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Solitary, mainly in off-shore reefs on continental shelf at depths of 20 to 150 m.

*Trachinotus africanus* Smith, 1967

## CARANGIDAE

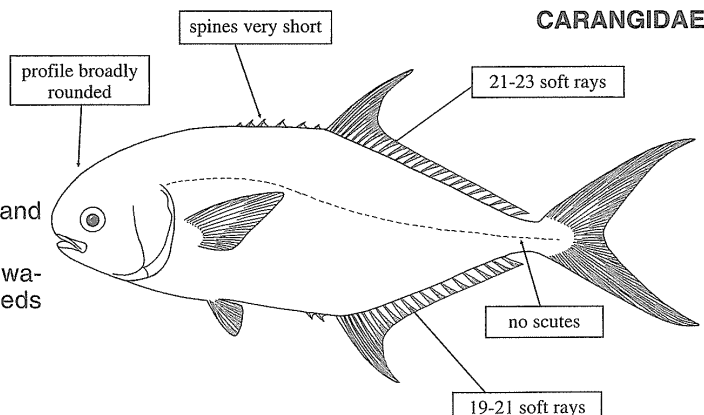
**FAO names:** En - African pompano; Fr - Pompaneau africain.

**Local names:** Madax-Dhagax.

**Size:** To 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, gillnets, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow coastal waters with reefs or rocky outcrops. Feeds mainly on mollusks (rock mussels).



*Trachinotus baillonii* (Lacepède, 1801)

CARANGIDAE

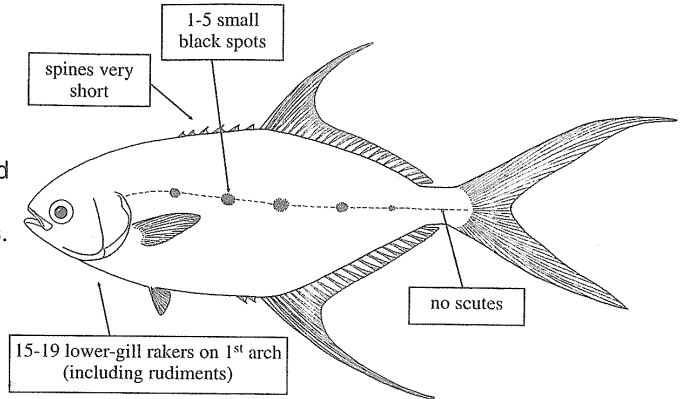
**FAO names:** En - Smallspotted dart;  
Fr - Pompaneau muscadin.

**Local names:** Durub.

**Size:** To 54 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, gillnets, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.



*Trachinotus blochii* (Lacepède, 1801)

CARANGIDAE

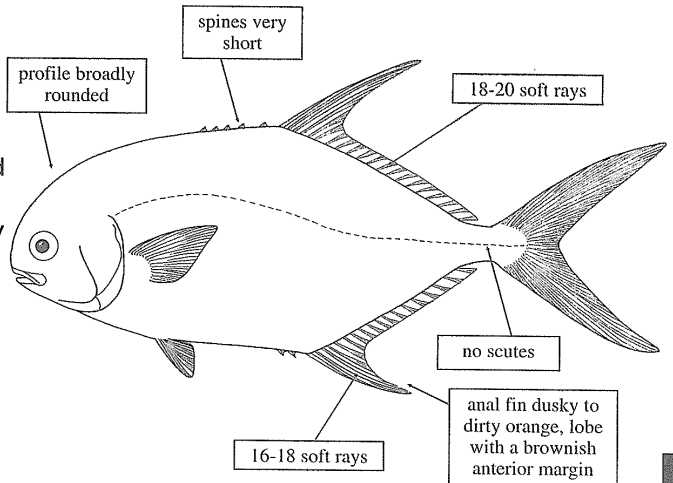
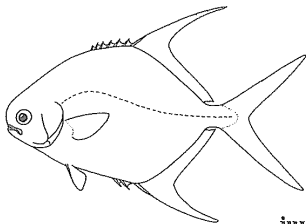
**FAO names:** En - Snubnose dart;  
Fr - Pompaneau lune.

**Local names:** Madax-Dhagax.

**Size :** To 65 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, gillnets, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coral and rocky reef areas in shallow coastal waters.



*Trachinotus russellii* (Cuvier, 1832)

CARANGIDAE

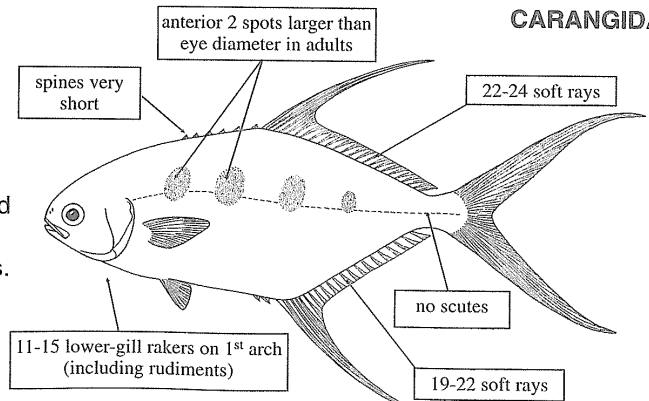
**FAO names:** En - Largespotted dart;  
Fr - Pompaneau pierrot.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 75 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, gillnets, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.



*Trachurus indicus* Nekrasov, 1966

CARANGIDAE

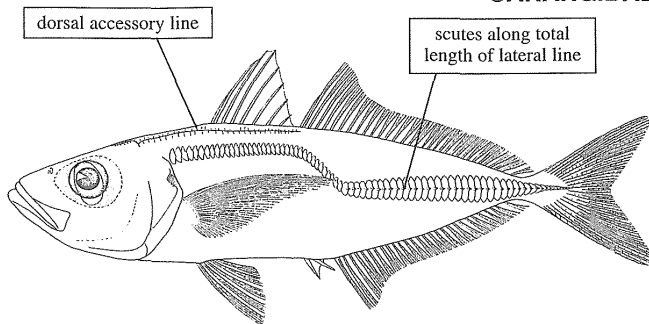
**FAO names:** En - Arabian scad; Fr - Chinchard d'Arabie.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, handlines, and gillnets. Of major importance to fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, in depths of 20 to 100 m. Feeds on small crustaceans and fish fry.



*Ulua mentalis* (Cuvier, 1833)

CARANGIDAE

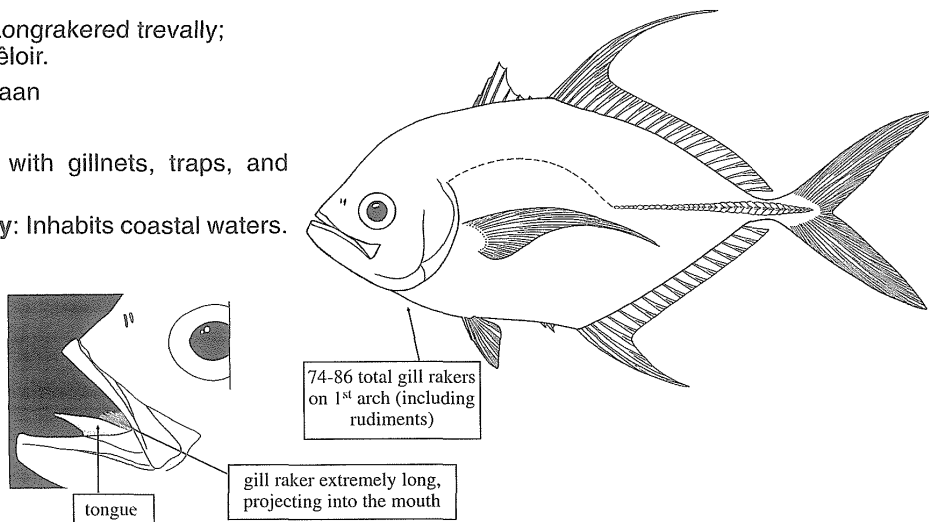
**FAO names:** En - Longrakered trevally; Fr - Carangue démêloir.

**Local names:** Shiiraan

**Size:** To 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, traps, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.



*Uraspis helvola* (Forster, 1801)

CARANGIDAE

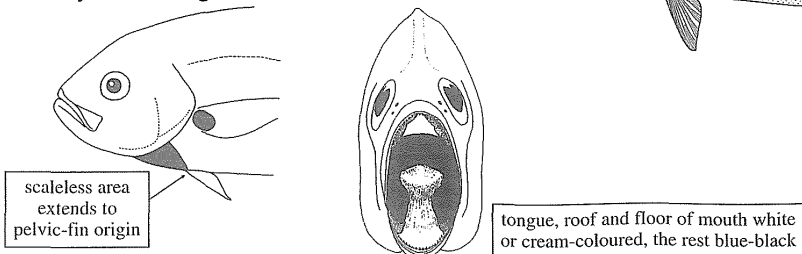
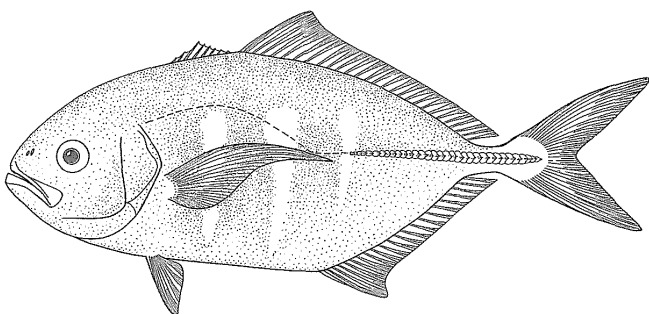
**FAO names:** En - Whitetongue jack; Fr - Carangue langue blanche

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, purse seines, dipnets, longlines, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** An oceanic species, pelagic in surface waters as well as demersal; solitary or forming small schools.



**CORYPHAENIDAE**

**Dolphinfishes**

*Coryphaena equiselis* Linnaeus, 1758

**FAO names:** En - Pompano dolphinfish;

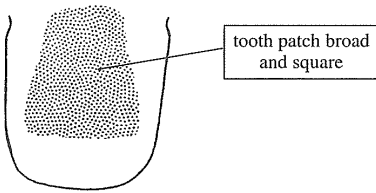
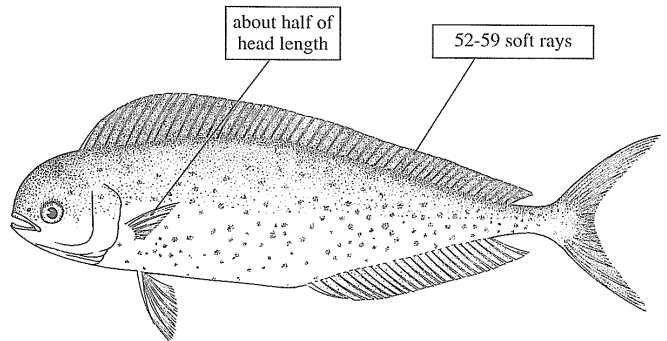
Fr - Coryphène dauphin.

**Local names:** Sucbaan.

**Size:** To 75 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trolling gear and floating lines.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, inhabiting open waters, but also approaching the coast. Feeds on fish and squids.



tooth patch broad and square

dorsal surface of tongue

*Coryphaena hippurus* Linnaeus, 1758

**FAO names:** En - Common dolphinfish;

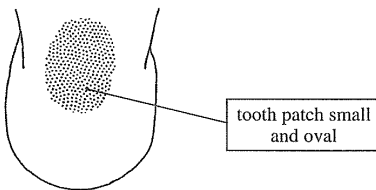
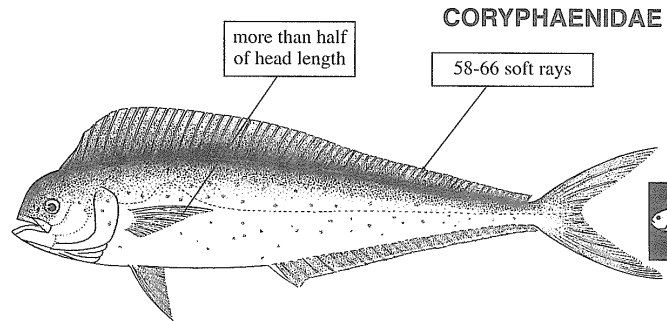
Fr - Coryphène commune.

**Local names:** Sucbaan.

**Size:** To 2.0 m, common to 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trolling gear, tuna longlines, and driftnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, inhabiting open waters, but also approaching the coast. Feeds mainly on fish, but also on crustaceans and squids.



tooth patch small and oval

dorsal surface of tongue



**MENIDAE****Moonfishes**

*Mene maculata* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

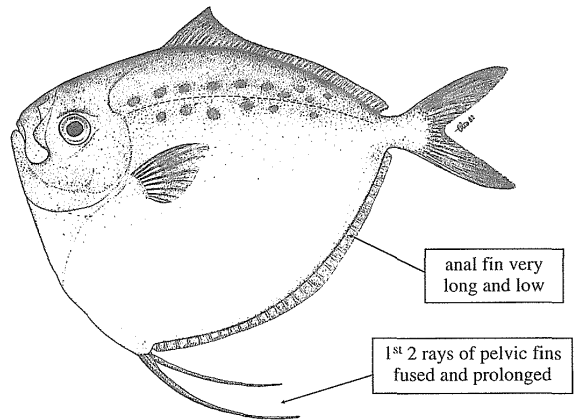
**FAO names:** En - Moonfish; Fr - Luneur.

**Local names:** Dhareerow.

**Size:** To 24 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, beach seines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** In deeper coastal waters, especially around coral reefs, sometimes in estuaries; feeds on benthic invertebrates.

**LEIOGNATHIDAE****Ponyfishes, slipmouths, toothponies**

*Gazza minuta* (Bloch, 1797)

(plate VIII, 44)

**LEIOGNATHIDAE**

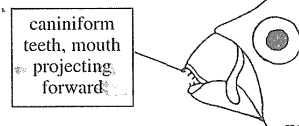
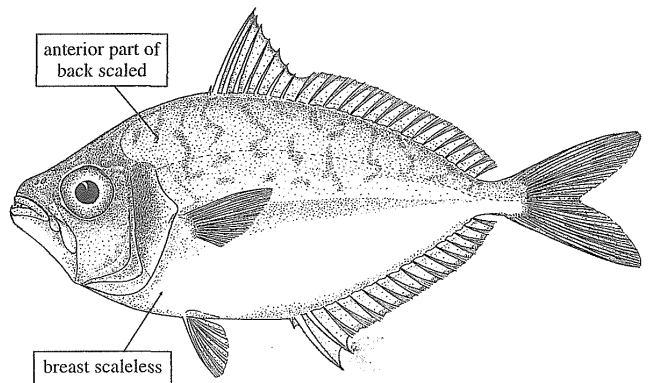
**FAO names:** En - Toothpony; Fr - Sapsap dentu.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, bag-nets, and shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters down to depths of about 40 m, mostly near the bottom.



protracted mouth

*Leiognathus berbis* (Valenciennes, 1835)

(plate VIII, 45)

**LEIOGNATHIDAE**

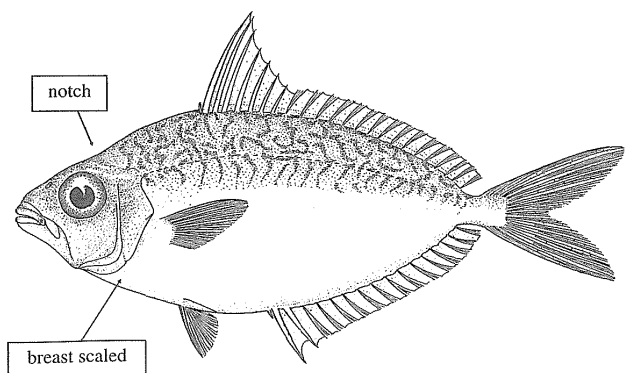
**FAO names:** En - Berber ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap berbère.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 11 cm, common to 9 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and in-shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters down to depths of 40 m, predominantly near the bottom. Feeds on small crustaceans and bivalves.



*Leiognathus daura* (Cuvier, 1829)

(plate VIII, 46)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

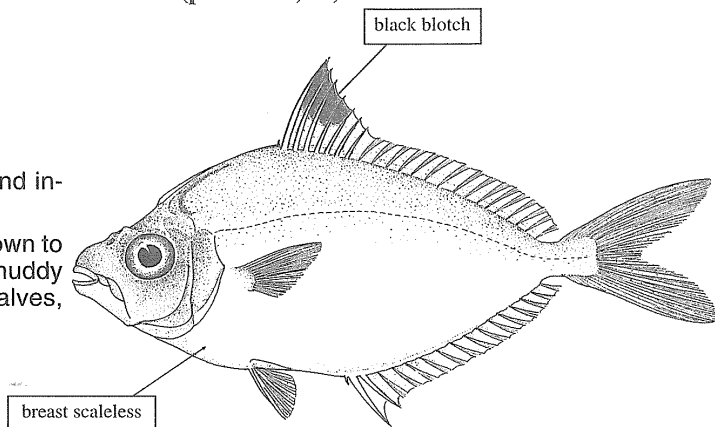
**FAO names:** En - Goldstripe ponyfish;  
Fr - Sapsap doré.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm, common to 9 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and in-shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters down to a depth of 40 m, predominantly over muddy bottoms. Feeds on polychaetes, bivalves, small crustaceans, and sponges.



*Leiognathus elongatus* Günther, 1874

(plate VIII, 47)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

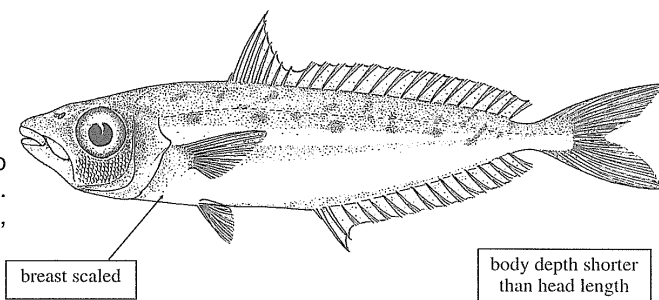
**FAO names:** En - Slender ponyfish;  
Fr - Sapsap élégant.

**Local names:** Dool-Dool.

**Size:** To 12 cm, common to 8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters down to a depth of 40 m; schooling near the bottom. Feeds on small crustaceans, polychaetes, and algae.



*Leiognathus equulus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate VIII, 48)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Common ponyfish;  
Fr - Sapsap commun.

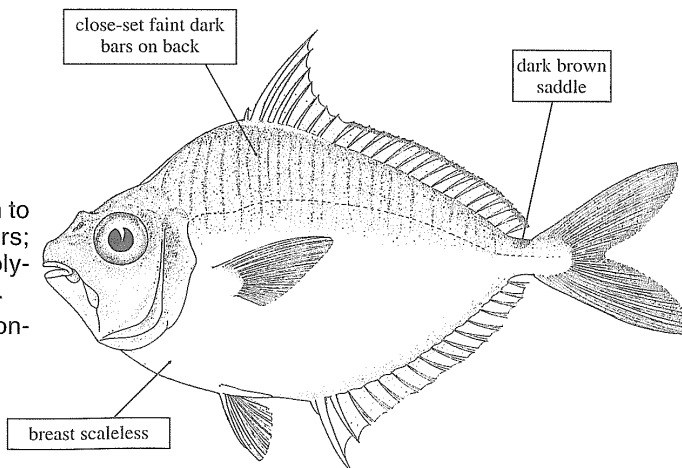
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 24 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters down to a depth of 40 m, enters brackish waters; schooling near the bottom. Feeds on polychaetes, small crustaceans, and small fish.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Leiognathus fasciatus* (Lacepède, 1803)

(plate VIII, 49)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Striped ponyfish;

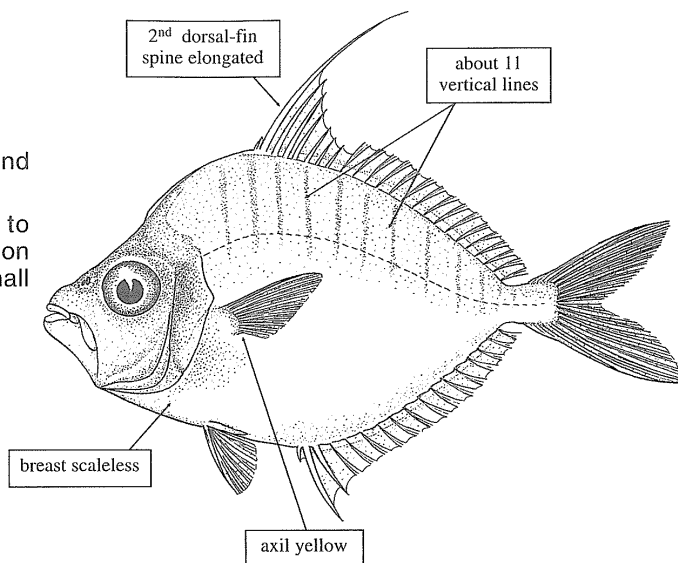
Fr - Sapsap rayé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 21 cm, common to 17 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and driftnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters to depths of about 40 m, schooling. Feeds on polychaetes, small crustaceans, and small fish.

*Leiognathus leuciscus* (Günther, 1860)

(plate VIII, 50)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Whipfin ponyfish;

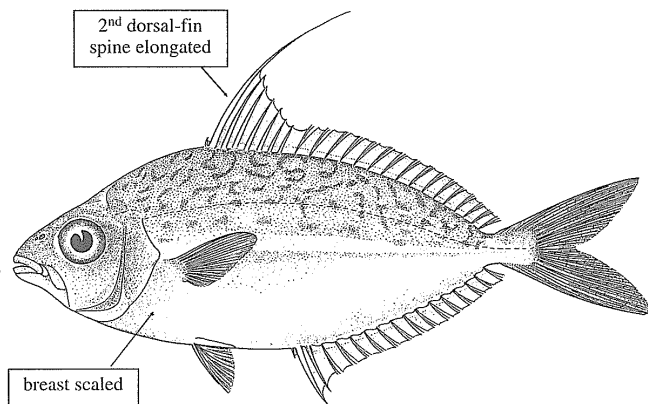
Fr - Sapsap fil.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 12 cm, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, bag-nets, and shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shallow waters down to depths of about 40 m, usually near the bottom. Feeds on shrimps, other crustaceans, and polychaetes.

*Leiognathus lineolatus* (Valenciennes, 1835)

(plate VIII, 51)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Ornate ponyfish;

Fr - Sapsap écriture.

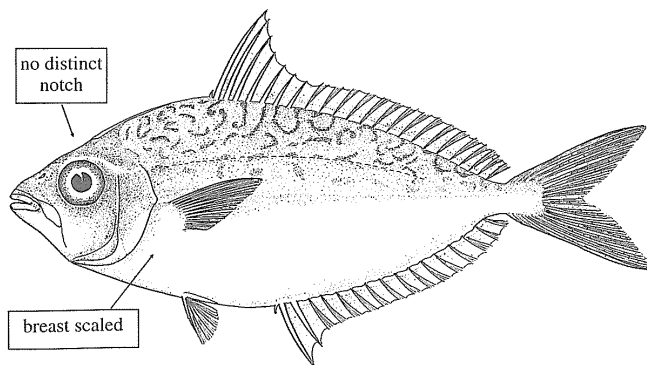
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 9.5 cm, common to 7 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters, down to depths of about 40 m, usually near the bottom. Feeds on small crustaceans, chaetognaths, nematodes, bivalves, and gastropods.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.





*Leiognathus splendens* (Cuvier, 1829)

(plate IX, 52)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Splendid pony; Fr - Sapsap soleil.

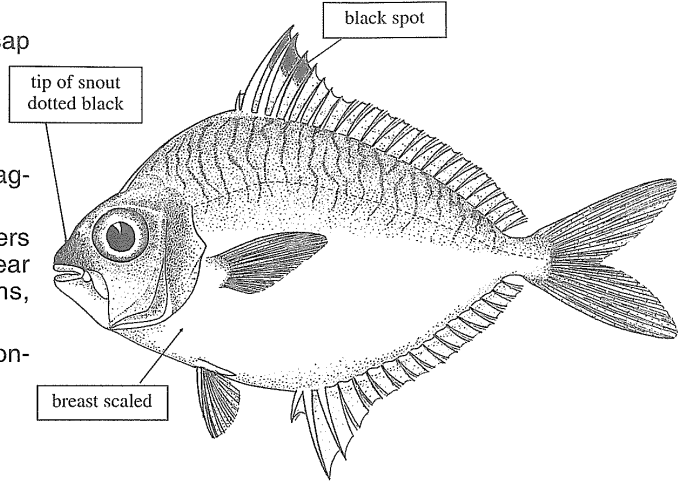
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, bagnets, and shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shallow waters down to depths of about 40 m. Schools near the bottom. Feeds on small crustaceans, foraminiferans, and bivalves.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Secutor insidiator* (Bloch, 1797)

(plate IX, 53)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

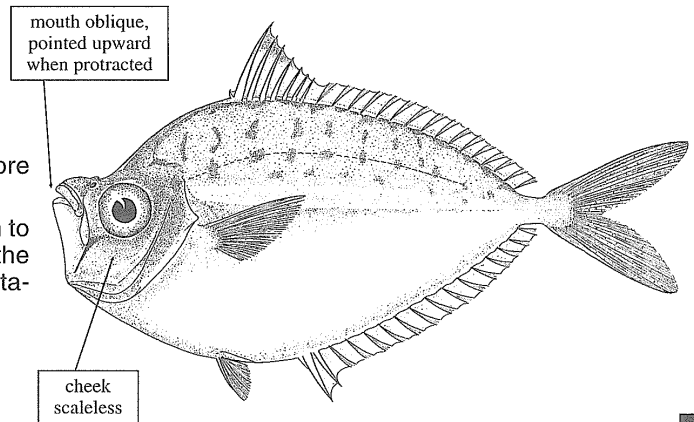
**FAO names:** En - Pugnose ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap boxeur.

**Local names:** Dhareerow.

**Size:** To 11 cm, common to 8 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, inshore seines, bagnets, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters down to depths of about 40 m, predominantly near the bottom, schooling. Feeds on small crustaceans.



*Secutor ruconius* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

(plate IX, 54)

LEIOGNATHIDAE

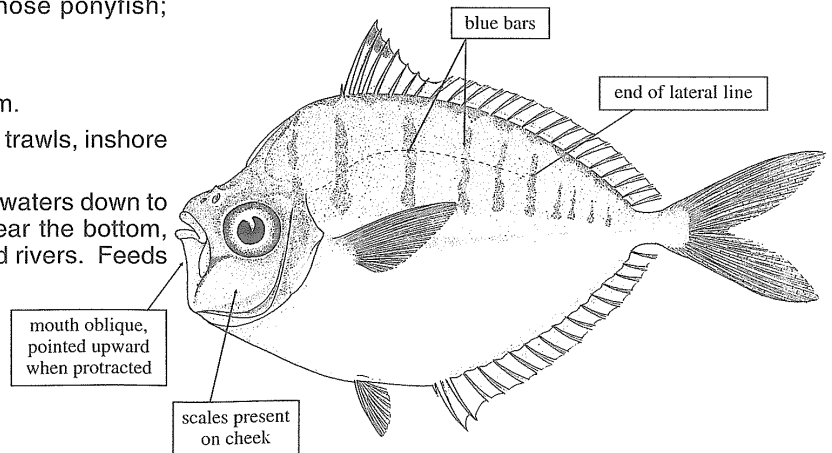
**FAO names:** En - Deep pugnose ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap bouledogue.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 8 cm, common to 6 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, inshore seines, bagnets, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters down to depths of about 40 m, lives near the bottom, schooling; enters estuaries and rivers. Feeds on small crustaceans.



## BRAMIDAE

## Pomfrets, ocean breams

*Brama dussumieri* (Cuvier, 1831)

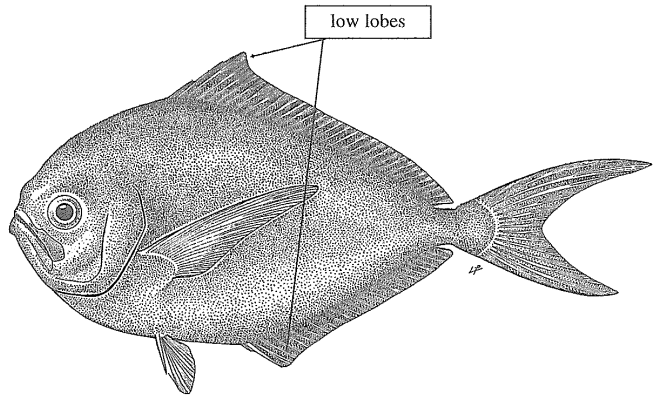
**FAO names:** En - Lesser bream; Fr - Castagnole mignonne.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Taken as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic and along the continental slope.



## LUTJANIDAE

## Snappers, jobfishes

*Aphareus furca* (Lacepède, 1802)

(plate IX, 55)

LUTJANIDAE

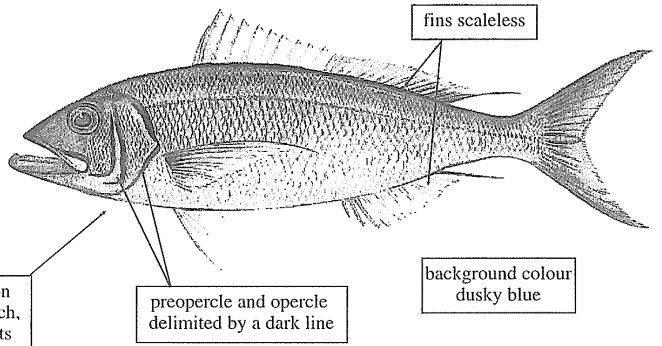
**FAO names:** En - Smalltoothed jobfish; Fr - Vivaneau tidents.

**Local names:** Carabi.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and vertical longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inshore coral reefs at depths between 6 and 70 m. Feeds mainly on fish.



16-18 gill rakers on lower limb of 1<sup>st</sup> arch, including rudiments

preopercle and opercle delimited by a dark line

background colour dusky blue

*Aphareus rutilans* Cuvier, 1830

(plate IX, 56)

LUTJANIDAE

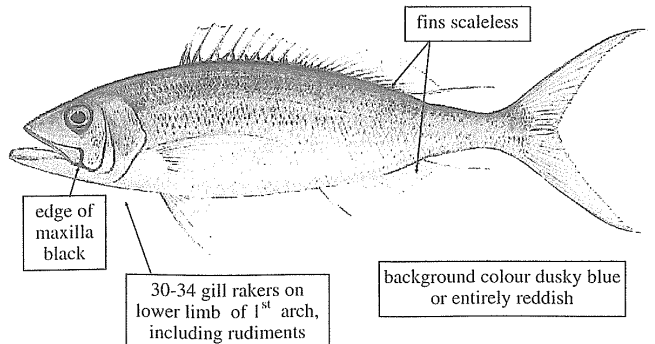
**FAO names:** En - Rusty jobfish; Fr - Vivaneau rouillé.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 80 cm, common to 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trolled lures, handlines, bottom longlines, and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inshore reef areas, from the surface to a depth of 100 m. Feeds mainly on fishes.



edge of maxilla black

30-34 gill rakers on lower limb of 1<sup>st</sup> arch, including rudiments

background colour dusky blue or entirely reddish

*Aprion virescens* Valenciennes, 1830

(plate IX, 57)

LUTJANIDAE

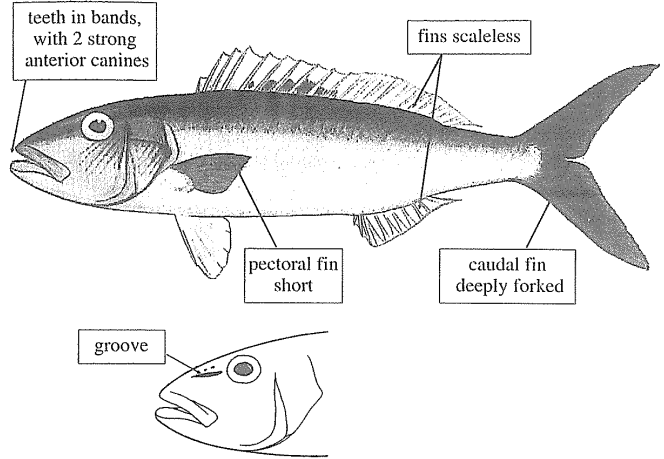
**FAO names:** En - Green jobfish; Fr - Vivaneau job.

**Local names:** Huud.

**Size:** To 1 m, common to 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, bottom longlines, and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits inshore reef areas, from the surface down to a depth of 100 m. Feeds mainly on fishes, but also on shrimps, crabs, cephalopods, and planktonic organisms.



*Etelis carbunculus* Cuvier, 1828

(plate X, 58)

LUTJANIDAE

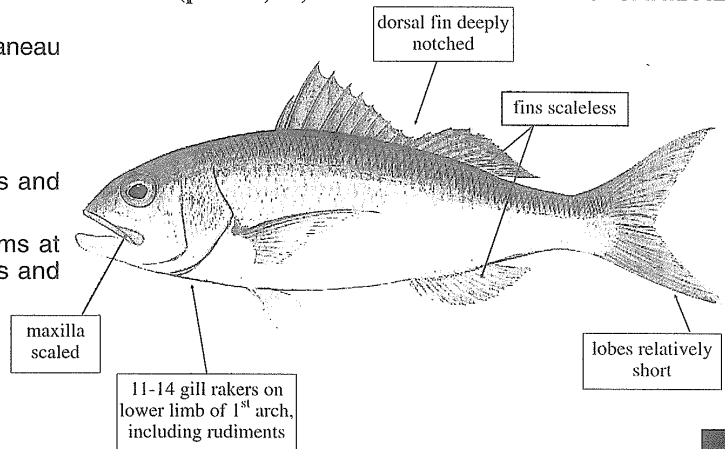
**FAO names:** En - Ruby snapper; Fr - Vivaneau rubis.

**Local names:** Qashaar.

**Size:** To 80 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom longlines and deep handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Over rocky bottoms at depths of 90 to 300 m. Feeds on fishes and larger invertebrates.



*Etelis coruscans* Valenciennes, 1862

(plate X, 59)

LUTJANIDAE

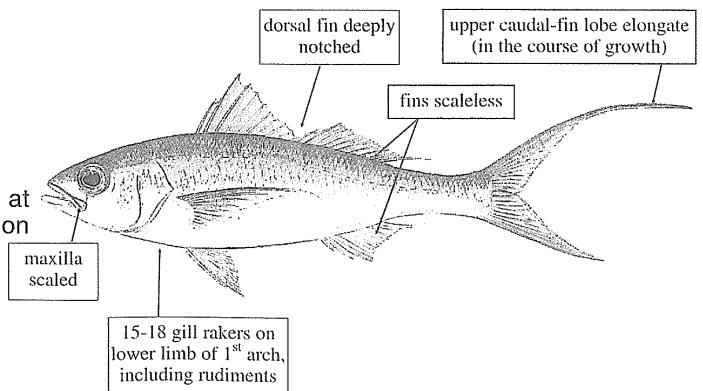
**FAO names:** En - Flame snapper; Fr - Vivaneau laflamme.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 70 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with deep handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Over rocky bottoms at depths between 100 and 300 m. Feeds on small fishes, squids, and crustaceans.



*Lutjanus argentimaculatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate X, 60)

## LUTJANIDAE

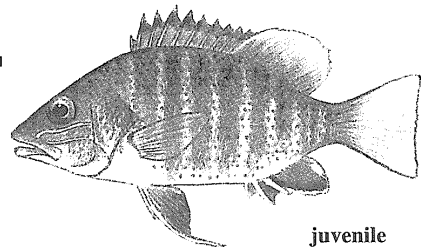
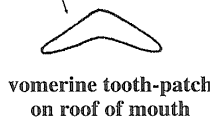
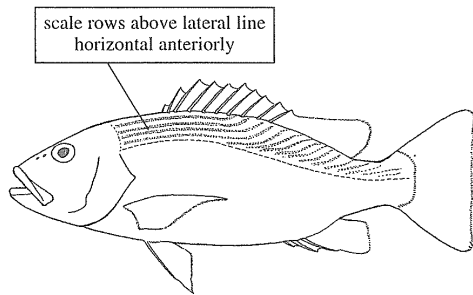
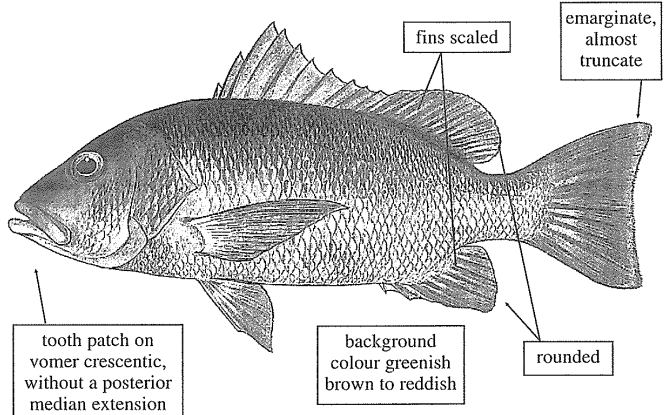
**FAO names:** En - Mangrove red snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau des mangroves.

**Local names:** Buraad.

**Size:** To 1.2 m, common to 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, bottom longlines, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Juveniles and young adults in mangrove estuaries and in the lower reaches of freshwater streams; adults in deeper reef areas to depths of 100 m. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.

*Lutjanus bengalensis* (Bloch, 1790)

(plate X, 61)

## LUTJANIDAE

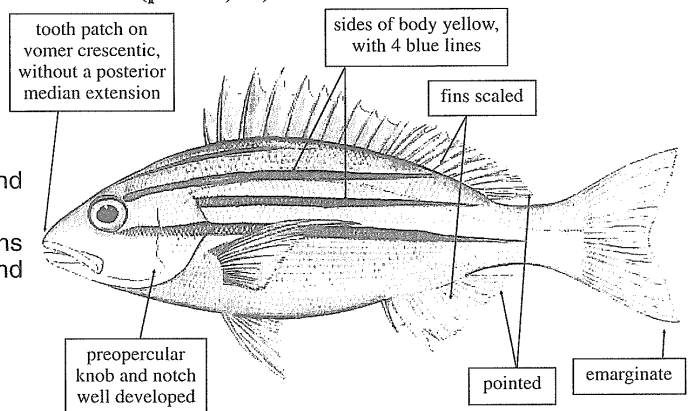
**FAO names:** En - Bengal snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau du Bengale.

**Local names:** Tiin-Tiinbiyow.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs at depths between 10 and 25 m. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.



*Lutjanus bohar* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate X, 62)

LUTJANIDAE

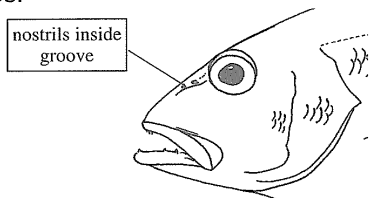
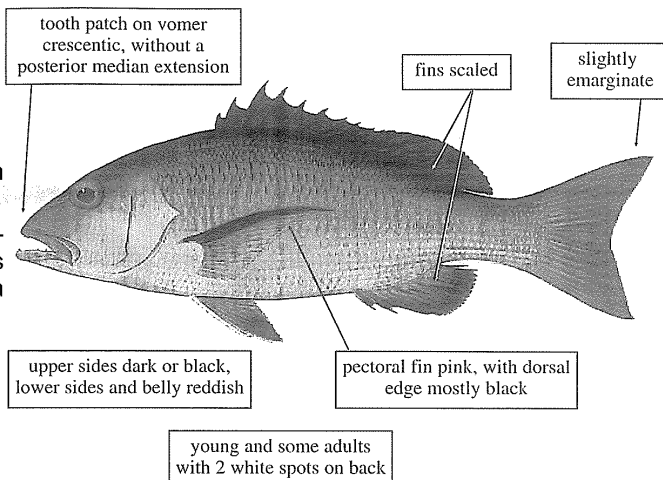
**FAO names:** En - Twospot red snapper; Fr - Vivaneau chien rouge.

**Local names:** Buraad.

**Size:** To 75 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and bottom longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs, sheltered lagoons, outer reefs, usually at depths between 10 and 70 m. Feeds mainly on fishes.



*Lutjanus coeruleolineatus* (Rüppell, 1838)

(plate X, 63)

LUTJANIDAE

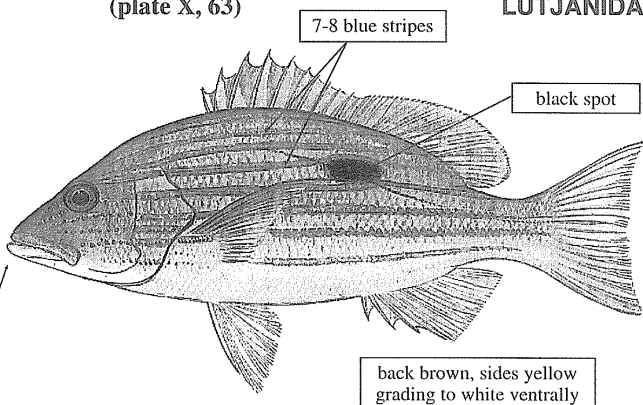
**FAO names:** En - Blueline snapper; Fr - Viva-neau strié.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs at depths between 10 and 20 m.



*Lutjanus ehrenbergii* (Peters, 1869)

(plate XI, 64)

LUTJANIDAE

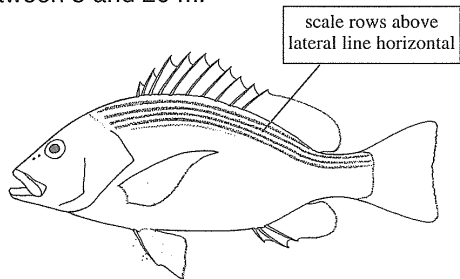
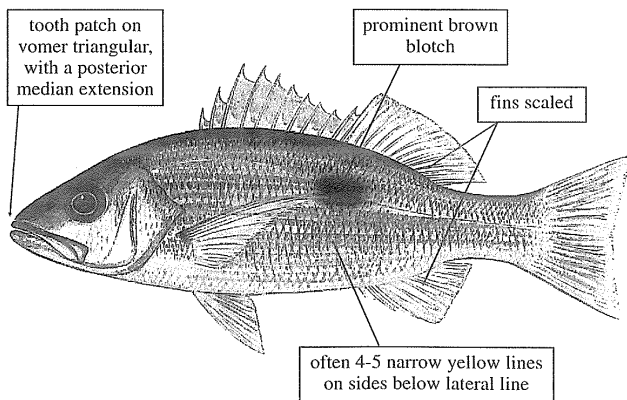
**FAO names:** En - Ehrenberg's snapper; Fr - Vivaneau encrier.

**Local names:** Can-Gub.

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs at depths between 5 and 20 m.



*Lutjanus fulviflamma* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XI, 65)

LUTJANIDAE

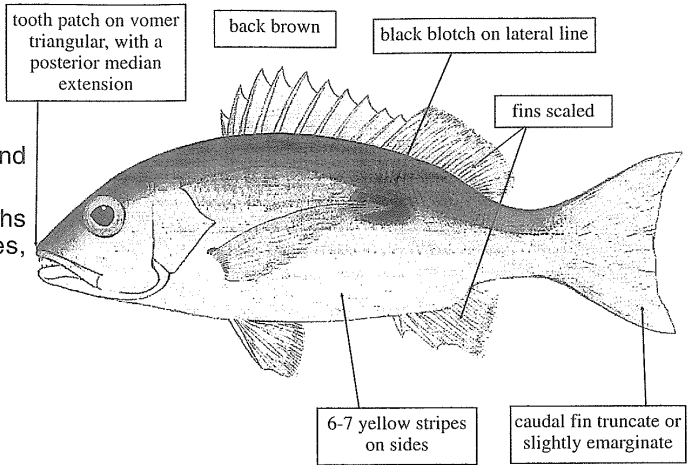
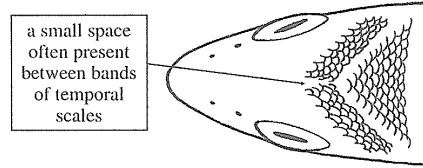
**FAO names:** En - Blackspot snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau gibelot

**Local names:** Can-Gub.

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs at depths between 3 and 35 m. Feeds on fishes, shrimps, crabs, and other crustaceans.



*Lutjanus fulvus* (Schneider, 1801)

(plate XI, 66)

LUTJANIDAE

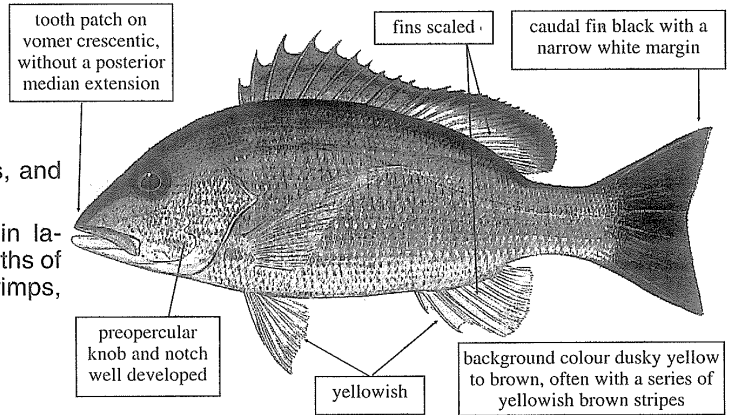
**FAO names:** En - Blacktail snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau queue noir.

**Local names:** Can-Gub.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs in lagoons and on outer reef slopes from depths of 2 to 40 m. Feeds at night on fishes, shrimps, crabs, holothurians, and cephalopods.



*Lutjanus gibbus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XI, 67)

LUTJANIDAE

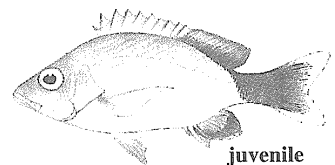
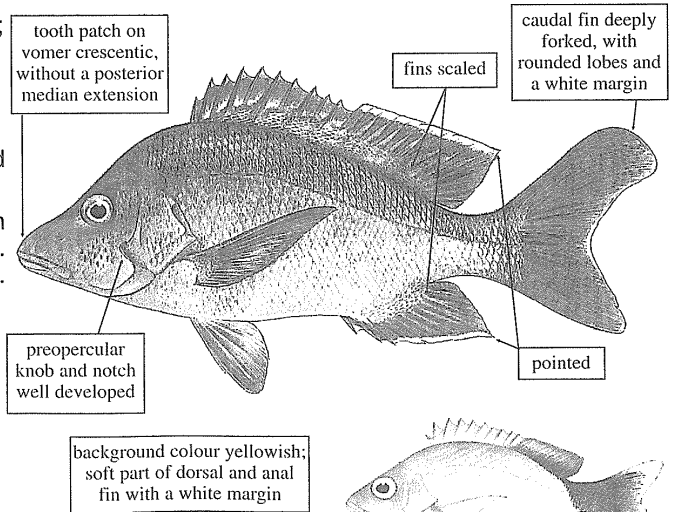
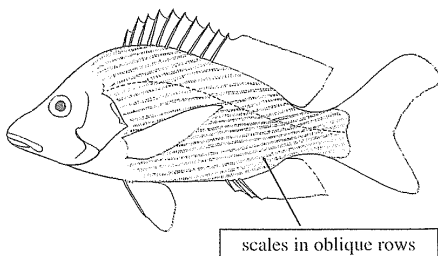
**FAO names:** En - Humpback red snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau pagaie.

**Local names:** Ciijo.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs, often schooling; from depths of 6 to at least 30 m. Feeds on fishes and a variety of invertebrates.



*Lutjanus johnii* (Bloch, 1792)

(plate XI, 68)

LUTJANIDAE

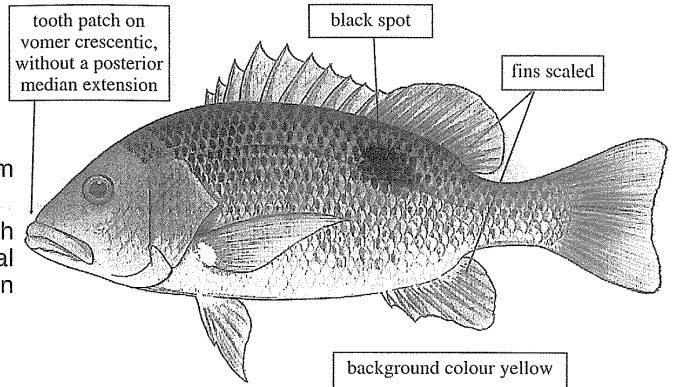
**FAO names:** En - John's snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau ziebelo.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 70 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, bottom longlines, traps, and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Juveniles in brackish mangrove estuaries, adults probably on coral reefs; found to depths of 80 m. Feeds on fishes and benthic invertebrates.



*Lutjanus kasmira* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XI, 69)

LUTJANIDAE

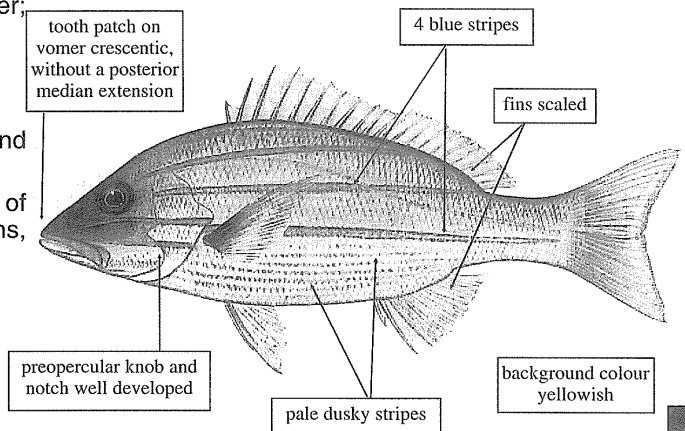
**FAO names:** En - Common bluestripe snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau a raies bleues.

**Local names:** Can-Gub.

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Coral reefs to depths of at least 60 m. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.



*Lutjanus lutjanus* Bloch, 1790

(plate XII, 70)

LUTJANIDAE

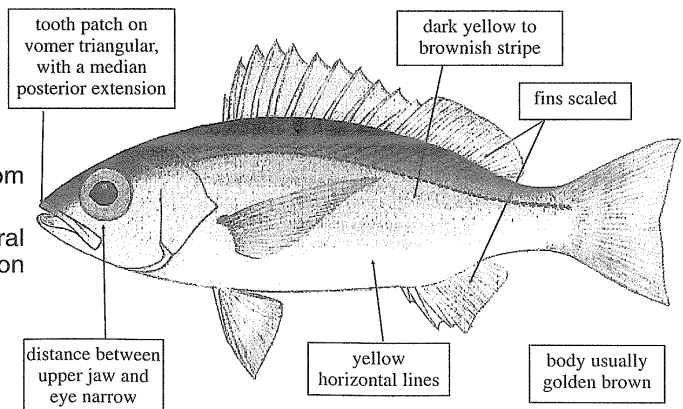
**FAO names:** En - Bigeye snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau gros yeux.

**Local names:** Can-Gub.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits offshore coral reefs to depths of at least 90 m. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.



*Lutjanus monostigma* (Cuvier, 1828)

**FAO names:** En - Onespotsnapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau eglefin.

**Local names:** Can-Gub.

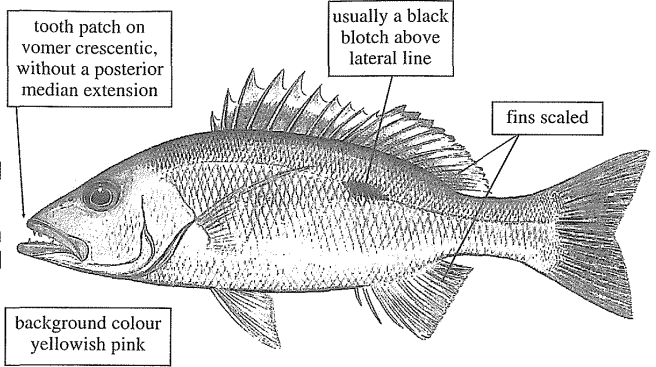
**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs from depths of 5 to 30 m. Feeds on fishes and benthic crustaceans.

(plate XII, 71)

LUTJANIDAE



*Lutjanus rivulatus* (Cuvier, 1828)

**FAO names:** En - Blubberlip snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau maori.

**Local names:** Tar-Tawo carbeed.

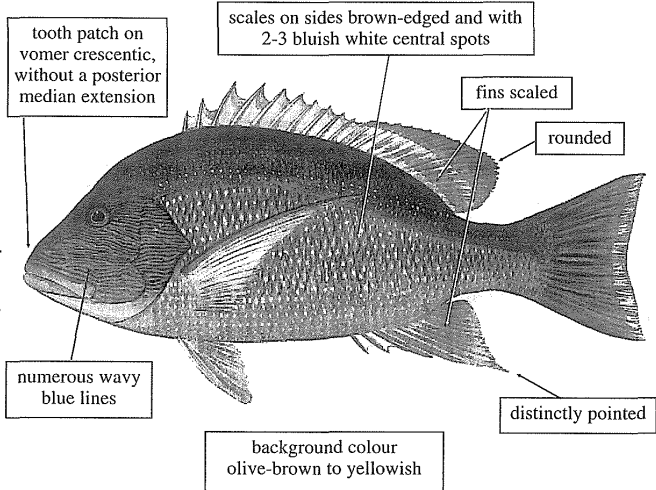
**Size:** To 65 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and gillnets, trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occasionally on coral reefs or shallow inshore flats; also in deeper waters up to a depth of 100 m. Feeds on fishes, cephalopods, and benthic crustaceans.

(plate XII, 72)

LUTJANIDAE



*Lutjanus russelli* (Bleeker, 1849)

**FAO names:** En - Russell's snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau hublot.

**Local names:** Can-Gub.

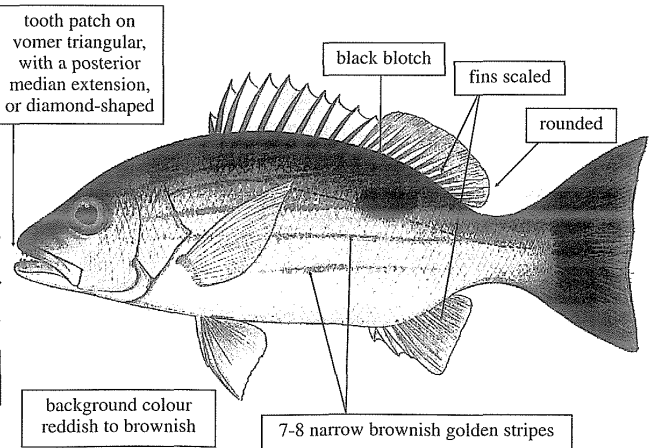
**Size:** To 45 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In offshore coral reefs and inshore rock and coral reefs; juveniles in brackish mangrove estuaries and in the lower reaches of freshwater streams; down to a depth of 80 m.

(plate XII, 73)

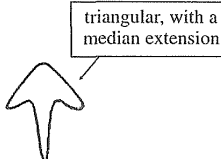
LUTJANIDAE



diamond-shaped



or





*Lutjanus sanguineus* (Cuvier, 1828)

**FAO names:** En - Humphead snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau tête.

**Local names:** Ciijo-Tuurey.

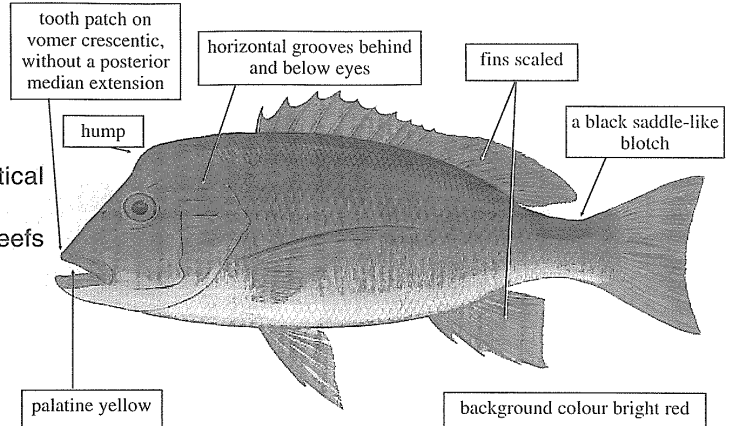
**Size:** To 85 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, vertical longlines, traps, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral and rocky reefs to depths of at least 100 m.

(plate XII, 74)

LUTJANIDAE



*Lutjanus sebae* (Cuvier, 1828)

**FAO names:** En - Emperor red snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau bourgeois.

**Local names:** Ciijo-giirey.

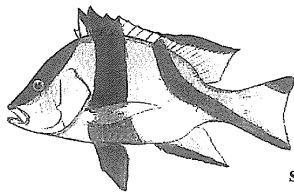
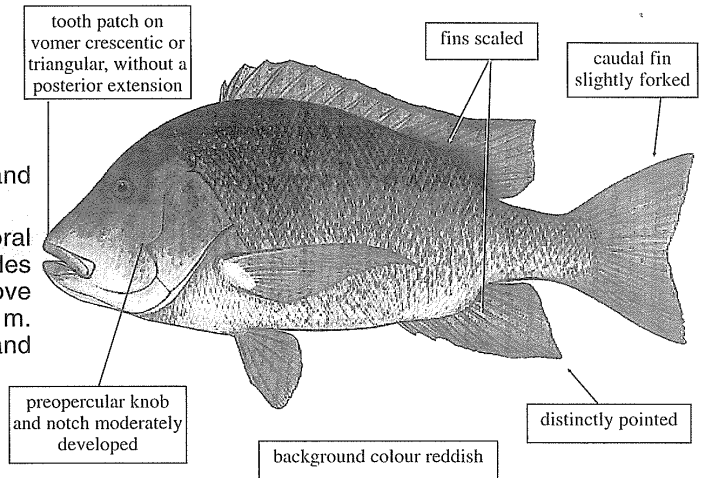
**Size:** To 1.0 m, common to 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In the vicinity of coral reefs and over adjacent sand flats; juveniles commensal with sea urchins or in mangrove areas; adults found in depths of 10 to 100 m. Feeds on fishes, benthic crustaceans, and cephalopods.

(plate XII, 75)

LUTJANIDAE



*Macolor niger* (Forsskål, 1775)

**FAO names:** En - Black-and-white snapper;  
Fr - Vivaneau plate;

**Local names:** Tar-Tawo.

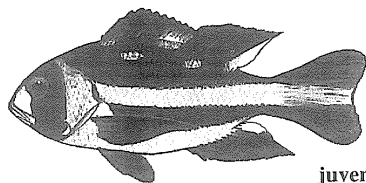
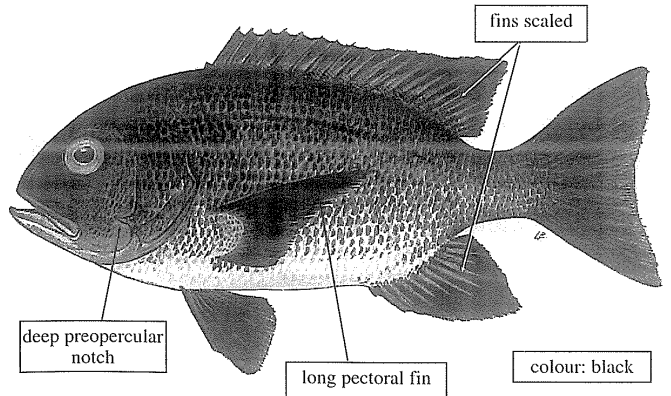
**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs at depths of 5 to 90 m. Feeds mainly on fishes and crustaceans.

(plate XIII, 76)

LUTJANIDAE



*Paracaesio xanthurus* Bleeker, 1869

(plate XIII, 77)

LUTJANIDAE

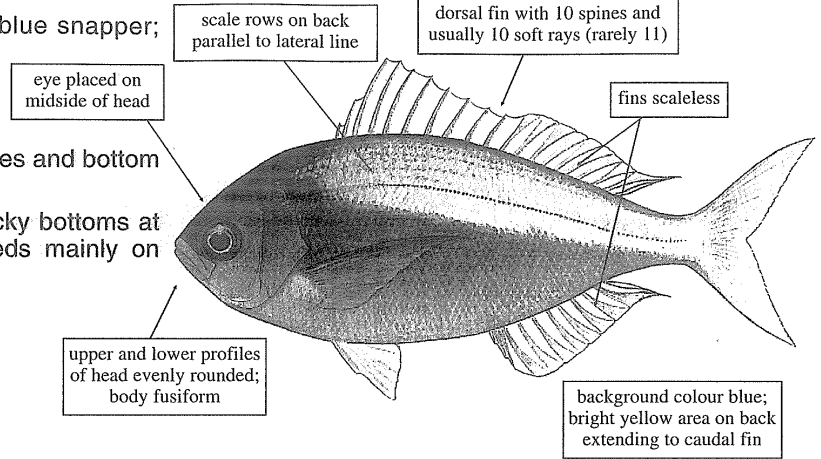
**FAO names:** En - Yellowtail blue snapper; Fr - Vivanette queue jaune.

**Local names:** Carabi.

**Size:** To about 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and bottom longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Over rocky bottoms at depths of 20 to 150 m. Feeds mainly on zooplankton.



*Pinjalo pinjalo* (Bleeker, 1850)

(plate XIII, 78)

LUTJANIDAE

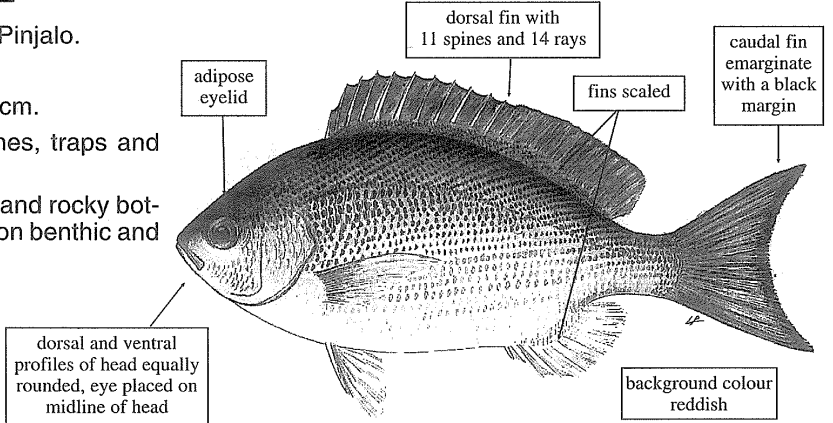
**FAO names:** En - Pinjalo; Fr - Pinjalo.

**Local names:** Ciijo.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On reefs and rocky bottoms to depths of 60 m. Feeds on benthic and planktonic invertebrates.



*Pristipomoides filamentosus* (Valenciennes, 1830)

(plate XIII, 79)

LUTJANIDAE

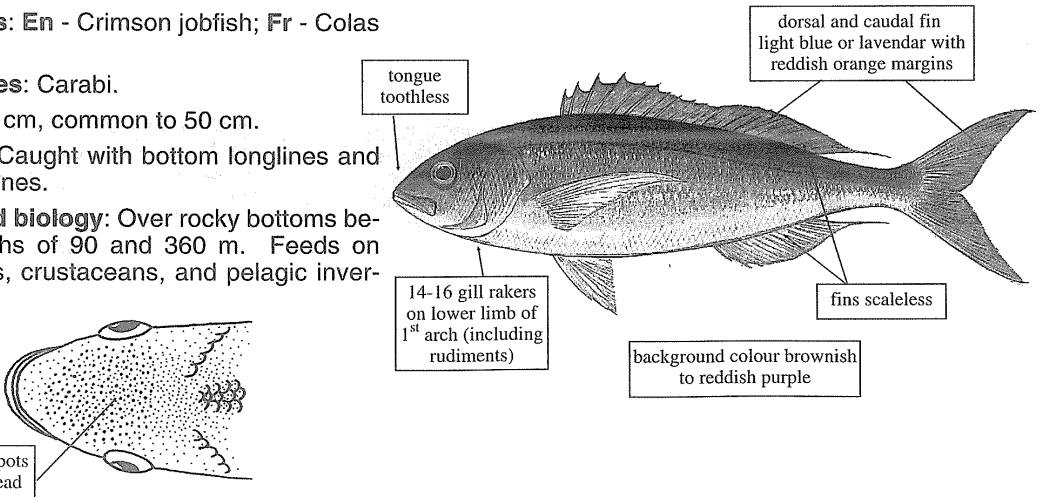
**FAO names:** En - Crimson jobfish; Fr - Colas fil.

**Local names:** Carabi.

**Size:** To 80 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom longlines and deep handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Over rocky bottoms between depths of 90 and 360 m. Feeds on small fishes, crustaceans, and pelagic invertebrates.



*Pristipomoides multidens* (Day, 1870)

(plate XIII, 80)

LUTJANIDAE

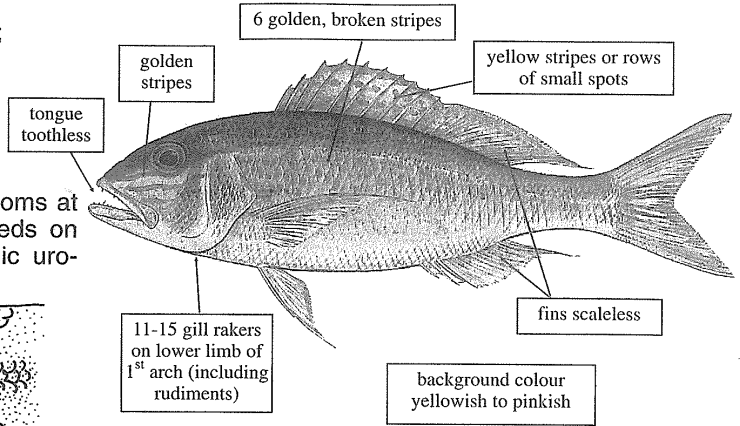
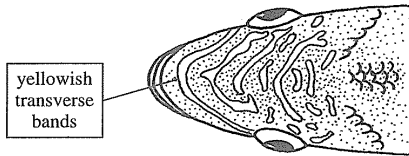
**FAO names:** En - Goldbanded jobfish;  
Fr - Colas à bandes dorées.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 90 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Over rocky bottoms at depths between 40 and 200 m. Feeds on small fishes, crustaceans, and pelagic urochordates.



*Pristipomoides sieboldii* (Bleeker, 1857)

(plate XIII, 81)

LUTJANIDAE

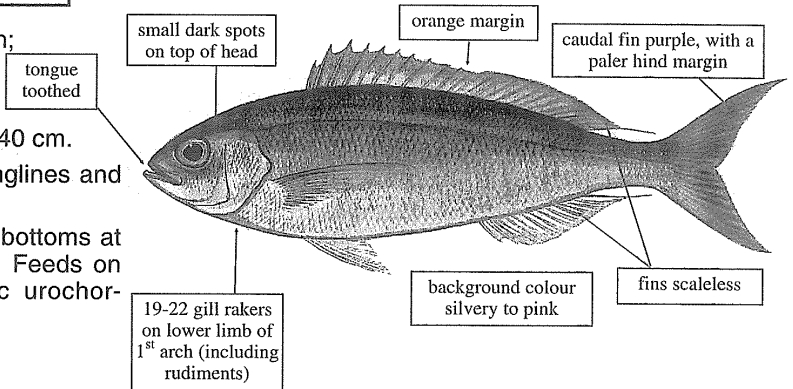
**FAO names:** En - Lavender jobfish;  
Fr - Colas lavande.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 60 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom longlines and deep longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Over rocky bottoms at depths between 180 and 360 m. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and pelagic urochordates.



*Pristipomoides zonatus* (Valenciennes, 1830)

(plate XIV, 82)

LUTJANIDAE

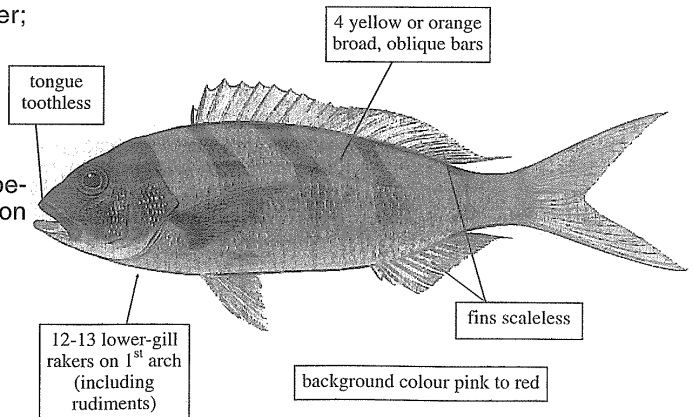
**FAO names:** En - Obliquebanded snapper;  
Fr - Colas bagnard.

**Local names:** Carabi.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Over rocky bottoms between depths of 70 and 300 m. Feeds on fishes, benthic and pelagic invertebrates.



## CAESIONIDAE

## Fusiliers

*Caesio caeruleaurea* Lacepède, 1802

**FAO names:** En - Blue-and-gold fusilier;  
Fr - *Caesio azuror*.

**Local names:** Carabi.

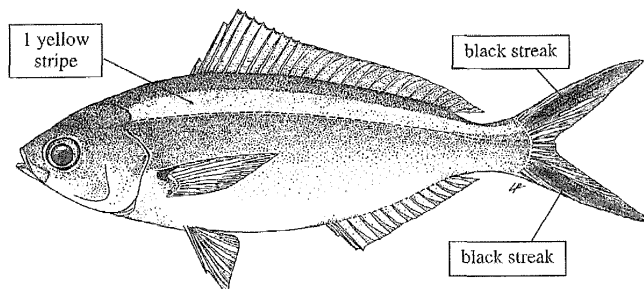
**Size:** To 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, gillnets, traps, trawls, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** A schooling species found in coastal waters, primarily around coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton.

(plate XIV, 83)

CAESIONIDAE



*Caesio lunaris* Cuvier, 1830

**FAO names:** En - Lunar fusilier; Fr - *Caesio à croissant*.

**Local names:** Carabi.

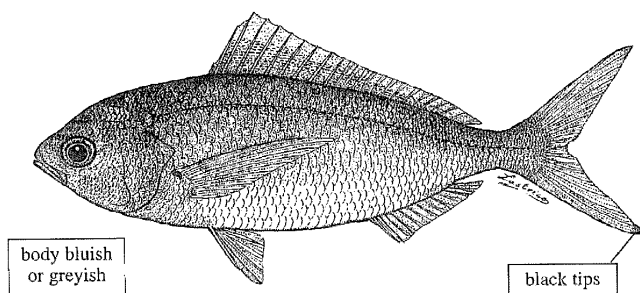
**Size:** To about 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drive-in nets, seines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Found in coastal areas, mainly on or near coral reefs.

(plate XIV, 84)

CAESIONIDAE



*Caesio teres* Seale, 1906

**FAO names:** En - Yellow-and-blueback fusilier;  
Fr - *Fusilier à dos jaune et bleu*.

**Local names:**

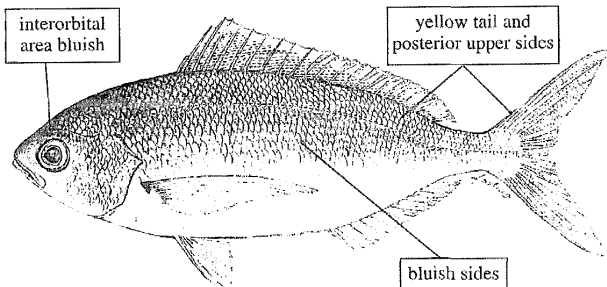
**Size:** To about 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drive-in nets, gill-nets, handlines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling around coral reefs, with a preference of coralline lagoons. Feeds on zooplankton.

(plate XIV, 85)

CAESIONIDAE



***Caesio varilineata*** Carpenter, 1987

(plate XIV, 86)

CAESIONIDAE

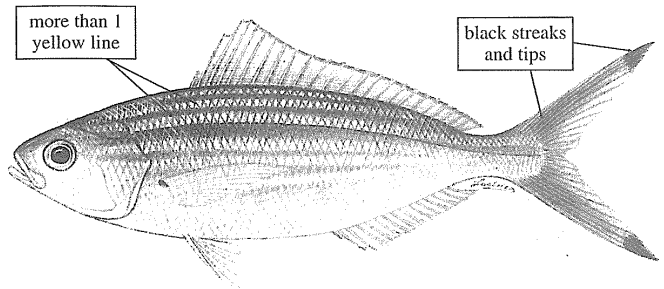
**FAO names:** En - Variablelined fusilier;  
Fr - Fusilier à bandes variées.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, handlines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling around coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton.

***Caesio xanthonota*** Bleeker, 1853

(plate XIV, 87)

CAESIONIDAE

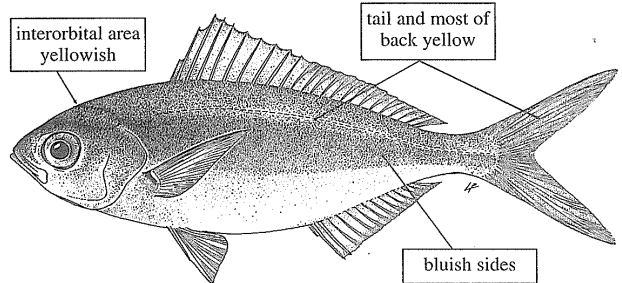
**FAO names:** En - Yellowback fusilier;  
Fr - Fusilier à dos jaune.

**Local names:** Carabi.

**Size:** To about 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, handlines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling around coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton.

***Dipterygonotus balteatus*** (Valenciennes, 1830)

(plate XV, 88)

CAESIONIDAE

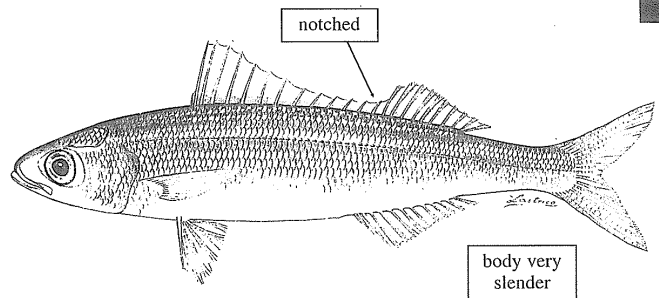
**FAO names:** En - Mottled fusilier; Fr - Fusilier marbré.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught at night, using lights and dip nets; important as a tuna baitfish in some countries.

**Habitat and biology:** A primarily nearshore pelagic species. Feeds on zooplankton.



***Gymnocaesio gymnoptera*** (Bleeker, 1856)

(plate XV, 89)

CAESIONIDAE

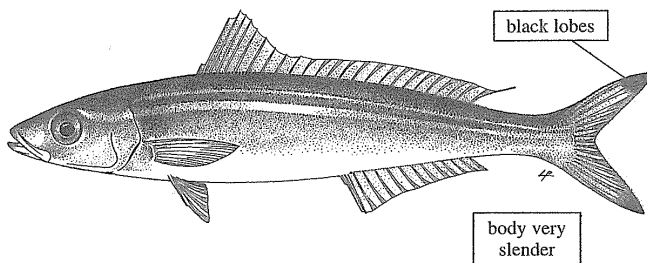
**FAO names:** En - Slender fusilier; Fr - Fusilier élégant.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps and drive-in nets; used as a baitfish for tuna.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters around coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton.

***Pterocaesio capricornis*** Smith & Smith, 1963

(plate XV, 90)

CAESIONIDAE

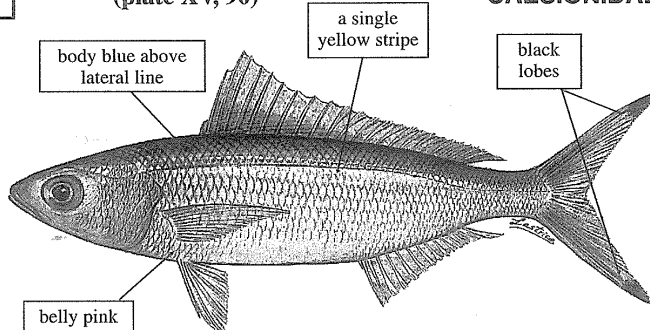
**FAO names:** En - Capricorn fusilier; Fr - Fusilier capricorne.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 21 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters, around coral reefs.

***Pterocaesio chrysozona*** (Cuvier, 1830)

(plate XV, 91)

CAESIONIDAE

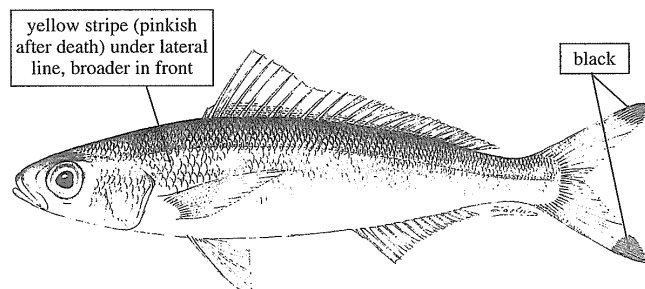
**FAO names:** En - Goldband fusilier; Fr - Caesio à ceinture d'or.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 21 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drive-in nets, gillnets, handlines and occasionally with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Schools around coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton.

***Pterocaesio marri*** Schultz, 1953

(plate XV, 92)

CAESIONIDAE

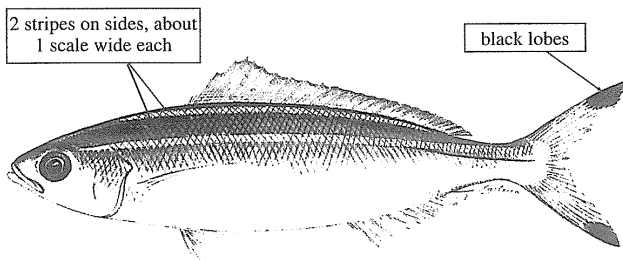
**FAO names:** En - Marr's fusilier; Fr - Fusilier de Marr.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drive-in nets, gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Schools around coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton.



*Pterocaesio pisang* (Bleeker, 1853)

(plate XVI, 93)

CAESIONIDAE

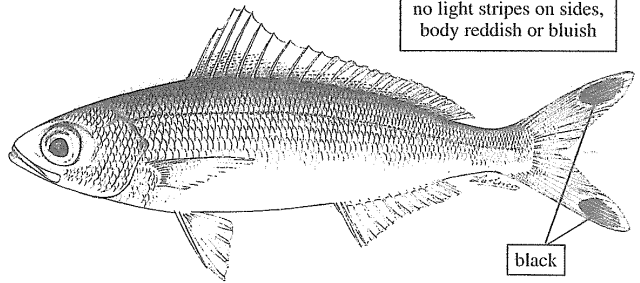
**FAO names:** En - Banana fusilier; Fr - Fusilier banane.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 21 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drive-in nets, gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling around coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton.

*Pterocaesio tile* (Cuvier, 1830)

(plate XVI, 94)

CAESIONIDAE

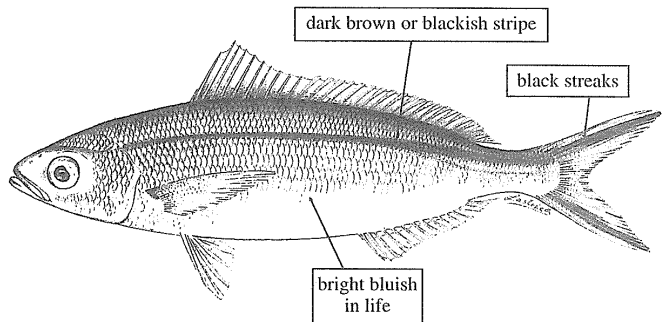
**FAO names:** En - Darkbanded fusilier; Fr - Fusilier à ligne olive.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To about 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drive-in nets, gillnets, traps, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling around coral reefs. Feeds on zooplankton.



## LOBOTIDAE

## Tripletails

*Lobotes surinamensis* (Bloch, 1790)

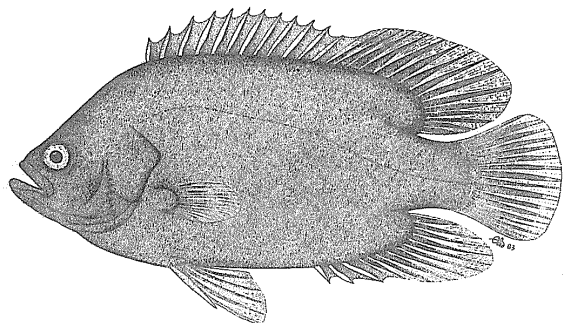
**FAO names:** En - Tripletail; Fr - Croupia roche.

**Local names:** Jalow.

**Size:** To 1.0 m, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines, gillnets, traps, and hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters and muddy estuaries. Feeds on bottom-dwelling crustaceans and small fish.



## GERREIDAE

## Silverbiddies, mojarras

*Gerres acinaces* Bleeker, 1854

**FAO names:** En - Longtail silverbiddy;  
Fr - Blanche goubernail.

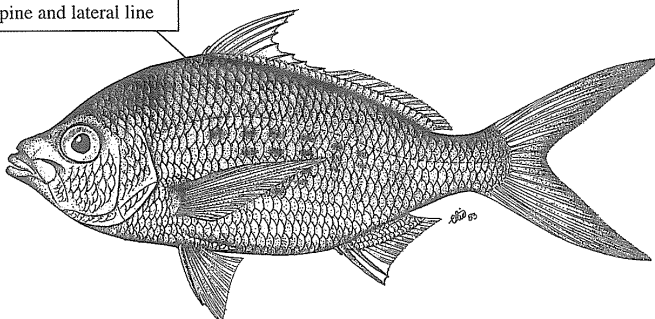
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Favours shallow waters over sandy bottoms; from coral reefs to brackish lagoons.

4.5-5.5 scale rows between base of 5<sup>th</sup> dorsal spine and lateral line



body depth 2.5-2.9 times in standard length

*Gerres filamentosus* (Cuvier, 1829)

**FAO names:** En - Whipfin silverbiddy;  
Fr - Blanche fil.

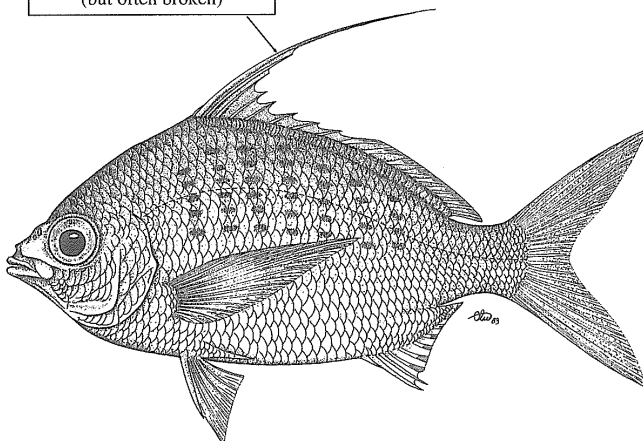
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coastal waters to depths of at least 50 m. Feeds on benthic organisms living on sand and mud.

2<sup>nd</sup> dorsal-fin spine very long (but often broken)



## GERREIDAE

*Gerres oblongus* (Cuvier, 1830)

**FAO names:** En - Slender silverbiddy;  
Fr - Blanche élégante.

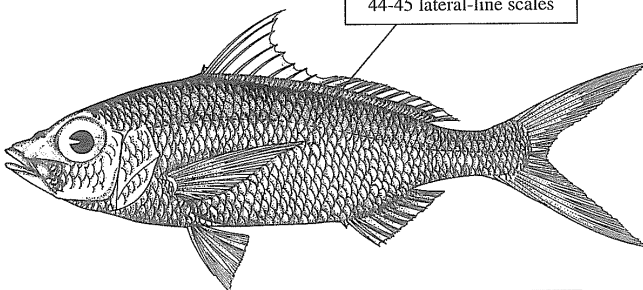
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with setnets and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Prefers coralline areas. Feeds on benthic organisms living on sandy bottoms.

44-45 lateral-line scales



body slender

## GERREIDAE



*Gerres oyena* (Forsskål, 1775)

GERREIDAE

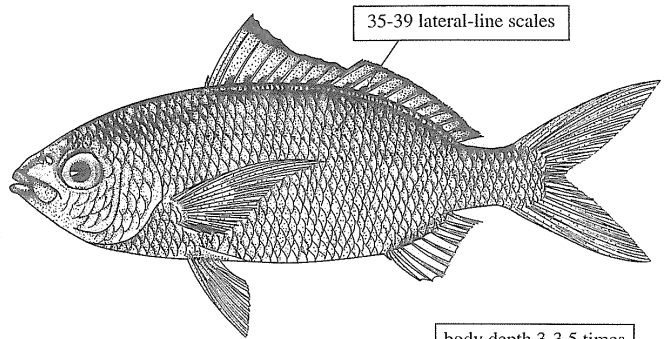
**FAO names:** En - Common silverbiddy;  
Fr - Blanche commune.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Along sandy beaches but also entering estuaries and brackish lagoons.



35-39 lateral-line scales

body depth 3-3.5 times in standard length

HAEMULIDAE

Grunts, sweetlips, rubberlips, hotlips

*Diagramma pictum* (Thunberg, 1792)

(plate XVI, 95)

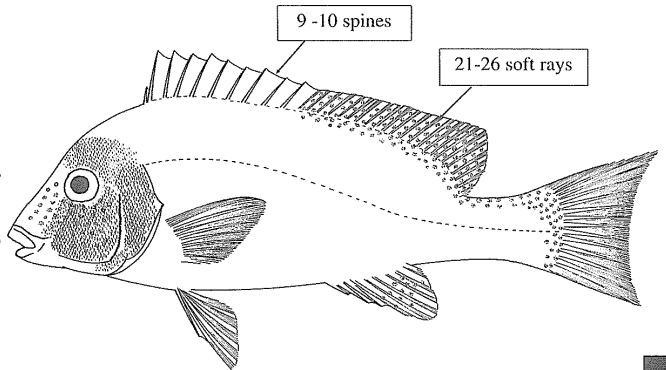
**FAO names:** En - Painted sweetlips;  
Fr - Diagramme voilier.

**Local names:** Cadaasho.

**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 45 cm.

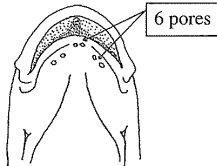
**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, bottom trawls, and longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coastal areas and coral reefs down to a depth of 80 m. Feeds on bottom invertebrates and fish.



9-10 spines

21-26 soft rays



6 pores

underside of head

juveniles with longitudinal black bands, adults with spots disappearing in large individuals



*Plectorhinchus chubbi* (Regan, 1919)

(plate XVI, 96)

HAEMULIDAE

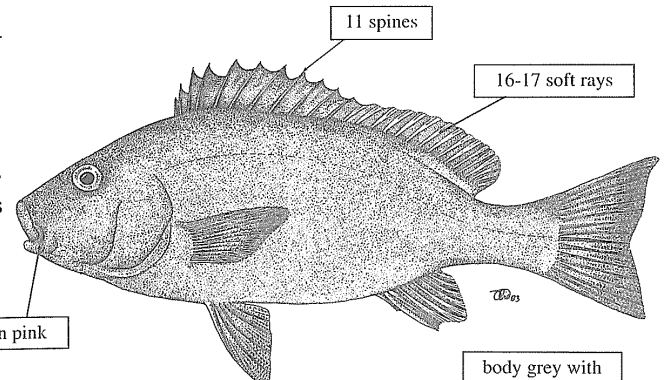
**FAO names:** En - Dusky rubberlip; Fr - Diagramme sombre.

**Local names:** Matako.

**Size:** To 75 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters near reefs; juveniles in weedy areas.

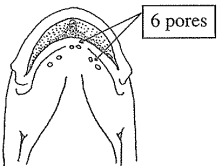


11 spines

16-17 soft rays

chin pink

body grey with small white spots



6 pores

underside of head

*Plectorhinchus flavomaculatus* (Ehrenberg, 1830)

(plate XVI, 97)

HAEMULIDAE

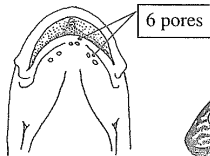
FAO names: En - Lemon sweetlip; Fr - Diagramme citron.

Local names: Xabkoole.

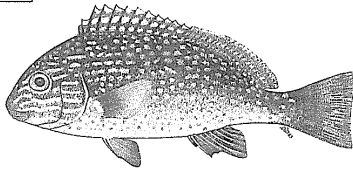
Size: To 60 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with handlines.

Habitat and biology: Inhabits coastal waters near reefs and weedy areas. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.

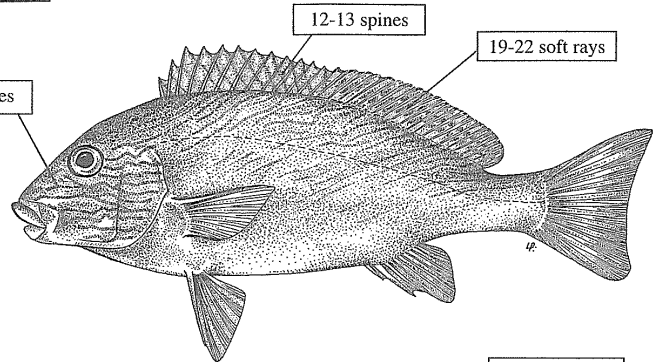


underside of head



juvenile

orange lines



body bluish

12-13 spines

19-22 soft rays

*Plectorhinchus gaterinus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XVI, 98)

HAEMULIDAE

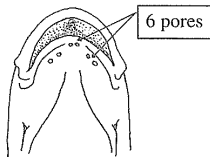
FAO names: En - Blackspotted rubberlip; Fr - Diagramme moucheté.

Local names: Xabkoole-Fil-Fil.

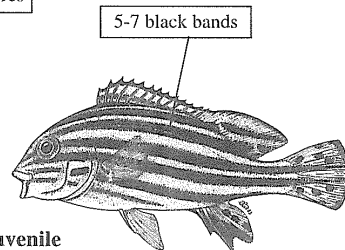
Size: To 50 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with handlines and by spear.

Habitat and biology: Coastal waters.



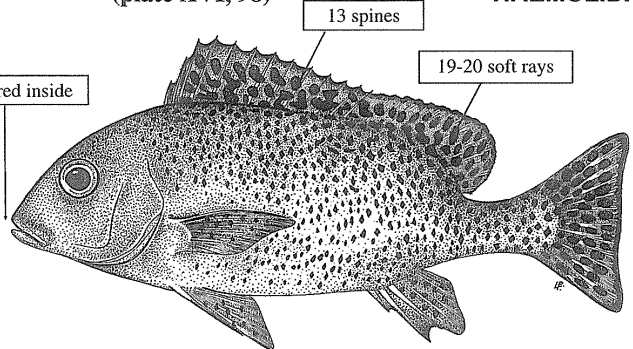
underside of head



juvenile

5-7 black bands

mouth red inside



colour yellowish grey with dark spots on body and fins

13 spines

19-20 soft rays

*Plectorhinchus gibbosus* (Lacepède, 1802)

(plate XVI, 99)

HAEMULIDAE

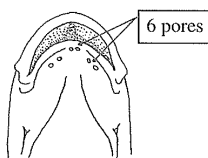
FAO names: En - Harry hotlips; Fr - Diagramme noir.

Local names: Matakoto-Tuurey.

Size: To 70 cm.

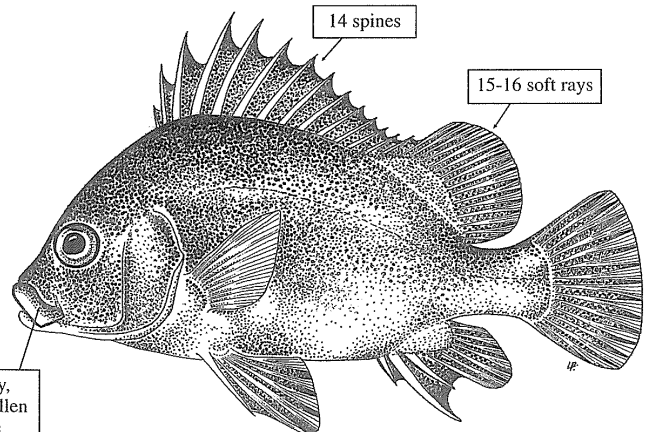
Fisheries: Caught with handlines, spears, and gillnets.

Habitat and biology: Coastal reefs, sandbanks, and near estuaries.



underside of head

lips fleshy, greatly swollen with age



14 spines

15-16 soft rays

*Plectorhinchus paulayi* Steindachner, 1895

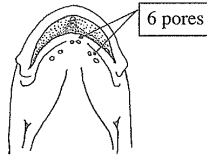
**FAO names:** En - Zebra sweetlip; Fr - Diagramme zébré.

**Local names:** Tar-Tabo.

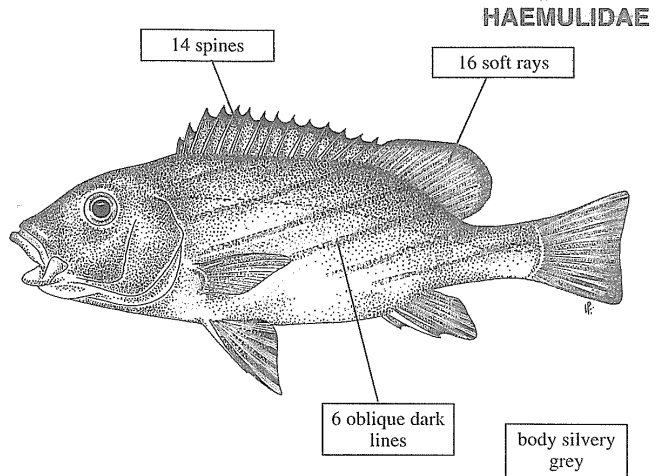
**Size:** To about 45 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** A rare species, taken in inshore.



underside of head



HAEMULIDAE

*Plectorhinchus plagiodesmus* Fowler, 1935

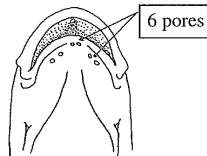
**FAO names:** En - Barred rubberlip; Fr - Diagramme rayé.

**Local names:** Matakoto-Tuurey.

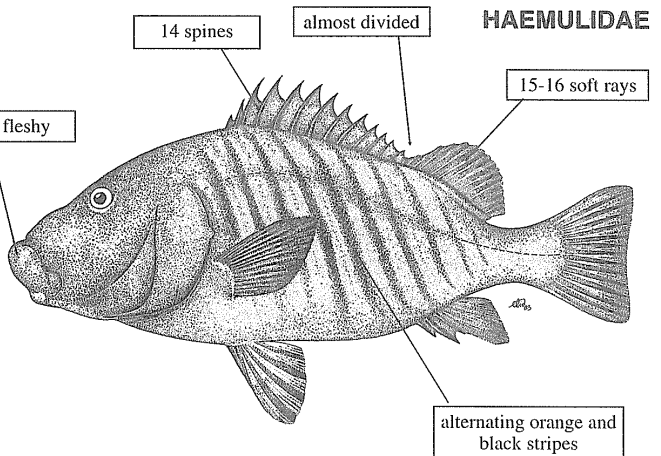
**Size:** To about 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and by spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coral reefs, often seen in pairs.



underside of head



HAEMULIDAE



*Plectorhinchus playfairi* (Pellegrin, 1914)

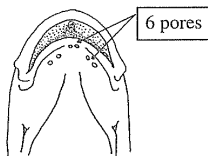
**FAO names:** En - Whitebarred rubberlip; Fr - Diagramme rayons de soleil.

**Local names:** Sufac.

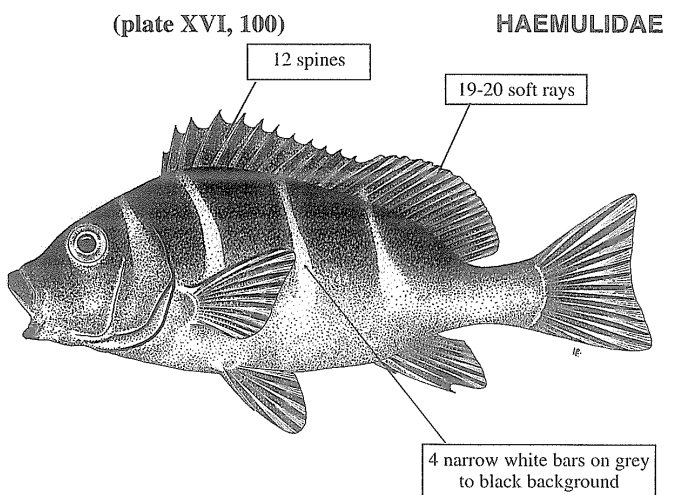
**Size:** To 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handline and spear.

**Habitat and biology:** In coral reefs, down to a depth of 80 m.



underside of head



(plate XVI, 100)

HAEMULIDAE

*Plectorhinchus schotaf* (Forsskål, 1775)

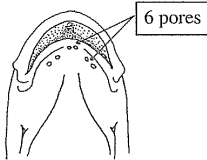
**FAO names:** En - Minstrel sweetlip;  
Fr - Diagramme ménestrel.

**Local names:** Matakò.

**Size:** To 80 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and by spear.

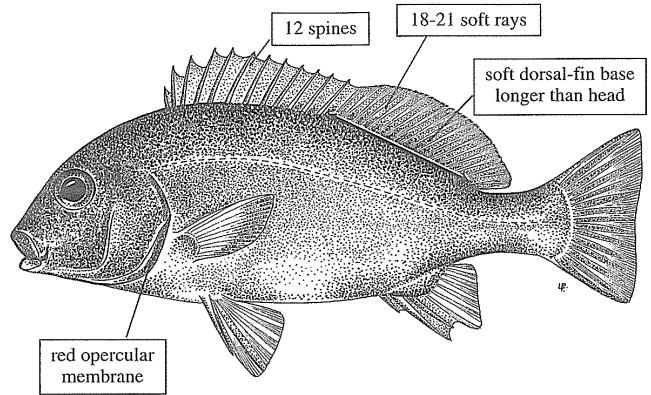
**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters near reefs.



underside of head

(plate XVII, 101)

## HAEMULIDAE

*Plectorhinchus sordidus* (Klunzinger, 1870)

**FAO names:** En - Sordid rubberlip; Fr - Diagramme à lèvres rouges.

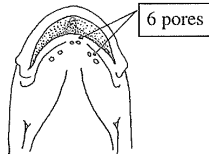
**Local names:** Matakò.

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

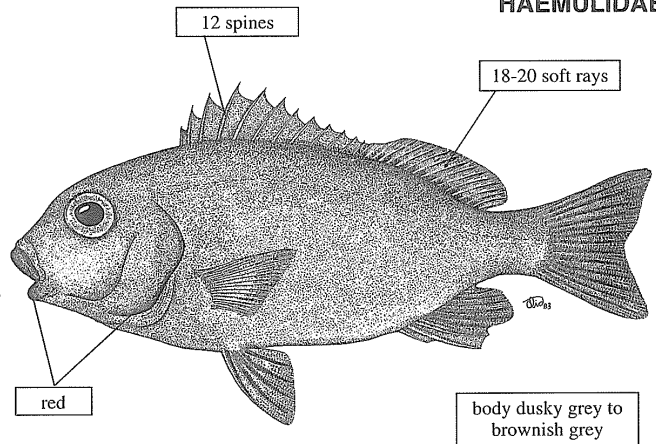
**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits inshore and offshore rocks and coral reefs.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



underside of head

## HAEMULIDAE

*Plectorhinchus vittatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names:** En - Oriental sweetlips;  
Fr - Diagramme oriental.

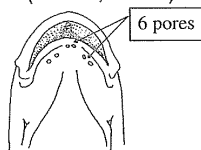
**Local names:** Geedoy.

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and by spear.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coral reefs and inshore rocky reefs.

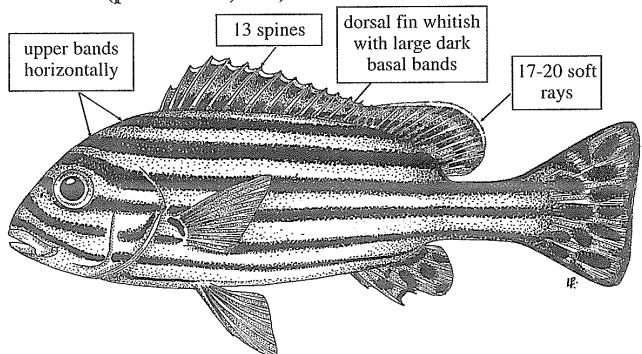
**Remarks:** In Fischer and Bianchi, 1984, listed as *Plectorhinchus orientalis* (Bloch, 1793).



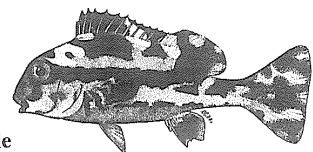
underside of head

(plate XVII, 102)

## HAEMULIDAE



juvenile



*Pomadasys argenteus* (Forsskål, 1775)

HAEMULIDAE

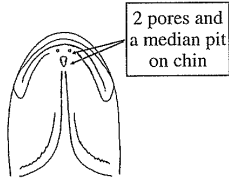
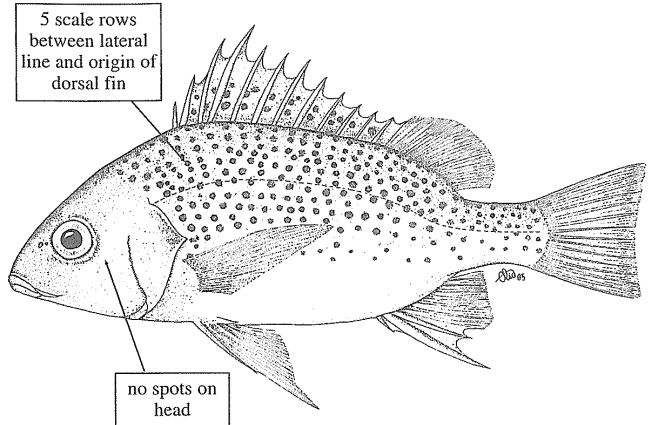
**FAO names:** En - Silver grunt; Fr - Grondeur argenté.

**Local names:**

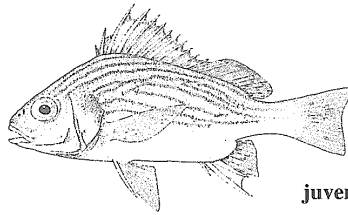
**Size:** To 52 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, bottom longlines, gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.



underside of head



juvenile

*Pomadasys commersonni* (Lacepède, 1802)

HAEMULIDAE

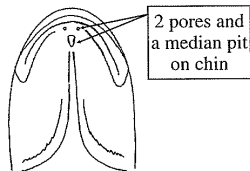
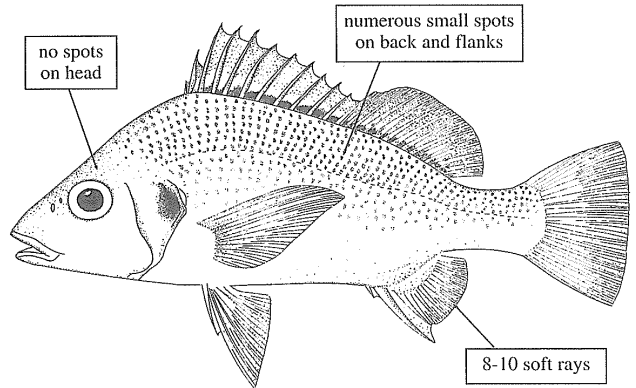
**FAO names:** En - Smallspotted grunter; Fr - Grondeur moucheté.

**Local names:** Matakoto-Tuurey.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, bottom longlines, gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters, sheltered estuaries and tidal creeks. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.



underside of head

*Pomadasys furcatus* (Schneider, 1801)

(plate XVI, 103)

HAEMULIDAE

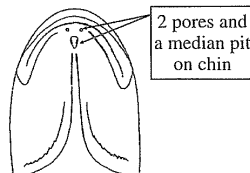
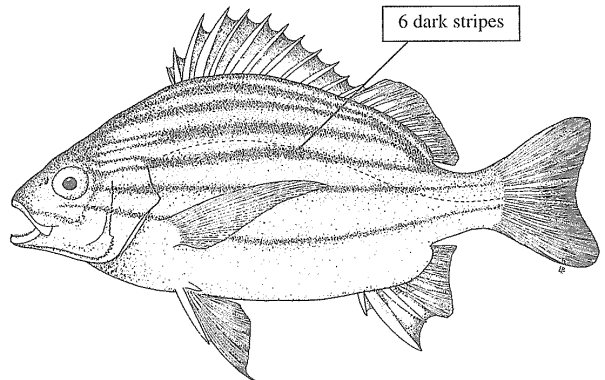
**FAO names:** En - Banded grunter; Fr - Goret à six bandes.

**Local names:** Huuqle.

**Size:** To 38 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters near reefs.



underside of head

*Pomadasys kaakan* (Cuvier, 1830)

(plate XVII, 104)

HAEMULIDAE

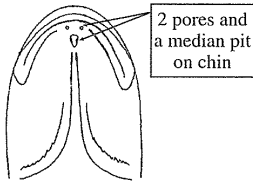
**FAO names:** En - Javelin grunter; Fr - Grondeur javelot.

**Local names:** Huuqle.

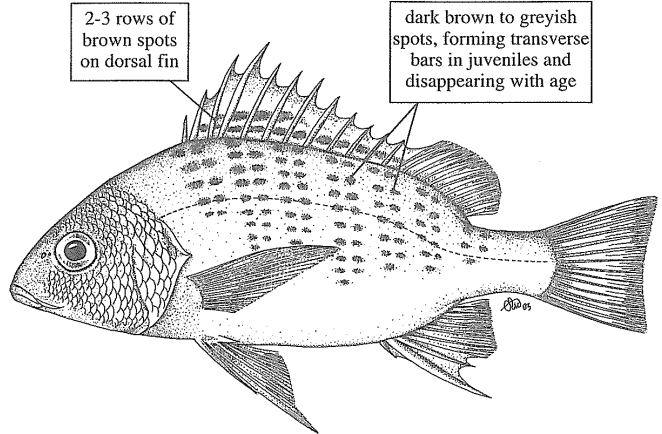
**Size:** To 80 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, bottom longlines, gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters, at depths of about 60 m.



underside of head



2-3 rows of brown spots on dorsal fin

dark brown to greyish spots, forming transverse bars in juveniles and disappearing with age

*Pomadasys maculatum* (Bloch, 1797)

(plate XVII, 105)

HAEMULIDAE

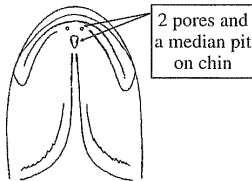
**FAO names:** En - Saddle grunter; Fr - Grondeur selle.

**Local names:** Huuqle.

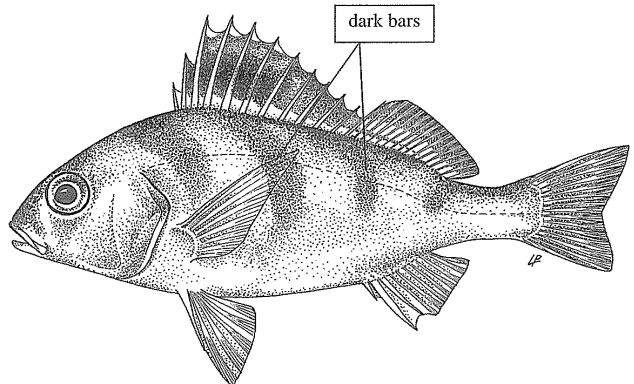
**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, hand-lines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters, to a depth of about 40 m.



underside of head



dark bars

*Pomadasys multimaculatum* (Playfair, 1866)

HAEMULIDAE

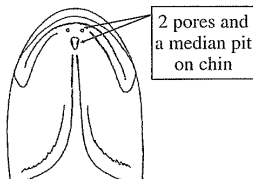
**FAO names:** En - Cock grunter; Fr - Grondeur coq.

**Local names:** Huuqle.

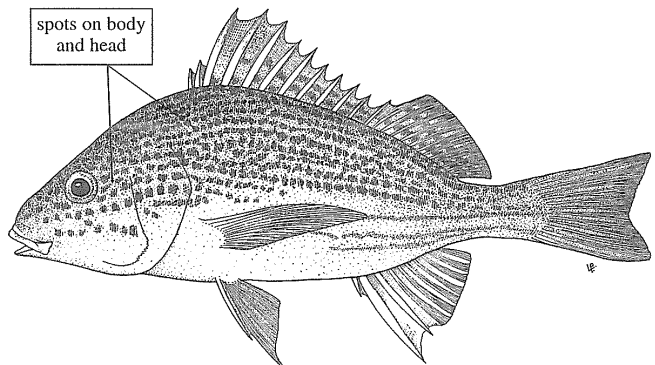
**Size:** To 76 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.



underside of head



spots on body and head

*Pomadasys olivaceum* (Day, 1875)

HAEMULIDAE

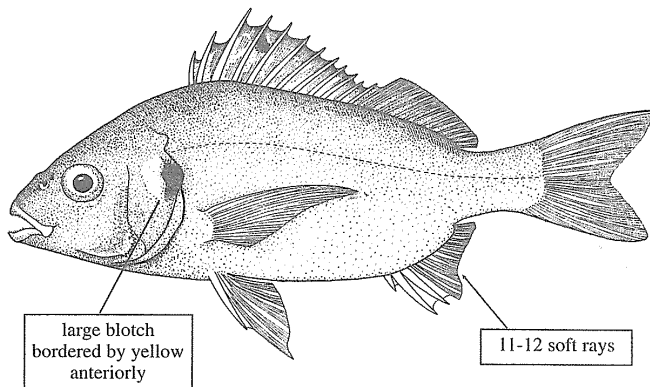
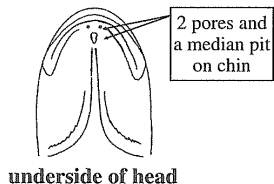
**FAO names:** En - Olive grunt; Fr - Goret olive.

**Local names:** Matako.

**Size:** To 31 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, bottom longlines, handlines, gillnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.



*Pomadasys stridens* (Forsskål, 1775)

HAEMULIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Striped piggy; Fr - Goret á trois bandes.

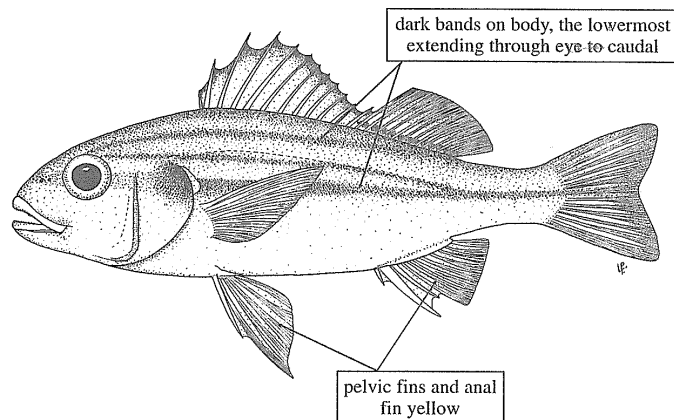
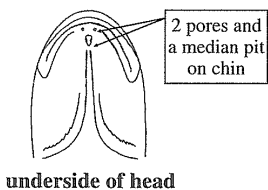
**Local names:** Geedoy.

**Size:** To 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters. Feeds on crustaceans and fishes.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



SPARIDAE

Porgies, seabreams



*Acanthopagrus berda* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XVII, 106)

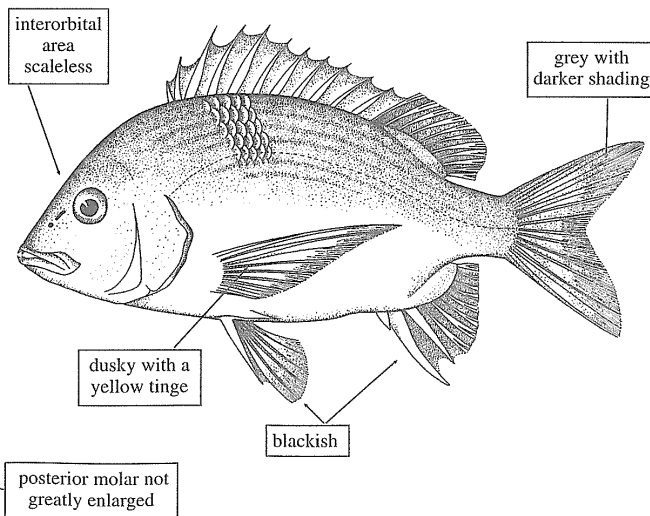
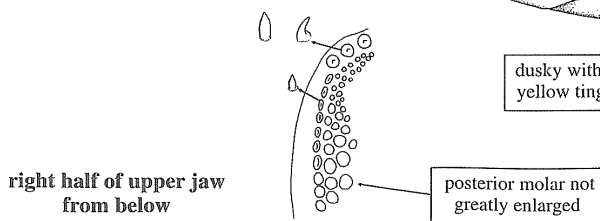
**FAO names:** En - Picnic seabream; Fr - Pagre picnic.

**Local names:** Bir-Birtoy.

**Size:** To 90 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Mainly on rough and muddy sand grounds in coastal waters. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



*Acanthopagrus bifasciatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XVII, 107)

SPARIDAE

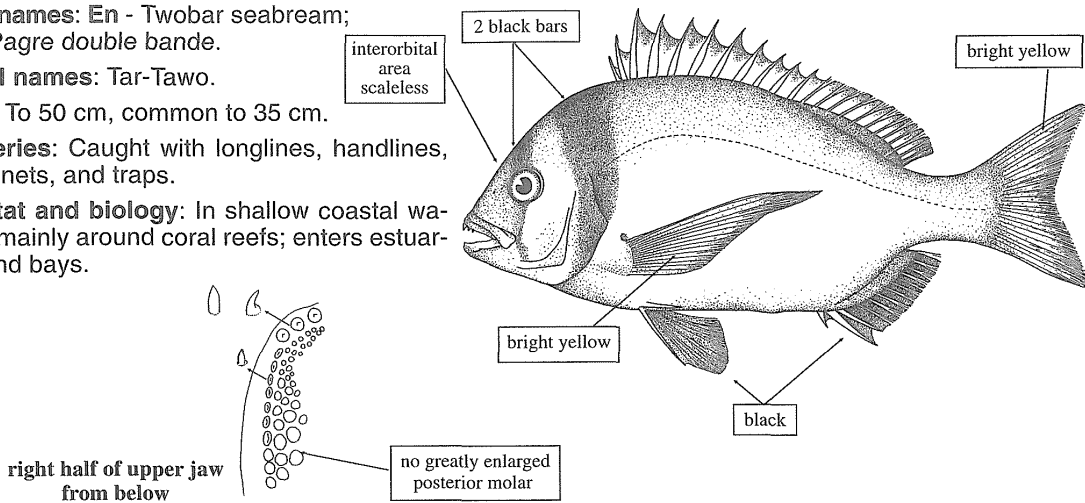
**FAO names:** En - Twobar seabream;  
Fr - Pagre double bande.

**Local names:** Tar-Tawo.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, handlines, stakenets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow coastal waters, mainly around coral reefs; enters estuaries and bays.



*Argyrops filamentosus* (Valenciennes, 1830)

SPARIDAE

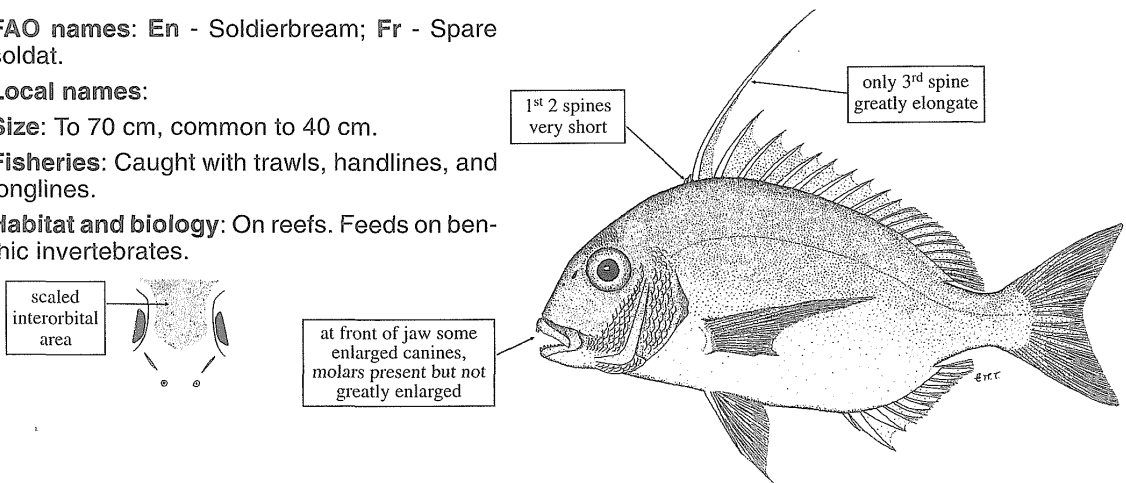
**FAO names:** En - Soldierbream; Fr - Spare soldat.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 70 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, handlines, and longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** On reefs. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



*Argyrops spinifer* Forsskål, 1775

(plate XVIII, 108)

SPARIDAE

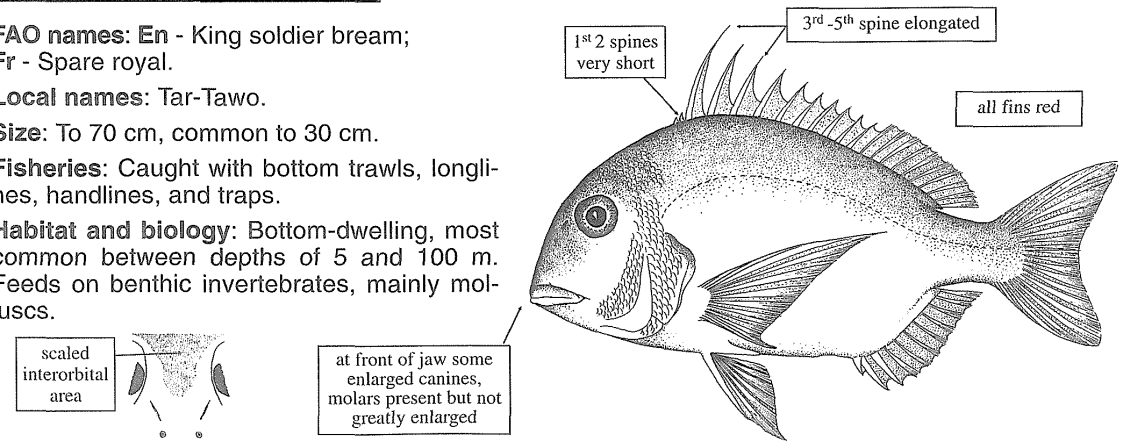
**FAO names:** En - King soldier bream;  
Fr - Spare royal.

**Local names:** Tar-Tawo.

**Size:** To 70 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, longlines, handlines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Bottom-dwelling, most common between depths of 5 and 100 m. Feeds on benthic invertebrates, mainly molluscs.





*Cheimerius nufar* (Ehrenberg in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1830)

SPARIDAE

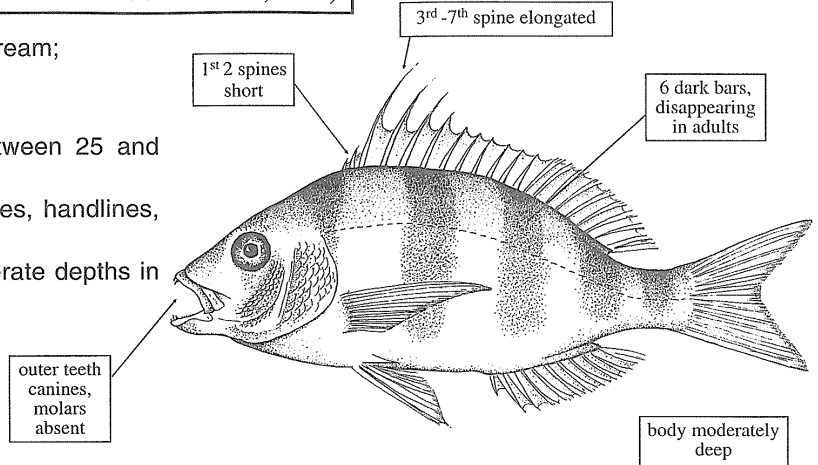
**FAO names:** En - Santer seabream;  
Fr - Denté nufar.

**Local names:** Tar-Tawo.

**Size:** To 75 cm, common between 25 and 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, handlines, and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** At moderate depths in shelf waters.



*Crenidens crenidens* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XVIII, 109)

SPARIDAE

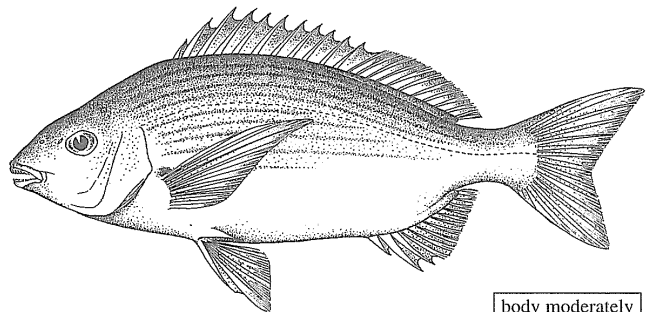
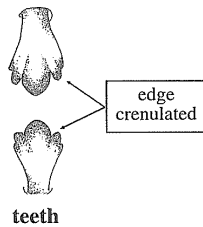
**FAO names:** En - Karanteen seabream;  
Fr - Saupe de Mer rouge.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trammelnets and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy bottoms in shallow coastal waters.



*Pagellus affinis* Boulenger, 1887

SPARIDAE

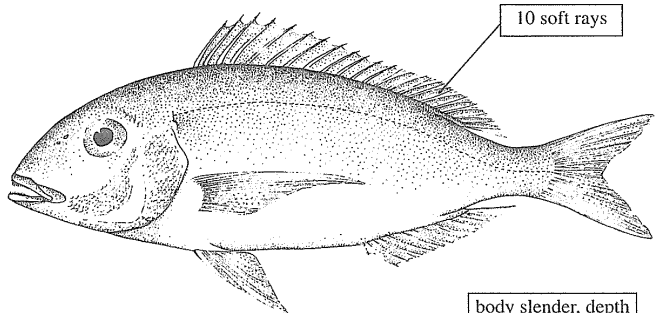
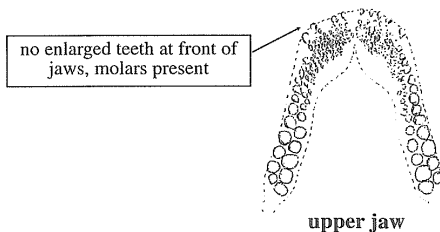
**FAO names:** En - Arabian pandora;  
Fr - Pageot d'Arabie.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 37 cm, common to 2 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Over various grounds, down to a depth of 150 m; omnivorous with preference for carnivorous diet.



*Polysteganus coeruleopunctatus* Klunzinger, 1870

## SPARIDAE

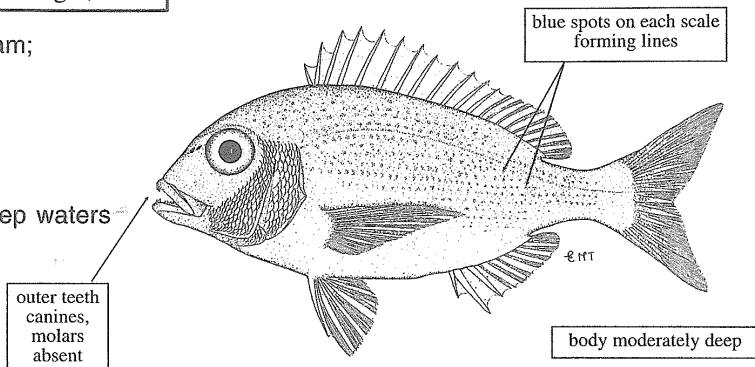
**FAO names:** En - Blueskin seabream;  
Fr - Denté à points bleus.

**Local names:** Bir-Birtoy.

**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with line gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Mainly in deep waters around reefs; carnivorous predator.

*Rhabdosargus haffara* (Forsskål, 1775)

## SPARIDAE

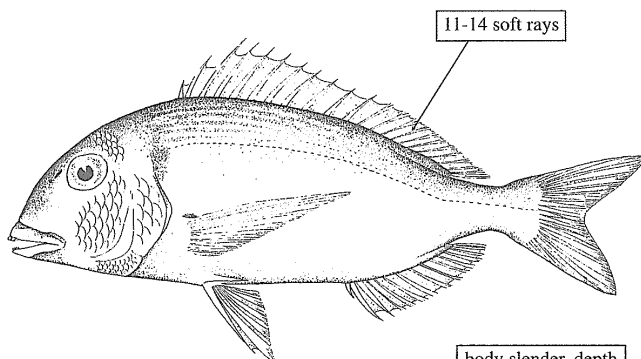
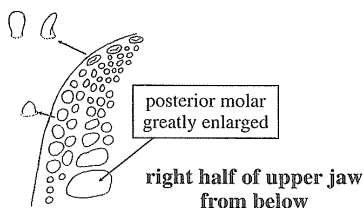
**FAO names:** En - Haffara seabream;  
Fr - Sargue haffara.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trammelnets, gillnets, beach seines, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Mainly around coral reefs and over sandy or mud-sandy bottoms. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.

*Rhabdosargus sarba* (Forsskål, 1775)

## SPARIDAE

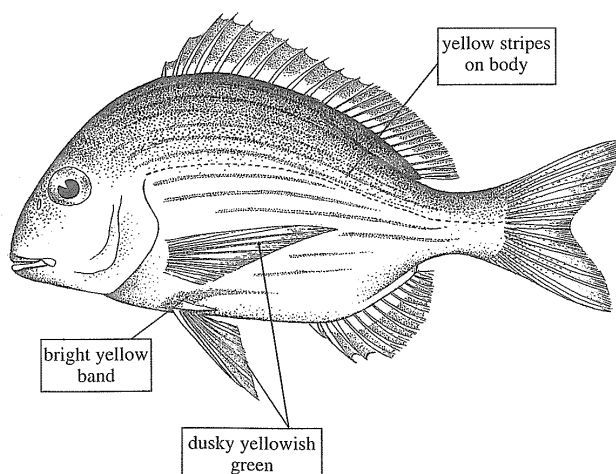
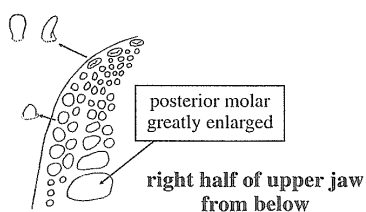
**FAO names:** En - Goldlined seabream;  
Fr - Sargue doré.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, gillnets, longlines, handlines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in coastal waters to depths of 60 m, sometime entering estuaries. Feeds on bottom-living invertebrates.



**LETHRINIDAE**

**Emperors, pigface breams, largeeye breams**

*Gnathodentex aurolineatus* (Lacepède, 1802)

(plate XVIII, 110)

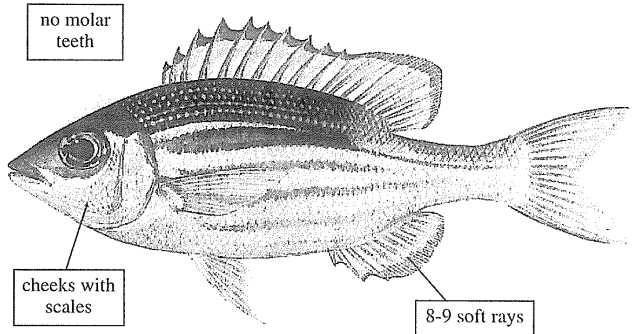
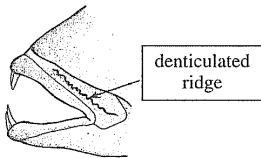
**FAO names:** En - Striped largeeye bream;  
Fr - Empereur striée.

**Local names:** Qashaar.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with spears, traps, gillnets, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs at depths of 3 to 20 m; forms aggregations of a hundred or more individuals. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



*Gymnocranius elongatus* Senta, 1973

(plate XVIII, 112)

**LETHRINIDAE**

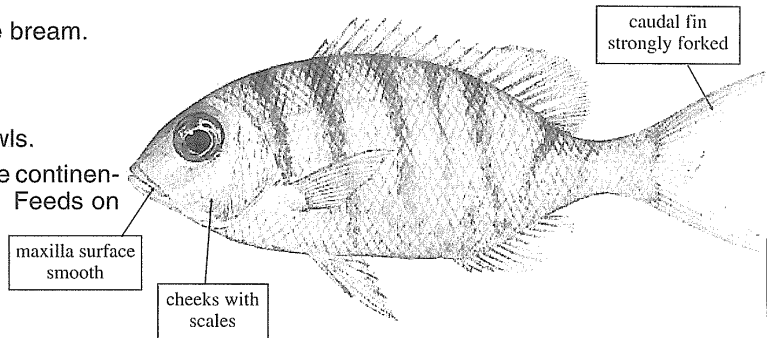
**FAO names:** En - Forktail largeeye bream.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic on the continental shelf, at depths of 50 to 100 m. Feeds on bottom-living invertebrates.



*Gymnocranius grandoculis* (Valenciennes, 1830)

(plate XVIII, 111)

**LETHRINIDAE**

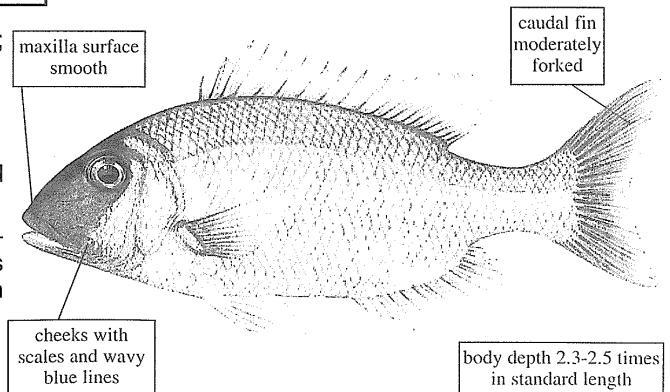
**FAO names:** En - Bluelined largeeye bream;  
Fr - Empereur tatué.

**Local names:** Matakoo.

**Size:** To 80 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom longlines, and bottom trawls.

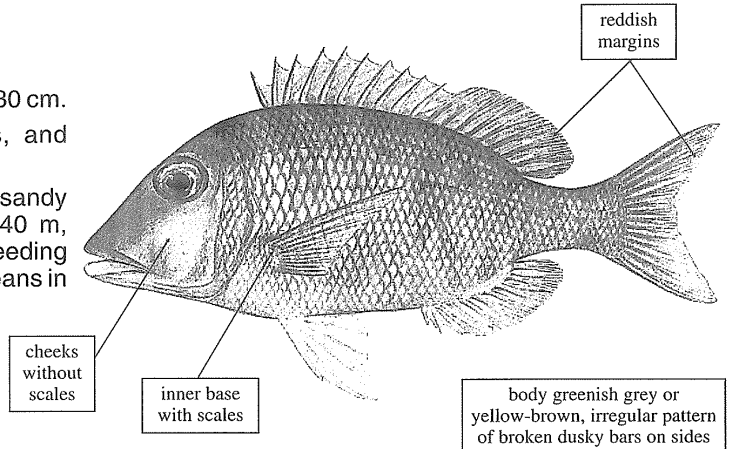
**Habitat and biology:** Benthic on the continental shelf and offshore rocky bottoms, at depths between 50 and 100 m. Feeds on small fish and bottom-living invertebrates.



*Lethrinus borbonicus* Valenciennes, 1830

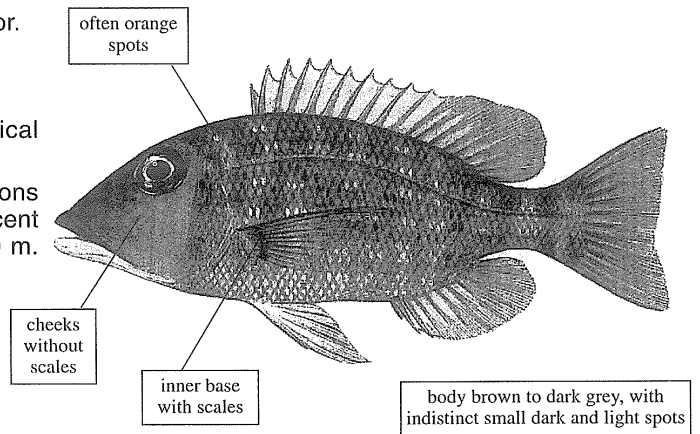
(plate XVIII, 113)

LETHRINIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Snubnose emperor.**Local names:****Size:** To 40 cm, common between 20 to 30 cm.**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, trawls, and handlines.**Habitat and biology:** During daytime in sandy areas near reefs, to depths of about 40 m, sometimes in groups; at night solitary, feeding on echinoderms, molluscs, and crustaceans in shallow waters.*Lethrinus erythracanthus* Valenciennes, 1830

(plate XIX, 114)

LETHRINIDAE

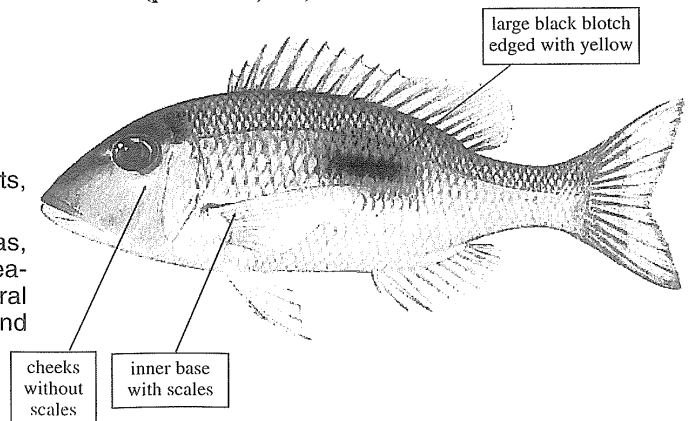
**FAO names:** En - Orange-spotted emperor.**Local names:****Size:** To 70 cm, common to 50 cm.**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, vertical longline, traps, and trawls.**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits deep lagoons and channels, outer reef slopes and adjacent soft-bottom areas; at depths of 20 to 120 m. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.*Lethrinus harak* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XIX, 115)

LETHRINIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Thumbprint emperor;

Fr - Empereur Saint Pierre.

**Local names:** Tan-Gub.**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 30 cm.**Fisheries:** Caught with shore seines, gillnets, traps, and handlines.**Habitat and biology:** Shallow sandy areas, coral rubble, mangroves, lagoon, and sea-grass areas inshore and adjacent to coral reefs. Feeds on benthic invertebrates and small fish.

*Lethrinus lentjan* (Lacepède, 1802)

(plate XIX, 116)

LETHRINIDAE

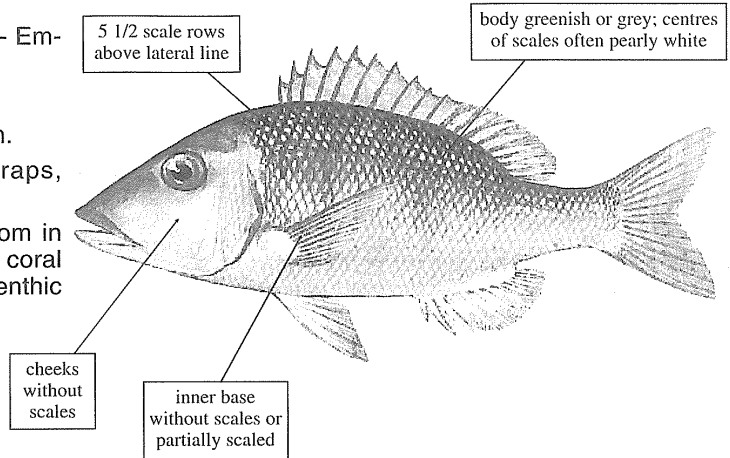
**FAO names:** En - Pinkear emperor; Fr - Empereur lentille.

**Local names:** Maxaaso.

**Size:** To about 50 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, trawls, beach seines, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Over sandy bottom in coastal areas, deep lagoons, and near coral reefs to depths of 50 m. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.

*Lethrinus mahsena* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XIX, 117 and 118)

LETHRINIDAE

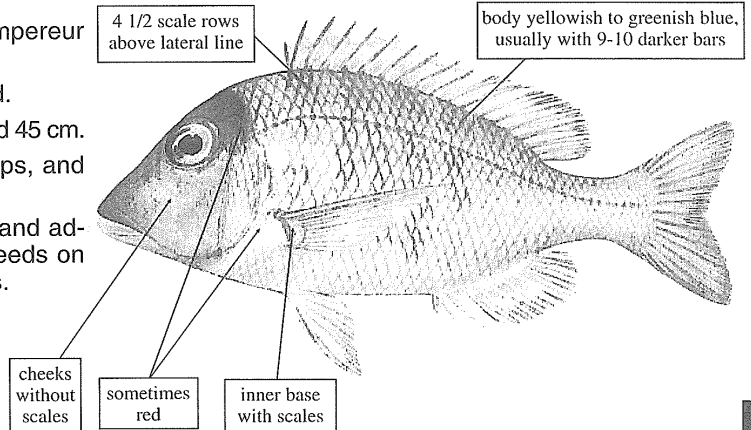
**FAO names:** En - Sky emperor; Fr - Empereur mahsena.

**Local names:** Caroole, Dhan-Guduud.

**Size:** To 65 cm, common between 35 and 45 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs and adjacent sandy and seagrass areas. Feeds on echinoderms, crustaceans, and fishes.

*Lethrinus microdon* Valenciennes, 1830

(plate XIX, 119)

LETHRINIDAE

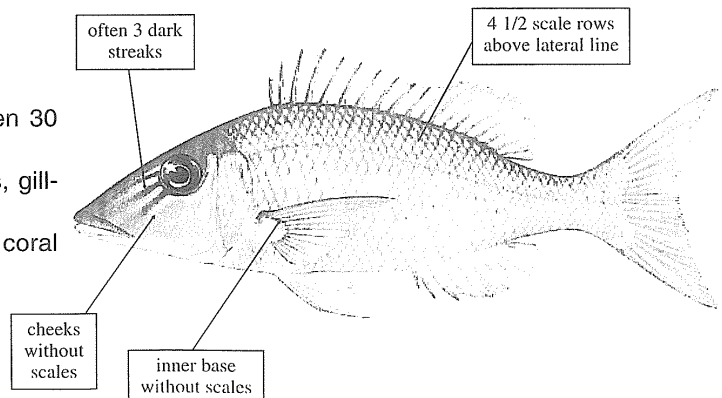
**FAO names:** En - Smalltooth emperor; Fr - Empereur tidents.

**Local names:** Orofay.

**Size:** To about 70 cm, common between 30 and 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, gillnets, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Sandy areas near coral reefs to depths of about 800 m.



*Lethrinus nebulosus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XIX, 120)

LETHRINIDAE

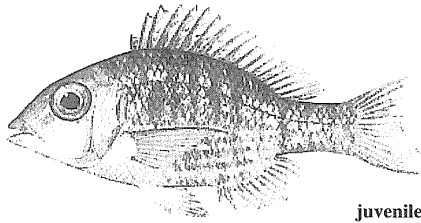
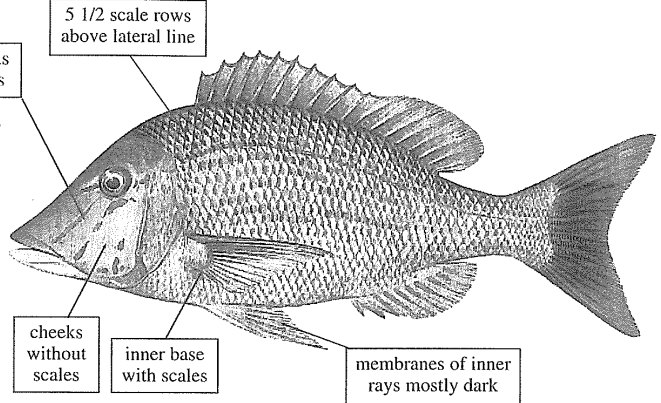
**FAO names:** En - Spangled emperor;  
Fr - Empereur moris.

**Local names:** Dhuuwane.

**Size:** To about 80 cm, common between 20 and 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, seines, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Nearshore and offshore coral reefs, coralline lagoons, seagrass beds, mangrove swamps and coastal sand and rock areas to depths of 75 m. Feeds mainly on benthic invertebrates.



*Lethrinus obsoletus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XX, 121)

LETHRINIDAE

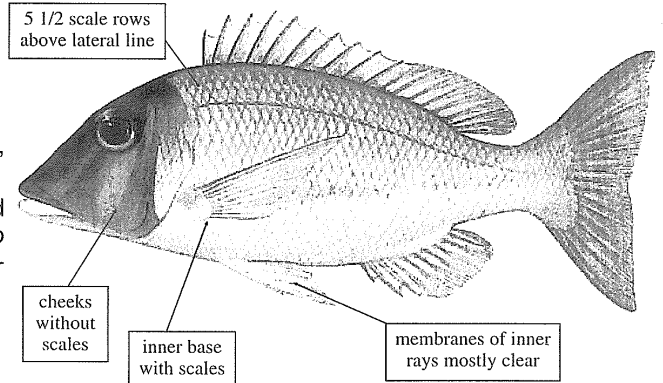
**FAO names:** En - Orangestriped emperor;  
Fr - Empereur à bandes oranges.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, shore seines, gillnets, handlines, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Seagrass beds, sand and rubble areas of lagoons and reefs to depths of 30 m. Feeds on crustaceans, molluscs, and echinoderms.



*Lethrinus olivaceus* Valenciennes, 1830

LETHRINIDAE

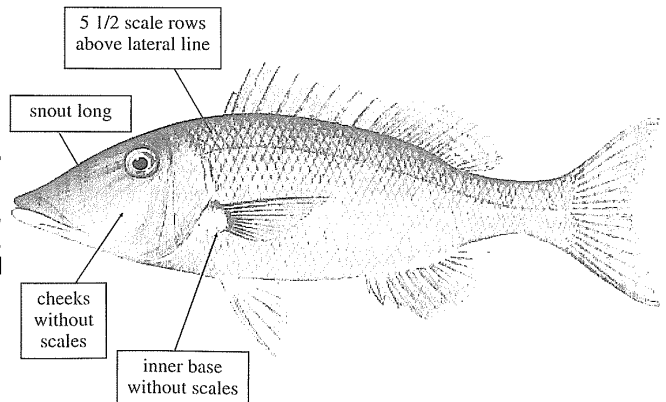
**FAO names:** En - Longface emperor;  
Fr - Empereur gueule longue.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.0 m, common to 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, trawls, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Sandy coastal areas, lagoons and reef slopes to depths of 185 m. Feeds mainly on fish, crustaceans, and cephalopods.



*Lethrinus rubrioperculatus* Sato, 1978

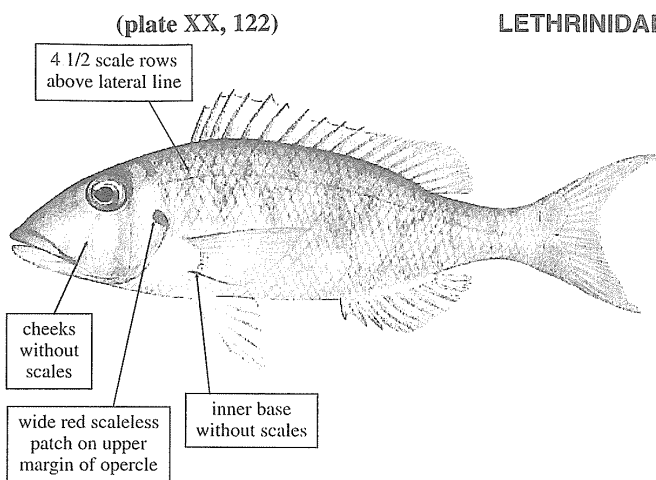
**FAO names:** En - Spotcheek emperor;  
Fr - Empereur honteux.

**Local names:** Orofay.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Sand and rubble areas of outer reef slopes to depths of 160 m. Feeds on fish, crustaceans, echinoderms, and molluscs.



*Lethrinus variegatus* Valenciennes, 1830

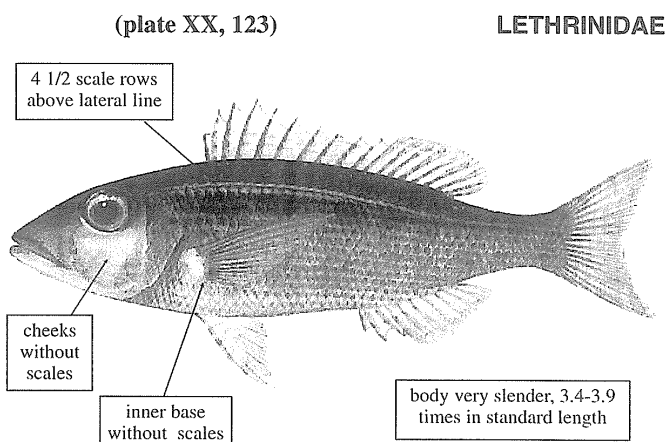
**FAO names:** En - Slender emperor;  
Fr - Empereur bas cou.

**Local names:** Huud.

**Size:** To about 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with shore seines, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Sandy and weedy areas near coral reefs. Feeds on small benthic invertebrates.



*Monotaxis grandoculis* (Forsskål, 1775)

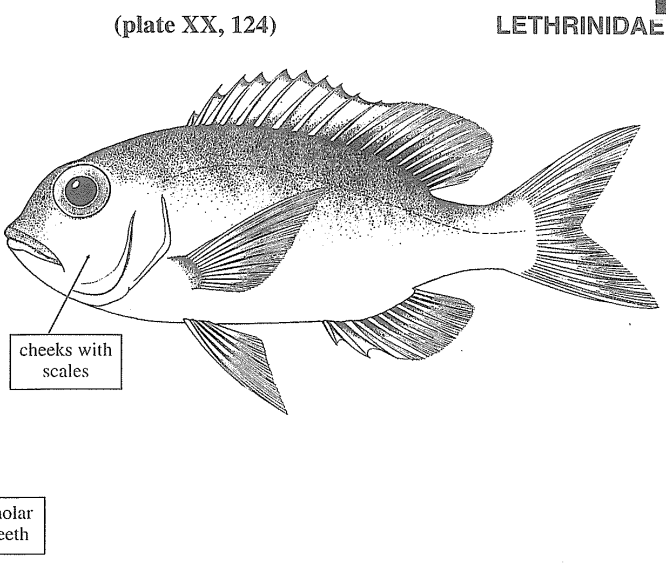
**FAO names:** En - Humpnose bigeye bream;  
Fr - Empereur bossu.

**Local names:** Qashaar.

**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, traps, spears, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Near coral reefs at depths of 3 to 60 m. Feeds mainly on gastropods, ophiuroids, and echinoids.



NEMIPTERIDAE

Threadfin breams, monocle breams, dwarf monocle breams

*Nemipterus bipunctatus* (Ehrenberg, 1830)

(plate XX, 125)

5-7 pale greenish yellow stripes

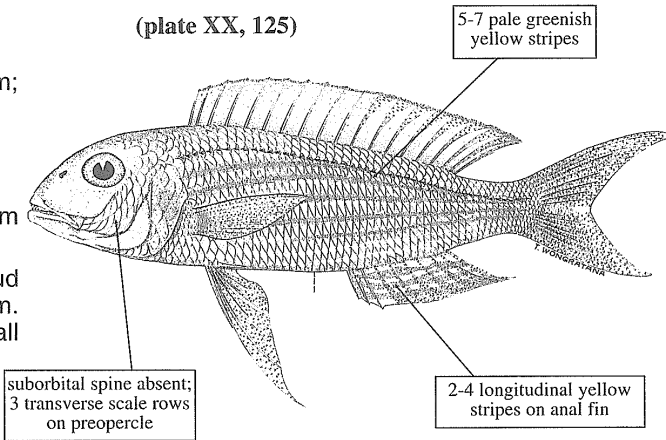
**FAO names:** En - Delagoa threadfin bream; Fr - Cohana delago.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic on sand or mud bottoms in depths between 18 and 100 m. Feeds on crustaceans, cephalopods, small fishes, and polychaetes.



suborbital spine absent; 3 transverse scale rows on preopercle

2-4 longitudinal yellow stripes on anal fin

*Nemipterus japonicus* (Bloch, 1791)

(plate XX, 126)

NEMIPTERIDAE

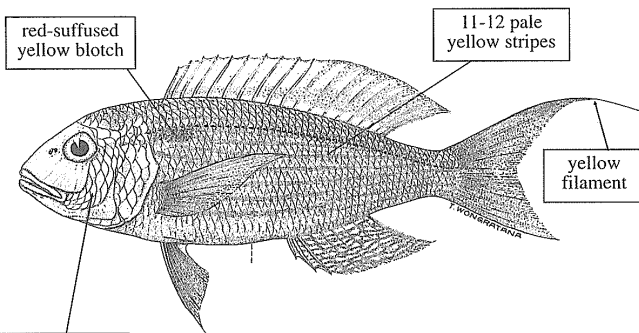
**FAO names:** En - Japanese threadfin bream; Fr - Cohana japonaise.

**Local names:** Huuqle-Baraawe.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, bottom trawls, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in coastal waters, found on sand bottoms in depths of 5 to 80 m; usually schooling. Feeds on small fishes and benthic invertebrates.



red-suffused yellow blotch

11-12 pale yellow stripes

yellow filament

suborbital spine absent; 3 transverse scale rows on preopercle

*Nemipterus randalli* Russell, 1986

(plate XX, 127)

NEMIPTERIDAE

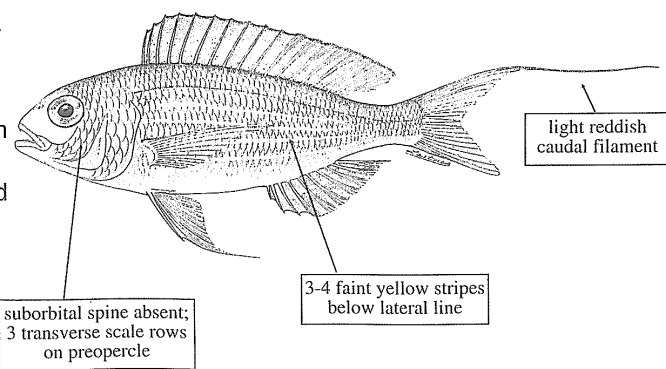
**FAO names:** En - Randall's threadfin bream.

**Local names:**

**Size:** attains at least 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic on sand or mud bottoms in depths of 22 to 225 m.



light reddish caudal filament

3-4 faint yellow stripes below lateral line

suborbital spine absent; 3 transverse scale rows on preopercle



*Nemipterus zysron* (Bleeker, 1856-57)

(plate XX, 128)

NEMIPTERIDAE

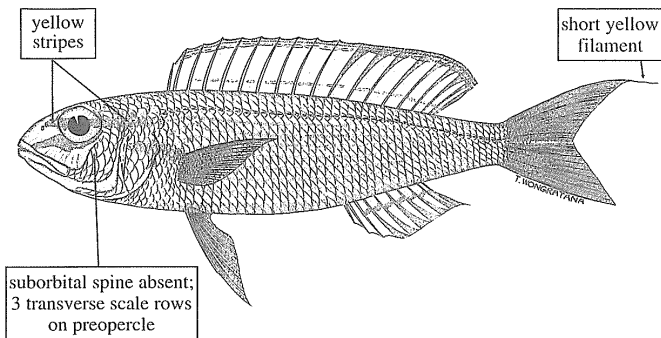
**FAO names:** En - Slender threadfin bream; Fr - Cohana élégante.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic on sand bottoms near rocks in depths between 10 and 125 m. Feeds on benthic organisms.



*Parascalopsis aspinosa* (Rao and Rao, 1981)

(plate XXI, 129)

NEMIPTERIDAE

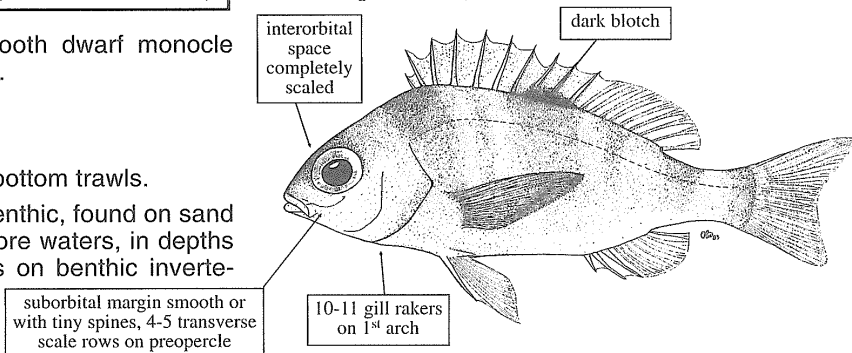
**FAO names:** En - Smooth dwarf monocle bream; Fr - Mamila lisse.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters, in depths of 20 to 225 m. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



*Parascalopsis eriomma* (Jordan and Richardson, 1909)

(plate XXI, 130)

NEMIPTERIDAE

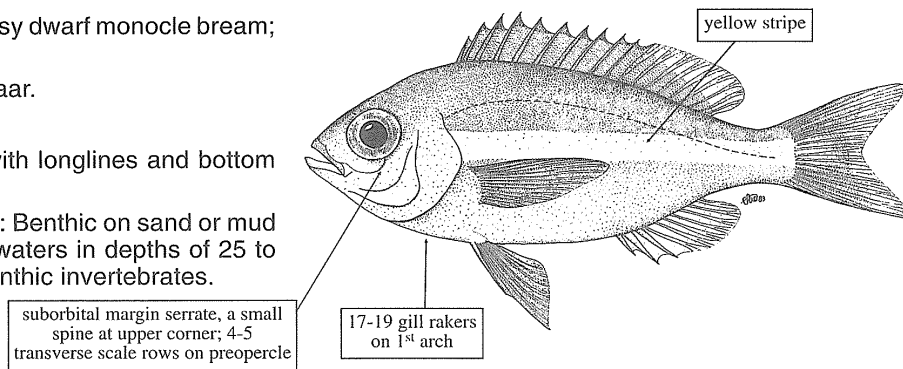
**FAO names:** En - Rosy dwarf monocle bream; Fr - Mamila rosée.

**Local names:** Qashaar.

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters in depths of 25 to 175 m. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



*Parascalopsis townsendi* Boulenger, 1901

NEMIPTERIDAE

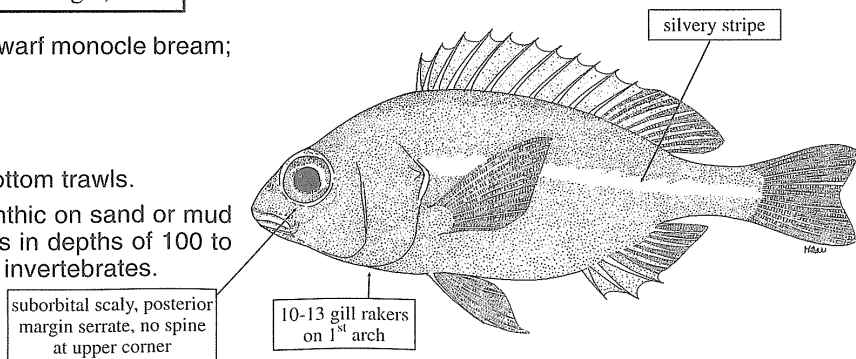
**FAO names:** En - Scaly dwarf monocle bream; Fr - Mamila mignone.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic on sand or mud bottoms in offshore waters in depths of 100 to 410 m. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



*Scolopsis bimaculatus* Rüppell, 1828

**FAO names:** En - Thumbprint monocle bream;  
Fr - Mamila Saint Pierre.

**Local names:** Can-Gub.

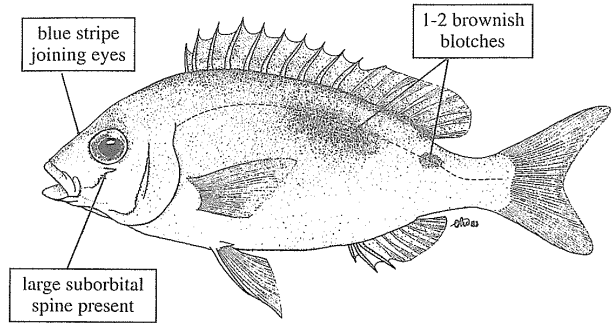
**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, hand-lines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in inshore waters; usually on coral reefs or on sand and mud bottoms near coral reefs, in depths to 60 m. Feeds on crustaceans, molluscs, echinoderms, and fishes.

(plate XXI, 131)

NEMIPTERIDAE

*Scolopsis ghanam* (Forsskål, 1775)

**FAO names:** En - Arabian monocle bream;  
Fr - Mamila arabe.

**Local names:**

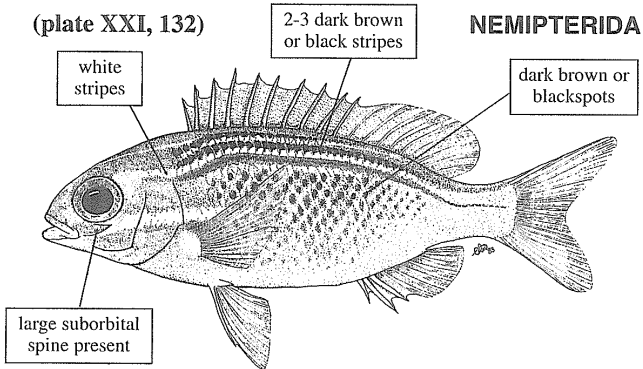
**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, hand-lines, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, found in inshore waters on shallow sandy bottoms close to coral reefs. Feeds on crustaceans, molluscs, echinoderms, and fishes.

(plate XXI, 132)

NEMIPTERIDAE

*Scolopsis taeniatus* (Ehrenberg, 1830)

**FAO names:** En - Blackstreak monocle bream;  
Fr - Mamila dos noir.

**Local names:**

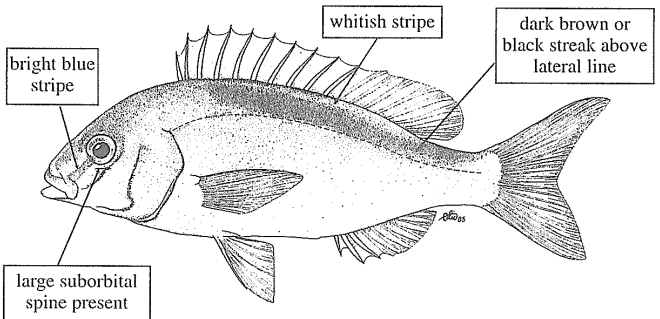
**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, commonly associated with reefs.

(plate XXI, 133)

NEMIPTERIDAE

*Scolopsis vosmeri* (Bloch, 1792)

**FAO names:** En - Whitecheek monocle bream;  
Fr - Mamila joues blanches.

**Local names:** Bir-Birtoy.

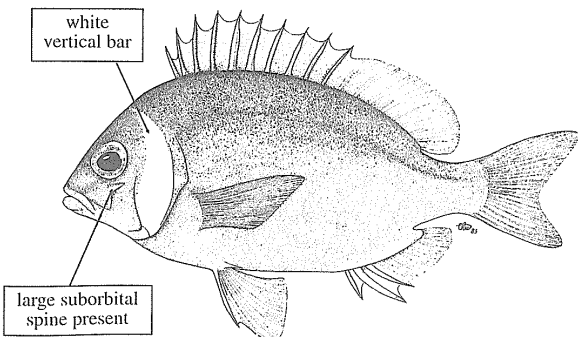
**Size:** To 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, hand-lines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in inshore waters, usually on sand or mud bottoms close to reefs.

(plate XXI, 134)

NEMIPTERIDAE



**SCIAENIDAE**

**Croakers, drums, meagres, weakfishes**

***Johnius (Johnius) amblycephalus* (Bleeker, 1855)**

**FAO names:** En - Bearded croaker;  
Fr - Courbine barbiche.

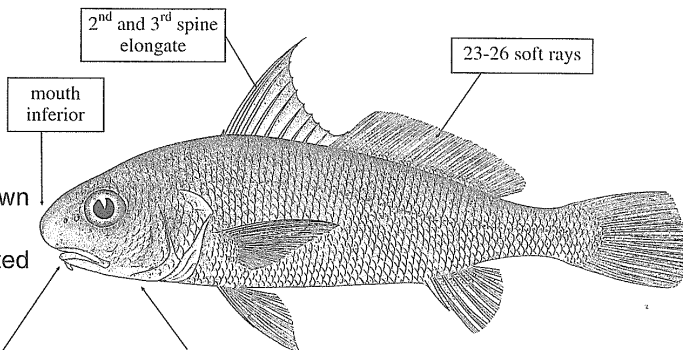
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 23 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

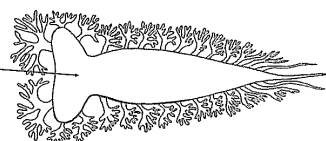
**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, down to a depth of 40 m.

**Remarks:** In Fischer and Bianchi, 1984, listed as *J. dussumieri* (Valenciennes, 1833).



large and small teeth in upper jaw only, the large ones forming outer close-set series

swimbladder hammer-shaped, with 14-15 pairs of appendages



swimbladder

***Johnius (Johnieops) dussumieri* (Cuvier, 1830)**

**SCIAENIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Dussumier's croaker;  
Fr - Courbine de Dussumier.

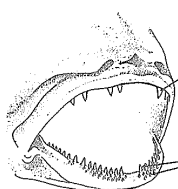
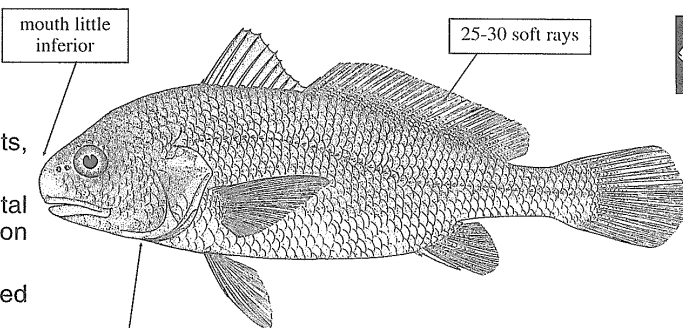
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, gillnets, and bagnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In inshore and coastal waters, down to a depth of 40 m. Feeds on invertebrates and small fishes.

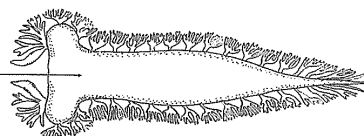
**Remarks:** In Fischer and Bianchi, 1984, listed as *Johnieops sina* (Cuvier, 1930).



widely spaced enlarged outer teeth

small and large teeth both in upper and lower jaw

swimbladder hammer-shaped, with 14-15 pairs of appendages



swimbladder

*Otolithes ruber* (Schneider, 1801)

**SCIAENIDAE**

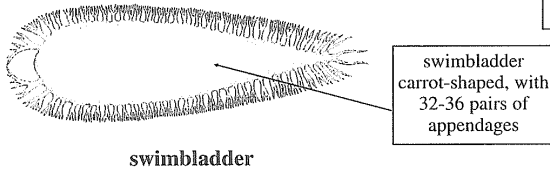
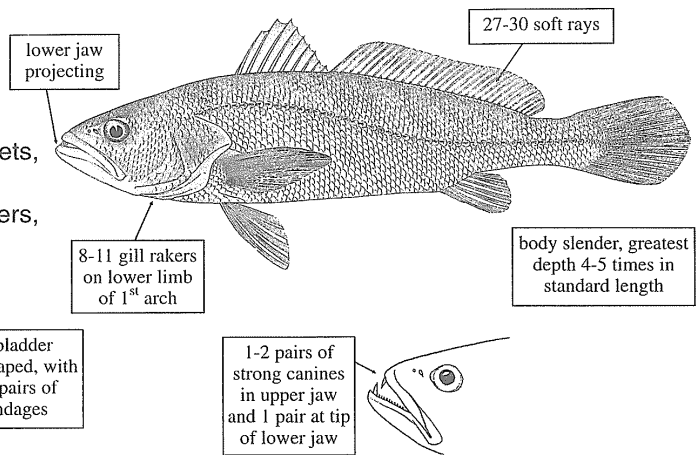
**FAO names:** En - Tigertooth croaker;  
Fr - Grande verrue tigre.

**Local names:** Laqanto.

**Size:** To 80 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, gillnets, and handlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters, down to a depth of 40 m.



*Umbrina canariensis* Valenciennes, 1843

**SCIAENIDAE**

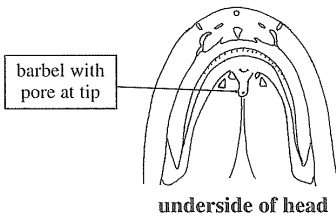
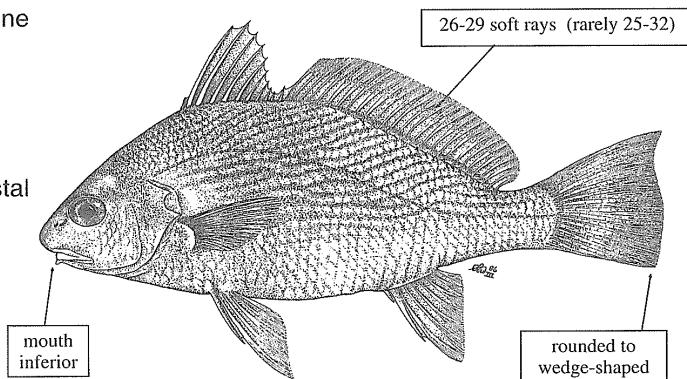
**FAO names:** En - Canary drum; Fr - Ombrine bronze.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shallow coastal waters.



**MULLIDAE**

**Goatfishes**

*Mulloidichthys flavolineatus* (Lacepède, 1802)

(plate XXII, 135)

**MULLIDAE**

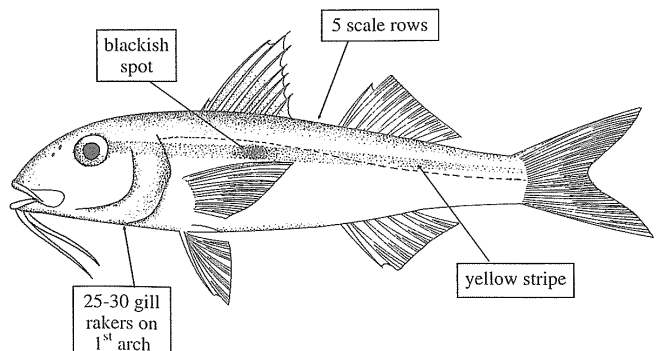
**FAO names:** En - Yellowstripe goatfish;  
Fr - Capucina à bande jaune.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, hook-and-line, and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters, on sand bottoms of calm lagoons and bays.



*Mulloidichthys vanicolensis* (Valenciennes, 1831)

(plate XXII, 136)

MULLIDAE

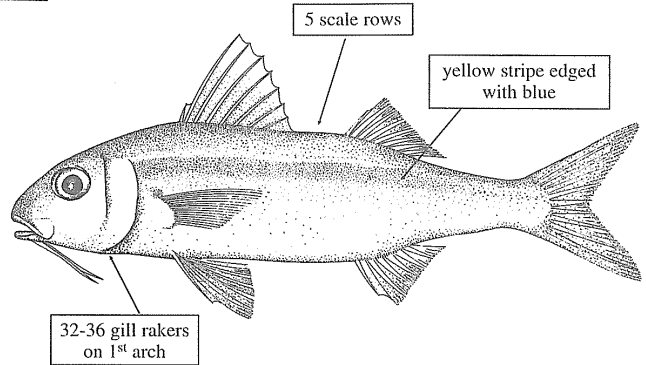
**FAO names:** En - Yellowfin goatfish;  
Fr - Capucina de Vanicolo.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 38 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, gillnets, hook-and-line, and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters, on sand bottoms of calm lagoons and bays; forms aggregations on coral reefs during the day, feeds individually at night.



*Parupeneus barberinus* (Lacepède, 1801)

(plate XXII, 137)

MULLIDAE

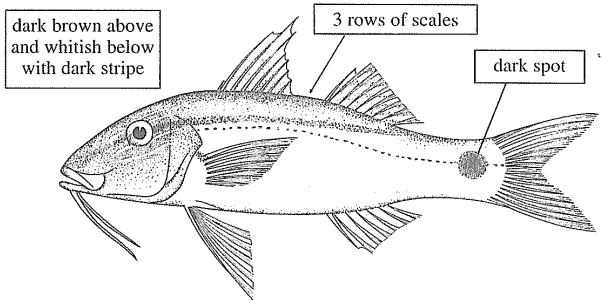
**FAO names:** En - Dash-and-dot goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-barbet barberin.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, shore seines, and trapnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters on sandy bottoms, but reported to a depth of 100 m. Feeds mainly on benthic crustaceans and polychaetes.



*Parupeneus bifasciatus* (Lacepède, 1801)

(plate XXII, 138)

MULLIDAE

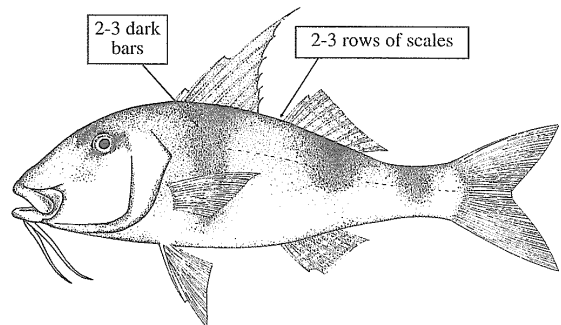
**FAO names:** En - Doublebar goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-barbet double-tache.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 27 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with shore seines and with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs from depths of a few to 60 m; feeds mainly on crabs and other crustaceans.



*Parupeneus cinnabarinus* (Cuvier, 1829)

(plate XXII, 139)

MULLIDAE

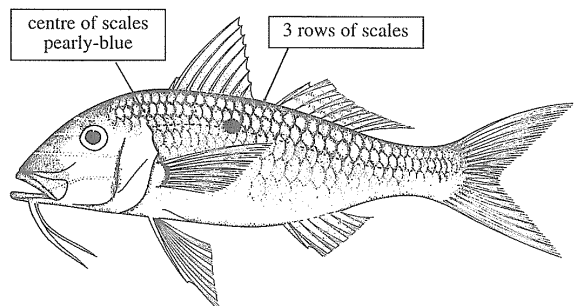
**FAO names:** En - Cinnabar goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-barbet cinnabare.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 24 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Lives over silty and bot-toms, rarely in depths less than 15 m.



*Parupeneus cyclostomus* (Lacepède, 1801)

(plate XXII, 140 and 141)

MULLIDAE

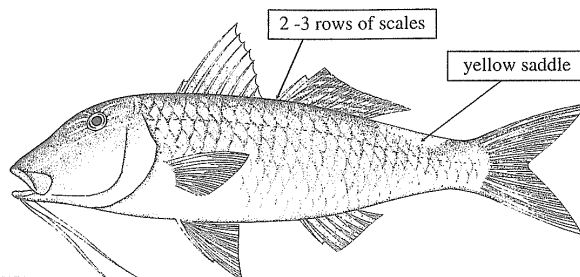
**FAO names:** En - Goldsaddle goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-barbet doré.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with lines, seines, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs; feeds mainly on small fish.



barbels extending to or beyond posterior end of head

*Parupeneus forsskali* (Fourmanoir and Guézé, 1976)

(plate XXII, 142)

MULLIDAE

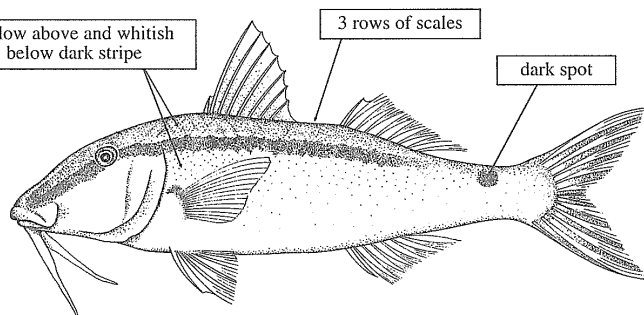
**FAO names:** En - Red Sea goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-barbet à bande noire.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 28 cm, common to 22 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line, traps, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Very common in shallow waters on sand bottoms near coral reefs.

*Parupeneus indicus* (Shaw, 1803)

(plate XXIII, 143)

MULLIDAE

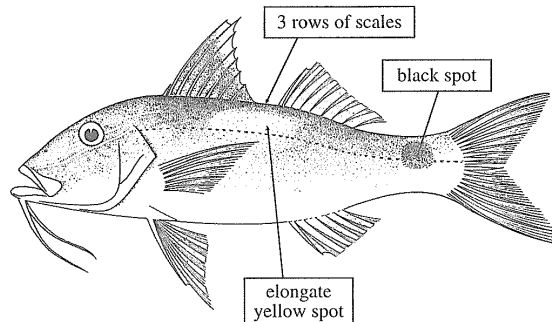
**FAO names:** En - Indian goatfish; Fr - Rouget-barbet indien.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and trapnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shallow coastal waters.

*Parupeneus macronema* (Lacepède, 1801)

(plate XXIII, 144)

MULLIDAE

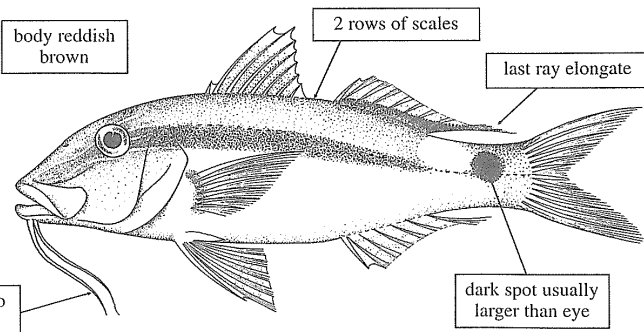
**FAO names:** En - Longbarbel goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-barbet bandeau.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 32 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, shore seines, and trapnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters on sandy or weedy bottoms.



long, reaching to pelvic-fin base

*Parupeneus pleurostigma* (Bennett, 1831)

**FAO names:** En - Sidespot goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-barbet pastille.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

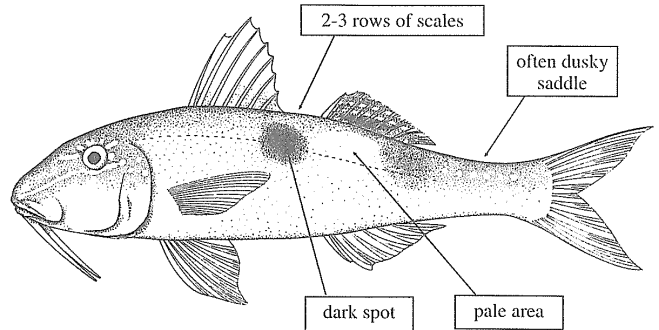
**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Primarily an insular species, in clear water near coral reefs; feeds on benthic invertebrates.

(plate XXIII, 145)

MULLIDAE

*Parupeneus rubescens* (Lacepède, 1801)

**FAO names:** En - Rosy goatfish; Fr - Rouget-barbet sellé.

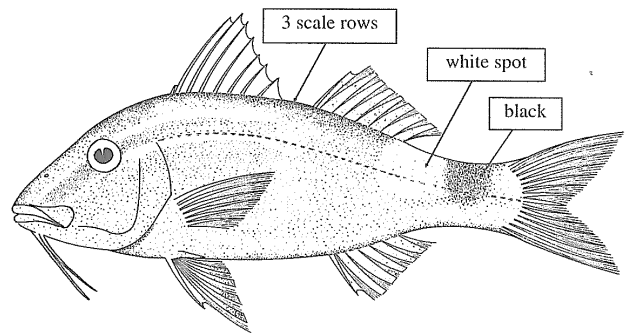
**Local names:** Fangalaato.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 23 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters at depths more than 15 m; associated more with turbid water and silty sand bottoms than with coral reefs.

MULLIDAE

*Upeneus bensasi* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1842)

**FAO names:** En - Bensasi goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-souris bensasi.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

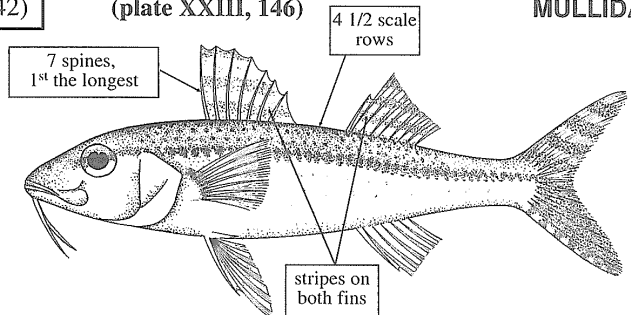
**Size:** To 20 cm, common to 13 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and trapnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, down to a depth of about 40 m; schooling; feeds on benthic invertebrates.

(plate XXIII, 146)

MULLIDAE

*Upeneus moluccensis* (Bleeker, 1855)

**FAO names:** En - Goldband goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-souris bande or.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

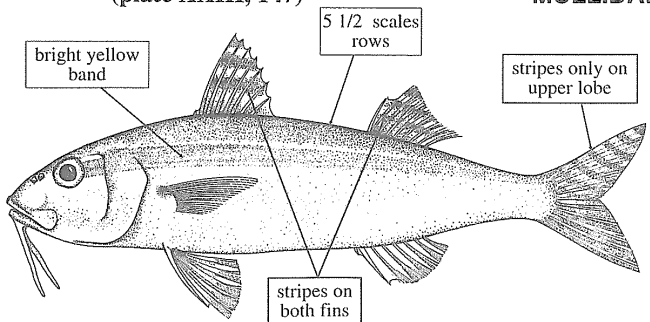
**Size:** To 20 cm, common to 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with shore seines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On mud bottoms at depths of 10 to 40 m.

(plate XXIII, 147)

MULLIDAE



*Upeneus sulphureus* Cuvier, 1829

**FAO names:** En - Sulphur goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-souris aurore.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

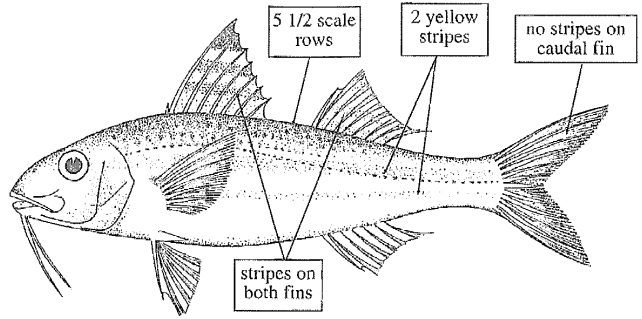
**Size:** To 23 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with shore seines, bottom trawls, and trapnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling in coastal waters at depths of 20 to 60 m; enters estuaries.

(plate XXIII, 148)

MULLIDAE

*Upeneus taeniopterus* Cuvier, 1829

**FAO names:** En - Finstripe goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-souris rayé.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

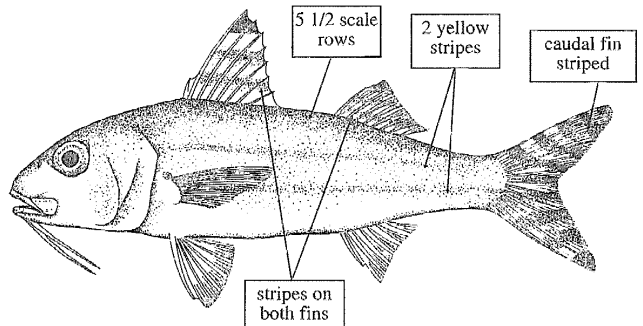
**Size:** To 33 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, traps, gillnets, and castnets.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters on sandy bottoms near coral reefs.

(plate XXIII, 149)

MULLIDAE

*Upeneus tragula* Richardson, 1845

**FAO names:** En - Freckled goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-souris à bande sombre.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

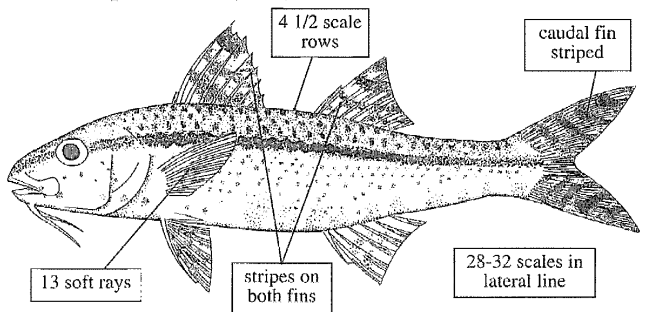
**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 23 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, shore seines, and trapnets.

**Habitat and biology:** On sand or silty sand bottoms near coral reefs from depths of a few to at least 40 m.

(plate XXIII, 150)

MULLIDAE

*Upeneus vittatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

**FAO names:** En - Striped goatfish;  
Fr - Rouget-souris orangé.

**Local names:** Fangalaato.

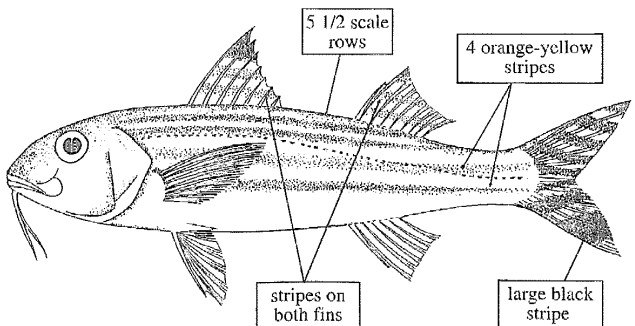
**Size:** To 28 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, shore seines, and boat seines.

**Habitat and biology:** In turbid waters over mud bottoms from depths of a few to about 100 m.

(plate XXIV, 151)

MULLIDAE





## KYPHOSIDAE

### Seachubs, rudderfishes, stonebreams

*Kyphosus bigibbus* Lacepède, 1801

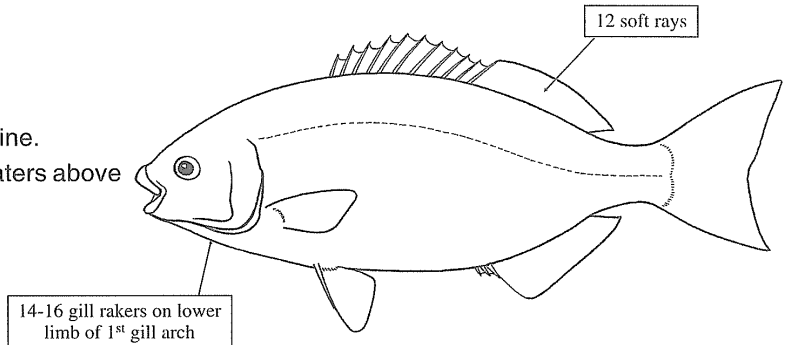
**FAO names:** En - Grey chub.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 75 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters above reefs and rocky areas.



*Kyphosus cinerascens* (Forsskål, 1775)

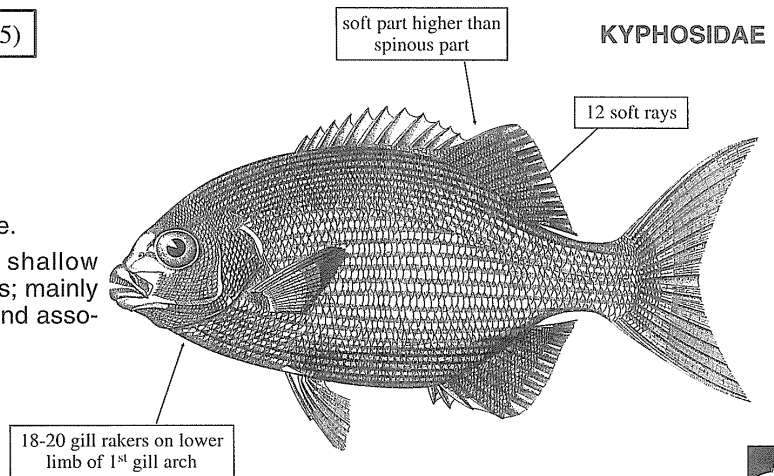
**FAO names:** En - Blue seachub;  
Fr - Calicagère bleue.

**Local names:** Bood-Boodo.

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shallow coastal waters, about reefs and rocks; mainly herbivorous, feeding on seaweeds and associated invertebrates.



*Kyphosus vaigiensis* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1825)

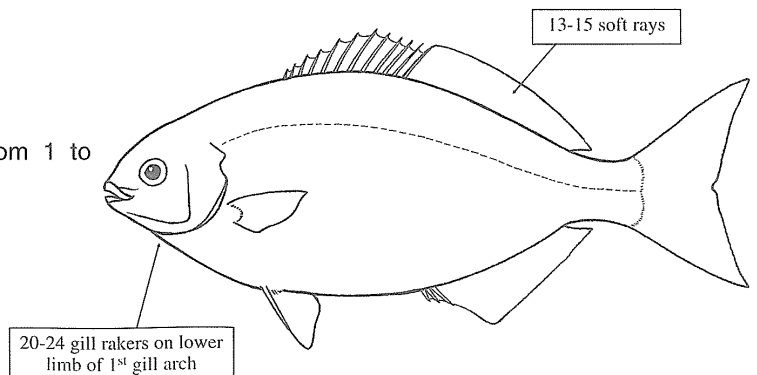
**FAO names:** En - Brassy chub.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** In depths from 1 to 18 m.



## DREPANIDAE

## Sicklefishes

*Drepane longimanus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

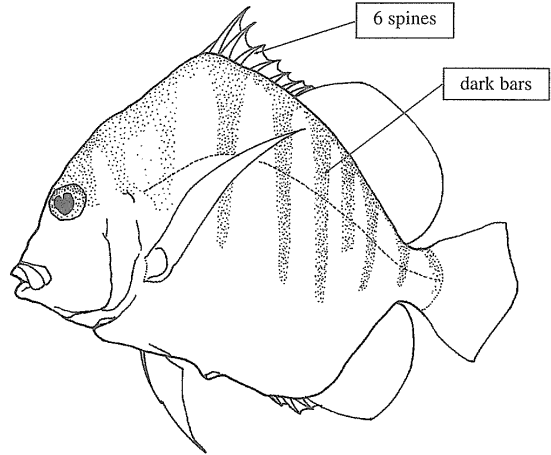
**FAO names:** En - Concertina fish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Lives in coastal waters including estuaries. Feeds on small benthic invertebrates.



*Drepane punctata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names:** En - Spotted sicklefish;  
Fr - Forgerón tacheté.

**Local names:** Kibili.

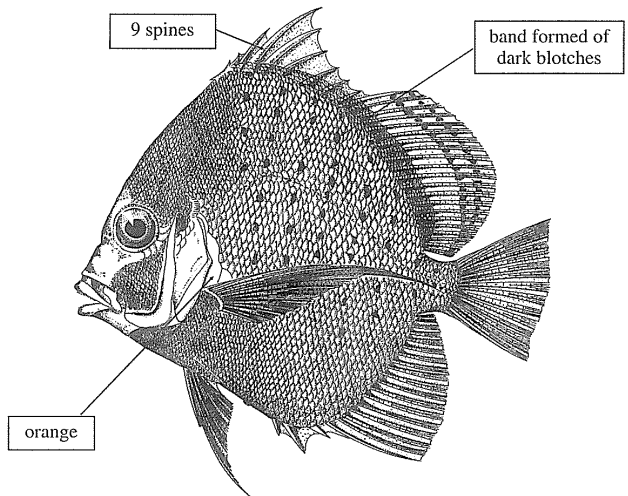
**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines, traps, and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow coastal waters around coral and rocky reefs; enters also brackish waters. Feeds on benthic invertebrates and fishes.

(plate XXIV, 152)

DREPANIDAE



**EPHIPPIDAE**

**Spadefishes, batfishes**

*Platax orbicularis* (Forsskål 1775)

**FAO names:** En - Orbicular batfish.

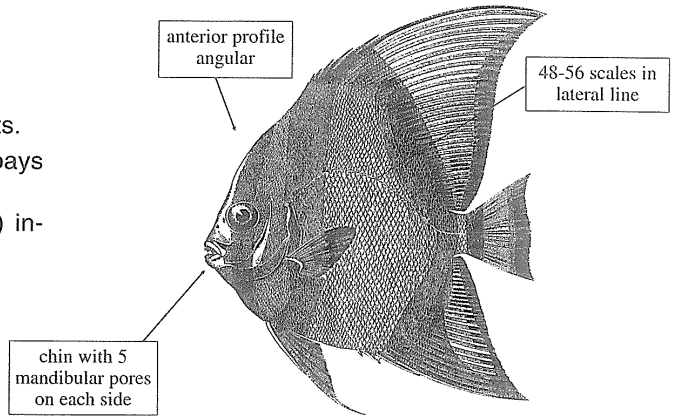
**Local names:** Kibili.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and nets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs, in bays and along rocky shores.

**Remarks:** In Fischer and Bianchi (1984) included in the family Platacidae.



*Platax pinnatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names:** En - Dusky batfish.

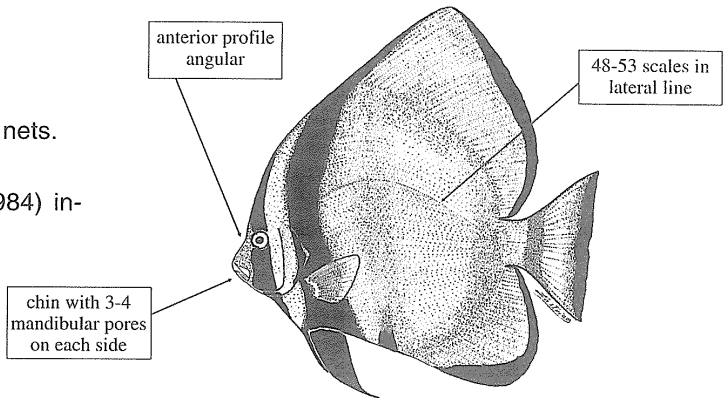
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and nets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.

**Remarks:** In Fischer and Bianchi (1984) included in the family Platacidae.



**EPHIPPIDAE**

*Platax tiera* (Forsskål 1775)

**FAO names:** En - Tiera batfish.

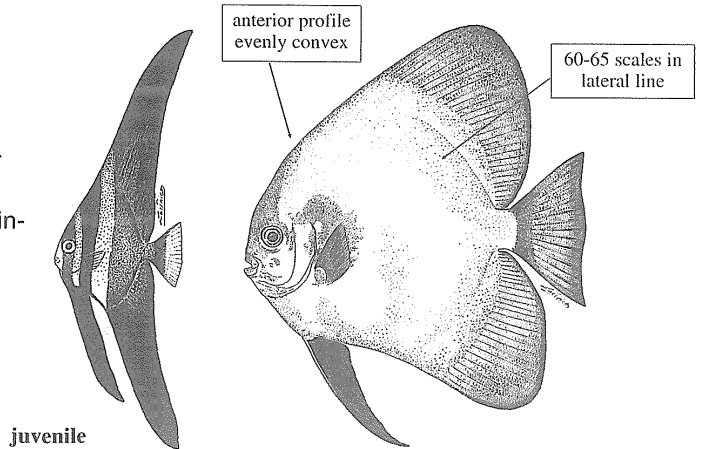
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and nets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.

**Remarks:** In Fischer and Bianchi (1984) included in the family Platacidae.



**EPHIPPIDAE**



***Tripterodon orbis* Playfair, 1866**

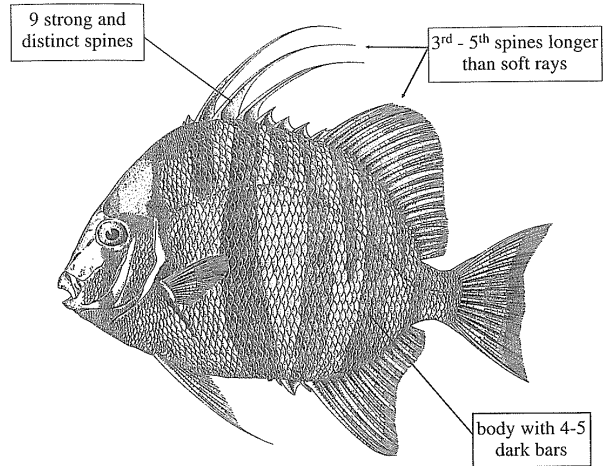
**FAO names:** En - African spadefish.

**Local names:** Buunshoole.

**Size:** To 75 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with handlines and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shallow waters around reefs. Feeds by nibbling at organisms on rocks and coral.

**EPHIPPIDAE****MONODACTYLIDAE****Moonies*****Monodactylus argenteus* (Linneaus, 1758)**

(plate XXIV, 153)

**FAO names:** En - Silver moony; Fr - Lune d'argent.

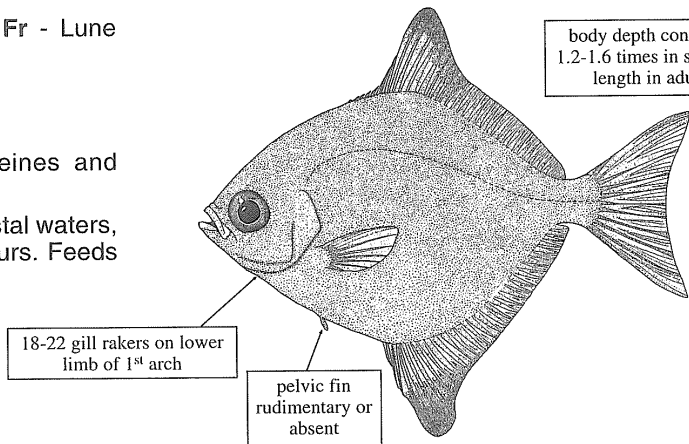
**Local names:** Soor-Yaxaas.

**Size:** To 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines and throw nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coastal waters, in freshwater, estuaries and harbours. Feeds on plankton and detritus.

body depth contained 1.2-1.6 times in standard length in adults

***Monodactylus falciformis* Lacepède, 1801****MONODACTYLIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Full moony; Fr - Lune pleine.

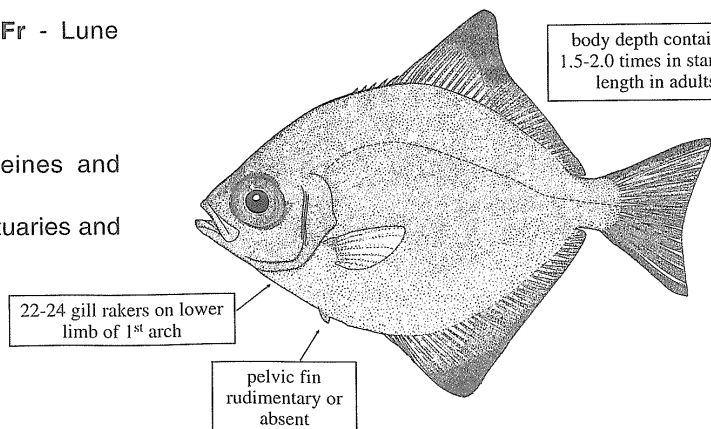
**Local names:** Soor-Yaxaas.

**Size:** To 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines and throw nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Found in estuaries and shallow coastal waters.

body depth contained 1.5-2.0 times in standard length in adults



SCATOPHAGIDAE

Scats

*Scatophagus tetracanthus* (Lacepède, 1801)

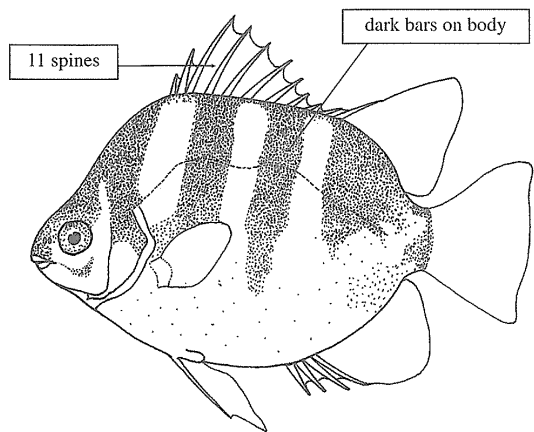
FAO names: En - Scatty.

Local names:

Size: To 18 cm.

Fisheries: Caught with traps and gillnets.

Habitat and biology: In coastal waters, also entering estuaries. Feeds on detritus and benthic invertebrates.



POMACANTHIDAE

Angelfishes

*Apolemichthys trimaculatus* (Lacepède, 1831)

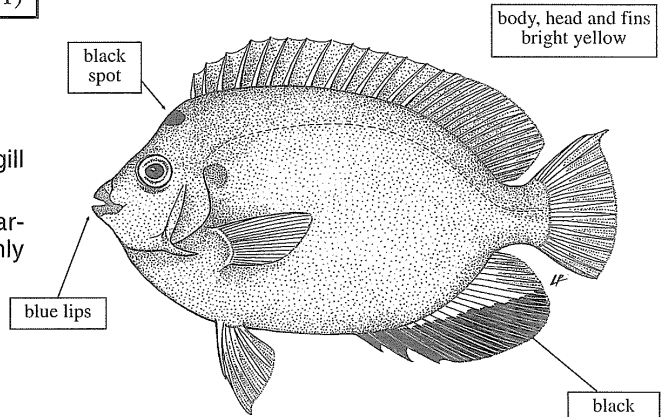
FAO names: En - Threespot angelfish.

Local names:

Size: To 25 cm standard length.

Fisheries: Caught mainly with traps and gill nets.

Habitat and biology: Shallow coral reef areas, from depths of 15 to 30 m. Feeds mainly on sponges and tunicates.



*Apolemichthys xanthurus* Fraser-Brunner, 1951

POMACANTHIDAE

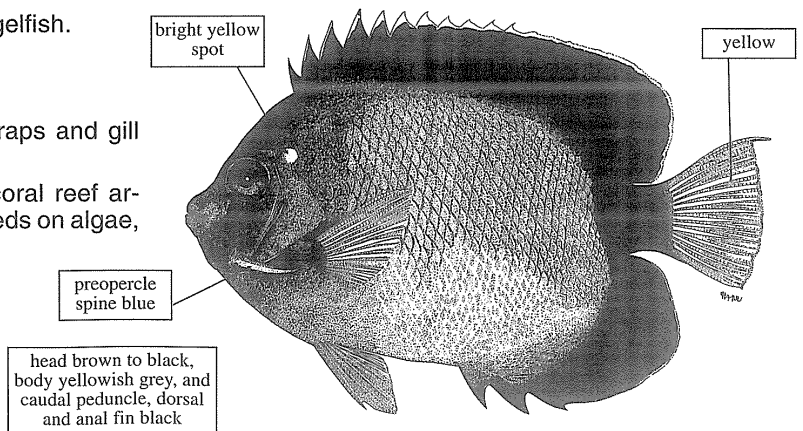
FAO names: En - Yellow-ear angelfish.

Local names:

Size: To 20 cm standard length.

Fisheries: Caught mainly with traps and gill nets.

Habitat and biology: Shallow coral reef areas, to a depth of about 35 m. Feeds on algae, sponges, and invertebrates.



*Pomacanthus asfur* (Forsskål, 1775)

POMACANTHIDAE

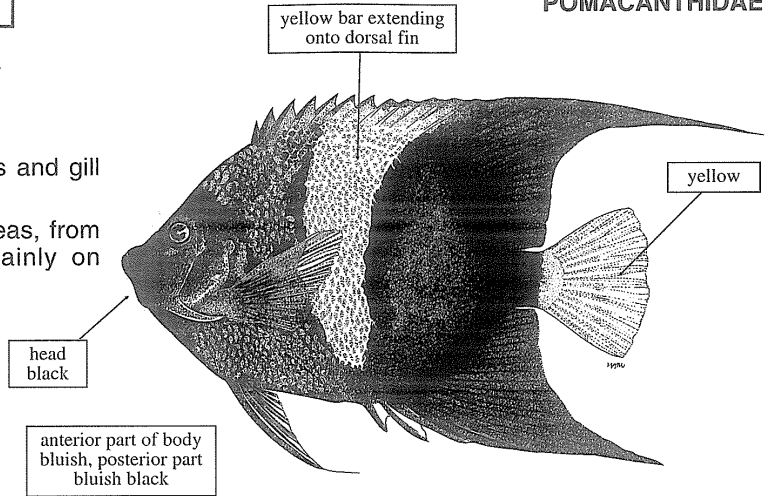
**FAO names:** En - Arabian angelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with traps and gill nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Coral reef areas, from depths of 15 to 30 m. Feeds mainly on sponges and tunicates.



*Pomacanthus chrysurus* Cuvier, 1831

POMACANTHIDAE

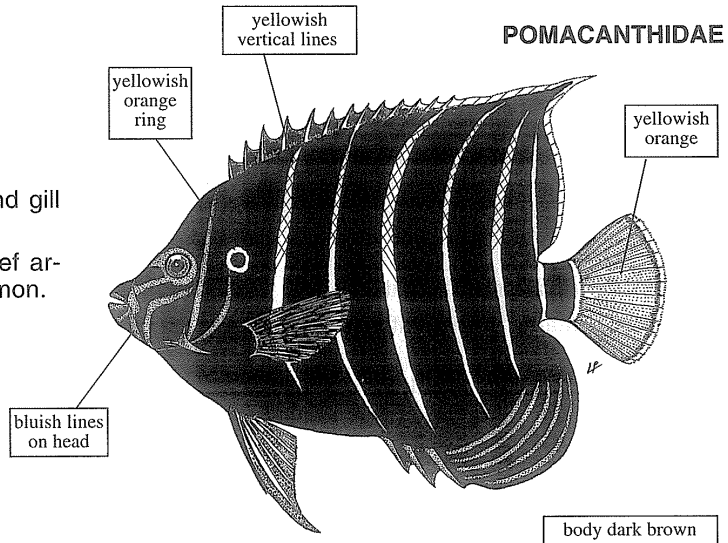
**FAO names:** En - Goldtail angelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 33 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with traps and gill nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coral reef areas, from depths of 1 to 25 m. Not common.



*Pomacanthus imperator* (Bloch, 1787)

POMACANTHIDAE

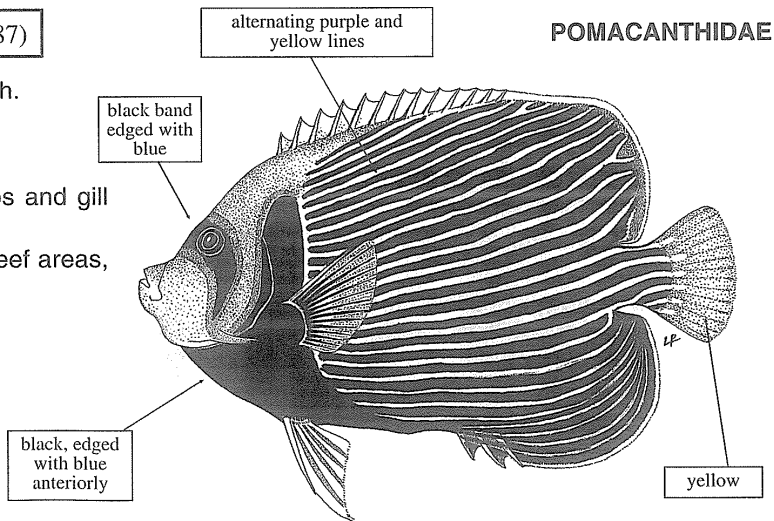
**FAO names:** En - Emperor angelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with traps and gill nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Outer coral reef areas, from depths of 1 to about 70 m.



*Pomacanthus maculosus* (Forsskål, 1775)

POMACANTHIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Yellowbar angelfish.

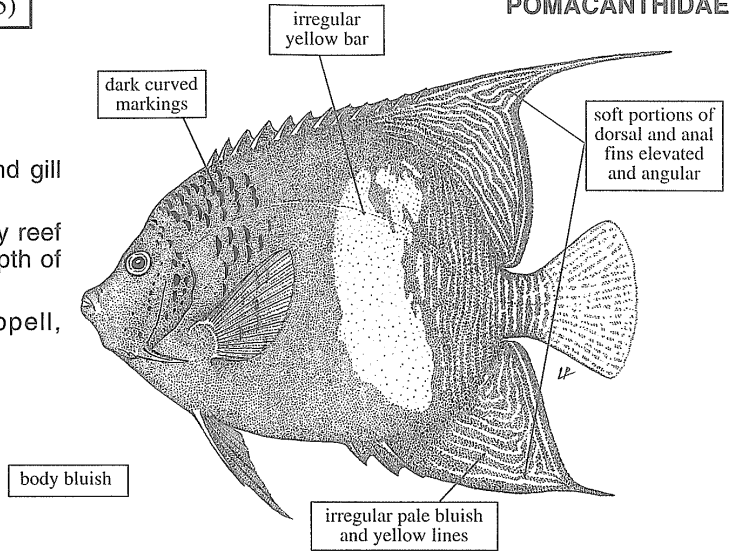
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 50 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with traps and gill nets.

**Habitat and biology:** More often in silty reef areas than in rich coral growth, to a depth of about 50 m.

**Remarks:** *Pomacanthus striatus* (Rüppell, 1835) is a junior synonym.



*Pomacanthus semicirculatus* (Cuvier, 1831)

POMACANTHIDAE

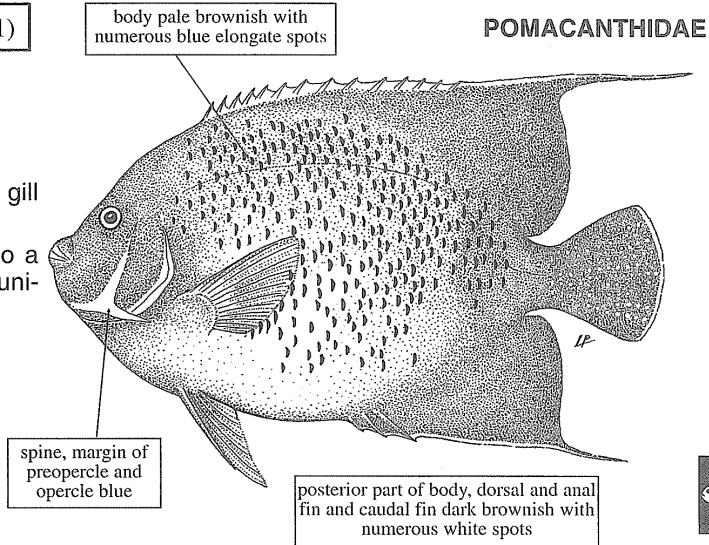
**FAO names:** En - Semicircle angelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 40 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with traps and gill nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Coral reef areas, to a depth of about 30 m. Feeds on sponges, tunicates, and algae.



*Pygoplites diacanthus* (Boddaert, 1772)

POMACANTHIDAE

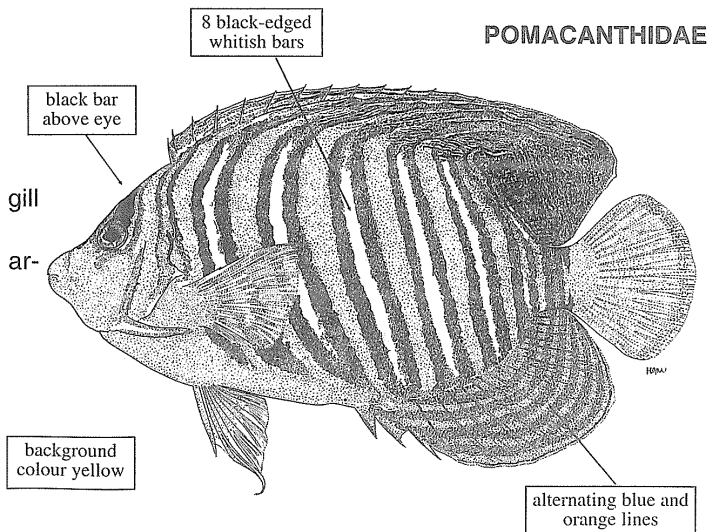
**FAO names:** En - Royal angelfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with traps and gill nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coral reef areas, from depths of 1 to 20 m.



## PENTACEROTIDAE

## Armourheads

*Histiopertus typus* Temminck and Schlegel, 1844

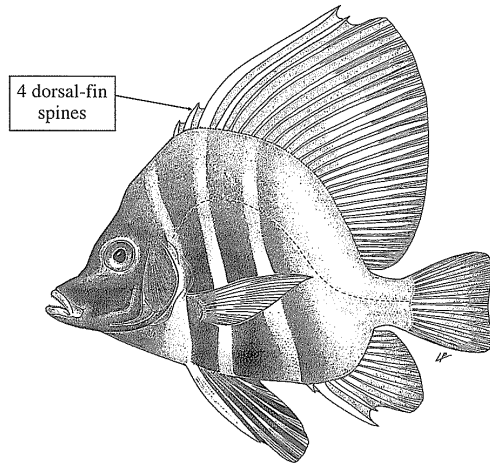
**FAO names:** En - Sailfin armourhead.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Bottom-dwelling, at depths of 40 to 400 m.



## CIRRHITIDAE

## Hawkfishes

*Cirrhitus pinnulatus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

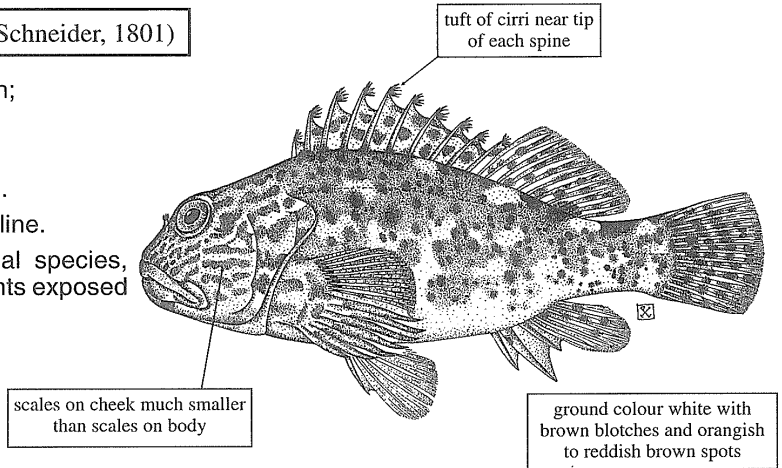
**FAO names:** En - Stocky hawkfish;  
Fr - Epervier de corail.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 23 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** A nocturnal species, living on rocky shores and reef fronts exposed to wave action. Feeds on crabs.



*Paracirrhites forsteri* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

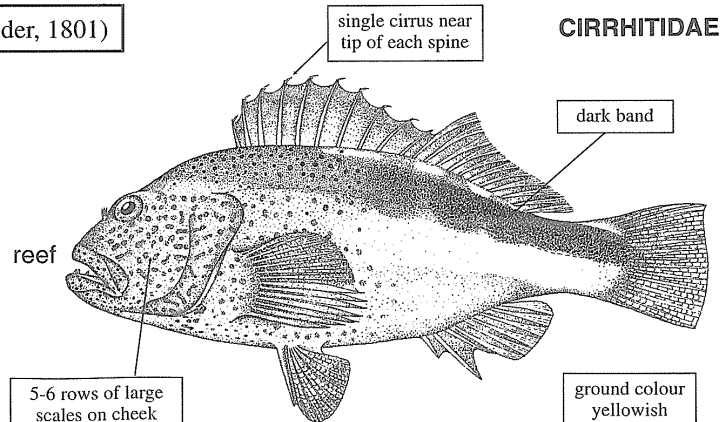
**FAO names:** En - Blackside hawkfish;  
Fr - Epervier à bande noire.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 22 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with hook-and-line.

**Habitat and biology:** A common coral reef species. Feeds mainly on small fishes.



CIRRHITIDAE



**MUGILIDAE**

**Mulletts**

*Crenimugil crenilabris* (Forsskål, 1775)

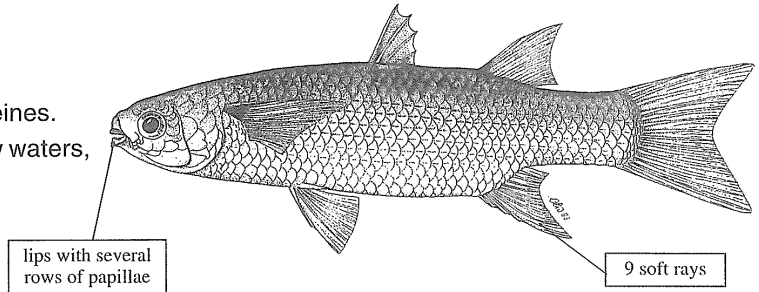
**FAO names:** En - Fringelip mullet; Fr - Mulet boxeur.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 26 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch with seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shallow waters, especially coral reef areas.



*Liza carinata* (Valenciennes, 1836)

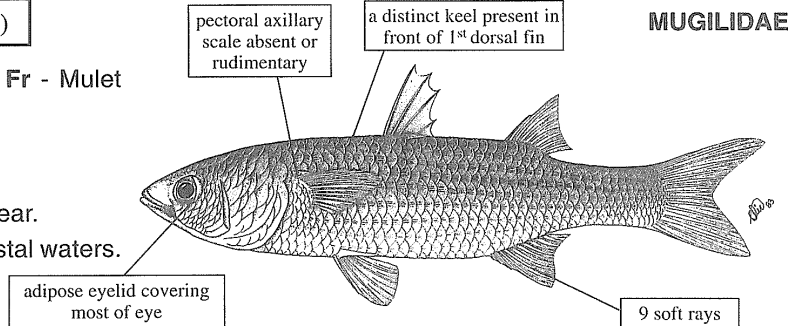
**FAO names:** En - Keeled mullet; Fr - Mulet caréné.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 18 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.



**MUGILIDAE**

*Liza macrolepis* (Smith, 1849)

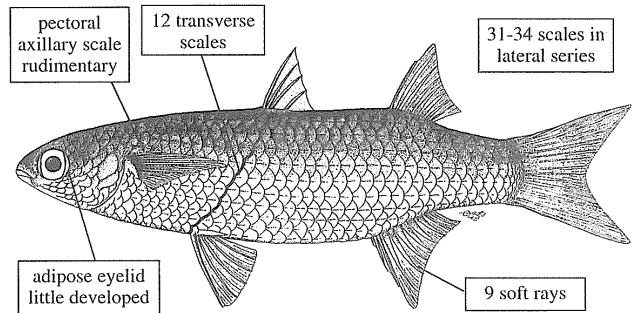
**FAO names:** En - Largescale mullet; Fr - Mulet à grandes écailles.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 26 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, castnets, stakenets, liftnets, and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling in shallow coastal waters, estuaries and backwaters; spawns at sea; feeds mainly on living and detrital organic matter taken with sand.



**MUGILIDAE**

*Liza melinoptera* (Valenciennes, 1836)

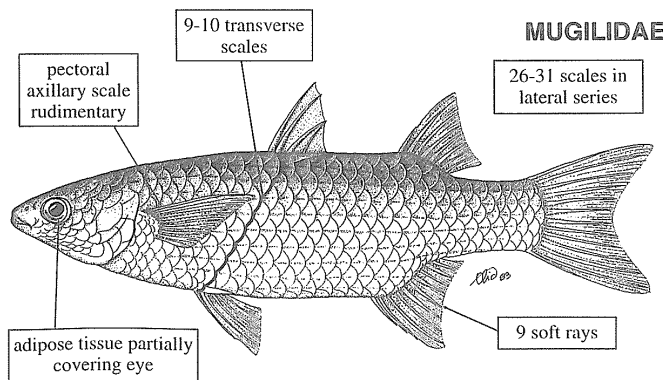
**FAO names:** En - Otomebora mullet; Fr - Mulet otomebora.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 22 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets catnets, stakenets, and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling in shallow coastal waters, lagoons and estuaries; feeds on small benthic animals and organic material contained in sand and mud.



**MUGILIDAE**



*Liza tade* (Forsskål, 1775)

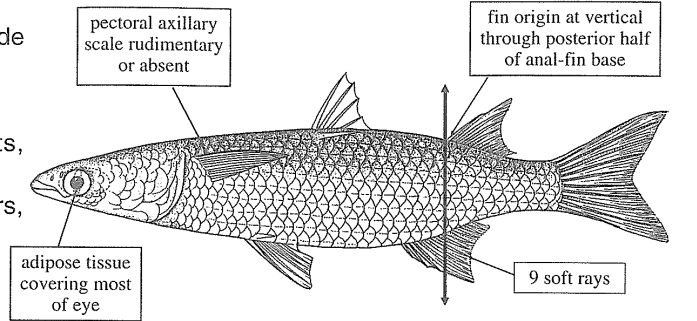
**FAO names:** En - Tade mullet; Fr - Mulet tade

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 70 cm, common to 33 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, castnets, stakenets, and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coastal waters, lagoons, backwaters, and estuaries.

*Liza vaigiensis* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

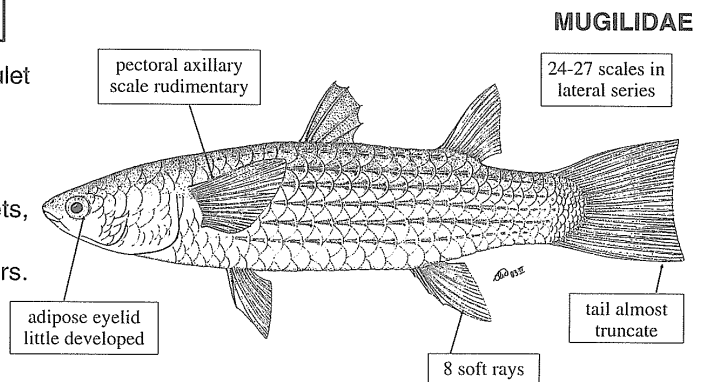
**FAO names:** En - Squaretail mullet; Fr - Mulet mopirot.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 55 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with castnets, stakenets, and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters.

*Mugil cephalus* Linnaeus, 1758

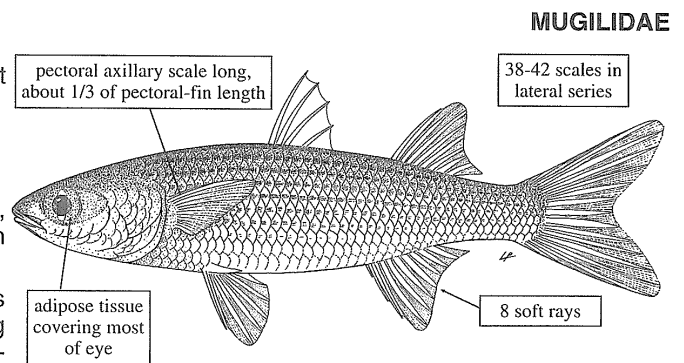
**FAO names:** En - Flathead mullet; Fr - Mulet cabot.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 90 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, castnets, stakenets, barrier-nets, lift-nets, and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling in estuaries and brackish water lagoons, also entering freshwaters; feeds on organic matter contained in sand.



pectoral axillary scale long, about 1/3 of pectoral-fin length

***Oedalechilus labiosus*** (Valenciennes, 1836)

MUGILIDAE

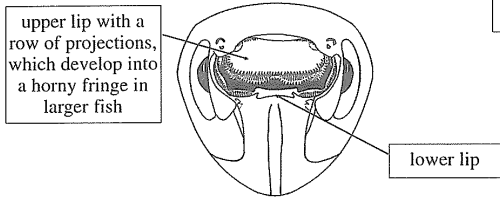
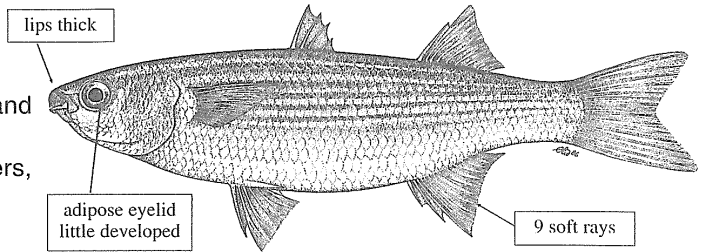
**FAO names:** En - Hornlip mullet; Fr - Mulet labéon.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, liftnets, and seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits coastal waters, mainly in coral reef areas.



anterior view of head

***Valamugil buchanani*** (Bleeker, 1853)

MUGILIDAE

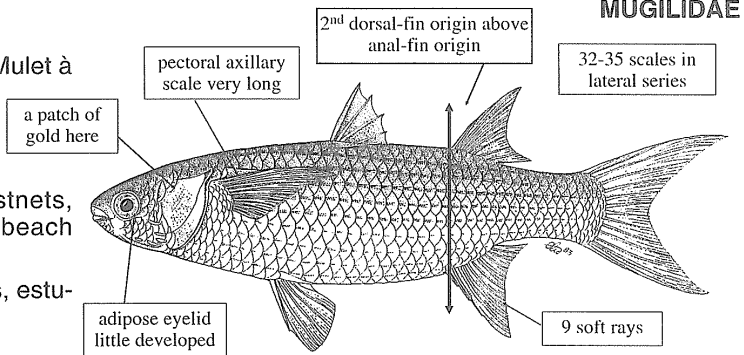
**FAO names:** En - Bluetail mullet; Fr - Mulet à queue bleue.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 48 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, castnets, stake or barrier nets, liftnets, and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, estuaries and also rivers.



***Valamugil cunnesius*** (Valenciennes, 1836)

MUGILIDAE

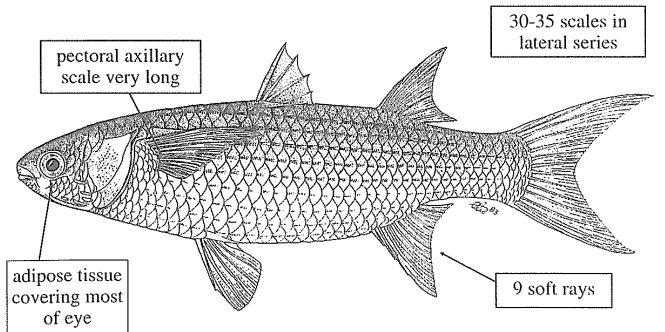
**FAO names:** En - Longarm mullet; Fr - Mulet longue aile.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 41 cm, common 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, castnets, stakenets, liftnets, beach seines, and trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling in shallow coastal waters, estuaries and backwaters, also entering freshwater; feeds on organic matter contained in sand and mud.



*Valamugil seheli* (Forsskål, 1775)

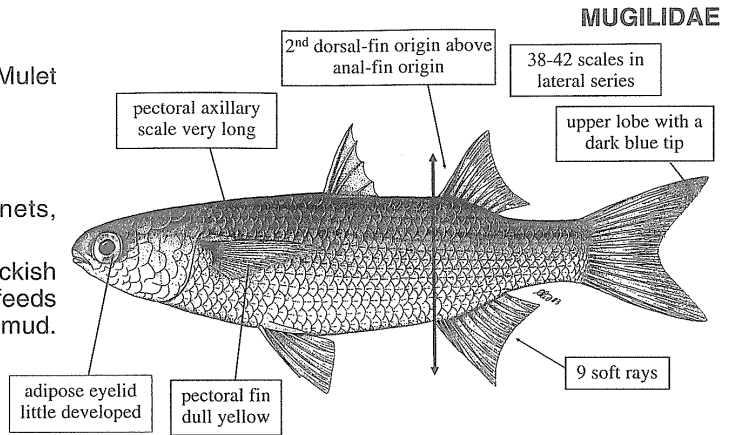
**FAO names:** En - Bluespot mullet; Fr - Mulet à tache bleue.

**Local names:** Caanood.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 24 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, castnets, stakenets, liftnets, and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Schooling in brackish waters and freshwaters; spawns at sea; feeds on organic matter contained in sand and mud.

**POLYNEMIDAE****Threadfins, tasselfishes***Polynemus plebeius* Broussonet, 1782

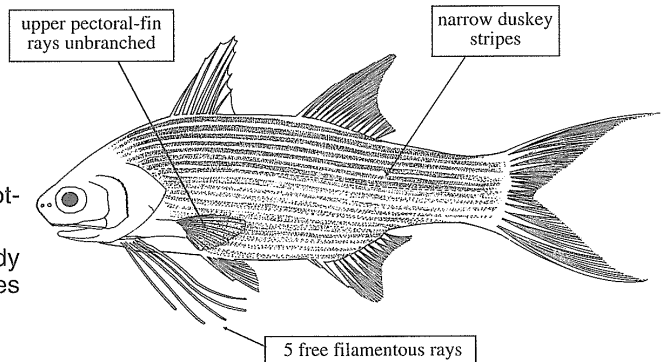
**FAO names:** En - Striped threadfin; Fr - Barbure rayé.

**Local names:** Samaduul.

**Size:** To 45 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Over shallow muddy bottoms. Feeds on small crustaceans, fishes and other benthic organisms.

*Polynemus sextarius* Bloch and Schneider, 1801

(plate XXIV, 154)

**POLYNEMIDAE**

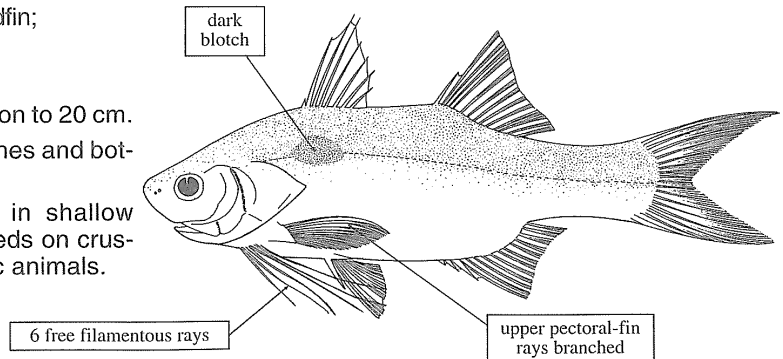
**FAO names:** En - Blackspot threadfin; Fr - Barbure tâche noire.

**Local names:** Samaduul.

**Size:** To 30 cm total length; common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines and bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal waters and estuaries. Feeds on crustaceans, fishes, and other benthic animals.

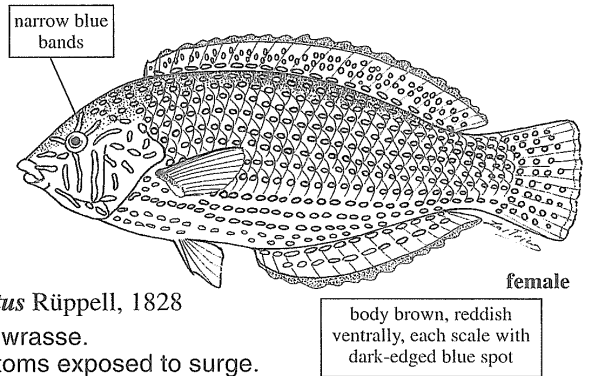
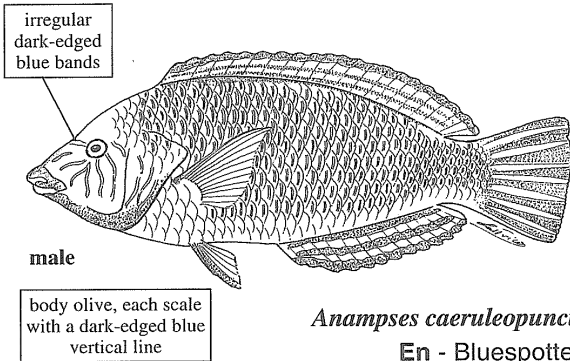


**LABRIDAE**

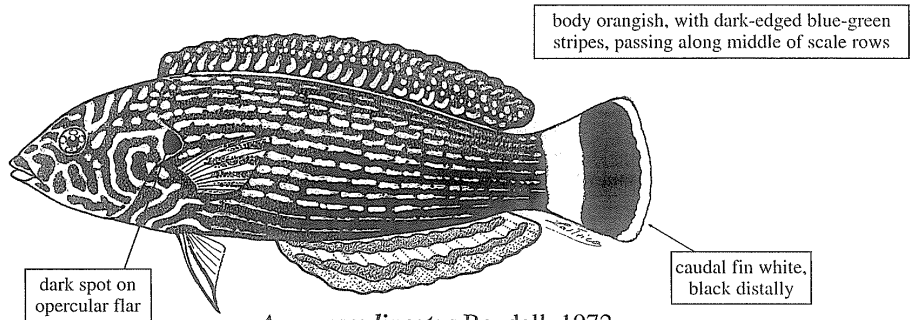
**Wrasses, hogfishes, coris, tuskfishes**

**Fisheries:** Mainly taken by hook-and-line, occasionally trawled. Marketed fresh, larger ones of commercial importance. Smaller species, like the cleaner wrass *Labroides dimidiatus*, are of interest to the aquarium trade.

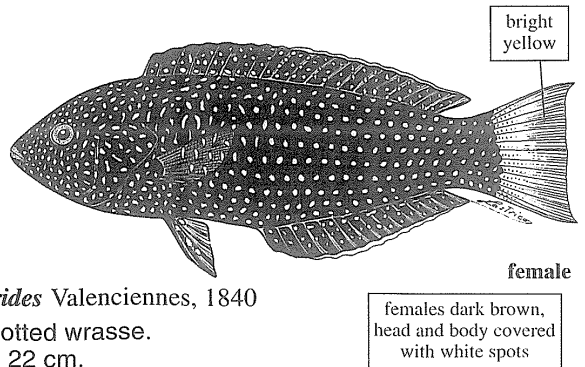
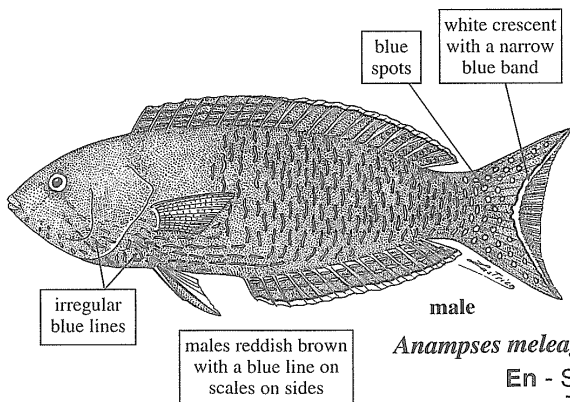
**Habitat and biology:** From shallow coastal waters to a depth of about 100 m. Occur on various habitats like coral reefs, rocks, and sandy bottoms. Feed on bottom-dwelling invertebrates, some on ectoparasites of other fishes.



*Anampses caeruleopunctatus* Rüppell, 1828  
**En - Bluespotted wrasse.**  
 To 42 cm; inshore, on rocky bottoms exposed to surge.  
 (plate XXIV, 155 and 156)

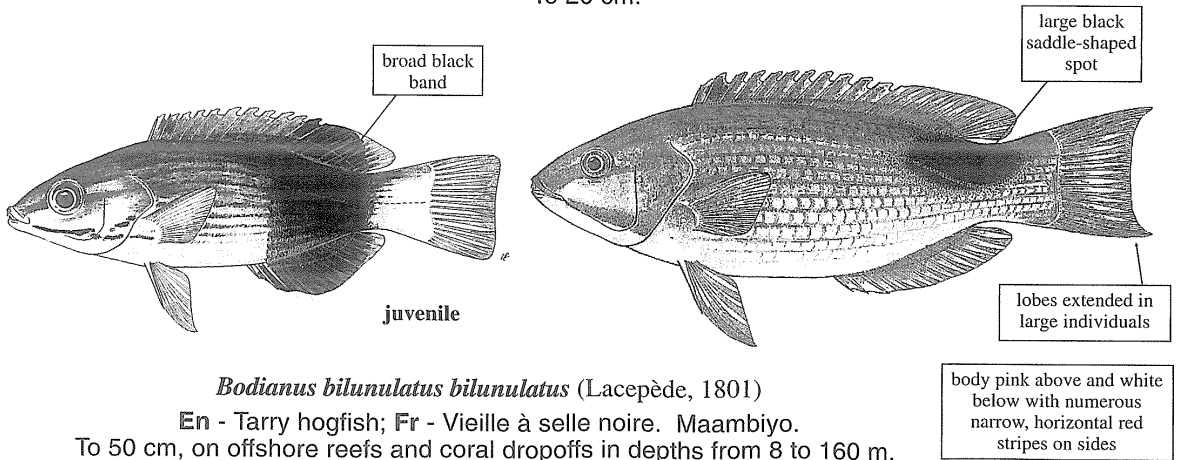
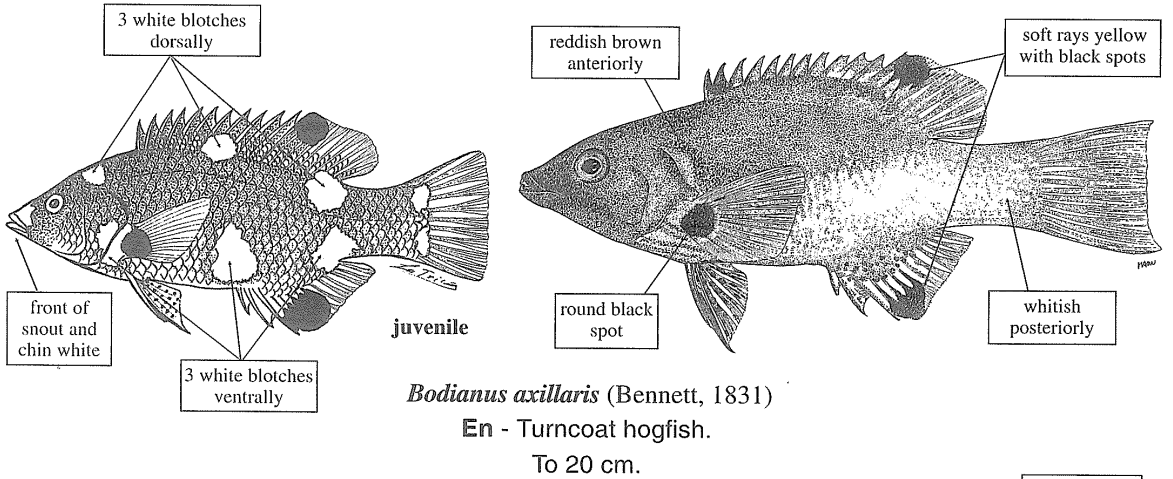
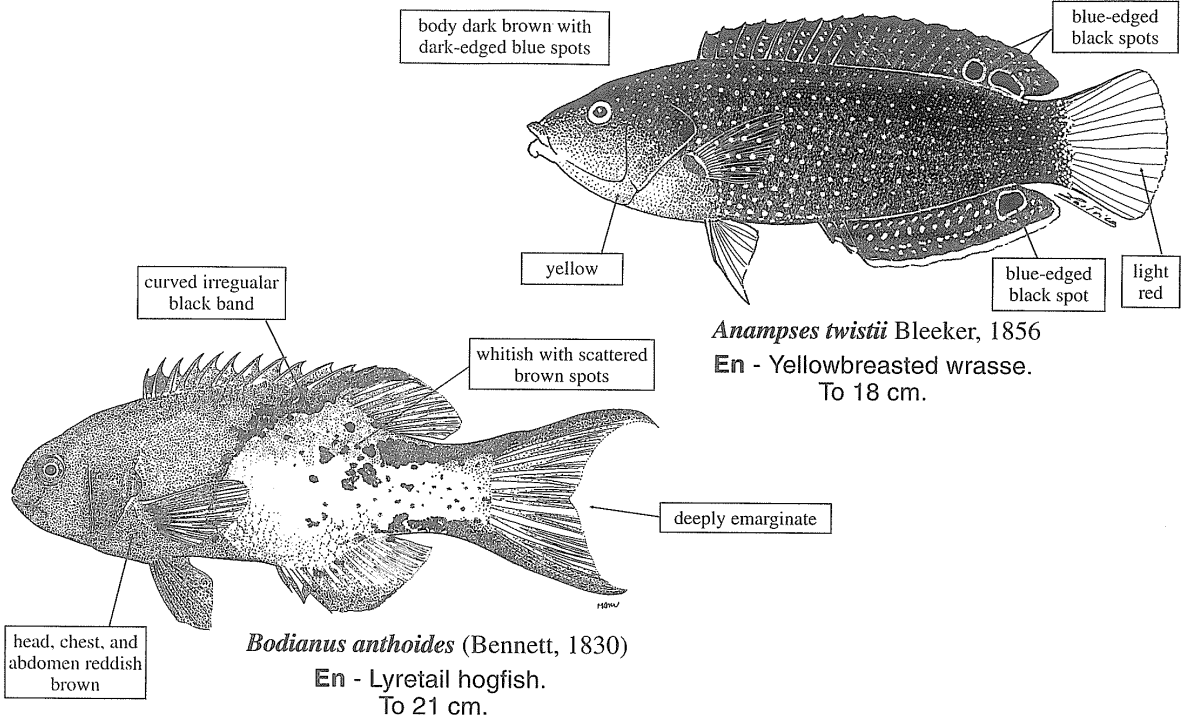


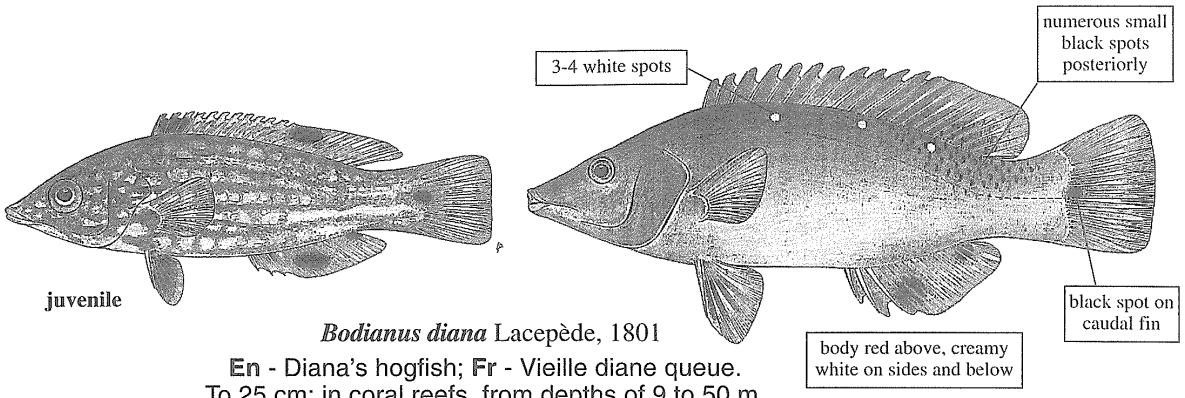
*Anampses lineatus* Randall, 1972  
**En - Lined wrasse.**  
 To 12 cm; rare in depths less than 20 m.



*Anampses meleagriles* Valenciennes, 1840  
**En - Spotted wrasse.**  
 To 22 cm.



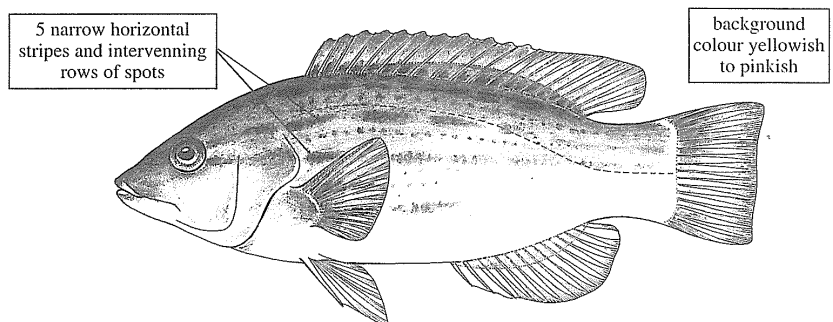




juvenile

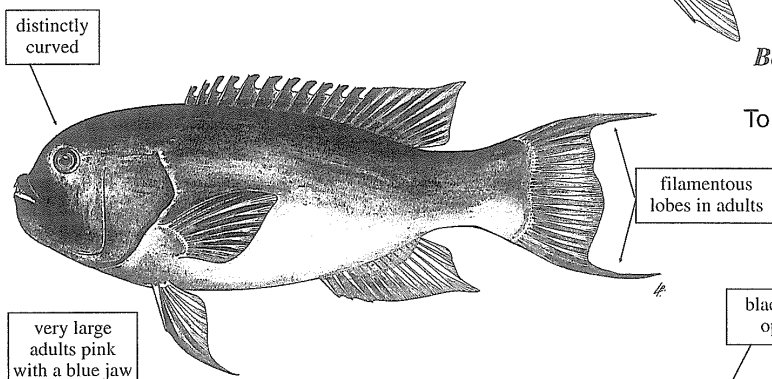
*Bodianus diana* Lacepède, 1801

En - Diana's hogfish; Fr - Vieille diane queue.  
To 25 cm; in coral reefs, from depths of 9 to 50 m.



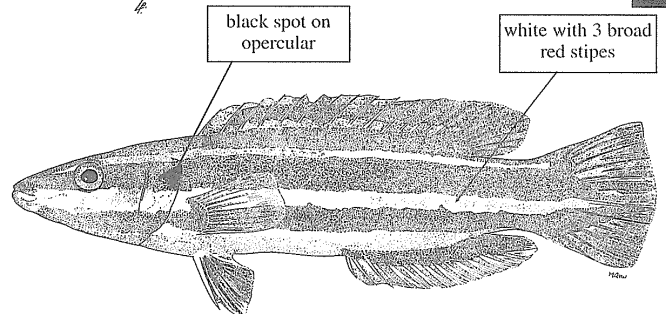
*Bodianus leucostictus* (Bennett, 1831)

En - Fourline hogfish.  
To 28 cm; in coral and rocky reefs, to depths of 50 m.



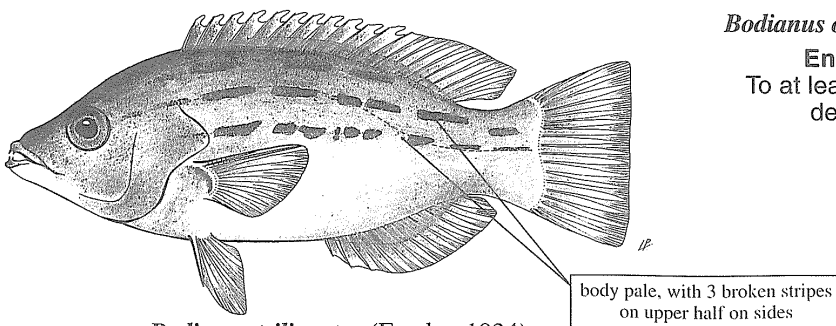
*Bodianus macrognathos* (Morris, 1974)

En - Giant hogfish.  
To 62 cm; over rocky bottoms, in depths of 25 to 65 m.



*Bodianus opercularis* (Guichenot, 1847)

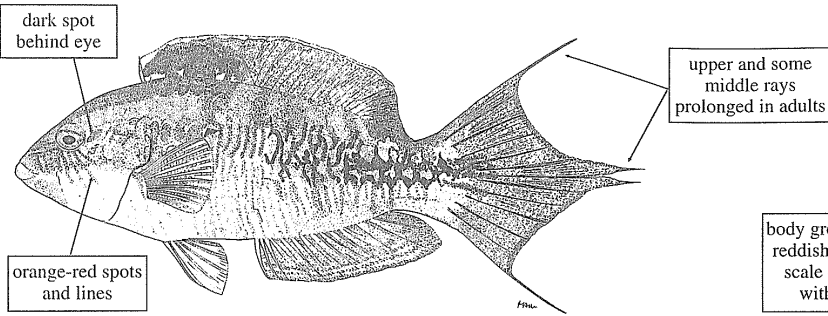
En - Blackspot hogfish.  
To at least 12 cm; deeper reefs, at depths less than 35 m.



*Bodianus trilineatus* (Fowler, 1934)

En - Threeline hogfish.  
To 25 cm; over rough bottoms, at depths of 50 to 100 m.





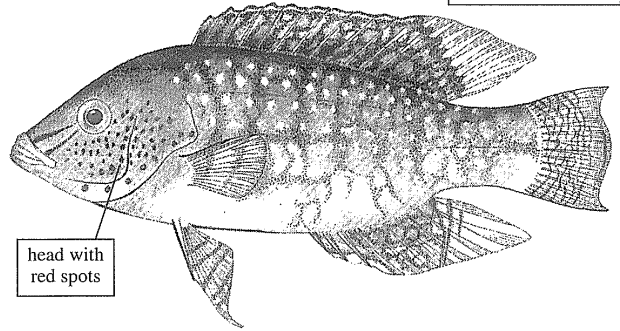
*Cheilinus binaculatus* Valenciennes, 1840

En - Two-spot wrasse.

To 15 cm; often in areas with thick vegetation.

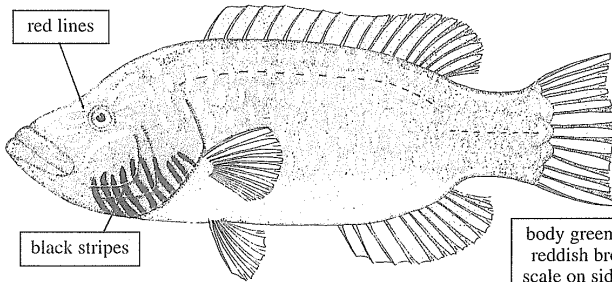
body greenish brown with reddish brown fins; each scale on sides usually with a bluish spot

small individuals with about 4 vertical brown bars on sides



*Cheilinus chlorurus* (Bloch, 1791)

En - Floral wrasse; Fr - Vieille tachetée.  
To 36 cm; on coral reefs, to depths of 15 m.  
(plate XIV, 157)



*Cheilinus diagrammus* (Lacepède, 1801)

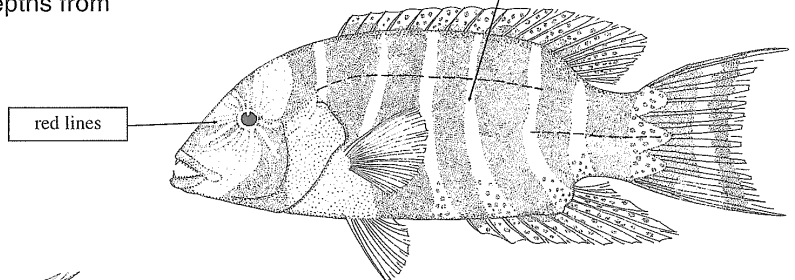
En - Cheeklined wrasse; Fr - Vieille barbe noire.  
To 37 cm; on coral reefs, at depths from 10 to at least 50 m.

(plate XIV, 158)

body greenish brown above, reddish brown below; each scale on sides with a red spot

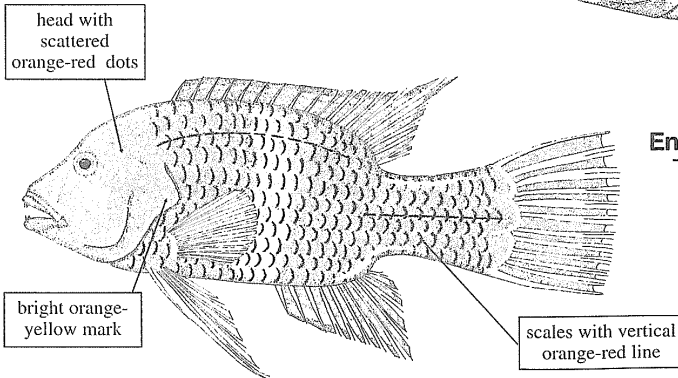
6 yellowish to white bars

body mostly greenish brown to black



*Cheilinus fasciatus* Bloch, 1791

En - Redbreast wrasse; Fr - Madame tombée ragé.  
To 40 cm; on coral reefs, to depths of 30 m.  
(plate XXV, 159)



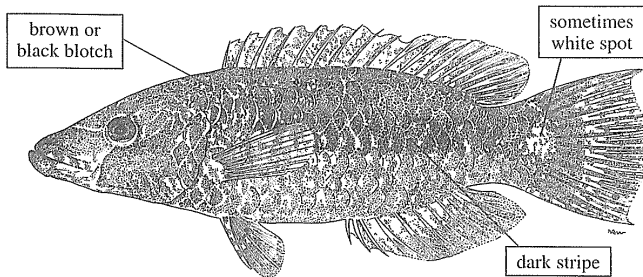
body greenish

*Cheilinus lunulatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

En - Broomtail wrasse.

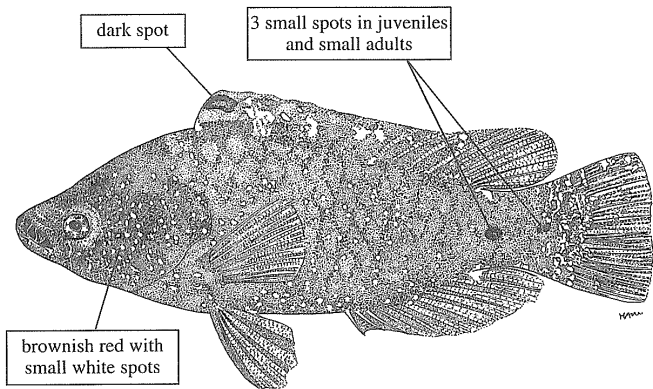
To 40 cm; on coral reefs, sand and seagrass habitats, to depths of 30 m.





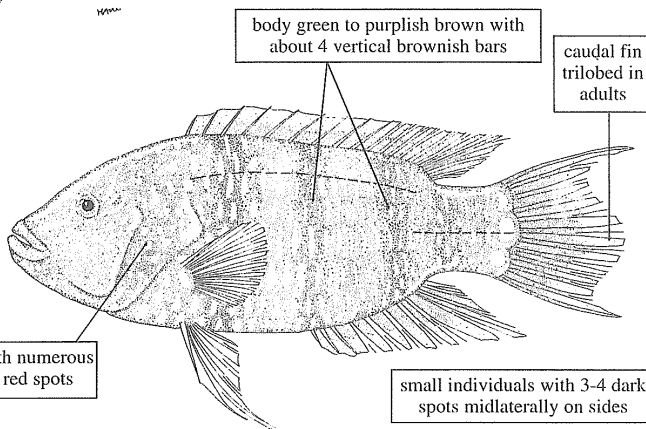
*Cheilinus mentalis* Rüppell, 1828

En - Mental wrasse.  
To at least 20 cm.



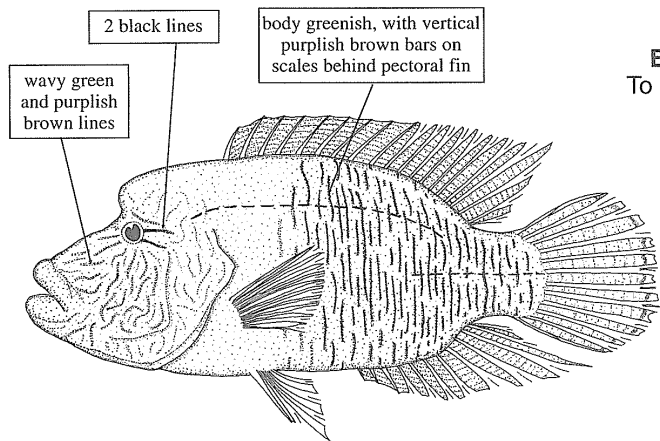
*Cheilinus oxycephalus* Bleeker, 1853

En - Snooty wrasse.  
To 17 cm; on coral reefs.



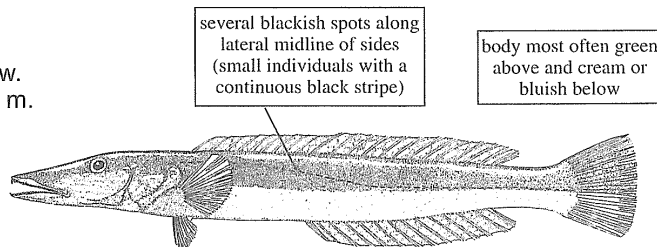
*Cheilinus trilobatus* Lacepède, 1801

En - Tripletail wrasse; Fr - Vieille triple queue.  
To 40 cm; on coral reefs, at depths to below 20 m.  
(plate XXV, 160)



*Cheilinus undulatus* Rüppell, 1828

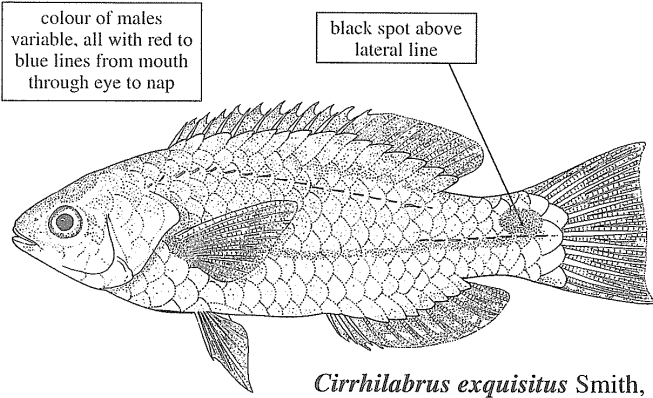
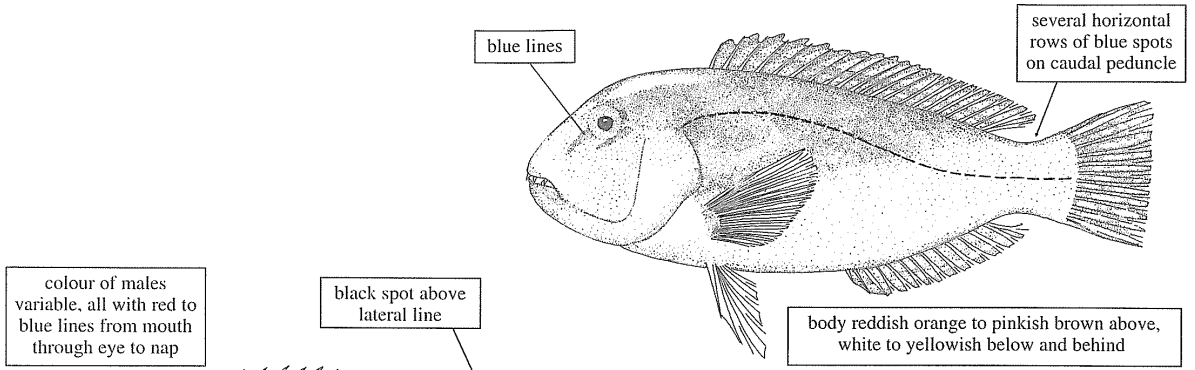
En - Humphead wrasse; Fr - Napoléon. Jalou.  
To 2.0 m; on coral reefs, at depths of about 30 m.  
(plate XXV, 161)



*Cheilio inermis* (Forsskål, 1775)

En - Cigar wrasse; Fr - Longue girelle. Zuu-Zow.  
To 50 cm; in back reef and weedy areas, at depths of 1 to 10 m.  
(plate XXV, 162)



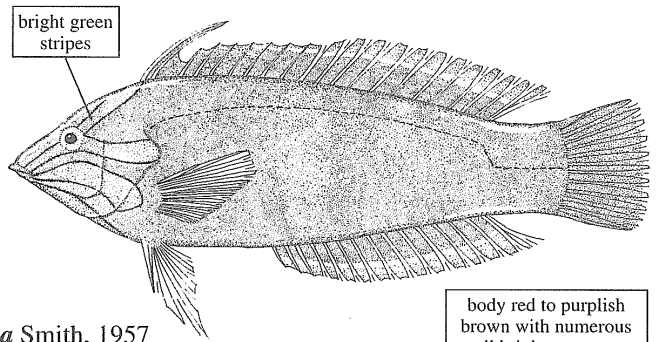
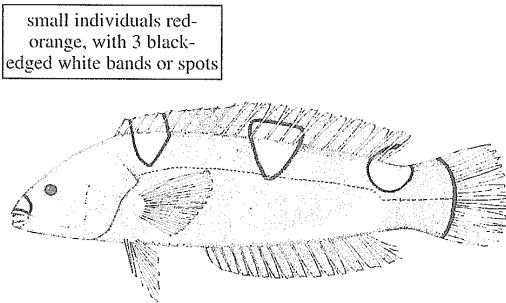


body reddish orange to pinkish brown above, white to yellowish below and behind

*Choerodon robustus* Günther, 1862  
**En** - Robust tuskfish; **Fr** - Maldague robuste.  
 To 28 cm; on coral and rocky reefs, at depths of 40 to 70 m.

*Cirrhilabrus exquisitus* Smith, 1957

**En** - Exquisite wrasse.  
 To 11 cm; on reefs, from depths of 6 to 32 m.



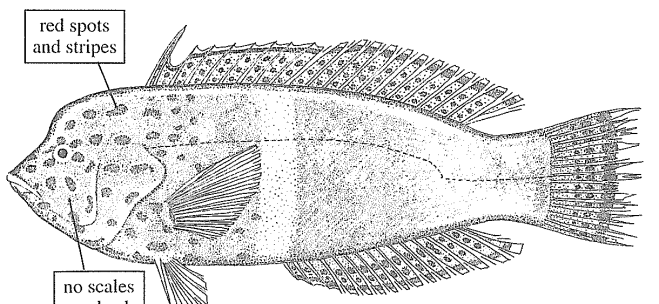
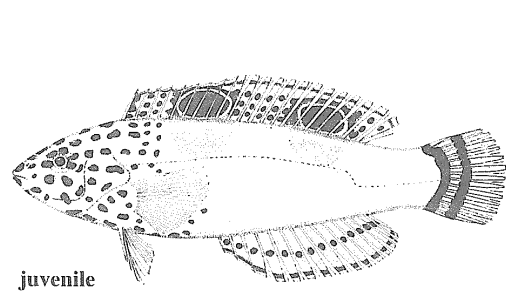
juvenile

*Coris africana* Smith, 1957

**En** - African coris; **Fr** - Clarisse african.

To 40 cm; juveniles in shallow tide pools, adults in weed, rock and coral areas, to depths of about 20 m. In Fischer and Bianchi (1984) recorded as *C. gaimard africana* Smith, 1957.

(plate XXV, 163)



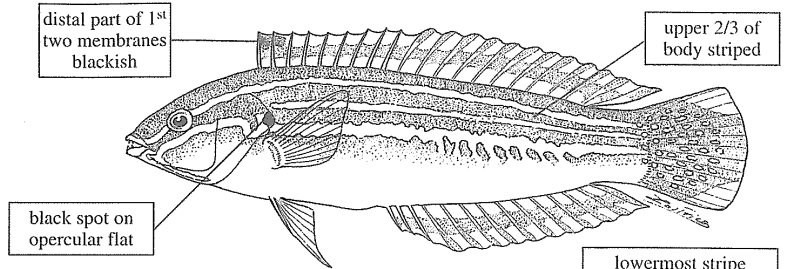
juvenile

*Coris aygula* Lacepède, 1802

**En** - Clown wrasse; **Fr** - Clarisse clown. Maabiyo.

To 1.1 m; juveniles common in shallow tide pools, adults in weed, rock and coral areas, at depths of about 20 m.

(plate XXV, 164 and 165)

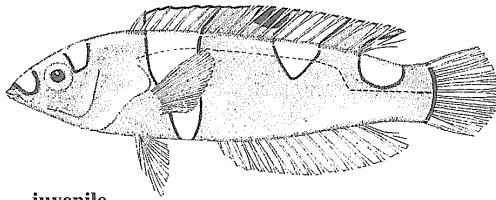


*Coris caudimacula* Quoy & Gaimard, 1834

En - Spottail coris.

To 20 cm; associated with reefs.

small individuals red-orange, with 5 black-edged white bands or spots; prominent black spot on dorsal fin



juvenile

*Coris frerei* Günther, 1866

En - Queen coris; Fr - Girelle reine.

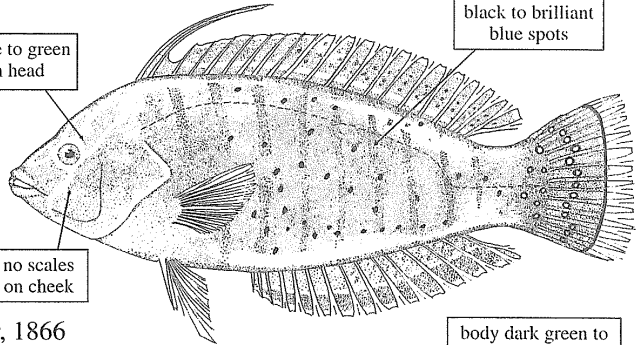
To 60 cm; juveniles in shallow tide pools, adults in weed, rock and coral areas, to depths of about 20 m. In Fischer and Bianchi (1984) recorded as *C. formosa* (Bennett, 1830).

(plate XXV, 166)

brilliant blue to green stripes on head

no scales on cheek

black to brilliant blue spots

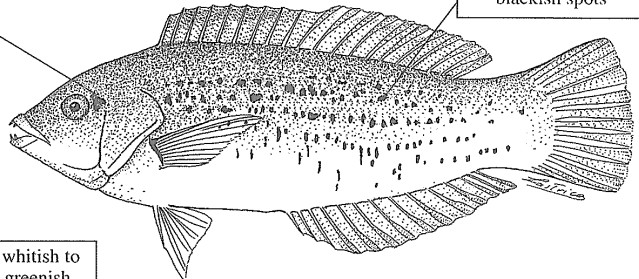


body dark green to purplish brown, turning red forward on sides and head

dark spot behind eye

body whitish to pale greenish

scattered light red to blackish spots



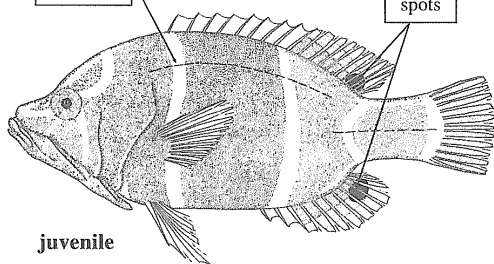
*Coris variegata* (Rüppell, 1835)

En - Dapple coris.

To 20 cm.

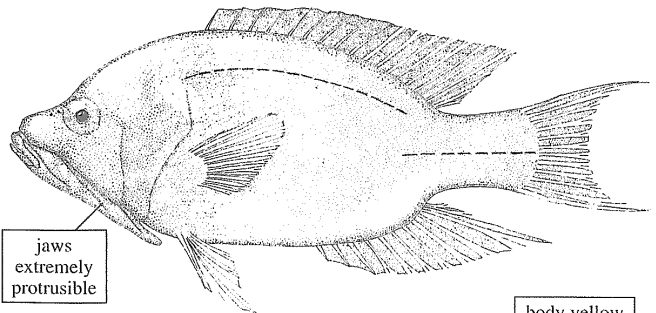
white horizontal bands

black spots



juvenile

jaws extremely protrusible

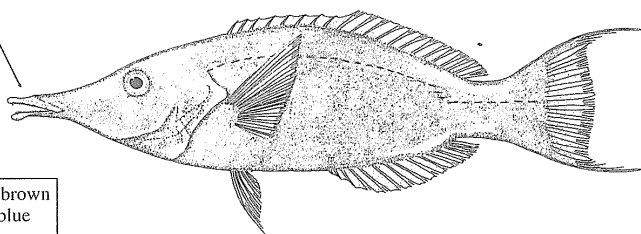


*Epibulus insidiator* (Pallas, 1770)

En - Slingjaw wrasse; Fr - Epibule gourami. Maabiyo. To 54 cm; on shallow coral reefs at depths of 5 or 6 m.

body yellow or brown

snout produced into a prominent tube-like structure tipped with jaws



body greenish brown to greenish blue

*Gomphosus caeruleus* Lacepède, 1801

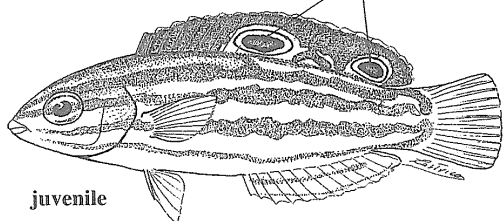
En - Bird wrasse; Fr - Poisson oiseau.

To 30 cm; on rocky and coral reefs at depths of 1 to 15 m.

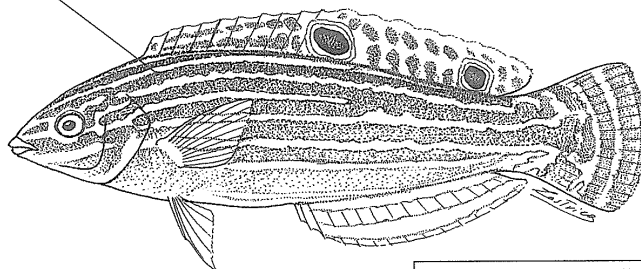
(plate XXVI, 167)

blue spots surrounded by black and white

dark green stripes



juvenile



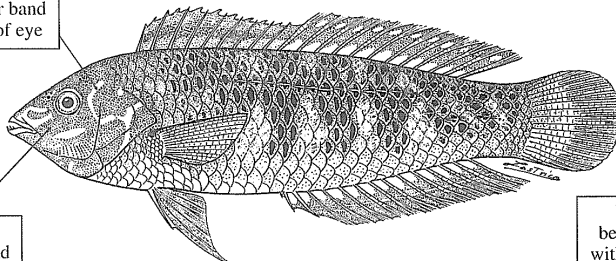
salmon pink stripes dorsally, yellowish ventrally

*Halichoeres cosmetus* Randall & Smith, 1982

En - Adorned wrasse.

To at least 11 cm; on coral reefs and rocky substrata.

vertical blue spot or band behind upper half of eye



oblique red streaks on head

body greenish brown, becoming white ventrally, with 6-7 reddish brown bars

*Halichoeres dussumieri* (Valenciennes, 1839)

En - Dussumier's wrasse.

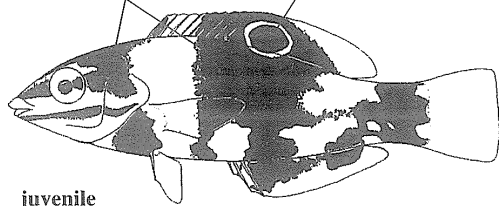
To 14 cm; on rocky and weedy bottoms.

body with 3 black bars

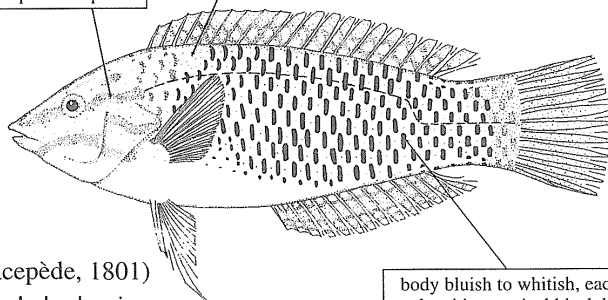
black spot encircled by yellow

head bluish grey, with prominent red horizontal wavy stripes and spots

prominent yellow patch



juvenile



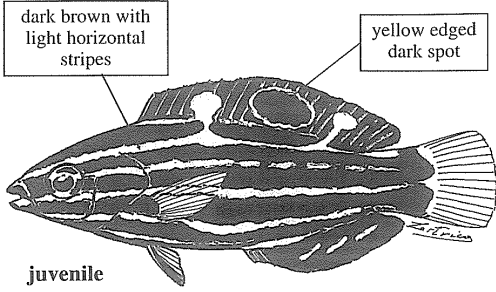
body bluish to whitish, each scale with a vertical black bar

*Halichoeres hortulanus* (Lacepède, 1801)

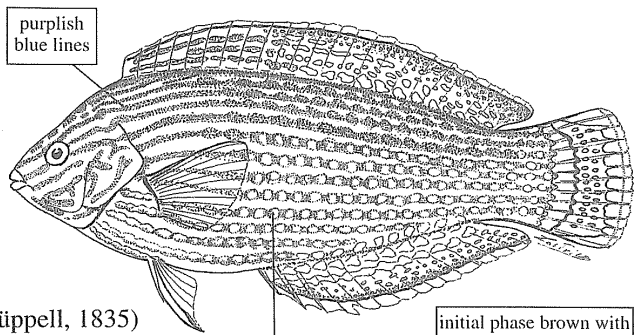
En - Checkerboard wrasse; Fr - Lalo damier.

To 25.5 cm; on coral reefs at depths of 1 to at least 20 m.

(plate XXVI, 168)



juvenile

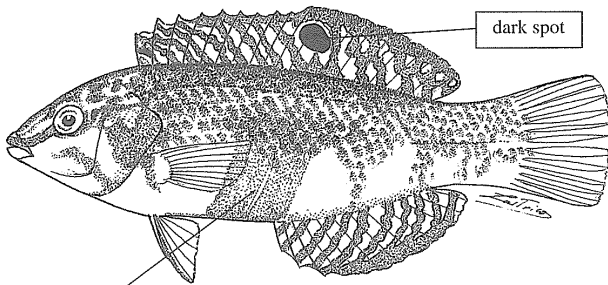


*Halichoeres marginatus* (Rüppell, 1835)

**En** - Dusky wrasse.  
To 18 cm.

terminal phase greenish to orange-brown with lines of blue-edged greenish spots; caudal fin with a green crescent

initial phase brown with faint lighter stripes following scale rows; 2 yellow-edged blue spots in dorsal fin; caudal fin whitish



*Halichoeres nebulosus* (Valenciennes, 1839)

**En** - Nebulous wrasse.  
To 11.5 cm; inshore, juveniles in sandy areas, adults on exposed rocky bottoms.

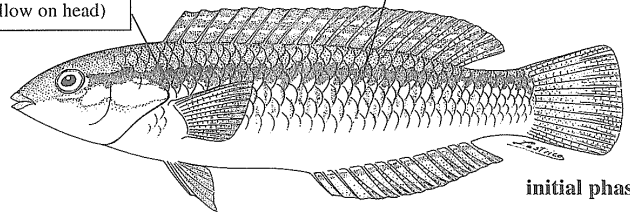
large light red to pink area, a white band in front and 1-2 in the middle

dark spot

terminal males green with a lavender-pink zigzag stripe and a blackish blotch on the anterior upper side; head with broad lavender-pink bands

initial phase pale olivaceous to yellowish green on back, white below

brown or blackish zigzag stripe (edged in yellow on head)



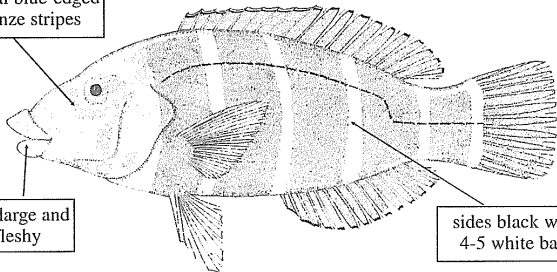
initial phase

*Halichoeres scapularis* (Bennett, 1831)

**En** - Zigzag wrasse.  
To 20 cm; in bays or lagoons on sand, rubble or seagrass substrata near reefs or rocky areas.

head greenish above, yellowish below, with several blue-edged bronze stripes

small individuals with yellowish bars on body continuing as yellow bars on blackish head



lips large and fleshy

sides black with 4-5 white bars

*Hemigymnus fasciatus* (Bloch, 1792)

**En** - Barred thicklip; **Fr** - Tamarin à bandes noires.

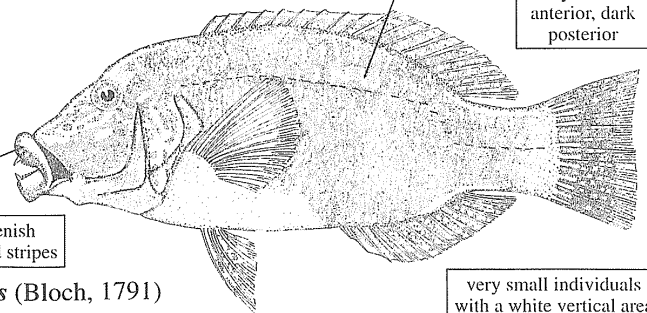
To 40 cm; on coral reefs at depths of 1 to at least 20 m.

scales with bluish spots

body whitish anterior, dark posterior

lips large and fleshy, the lower split on midline

head light blue above, greenish below, with reddish spots and stripes



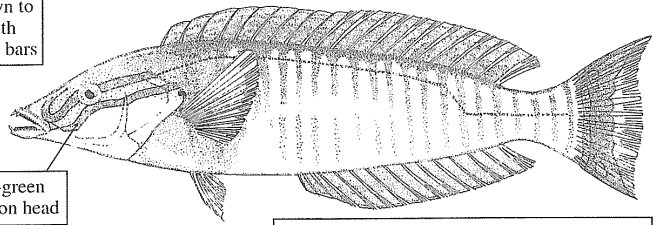
*Hemigymnus melapterus* (Bloch, 1791)

**En** - Blackeye thicklip; **Fr** - Tamarin vert. Maabiyo.

To 90 cm, common to 50 cm; on coral reefs at depths of 1 to at least 20 m.

very small individuals with a white vertical area between dorsal-fin and anal-fin origin

initial phase brown to olive-brown with 17-19 dark brown bars

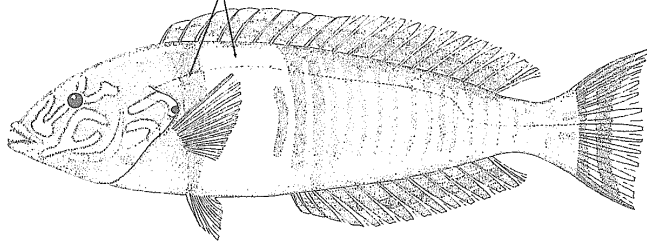


terminal male phase green, shading to blue-green ventrally, with 17 purplish red bars

initial phase pale greenish, bluish, or pinkish with 20-23 orangish brown bars

terminal male phase with a deep blue to purple bar followed by a broad light red bar

blue-green bands on head



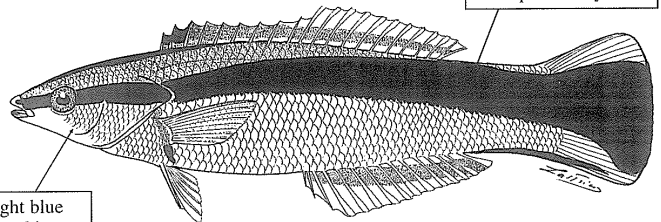
*Hologymnosus annulatus* (Lacepède, 1801)

En - Ring wrasse; Fr - Colombine annelé.  
To 37.5 cm; on coral and rocky reefs at depths of at least 30 m.

*Hologymnosus doliatus* (Lacepède, 1801)

En - Pastel wrasse; Fr - Colombine pastel.  
To 50 cm, common to 38 cm; on coral or rocky reefs at depths of at least 30 m.

black stripe broadening posteriorly

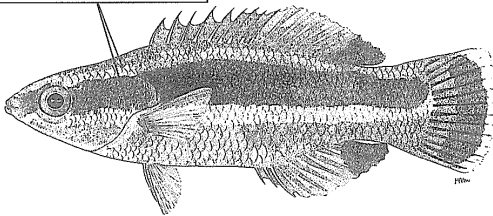


adults light blue shading to white or yellowish anteriorly

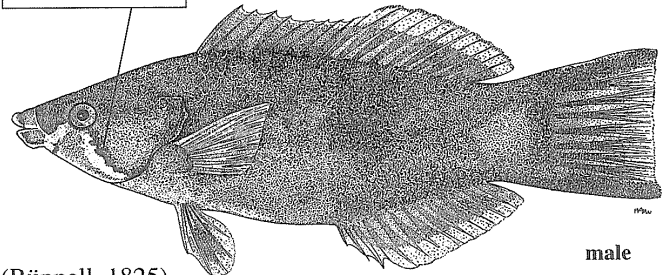
*Labroides dimidiatus* (Valenciennes, 1839)

En - Cleaner wrasse.  
To 11.5 cm. Feeds on ectoparasites of other fishes; establishes cleaning stations on the reef.

purplish grey with 2 bright blue stripes



curved blue band



juveniles and females

*Larabicus quadrilineatus* (Rüppell, 1825)

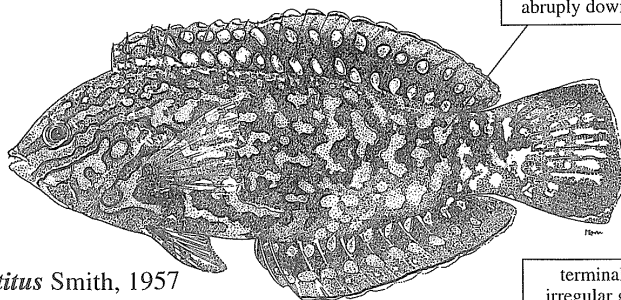
En - Fourline wrasse.

To 11.5 cm; the young are cleaners, adults feed on coral polyps.

body purplish grey

male

body blackish red in terminal phase, orange in initial phase



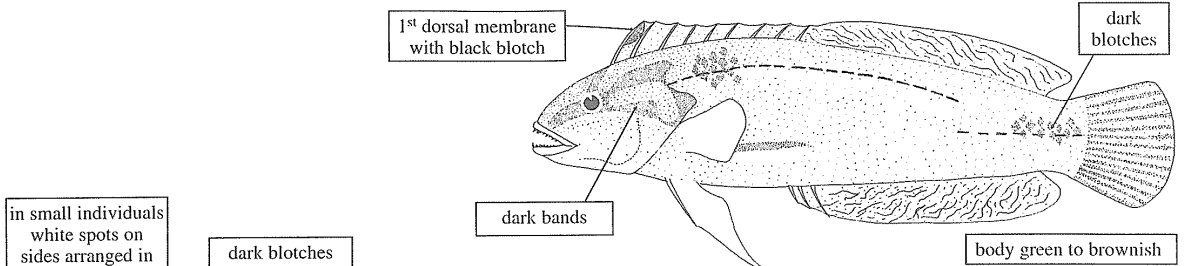
lateral line curved abruptly downwards

*Macropharyngodon bipartitus* Smith, 1957

En - Vermiculate wrasse.

To 13 cm.

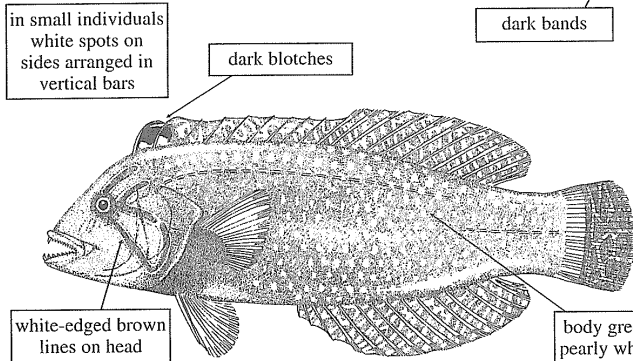
terminal phase with irregular greenish spots (white spots in juvenile)



*Novaculichthys macrolepidotus* (Bloch, 1791)

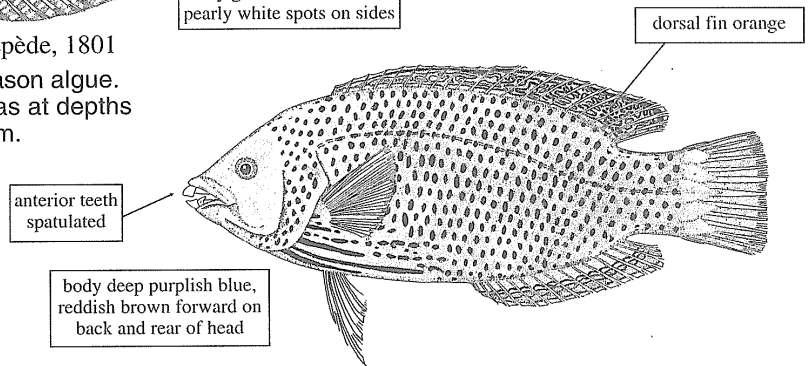
En - Seagrass wrasse.

To at least 13 cm; in seagrasses or dense beds of algae.



*Novaculichthys taeniourus* Lacepède, 1801

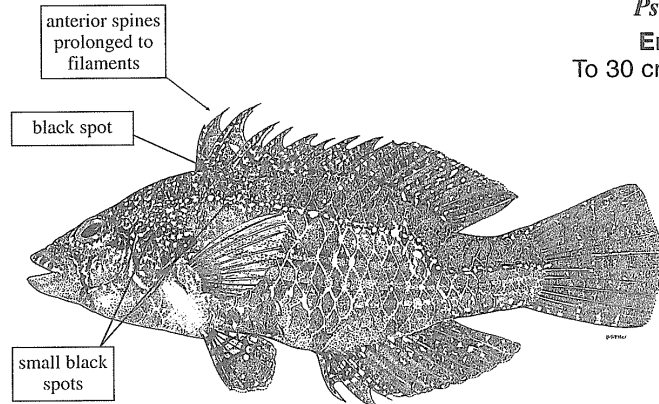
En - Rockmover wrasse; Fr - Rason algue. To 30 cm; in shallow weedy areas at depths of a few to at least 25 m.



*Pseudodax moluccanus* (Valenciennes, 1839)

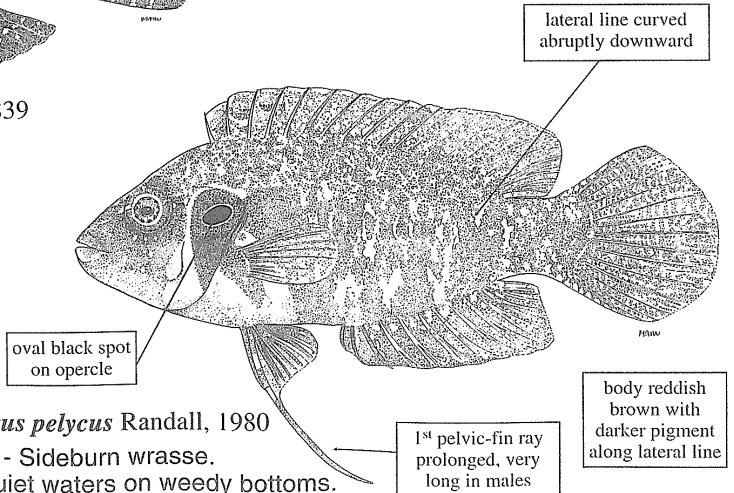
En - Chiseltooth wrasse; Fr - Vieille ciseau.

To 30 cm; on rock and coral reefs to a depth of 60 m.



*Pteragogus flagellifer* Valenciennes, 1839

En - Cocktail wrasse. To 20 cm; on weedy bottoms.

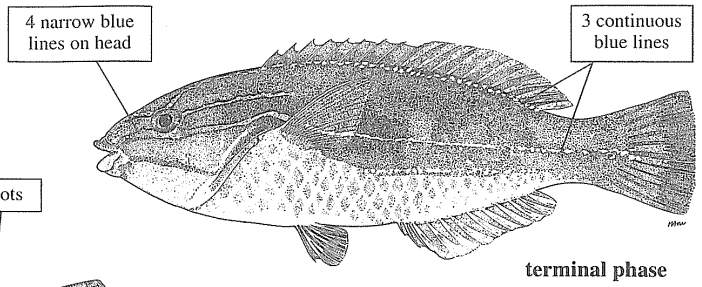
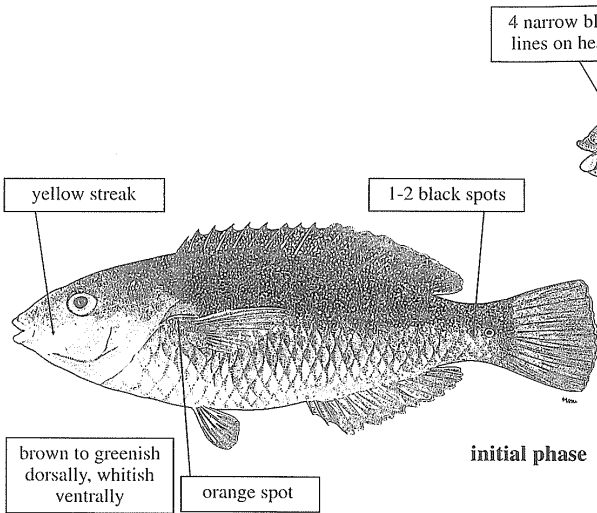


*Pteragogus pelycus* Randall, 1980

En - Sideburn wrasse.

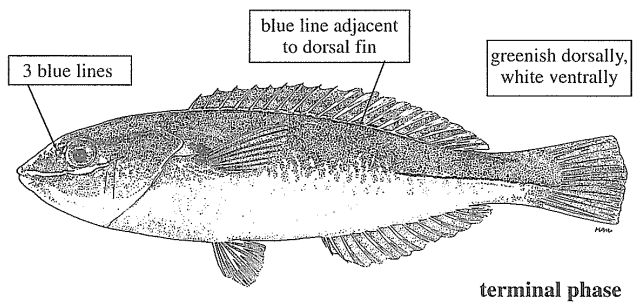
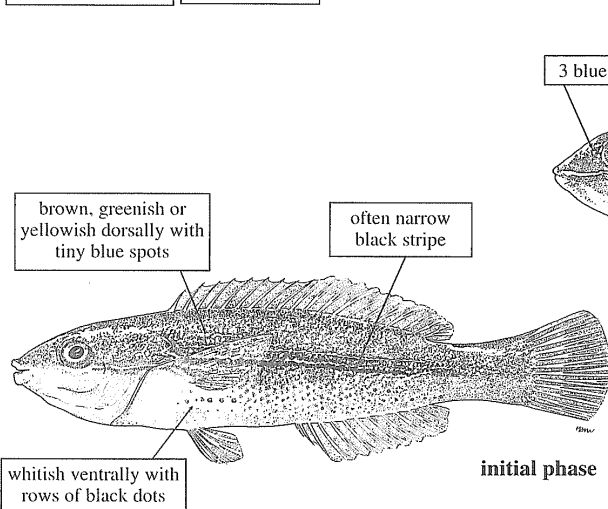
To 15 cm; in quiet waters on weedy bottoms.





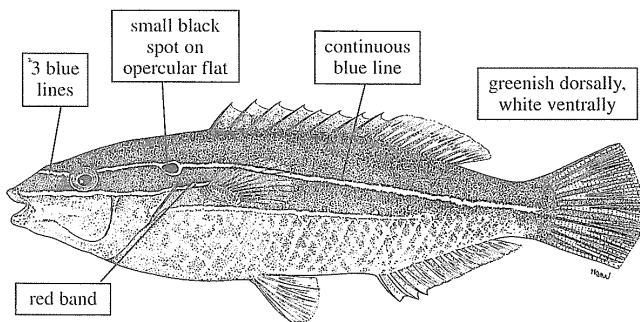
*Stethojulis albobittata* (Bonaterre, 1788)

**En** - Bluelined wrasse.  
To 13 cm; a shallow-reef dweller.



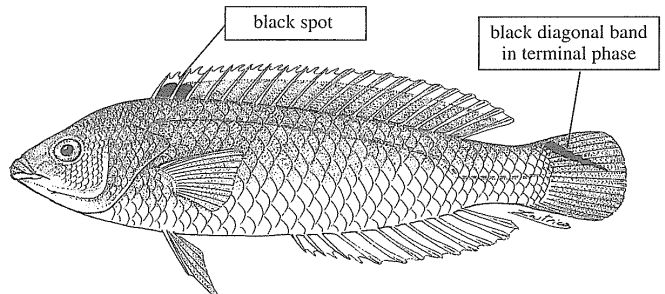
*Stethojulis interrupta* (Bleeker, 1851)

**En** - Cutribbon wrasse.  
To 13 cm.



*Stethojulis strigiventer* (Bennett, 1832)

**En** - Three-ribbon wrasse.  
To 15 cm; on substrates with heavy benthic plant growth.



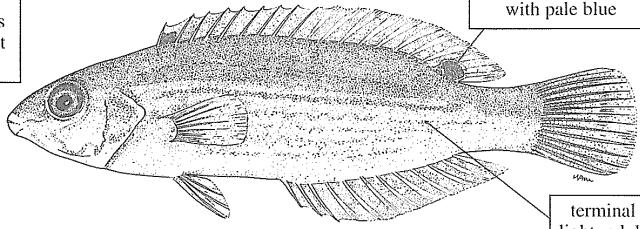
*Suezichthys caudovittatus* (Steindachner, 1898)

**En** - Spottail wrasse.  
To at least 10.5 cm; at depths of 50 to 130 m.



initial phase orangish dorsally, scales on sides with pink centres and broad yellow margin, 8 faint pinkish bars on body

black spots rimmed with pale blue

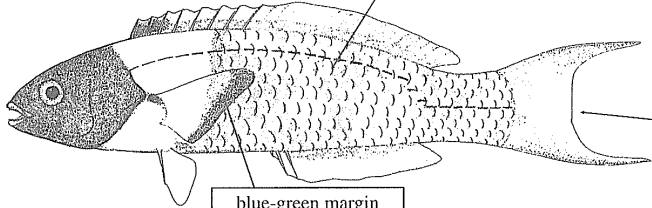


terminal phase light red dorsally, with yellow-edged olive lines

*Suezichthys russelli* Randall, 1981  
En - Russell's wrasse.  
To at least 7.5 cm.

juveniles and females brown to black dorsally, white ventrally

body reddish violet with blue-green band on each scale



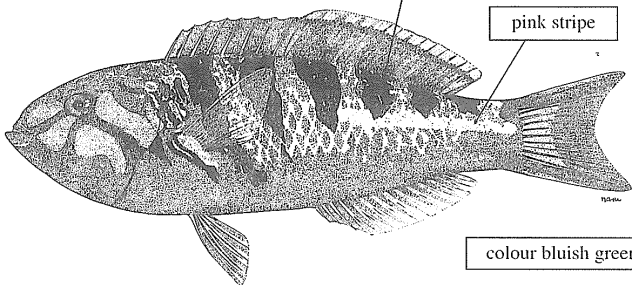
caudal fin lunate

blue-green margin

*Thalassoma amblycephalum* Bleeker, 1856  
En - Twotone wrasse.  
To 16 cm.

6 black bars

pink stripe

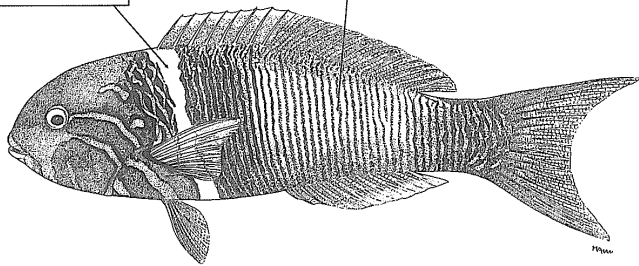


colour bluish green

*Thalassoma hardwicke* (Bennett, 1828)  
En - Sixbar wrasse.  
To 18 cm.

bright yellow band

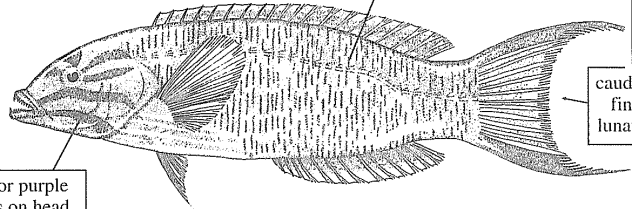
yellowish and blue vertical lines



*Thalassoma hebraicum* (Lacepède, 1801)  
En - Goldbar wrasse.  
To at least 23 cm.

small individuals with a large black spot in dorsal fin and caudal-fin base

body bright green to blue with a vertical red band on each scale

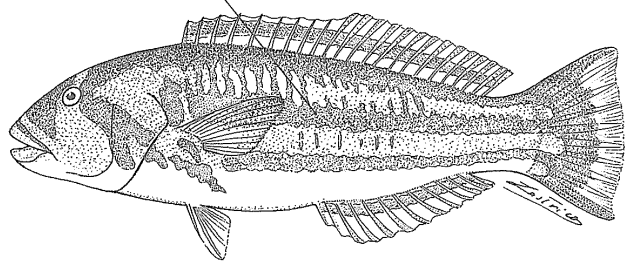


caudal fin lunate

*Thalassoma lunare* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
En - Moon wrasse; Fr - Girelle verte.  
To 30 cm; on coral and rocky reefs at depths of 1 to 20 m.

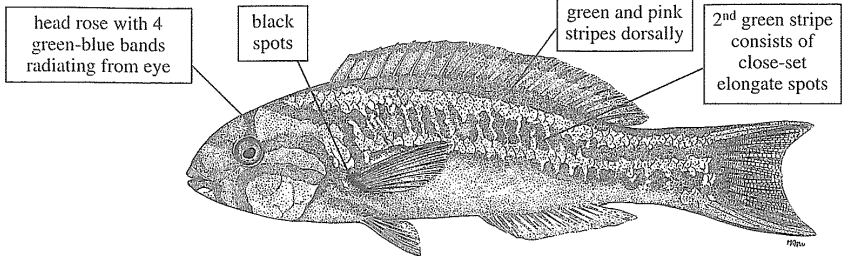
terminal male phase blue-green with 3 irregular pink to turquoise stripes on body

red or purple lines on head



*Thalassoma purpureum* (Forsskål, 1775)  
En - Surge wrasse; Fr - Girelle hublot.  
To 46 cm; on reef flats and in the surge zone of coral and rocky reefs at depths of 0.1 to 10 m.

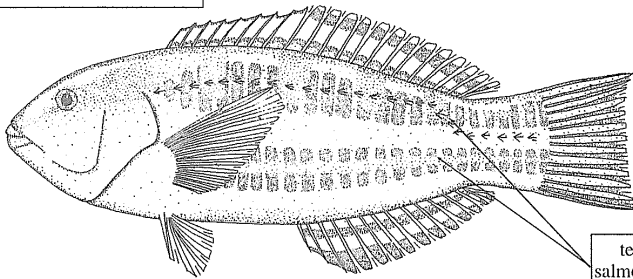
initial phase green and reddish with 2 longitudinal bands of elliptical or rectangular green spots



*Thalassoma quinquevittatum* (Lay & Bennett, 1839)

En - Fivestripe wrasse.  
To 17 cm.

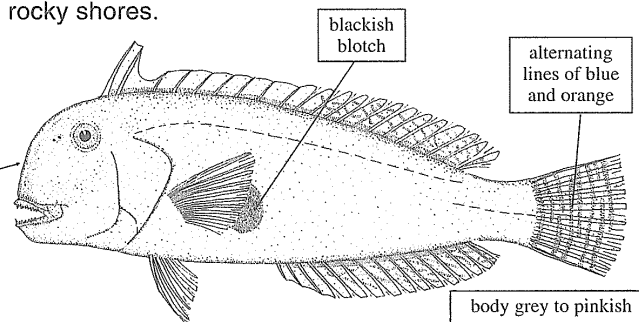
initial phase brownish red and green, the green in 2 longitudinal series of ellipses or rectangles



*Thalassoma trilobatum* (Lacepède, 1801)

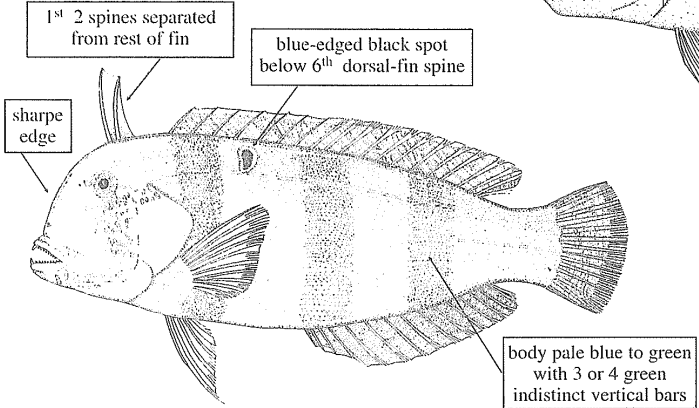
En - Christmas wrasse; Fr - Girelle de Noël.

To 30 cm; mostly in shallow waters of exposed rocky shores.  
(plate XXVI, 171 and 172)



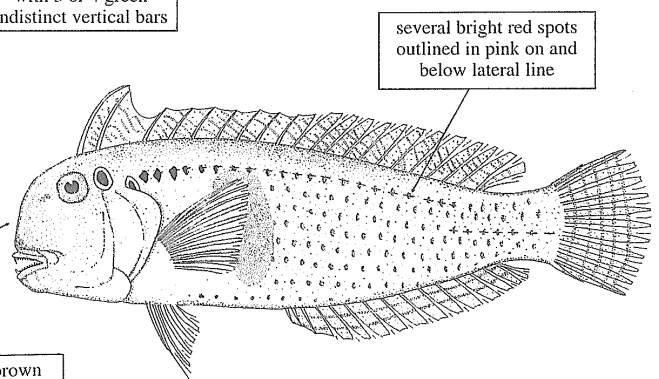
*Xyrichtys bimaculatus* Rüppell, 1828

En - Two-spot razorfish.  
To 28.5 cm; lives probably on open sandy bottoms.



*Xyrichtys pavo* (Valenciennes, 1839)

En - Peacock wrasse; Fr - Rason paon.  
To 30 cm; over sandy bottoms at depths of 7 to at least 30 m.



*Xyrichtys pentadactylus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

En - Fivefinger wrasse; Fr - Rason ocellé.  
To 25 cm; over sandy bottoms in shallow waters.

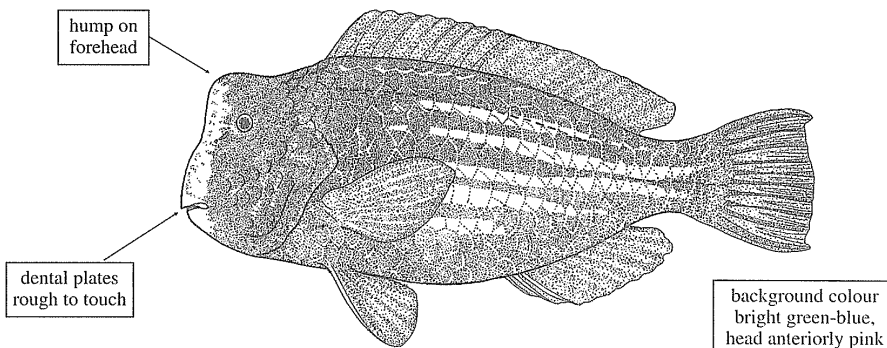
## SCARIDAE

### Parrotfishes

**Fisheries:** Parrotfishes are caught in traps, various types of nets, and with spear.

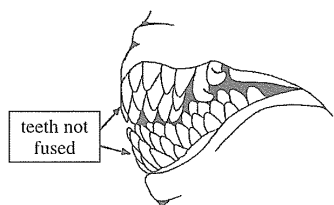
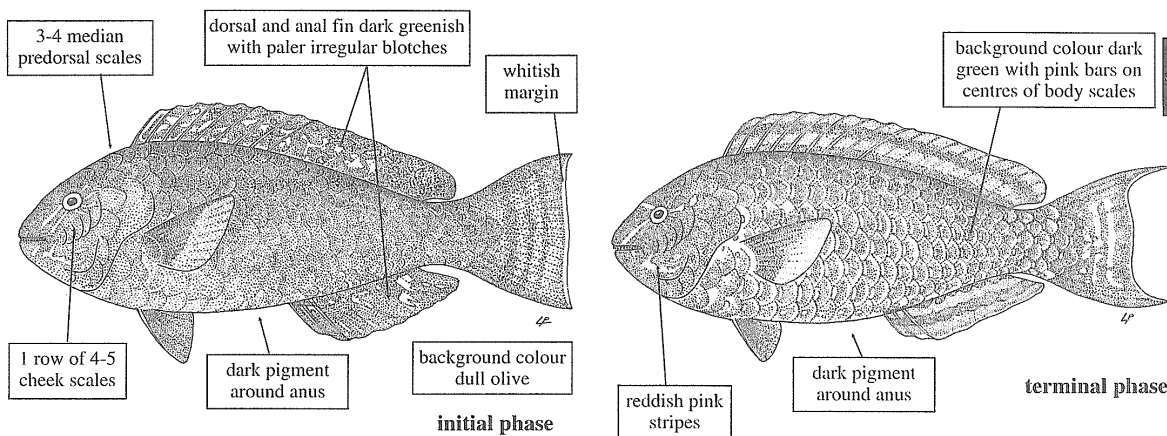
**Habitat and biology:** Coastal waters in coral reefs areas, from shallow water to a depth of about 60 m. Feed on algae, which they rasp from rocks and dead corals, but often corals and sediment is grinded and ingested with the algae. Many species are territorial and occupy a certain area for a long period, less species are solitary or schooling.

**Remarks:** The colour pattern of most species changes from juveniles to adults and during sexual transformation. The first colour pattern of adults is called initial phase. Depending on the species, this can be the a female or a young male. The second colour phase is called terminal phase and occurs exclusively in males.



*Bolbometopon muricatum* (Valenciennes, 1840)

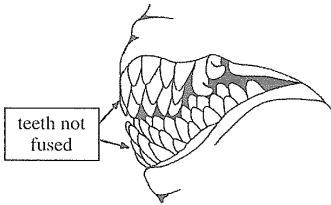
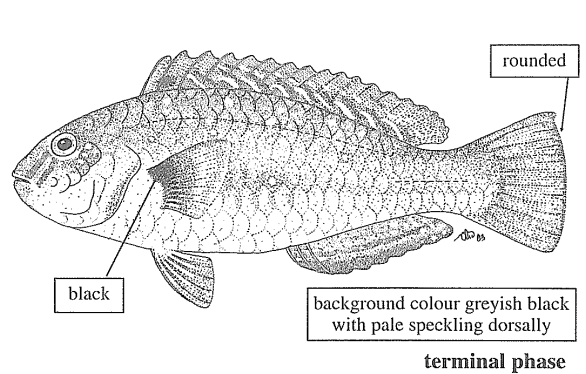
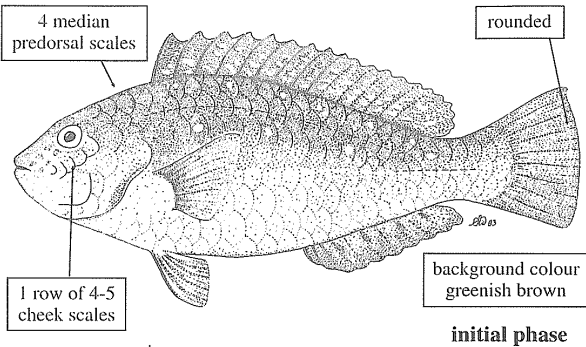
En - Green humphead parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet bossu vert.  
To 1.2 m; grazes on live corals.



*Calotomus carolinus* (Valenciennes, 1840)

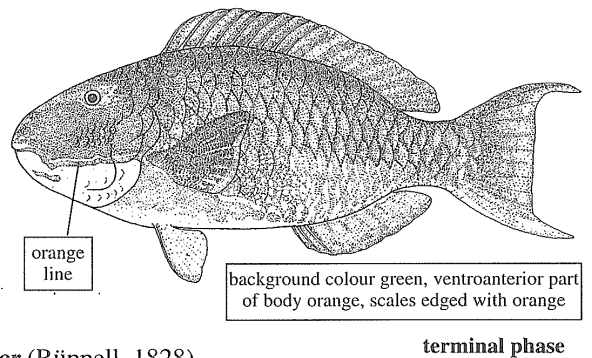
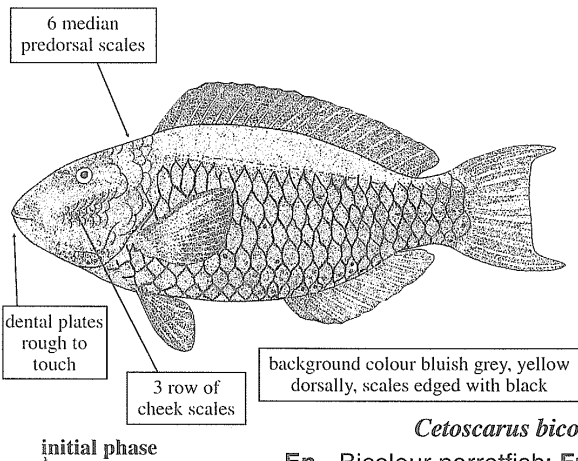
En - Carolines parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet des Carolines.  
To 40 cm standard length; in shallow waters, associated with marine grassbeds and coral reefs. Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

(plate XXVI, 173 and 174)



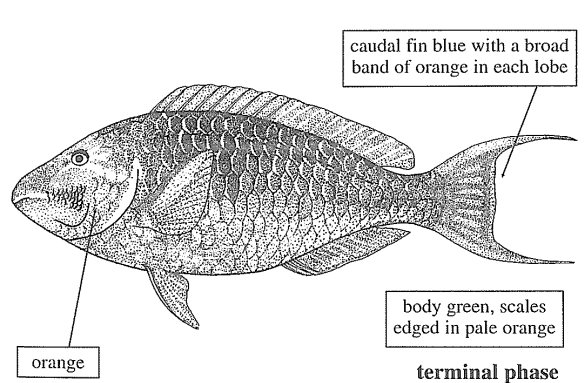
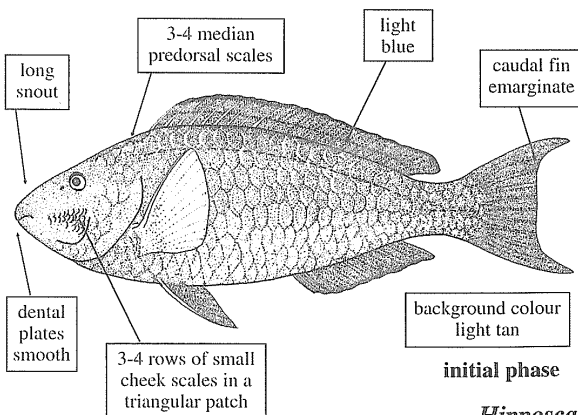
*Calotomus spinidens* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

En - Spinytooth parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet dentu.  
 To 19 cm; usually in shallow waters, associated with marine grassbeds. Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



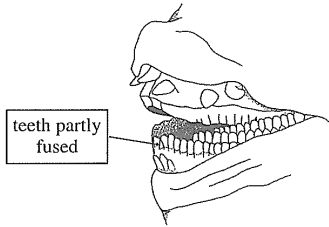
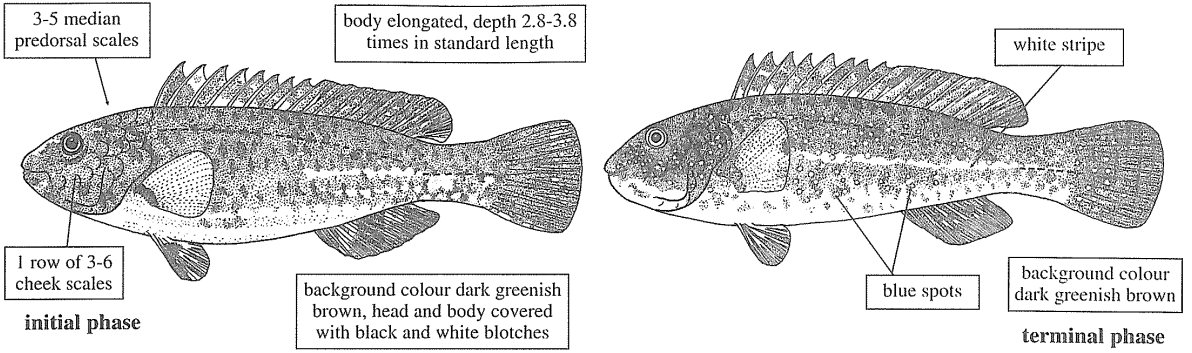
*Cetoscarus bicolor* (Rüppell, 1828)

En - Bicolour parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet à points rouges.  
 To 90 cm; on coral reefs, grazes on algae.  
 (plate XXVII, 175 and 176)



*Hipposcarus harid* (Forsskål, 1775)

En - Candelamao parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet candelamao.  
 To 58 cm; associated with coral reefs, feeds on benthic algae.  
 (plate XXVII, 177 and 178)

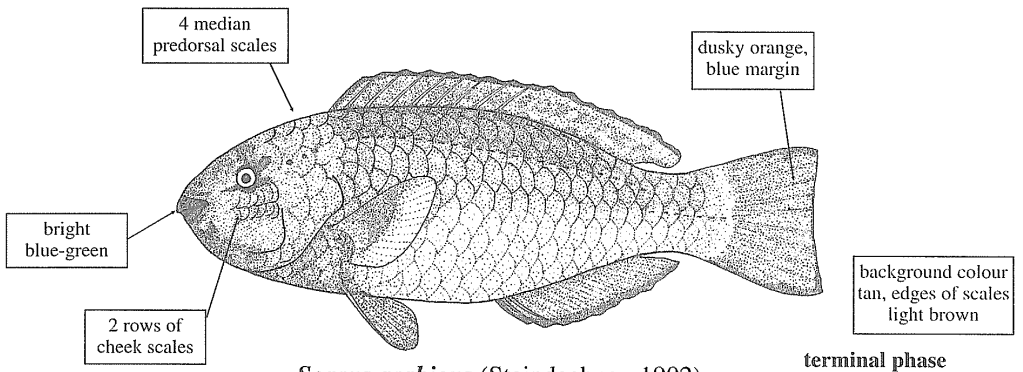


*Leptoscarus vaiagensis* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

En - Marbled parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet marbré.

To 35 cm; found in seagrass beds, feeds on seagrasses and algae.

(plate XXVII, 179 and 180)

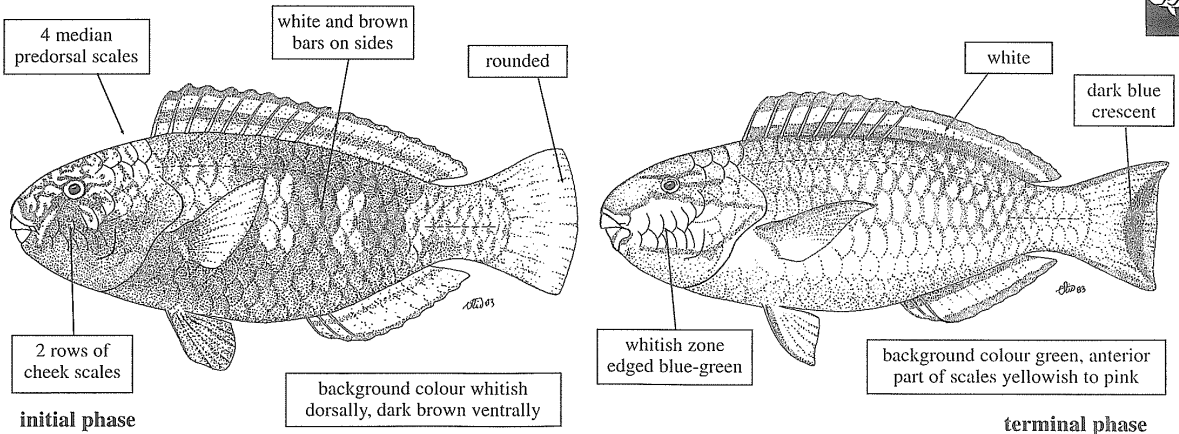


*Scarus arabicus* (Steindachner, 1902)

En - Arabian parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet arabe.

To about 40 cm.

(plate XXVII, 181)



*Scarus atrilunula* Randall & Bruce, 1983

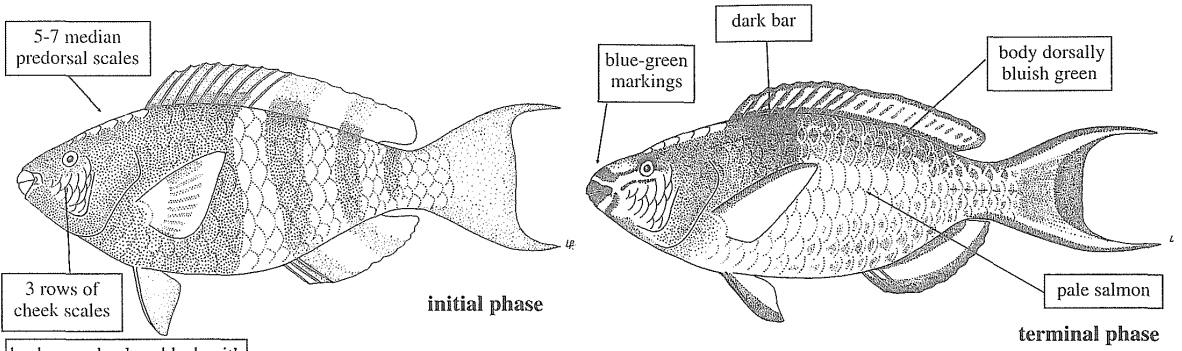
En - Bluemoon parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet lune bleue.

To 30 cm; associated with coral reefs, grazes on benthic algae.

Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

(plate XXVIII, 183 and 184)

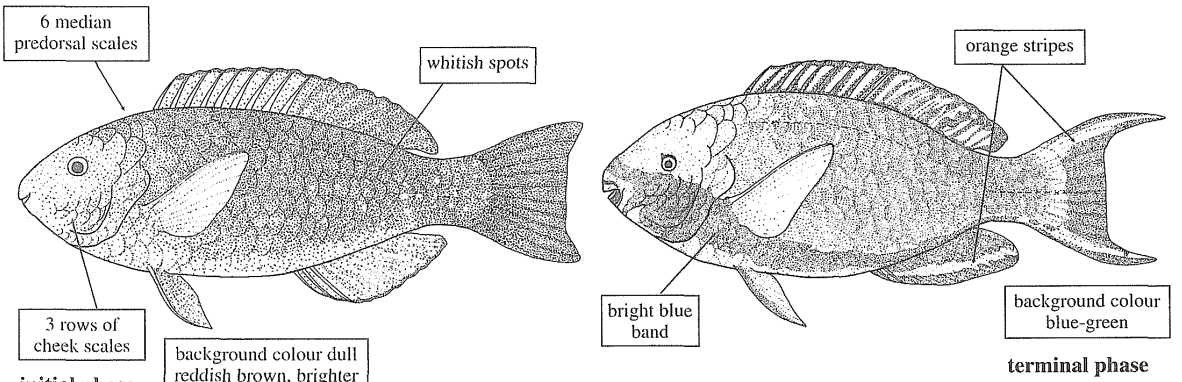




*Scarus caudofasciatus* (Günther, 1862)

**En** - Redbarred parrotfish; **Fr** - Perroquet à bandes rouges.

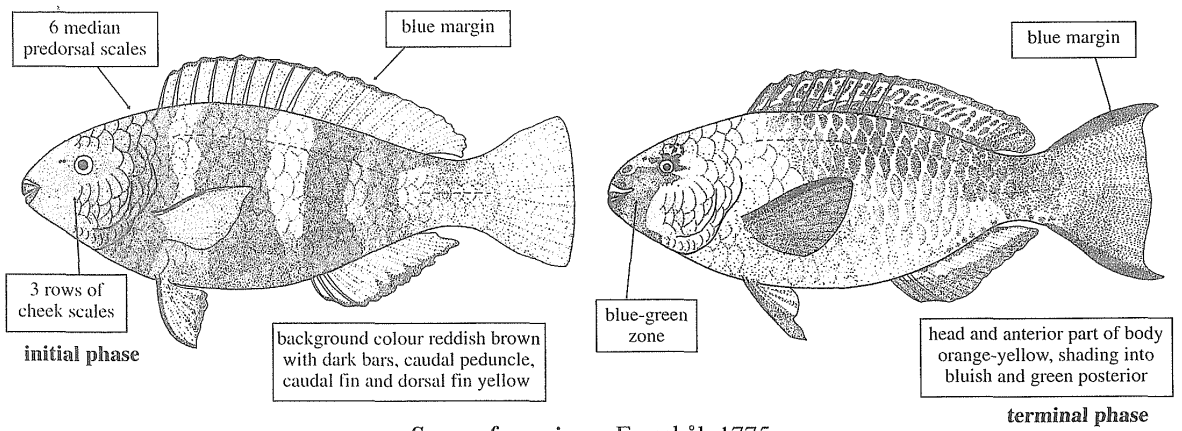
To 50 cm; an outer reef species, found at depths below 10 m. Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Scarus falcipinnis* (Playfair, 1867)

**En** - Sicklefim parrotfish; **Fr** - Perroquet faucille.

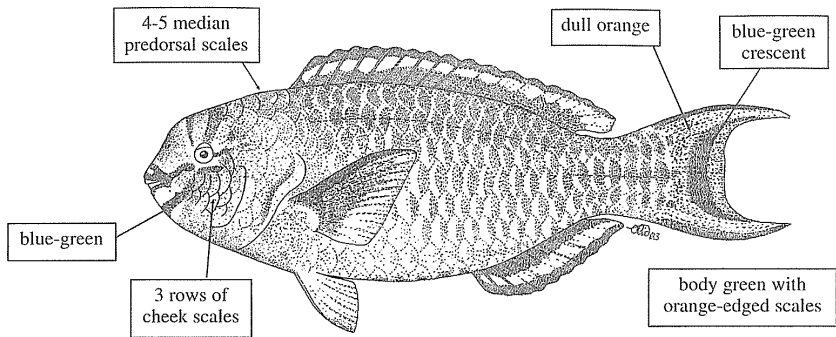
To at least 45 cm; in shallow water, grazes on algae. Presence in Somalia to be confirmed. (plate XXVIII, 187 and 188)



*Scarus ferrugineus* Forsskål, 1775

**En** - Rusty parrotfish; **Fr** - Perroquet ronille.

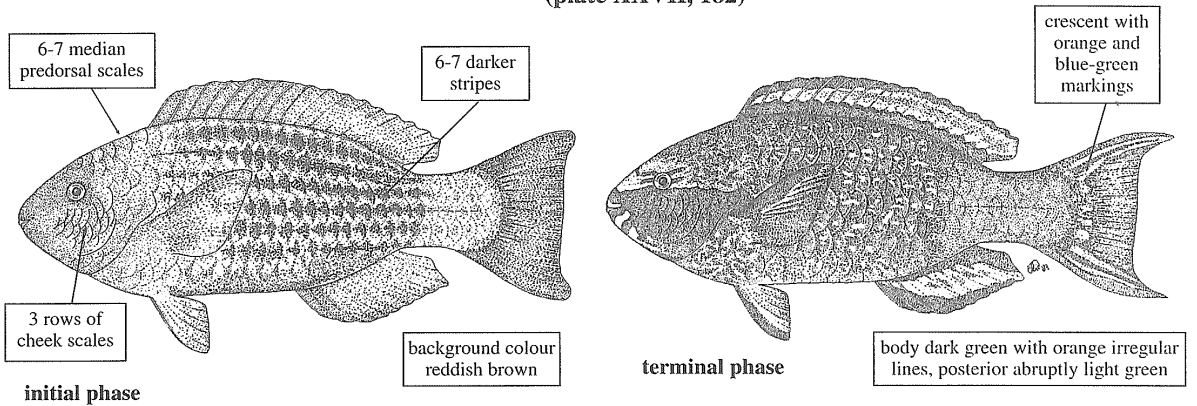
To about 40 cm; found in depths of 1 to 60 m, feeds on benthic algae. (plate XXVIII, 189 and 190)



*Scarus festivus* Valenciennes, 1840

En - Festive parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet fête. To 45 cm; found in outer reef areas to a depth of about 30 m; feeds on benthic algae.

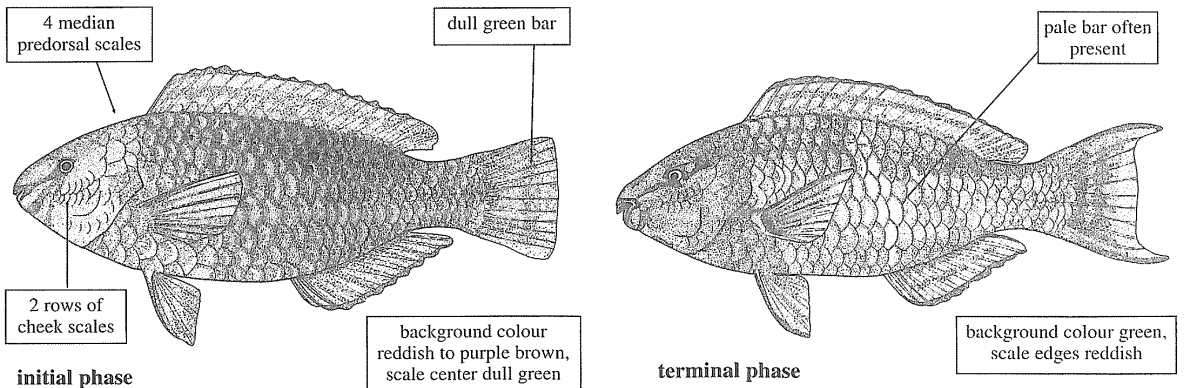
(plate XXVII, 182)



*Scarus frenatus* Lacepède, 1802

En - Bridled parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet à six bandes. To 47 cm; in shallow waters, associated with coral reefs; grazes on benthic algae.

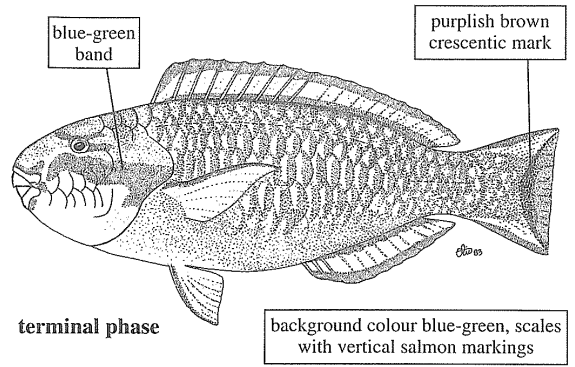
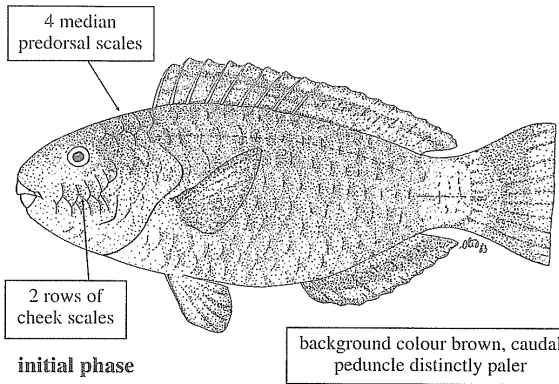
(plate XXIX, 191 and 192)



*Scarus fuscopurpureus* (Klunzinger, 1871)

En - Purple-brown parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet pourpre-marron. To 38 cm; in shallow water, often over sand or weed bottoms.

(plate XXIX, 193 and 194)

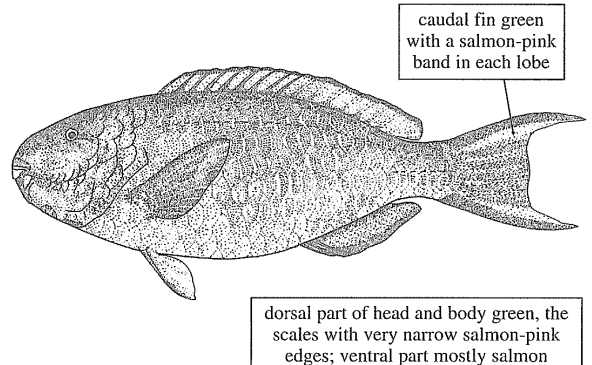
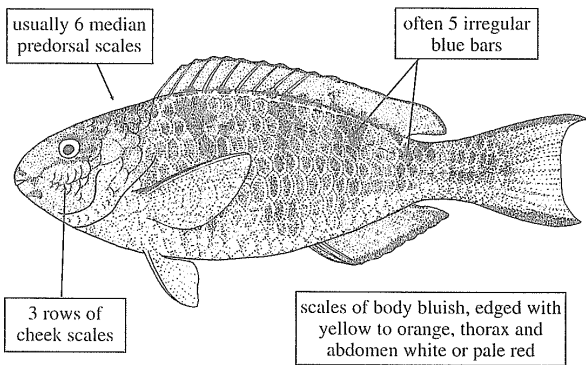


*Scarus genazonatus* Randall & Bruce, 1983

En - Sinai parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet de Sinai.

To 31 cm; usually occurring deeper than 20 m; feeds on benthic algae.

(plate XXIX, 195 and 196)

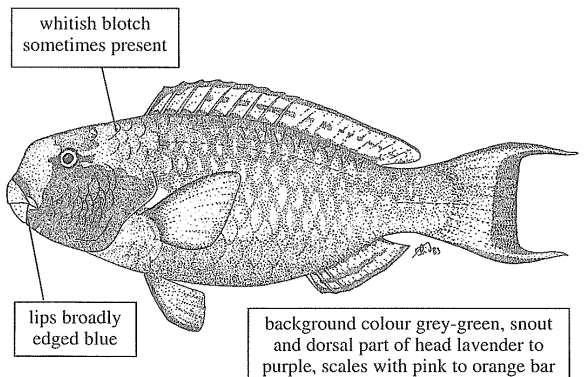
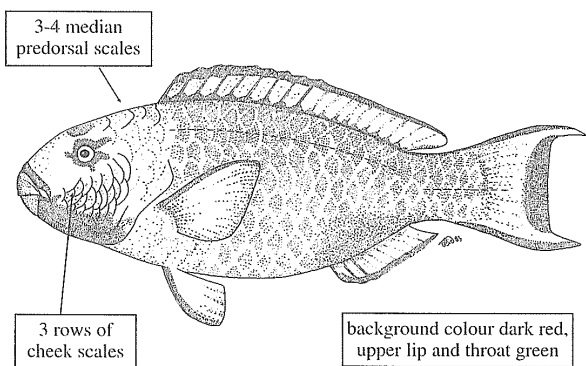


*Scarus ghobban* Forsskål, 1775

En - Yellowscale parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet à écailles jaunes. Maabiyo.

To at least 75 cm; usually in groups on coral reefs or in lagoons; grazes on benthic algae.

(plate XXIX, 197 and 198)



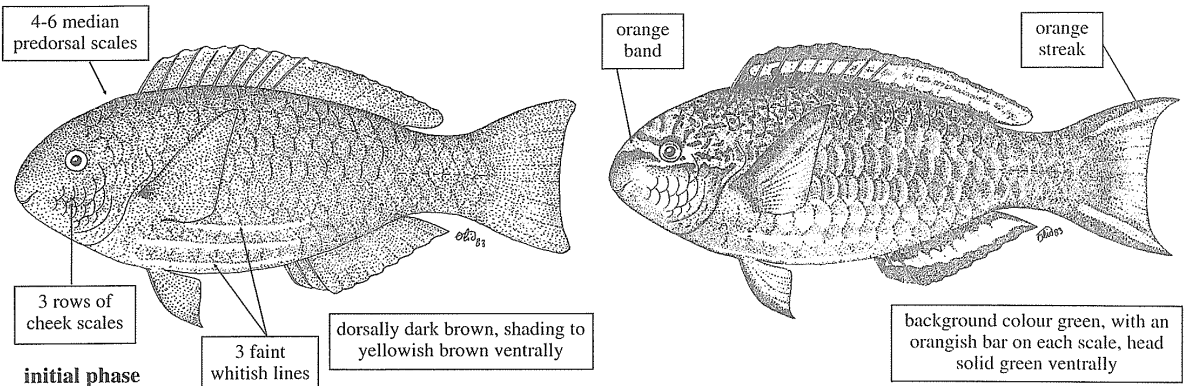
*Scarus gibbus* Rüppell, 1828

En - Heavybeak parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet machoïron.

To about 70 cm; usually in groups on the outer reef; feeds on benthic algae.

(plate XXX, 199 and 200)

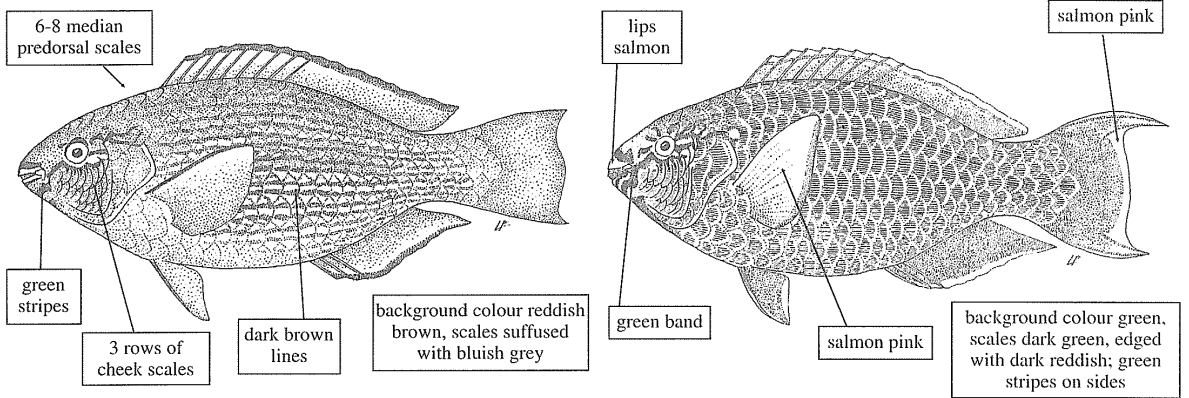




*Scarus globiceps* Valenciennes, 1840

**En** - Globehead parrotfish; **Fr** - Perroquet globeux.

To 27 cm; in shallow water, associated with coral reefs; feeds on benthic algae. Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

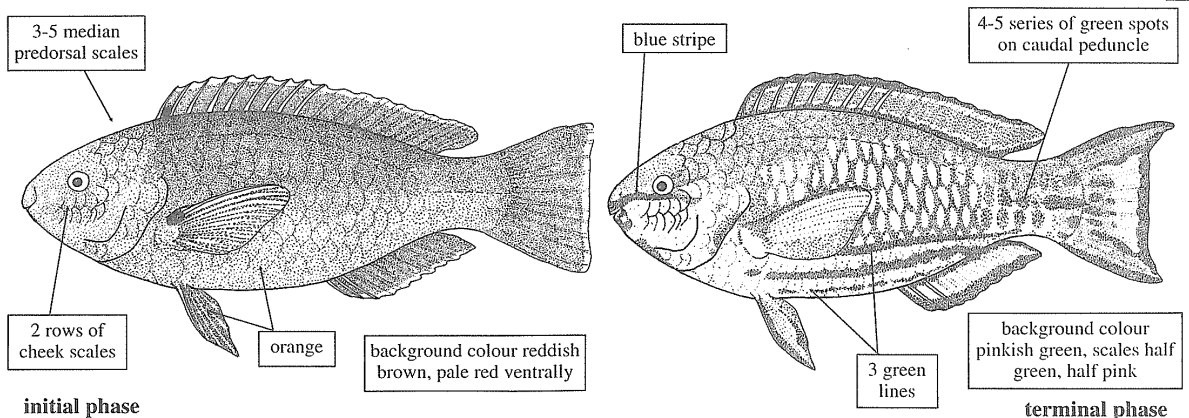


*Scarus niger* Forsskål, 1775

**En** - Dusky parrotfish; **Fr** - Perroquet dorade.

To 39 cm; in shallow water, associated with coral reefs; feeds on benthic algae.

(plate XXX, 201 and 202)



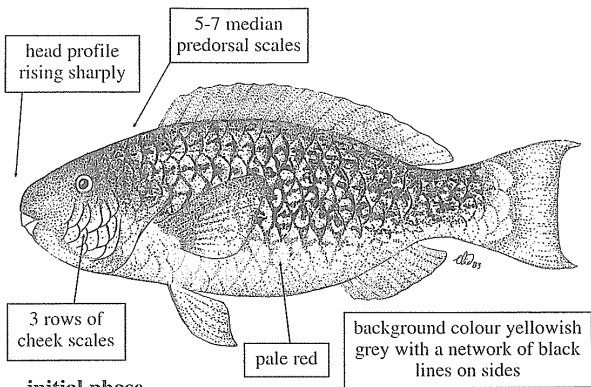
*Scarus psittacus* Forsskål, 1775

**En** - Common parrotfish; **Fr** - Perroquet commun.

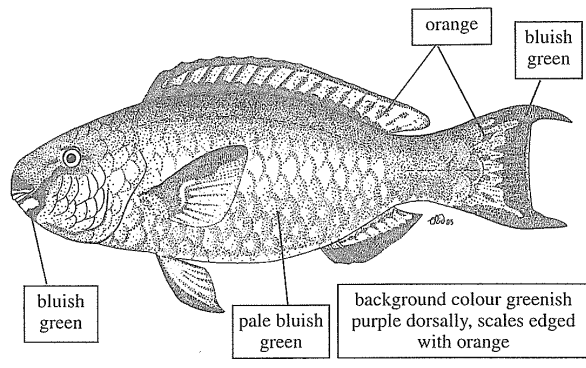
To about 30 cm; associated with coral reefs; grazes on benthic algae.

(plate XXX, 203 and 204)





initial phase



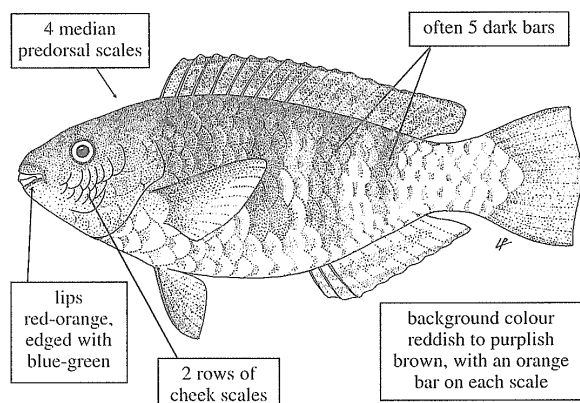
terminal phase

*Scarus rubroviolaceus* Bleeker, 1847

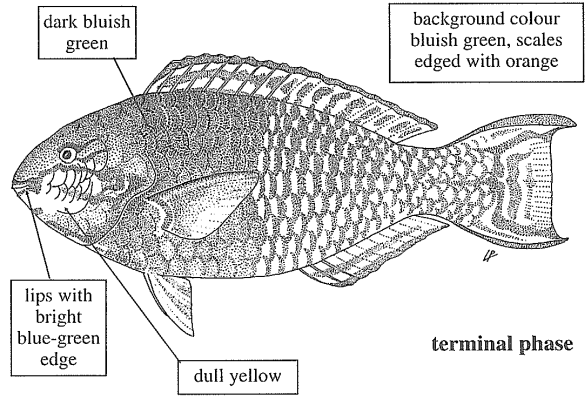
En - Ember parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet braisé.

To 66 cm; common in lagoons and coral reefs in shallow water; feeds on benthic algae.

(plate XXX, 205 and 206)



initial phase



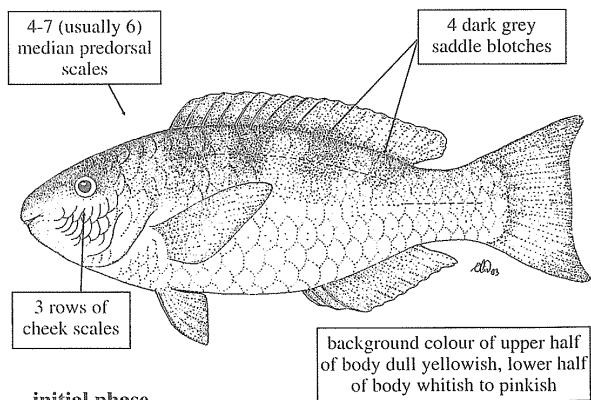
terminal phase

*Scarus russelii* Valenciennes, 1840

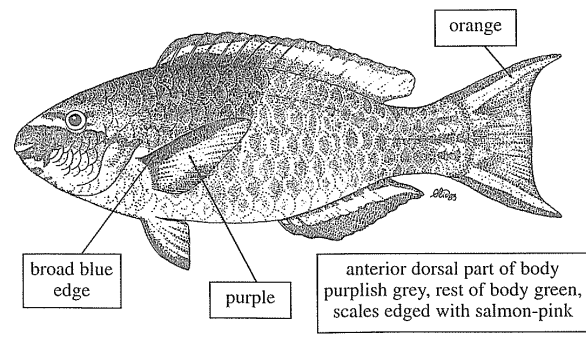
En - Eclipse parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet éclipse.

To 50 cm; in shallow waters; feeds on benthic algae. Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

(plate XXXI, 207 and 208)



initial phase



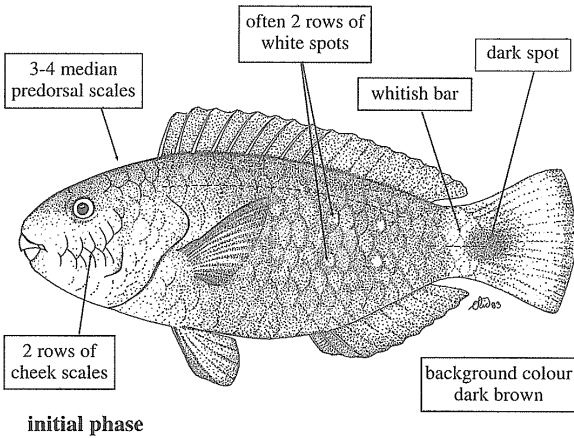
terminal phase

*Scarus scaber* Valenciennes, 1840

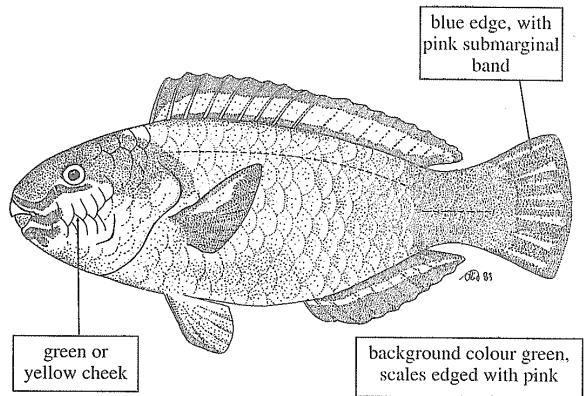
En - Fivesaddle parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet à cinq selle.

To 37 cm; in shallow waters, associated with coral reefs; feeds on benthic algae.

(plate XXXI, 209 and 210)



initial phase

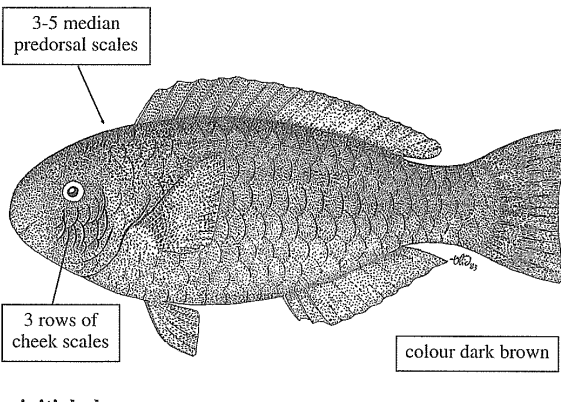


terminal phase

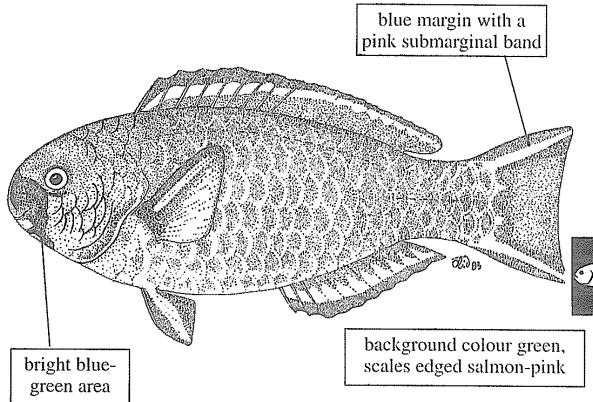
*Scarus sordidus* Forsskål, 1775

En - Daisy parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet marguerite.  
To 40 cm; on coral reefs and in lagoons; feeds on benthic algae.

(plate XXXI, 211 and 212)



initial phase



terminal phase

*Scarus viridifurcatus* (Smith, 1956)

En - Roundhead parrotfish; Fr - Perroquet tête ronde.  
To about 30 cm; associated with coral reefs; feeds on benthic algae.

(plate XXXI, 213 and 214)

## PINGUIPEDIDAE

## Sandperches (Grubfishes, Sandsmelts)

The family Pinguipedidae was reported as Mugiloididae in Fischer and Bianchi (1984).

*Parapercis alboguttata* (Günther, 1872)

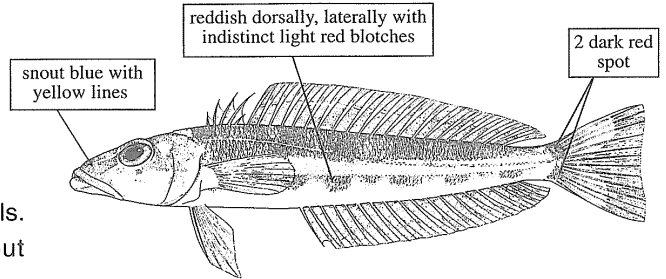
**FAO names:** En - Whitespot sandsmelt.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Taken as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** To a depth of about 100 m.

*Parapercis hexophthalma* (Ehrenberg, 1829)

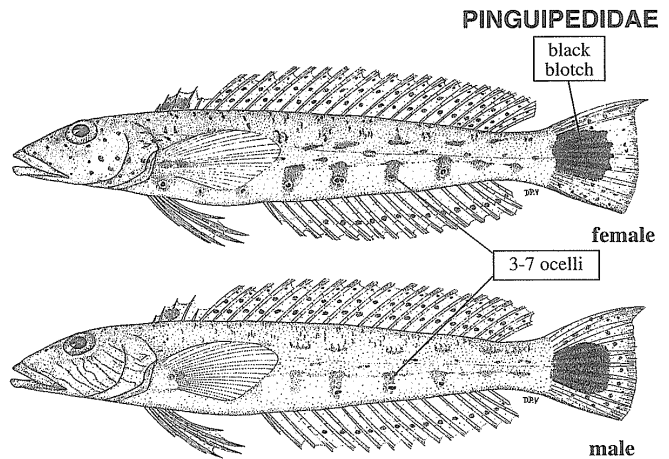
**FAO names:** En - Speckled sandperch; Fr - Pinge pintade.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 29 cm, common to 18 cm

**Fisheries:** Taken as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs or sandy areas near reefs.

*Parapercis robinsoni* (Fowler, 1932)

**FAO names:** En - Smallscale grubfish.

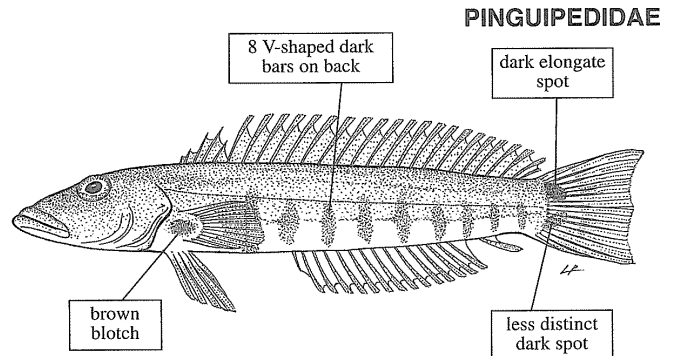
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm

**Fisheries:** Taken as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Known from a depth range of 6 to 55 m.

**Remarks:** Often misidentified and in Fischer and Bianchi (1984) reported as *P. nebulosa* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1825), a species that probably does not occur in Somalia.

*Parapercis somaliensis* Schultz, 1968

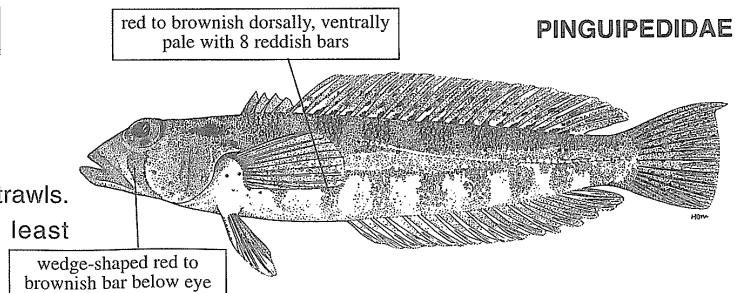
**FAO names:** En - Weeping sandsmelt.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Taken as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** To depths of at least 70 m.



**CALLIONYMIDAE**

**Dragonets**

*Callionymus marleyi* Regan, 1919

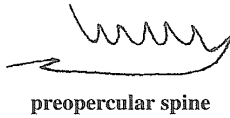
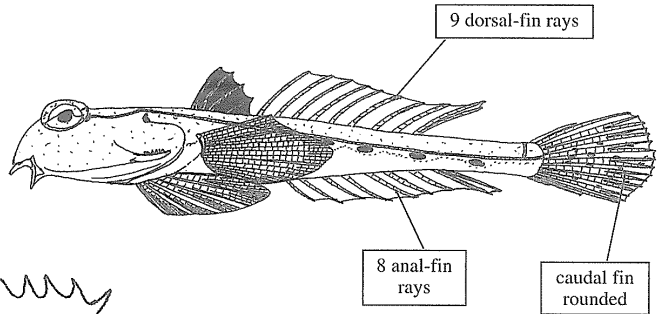
**FAO names:** En - Sand dragonet; Fr - Dragonnet de sable.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 13 cm.

**Fisheries:** Taken as bycatch in trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow coastal areas. Feeds on small bottom invertebrates.



**SIGANIDAE**

**Spinefoots, rabbitfish**

*Siganus argenteus* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1825)

(plate XXXII, 215)

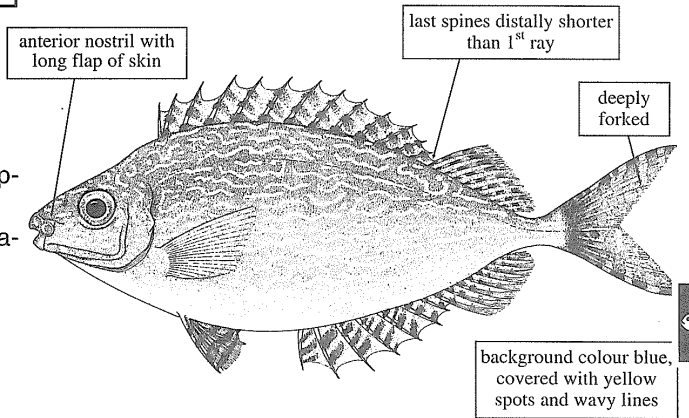
**FAO names:** En - Streamlined spinefoot; Fr - Sigan vermiculé.

**Local names:** Saafad.

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with liftnets, seines, dipnets, traps, and setnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, in clear waters around coral reefs. Feeds on algae.



*Siganus luridus* (Rüppell, 1829)

(plate XXXII, 216)

**SIGANIDAE**

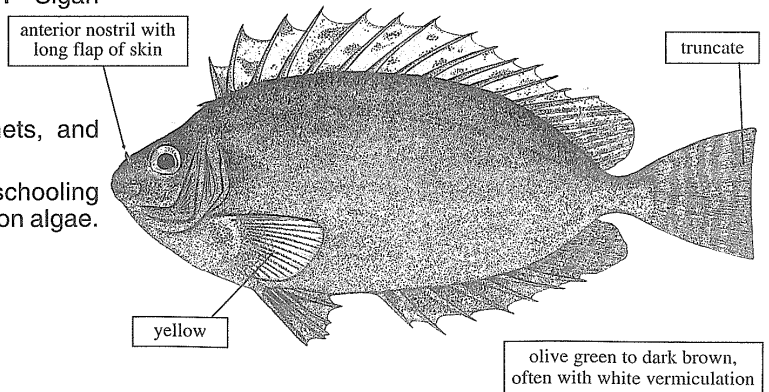
**FAO names:** En - Dusky spinefoot; Fr - Sigan sombre.

**Local names:** Saafad.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, gillnets, and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, schooling around coral and rocky reefs. Feeds on algae.



*Siganus rivulatus* Forsskål, 1775

(plate XXXII, 217)

SIGANIDAE

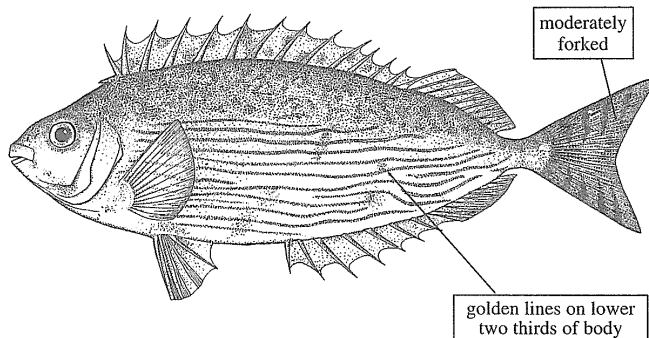
**FAO names:** En - Marbled spinefoot;  
Fr - Sigan mabr .

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines and gill-nets, occasionally trawled.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, on rocky and coral reefs, and over sandy bottoms, to a depth of 20 m. Feeds on algae.



*Siganus stellatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

(plate XXXII, 218)

SIGANIDAE

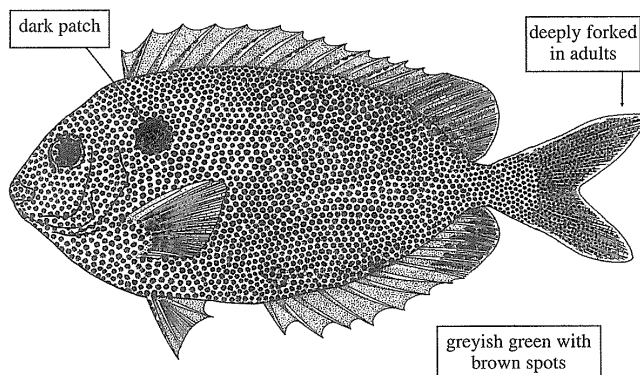
**FAO names:** En - Brownspeckled spinefoot;  
Fr - Sigan marguerite.

**Local names:** Saafad.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, around coral and rocky reefs. Feeds on algae.



*Siganus sutor* (Valenciennes, 1835)

(plate XXXII, 219)

SIGANIDAE

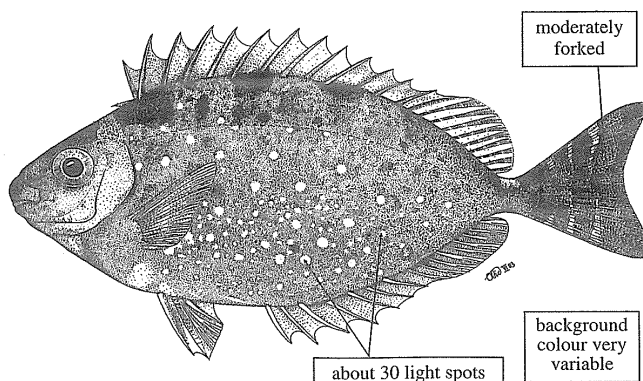
**FAO names:** En - Shoemaker spinefoot;  
Fr - Sigan cordonnier.

**Local names:** Saafad.

**Size:** To 45 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with seines, setnets, and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, schooling about reefs and weedy flats. Feeds on algae.

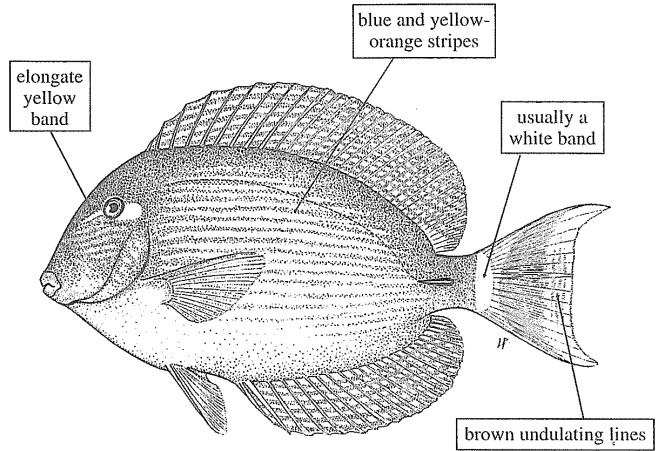


**ACANTHURIDAE**

**Surgeonfishes, tangs, unicornfishes**

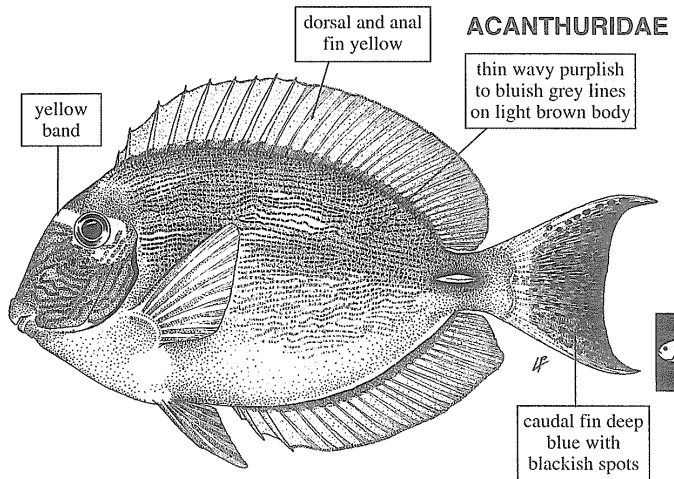
*Acanthurus blochii* Valenciennes, 1835

**FAO names:** En - Ringtail surgeonfish.  
**Local names:** Kaxan Cadde, Kacan Baxareed.  
**Size:** To at least 42 cm.  
**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.  
**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs but also over sand where it feeds on filamentous algae.  
**Remarks:** Often misidentified and in Fischer and Bianchi (1984) reported as *A. bleekeri* Günther, 1861.



*Acanthurus dussumieri* Valenciennes, 1835

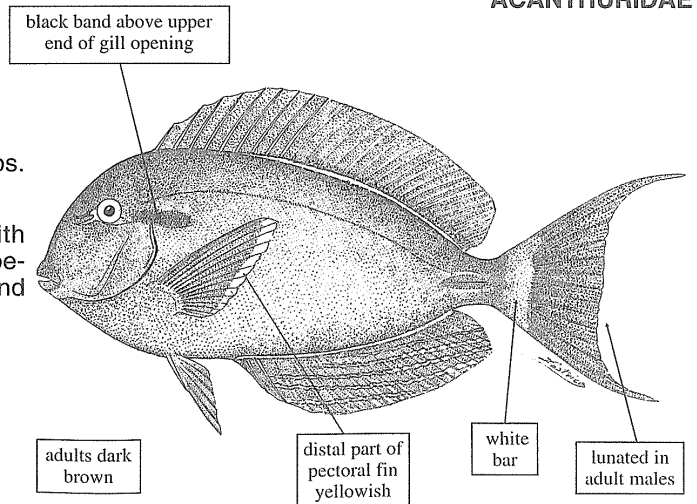
**FAO names:** En - Eyestripe surgeonfish; Fr - Chirurgien couronné.  
**Local names:** Kaxan.  
**Size:** To 54 cm, common to 34 cm.  
**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.  
**Habitat and biology:** Closely tied to coral reefs or rocky substrates; generally at depths greater than 15 m.



**ACANTHURIDAE**

*Acanthurus gahhm* Forsskål, 1775

**FAO names:** En - Black surgeonfish.  
**Local names:**  
**Size:** To at least 40 cm.  
**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.  
**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.  
**Remarks:** Previously often confused with *Acanthurus nigricans* (Linnaeus, 1758), a species that does not occur in the Somalia, and *A. nigricauda* Dunker & Mohr, 1926.



**ACANTHURIDAE**

***Acanthurus leucosternon* Bennett, 1832****ACANTHURIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Powderblue surgeonfish;  
Fr - Chirurgien poudré.

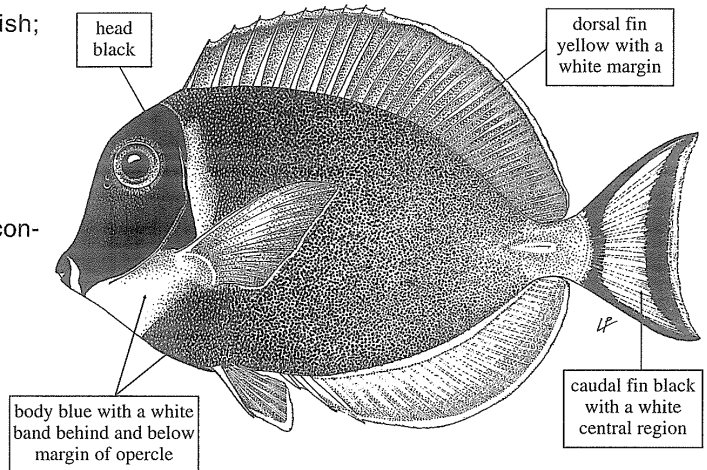
**Local names:** Kaxan.

**Size:** To 54 cm, common to 19 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps and nets.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

***Acanthurus lineatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)****ACANTHURIDAE**

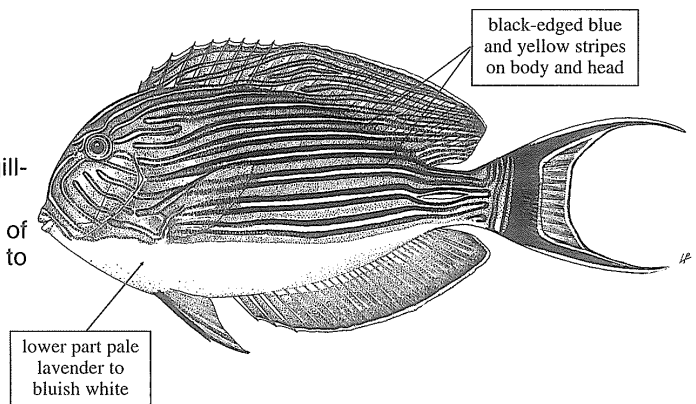
**FAO names:** En - Lined surgeonfish;  
Fr - Chirurgien zèbre.

**Local names:** Kaxan.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, throw nets, gill-nets, and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** An inshore species of coral reefs or rocky substrates exposed to wave action. Grazes benthic algae.

***Acanthurus mata* (Cuvier, 1829)****ACANTHURIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Elongate surgeonfish.

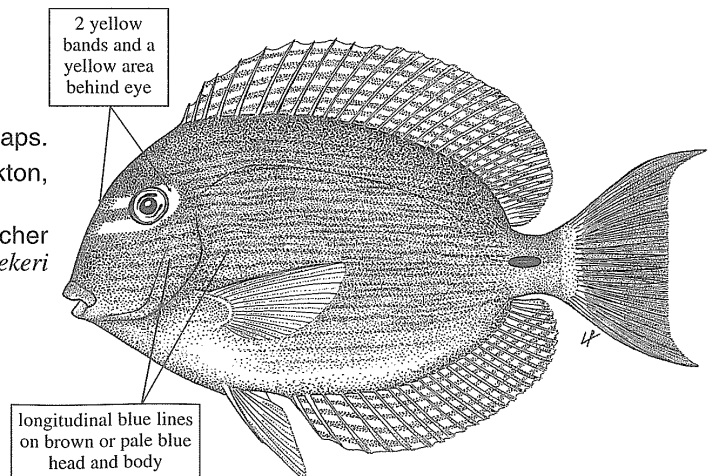
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Feeds on zooplankton, enters turbid water.

**Remarks:** Often misidentified and in Fischer and Bianchi (1984) reported as *A. bleekeri* Günther, 1861.





*Acanthurus nigricauda* Dunker and Mohr, 1926

ACANTHURIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Epaulette surgeonfish.

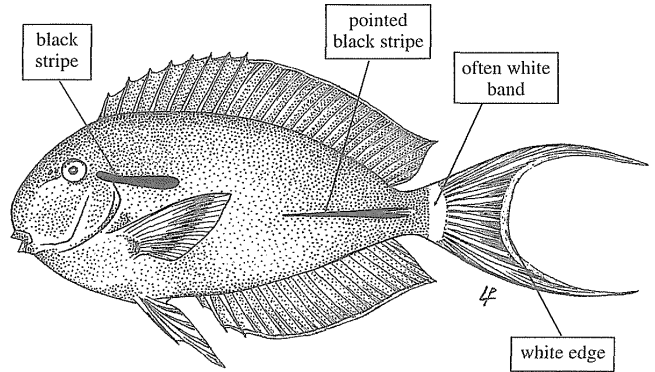
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** In lagoons and bays, around isolated coral heads; also around rocks and on sandy bottoms.

**Remarks:** Previously often confused with *A. nigricans* (Linnaeus, 1758), a species that does not occur in Somalia, and *A. gahn* (Forsskål, 1775).



*Acanthurus nigrofuscus* (Forsskål, 1775)

ACANTHURIDAE

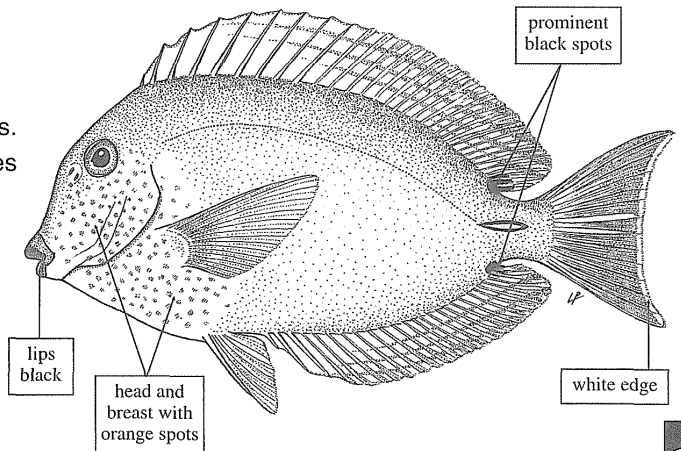
**FAO names:** En - Brown surgeonfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 21 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs. Grazes on benthic algae.



*Acanthurus sohal* (Forsskål, 1775)

ACANTHURIDAE

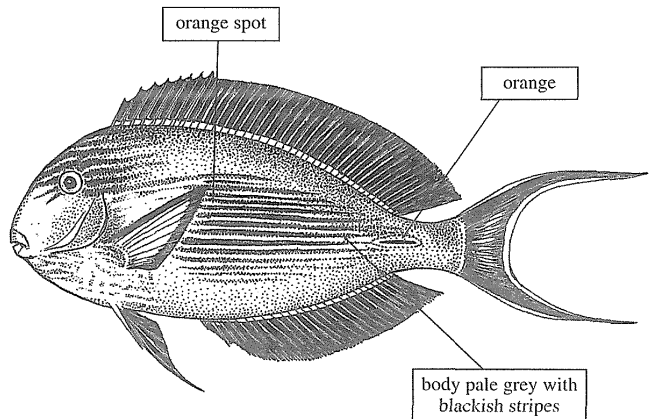
**FAO names:** En - Sohal surgeonfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.



*Acanthurus tennentii* Günther, 1861

**FAO names:** En - Doubleband surgeonfish;  
Fr - Chirurgien fer à cheval.

**Local names:** Kaxan.

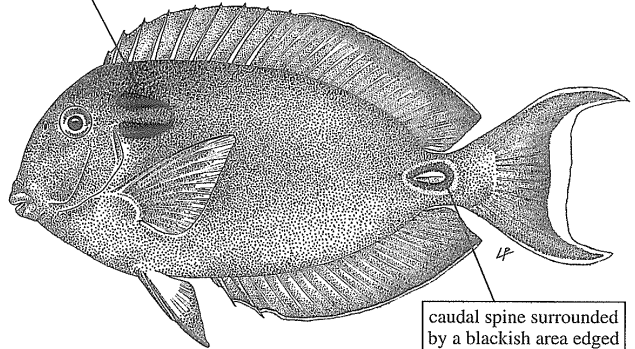
**Size:** To 31 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs. Small schools; grazes on benthic algae.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

2 black bands, joined posteriorly in juveniles and subadults



caudal spine surrounded by a blackish area edged with blue

## ACANTHURIDAE

*Acanthurus thompsoni* (Fowler, 1823)

**FAO names:** En - Chocolate surgeonfish.

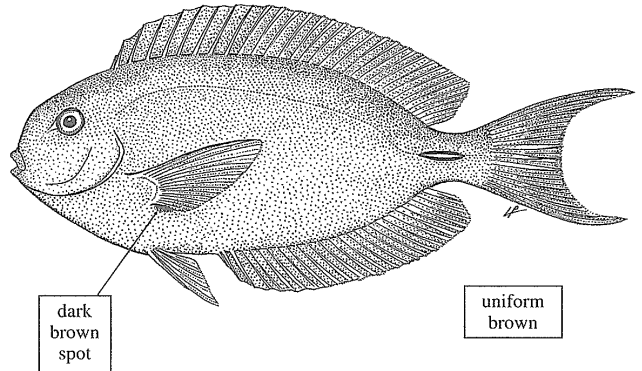
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 27 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



dark brown spot

uniform brown

## ACANTHURIDAE

*Acanthurus triostegus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

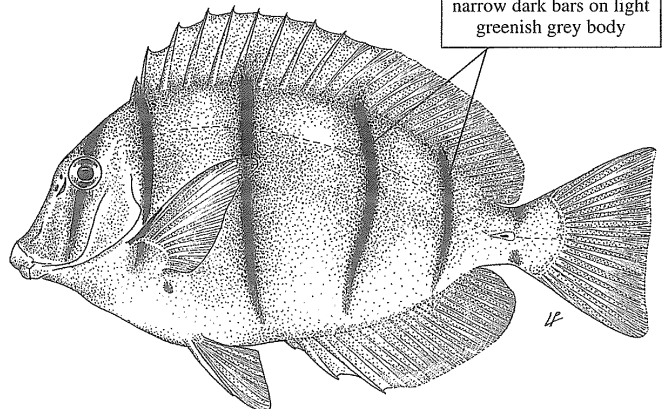
**FAO names:** En - Convict surgeonfish;  
Fr - Chirurgien bagnard.

**Local names:** Kaxan.

**Size:** To 27 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawl nets, drive nets, and gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** An inshore species which occurs over reef flats. Feeds on filamentous algae; solitary or in large aggregations.



narrow dark bars on light greenish grey body

## ACANTHURIDAE

*Acanthurus xanthopterus* Valenciennes, 1835

ACANTHURIDAE

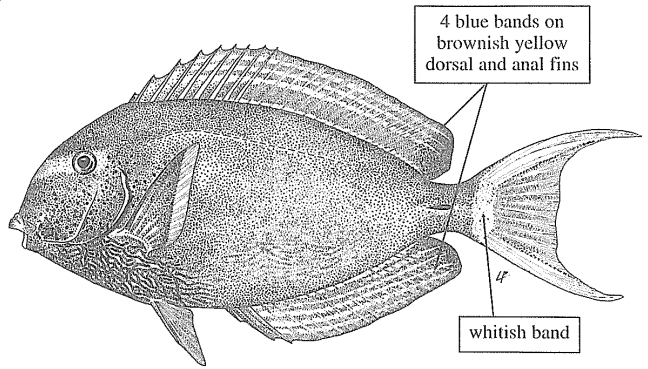
**FAO names:** En - Yellowfin surgeonfish;  
Fr - Chirurgien aile jaune.

**Local names:** Kaxan.

**Size:** To 62.5 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps, occasionally by hook.

**Habitat and biology:** Common on bays and lagoons. Feeds on benthic algae.



*Ctenochaetus binotatus* Randall, 1955

ACANTHURIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Twospot surgeonfish.

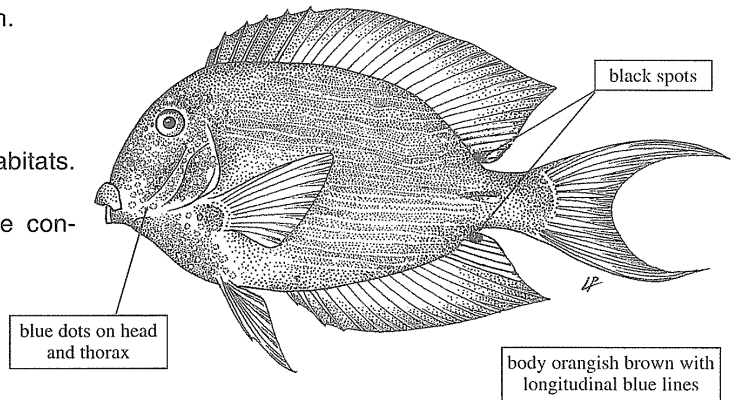
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 22 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** In various reef habitats. Feeds on detritus.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Ctenochaetus striatus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

ACANTHURIDAE

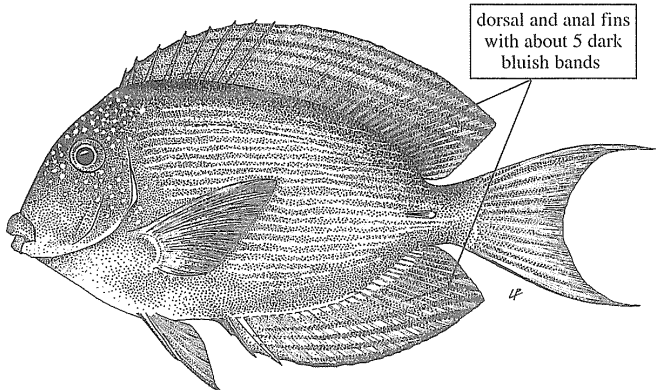
**FAO names:** En - Striated surgeonfish;  
Fr - Chirurgien strié.

**Local names:** Kaxan.

**Size:** To 26 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with various types of nets and in traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Ubiquitous, in various reef habitats, from protected lagoons to ocean reefs. Feeds on detritus.



***Ctenochaetus strigosus* (Bennett, 1828)****ACANTHURIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Spotted surgeonfish.

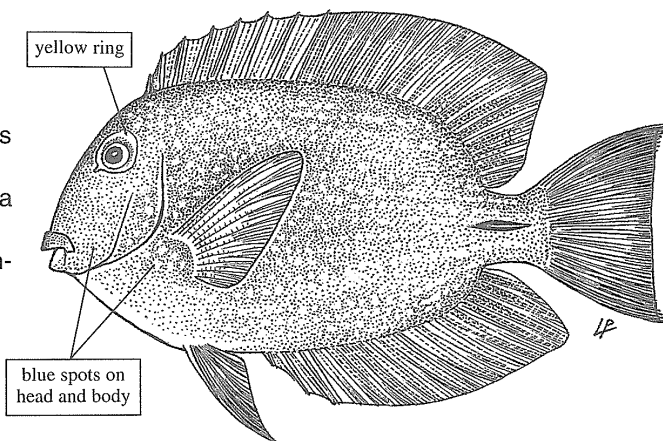
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 18 cm, common to 13 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with various types of nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs, up to a depth of 50 m.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

***Naso annulatus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1825)****ACANTHURIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Whitemargin unicornfish.

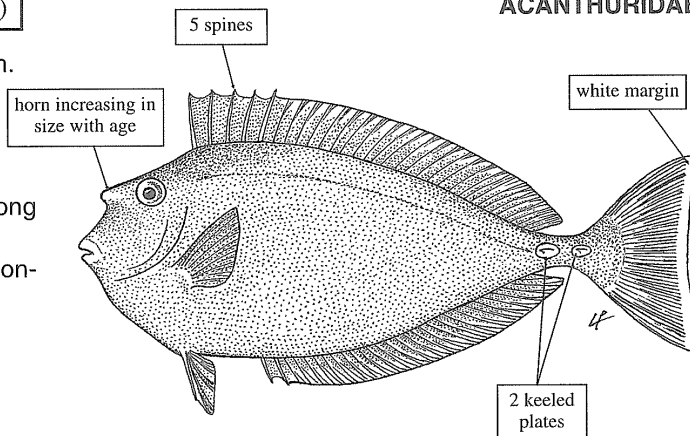
**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs and along rocky shores. Feeds on benthic algae.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

***Naso brachycentron* (Valenciennes, 1835)****ACANTHURIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Humpback unicornfish.

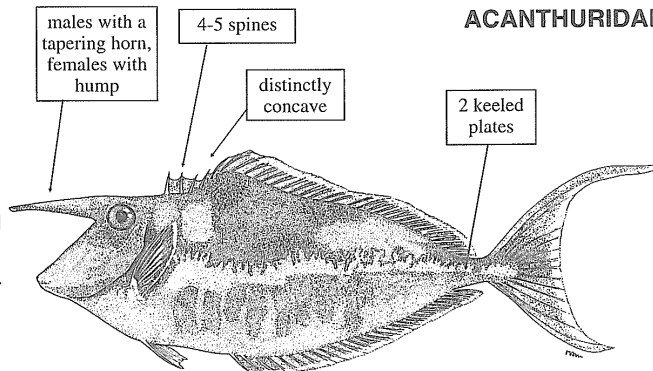
**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs and along rocky shores. Feeds on benthic algae.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Naso brevirostris* (Valenciennes, 1835)

ACANTHURIDAE

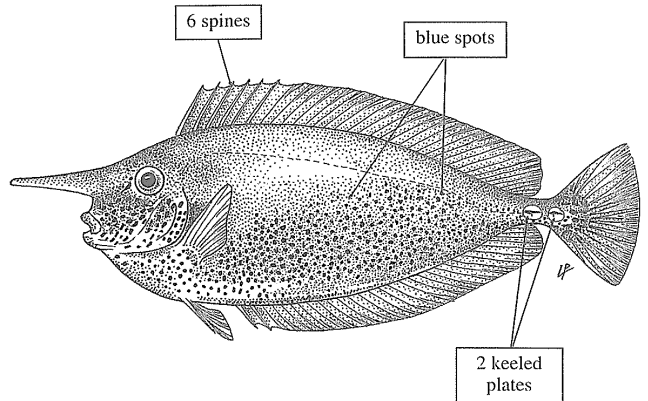
**FAO names:** En - Spotted unicornfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with nets and traps.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs and along rocky shores. Feeds on benthic algae.



*Naso hexacanthus* (Bleeker, 1855)

ACANTHURIDAE

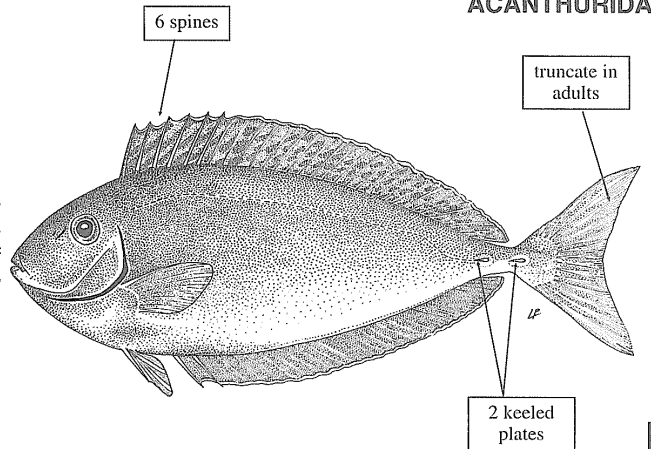
**FAO names:** En - Sleek unicornfish.

**Local names:** Kaxan.

**Size:** To 75 cm, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps.

**Habitat and biology:** Common in deeper waters, up to a depth of 150 m; often in large aggregations. Feeds on larger components of the zooplankton such as crab larvae, arrow worms, and pelagic tunicates.



*Naso lituratus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

ACANTHURIDAE

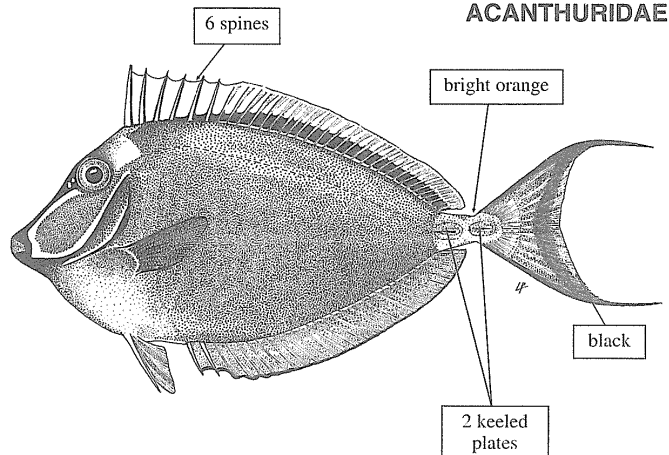
**FAO names:** En - Orangespine unicornfish; Fr - Nason à épéron.

**Local names:** Qumburo.

**Size:** To 45 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with nets, traps, and spears.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in shallow water, closely tied to coral reefs and rocky bottoms. Feeds on benthic algae.



*Naso thynnoides* (Valenciennes, 1835)

**FAO names:** En - Oneknife unicornfish.

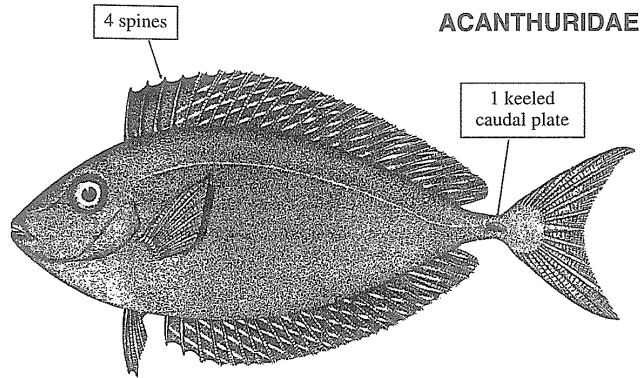
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps and nets; also speared.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs and along rocky shores. Feeds on benthic algae.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



## ACANTHURIDAE

*Naso unicornis* (Forsskål, 1775)

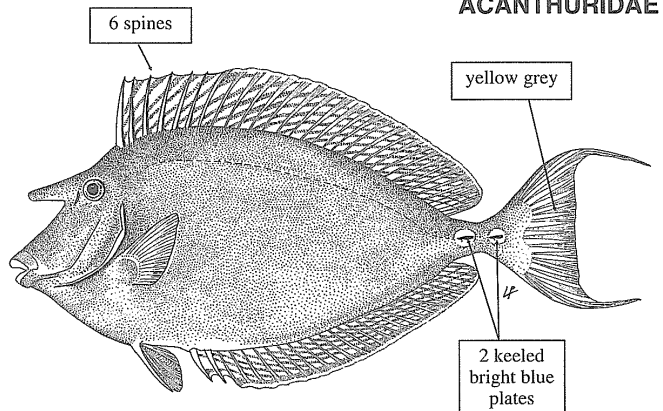
**FAO names:** En - Bluespine unicornfish; Fr - Nason à épérons bleus.

**Local names:** Kaxan.

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with traps and nets; also speared.

**Habitat and biology:** An inshore species which enters very shallow water; associated with coral reefs and rocky substrate.



## ACANTHURIDAE

*Naso vlamingii* (Valenciennes, 1835)

**FAO names:** En - Bignose unicornfish.

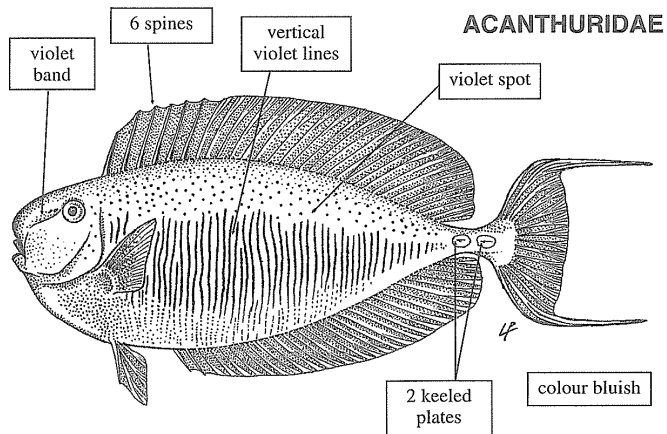
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 60 cm.

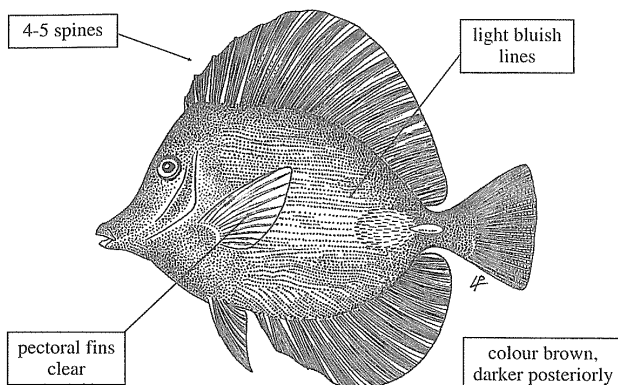
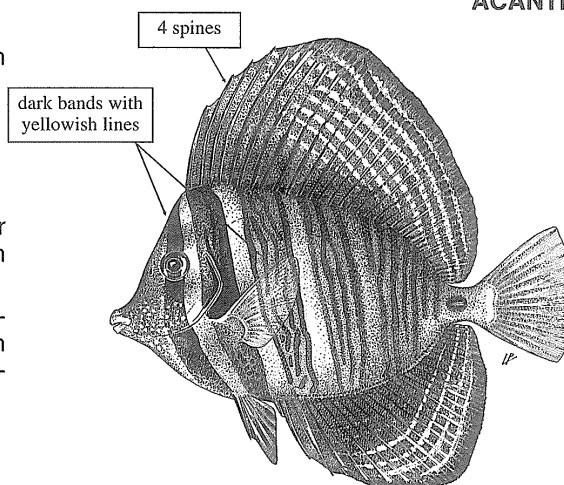
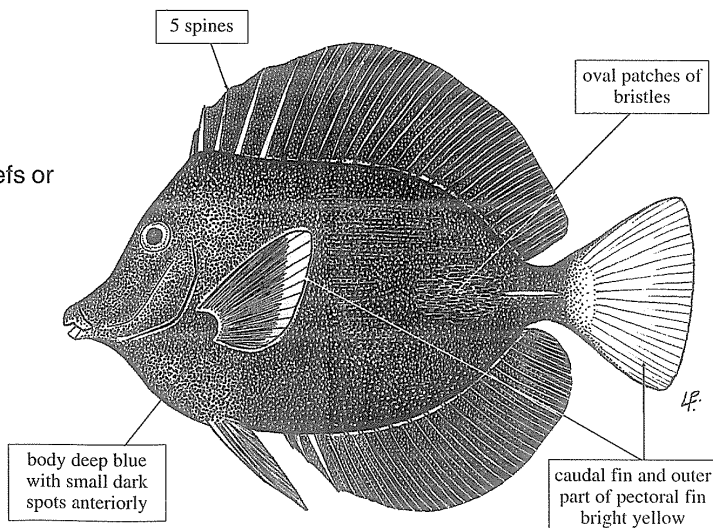
**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Off coral reefs. Feeds probably on midwater zooplankton.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



## ACANTHURIDAE

***Zebrasoma scopas* (Cuvier, 1829)****ACANTHURIDAE****FAO names:** En - Twotone tang.**Local names:****Size:** To 20 cm.**Fisheries:** No information available.**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs. Feeds on benthic algae.**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.***Zebrasoma veliferum* (Bloch, 1797)****ACANTHURIDAE****FAO names:** En - Sailfin tang; Fr - Chirurgien à voile.**Local names:** Qumburo.**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 32 cm.**Fisheries:** Mainly caught in traps.**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on coral reefs or rocky bottoms, generally in depths less than 20 m. Feeds on benthic algae.**Remarks:** *Z. veliferum* occurs also in the Pacific, some authors regard the Indian Ocean form as a distinct species, *Z. desjardini* (Bennett, 1835).***Zebrasoma xanthurum* (Blyth, 1852)****ACANTHURIDAE****FAO names:** En - Yellowtail tang.**Local names:****Size:** To 22 cm.**Fisheries:** Caught mainly in traps.**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on coral reefs or rocky bottoms. Feeds on benthic algae.

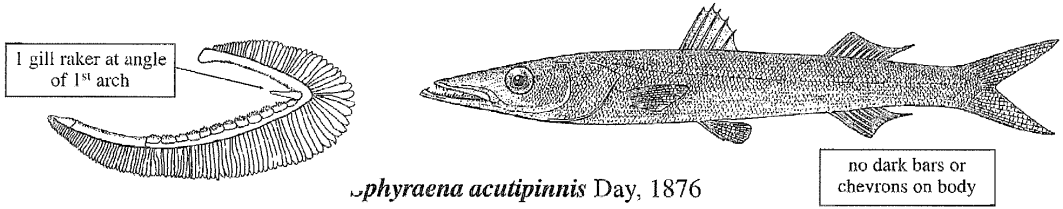
**SPHYRAENIDAE**

**Barracudas**

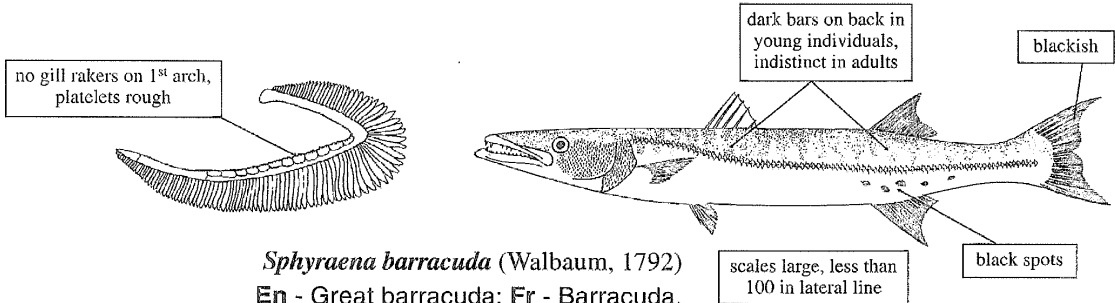
**Fisheries:** Caught with trolling lines, sometimes with nets. Flesh good, but large individuals can occasionally cause ciguatera fish poisoning.

**Habitat and biology:** Sphyraenidae occur in coastal waters, but also in open oceans, usually found in surface waters. Juveniles schooling, large adults mostly solitary.

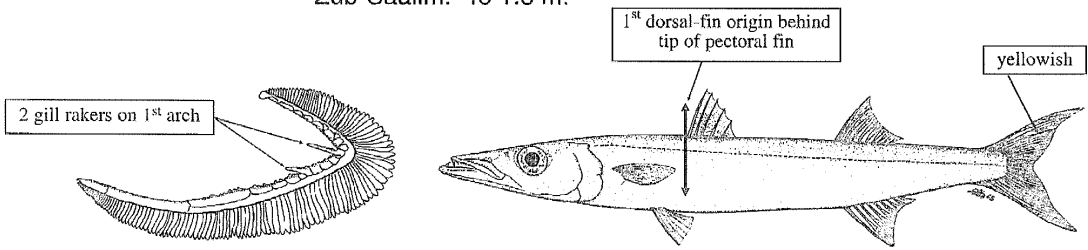
**Remarks:** Several attacks have been reported from large solitary species, usually in murky waters.



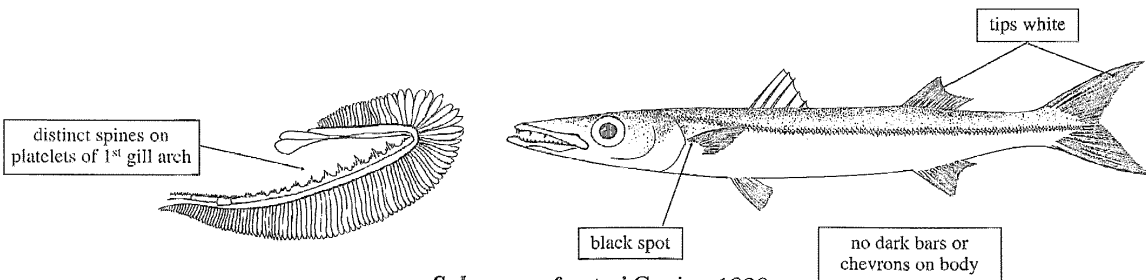
*Sphyraena acutipinnis* Day, 1876  
 En - Pointedfin barracuda.  
 To 80 cm. Presence to be confirmed.



*Sphyraena barracuda* (Walbaum, 1792)  
 En - Great barracuda; Fr - Barracuda.  
 Zub-Saalim. To 1.8 m.

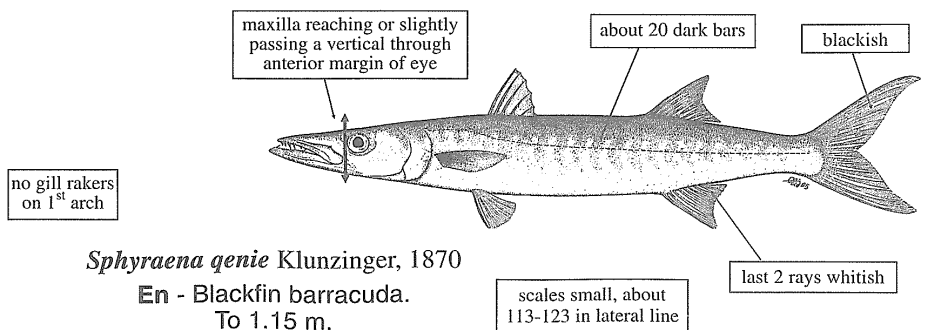
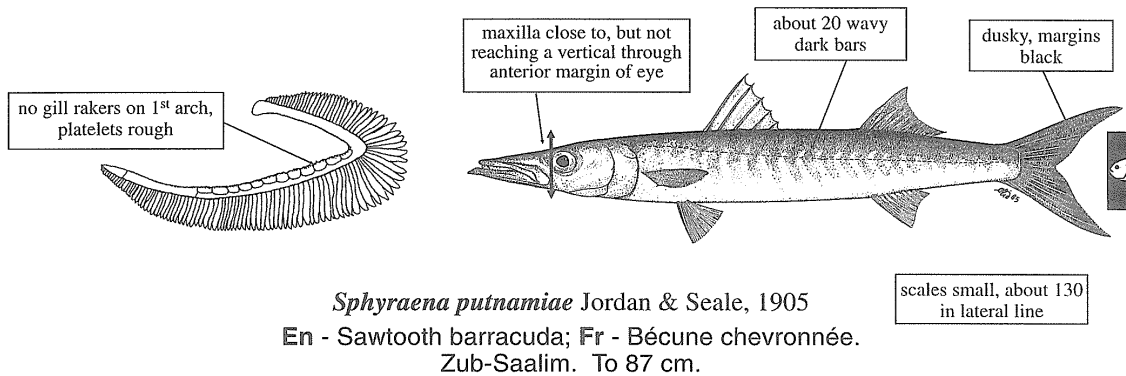
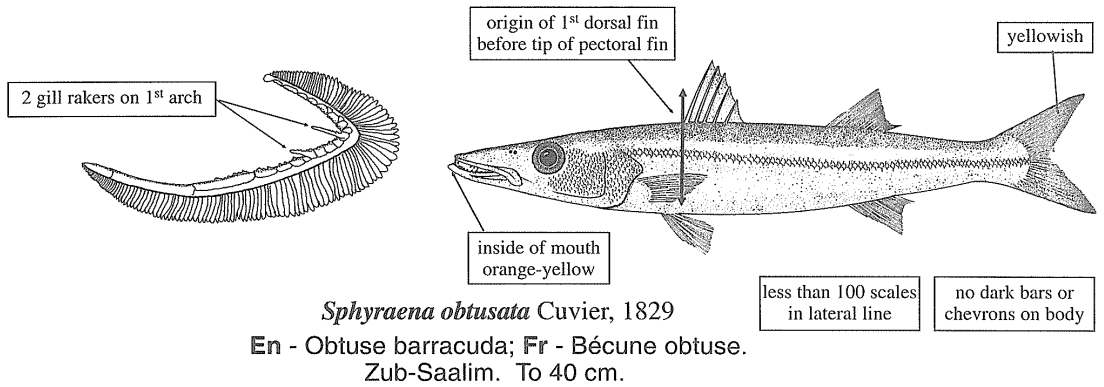
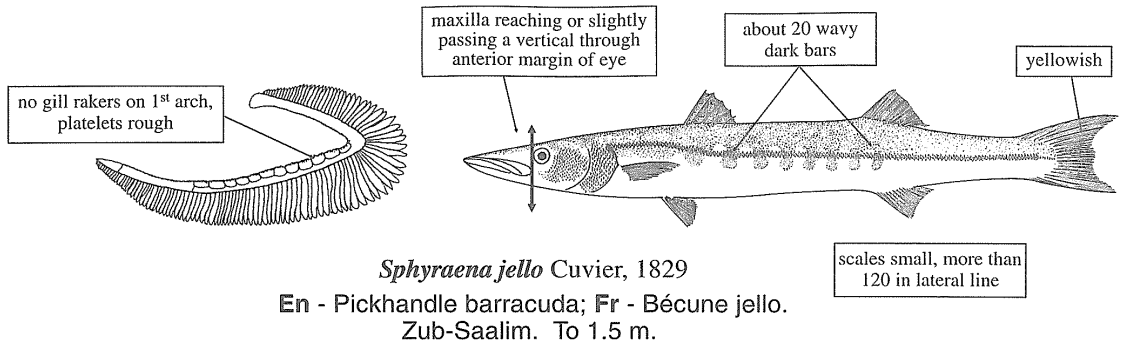


*Sphyraena flavicauda* Rüppell, 1838  
 En - Yellowtail barracuda. Zub-Saalim. To 37 cm.



*Sphyraena forsteri* Cuvier, 1829  
 En - Bigeye barracuda; Fr - Bécune de Forster.  
 Zub-Saalim. To 65 cm.





## GEMPYLIDAE

## Snake mackerels, barracoutas, escolars, oilfishes

*Gempylus serpens* (Cuvier, 1829)

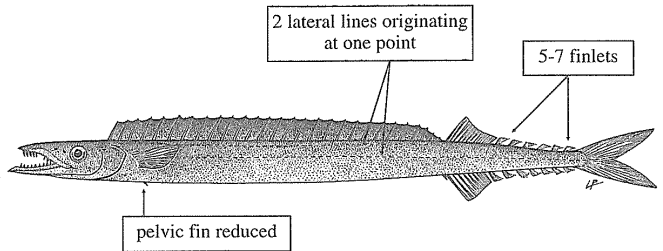
**FAO names:** En - Snake mackerel;  
Fr - Escolier serpent.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in the tuna longline fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Mesopelagic or pelagic, oceanic, down to depths of 200 m or more; at night often near the surface. Feeds on a large variety of fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.

*Lepidocybium flavobrunneum* (Smith, 1849)

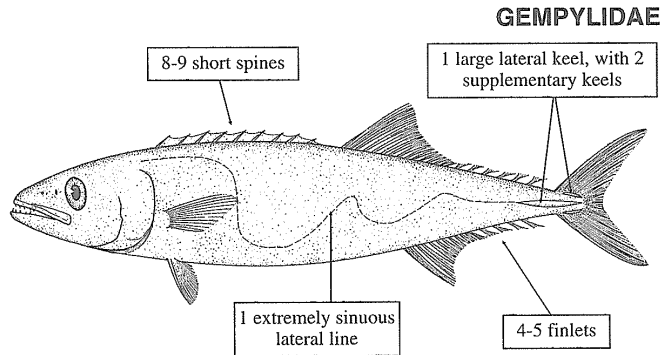
**FAO names:** En - Escolar; Fr - Escolier noir.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 2 m, common to 1.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in the tuna longline fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Meso- or bathypelagic, oceanic, down to depths of 200 m or more. Feeds on squids, fishes, and crustaceans.



## GEMPYLIDAE

*Nealotus tripes* Johnson, 1865

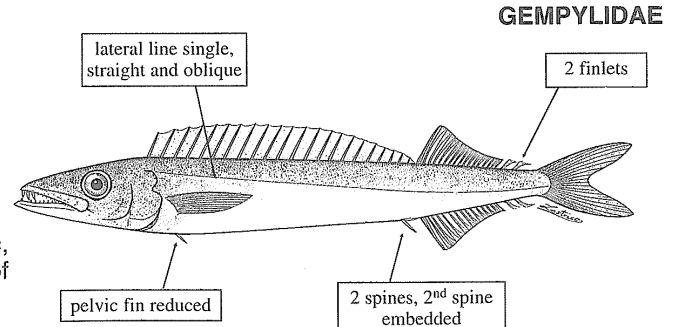
**FAO names:** En - Black snake mackerel;  
Fr - Escolier reptile.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in deep trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Meso- to bathypelagic, oceanic, from the surface down to depths of 600 m.



## GEMPYLIDAE

*Neopinnula orientalis* (Gilchrist and von Bonde, 1924)

GEMPYLIDAE

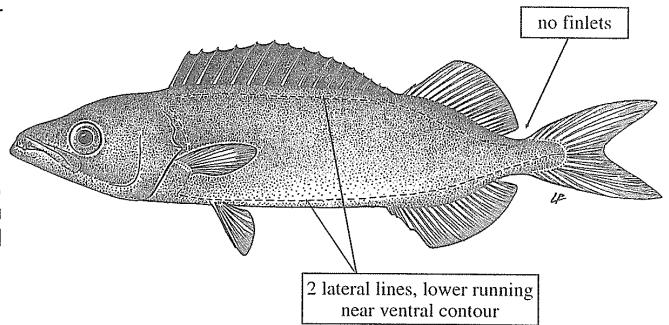
**FAO names:** En - Sackfish; Fr - Escolier oriental.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with deep water trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Meso- or bathypelagic, between depths of 200 and 570 m. Feeds on a variety of small fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.



*Promethichthys prometheus* (Cuvier, 1832)

GEMPYLIDAE

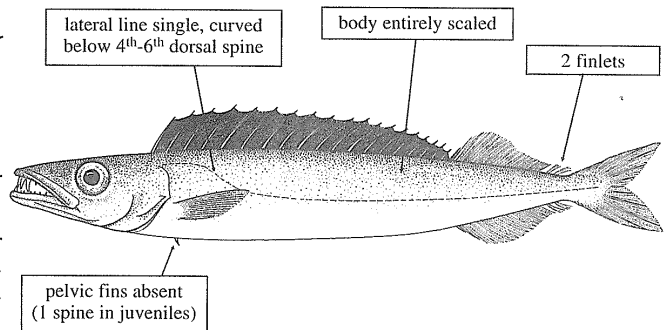
**FAO names:** En - Roudi escolar; Fr - Escolier clair.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and bottom longlines, occasionally with setnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Meso-, bathy- or benthopelagic, from depths of about 100 to 750 m. Feeds on fish, crustaceans, and cephalopods.



*Rexea prometheoides* (Bleeker, 1856)

GEMPYLIDAE

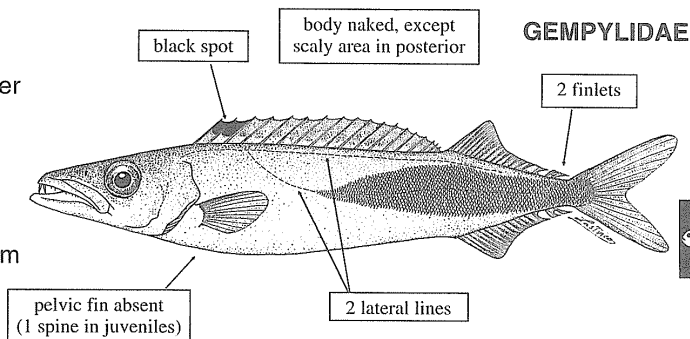
**FAO names:** En - Silver gemfish; Fr - Escolier tifiati.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic, from depths of 135 to 540 m.



*Thyrsitoides marleyi* Fowler, 1929

GEMPYLIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Slender snoek; Fr - Escolier royal.

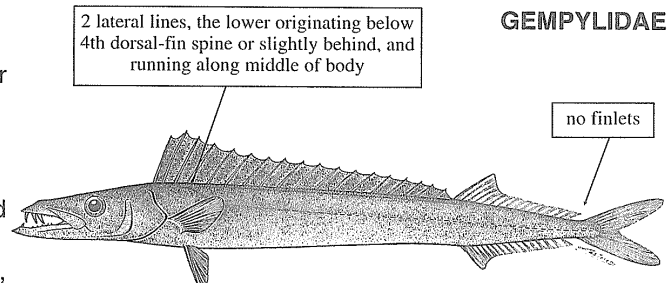
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.5 m, common to 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls, handlines, and longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Meso- and bathypelagic, to depths of 400 m or more.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



## TRICHIURIDAE

## Cutlassfishes, hairtailfishes, frostfishes, scabbardfishes

*Aphanopus microphthalmus* Norman, 1939

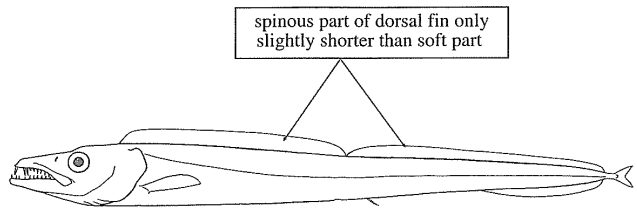
**FAO names:** En - Smalleye scabbardfish;  
Fr - Poisson sabre petits yeux.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 94 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic, from depths of 810 to 1020 m.



*Benthodesmus oligoradiatus* Parin and Becker, 1970

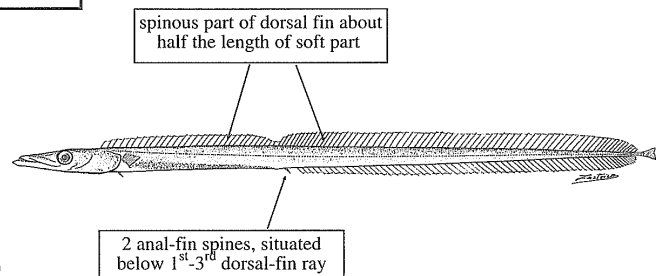
**FAO names:** En - Sparse-rayed frostfish;  
Fr - Poisson sabre chauve.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 51 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic on seamounts and the continental slope, from depths of 375 to 600 m, juveniles down to 1000 m.



TRICHIURIDAE

*Benthodesmus tuckeri* Parin and Becker, 1970

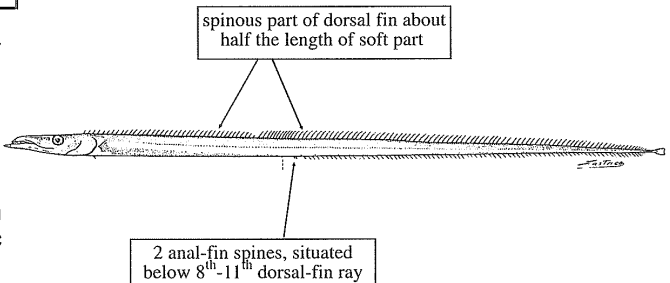
**FAO names:** En - Tucker's frostfish; Fr - Poisson sabre ruban.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 77 cm standard length.

**Fisheries:** No information available.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic, from depths of 550 to 790 m, juveniles mesopelagic at a depth of about 500 m.



TRICHIURIDAE

*Trichiurus auriga* Klunzinger, 1884

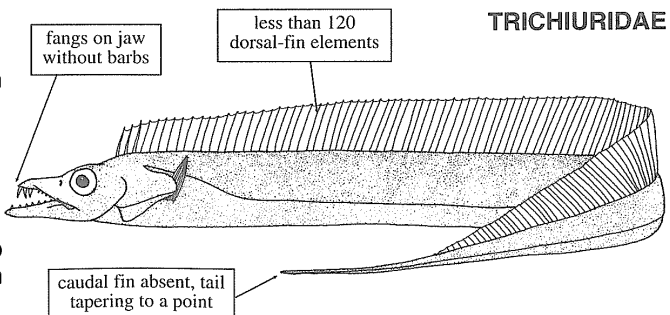
**FAO names:** En - Pearly hairtail; Fr - Poisson sabre brochet.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with deep water trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic in deep waters from depths of 250 to 350 m. Feeds on deep water shrimps and small fishes.



TRICHIURIDAE

*Trichiurus lepturus* Linnaeus, 1758

TRICHIURIDAE

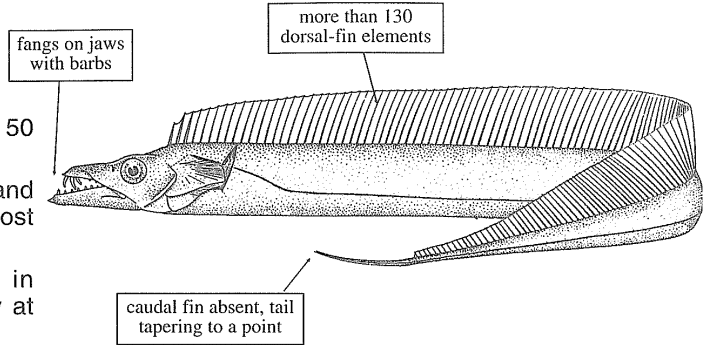
**FAO names:** En - Largehead hairtail;  
Fr - Poisson sabre commun.

**Local names:** Maguungi.

**Size:** To 1.2 m total length, common from 50 to 100 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bagnets, shore and boat seines, longlines, and trawls. The most important commercially caught trichiurid.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthopelagic, in coastal waters, from the surface (mainly at night) to depths of 350 m.



XIPHIIDAE

Swordfishes

*Xiphias gladius* Linnaeus, 1758

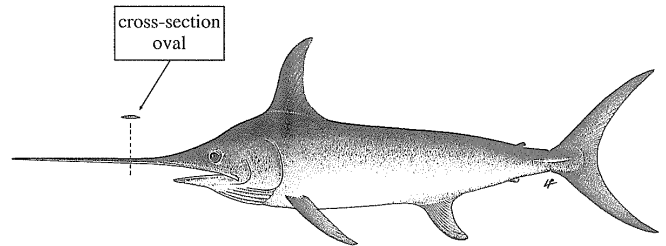
**FAO names :** En - Swordfish; Fr - Espadon.

**Local names:** Daanbeeri.

**Size:** To 4.44 m, common to 3.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, harpoons, and trolling gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic, primarily oceanic; highly migratory. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and squids.



ISTIOPHORIDAE

Marlins, sailfishes, and spearfishes

*Istiophorus platypterus* (Shaw and Nodder, 1792)

ISTIOPHORIDAE

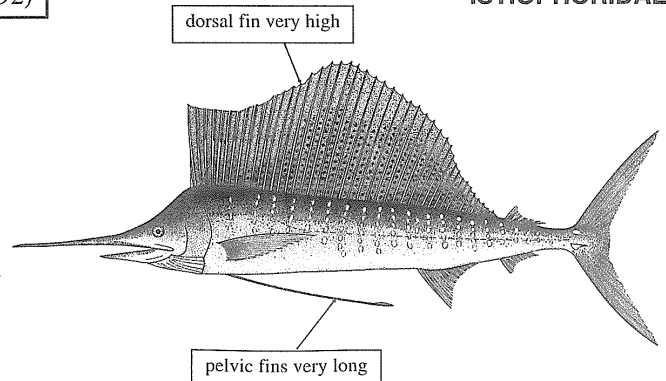
**FAO names:** En - Indo-Pacific sailfish;  
Fr - Voilier indo-pacifique.

**Local names:** Daanbeeri.

**Size:** To about 3.2 m, common to 2.7 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines, setnets, trolling and harpooning from boats.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, epipelagic and highly migratory. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.



***Makaira indica* (Cuvier, 1832)**

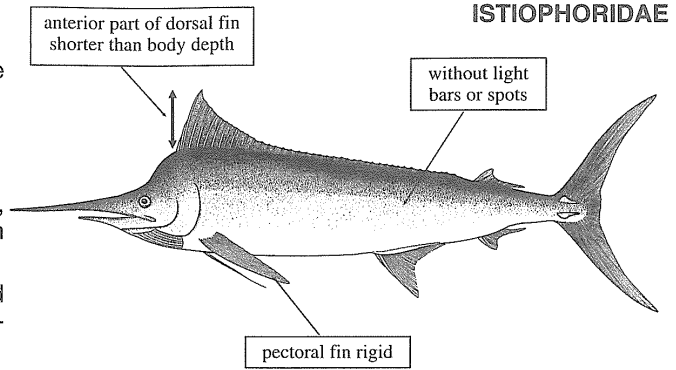
**FAO names:** En - Black marlin; Fr - Makaïre noire.

**Local names:** Daanbeeri.

**Size:** To about 4.6 m, common to 3.8 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with commercial longlines, setnets, trolling and by harpooning from boats.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, epipelagic and highly migratory. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.

***Makaira mazara* (Jordan & Snyder, 1901)**

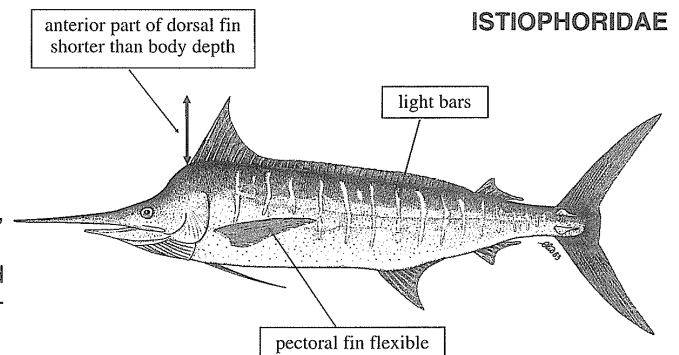
**FAO names:** En - Indo-Pacific blue marlin; Fr - Makaïre bleu.

**Local names:** Daanbeeri.

**Size:** To about 4.3 m, common to 3.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with commercial longlines, and trolling from boats.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, epipelagic and highly migratory. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.

***Tetrapturus angustirostris* Tanaka, 1915**

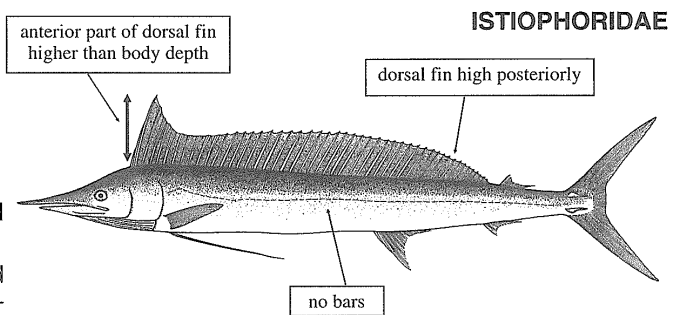
**FAO names:** En - Shortbill spearfish; Fr - Makaïre à rostre court.

**Local names:** Daanbeeri Cadde.

**Size:** To about 2.3 m, common to 1.9 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch of commercial longlines.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, epipelagic and highly migratory. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.

***Tetrapturus audax* (Philippi, 1889)**

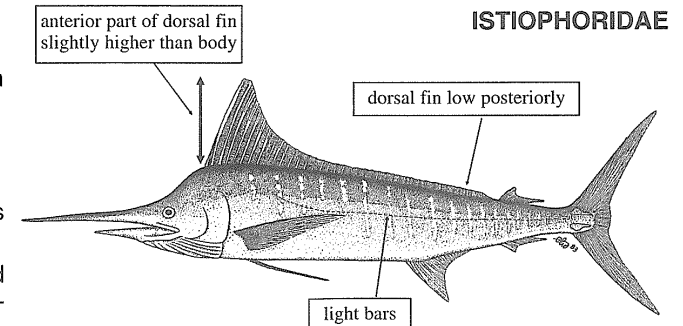
**FAO names:** En - Striped marlin; Fr - Marlin rayé.

**Local names:** Daanbeeri Cadde.

**Size:** To about 3.4 m, common to 2.9 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with commercial longlines and trolling gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, epipelagic and highly migratory. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.



**SCOMBRIDAE**

Albacores, bonitos, kawakawas, mackerels, seerfishes, tunas and wahoos

*Acanthocybium solandri* (Cuvier, 1831)

**SCOMBRIDAE**

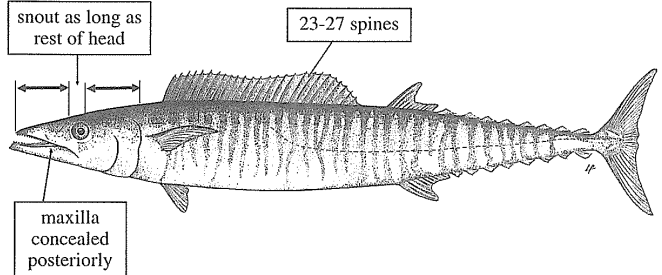
**FAO names:** En - Wahoo; Fr - Thazard bâlard.

**Local names:** Yuumbi.

**Size:** To 2.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with sportfishing gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic, oceanic; solitary or forming loose aggregations. Feeds on pelagic fishes and cephalopods.



*Auxis rochei* (Risso, 1810)

**SCOMBRIDAE**

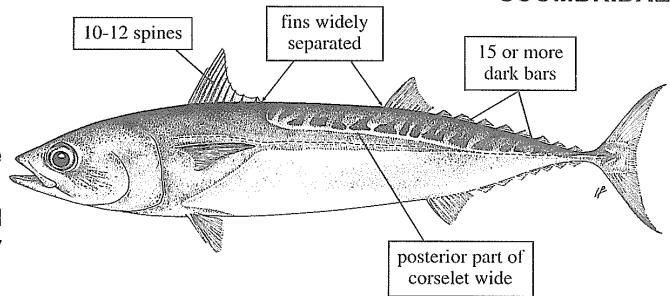
**FAO names:** En - Bullet tuna; Fr - Bonitou.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines, shore seines, liftnets, traps, and trolling gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic, neritic and oceanic. Feeds on small fishes, especially clupeoids.



*Auxis thazard* (Lacepède, 1800)

**SCOMBRIDAE**

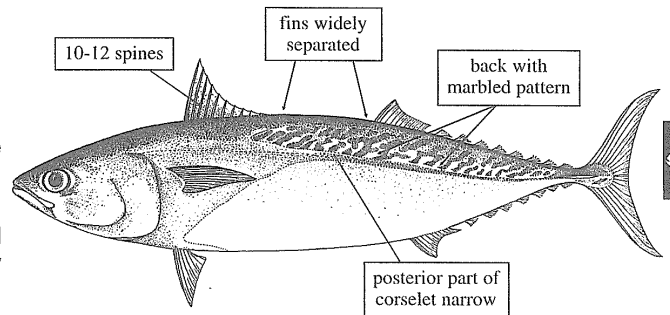
**FAO names:** En - Frigate tuna; Fr - Auxide.

**Local names:** Jaydar-Dhiiglow.

**Size:** To 58 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with beach seines, shore seines, driftnets, purse seines, hook-and-line, and trolling gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic, neritic and oceanic. Feeds on small fishes, especially clupeoids.



*Euthynnus affinis* (Cantor, 1849)

**SCOMBRIDAE**

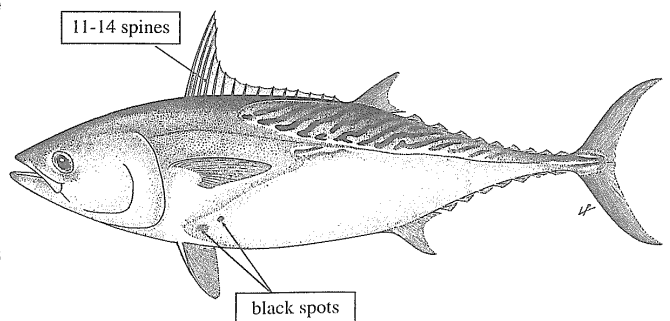
**FAO names:** En - Kawakawa; Fr - Thonine orientale.

**Local names:** Jaydar-Dhiiglow.

**Size:** To about 1.0 m, common to 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly by surface trolling, also with gillnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic and neritic; schools with other similar sized scombrids. Feeds on small fishes, especially clupeoids and atherinids.



*Grammatorcynus bilineatus* (Rüppell, 1836)

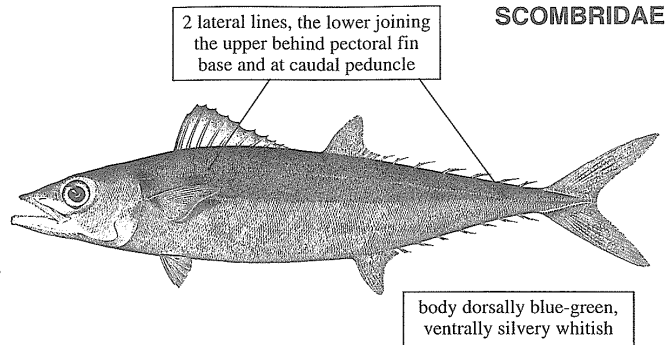
**FAO names:** En - Double-lined mackerel;  
Fr - Thazard-kusara.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 1.0 m, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with pole and line.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic, schooling in shallow reef areas. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans.

*Gymnosarda unicolor* (Rüppell, 1838)

**FAO names:** En - Dogtooth tuna; Fr - Bonite à gros yeux.

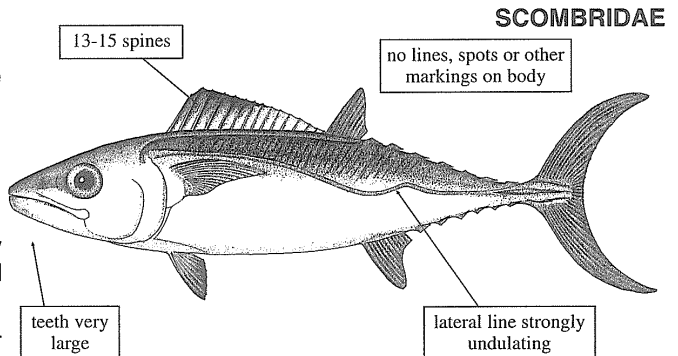
**Local names:** Jaydar-Dhiiglow.

**Size:** To 1.1 m, common to 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with pole and line.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic, usually around coral reefs. Feeds on small fishes and squids.

**Remarks:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.

*Katsuwonus pelamis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

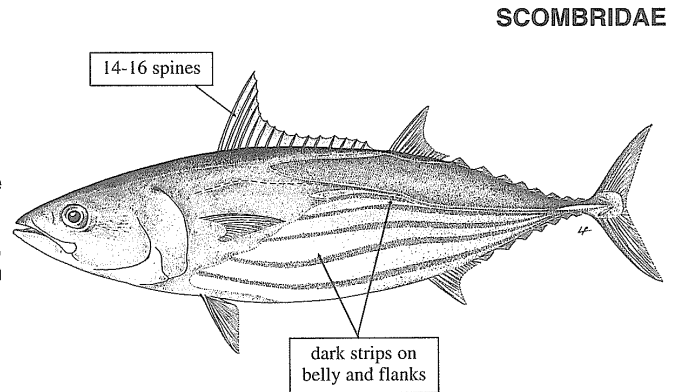
**FAO names:** En - Skipjack tuna ; Fr - Listao.

**Local names:** Jaydar-Dhiiglow.

**Size:** To 1.0 m, common to 80 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines and pole and line. Of major commercial interest.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic and oceanic, usually above the thermocline. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.

*Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Cuvier, 1817)

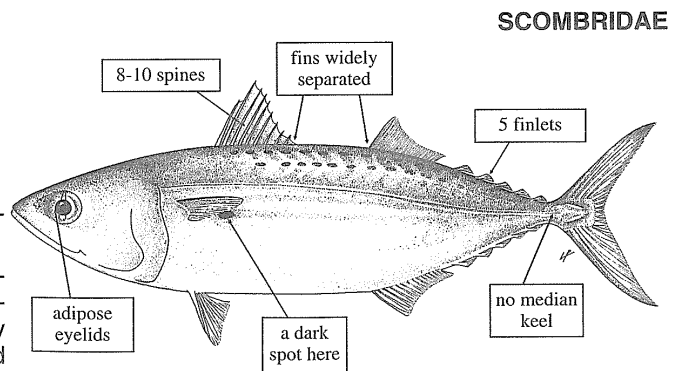
**FAO names:** En - Indian mackerel;  
Fr - Maquereau des Indes.

**Local names:** Jaydar-Dhiiglow.

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines, encircling gillnets, and liftnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, often schooling in large numbers; juveniles feed on phytoplankton, adults primarily on macroplankton such as larval shrimps and fish.





*Sarda orientalis* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1844)

SCOMBRIDAE

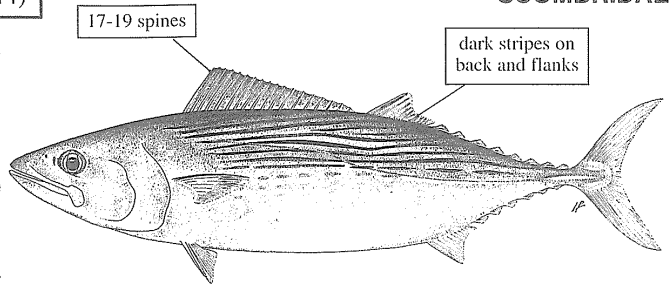
**FAO names:** En - Striped bonito; Fr - Bonite oriental.

**Local names:** Jaydar-Dhiiglow.

**Size:** To 1.02 m, common to 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with pole and line, purse seines, and driftnets. Of major commercial interest.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters, schooling with other small tunas. Feeds mainly on small fishes such as clupeoids, crustaceans, and cephalopods.



*Scomber japonicus* Houttuyn, 1782

SCOMBRIDAE

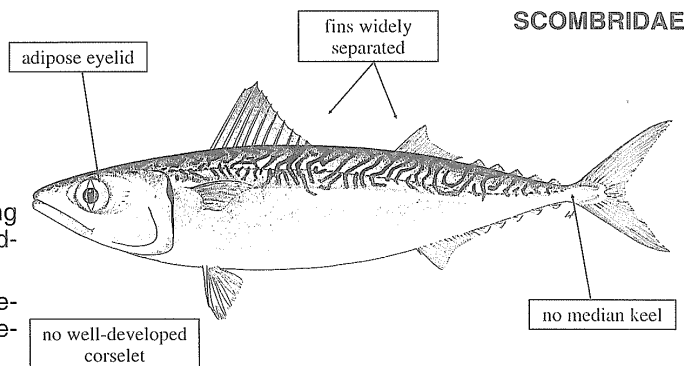
**FAO names:** En - Chub mackerel; Fr - Maquereau espagnol.

**Local names:** Yuumbi.

**Size:** To 50 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines, trolling lines, gillnets, traps, beach seines, and mid-water trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Primarily coastal pelagic, schooling. Feeds on small fishes, especially clupeoids, and pelagic invertebrates.



*Scomberomorus commerson* (Lacepède, 1801)

SCOMBRIDAE

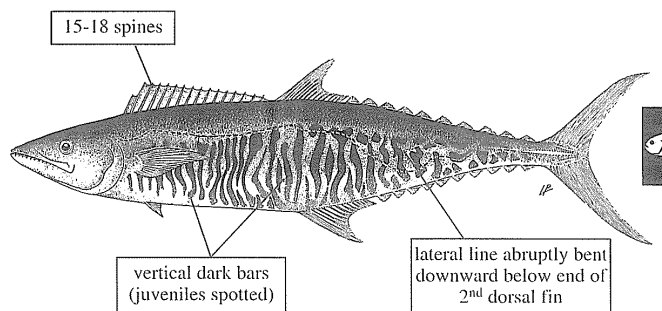
**FAO names:** En - Narrowbarred Spanish mackerel; Fr - Thazard rayé indo-pacifique.

**Local names:** Yuumbi.

**Size:** To 2.2 m, common to 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with drift gillnets, midwater trawls, and trolling gear. Of major commercial interest.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic in coastal waters at depths between 15 and 200 m, forming small schools; known to undertake longshore migrations. Feeds on small schooling fishes such as clupeoids.



*Thunnus alalunga* (Bonnaterre, 1788)

SCOMBRIDAE

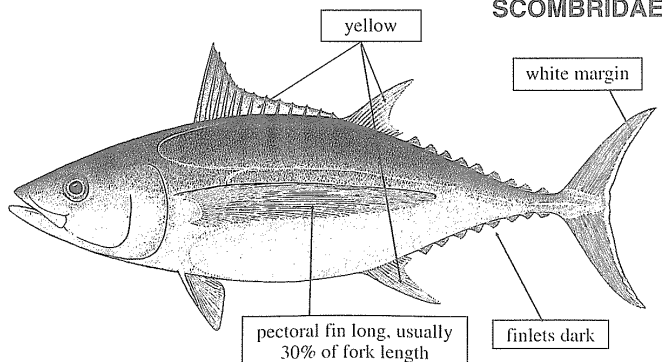
**FAO names:** En - Albacore; Fr - Germon.

**Local names:** Yajdar-Baal-Cagaar.

**Size:** To 1.2 m, common to 1.0 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with purse seines, longlines, and trolling gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, the young often forming large schools. Feeds mainly on fishes, squids, and crustaceans.



*Thunnus albacares* (Bonnaterre, 1788)

## SCOMBRIDAE

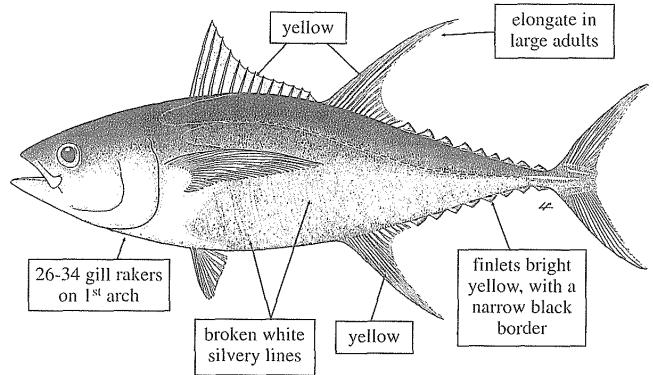
**FAO names:** En - Yellowfin tuna; Fr - Albacore.

**Local names:** Yajdar-Baal-Cagaar.

**Size:** To 1.95 m, common to 1.5 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines and purse seines. Of major commercial interest.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic and oceanic; schools by size. Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.

*Thunnus obesus* (Lowe, 1839)

## SCOMBRIDAE

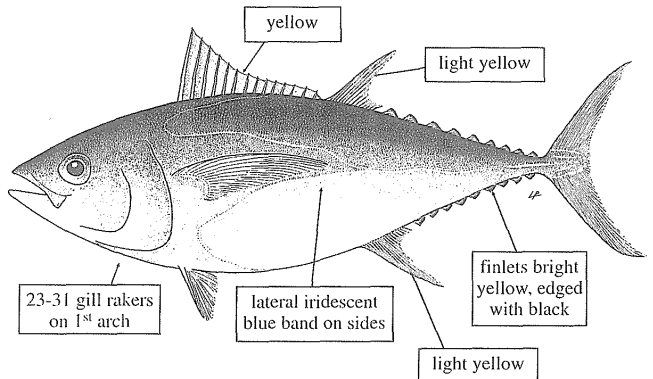
**FAO names:** En - Bigeye tuna; Fr - Thon obèse.

**Local names:** Yajdar-Baal-Cagaar.

**Size:** To at least 2.0 m, common to 1.8 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines. Of major commercial interest.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic and mesopelagic in oceanic waters from the surface to depths of 250 m; juveniles school with yellowfin and/or skipjack tuna. Feeds on fishes, cephalopods, and crustaceans.

*Thunnus tonggol* (Bleeker, 1851)

## SCOMBRIDAE

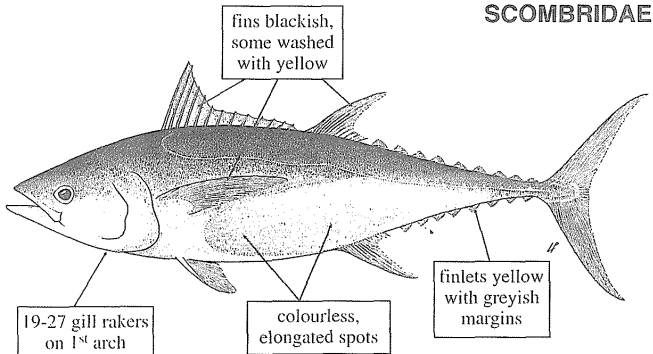
**FAO names:** En - Longtail tuna; Fr - Thon mignon.

**Local names:** Yajdar.

**Size:** To 1.3 m, common to 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines. Of major commercial interest.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic and neritic; avoids areas with reduced salinity. Opportunistic feeder.



## CENTROLOPHIDAE

## Ruffs

*Psenopsis cyanea* (Alcock, 1890)

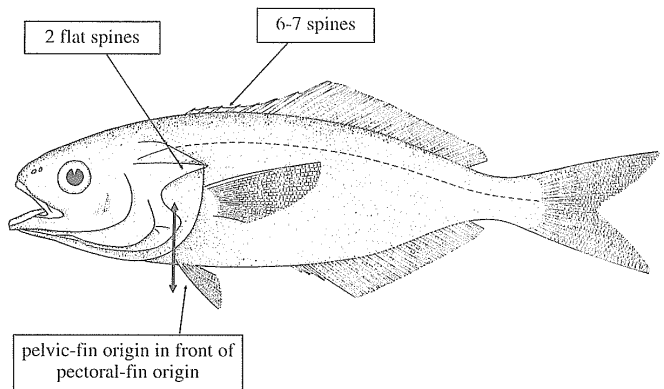
**FAO names:** En - Indian ruff.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm, common to 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in rather deep water, between depths of 250 to 300 m; forms small schools.



## NOMEIDAE

## Man-of-war fishes, driftfishes

*Cubiceps pauciradiatus* Günther, 1872

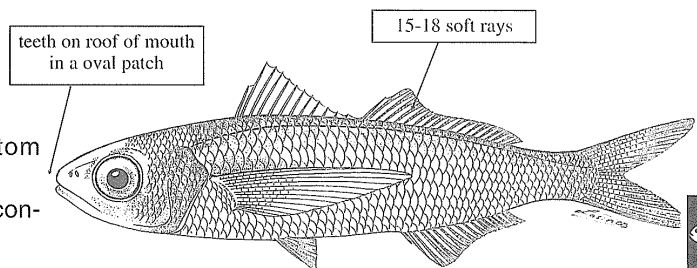
**FAO names:** En - Longfin fathead.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Deep water on the continental slope.



*Cubiceps squamiceps* (Lloyd, 1909)

**FAO names:** En - Indian driftfish; Fr - Dérivant indien.

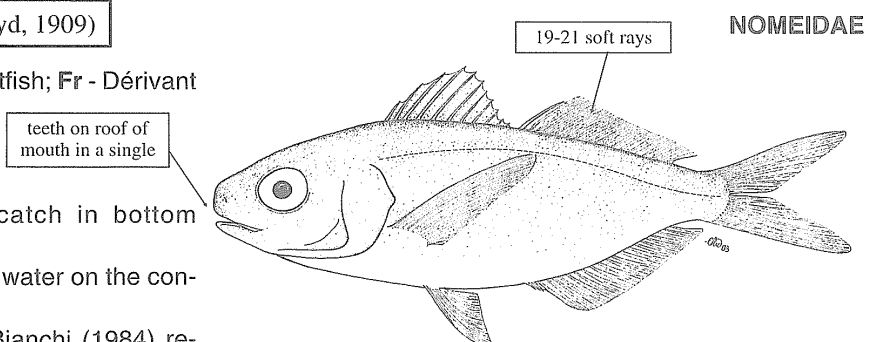
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Deep water on the continental slope.

**Remarks:** In Fischer and Bianchi (1984) reported as *Psenus squamiceps* (Lloyd, 1909).



## ARIOMMATIDAE

## Ariommas

*Ariomma indica* (Day, 1870)

**FAO names:** En - Indian ariomma;  
Fr - Ariomme indienne.

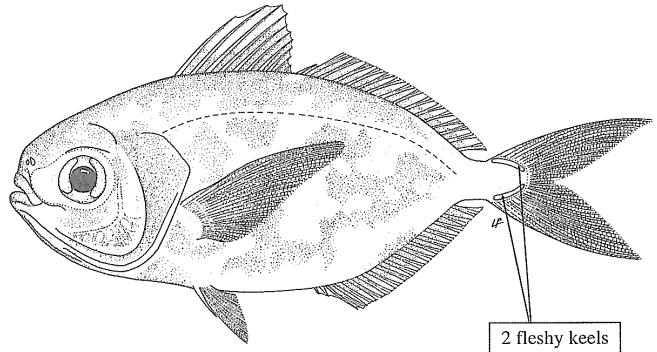
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm, common to 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** Taken as bycatch in deep-sea trawling.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in small shoals over muddy bottoms to depths of 300 m; continental shelf and upper slope. Feeds on zooplankton.

**Remarks:** Placed by some authors in the family Nomeidae.



## PSETTODIDAE

## Spiny turbot

*Psettodes erumei* (Schneider, 1801)

(plate XXXII, 220)

**FAO names:** En - Indian halibut;  
Fr - Turbot épineux indien.

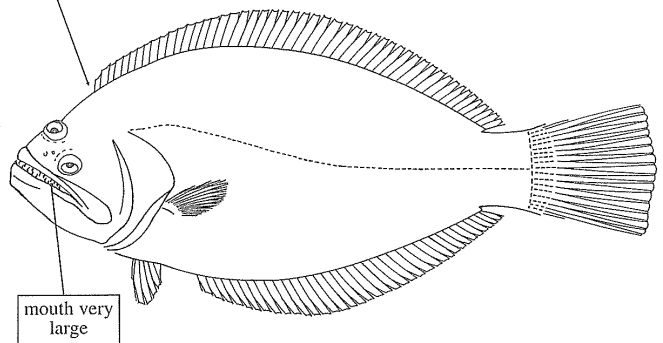
**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

**Size:** To 60 cm, common to 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy and sandy bottoms down to a depth of about 100 m.

dorsal-fin origin well posterior  
to position of eyes



**PARALICHTHYIDAE**

**Short pelvic flounders**

*Pseudorhombus arsius* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

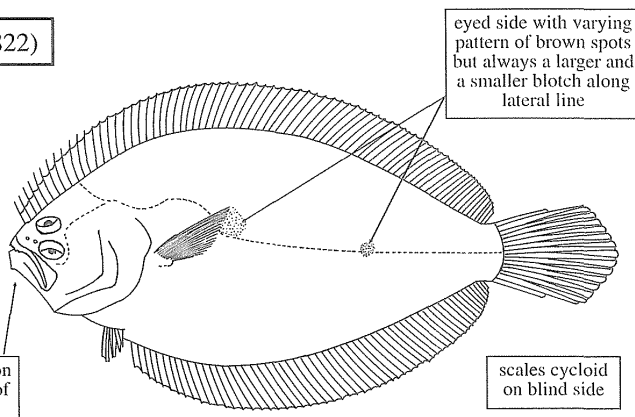
**FAO names:** En - Largetooth flounder; Fr - Rite dentu.

**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

**Size:** To 35 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, in shallow waters and estuaries, on muddy and sandy bottoms, to depths of 200 m. Feeds on benthic animals.



*Pseudorhombus elevatus* Ogilby, 1912

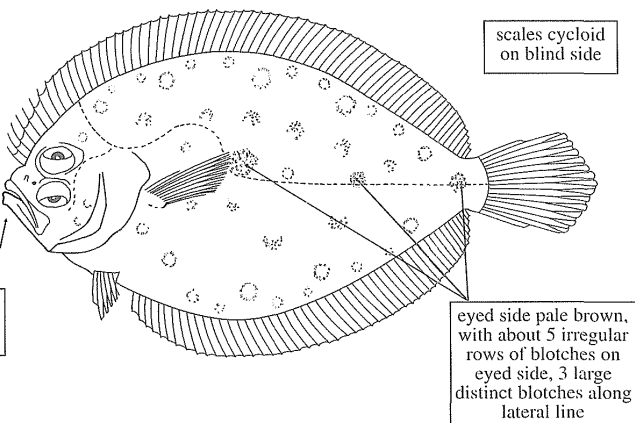
**FAO names:** En - Deep flounder; Fr - Rite targeur

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 19 cm, common to 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, on clay, sand and mud bottoms, from depths of 7 to 200 m. Feeds on benthic animals.



**PARALICHTHYIDAE**

**BOTHIDAE**

**Lefteye flounders**

*Bothus myriaster* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1846)

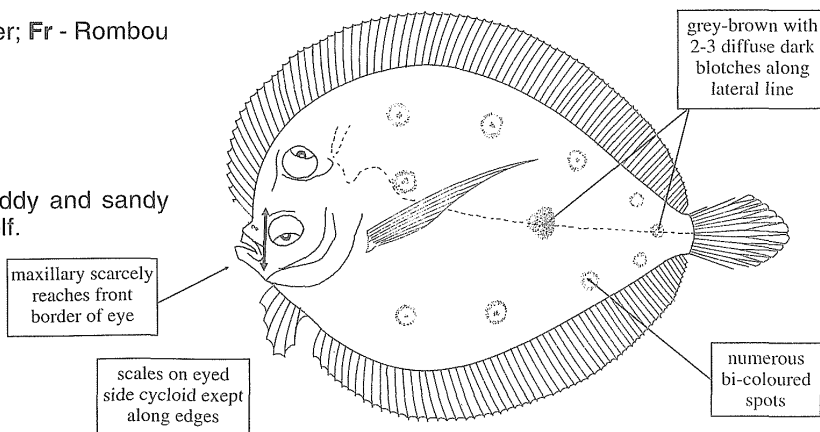
**FAO names:** En - Oval flounder; Fr - Rombou oval.

**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

**Size:** To about 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On muddy and sandy grounds of the continental shelf.



**BOTHIDAE**



*Bothus pantherinus* (Rüppell, 1830)

(plate XXXII, 221)

**BOTHIDAE**

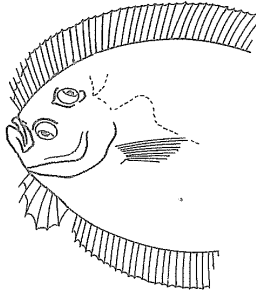
**FAO names:** En - Leopard flounder; Fr - Rombou léopard.

**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

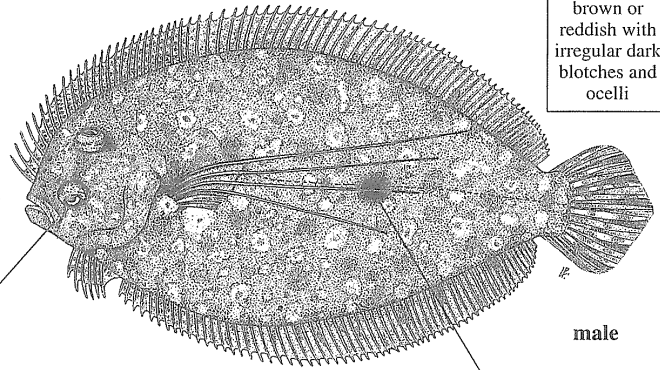
**Size:** To 25 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits shallow waters, on muddy and sandy bottoms.



maxillary reaches front border of eye



brown or reddish with irregular dark blotches and ocelli

all scales on eyed side ctenoid

large dark blotch

male

female

*Chascanopsetta lugubris* Alcock, 1894

**BOTHIDAE**

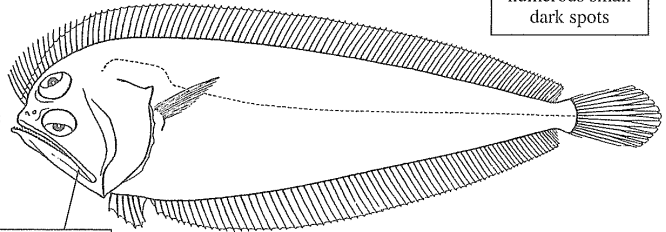
**FAO names:** En - Pelican flounder; Fr - Perpeire pélican.

**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

**Size:** To 40 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, from depths of 60 to 600 m. Feeds on larger benthic animals.



grey or yellowish with or without numerous small dark spots

mouth very large

*Crossorhombus valderostratus* (Alcock, 1890)

**BOTHIDAE**

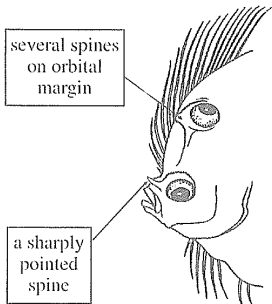
**FAO names:** En - Broadbrow flounder.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

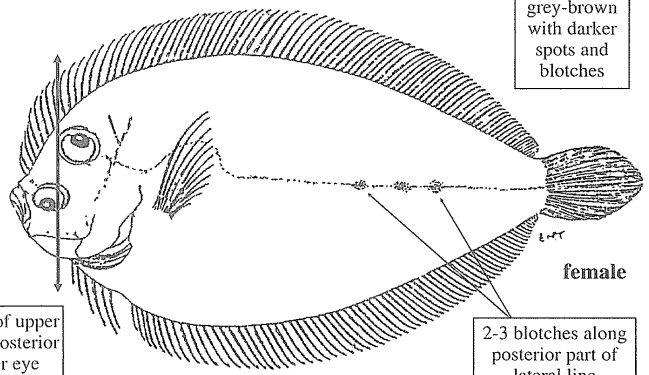
**Habitat and biology:** On muddy and sandy bottoms.



several spines on orbital margin

a sharply pointed spine

male



grey-brown with darker spots and blotches

anterior edge of upper eye opposite posterior part of lower eye

2-3 blotches along posterior part of lateral line

female



scales on eyed side with long "ctenii" (skin rough)

**BOTHIDAE**

*Engyprosopon grandisquamis* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1846)

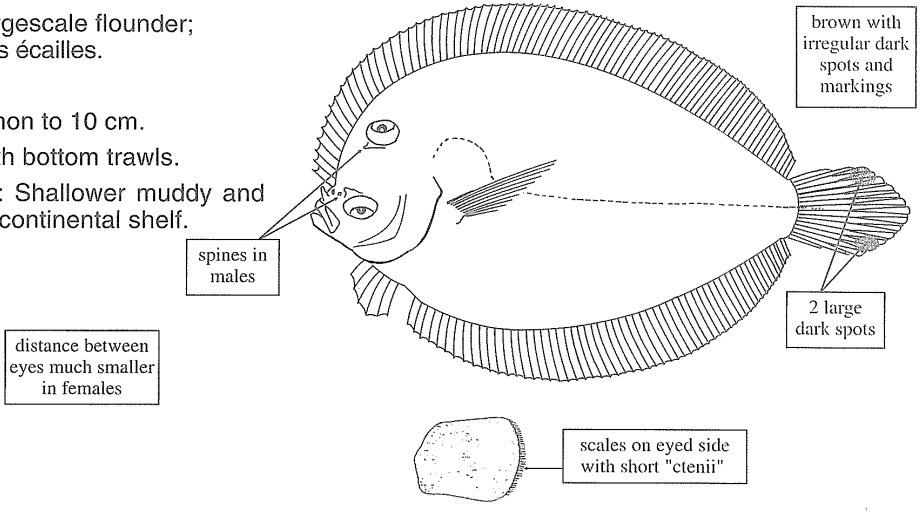
**FAO names:** En - Largescale flounder;  
Fr - Perpeire à grandes écailles.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 15 cm, common to 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallower muddy and sandy bottoms of the continental shelf.



**PLEURONECTIDAE**

**Righteye flounders**

*Samaris cristatus* Gray, 1831

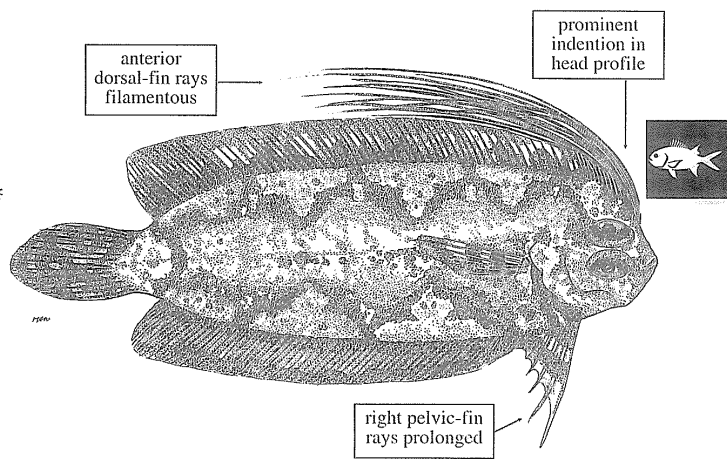
**FAO names:** En - Gray's crested flounder.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 17 cm total length.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic, to a depth of 62 m.



## SOLEIDAE

## Soles

*Aesopia cornuta* Kaup, 1858

**FAO names:** En - Unicorn sole.

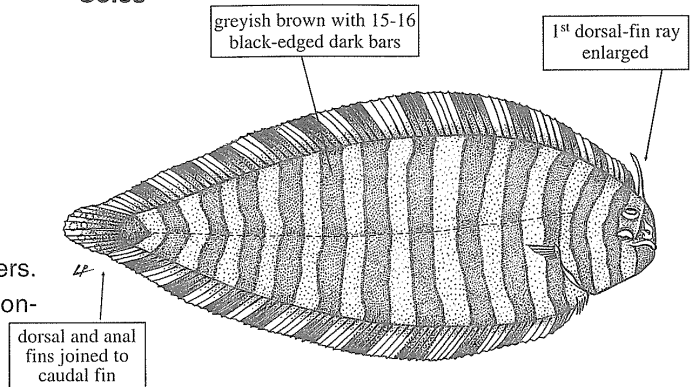
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 22 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Found in coastal waters.

**Remark:** Presence in Somalia to be confirmed.



*Euryglossa orientalis* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

(plate XXXII, 222)

SOLEIDAE

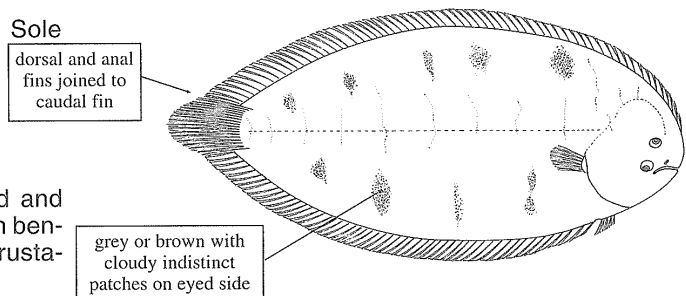
**FAO names:** En - Oriental sole; Fr - Sole d'orient.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 24 cm, common to 12 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On shallow sand and mud bottoms in coastal waters. Feeds on benthic invertebrates, especially small crustaceans.



*Pardachirus marmoratus* (Lacepède, 1802)

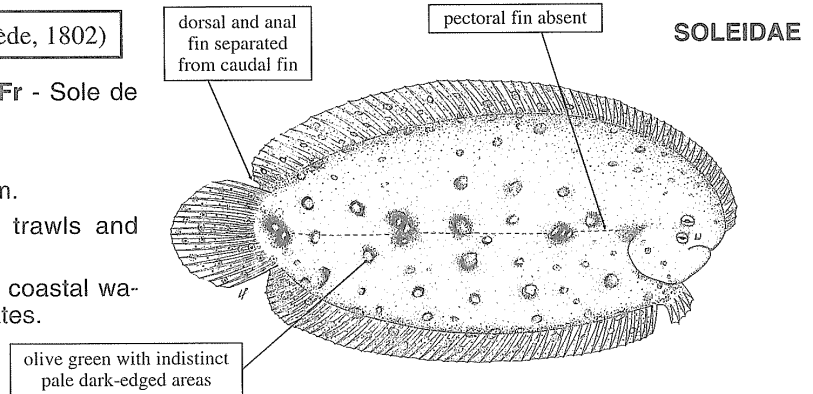
**FAO names:** En - Finless sole; Fr - Sole de lait.

**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

**Size:** To 25 cm, common to 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow coastal waters. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



*Solea elongata* Day, 1877

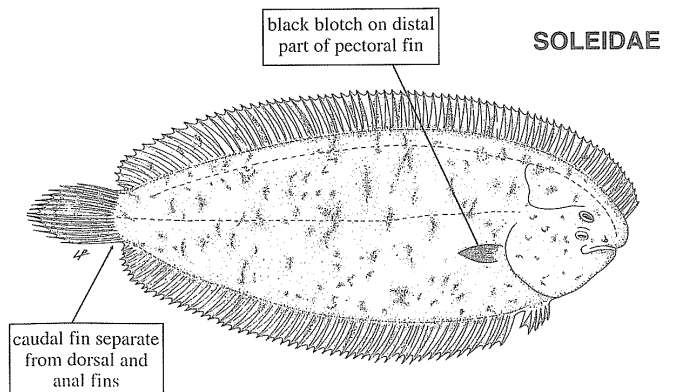
**FAO names:** En - Elongate sole; Fr - Sole élancée.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 12 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** On shallow sand and mud bottoms in coastal waters. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.





*Synaptura commersoniana* (Lacepède, 1802)

SOLEIDAE

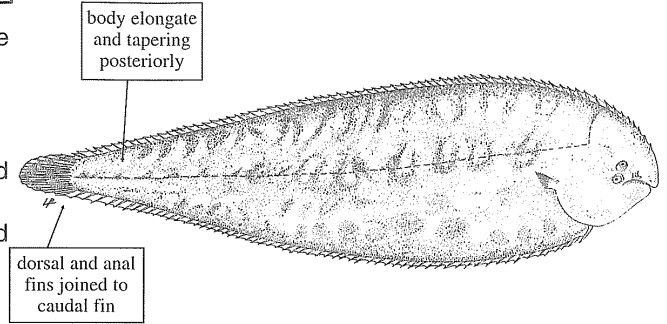
**FAO names:** En - Commerson's sole; Fr - Sole de Commerson.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 32 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow sand and mud grounds of the continental shelf.



*Zebrias quagga* Kaup, 1858

SOLEIDAE

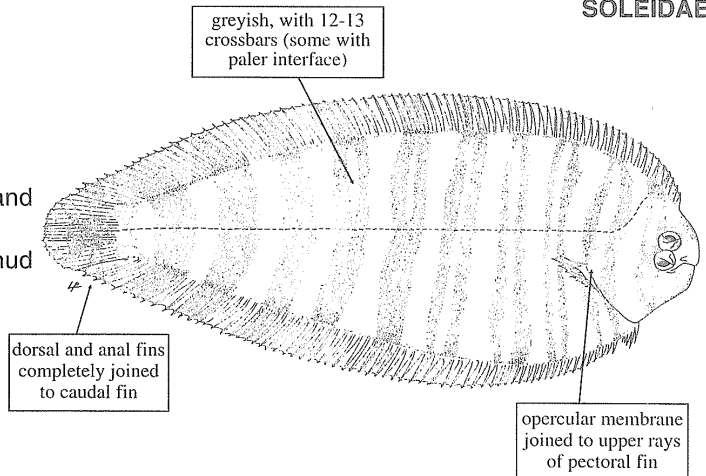
**FAO names:** En - Fringefin zebra sole; Fr - Sole quagga.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 15 cm, common to 12 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow sand and mud grounds of the continental shelf.



CYNOGLOSSIDAE

Tonguesoles

*Cynoglossus acaudatus* Gilchrist, 1906

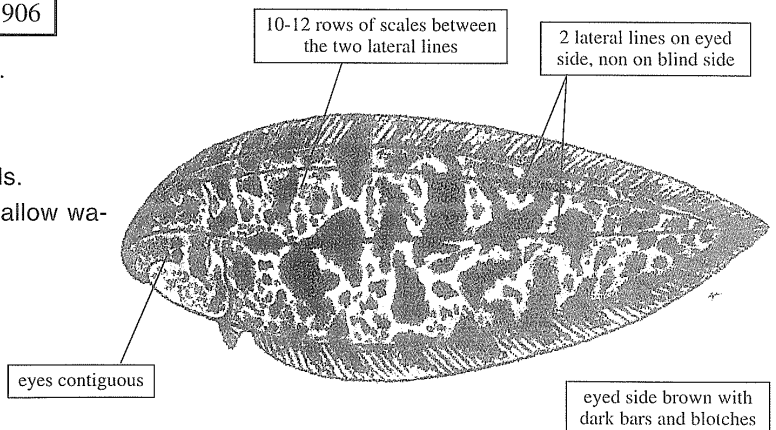
**FAO names:** En - Natal tongue-fish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 14 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Benthic in shallow waters.



*Cynoglossus acutirostris* Norman, 1939

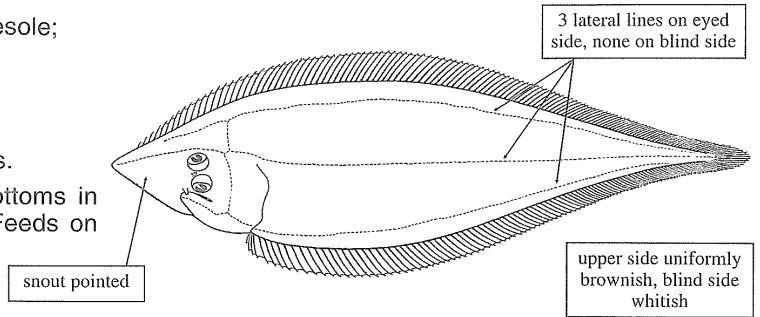
**FAO names:** En - Sharpnose tonguesole;  
Fr - Langue poignard.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm, common to 19 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** On sandy bottoms in waters beyond depths of 200 m. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



## CYNOGLOSSIDAE

*Cynoglossus lachneri* Menon, 1977

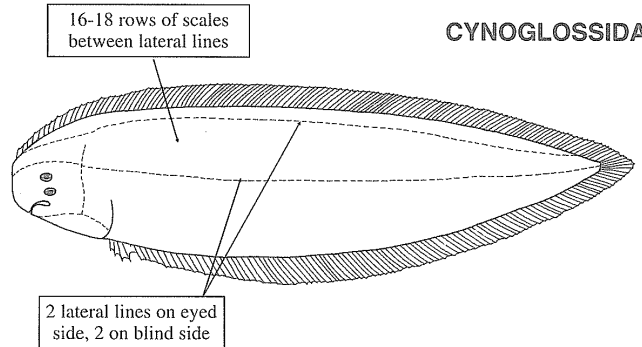
**FAO names:** En - Lachner's tonguesole;  
Fr - Langue Lachner.

**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

**Size:** To 46 cm, common to 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits muddy or sandy bottoms of the continental shelf.



## CYNOGLOSSIDAE

*Cynoglossus zanzibarensis* Norman, 1939

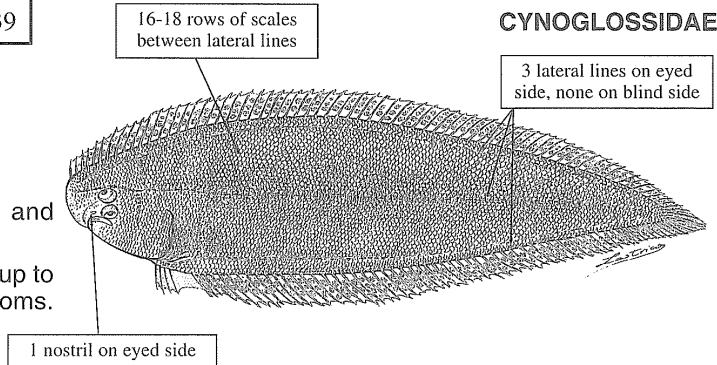
**FAO names:** En - Zanzibar tonguesole;  
Fr - Langue de Zanzibar.

**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

**Size:** To 20 cm, common to 16 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and shore seines.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters, up to depths of 25 m; on muddy and sandy bottoms. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



## CYNOGLOSSIDAE

*Paraplagusia bilineata* (Bloch, 1784)

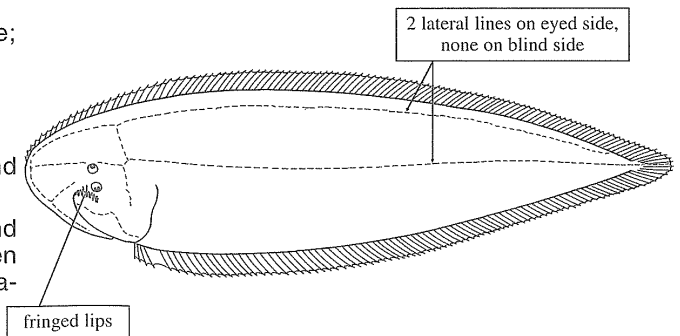
**FAO names:** En - Doublelined tonguesole;  
Fr - Langue à deux lignes.

**Local names:** Sheer-Sheerto.

**Size:** To 30 cm, common to 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and beach seines.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits muddy and sandy bottoms of the continental shelf; often found in shallow and brackish estuarine waters.



## CYNOGLOSSIDAE

## BALISTIDAE

### Triggerfishes and durgons

#### *Abalistes stellatus* (Lacepède, 1798)

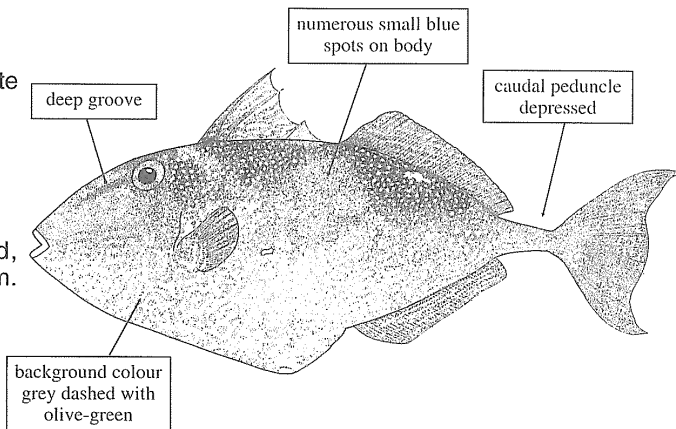
**FAO names:** En - Starry triggerfish; Fr - Baliste étoilé.

**Local names:** Kiin-Koy.

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Found over sand, sponge and weed bottoms to depths of 100 m. Feeds on benthic animals.



#### *Balistapus undulatus* (Park, 1797)

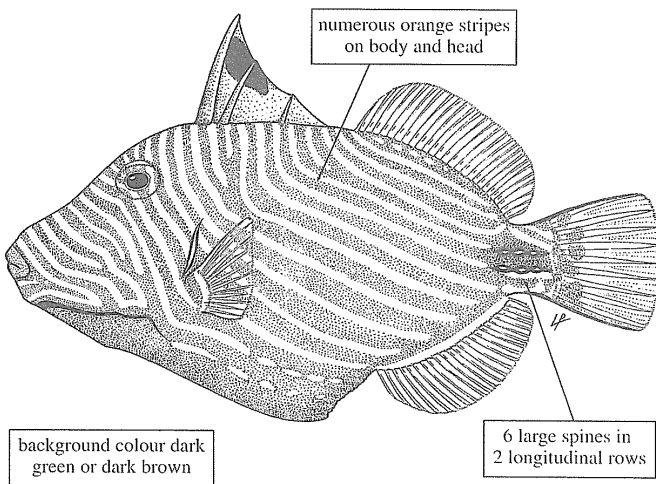
**FAO names:** En - Orangestriped triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls and pots.

**Habitat and biology:** Extremely varied diet: live corals, benthic algae, sea urchins, crustaceans, other benthic invertebrates, and also small fish.



## BALISTIDAE

#### *Balistoides conspicillum* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

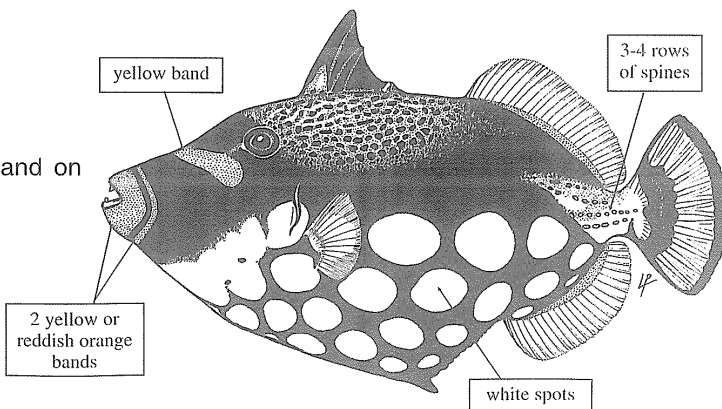
**FAO names:** En - Clown triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** In coral reefs and on sandy bottoms.



## BALISTIDAE



***Balistoides viridescens* (Bloch, 1801)**

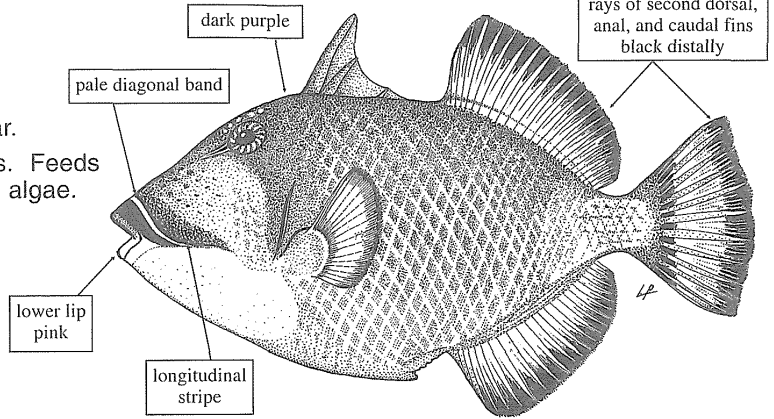
**FAO names:** En - Dotty triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs. Feeds on corals, benthic invertebrates, and algae.

***Canthidermis maculatus* (Bloch, 1796)**

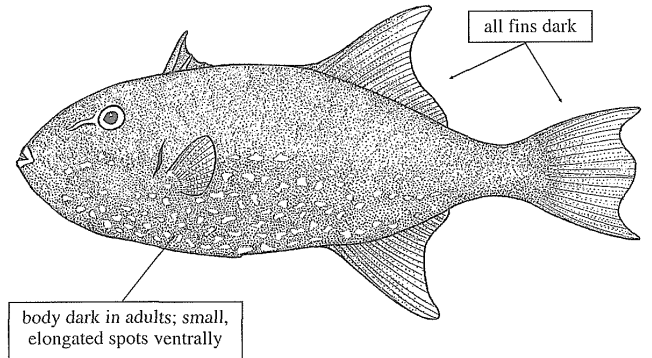
**FAO names:** En - Spotted triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To more than 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with various types of nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in offshore waters.

***Melichthys indicus* Randall and Klauswitz, 1973**

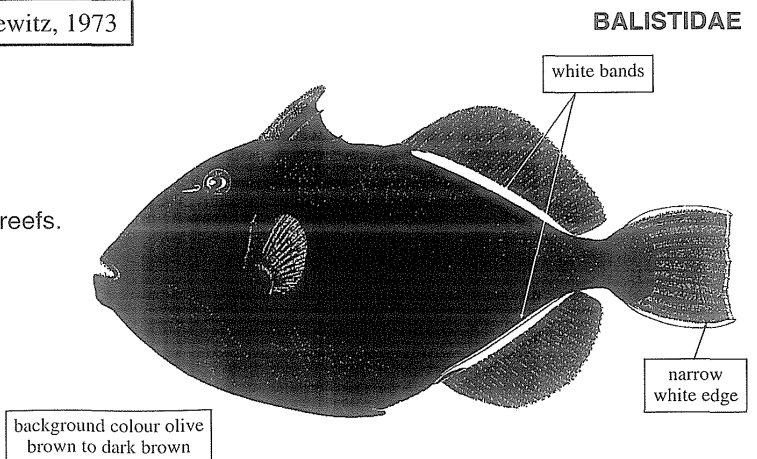
**FAO names:** En - Indian triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs in coral reefs.



*Melichthys niger* (Bloch, 1786)

## BALISTIDAE

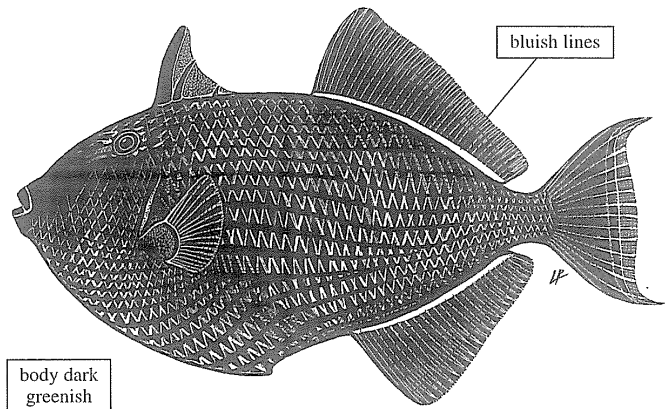
**FAO names:** En - Black triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 35 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on coral reefs. Feeds on algae and phytoplankton.

*Melichthys vidua* (Solander, 1844)

## BALISTIDAE

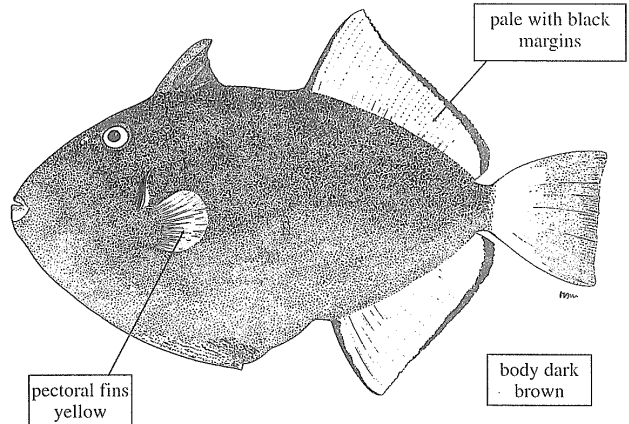
**FAO names:** En - Pinktail triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 40 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs. Feeds mainly on algae and detritus but also consumes crustaceans, sponges, octopuses, and fishes.

*Odonus niger* (Rüppell, 1840)

## BALISTIDAE

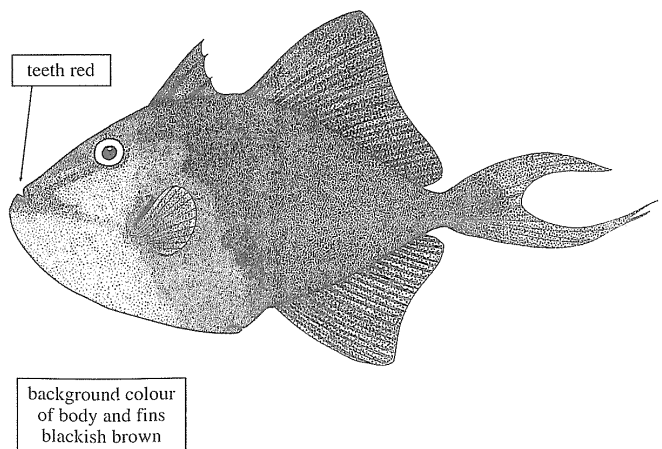
**FAO names:** En - Redtoothed triggerfish; Fr - Baliste dents rouges.

**Local names:** Kiin-Koy.

**Size:** To 50 cm, including long caudal lobes.

**Fisheries:** Caught with gillnets, bottom trawls, and lines.

**Habitat and biology:** In shallow waters around reefs. Feeds on benthic animals.



***Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus* (Rüppell, 1829)**

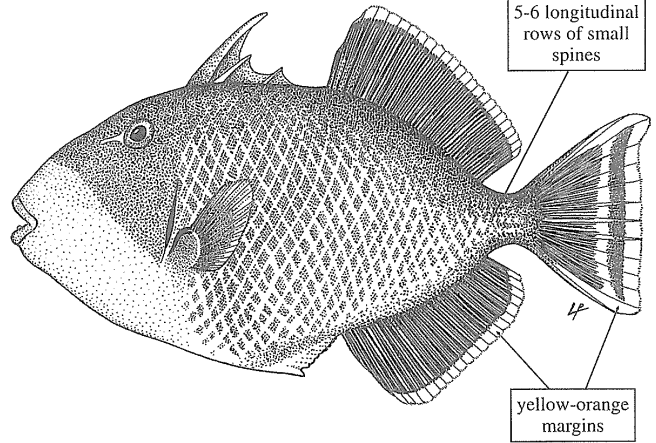
**FAO names:** En - Yellowface triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal fishing gear.

**Habitat and biology:** Found on lagoon slope and lagoon floor.

**BALISTIDAE*****Pseudobalistes fuscus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)**

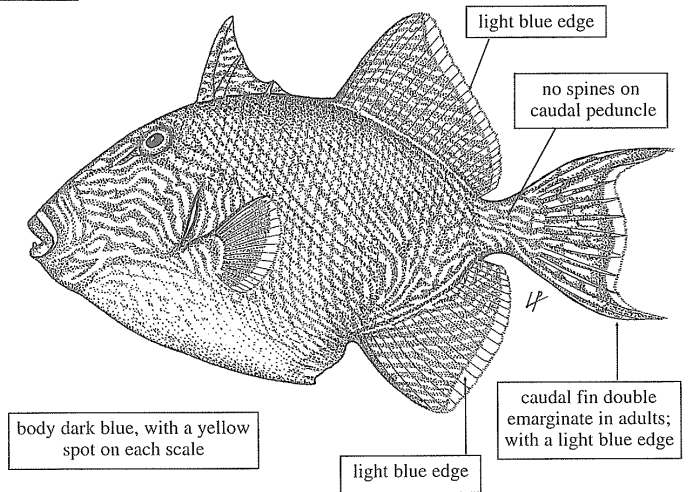
**FAO names:** En - Rippled triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 55 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.

**BALISTIDAE*****Rhinecanthus aculeatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**FAO names:** En - Blackbar triggerfish.

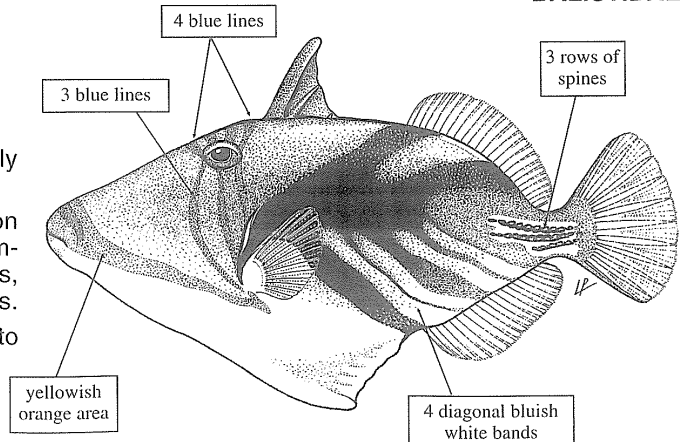
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear, mainly with pots.

**Habitat and biology:** In quiet waters of lagoon sandy areas and parts of seaward reef. Omnivorous: feeds on algae, detritus, mollusks, crustaceans, and other benthic invertebrates.

**Remarks:** Presence along the Somali coast to be confirmed.

**BALISTIDAE**

***Rhinecanthus assai* (Forsk., 1775)**

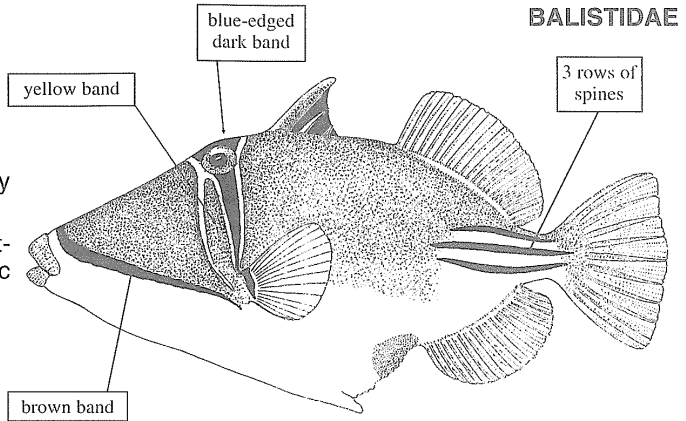
**FAO names:** En - Picasso triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear, mainly with pots.

**Habitat and biology:** Mainly over sandy bottoms around coral reefs. Feeds on benthic invertebrates.



**BALISTIDAE**

***Rhinecanthus rectangularus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)**

**FAO names:** En - Patchy triggerfish.

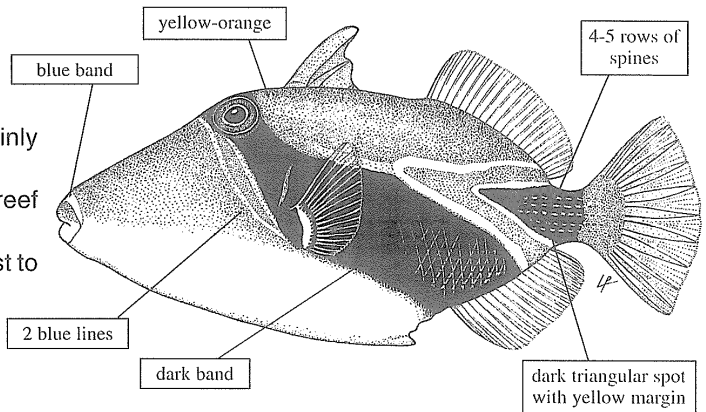
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear, mainly with pots.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on the outer reef and sand zones.

**Remarks:** Presence along the Somali coast to be confirmed.



**BALISTIDAE**

***Sufflamen bursa* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)**

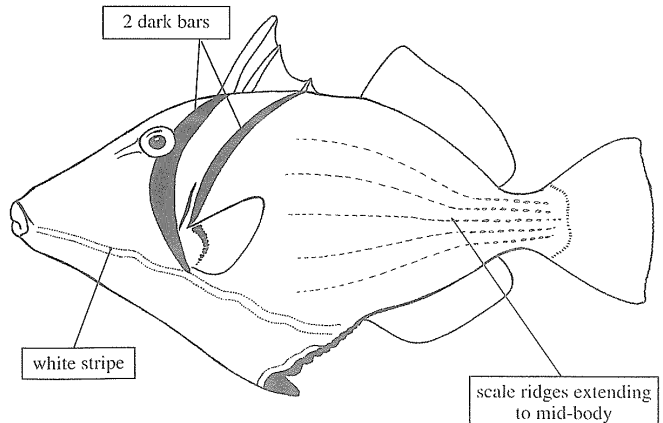
**FAO names:** En - Boomerang triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 25 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.



**BALISTIDAE**



***Sufflamen chrysopterus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)**

**FAO names:** En - Halfmoon triggerfish.

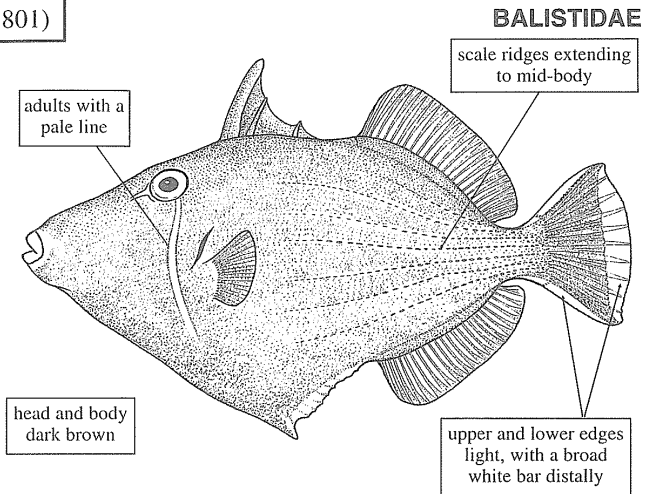
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear, mainly in pots.

**Habitat and biology:** On coral reefs.

**Remarks:** A similar species is *S. albicaudus* (Rüppell, 1829), its presence in Somalia is uncertain. It can be distinguished from *S. chrysopterus* by having a broad white zone at the caudal-fin base.

***Sufflamen fraenatus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)**

**FAO names:** En - Masked triggerfish;

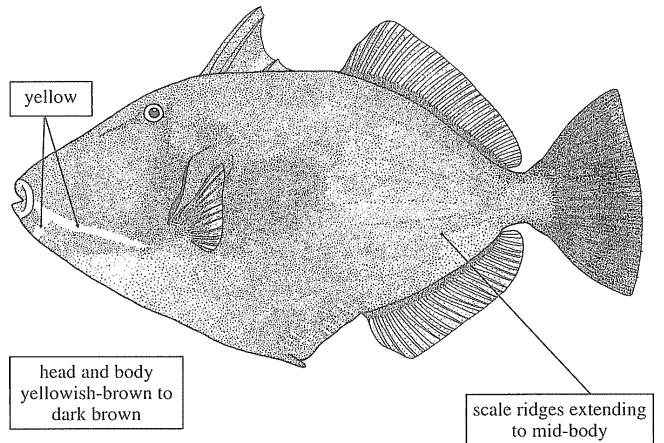
Fr - Baliste masque.

**Local names:** Kiin-Koy.

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls, pots.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, on corals and on flat bottoms with sponges; down to depths of 50 m.

***Xanthichthys lineopunctatus* (Hollard, 1854)**

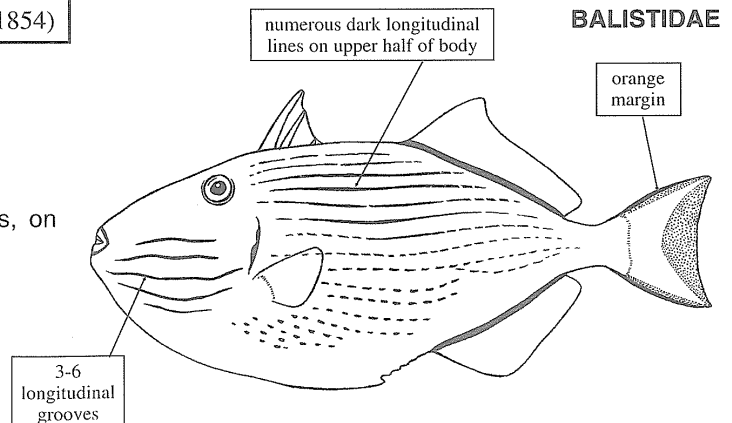
**FAO names:** En - Striped triggerfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with artisanal gear.

**Habitat and biology:** In coastal waters, on corals; down to depths of 50 m.

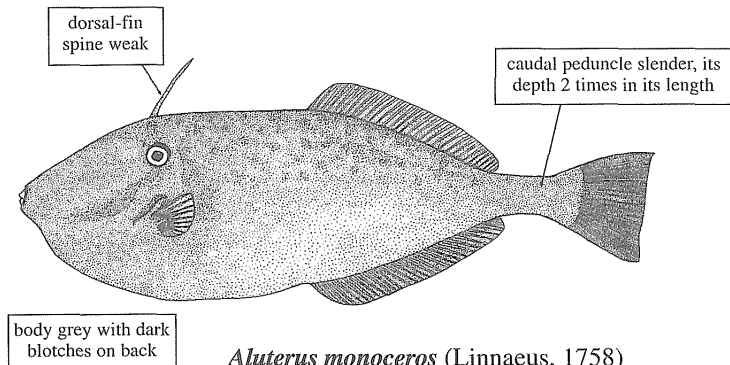




**MONACANTHIDAE**  
**Filefishes, leatherjackets**

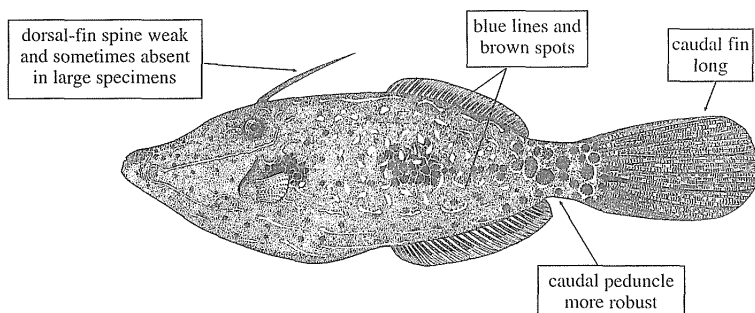
**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in bottom trawls. Only large individuals are eaten, smaller ones are collected as trash fish.

**Habitat and biology:** To depths of 170 m, on coral and rocky reefs, as well as on sand and mud bottoms, or seagrass beds. Feed on bottom living invertebrates, algae, plants and sponges.



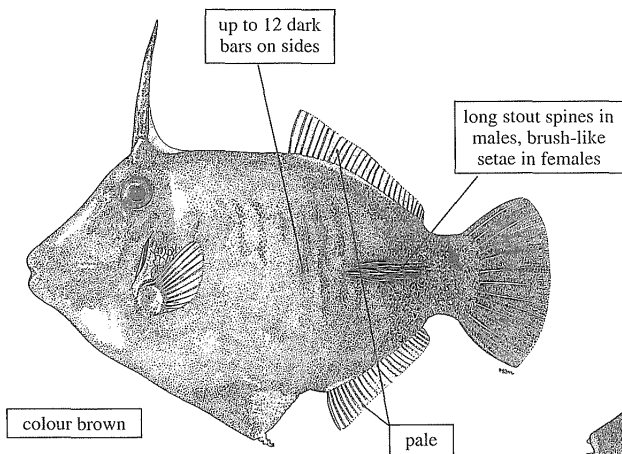
*Aluterus monoceros* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**En** - Unicorn leatherjacket; **Fr** - Bourse loulou. Kiin-Koy.  
 To 74 cm, common to 40 cm; on the continental shelf down to depths of 50 m; feeds on benthic organisms.



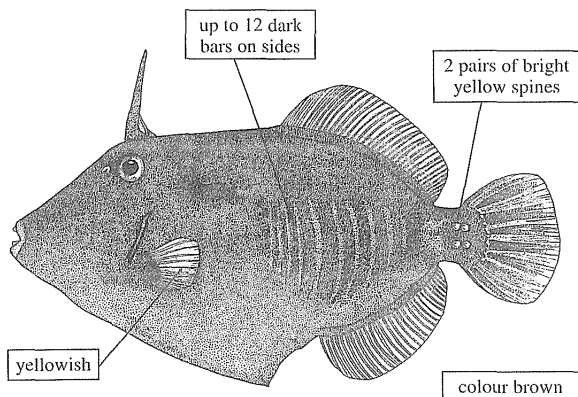
*Aluterus scriptus* (Osbeck, 1765)

**En** - Scrawled leatherjacket.  
 To 1.0 m.



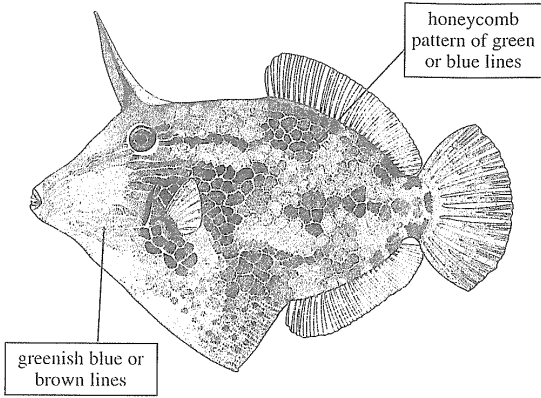
*Amanes scopas* (Cuvier, 1829)

**En** - Broom filefish.  
 To 20 cm.



*Cantherhines dumerilii* (Hollard, 1854)

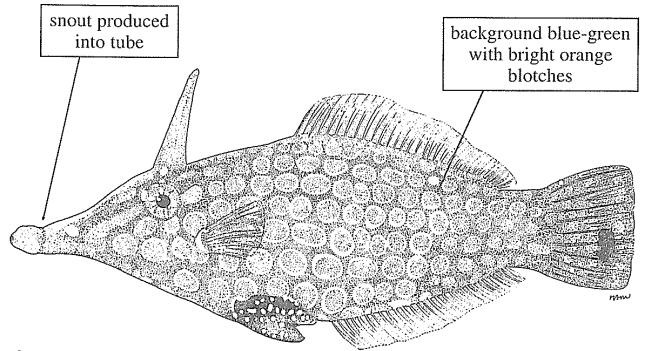
**En** - White-spotted filefish.  
 To 38 cm, common to 25 cm.



*Cantherhines pardalis* (Rüppell, 1835)

En - Honeycomb filefish; Fr - Bourse rayon de miel.

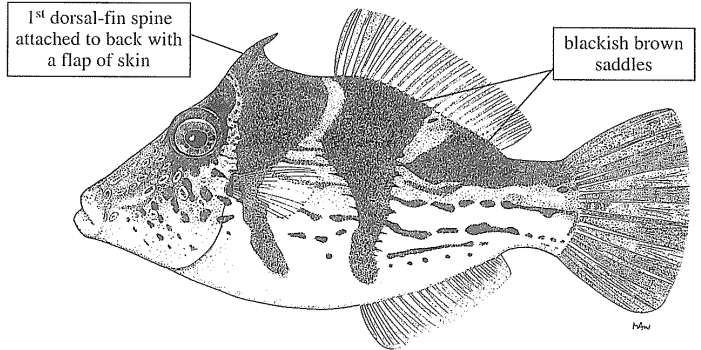
To 20 cm; on shallow coastal coral reefs; feeds on benthic organisms.



*Oxymonacanthus longirostris* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

En - Harlequin filefish.

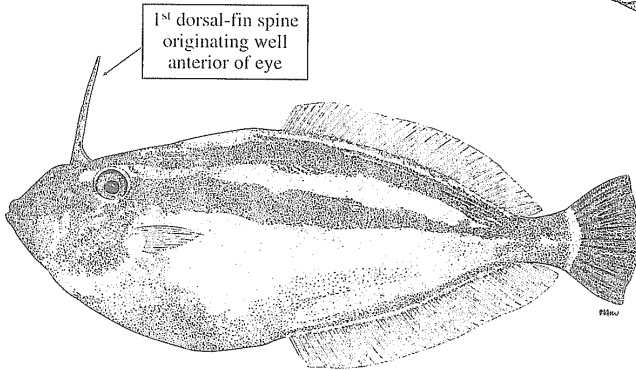
To 10 cm; feeds on coral polyps.



*Paraluteres prionurus* (Bleeker, 1851)

En - Blacksaddle filefish.

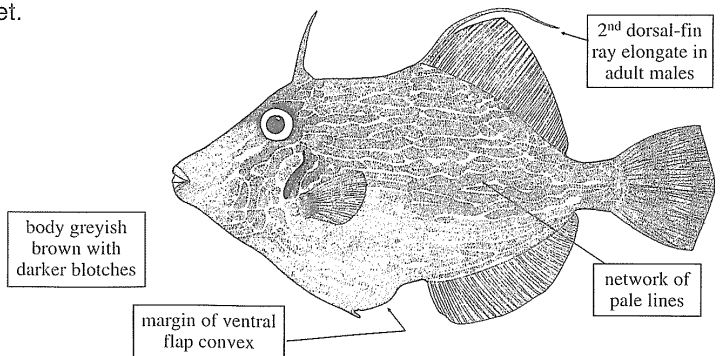
To 11 cm; at depths of 1 to 25 m.



*Pseudalutarius nasicornis* (Temminck & Schlegel, 1850)

En - Rhino leatherjacket.

To 18 cm.



*Stephanolepis diaspros* Fraser-Brunner, 1940

En - Reticulated leatherjacket; Fr - Bourse garnale.

To 25 cm.

### DIODONTIDAE

#### Porcupinefishes, spiny puffers, burrfishes, balloonfishes

*Chilomycterus orbicularis* (Bloch, 1785)

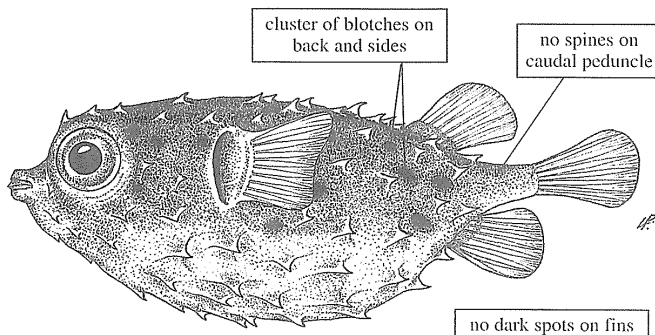
**FAO names:** En - Birdbeak burrfish; Fr - Porc-épine bécard.

**Local names:** Qaruumbo-Maanyo.

**Size:** To 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Apparently mostly over sand and mud bottoms, in moderate depths to at least 170 m.



*Chilomycterus reticulatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

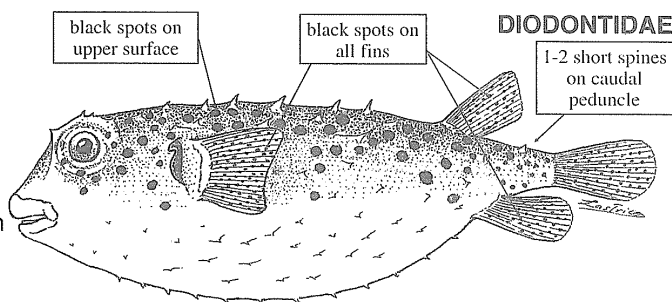
**FAO names:** En - Spotfin burrfish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 55 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Young are pelagic in oceanic surface waters; adults benthic.



*Chilomycterus spilostylus* (Leis & Randall, 1982)

**FAO names:** En - Yellow-spotted burrfish.

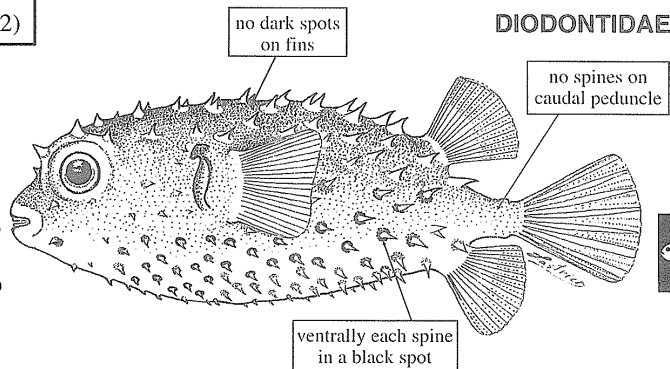
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 28 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Juveniles are pelagic, adults benthic; from depths of 3 to 90 m.

**Remarks:** Presence along the Somali coast to be confirmed.



*Diodon holocanthus* Linnaeus, 1758

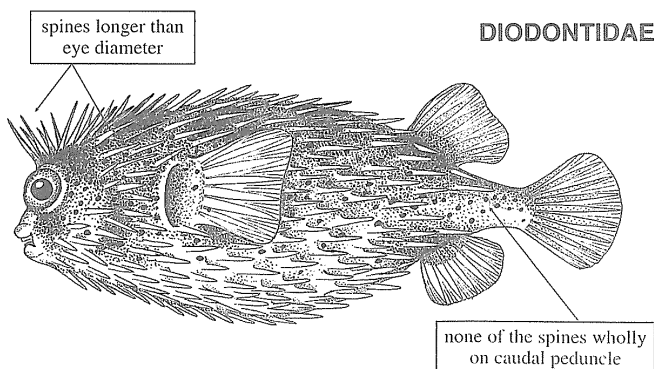
**FAO names:** En - Balloonfish; Fr - Porc-épine ballon.

**Local names:** Qaruumbo-Maanyo.

**Size:** To 29 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Lives on coral reefs, over sand and mud bottoms in shallow to moderate depths; juveniles are pelagic.



***Diodon hystrix* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

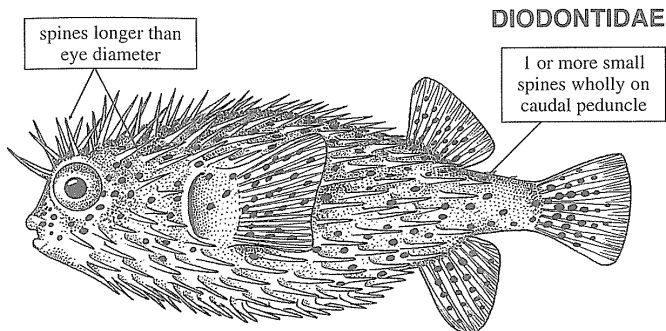
**FAO names:** En - Spotted porcupinefish;  
Fr - Porc-épine boubou.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To at least 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Mostly found on reefs; adults are benthic, young pelagic.

***Lophiododon calori* (Bianconi, 1855)**

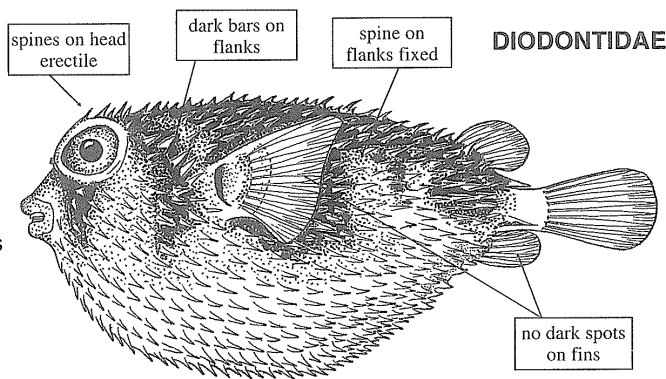
**FAO names:** En - Fourbar porcupinefish.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 20 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Continental shelf; adults are benthic, young pelagic.

**MOLIDAE****Molas, ocean sunfishes, headfishes*****Mola mola* (Linnaeus, 1841)**

**FAO names:** En - Ocean sunfish.

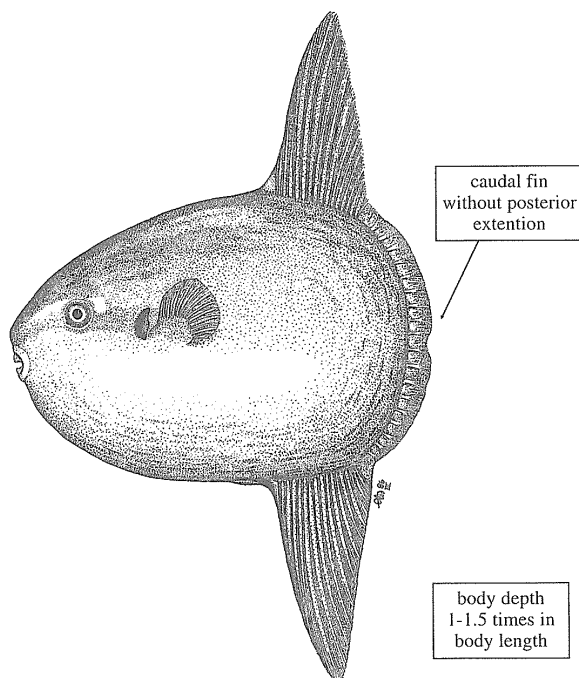
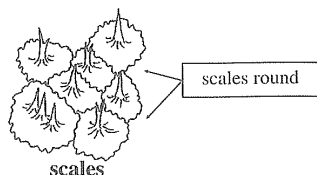
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 3 m.

**Fisheries:** Not eaten generally as flesh is tough and unpalatable, but some consider it a delicacy.

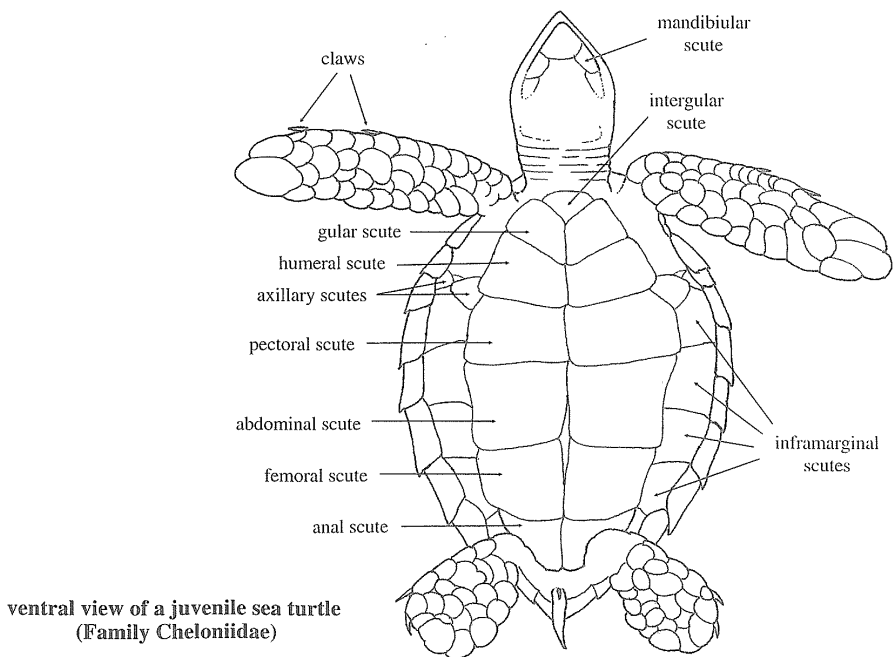
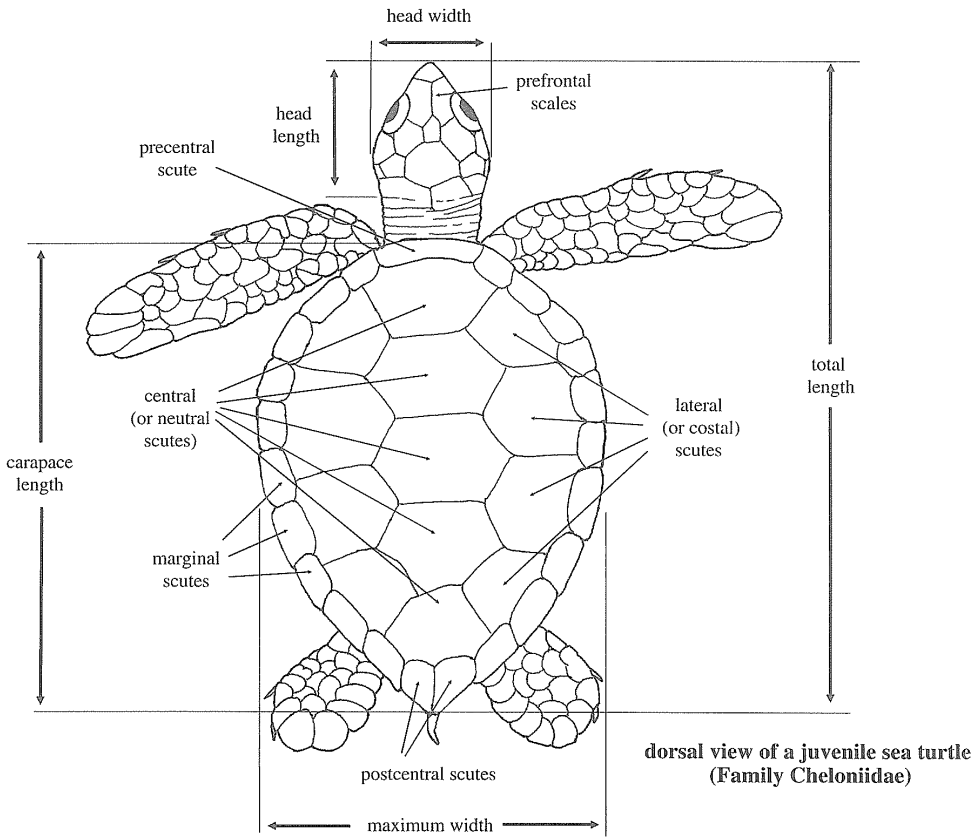
**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, idling at surface often on their side. Feed on jelly-fishes and algae.

**Remarks:** Similar species are *Ranzania laevis* (Pennabt, 1776) which has a more slender body (depth 2 times in body length) and *Mola lanceolatus* (Liénard, 1841) which has a central pointed projection at the caudal fin.



# SEA TURTLES

## TECHNICAL TERMS AND MEASUREMENTS



## CHELONIIDAE

*Caretta caretta* (Linnaeus, 1758)

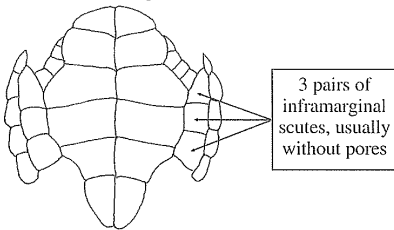
**FAO names:** En - Loggerhead turtle;  
Fr - Caouane.

**Local names:**

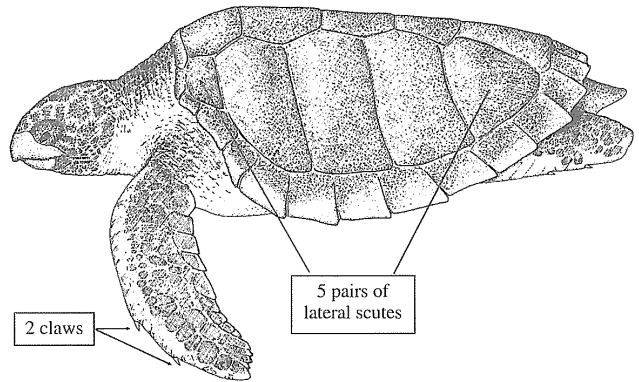
**Size:** To 125 cm carapace length.

**Fisheries:** Protected; incidentally taken by large-mesh driftnets or setnets; occasionally caught in trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Marine, highly migratory. Feeds on mollusks, sea-urchins, and crustaceans, also on algae.



underside

*Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758)

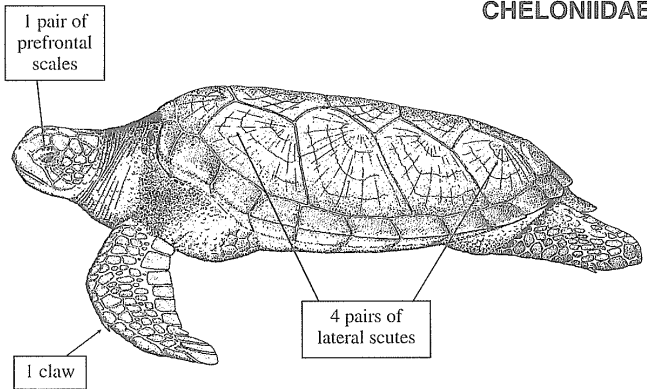
**FAO names:** En - Green turtle; Fr - Tortue verte.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 120 cm carapace length.

**Fisheries:** Protected; taken incidentally by large mesh driftnets or setnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Marine, seagrass beds. Feeds on several species of seagrass; climbs onto reefs to feed on algae. Migrates over considerable distances.



## CHELONIIDAE

*Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus, 1776)

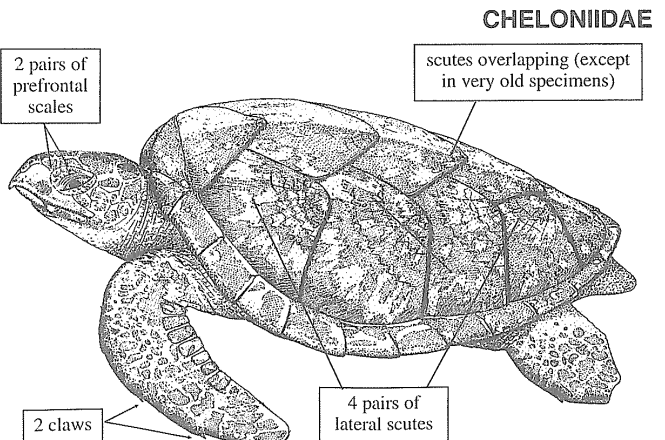
**FAO names:** En - Hawksbill turtle;  
Fr - Caret.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 100 cm carapace length.

**Fisheries:** Protected.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow seagrass and algae beds, also on mud or coral; carnivorous but sometimes subsists entirely on algae, and feeds on the fruit of the red mangrove.



## CHELONIIDAE

CHELONIIDAE

*Lepidochelys olivacea* (Eschscholtz, 1829)

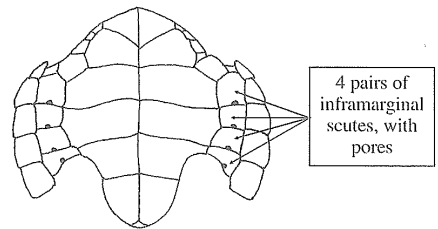
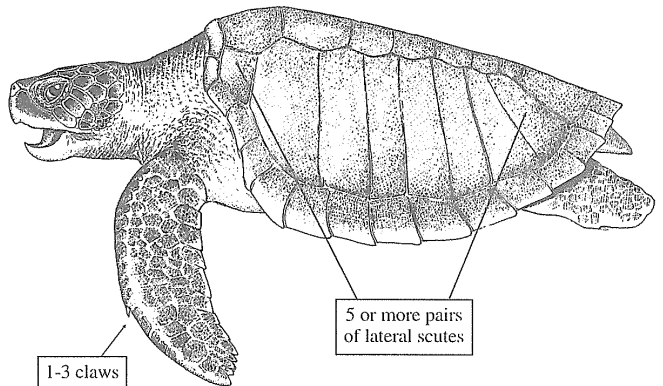
**FAO names:** En - Olive ridley turtle; Fr - Tortue olivâtre.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 79 cm carapace length.

**Fisheries:** Protected; incidentally taken by shrimp trawls and in large mesh nets.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow coastal waters and open sea; dorsal pigmentation of male more intense than female; nest scooped out 20 to 50 m from the sea, eggs 38 to 43 mm diameter; 90 to 135 eggs laid at a time, newly-laid eggs agglutinated by mucus.



underside

DERMOCHELYIDAE

*Dermochelys coriacea* (Vandelli, 1761)

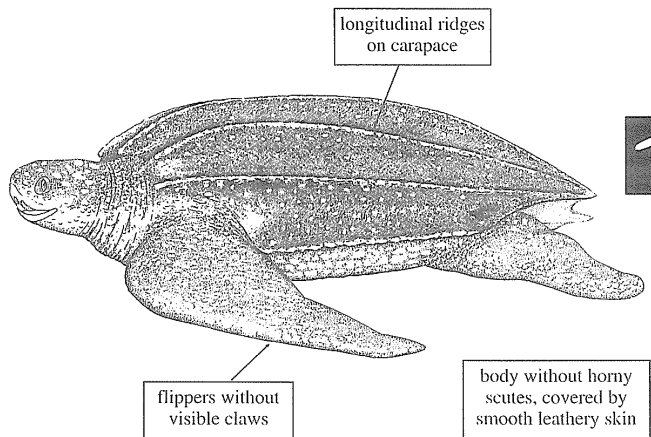
**FAO names:** En - Leatherback turtle; Fr - Tortue luth.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 180 cm carapace length.

**Fisheries:** Protected; incidentally taken by driftnets.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic and migratory.



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# INDEX OF SCIENTIFIC AND VERNACULAR NAMES

## Explanation of the System

- Italics* : Valid scientific names (genera and species).  
*Italics* : Synonyms (genera and species).  
**ROMAN** : Family names.  
**ROMAN** : Names of groups, classes, orders, suborders, and subfamilies.  
Roman : FAO and vernacular names.

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198. SCARIDAE: *Scarus ghobban* B

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199. SCARIDAE: *Scarus gibbus* A

200. SCARIDAE: *Scarus gibbus* B

201. SCARIDAE: *Scarus niger* A

202. SCARIDAE: *Scarus niger* B

203. SCARIDAE: *Scarus psittacus* A

204. SCARIDAE: *Scarus psittacus* B

205. SCARIDAE: *Scarus rubroviolaceus* A

206. SCARIDAE: *Scarus rubroviolaceus* B

#### PLATE XXXI

207. SCARIDAE: *Scarus russelii* A

208. SCARIDAE: *Scarus russelii* B

209. SCARIDAE: *Scarus scaber* A

210. SCARIDAE: *Scarus scaber* B

211. SCARIDAE: *Scarus sordidus* A

212. SCARIDAE: *Scarus sordidus* B

213. SCARIDAE: *Scarus viridifurcatus* A

214. SCARIDAE: *Scarus viridifurcatus* B

#### PLATE XXXII

215. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus argenteus*

216. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus luridus*

217. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus rivulatus*

218. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus stellatus*

219. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus sutor*

220. PSETTODIDAE: *Psettodes erumei*

221. BOTHIDAE: *Bothus pantherinus*

222. SOLEIDAE: *Euryglossa orientalis*

# COLOUR PLATES

## Abbreviations used:

S.L. = Standard Length  
T.L. = Total Length



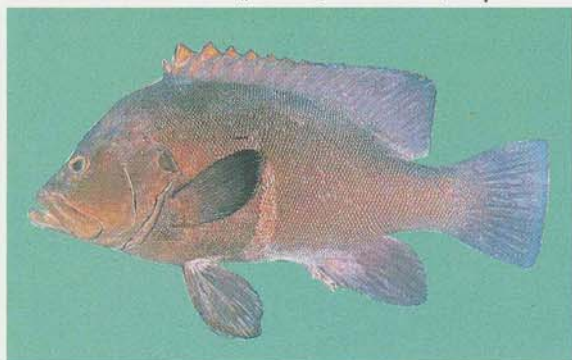
PLATE I



1. MEGALOPIDAE: *Megalops cyprinoides*  
580 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)



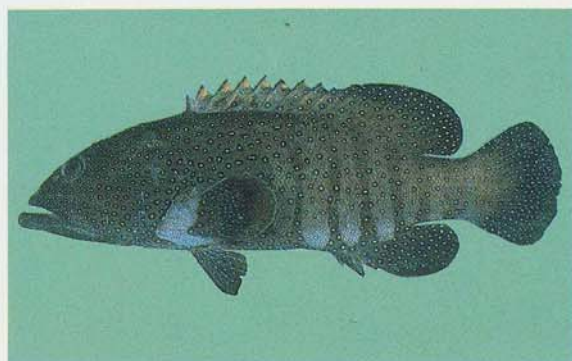
2. HEMIRAMPHIDAE: *Hemiramphus far*  
355 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)



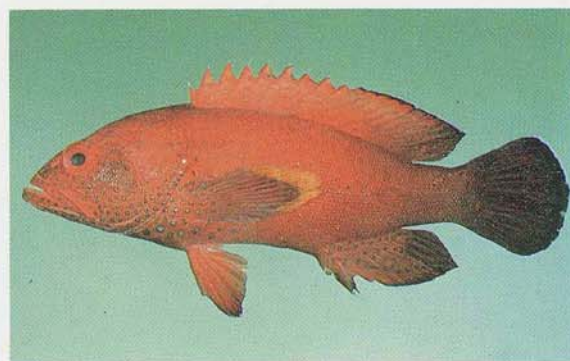
3. SERRANIDAE: *Aethaloperca rogaa*  
276 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



4. SERRANIDAE: *Anyperodon leucogrammicus*  
242 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



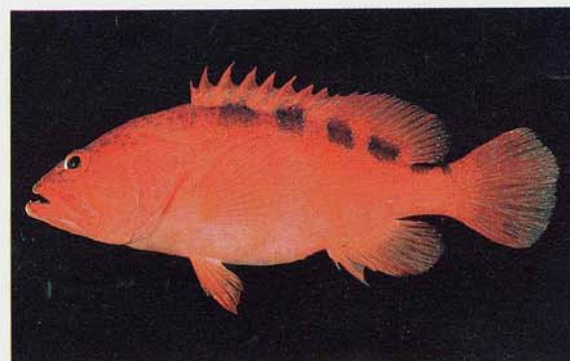
5. SERRANIDAE: *Cephalopholis argus*  
212 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



6. SERRANIDAE: *Cephalopholis hemistiktos*  
120 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

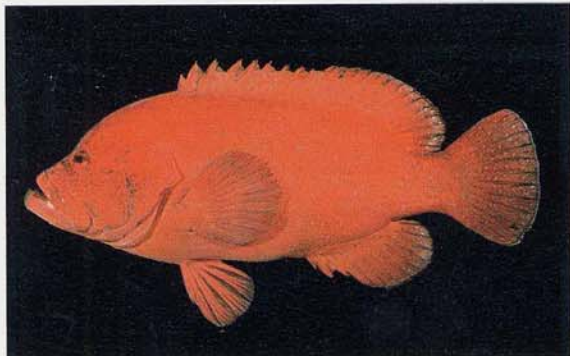


7. SERRANIDAE: *Cephalopholis miniata*  
254 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



8. SERRANIDAE: *Cephalopholis sexmaculata*  
200 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

PLATE II



9. SERRANIDAE: *Cephalopholis sonnerati*  
330 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



10. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus areolatus*  
218 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



11. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus caeruleopunctatus*  
237 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



12. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus chlorostigma*  
327 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



13. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus coioides*  
323 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



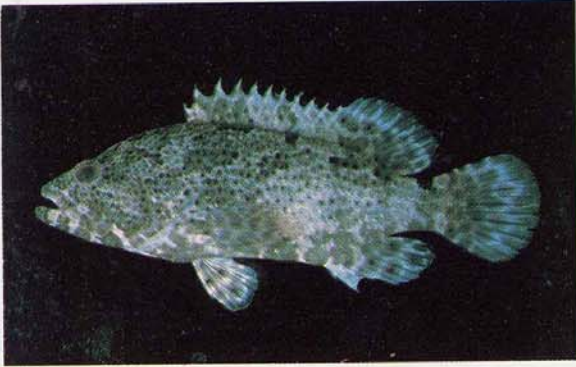
14. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus epistictus*  
326 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



15. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus fasciatus*  
153 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

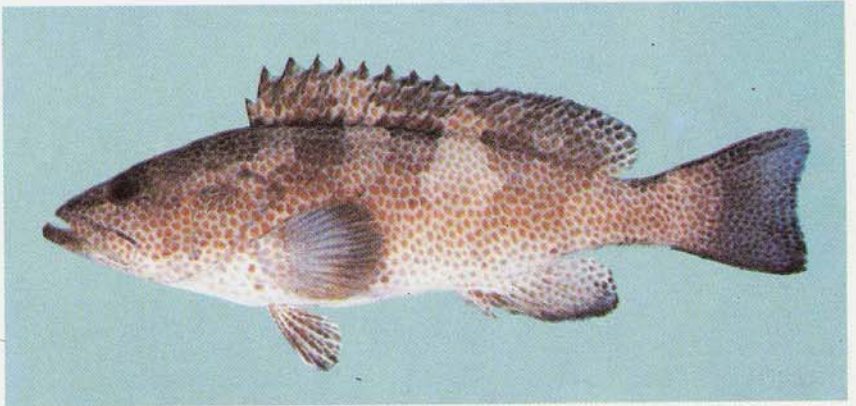
PLATE III

16. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus flavocaeruleus*  
410 mm S.L.  
(photo by S. Chat r)



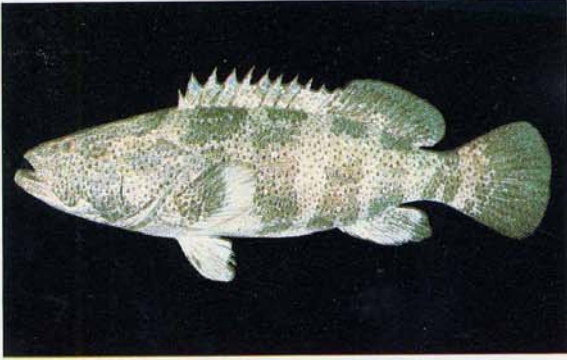
17. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*  
90 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)

18. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus gabriellae*  
224 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)

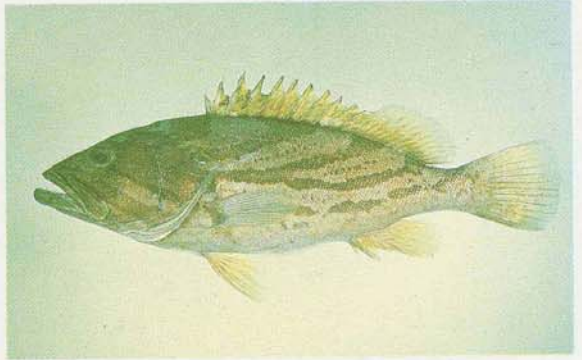


19. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus lanceolatus*  
~1700 mm S.L.  
(photo by R. Taylor)

PLATE IV

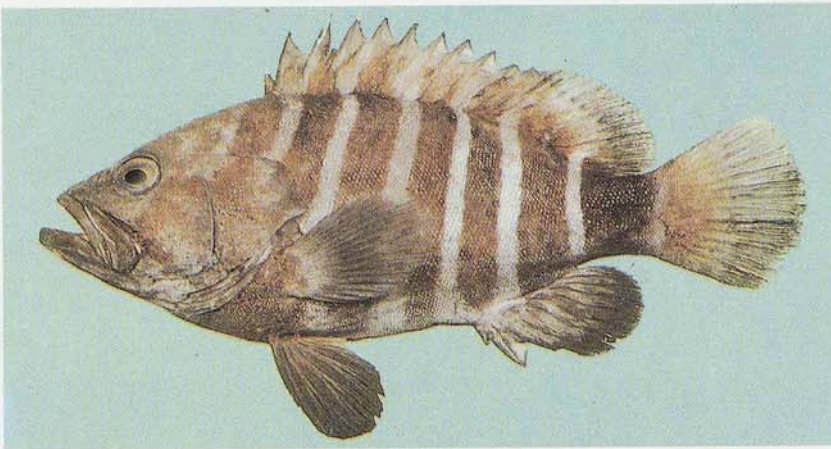


20. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus malabaricus*  
584 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



21. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus morrhua*  
345 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

22. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus multinotatus*  
340 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



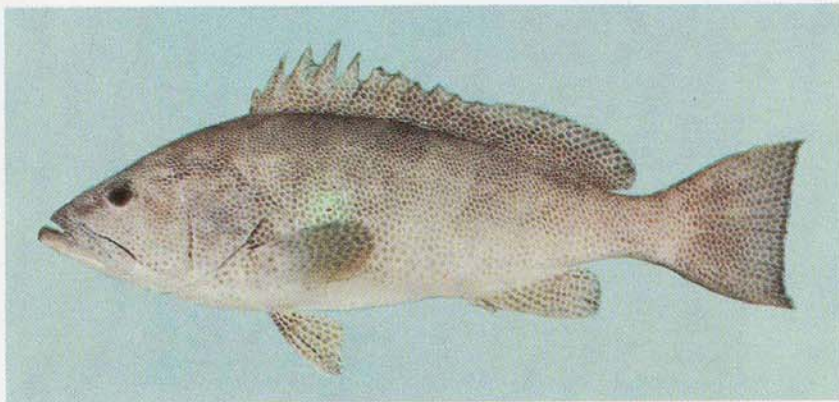
23. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus octofasciatus*  
228 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)

24. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus poecilonotus*  
520 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)

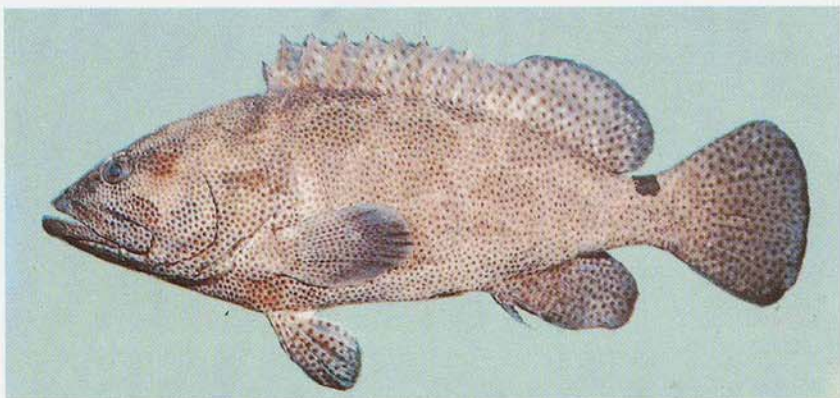




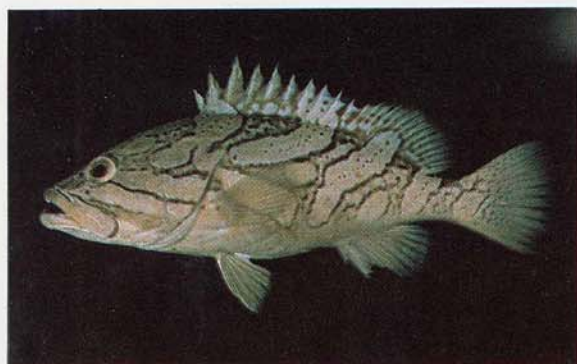
PLATE V



25. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus polylepis*  
440 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



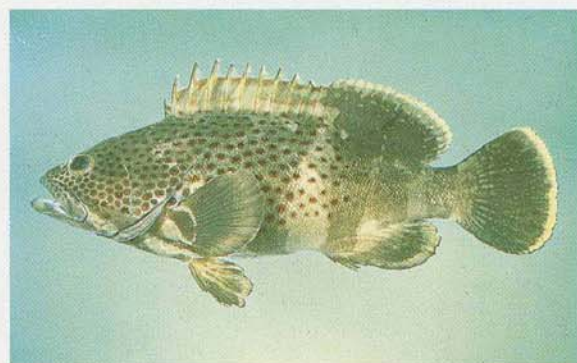
26. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus polyphkadion*  
408 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



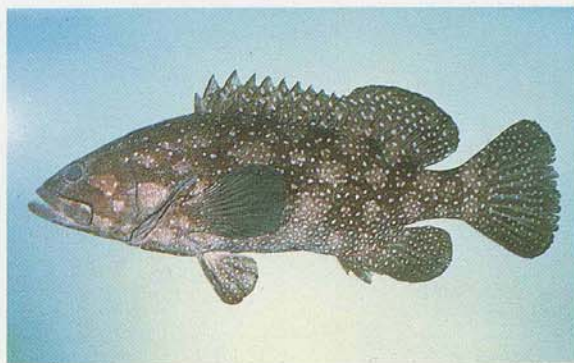
27. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus radiatus*  
295 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



28. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus rivulatus*  
221 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



29. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus stoliczkae*  
202 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

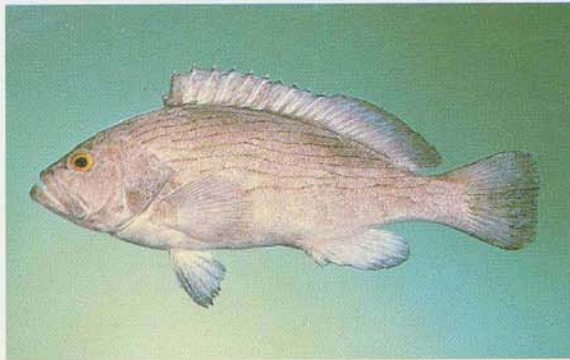


30. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus summana*  
334 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

PLATE VI



31. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus tauvina*  
310 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



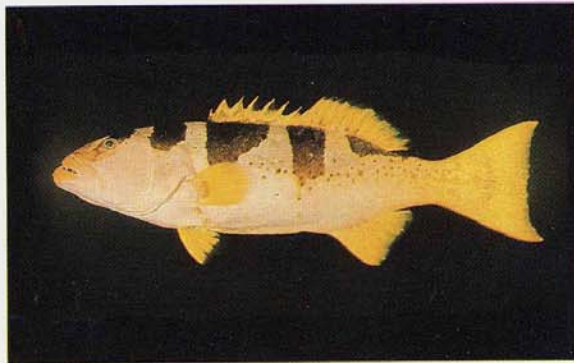
32. SERRANIDAE: *Epinephelus undulosus*  
158 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



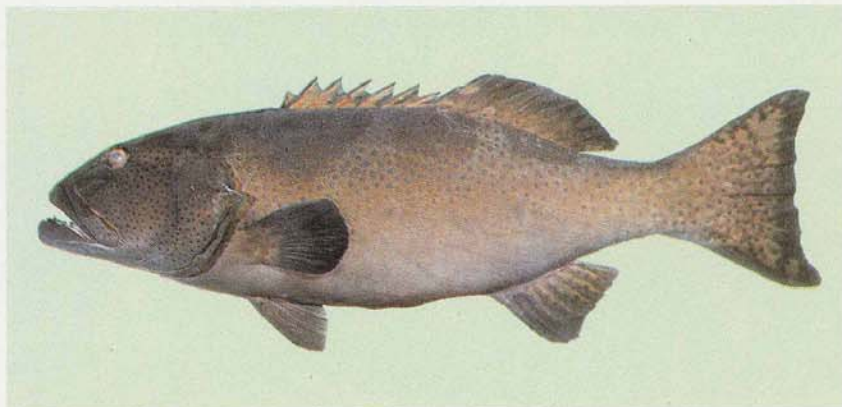
33. SERRANIDAE:  
*Epinephelus tukula*  
320 mm S.L.  
(photo by P.C. Heemstra)



34. SERRANIDAE: *Plectropomus areolatus*  
316 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

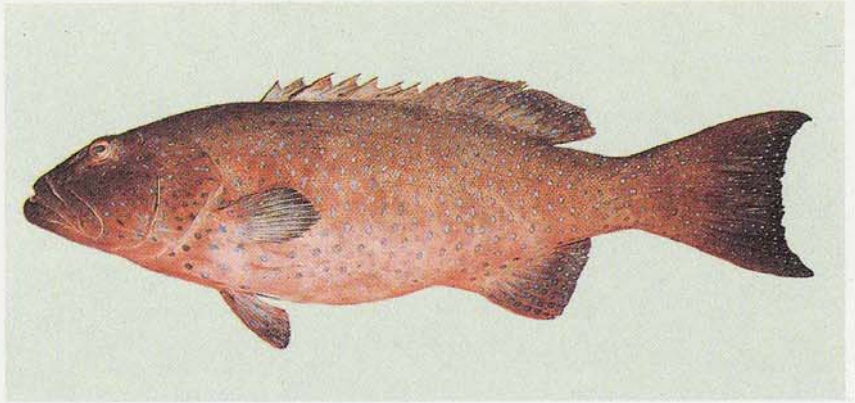


35. SERRANIDAE: *Plectropomus leavis*  
492 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

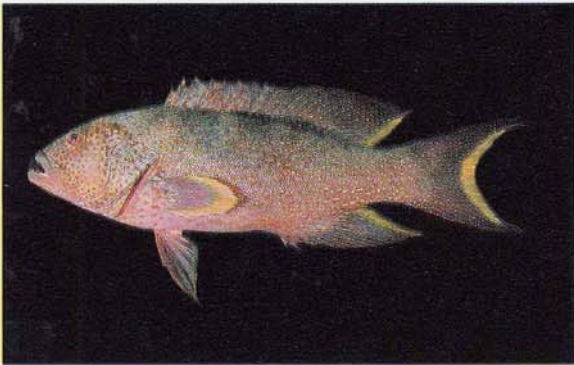


36. SERRANIDAE:  
*Plectropomus leavis*  
475 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)

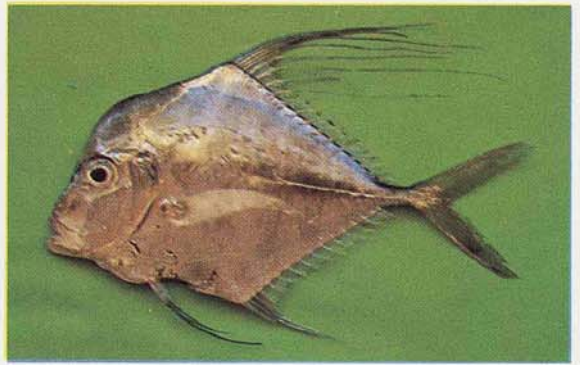
PLATE VII



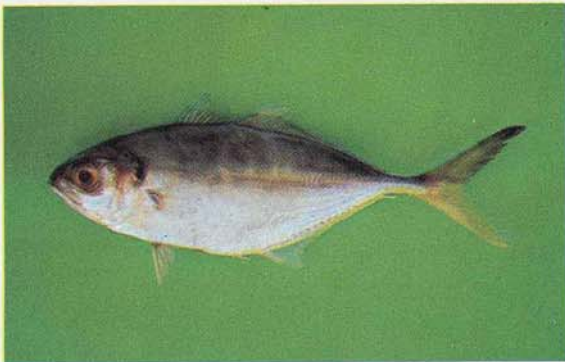
37. SERRANIDAE:  
*Plectropomus pessuliferus*  
480 mm S.L.



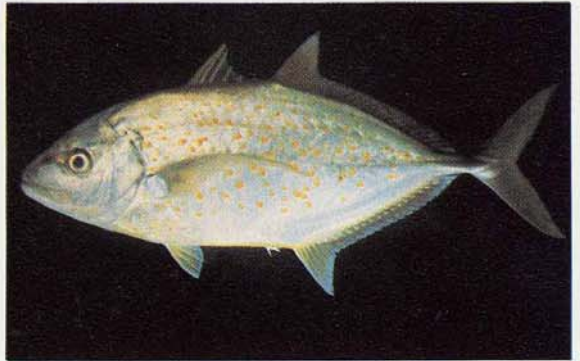
38. SERRANIDAE: *Variola louti*  
273 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



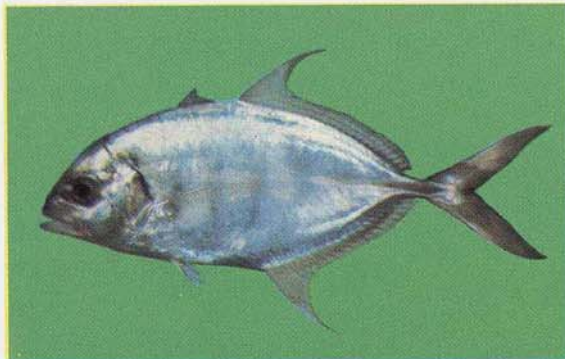
39. CARANGIDAE: *Alectis indicus*  
265 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)



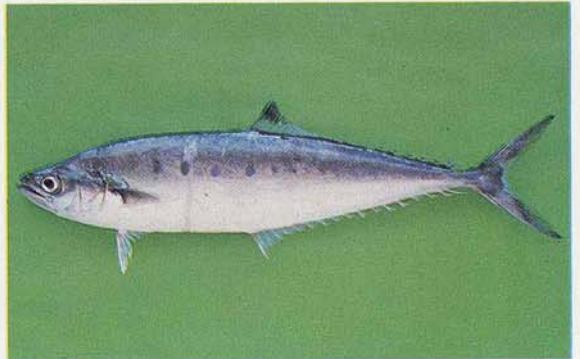
40. CARANGIDAE: *Alepes djedaba*  
185 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)



41. CARANGIDAE: *Carangoides bajad*  
430 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

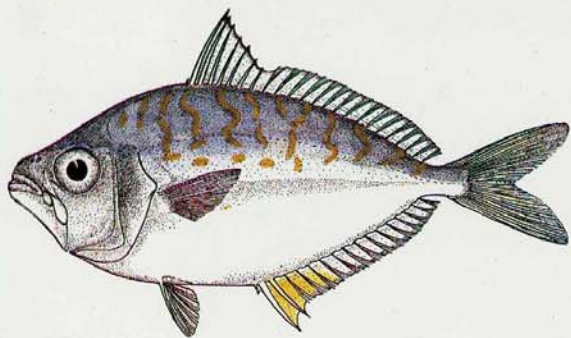


42. CARANGIDAE: *Carangoides ferdau*  
243 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)

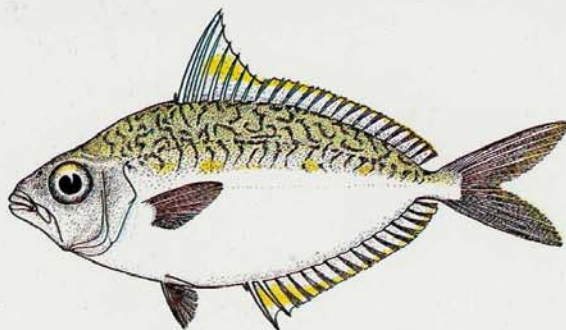


43. CARANGIDAE: *Scomberoides tol*  
365 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)

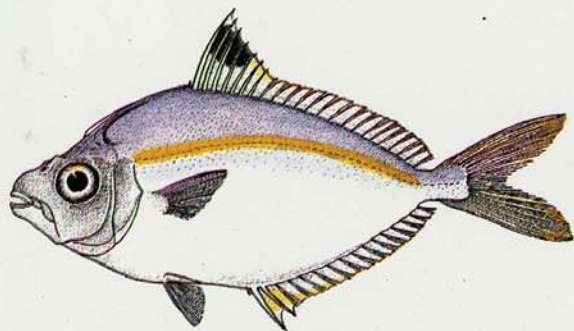
PLATE VIII



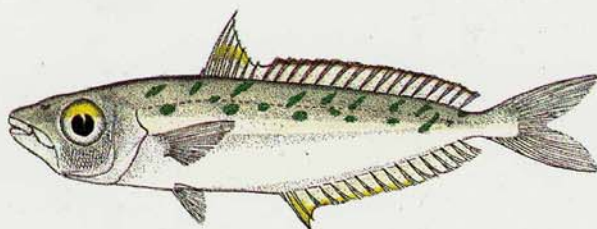
44. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Gazza minuta*  
127 mm S.L. (ill. by G. Jones)



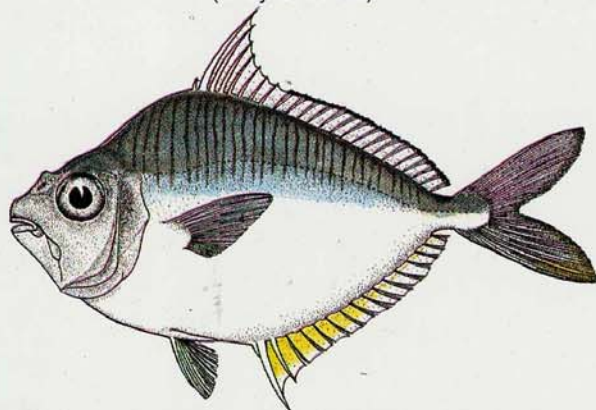
45. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Leiognathus berbis*  
93 mm T.L. (ill. by G. Jones)



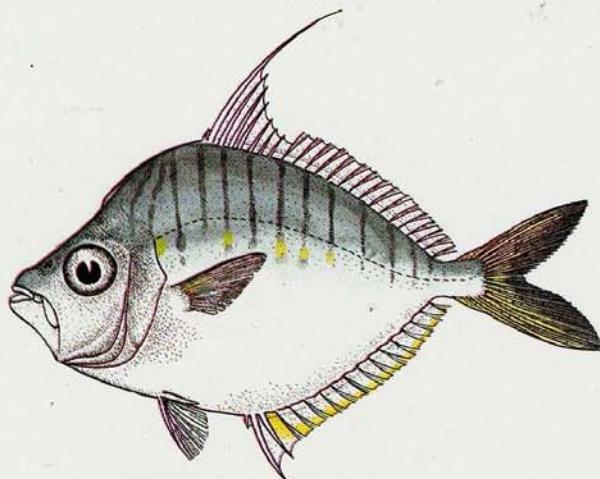
46. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Leiognathus daura*  
(ill. by G. Jones)



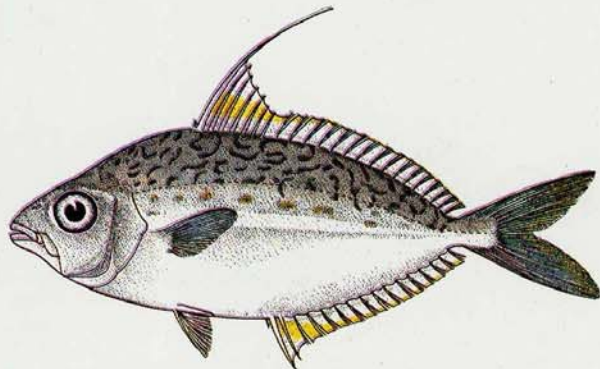
47. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Leiognathus elongatus*  
56 mm T.L. (ill. by G. Jones)



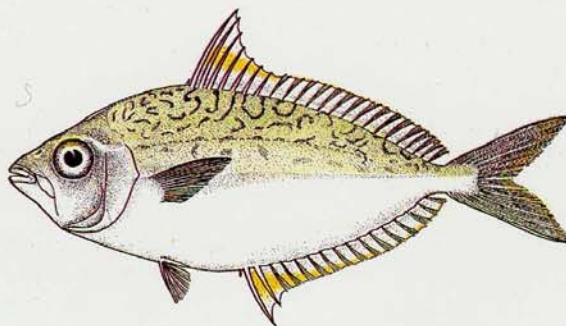
48. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Leiognathus equulus*  
156 mm T.L. (ill. by G. Jones)



49. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Leiognathus fasciatus*  
90 mm T.L. (ill. by G. Jones)

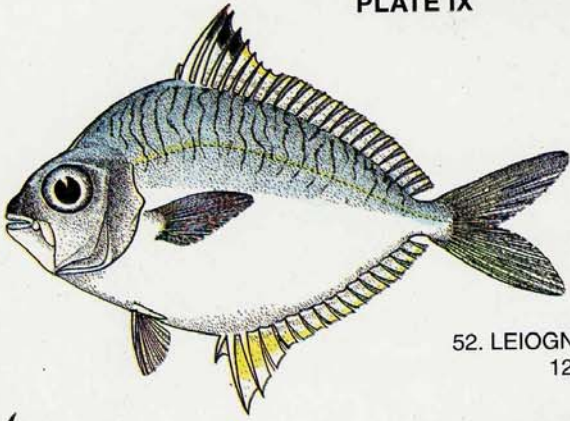


50. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Leiognathus leuciscus*  
125 mm T.L. (ill. by G. Jones)

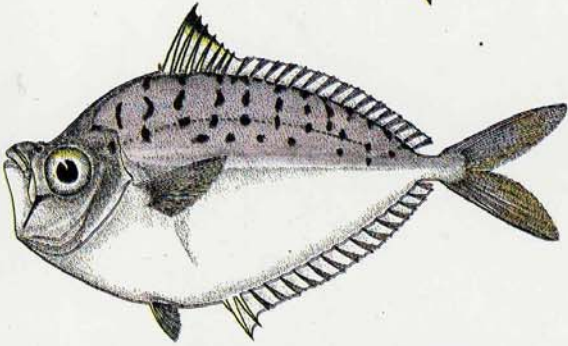


51. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Leiognathus lineolatus*  
103 mm T.L. (ill. by G. Jones)

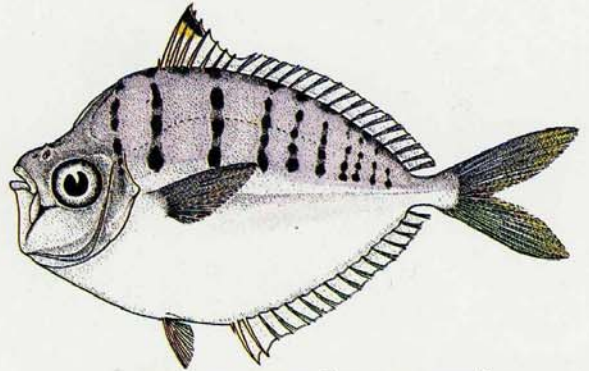
PLATE IX



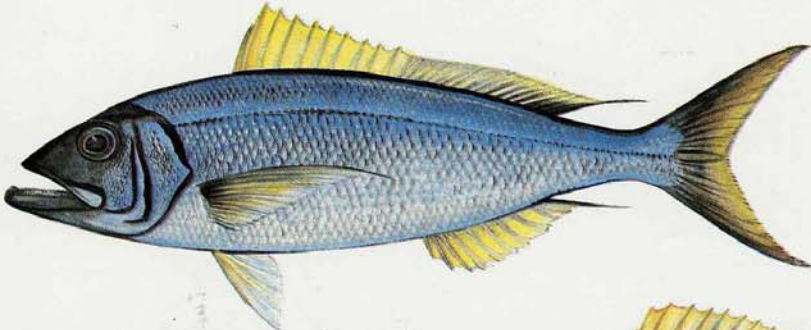
52. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Leiognathus splendens*  
120 mm T.L. (ill. by G. Jones)



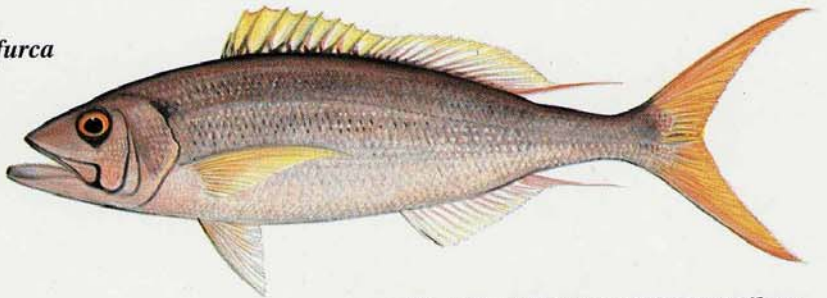
53. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Secutor insidiator*  
107 mm T.L. (ill. by G. Jones)



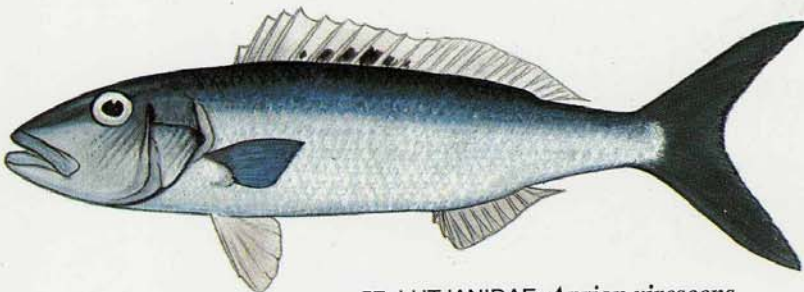
54. LEIOGNATHIDAE: *Secutor ruconius*  
60 mm S.L. (ill. by G. Jones)



55. LUTJANIDAE: *Aphareus furca*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)

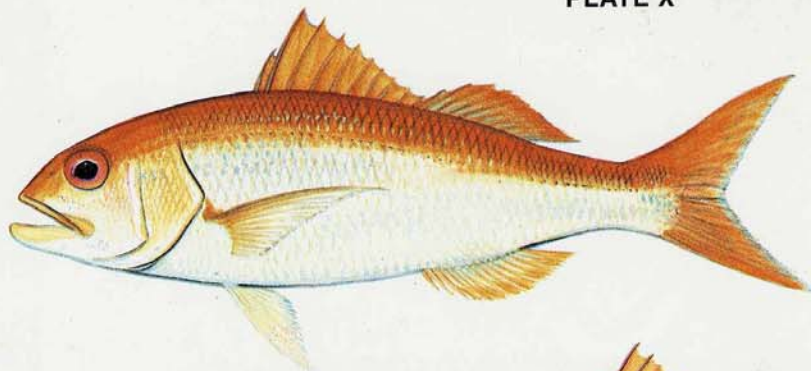


56. LUTJANIDAE: *Aphareus rutilans*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)

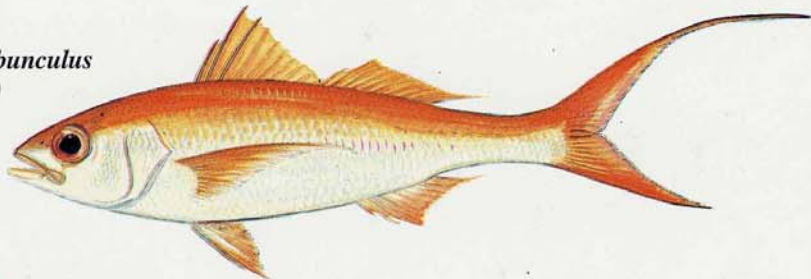


57. LUTJANIDAE: *Aprion virescens*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)

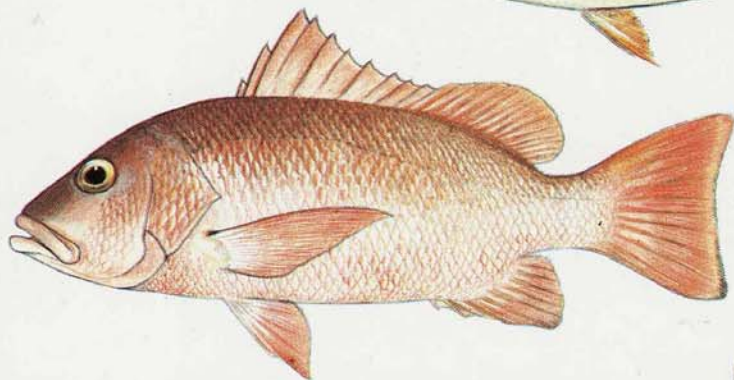
PLATE X



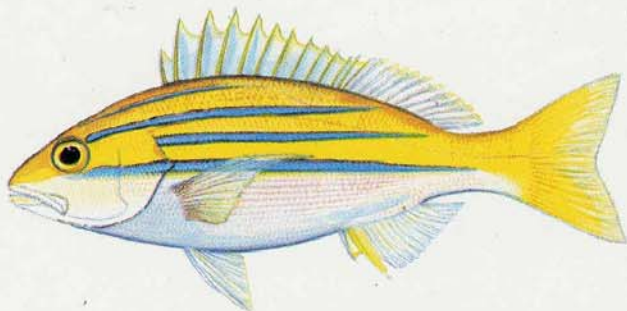
58. LUTJANIDAE: *Etelis carbunculus*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



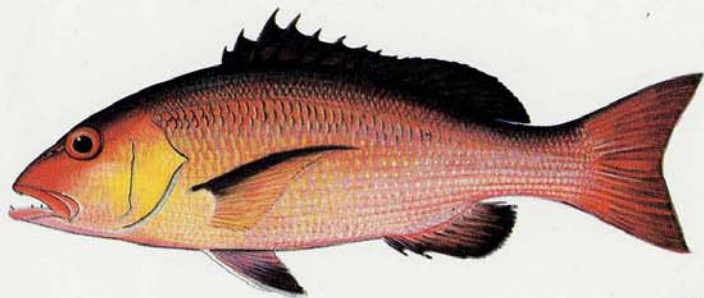
59. LUTJANIDAE: *Etelis coruscans*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



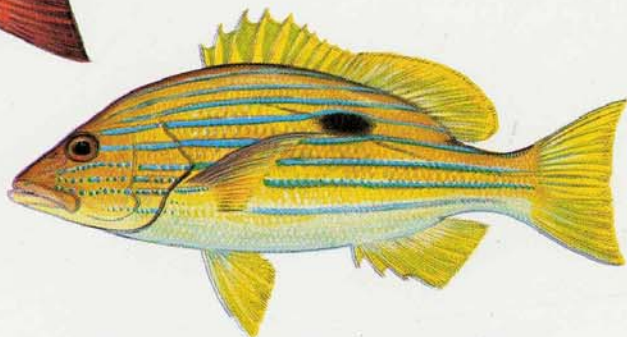
60. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus argentimaculatus*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



61. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus bengalensis*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



62. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus bohar*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)

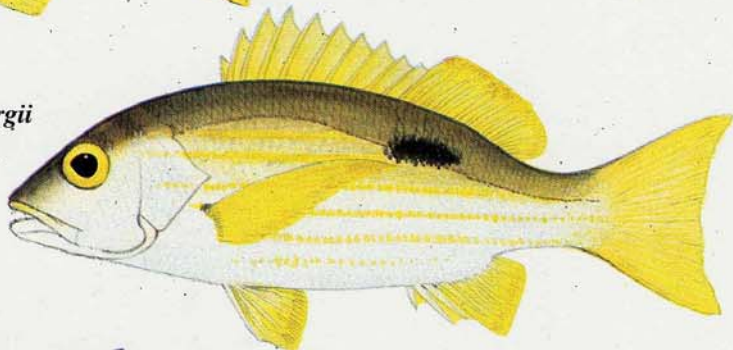


63. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus coeruleolineatus*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)

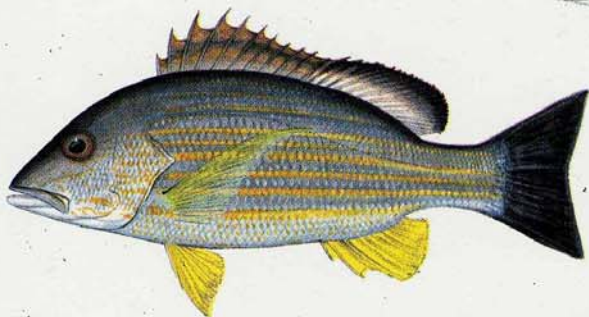
PLATE XI



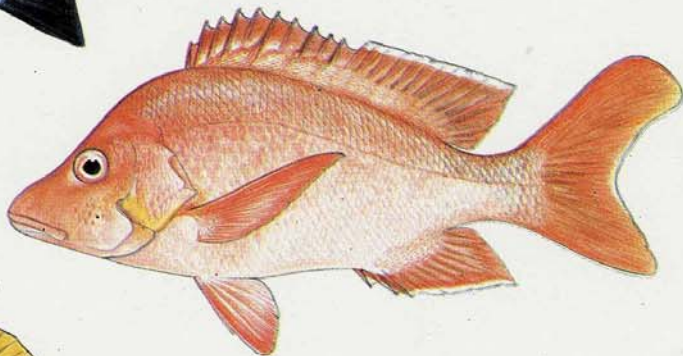
64. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus ehrenbergii*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



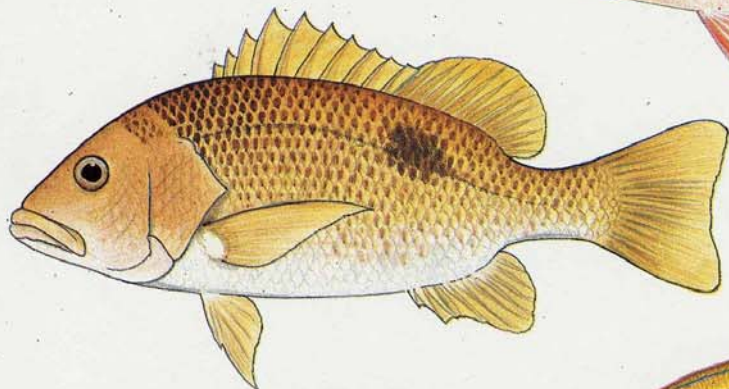
65. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus fulviflamma*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



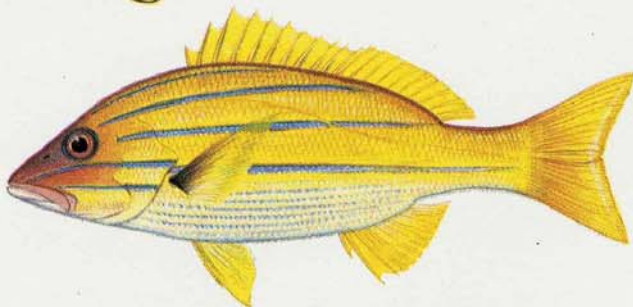
66. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus fulvus*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



67. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus gibbus*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



68. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus johnii*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



69. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus kasmira*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)

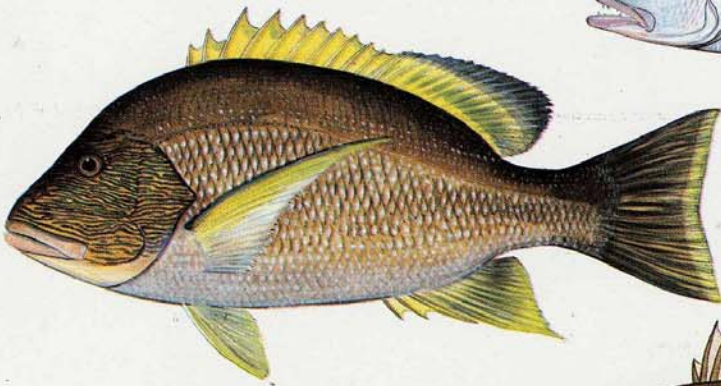
PLATE XII



70. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus lutjanus*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



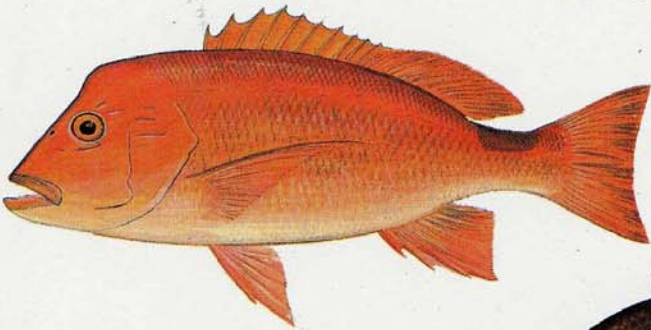
71. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus monostigma*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



72. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus rivulatus*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



73. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus russelli*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



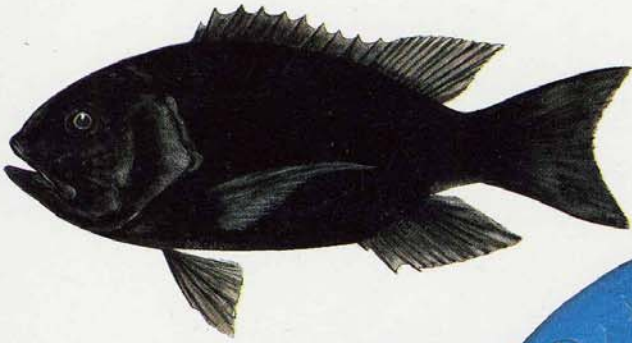
74. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus sanguineus*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



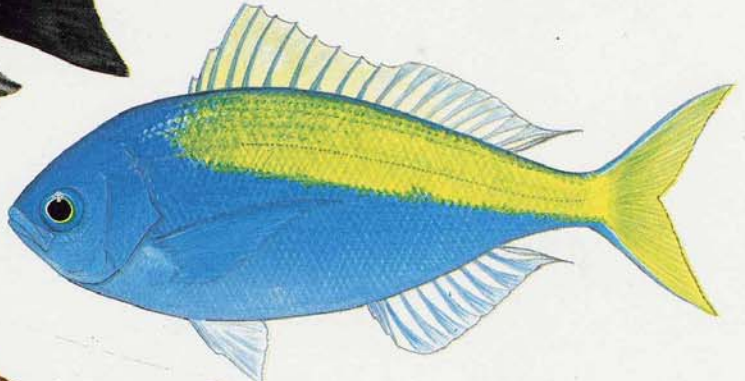
75. LUTJANIDAE: *Lutjanus sebae*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



PLATE XIII



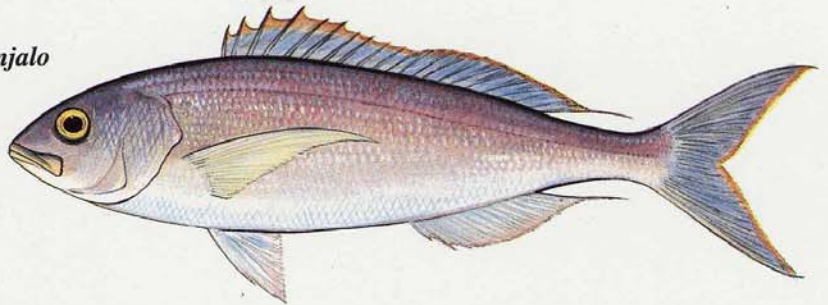
76. LUTJANIDAE: *Macolor niger*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



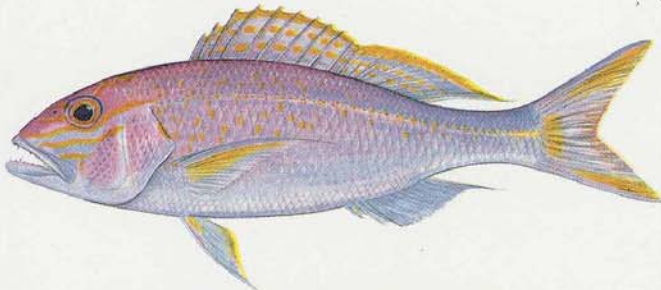
77. LUTJANIDAE: *Paracaesio xanthurus*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



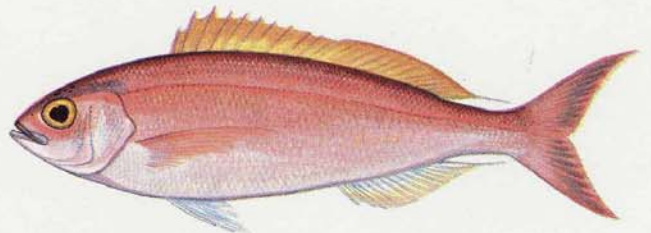
78. LUTJANIDAE: *Pinjalo pinjalo*  
(ill. by P. Lastrico)



79. LUTJANIDAE: *Pristipomoides filamentosus*  
(ill. by R. Swainston)



80. LUTJANIDAE: *Pristipomoides multidentis*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)

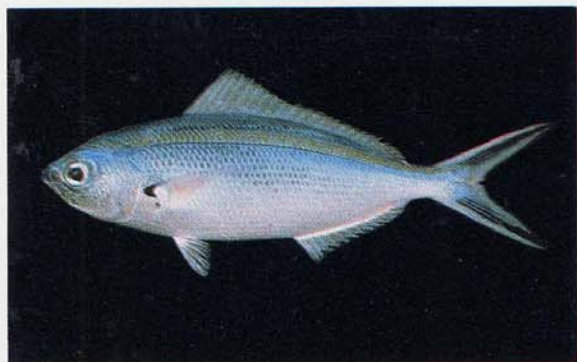


81. LUTJANIDAE: *Pristipomoides sieboldii*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)

PLATE XIV



82. LUTJANIDAE: *Pristipomoides zonatus*  
(ill. by M. Thompson)



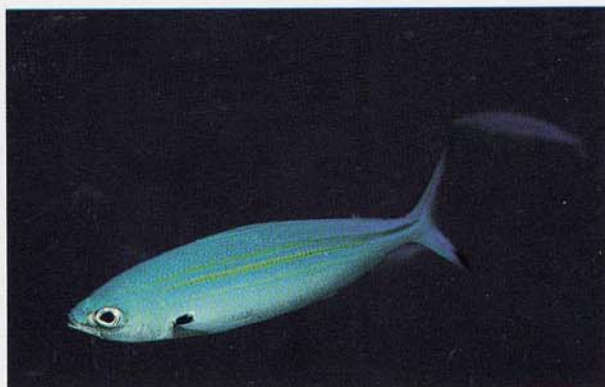
83. CAESIONIDAE: *Caesio caerulea*  
208 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



84. CAESIONIDAE: *Caesio lunaris*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



85. CAESIONIDAE: *Caesio teres*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



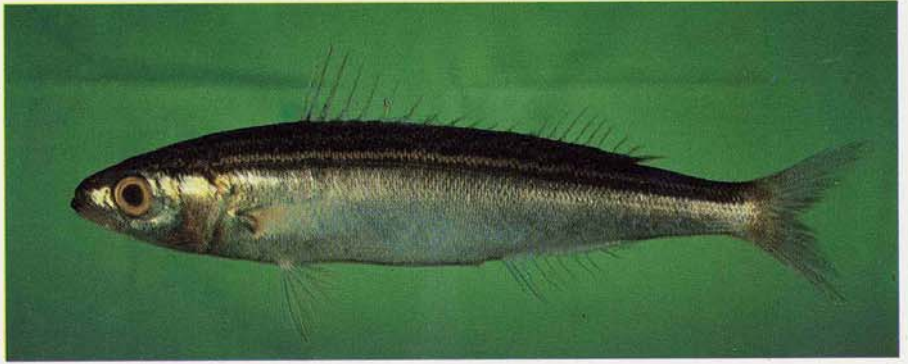
86. CAESIONIDAE: *Caesio varilineata*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



87. CAESIONIDAE: *Caesio xanthonota*  
139 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

PLATE XV

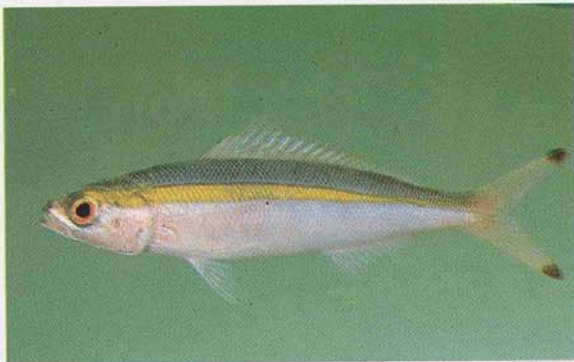
88. CAESIONIDAE:  
*Dipterygnotus balteatus*  
89 mm S.L.  
(photo by K. Carpenter)



89. CAESIONIDAE:  
*Gymnocaesio gymnoptera*  
112 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



90. CAESIONIDAE: *Pterocaesio capricornis*  
(ill. by P. Lastrico)

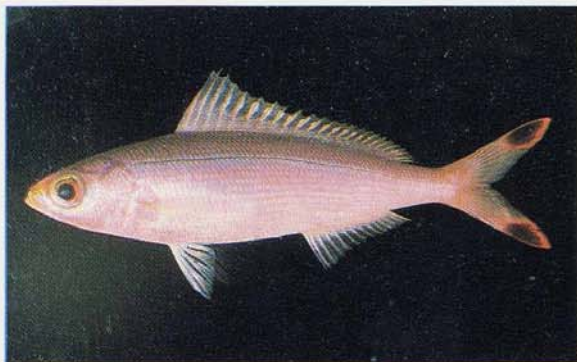


91. CAESIONIDAE: *Pterocaesio chrysozona*  
99 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



92. CAESIONIDAE: *Pterocaesio marri*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)

PLATE XVI



93. CAESIONIDAE: *Pterocaesio pisang*  
107 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



94. CAESIONIDAE: *Pterocaesio tile*  
175 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



95. HAEMULIDAE: *Diagramma pictum*  
504 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



96. HAEMULIDAE: *Plectorhinchus chubbi*  
298 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



97. HAEMULIDAE: *Plectorhinchus flavomaculatus*  
164 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



98. HAEMULIDAE: *Plectorhinchus gaterinus*  
134 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



99. HAEMULIDAE: *Plectorhinchus gibbosus*  
277 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



100. HAEMULIDAE: *Plectorhinchus playfairi*  
372 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

PLATE XVII



101. HAEMULIDAE: *Plectorhinchus schotaf*  
255 mm S.L.



102. HAEMULIDAE: *Plectorhinchus vittatus*  
216 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



103. HAEMULIDAE: *Pomadasys furcatus*  
(photo by G. Bianchi)



104. HAEMULIDAE: *Pomadasys kaakan*  
(photo by G. Bianchi)



105. HAEMULIDAE: *Pomadasys maculatum*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



106. SPARIDAE: *Acanthopagrus berda*  
185 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)

107. SPARIDAE:  
*Acanthopagrus bifasciatus*  
260 mm S.L.  
(photo by J.E. Randall)

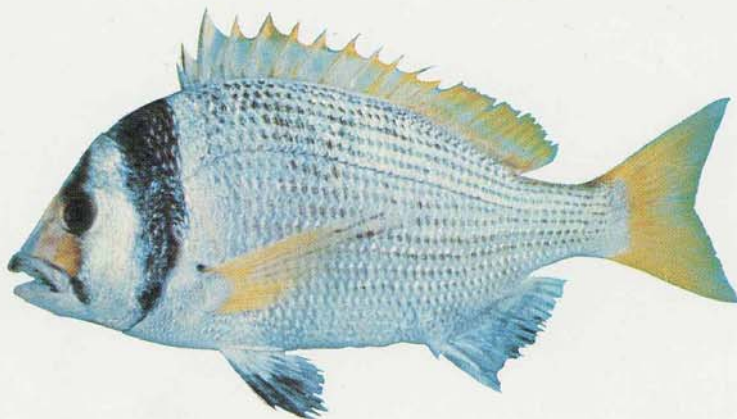


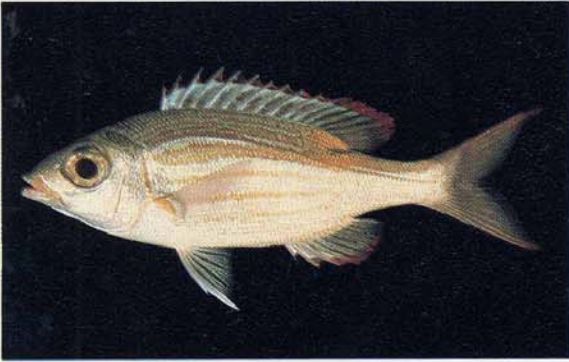
PLATE XVIII



108. SPARIDAE: *Argyrops spinifer*  
288 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



109. SPARIDAE: *Crenidens crenidens*  
198 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)

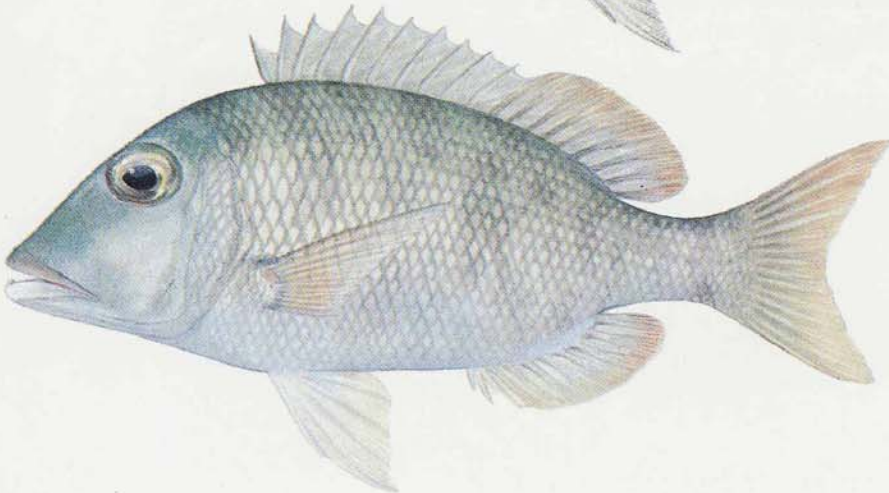
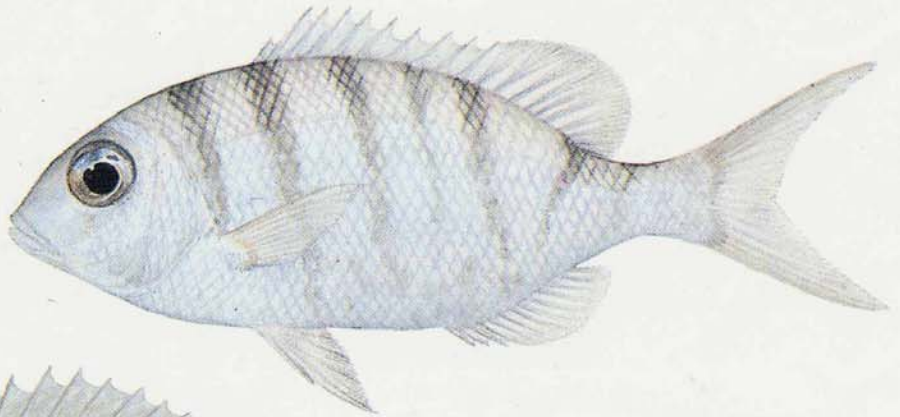


110. LETHRINIDAE: *Gnathodentex aurolineatus*  
147 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



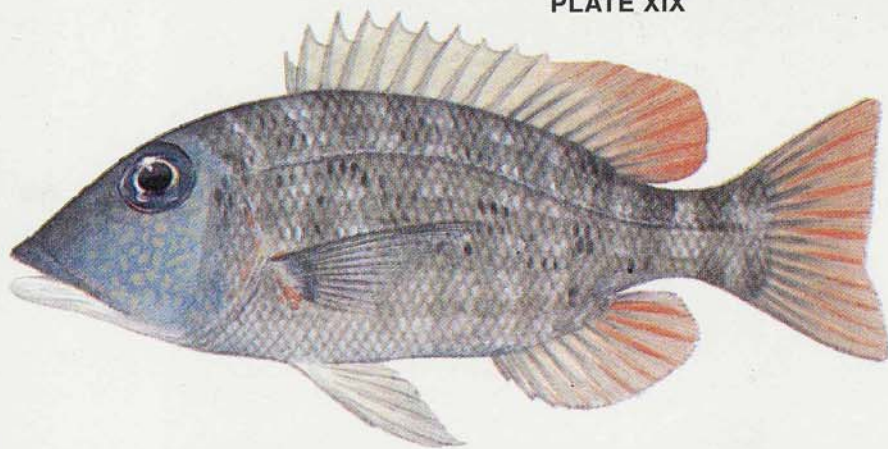
111. LETHRINIDAE: *Gymnocranius grandoculis*  
375 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

112. LETHRINIDAE:  
*Gymnocranius  
elongatus*  
(ill. by Swainston)

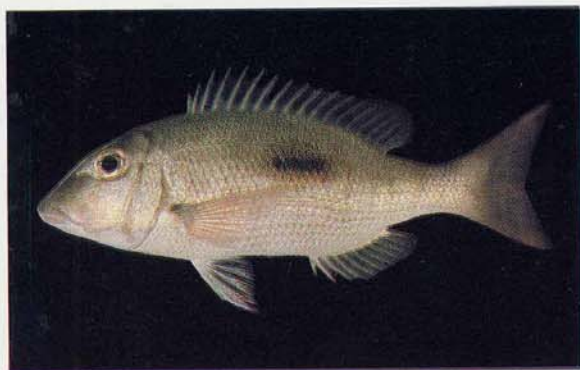


113. LETHRINIDAE:  
*Lethrinus borbonicus*  
(ill. by Swainston)

PLATE XIX



114. LETHRINIDAE:  
*Lethrinus erythracanthus*  
(ill. by Swainston)



115. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus harak*  
207 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



116. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus lentjan*  
175 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



117. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus mahsena* form *sanguineus*  
252 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



118. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus mahsena* form *mahsena*  
198 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



119. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus microdon*  
122 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



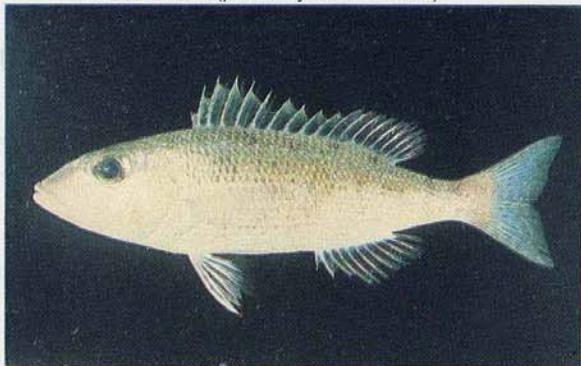
120. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus nebulosus*  
234 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



121. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus obsoletus*  
295 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



122. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus rubrioperculatus*  
131 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



123. LETHRINIDAE: *Lethrinus variegatus*  
135 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



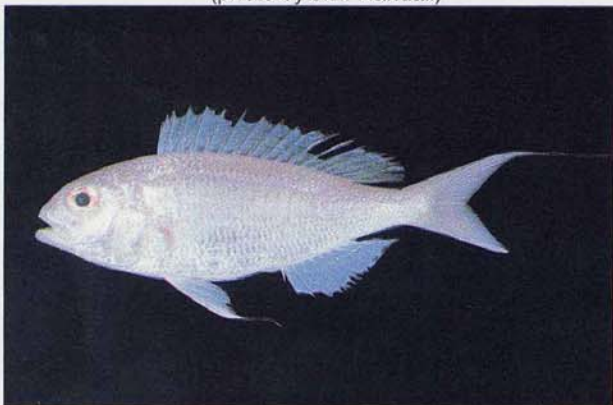
124. LETHRINIDAE: *Monotaxis grandoculis*  
220 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



125. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Nemipterus bipunctatus*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



126. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Nemipterus japonicus*  
186 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



127. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Nemipterus randalli*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



128. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Nemipterus zysron*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



PLATE XXI



129. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Parascolopsis aspinosa*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



130. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Parascolopsis eriomma*  
198 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



131. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Scolopsis bimaculatus*  
90 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



132. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Scolopsis ghanam*  
150 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



133. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Scolopsis taeniatus*  
(photo by J.E. Randall)



134. NEMIPTERIDAE: *Scolopsis vosmeri*  
159 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

PLATE XXII



135. MULLIDAE: *Mulloidichthys flavolineatus*  
158 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



136. MULLIDAE: *Mulloidichthys vanicolensis*  
150 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



137. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus barberinus*  
243 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



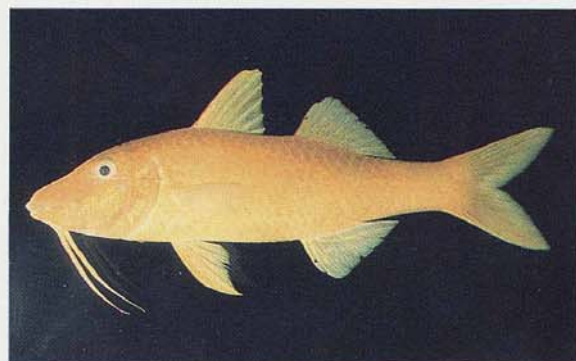
138. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus bifasciatus*  
198 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



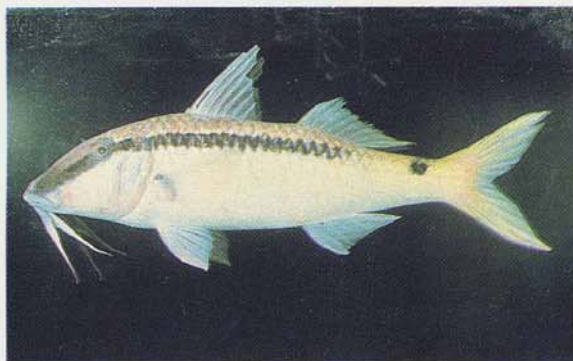
139. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus cinnabarinus*  
234 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



140. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus cyclostomus*  
222 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



141. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus cyclostomus*  
159 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



142. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus forsskali*  
217 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

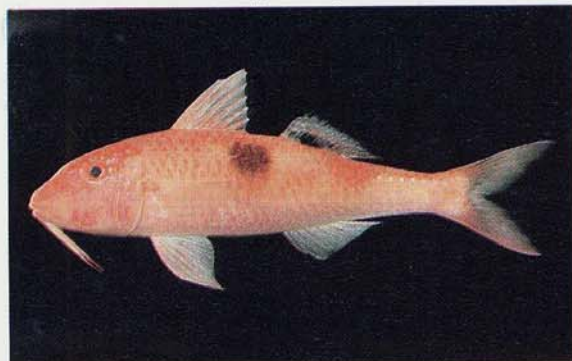
PLATE XXIII



143. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus indicus*  
164 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



144. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus macronema*  
151 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



145. MULLIDAE: *Parupeneus pleurostigma*  
160 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



146. MULLIDAE: *Upeneus bensasi*  
115 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



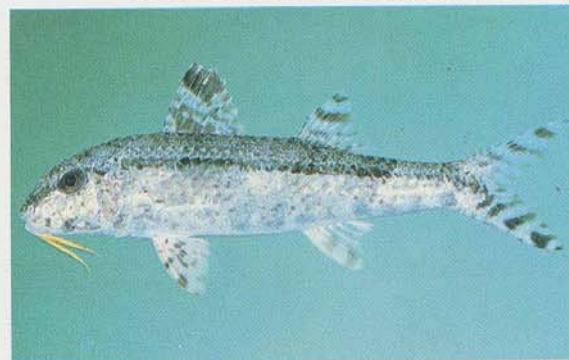
147. MULLIDAE: *Upeneus moluccensis*  
136 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



148. MULLIDAE: *Upeneus sulphureus*  
160 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



149. MULLIDAE: *Upeneus taeniopterus*  
120 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



150. MULLIDAE: *Upeneus tragula*  
116 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)

PLATE XXIV



151. MULLIDAE: *Upeneus vittatus*  
155 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



152. DREPANIDAE: *Drepane punctata*  
159 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



153. MONODACTYLIDAE: *Monodactylus argenteus*  
130 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)



154. POLYNEMIDAE: *Polynemus sextarius*  
186 mm T.L. (photo by G. Bianchi)



155. LABRIDAE: *Anampses caeruleopunctatus*  
163 mm S.L., female (photo by J.E. Randall)



156. LABRIDAE: *Anampses caeruleopunctatus*  
203 mm S.L., male (photo by J.E. Randall)



157. LABRIDAE: *Cheilinus chlorurus*  
147 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



158. LABRIDAE: *Cheilinus diagrammus*  
217 mm S.L. male (photo by J.E. Randall)

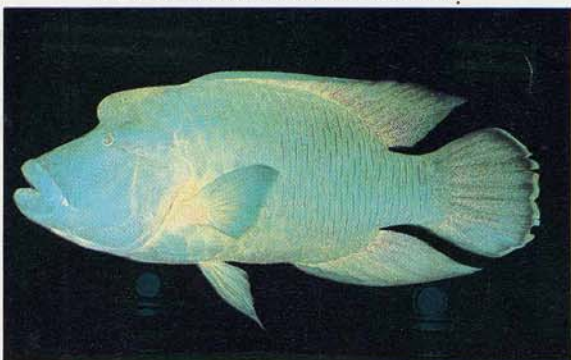
PLATE XXV



159. LABRIDAE: *Cheilinus fasciatus*  
150 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



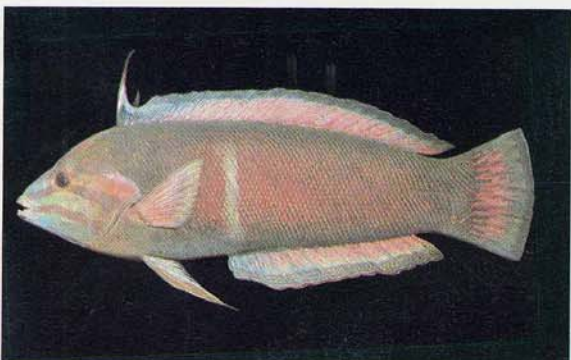
160. LABRIDAE: *Cheilinus trilobatus*  
205 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



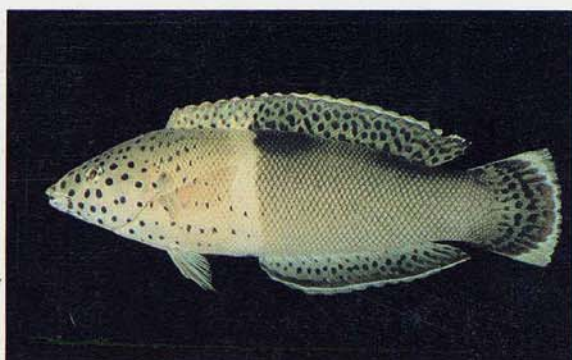
161. LABRIDAE: *Cheilinus undulatus*  
915 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



162. LABRIDAE: *Cheilio inermis*  
206 mm S.L. female (photo by J.E. Randall)



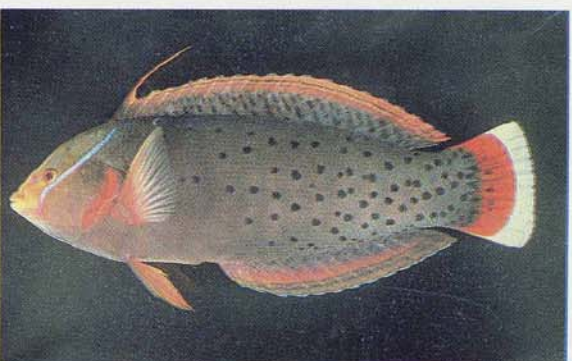
163. LABRIDAE: *Coris africana*  
280 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



164. LABRIDAE: *Coris aygula*  
115 mm S.L. small adult (photo by J.E. Randall)



165. LABRIDAE: *Coris aygula*  
465 mm S.L. large adult (photo by J.E. Randall)



166. LABRIDAE: *Coris frerei*  
225 mm S.L. female (photo by J.E. Randall)

PLATE XXVI



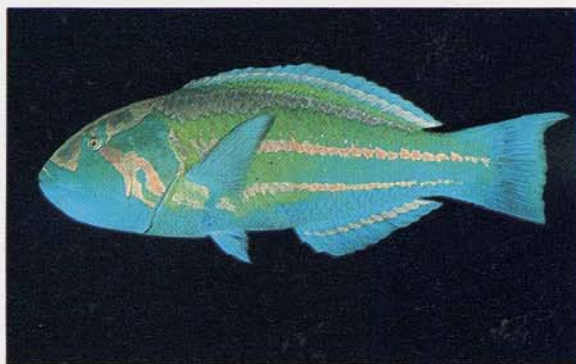
167. LABRIDAE: *Gomphosus caeruleus*  
132 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



168. LABRIDAE: *Halichoeres hortulanus*  
158 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



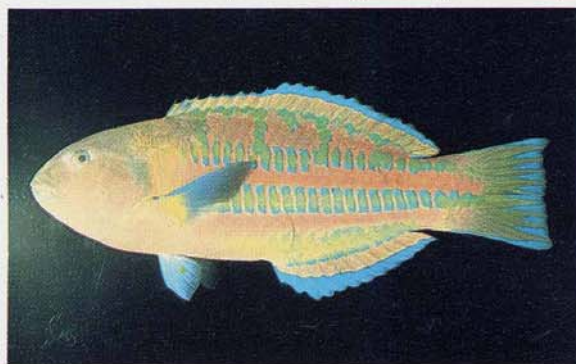
169. LABRIDAE: *Thalassoma purpureum*  
150 mm S.L. female (photo by J.E. Randall)



170. LABRIDAE: *Thalassoma purpureum*  
310 mm S.L. terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



171. LABRIDAE: *Thalassoma trilobatum* 153 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



172. LABRIDAE: *Thalassoma trilobatum* 162 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)

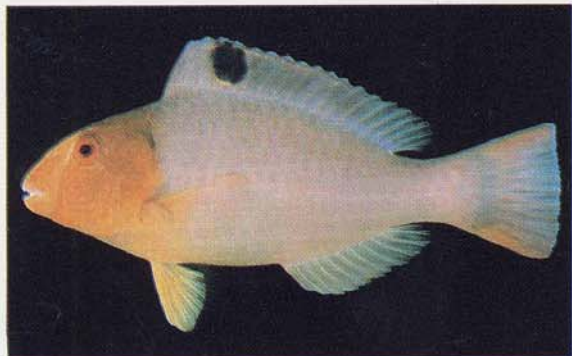


173. SCARIDAE: *Calotomus carolinus* 235 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



174. SCARIDAE: *Calotomus carolinus* 318 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)

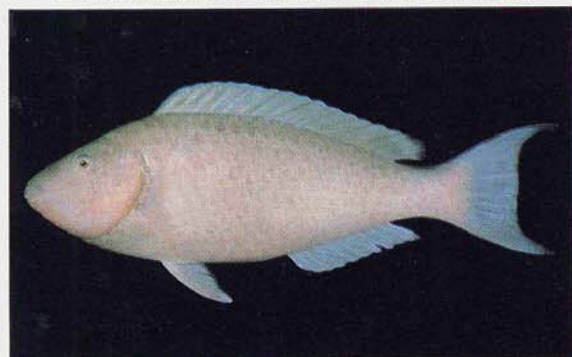
PLATE XXVII



175. SCARIDAE: *Cetoscarus bicolor* 123 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



176. SCARIDAE: *Cetoscarus bicolor* 365 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



177. SCARIDAE: *Hipposcarus harid* 328 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



178. SCARIDAE: *Hipposcarus harid* 335 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



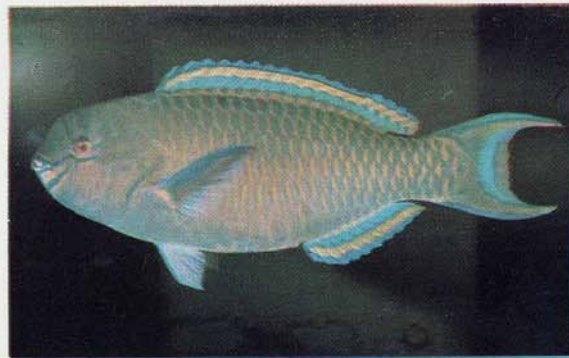
179. SCARIDAE: *Leptoscarus vaigiensis* 159 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



180. SCARIDAE: *Leptoscarus vaigiensis* 179 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



181. SCARIDAE: *Scarus arabicus* 309 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



182. SCARIDAE: *Scarus festivus* 288 mm S.L.  
male (photo by J. E. Randall)

PLATE XXVIII



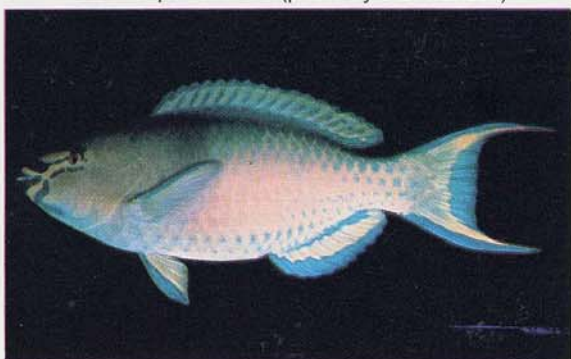
183. SCARIDAE: *Scarus atrilunula*  
female / initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



184. SCARIDAE: *Scarus atrilunula*  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



185. SCARIDAE: *Scarus caudofasciatus* 379 mm S.L.  
female / initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



186. SCARIDAE: *Scarus caudofasciatus* 357 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



187. SCARIDAE: *Scarus falcipinnis*  
female / initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



188. SCARIDAE: *Scarus falcipinnis* 384 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



189. SCARIDAE: *Scarus ferrugineus* 268 mm S.L.  
phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



190. SCARIDAE: *Scarus ferrugineus* 323 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



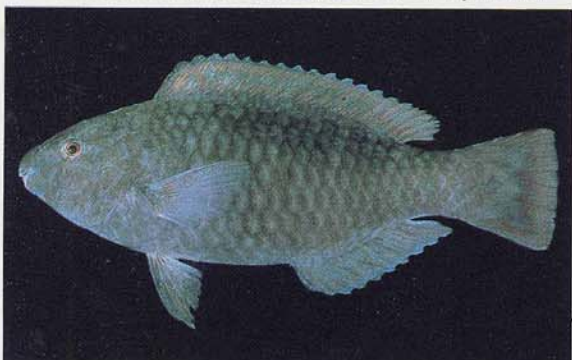
PLATE XXIX



191. SCARIDAE: *Scarus frenatus* 109 mm S.L.  
female / initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



192. SCARIDAE: *Scarus frenatus* 234 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



193. SCARIDAE: *Scarus fuscopurpureus* 157 mm S.L.  
female / initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



194. SCARIDAE: *Scarus fuscopurpureus* 288 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



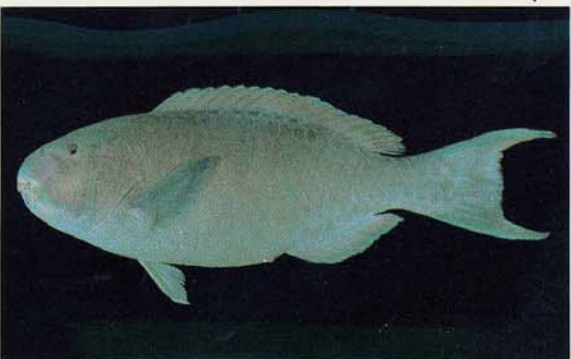
195. SCARIDAE: *Scarus genazonatus* 241 mm S.L.  
female / initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



196. SCARIDAE: *Scarus genazonatus* 227 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



197. SCARIDAE: *Scarus ghobban* 228 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



198. SCARIDAE: *Scarus ghobban* 450 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)

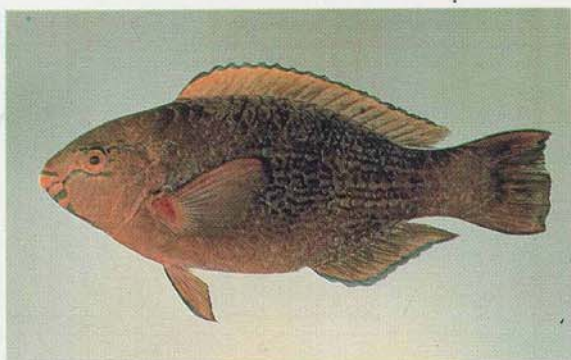
PLATE XXX



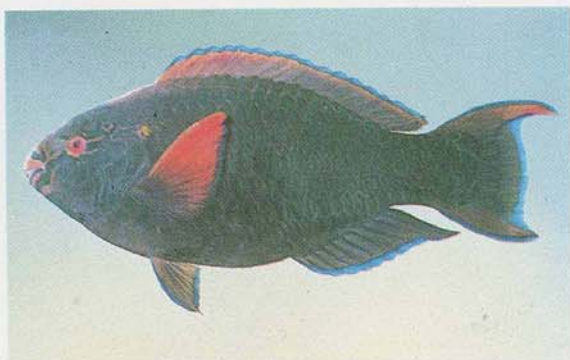
199. SCARIDAE: *Scarus gibbus* 335 mm S.L.  
female / initial phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



200. SCARIDAE: *Scarus gibbus* 315 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



201. SCARIDAE: *Scarus niger* 172 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



202. SCARIDAE: *Scarus niger* 220 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J. E. Randall)



203. SCARIDAE: *Scarus psittacus* 171 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



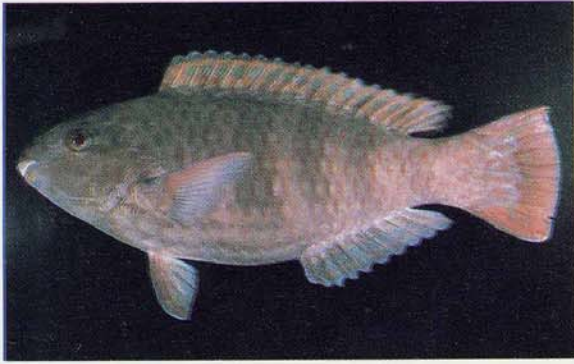
204. SCARIDAE: *Scarus psittacus* 148 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



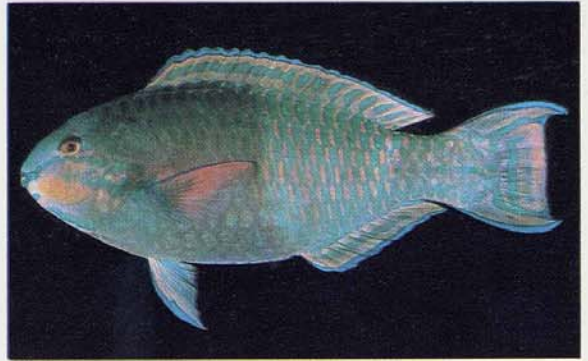
205. SCARIDAE: *Scarus rubroviolaceus* 308 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



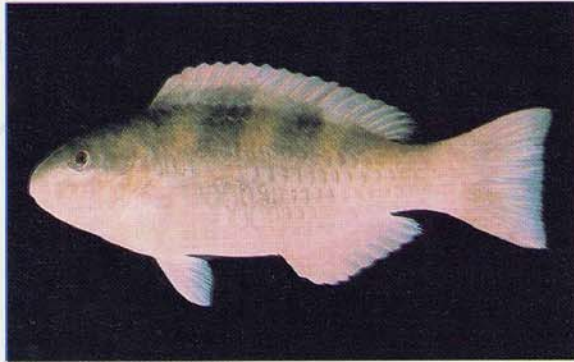
206. SCARIDAE: *Scarus rubroviolaceus* 355 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



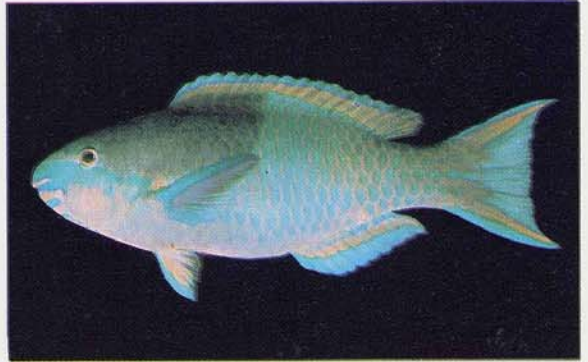
207. SCARIDAE: *Scarus russelii* 203 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



208. SCARIDAE: *Scarus russelii* 273 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



209. SCARIDAE: *Scarus scaber* 145 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



210. SCARIDAE: *Scarus scaber* 189 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



211. SCARIDAE: *Scarus sordidus* 164 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)



212. SCARIDAE: *Scarus sordidus* 242 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)

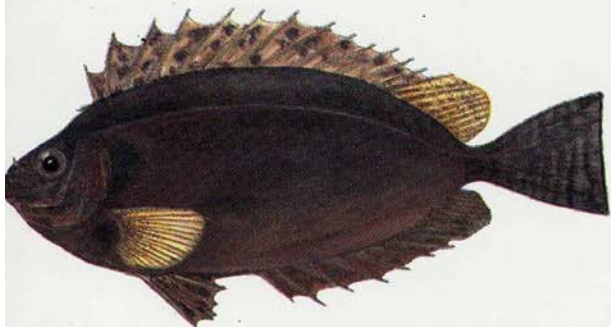


213. SCARIDAE: *Scarus viridifurcatus* 120 mm S.L.  
female/initial phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)

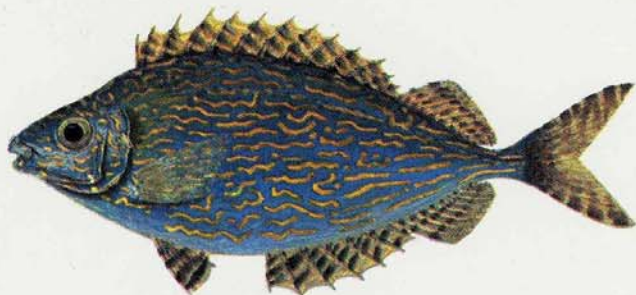


214. SCARIDAE: *Scarus viridifurcatus* 143 mm S.L.  
terminal phase male (photo by J.E. Randall)

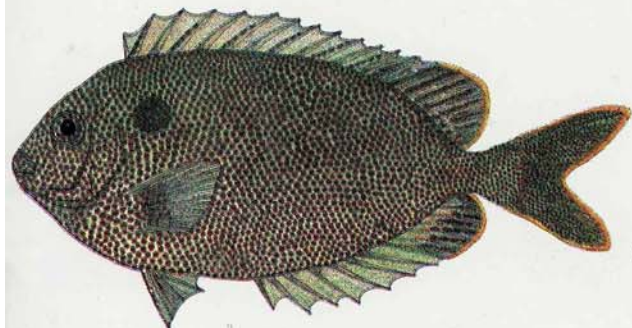
PLATE XXXII



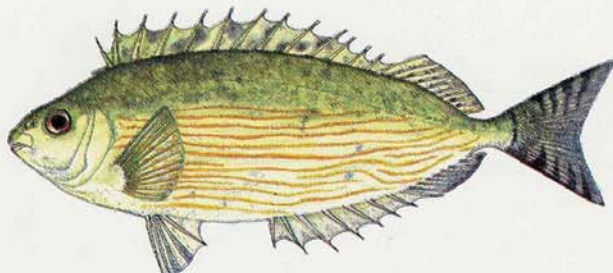
216. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus luridus*  
(ill. by Meschini)



215. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus argenteus*  
(ill. by Meschini)



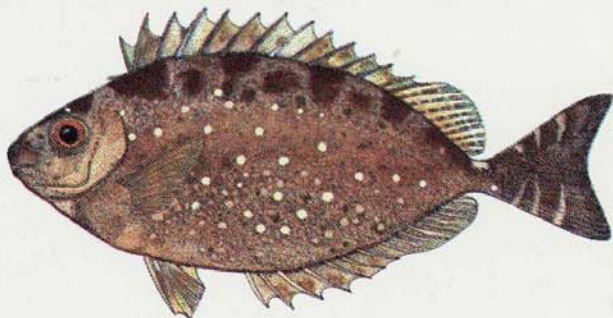
218. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus stellatus*  
(ill. by Meschini)



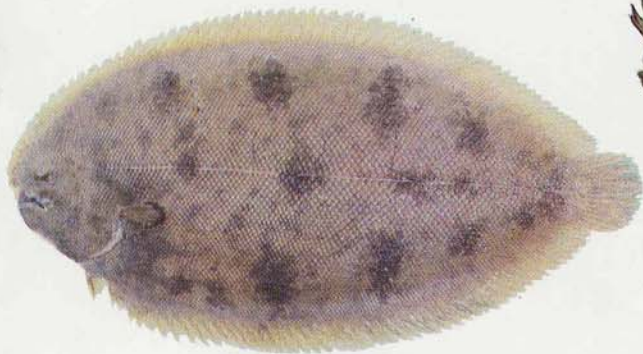
217. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus rivulatus*  
(ill. by Meschini)



220. PSETTODIDAE: *Psettodes erumei*  
(photo by G. Binachi)



219. SIGANIDAE: *Siganus sutor*  
(ill. by Meschini)



222. SOLEIDAE: *Euryglossa orientalis*  
170 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



221. BOTHIDAE: *Bothus pantherinus*  
124 mm S.L. (photo by J.E. Randall)



This field guide covers the major resource groups likely to be encountered in the fisheries of Somalia. These groups include shrimps, lobsters, bivalves, gastropods, cephalopods, sharks, batoid fishes, bony fishes and sea turtles. Each resource group is introduced by a general section on pertinent technical terms and measurements and an illustrated guide to the orders and families of the group. The annotated and illustrated list of the more important species includes scientific nomenclature, FAO names in English and French (where available), local Somali names, maximum size, notes on fisheries, habitat and biology, diagnostic features and one or more illustrations. The guide is fully indexed, and a list of related literature is appended.

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