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POCKET GUIDE TO IMPORTANT COASTAL FISHERY SPECIES OF ERITREA



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Project management:

Dismas Mbabazi (FAORAF), KwamiDzifanu NyarkoBadohu (FAORAF), Florence Poulain (FAO, Rome); Kim Friedman (FAO, Rome).

Contributors:

Amanuel Tesfamichael: definition of species list, information on local names, habitat and fishing methods.

Edoardo Mostarda (FAO, Rome): preparation of species accounts and key features, technical editing and formatting.

Peter Nick Psomadakis (FAO, Rome): preparation of species accounts and key features.

Colour illustrations, images, graphic design, and cover:

Emanuela D'Antoni (FAO, Rome).

Preparation of this document

This pocket guide was prepared under the direction of the FAO FishFinder Programme (former Species Identification and Data Programme), thanks to the support of the “Capacity building for the management of small-pelagic fisheries in Eritrea project” (TCP/ERI/3606). Its purpose is to provide local fishery observers, fishers, scientists, fishery officers and the interested public with a user-friendly tool for identifying a selection of species that are common in coastal marine fisheries in Eritrea.

The guide includes a total of 204 species. Fifty-eight are presented in a main card and depicted with a scientific illustration and photo. In addition, each main card is supported by one including short accounts for similar-looking species that are known to occur in the area. It should be noted that there are many more marine species exploited by coastal fisheries in Eritrea that could not be included here. Therefore, caution is advised when identification is carried out.

The format of the pocket guide was developed for use by non-taxonomists and to facilitate communication with practitioners (fishers and marketers). For this purpose, the most common local names are included, but users should be aware that the same local name often applies to several species and that one species may be known by more than one local name.

To aid in quick identification, the pocket guide includes a colour-coded grouping of species based on simple morphological characteristics (i.e., the size and position of the dorsal and anal fins) as well as symbols for common sizes, ecological preferences and catch methods.

Geography of Eritrea

Eritrea is located in North East Africa between 12° and 18° N, and 36° and 44° E. It is bordered by Sudan to the north and west, Ethiopia to the south, Djibouti to the south-east and the Red Sea to the north and north-east. The coastline measures around 1 200 km and off it there are 360 islands adding another 1 300 km of coastline. About 210 of the 360 islands comprise the area of the Dahlak Archipelago. Eritrea has a continental shelf of 56 000 km². Nineteen percent of the shelf is less than 30 m deep and thus off limits to trawling activities.

The waters of the southern part of the Red Sea are highly productive in part due to allochthonous advection of monsoon upwelled nutrient rich waters through Bāb al-Mandab, the strait between Arabia and Africa that connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.



Source: FAO

The Fisheries of Eritrea

Prior to the war for independence, (50s and 60s), significant commercial fishing activities existed in Eritrea and accounted for up to 35 000 tonnes/year of landed fish. During the war, most infrastructures were destroyed and the fishing grounds almost completely abandoned. After independence in 1991, the Ministry of Marine Resources undertook a complete reorganization of the fishery sector from infrastructural reconstruction, including fisheries and quality control regulations, and establishment of

a fully competent inspection authority. The prior intervention resulted in fulfillment of the conditions of list II of EU Decision 97/296/EC, which authorized Eritrea to export fish and fishery products to EU countries. This has also resulted in a steady increase in total landings throughout the years.

Basic fisheries management and biodiversity research has also been undertaken alongside all activities for the assurance of the sustainable utilization of the fisheries resources and conservation of the marine resources and environment. The Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) of Eritrea Red Sea fisheries has been estimated by several sources at about 80 000 tonnes per year (Tsehaye, 2007 - <https://edepot.wur.nl/121917>).

The Eritrean fishery sector comprises three main types based on level of exploitation: the artisanal fishery (traditional, subsistence, small-scale and low-tech fishing practices targeting mainly the reef fishes and the middle-sized pelagic ones), the semi-industrial, and the industrial fishery (modern, high-scale-high-tech fishery focusing on the demersal resources of the continental shelf). The main commercial groups of living marine resources exploited include: coral reef fishes, soft-bottom demersal fishes, small pelagic fishes, large pelagic fishes, sharks, crustaceans (lobsters, shrimps, crabs), cephalopods (cuttlefishes) and sea cucumbers.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the staff of the “Capacity building for the management of small-pelagic fisheries in Eritrea project” (TCP/ERI/3606). Special thanks go to Luca Garibaldi (FAO) for initiating the process that has led to the production of this pocket guide and to Florence Poulain (FAO, Rome) and Dismas Mbabazi (FAORAF) for managing it through to its conclusion.

Particular thanks are due to the staff of the Research Division of the Ministry of Marine Resources for their comments and general review of the pocket guide.

Thanks go to John E. Randall for providing FAO with the photos of most species herein included, except for the photo of *Encrasicholina heteroloba* (by Gregorio V. Hermosa, Jr.), *Tylosurus crocodilus* (by José F. González Jiménez), *Lutjanus bohar* (by Elamin Mohamed, Red Sea Fisheries Research Station, Sudan), *Sphyræna obtusata* (by Sergey Bogorodsky), *Penaeus semisulcatus* and *P. monodon* (by Peter N. Psomadakis), *Scylla serrata* (by Almandine/CC BY-SA 4.0), *Holothuria scabra* (by D.C.T. Dissanayake), *Thunnus tonggol*, *Himantura uarnak*, and *Sepia pharaonis* (by H.B. Osmany).

Finally, thanks to Dr. Iyob Tsehaye (PhD), for providing photos and information on fishing activities in Eritrea.

The marine species included in this pocket guide have been grouped using easily identifiable morphological characteristics, i.e., the number and size of the dorsal and anal fins in bony fish species. The groupings do not reflect taxonomic classification and are only intended to allow users to quickly find a species. Each group has been colour-coded for easy recognition within the card set. Within each group, cards are arranged in alphabetical order of family and then by alphabetical order of species' scientific name.

Greater Hazerfish
Sardinella tawilis (Stead, 1975)

SYNCHRONIZING **Eng**

Local names: *Maccorona*.

occurs in large numbers according to the behavior regular at dawn and at dusk

10-15 cm (male 10, female 12 cm)

3 cm (at mouth) no more protrusion

10-12 cm (male 10, female 12 cm)

Pelagic **tooth bands** **on dorsal fin**

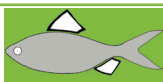
Descriptions: body cylindrical, head and caudal peduncle somewhat depressed. several rows of tooth bands, whose mouth is dorsal (less of ventral) also present.

Color: light brown dorsally, silvery white ventrally; pectoral fins and pelvic fins of reddish brown, and anal fins of pinkish white. dusky stomach and intestine gray whitish.

Size: 17 cm TL, max. 100 g WT

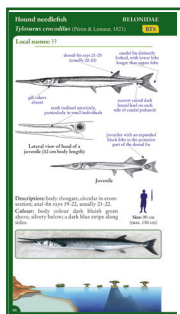
A single short dorsal fin centrally located

pp. 14-23



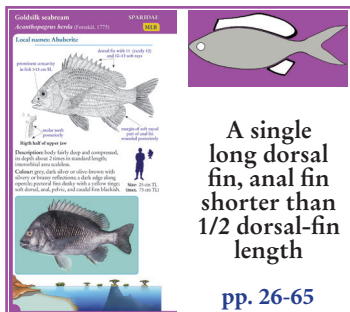
A single short dorsal fin centrally located

pp. 14-23



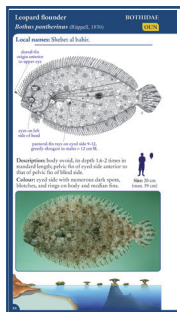
A single dorsal fin and an anal fin similar in shape and posteriorly located

pp. 24-25



A single long dorsal fin, anal fin shorter than 1/2 dorsal-fin length

pp. 26-65



A single long dorsal fin, anal fin at least 1/2 dorsal-fin length

pp. 66-73

Great Barracuda
Sphyraena tibialis (Cuvier, 1829)
Y-108

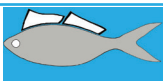
Local names: *Titi*

mouth with mandibles for crushing prey
opercular flap
17 dorsal fin rays (18 dorsal fin rays in some specimens)
2 anal fin rays
2-3 pelvic rays above lateral line
2-3 pelvic rays above lateral line
2 pectoral girdles
1 pectoral fin

Description: a small species, with origin of 10 dorsal fin behind pelvic fin origin and tip of pectoral fin at ventral fin 10 dorsal fin origin.

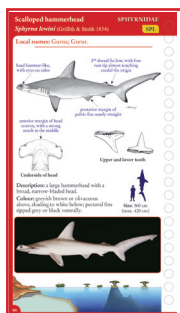
Culinary: dark green dorsally, silvery below, with 2 indistinct yellowish brown horizontal stripes below body and dorsal and pelvic fins transparent, pectoral fin dusky, caudal fin yellowish.

Size: 2 m TL (imm. 1 m TL)



Two dorsal
fins

pp. 74-99



Sharks, rays and invertebrates

pp. 100-123

How to Use this Guide

FAO name in English

Scientific name and authorship

Family name

FAO 3-alpha code

Local names

Scientific illustration and field marks

Common and maximum length*

Other characters and coloration

Photo of a freshly caught specimen

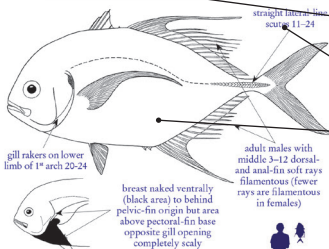
Longfin trevally

Carangoides armatus (Rüppell, 1830)

CARANGIDAE

NGK

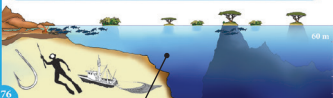
Local names: Bayad. بيلاد



Description: head profile very steep in adults but relatively straight from snout to nape.

Colour: bluish-grey above; silvery below; blackish blotch on upper margin of opercle.

Size: 30 cm (max. 58 cm)



Habitat, fishing methods and maximum depth

Similar species occurring in the area

See also: other similar species included in the guide

* The size refers to Total Length. Otherwise, it is specified as:

FL - Fork Length

SL - Standard Length

DW - Disc width (rays)

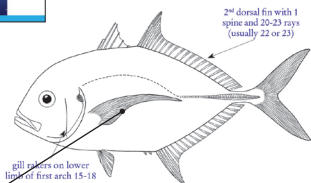
CW - Carapace width (crabs)

BL - Body length (lobsters)

species present in the area:

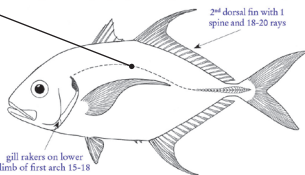
Carangoides coeruleopinnatus – Coastal trevally

NGC



Carangoides chrysophrys – Longnose trevally

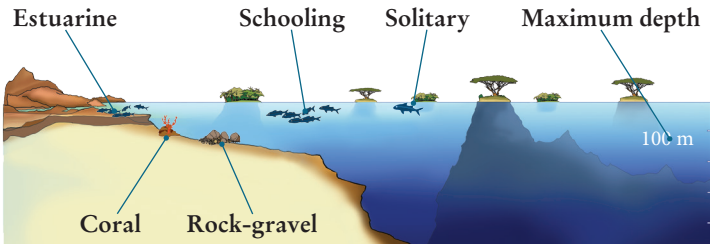
NGH



See also: C. bajad, C. ferdau (Pages. 76-79)

75

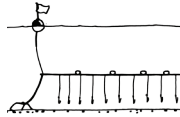
Symbols



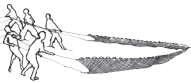
Fishing methods



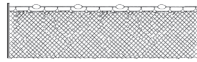
Bottom trawl



Bottom longline



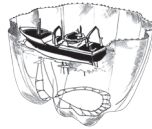
Beach seines



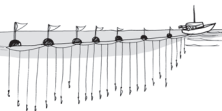
Gillnets



Driftnets



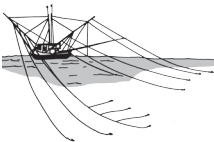
Purse seine



Pelagic longline



Hook-and-line



Trolling lines



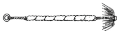
Traps



Hand picking



Spear fishing*

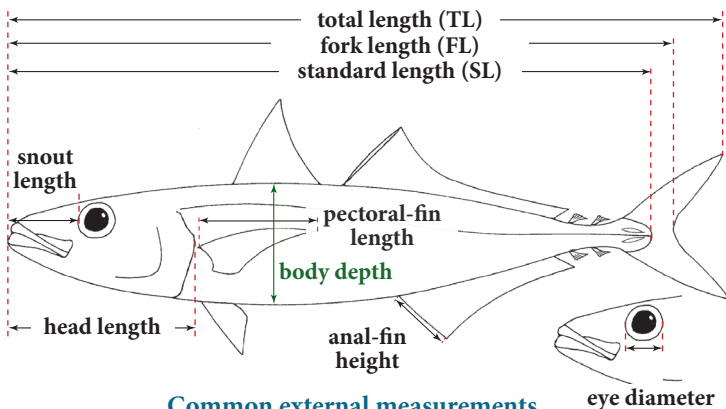


Squid jig

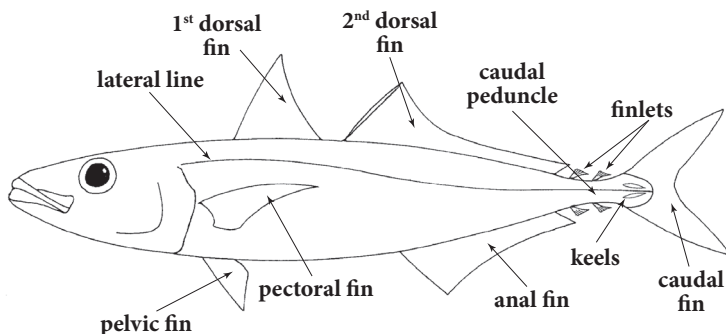
*Spear fishing is currently banned in Eritrea under the Fisheries Proclamation

Technical terms and measurements

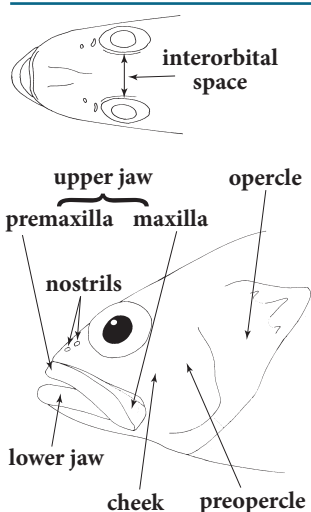
Bony fishes



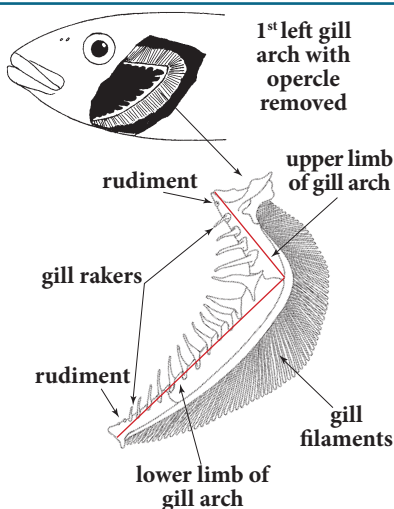
Common external measurements



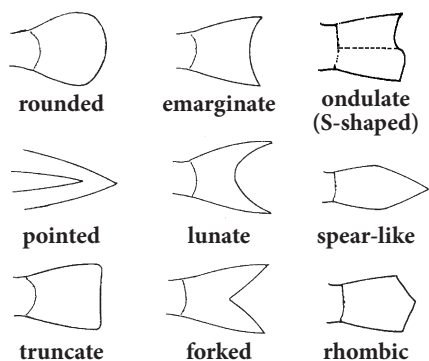
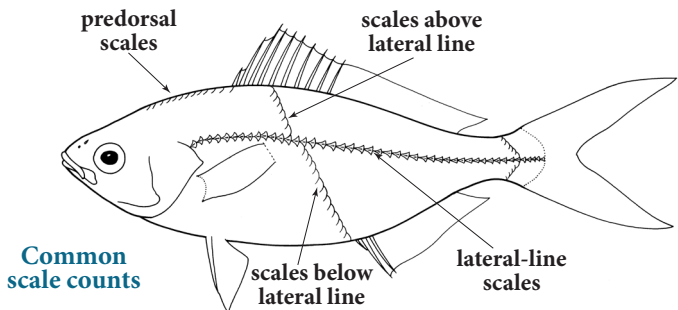
Common external features



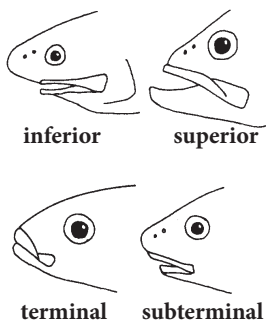
Detail of the head



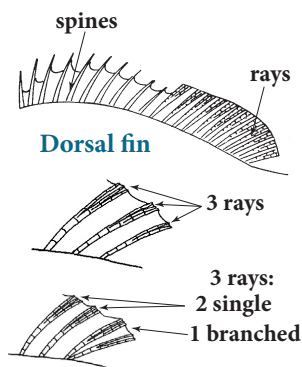
1st gill raker (left side)



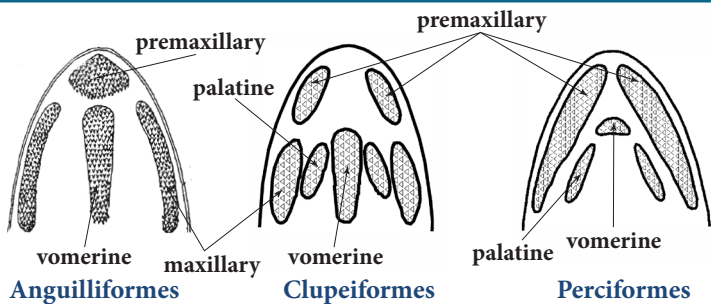
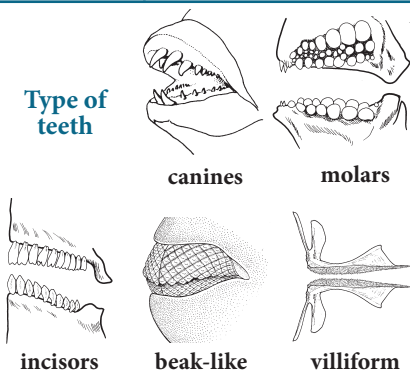
Types of caudal fin



Mouth position

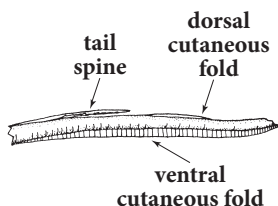
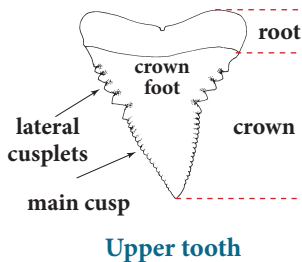
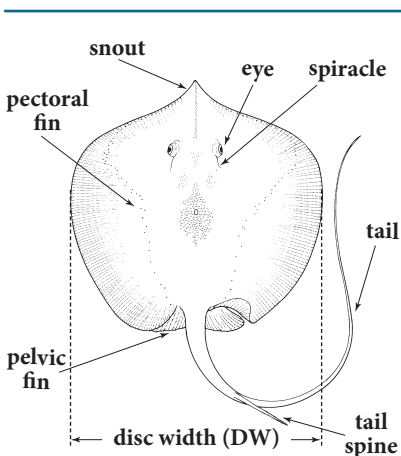
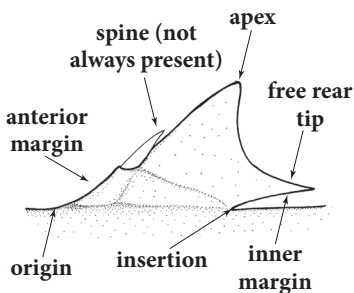
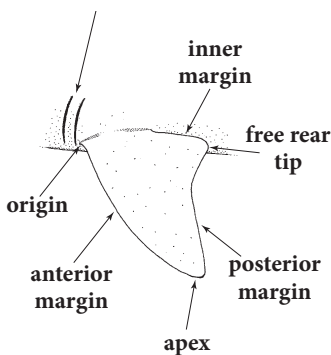
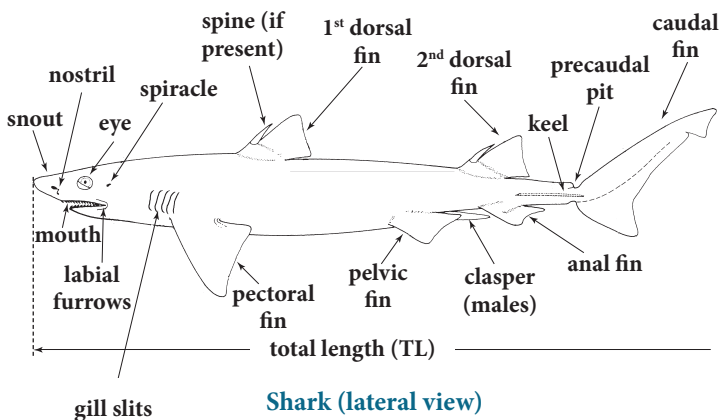


Type of teeth



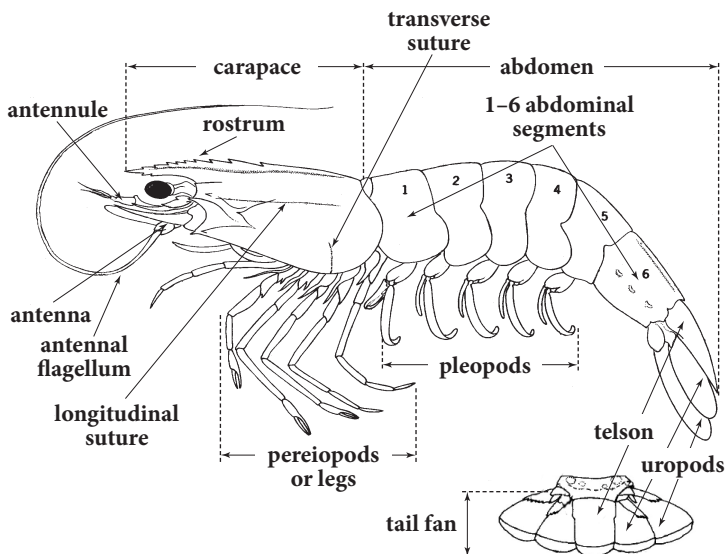
Roof of mouth and teeth

Technical terms and measurements Sharks and Rays

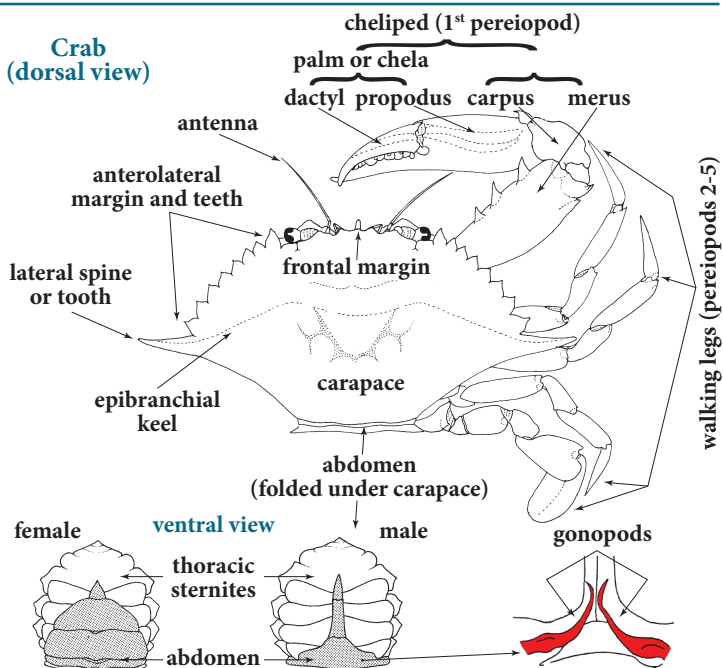


Technical terms and measurements

Crustaceans



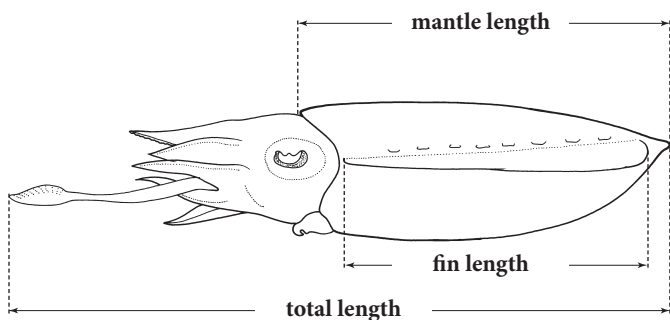
Shrimp (lateral view)



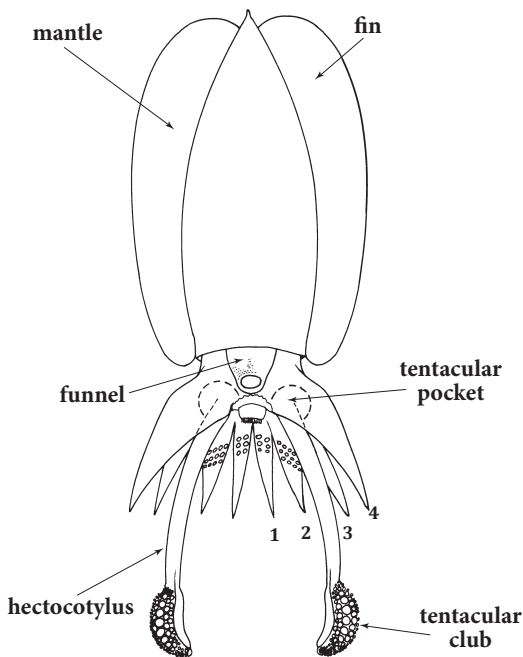
Adult male and female crabs are easily distinguished by the shape of their abdomen. In females the abdomen is broad, whereas in males it is triangular to broadly T-shaped.

Technical terms and measurements

Cuttlefishes



Cuttlefish (lateral view)



Cuttlefish (ventral view)

Glossary

- Adipose eyelid:** transparent fleshy tissue covering part or all of the eye in some fishes.
- Anal fin:** the median, unpaired, ventrally located fin that lies behind the anus, usually on the posterior half of the fish.
- Barbel:** elongate fleshy tentacle-like sensory projection, usually located close to the mouth.
- Blotch:** a spot or mark especially when large or irregular.
- Branchiostegal rays:** series of long, curved and often pointed bones that support the branchiostegal (gill) membrane.
- Canine:** slender conical tooth, often enlarged and elongate.
- Carapace:** a bony or chitinous case or shield covering the back of an animal.
- Caudal fin:** often called the tail fin, it provides the main power for forward movement in fish.
- Caudal peduncle:** in fish, the posterior part of the body between the rear parts of the dorsal and anal fins, and the caudal fin.
- Clasper:** intromittent organ; the rod-like extension of the medial portion of the pelvic fin in male cartilaginous fishes used as copulatory organ.
- Compressed:** flattened laterally; a body shape much deeper than wide.
- Continental shelf:** the flattened edge of the continental land mass between the coast and the continental slope (generally, the continental subtidal zone down to a depth of about 200 m).
- Cusp:** a projection on a tooth.
- Cusplet:** a small or secondary projection as on a tooth or spine; also a denticle.
- Cuttlebone:** the internal calcified shell remnant of cuttlefish.
- Cycloid scale:** scale with smooth, spineless posterior margin. Typical of bony fishes.
- Dorsal fin:** a median fin along the back; there may be two or more dorsal fins, in which case the most anterior one is designated the first.
- Depressed:** flattened from top to bottom; body shape much wider than deep.
- Falcate:** sickle-shaped.
- Fin:** flap-like external organ concerned with locomotion in fishes (dorsal, adipose, caudal, anal, pelvic, and pectoral fins).
- Finlets:** small non-retractable fins, generally on the caudal peduncle between the last dorsal or anal fin and the caudal fin of some fishes. In some groups, such as tunas, finlets are rayless.
- Gill rakers:** bony, finger-like projection of the gill arch on the opposite side from the red gill filaments which function in retaining food organisms.

Gill slits: external openings leading to the gill chamber. The opening allows water to exit after passing over the gills for respiration.

Hectocotylus: one (or more) arm(s) of male cephalopods modified into a penis-like process for transferring spermatophores to the female.

Keel: a prominent ridge.

Labial furrows: shallow grooves around the lips.

Lateral line: a sense organ along the side of the body (mainly fish) used to detect movement and vibration in the surrounding water.

Maxilla: the bone in the upper jaw behind the premaxilla.

Molar: a low, blunt, rounded tooth for crushing and grinding.

Nape: the dorsal part of the body just behind the occiput or hard dorsal region of the skull.

Nostril: external nares open onto the head.

Notch: an indentation, usually in a fin, dividing it into two parts or lobes.

Opercle: the large posterior upper bone of the gill cover.

Papillae: in sea cucumbers, the conical fleshy projections of the body wall with sensory tube feet at their apices.

Patch: a small section which differs from or contrasts with the whole.

Pectoral fins: in fish, paired fins on the sides behind the gill cover.

Pelvic fins: in fish, pair of fins located ventrally on the body in front of the anus; sometimes called ventral fins.

Premaxilla: anterior bone in the upper jaw (see maxilla).

Preorbital space: the bone or region before and below the eye.

Preopercle: the upper anterior bone of the gill cover.

Rostrum: the beak, snout or spinelike anterior median prolongation of the carapace of a crustacean; any projecting snout or beak.

Scutes: hard, thick external plates derived from scales and present on the skin of some teleost fishes.

Snout: the tip of the head in front of the eyes.

Spine: a fin support element that is unpaired laterally, unsegmented, unbranched and usually stiff and pointed, also refers to slender sharply pointed bony processes not associated with fins.

Spinule: a small spine.

Spiracle: a small respiratory opening behind the eye of certain cartilaginous fishes.

Telson: the terminal portion of an arthropod body.

Tentacular club: terminal portion of a tentacle; armed with suckers (or suckers and/or hooks), used for capturing prey.

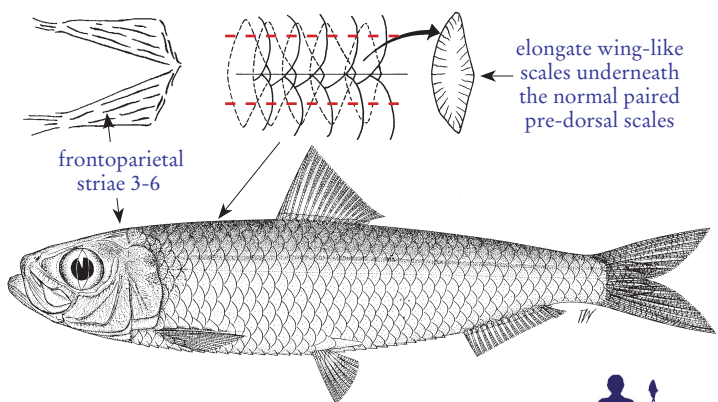
Vomer: an unpaired median bone on the roof of the mouth.

Bluestripe herring

CLUPEIDAE

Herklotsichthys quadrimaculatus (Rüppell, 1837) **HES**

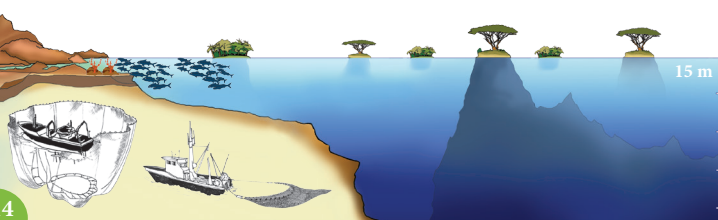
Local names: Abu ras, Aida, Belem. **ابو راس، عيدة، بليم**
ሳርዲን: ዓይዳ: በለም



Description: body slender, its depth 18-30% standard length.

Colour: flanks silvery with an electric blue line preceded by two orange spots.

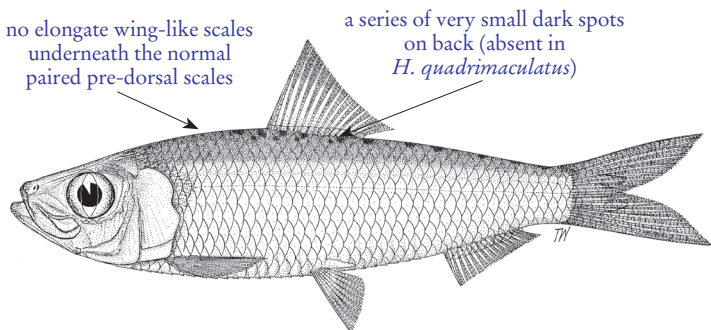
Size: 10 cm (max. 25 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

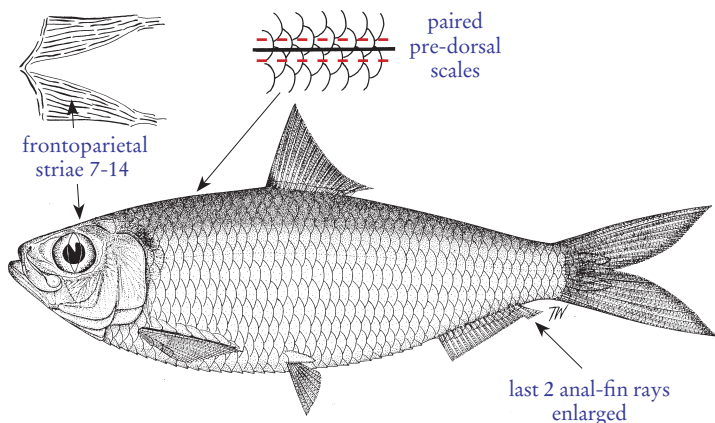
Herklotsichthys punctatus – Spotback herring

JBL



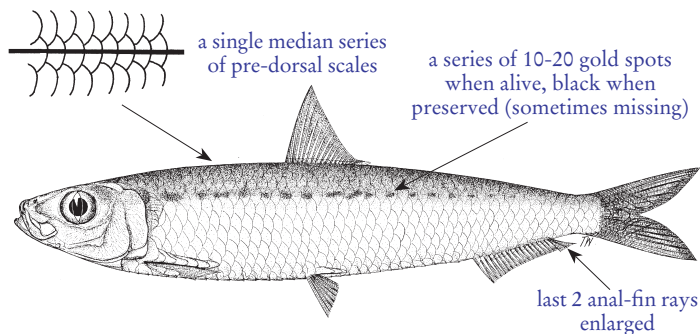
Sardinella spp. – Sardinellas

SIX



Amblygaster sirm – Spotted sardinella

AGS



Two other clupeid genera, *Etrumeus* and *Dussumeria*, are present in Eritrea. They are characterized by having 14-19 branchiostegal rays vs. 4-8 in the other genera.

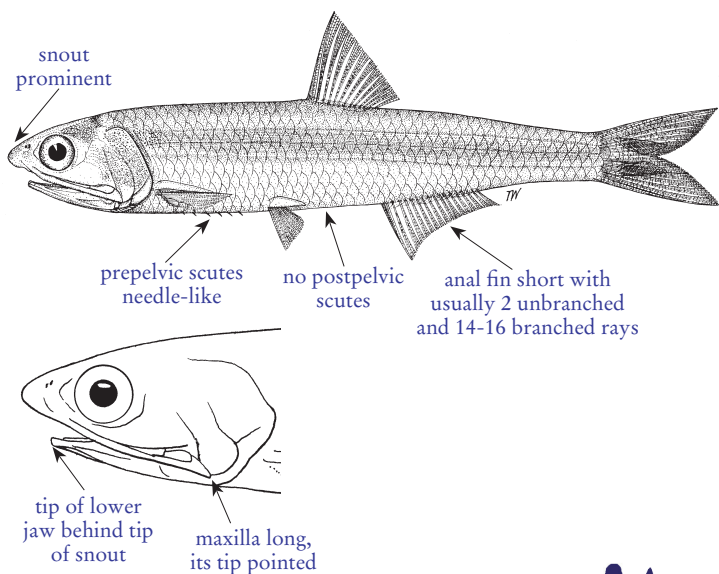
See also: *Encrasicholina heteroloba* (p. 16)

Encrasicholina heteroloba (Rüppell, 1837)

ECT

Local names: Wedif, Belem, Aida. عيدة، وزف، بليم

ሳርዲን፡ ወዲፍ፡ ዓይዳ፡ በለም

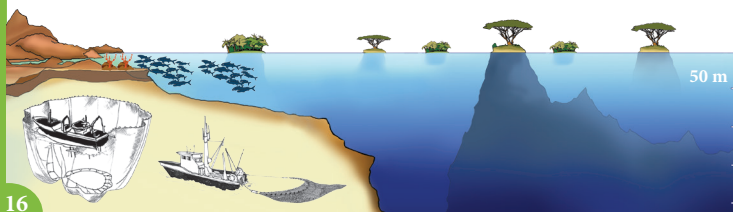


Description: body rather cylindrical; belly rounded with 4-6 sharp needle-like prepelvic scutes.

Colour: in life, a distinct blue upper edge to its lateral stripe and a dull silver or grey band on flank, the back beige.



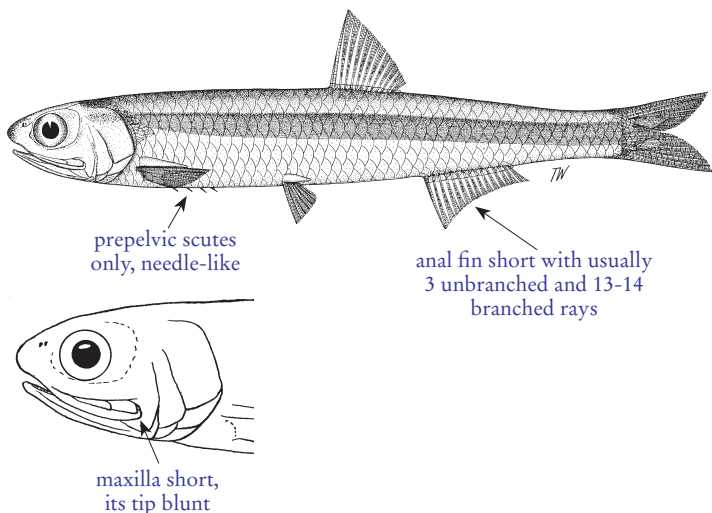
Size: 8 cm
(max. 12 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

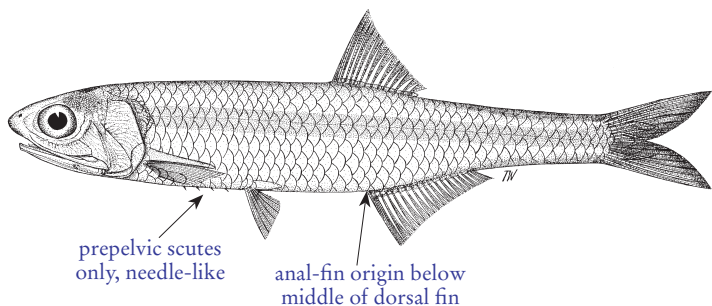
Encrasicholina punctifer – Buccaneer anchovy

STL



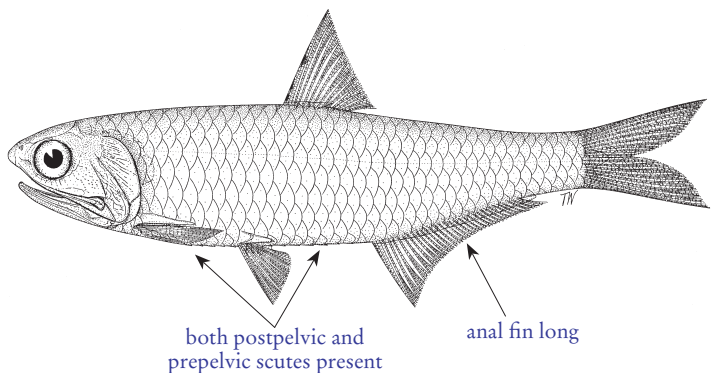
Stolephorus indicus – Indian anchovy

ESI



Thryssa baelama – Baelama anchovy

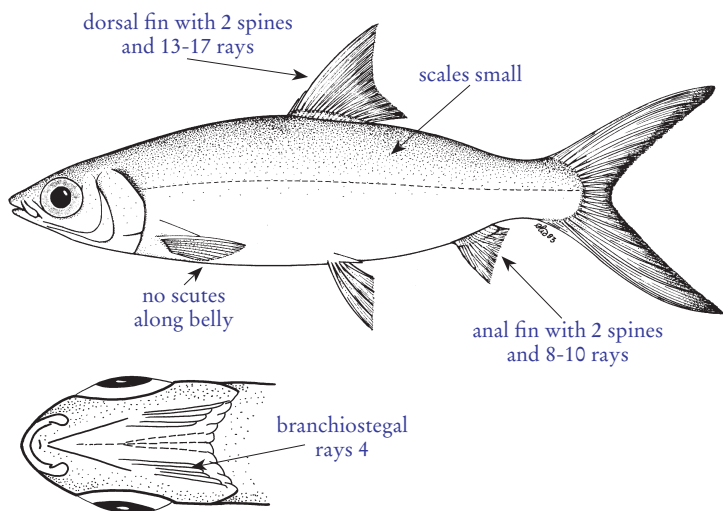
EYB



Chanos chanos (Forsskal, 1775)

MIL

Local names: Salmani. سلماني ሳልማኒ



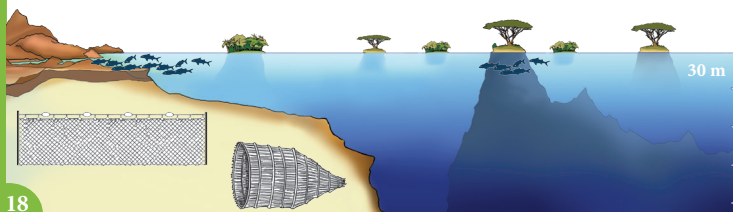
Underside of head

Description: body elongate and somewhat compressed; mouth small with no teeth; lower jaw with a small tubercle at tip.

Colour: back olive green, flanks silvery; dorsal, anal and caudal fins with dark margins.



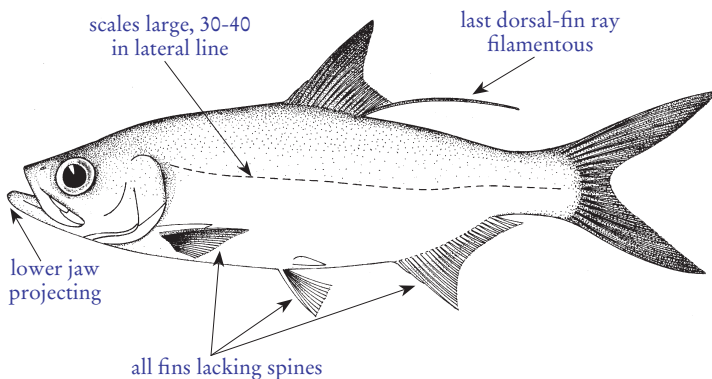
Size: 100 cm
(max. 180 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

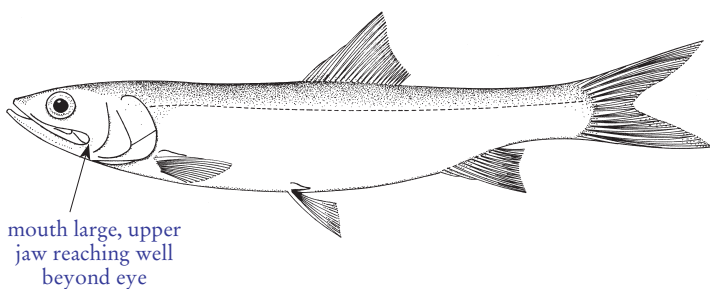
Megalops cyprinoides – Indo-Pacific tarpon

TAI



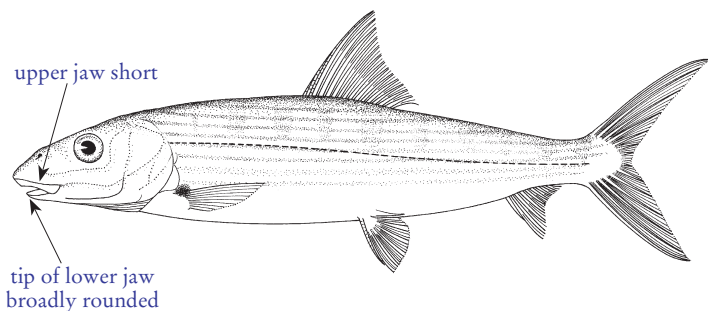
Elops machnata – Tenpounder

CEV



Albula glossodonta – Roundjaw bonefish

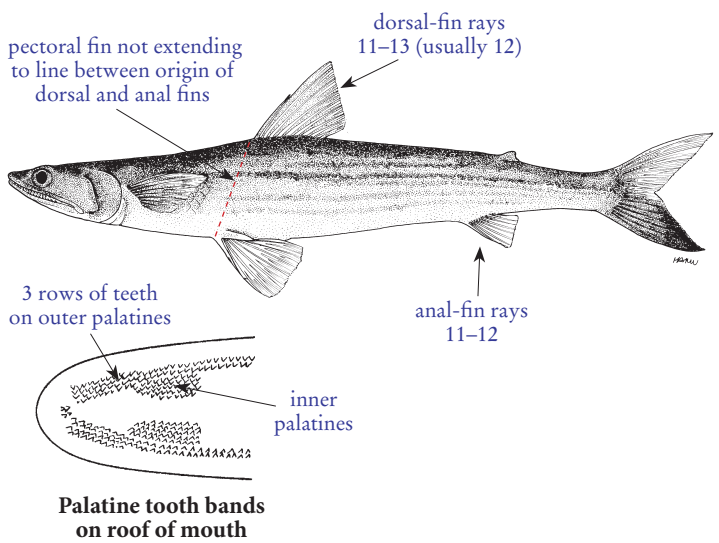
BGV



Saurida tumbil (Bloch, 1795)

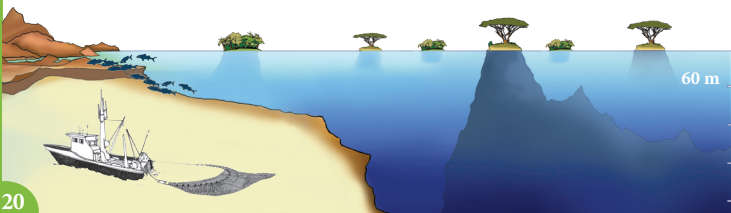
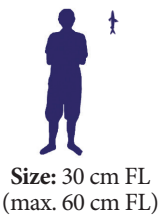
LIG

Local names: Maccorona. مكارونا ማኮሮና



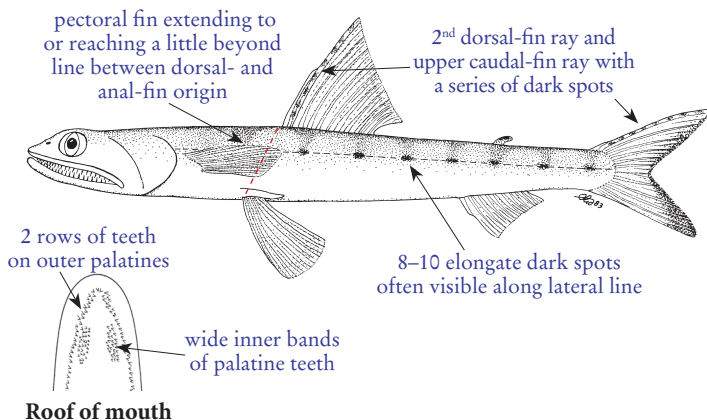
Description: body cylindrical, head and caudal peduncle somewhat depressed; several rows of teeth visible when mouth is closed (true of all *Saurida* species).

Colour: light brown dorsally, silvery white ventrally; pectoral fins and lower lobe of caudal fin, and middle rays of pelvic fins dusky; stomach and intestine pale whitish.



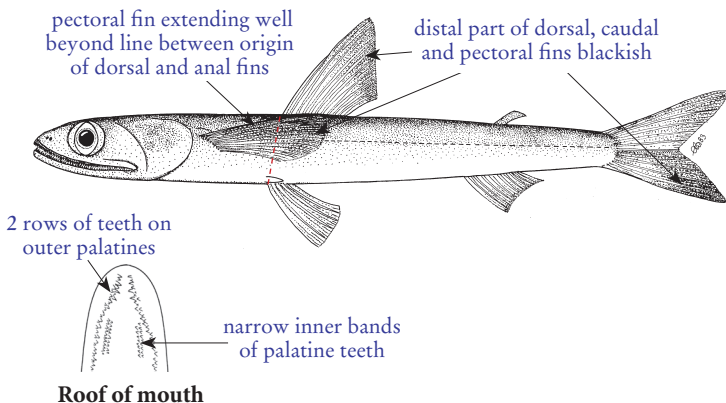
Similar species present in the area:

Saurida lessepsianus – Lessepsian lizardfish



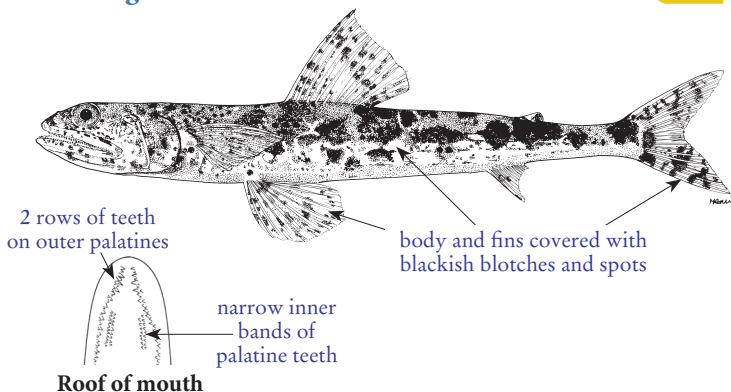
Saurida longimanus – Longfin lizardfish

IEN

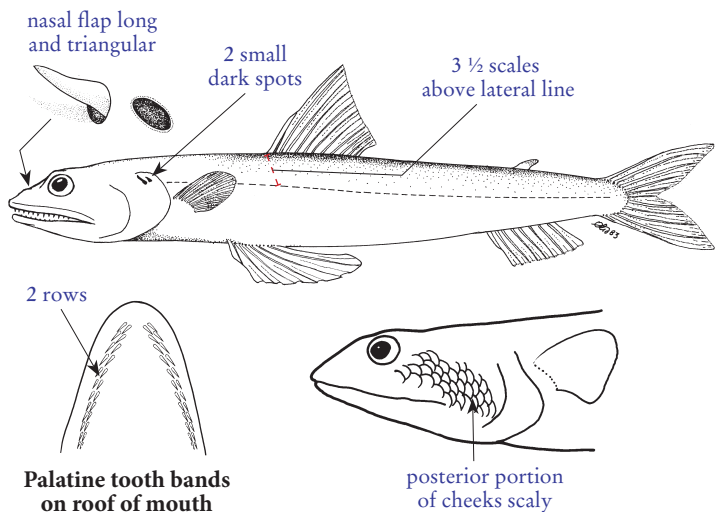


Saurida gracilis – Gracile lizardfish

IEM



Local names: Maccorona. مکرونا ማኮሮና

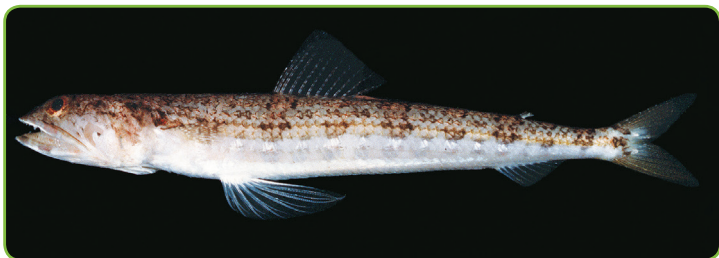


Description: body tubular, head and caudal region a little compressed; inner rays of pelvic fins about 2–3 times longer than outermost rays; several rows of teeth not visible when mouth is closed (true of all *Saurida* species).

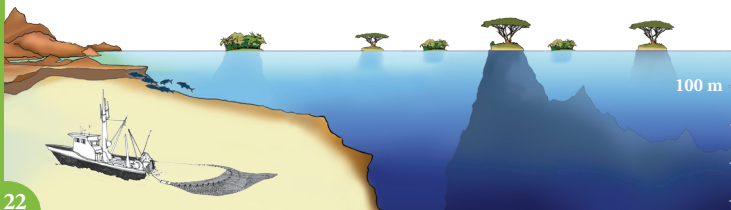
Colour: body dusky pink above with pale blue-grey blotches and stripes; peritoneum pale; 9–11 peritoneal spots.



Size: 12 cm
(max. 33 cm)

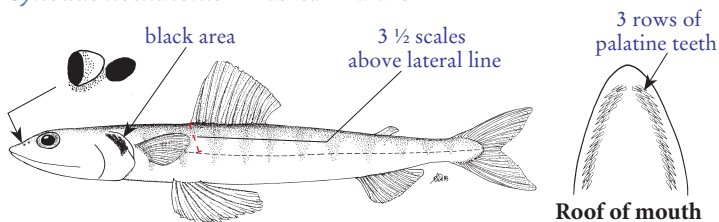


*FAO 3-alpha code not available



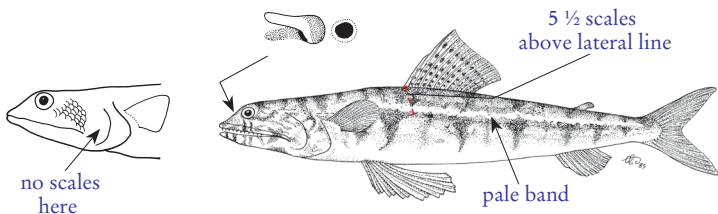
Similar species present in the area:

Synodus hoshinonis – Blackear lizardfish

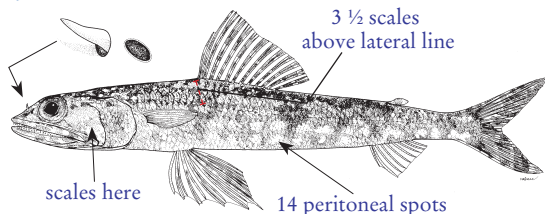


Synodus dermatogenys – Sand lizardfish

DFZ

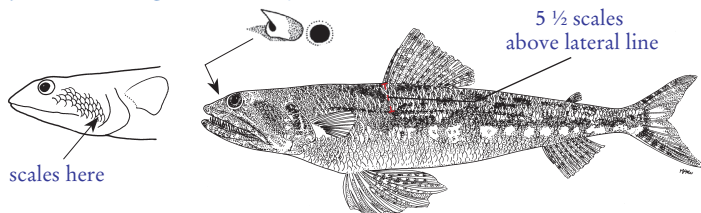


Synodus randalli – Randall's lizardfish



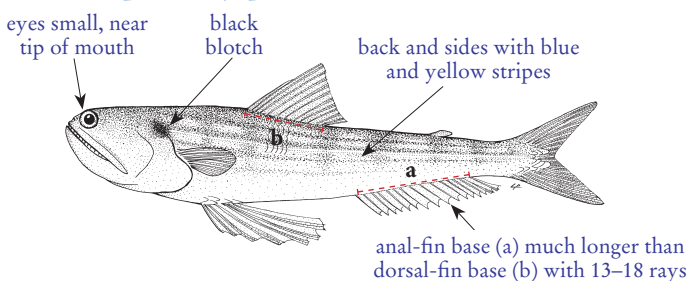
Synodus variegatus – Variegated lizardfish

SYW



Trachinocephalus myops – Snakefish

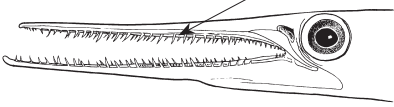
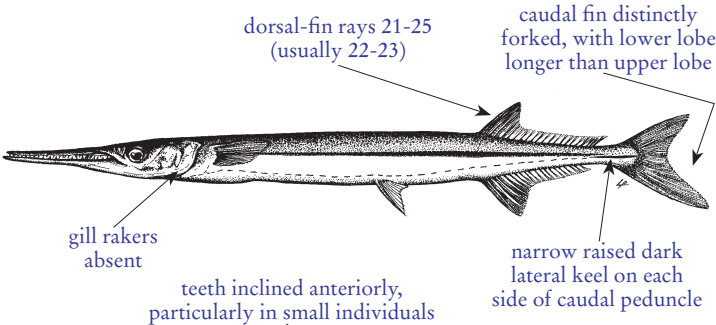
TCY



Tylosurus crocodilus (Péron & Lesueur, 1821)

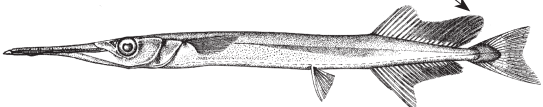
BTS

Local names: Kharam. خرم هلم



Lateral view of head of a juvenile (32 cm body length)

juveniles with an expanded black lobe in the posterior part of the dorsal fin



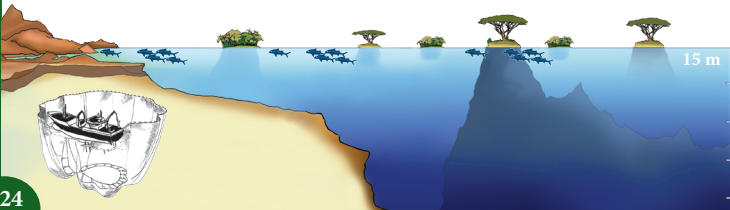
Juvenile



Description: body elongate, circular in cross-section; anal-fin rays 19-22, usually 21-22.

Colour: body colour dark bluish green above, silvery below; a dark blue stripe along sides.

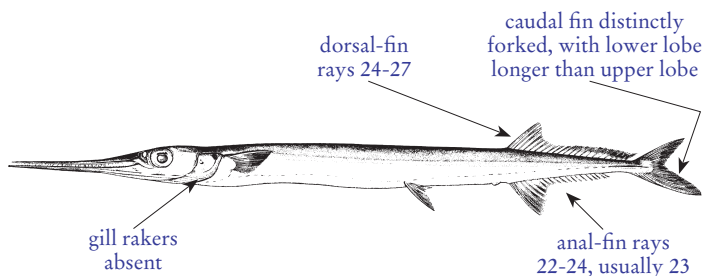
Size: 90 cm (max. 150 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

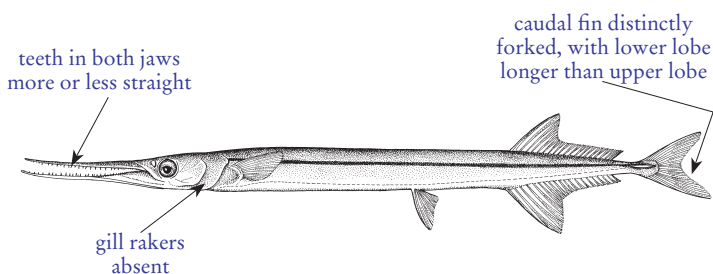
Tylosurus melanotus – Agujon needlefish

AND



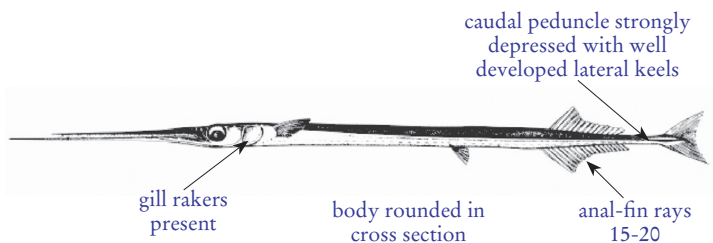
Tylosurus choram – Red Sea houndfish

TBH



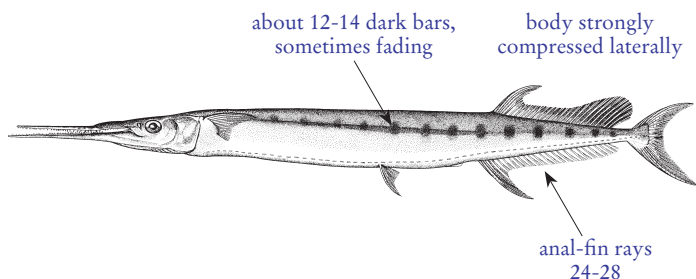
Platybelone platura – Keeltail needlefish

PTA

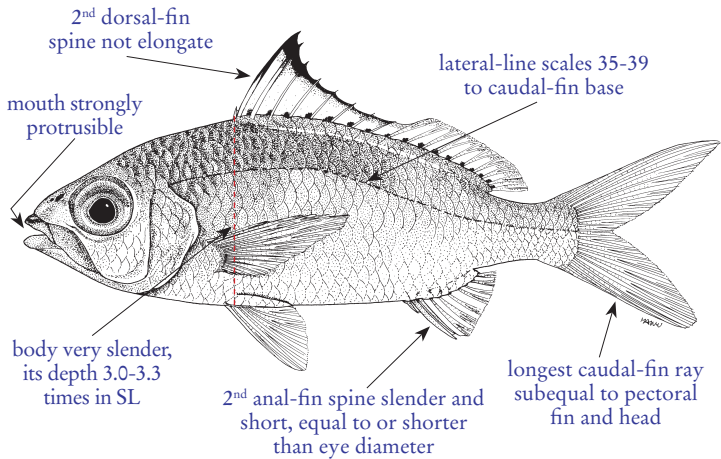


Ablennes hians – Flat needlefish

BAF



Local names: Kass. كس ڤڤ

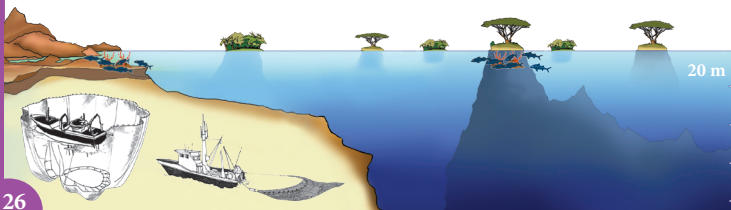


Description: body oblong, compressed, anterodorsal profile convex.

Colour: pale olive above to silvery below; 7-8 faint dusky bars on sides of body, more pronounced in young.



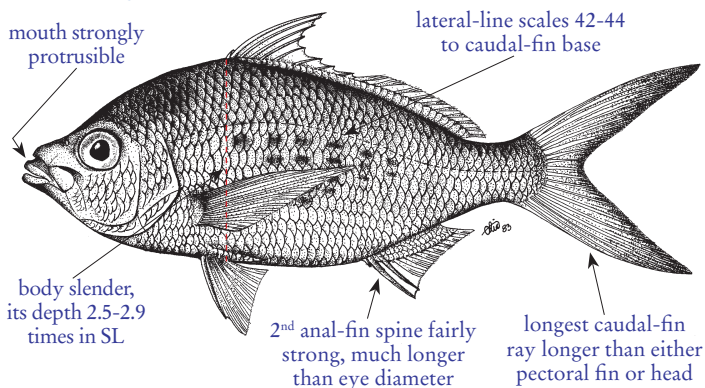
Size: 15 cm
(max. 25 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

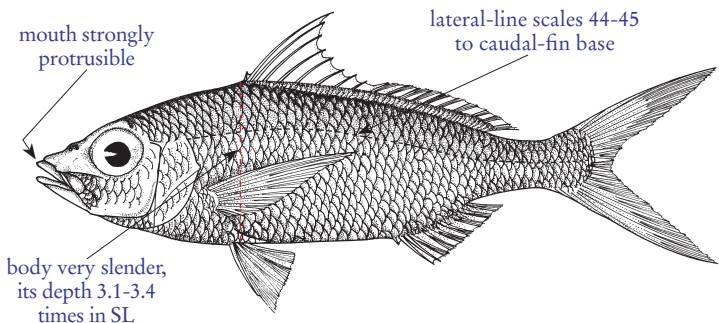
Gerres longirostris – Longtail silverbiddy

GTV

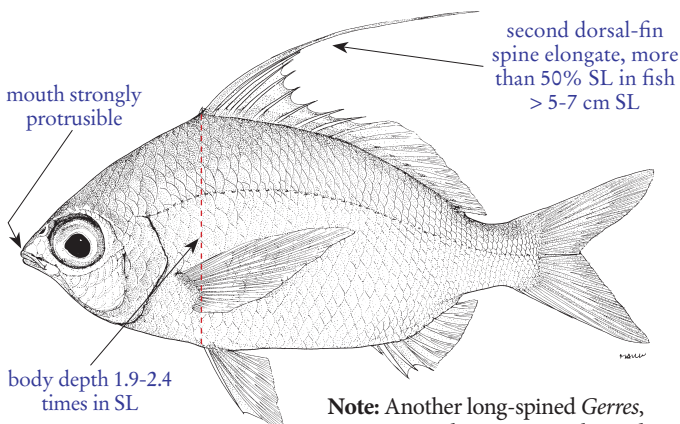


Gerres oblongus – Slender silver-biddy

GEO

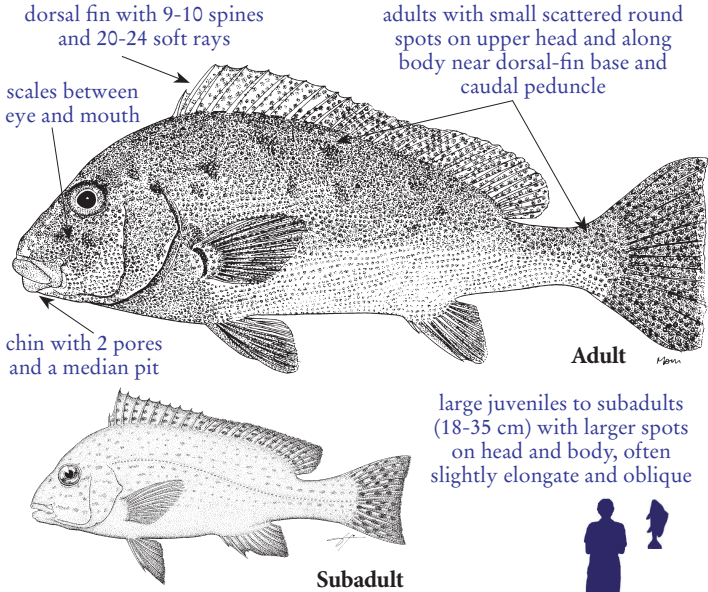


Gerres infasciatus – Nonbanded whipfin mojarra



Note: Another long-spined *Gerres*, *G. macracanthus* occurs in the Red Sea. It is similar to *G. infasciatus*, but it has the body depth 2.2-2.8 times in SL.

Local names: Shotaf, Sobaity. شوطاف، سوبيتى ሻጣፍ፡ ሶባይቲ



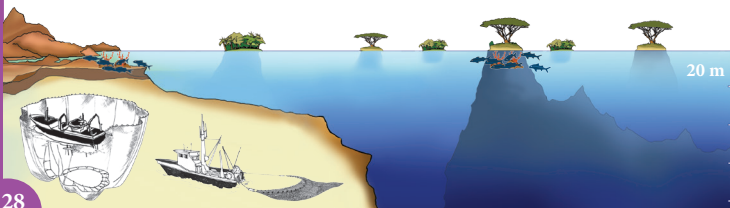
Description: mouth small, lips thick.

Colour: ground colour of adults plain silver-grey to grey-bronze.

Size: 55 cm (max. 100 cm)



Remarks: the form occurring in the Red Sea is recognized by some authors as a distinct species: *Diagramma punctatum* (Cuvier, 1830).



Similar species present in the area:

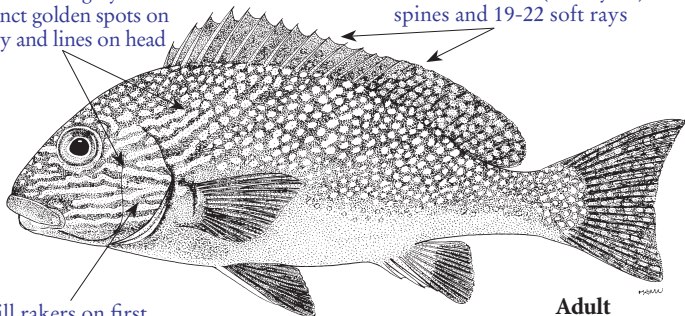
Plectorhinchus flavomaculatus – Lemonfish

PFV

adults bluish grey with distinct golden spots on body and lines on head

dorsal fin with 12 (mostly 13) spines and 19-22 soft rays

gill rakers on first arch 26-34 (11-14 on upper limb)



Adult



Ventral view of head

chin with 6 pores but no median pit (feature of all *Plectorhinchus* species)

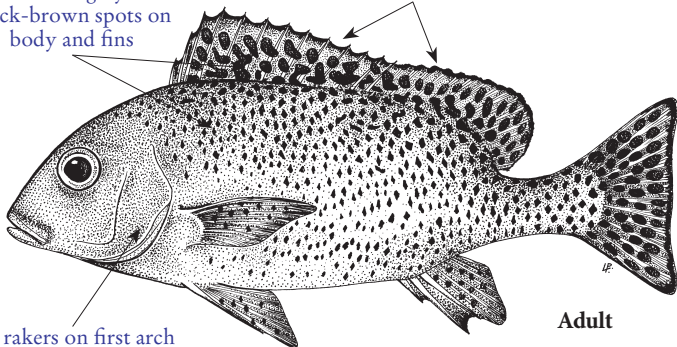
Plectorhinchus gaterinus – Blackspotted rubberlip

GQT

adults yellowish grey with dark grey or black-brown spots on body and fins

dorsal fin with 13 spines and 19-20 soft rays

gill rakers on first arch 26-27 (8 on upper limb)



Adult



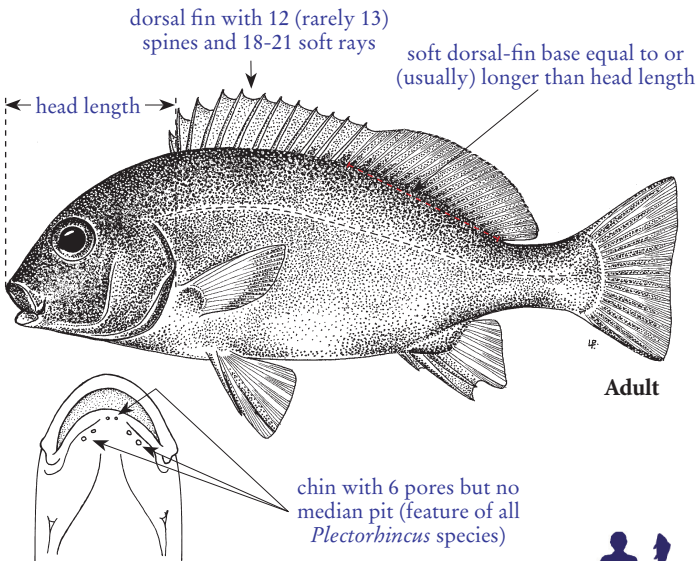
Ventral view of head

chin with 6 pores but no median pit (feature of all *Plectorhinchus* species)

Plectorhinchus schotaf (Forsskal, 1775)

PKF

Local names: Sobaity, Shatef. سوبيتي ሾጣፍ: ሶባይቲ

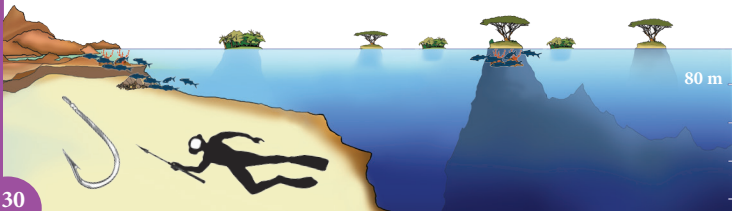


Adult

Ventral view of head

Description: lips fleshy, moderately swollen with age; pored lateral-line scales 54-58.

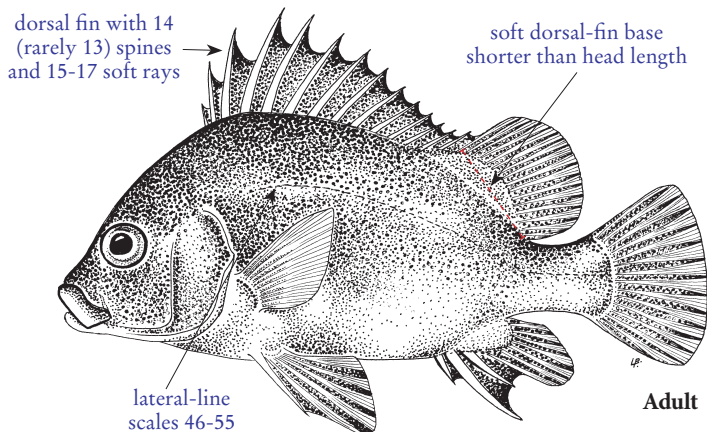
Colour: body uniform grey, silver, or greyish brown; pale grey to whitish below.



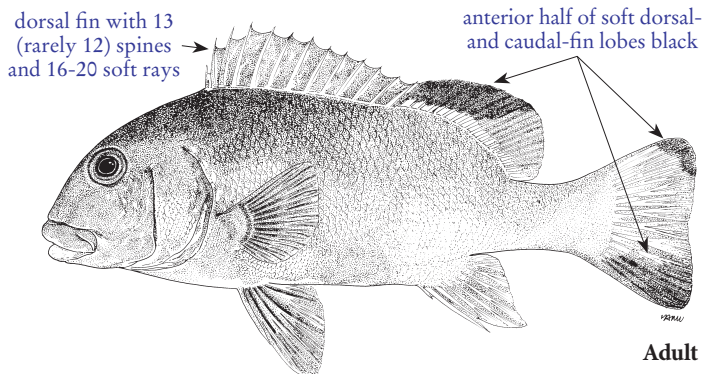
Similar species present in the area:

Plectorhinchus gibbosus – Harry hotlips

IEW

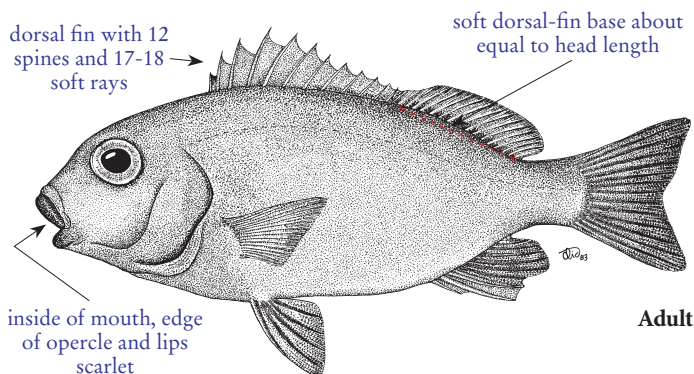


Plectorhinchus albovittatus – Giant sweetlips



Plectorhinchus sordidus – Sordid rubberlip

GQD



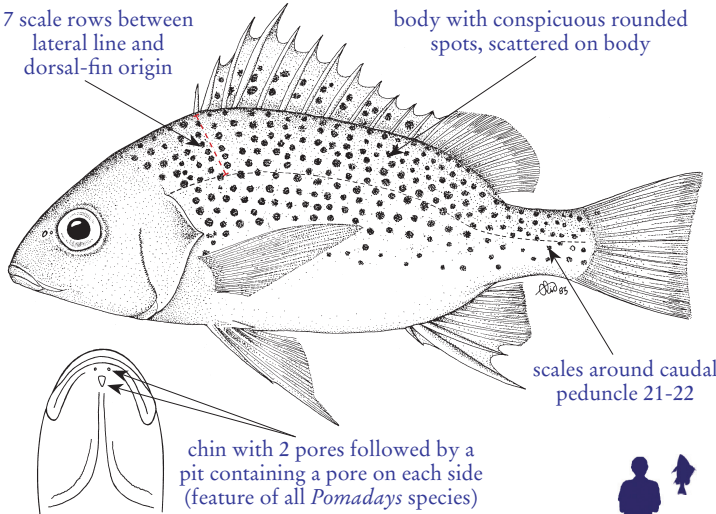
Silver grunt

HAEMULIDAE

Pomadasys argenteus (Forsskal, 1775)

GRL

Local names: Shatef, Koko, Gatren. شاتف، جيتران، شاتف
ጸጥፍ፡ ከኮ፡ ጋትረን

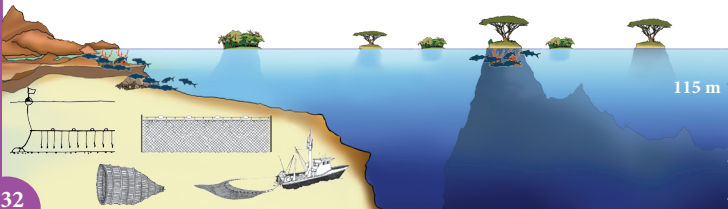


Ventral view of head

Description: head blunt, its upper profile convex; mouth small; maxilla reaching to eye.

Colour: body silvery with scattered rounded spots.

Size: 25 cm (max. 70 cm)



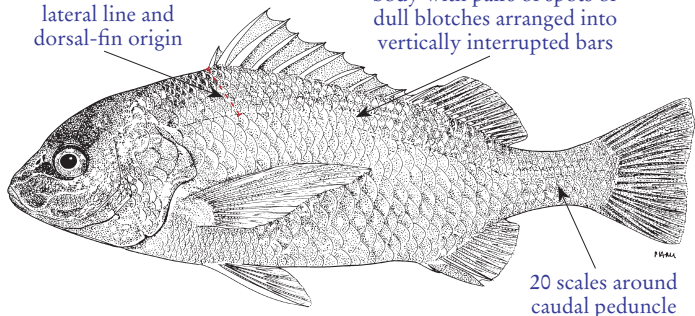
Similar species present in the area:

Pomadasys kaakan – Javelin grunter

KAH

5 scale rows between
lateral line and
dorsal-fin origin

body with pairs of spots or
dull blotches arranged into
vertically interrupted bars

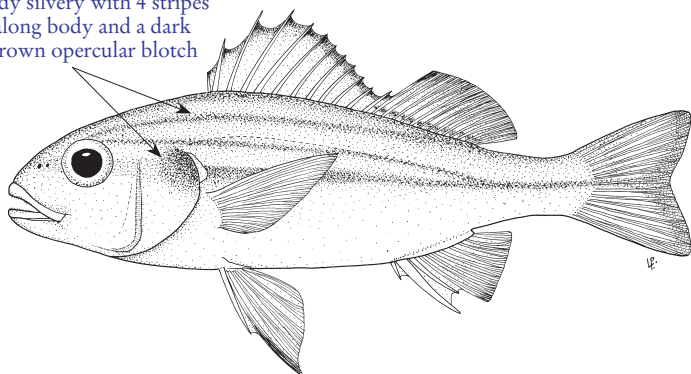


20 scales around
caudal peduncle

Pomadasys stridens – Striped piggy

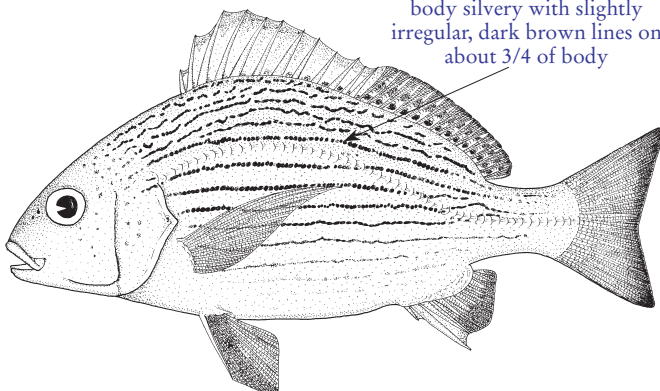
PKS

body silvery with 4 stripes
along body and a dark
brown opercular blotch



Pomadasys punctulatus – Lined grunt

body silvery with slightly
irregular, dark brown lines on
about 3/4 of body



Note: Another *Pomadasys*, *P. maculatus* occurs in the Red Sea. It has an oblique dark bar on the nape and a blotch on the spinous dorsal fin.

See also: *Diagramma picta* (p. 28), *Plectorhinchus schotaf* (p. 30)

Local names: Shu'ur. محسنه، شعور ʔio-C

eye usually not very close to the dorsal profile

longitudinal scale rows between lateral line and base of spinous dorsal fin 5 ½

posterior margin of opercle and sometimes base of pectoral fin red

pectoral fin folded forward

8 soft rays (in all *Lethrinus* species)

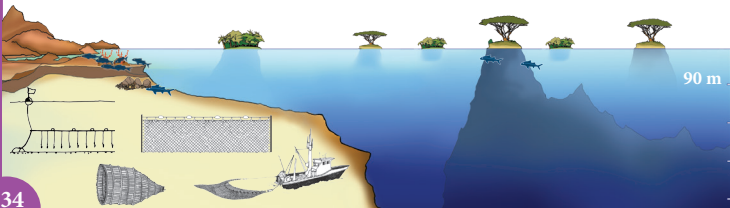
inner surface either densely covered with scales, with a few scales, or naked

Inner surface of pectoral-fin base

Description: body moderately deep; profile of snout straight.

Colour: body greenish or grey, shading to white below.

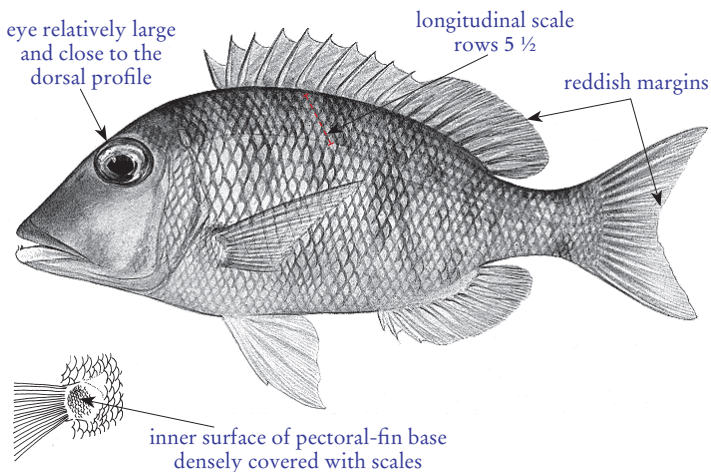
Size: 40 cm (max. 52 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

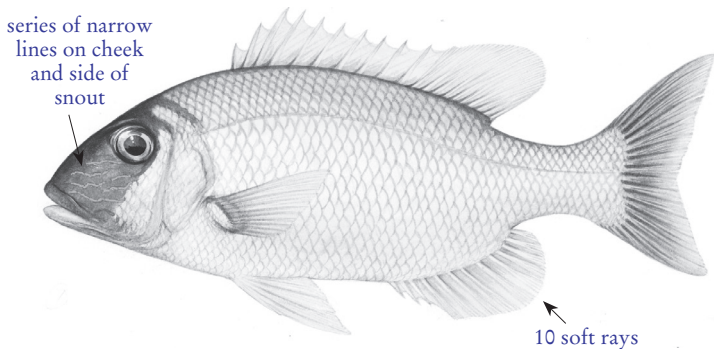
Lethrinus borbonicus – Snubnose emperor

LBW



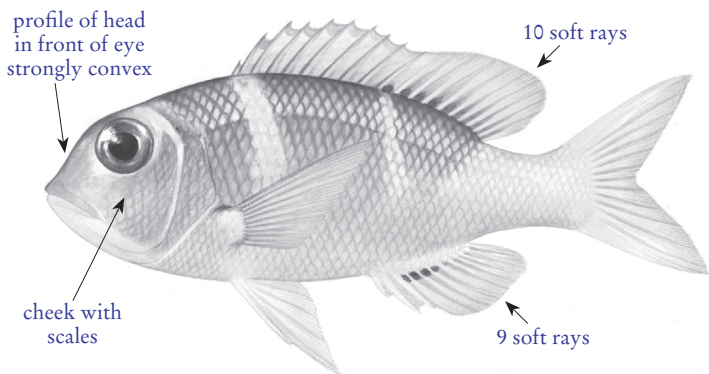
Gymnocranius grandoculis – Blue-lined large-eye bream

GMW



Monotaxis grandoculis – Humpnose big-eye bream

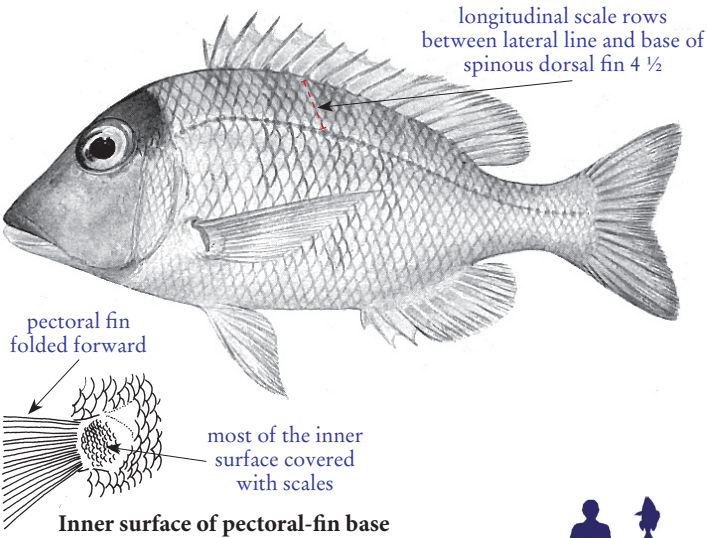
MXG



Lethrinus mahsena (Forsskål, 1775)

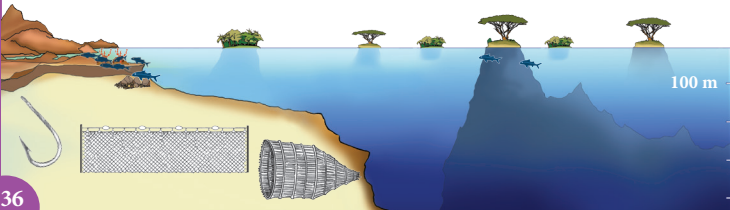
LTQ

Local names: Shu'ur, Mahsena. محسنه، شعور ሽዑር፡ ማሕሴና



Description: body relatively deep, its depth 2.3-2.5 times in standard length.

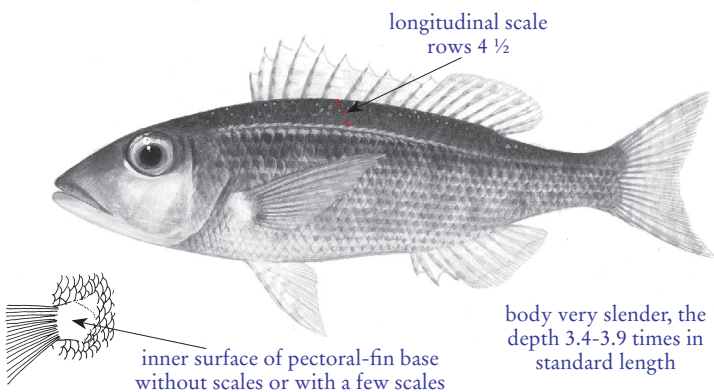
Colour: head purplish grey, sometimes with a red blotch on nape; body yellow to greenish-blue, lighter ventrally.



Similar species present in the area:

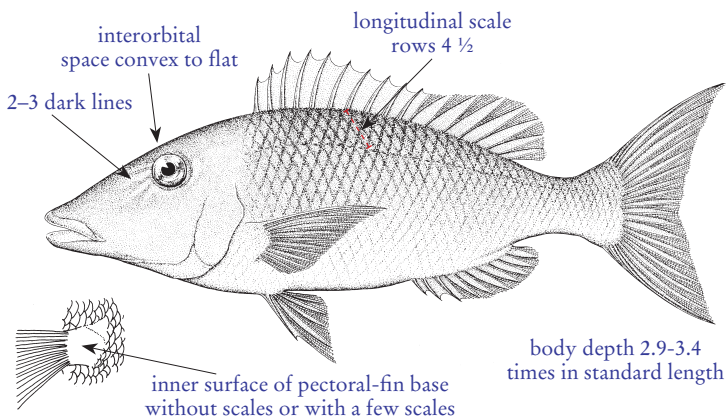
Lethrinus variegatus – Slender emperor

LHV



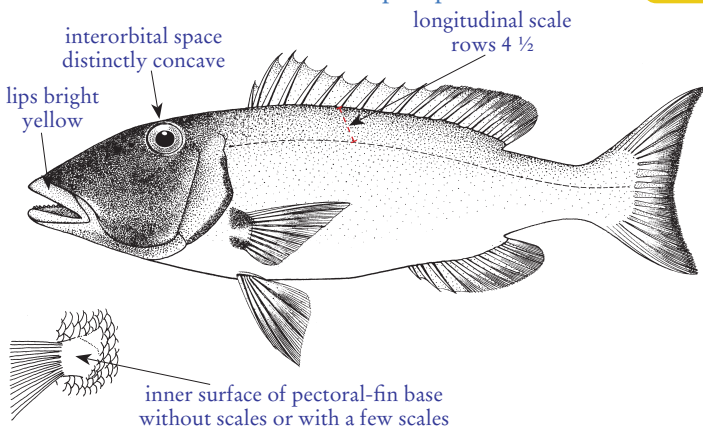
Lethrinus microdon – Smalltooth emperor

LEN

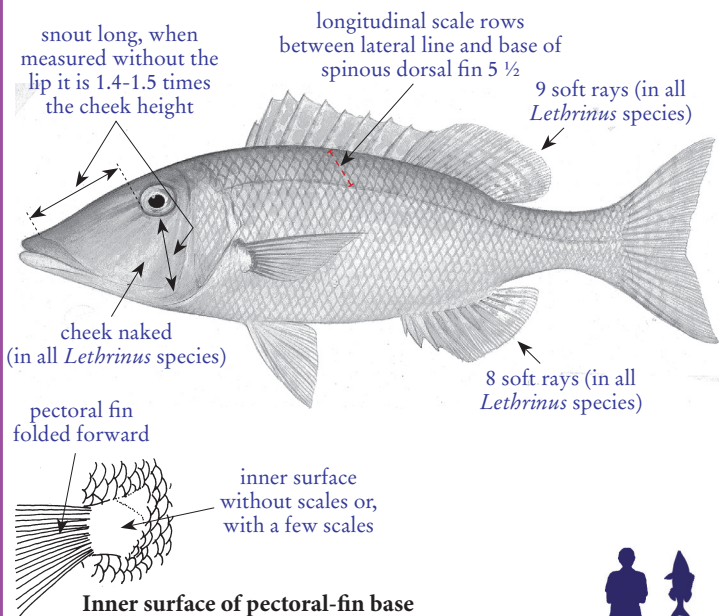


Lethrinus xanochilus – Yellowlip emperor

LXN

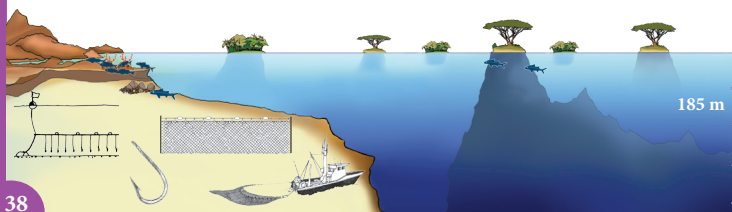


Local names: Shu'ur, Suli. **ሽዑር፣ ሱሊ.**



Description: body relatively slender, its depth 2.9-3.4 times in standard length.

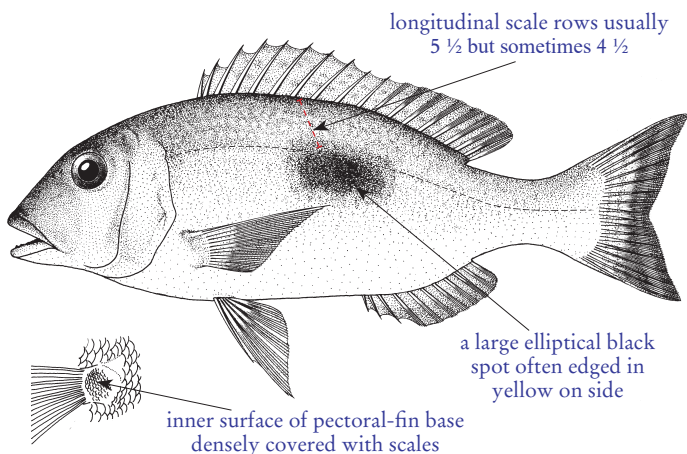
Colour: body grey, lighter ventrally, often with scattered irregular dark blotches.



Similar species present in the area:

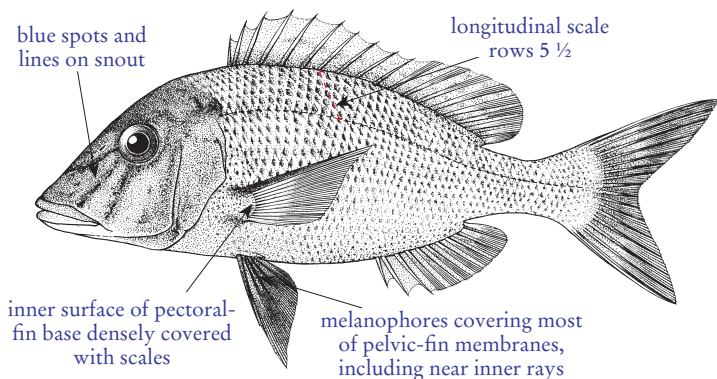
Lethrinus harak – Thumbprint emperor

LTK



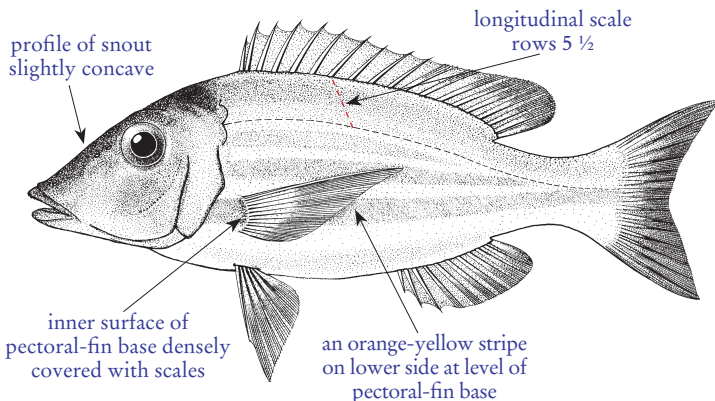
Lethrinus nebulosus – Spangled emperor

LHN

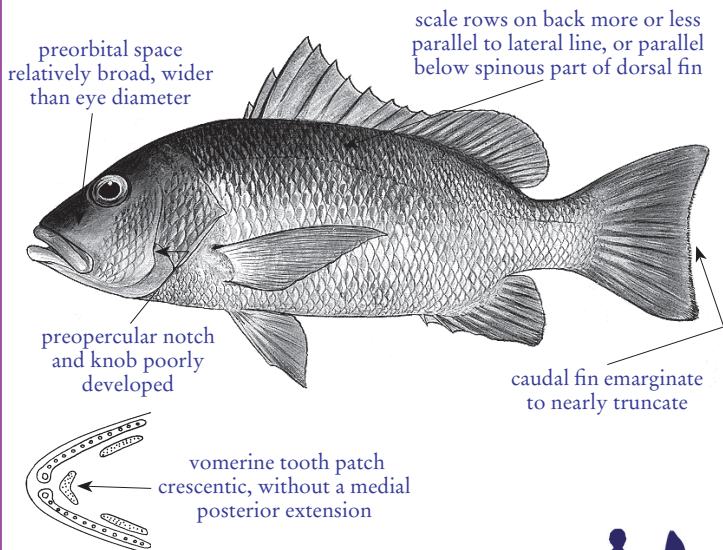


Lethrinus obsoletus – Orangestriped emperor

LWO



Local names: Shaefen. شَعْفَن ٧٥٤٧



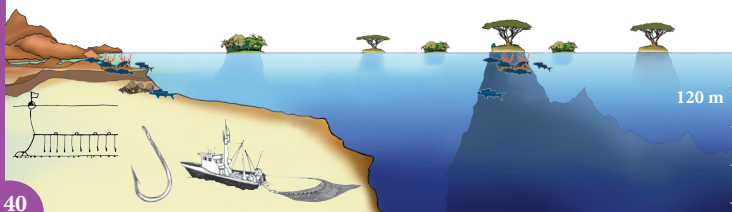
Roof of mouth

Description: body moderately deep, its depth 2.5-3.1 times in standard length.

Colour: back and sides greenish brown to reddish; belly silvery or whitish.



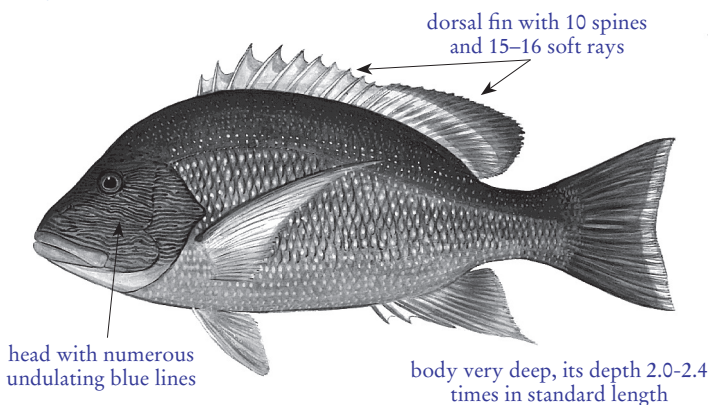
Size: 80 cm (max. 150 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

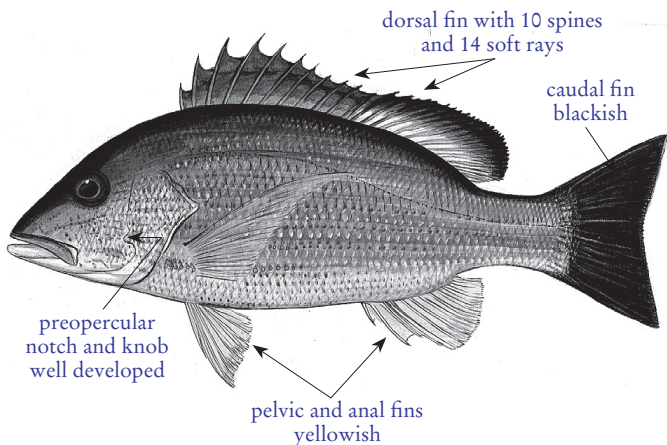
Lutjanus rivulatus – Blubberlip snapper

LUV



Lutjanus fulvus – Blacktail snapper

LJV



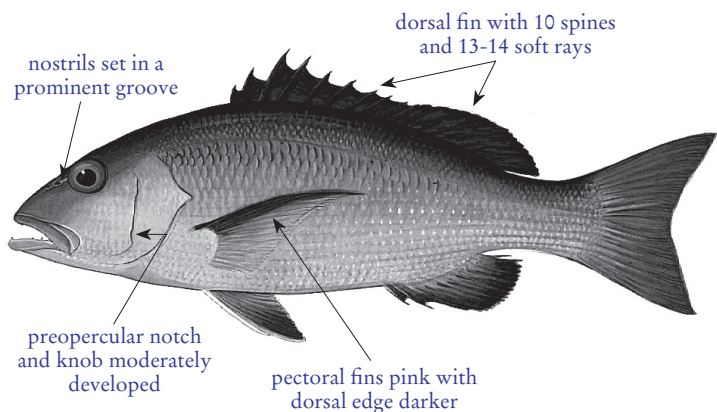
Two-spot red snapper

LUTJANIDAE

Lutjanus bohar (Forsskal, 1775)

LJB

Local names: Bohar, Shaefen. بوهر 𐎧𐎺𐎠𐎢𐎡𐎹

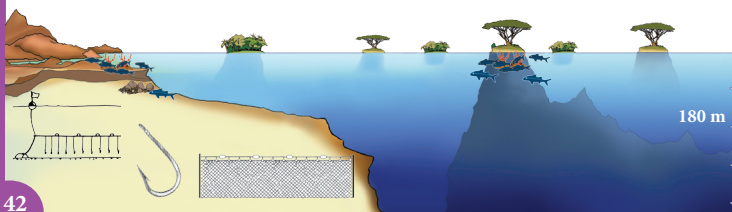


Description: body relatively deep, greatest depth 2.4-2.9 times in standard length.

Colour: back and upper sides dark brown or blackish; lower sides and belly reddish, with darker horizontal stripes.



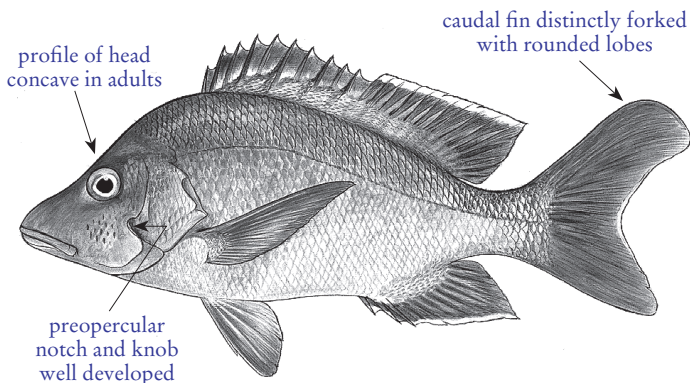
Size: 75 cm
(max. 90 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

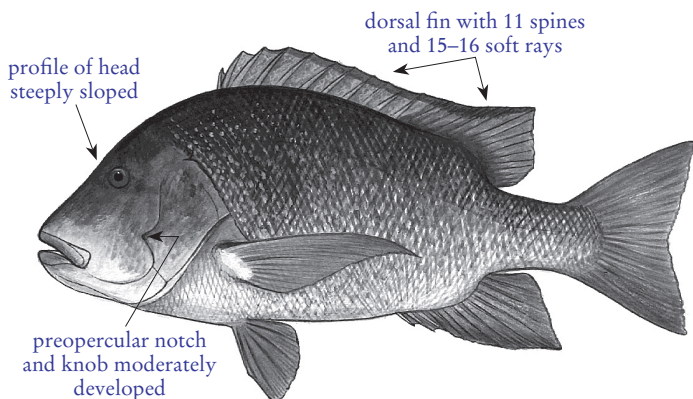
Lutjanus gibbus – Humpback red snapper

LJG



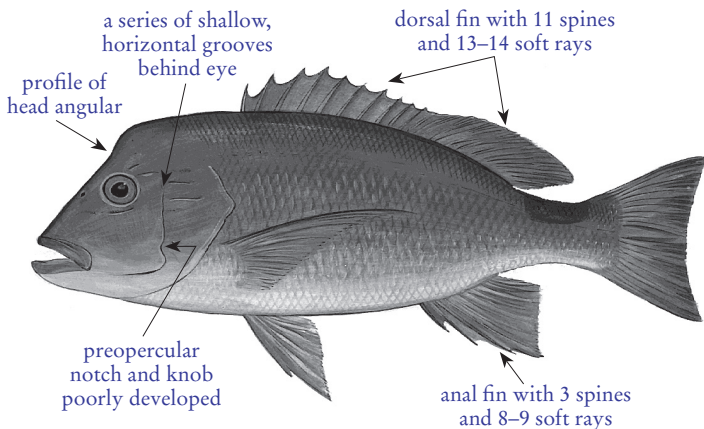
Lutjanus sebae – Emperor red snapper

LUB



Lutjanus sanguineus – Humphead snapper

LZJ



See also: other *Lutjanus* spp. (pp. 40, 41, 44–47), *P. multident* (p. 48)

Bigeye snapper

LUTJANIDAE

Lutjanus lutjanus Bloch, 1790

LJL

Local names: Shaefen. ሻፅፈን

a broad yellow to brownish stripe from eye to caudal-fin base

preorbital space very narrow, much less than eye diameter

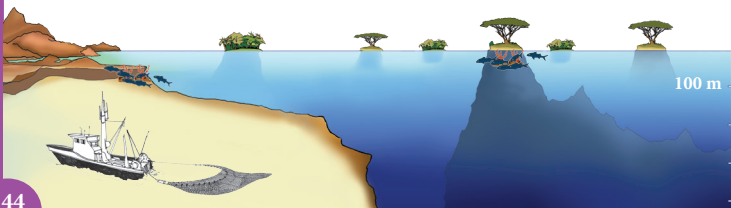
a series of yellow horizontal lines on lower half of body

Description: body fusiform, slender, its depth 2.9-3.3 times in standard length; preopercular notch and knob poorly developed.

Colour: upper back golden brown; sides silvery white.



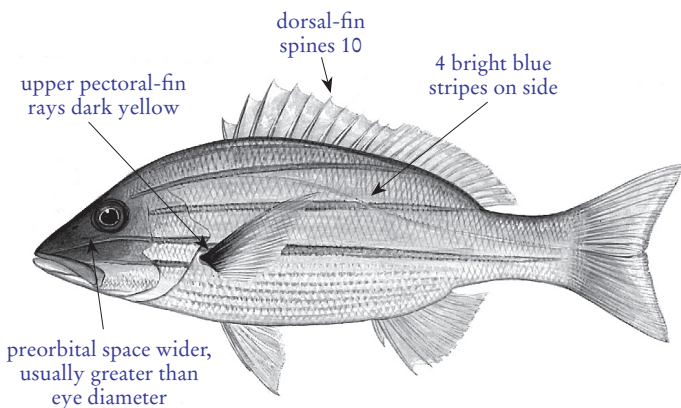
Size: 30 cm (max. 35 cm)



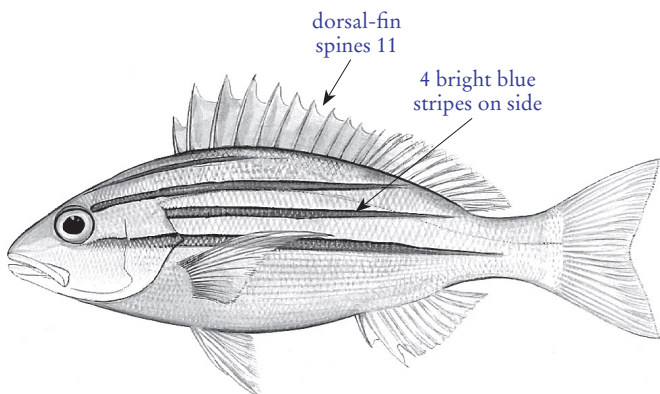
Similar species present in the area:

Lutjanus kasmira – Common bluestripe snapper

LVK



Lutjanus sapphirolineatus – Arabian blue-striped snapper



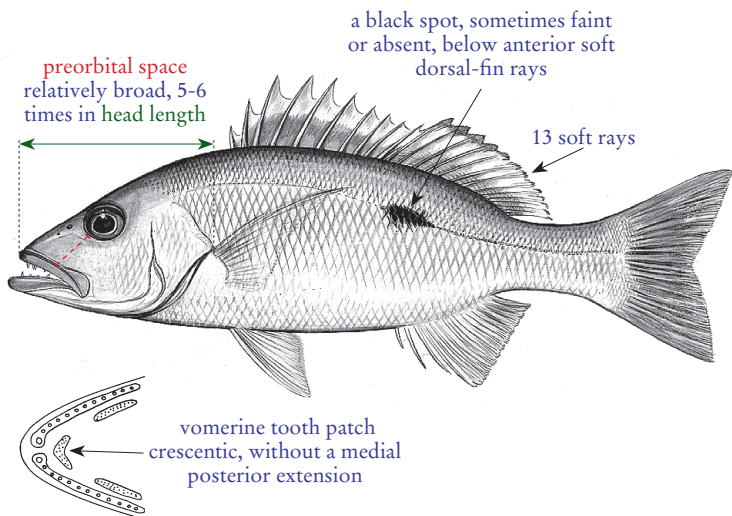
One-spot snapper

LUTJANIDAE

Lutjanus monostigma (Cuvier, 1828)

LJK

Local names: Shaefen. ሻዕፈን



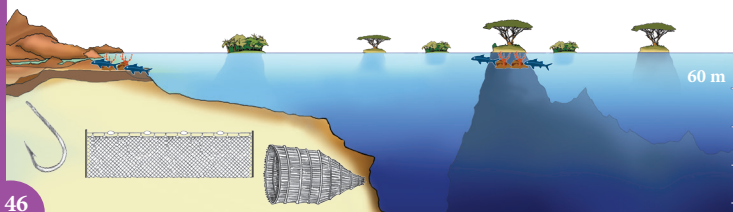
Roof of mouth

Description: body moderately deep to somewhat slender, greatest depth 2.6-3.0 in standard length.

Colour: body whitish to pinkish with dusky scale margins; grey or brown on upper back and dorsal portion of head.



Size: 50 cm (max. 60 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

Lutjanus fulvivflamma – Dory snapper

LJF

usually a series of
6-7 yellow stripes
on the sides

12-13 soft rays



Vomerine
tooth patch

vomerine teeth in a triangular patch with a
long median posterior projection

Lutjanus ehrenbergi – Blackspot snapper

LWE

preorbital space
narrow, 8.5-10.3
times in head length

usually 4-5 narrow yellow
stripes on the sides below
the lateral line



Vomerine
tooth patch

vomerine teeth in a triangular patch
with a median posterior projection

Lutjanus coeruleolineatus – Blueline snapper

LWN

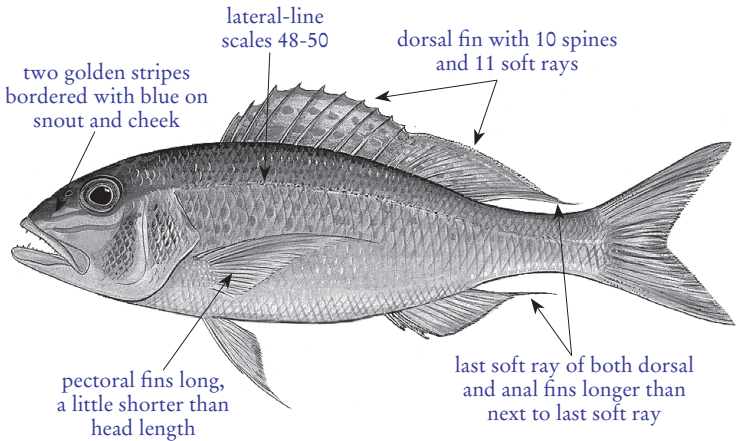
7-8 narrow, blue,
longitudinal stripes
on the sides

vomerine tooth patch
without a medial
posterior extension

Note: another black-spotted *Lutjanus*, *L. indicus* seems to occur in Eritrea. It is characterized by usually having 14 soft dorsal-fin rays.

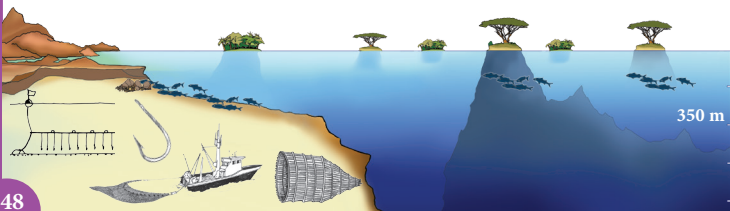
See also: other *Lutjanus* spp. (pp. 40-45), *P. multidens* (p. 48)

Local names: Anthak. عنتق ٩٣٣٥



Description: body elongate, laterally compressed; 1st gill arch with 20-22 gill rakers.

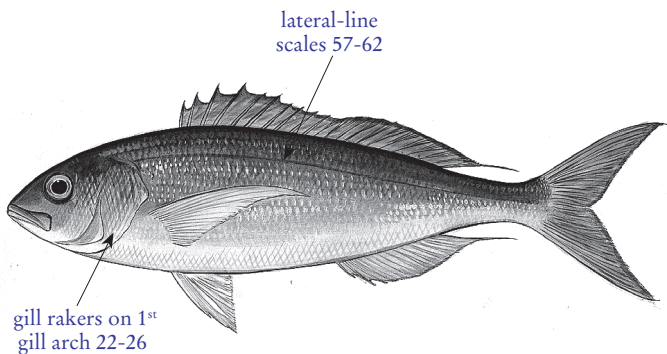
Colour: yellowish to rosy, with about 6 broken golden stripes on sides.



Similar species present in the area:

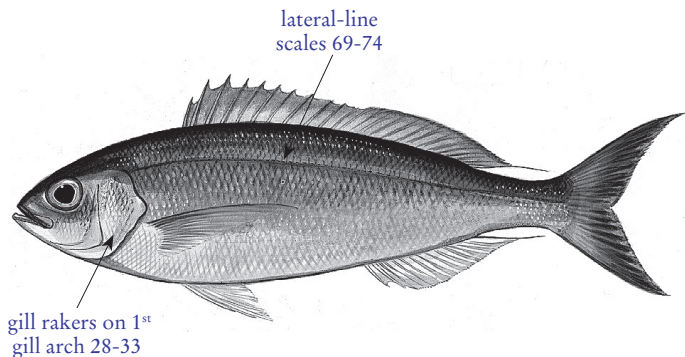
Pristipomoides filamentosus – Crimson jobfish

PFM



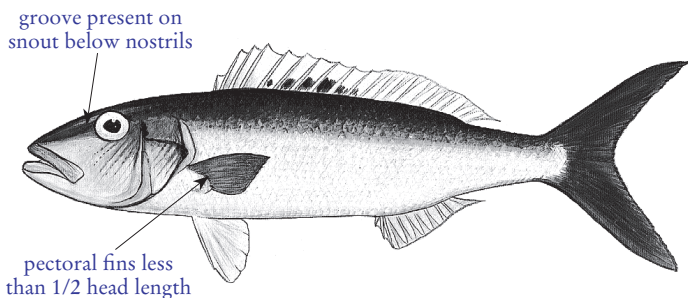
Pristipomoides sieboldii – Lavender jobfish

LRB

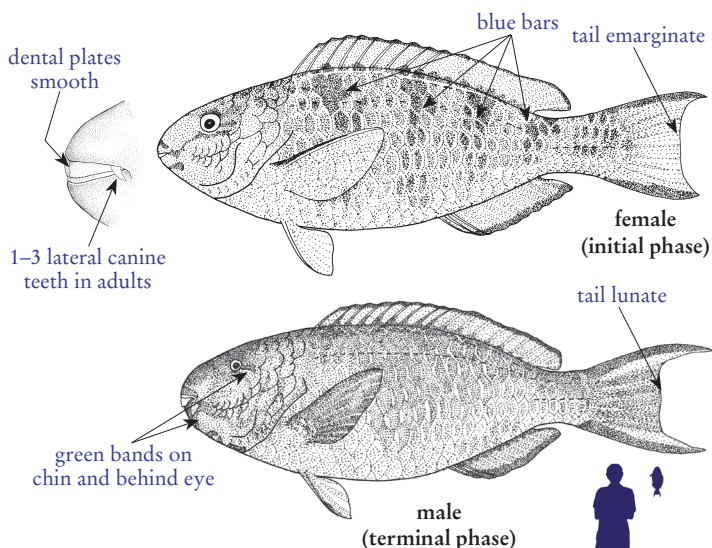


Aprion virescens – Green jobfish

AVN



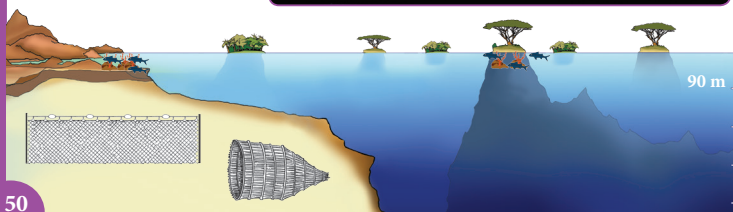
Local names: Harida. حريد



Description: teeth usually fused into a pair of beak-like plates in each jaw; 6 median predorsal scales; 3 rows of scales on cheek; 15–16 (usually 15) pectoral-fin rays.

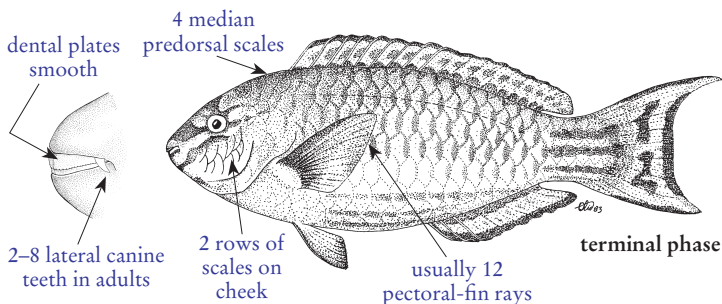
Size: 30 cm
(max. 75 cm)

Colour: initial phase characterized by 4–5 diffuse blue bars on yellowish body; terminal phase bluish green with salmon-pink scale margins; upper lip salmon pink with a broad green band above.



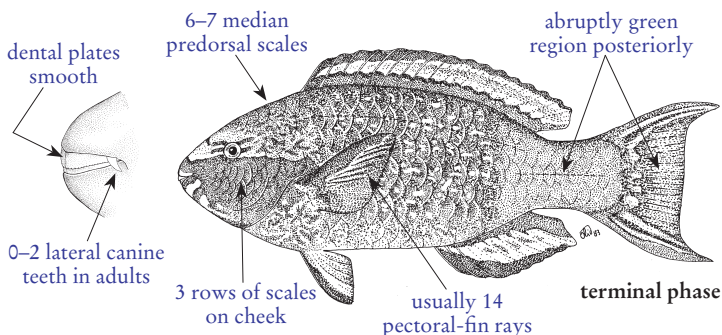
Similar species present in the area:

Scarus collana – Red Sea parrotfish



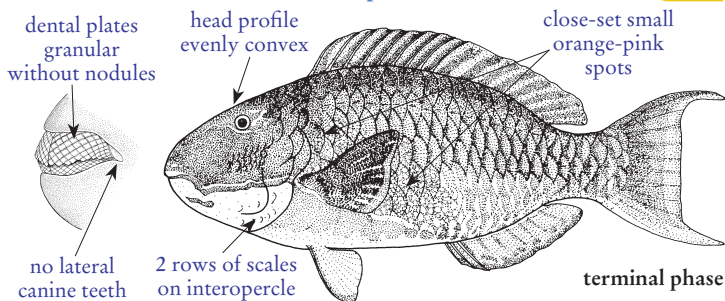
Scarus frenatus – Bridled parrotfish

USZ



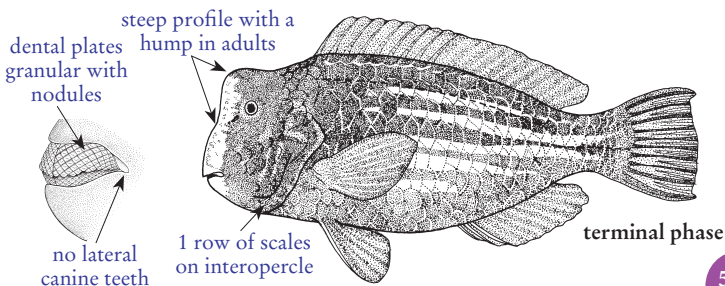
Cetoscarus bicolor – Bicolour parrotfish

USR



Bolbometopon muricatum – Green humphead parrotfish

BMK



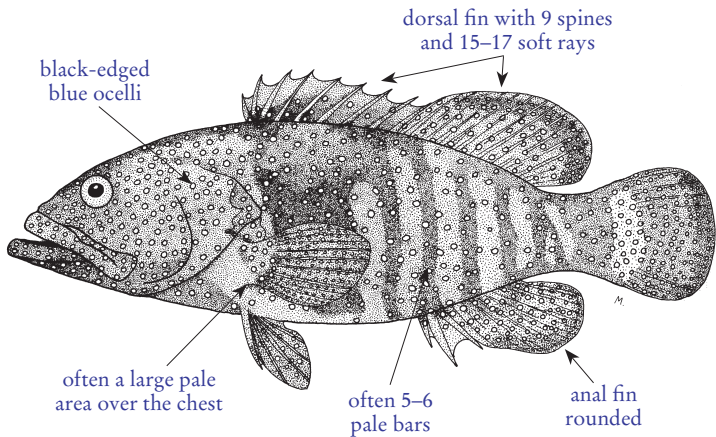
Peacock hind

SERRANIDAE

Cephalopholis argus Schneider, 1801

CFF

Local names: Kusher. كشر ابو بلحة

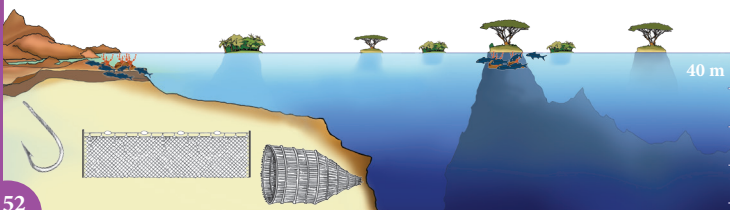


Description: body depth distinctly less than head length; pectoral fins clearly longer than pelvic fins.

Colour: dark brown, covered with small black-edged blue ocelli on head, body and fins.



Size: 40 cm
(max. 55 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

Cephalopholis hemistiktos – Yellowfin hind

CFH

dark brown to red, with dark-edged blue ocelli on head, lower body and rear part of median fins

dorsal fin with 9 spines and 14 (rarely 15) soft rays

no ocelli on pectoral and pelvic fins

pectoral fins pointed with a yellow margin

anal fin pointed

Cephalopholis miniata – Coral hind

CFI

orange-red, with numerous dark-edged blue-grey ocelli on head, body and median fins

dorsal fin with 9 spines and 14–16 soft rays

no ocelli on pectoral and pelvic fins

pectoral fins lighter distally

anal fin rounded

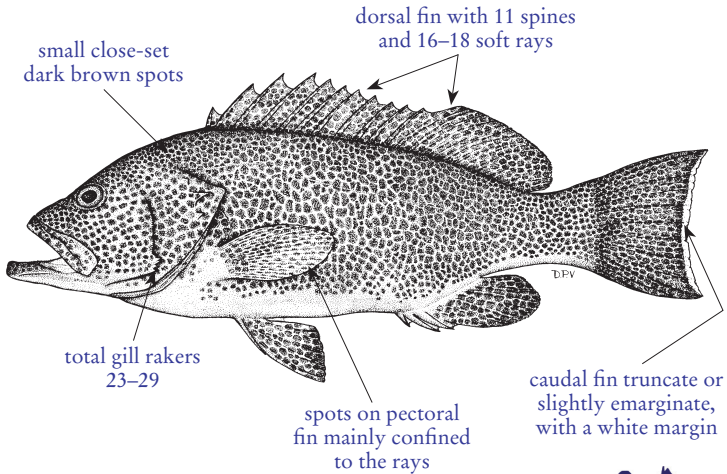
Cephalopholis oligosticta – Vermilion hind

orange-red with widely scattered, small pale blue spots on head, body and fins

dorsal fin with 9 spines and 14–15 soft rays

anal fin rounded

Local names: Samman, Shurwi. **ሰሙን ስጦታ**



Description: body depth less than head length, contained 2.8–3.3 in standard length.

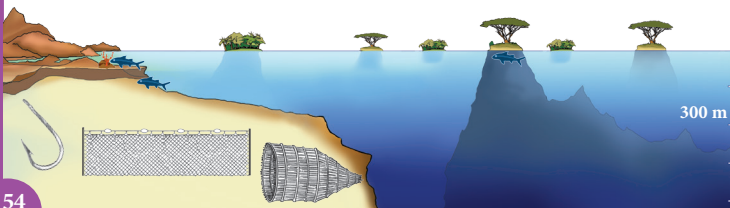
Colour: whitish, with small dark brown spots on head, body, and fins except ventrally on head, thorax, and lower abdomen.



Size: 50 cm
(max. 80 cm)



Remarks: the form occurring in the Red Sea is recognized by some authors as a distinct species: *E. geoffroyi* (Klunzinger, 1871).

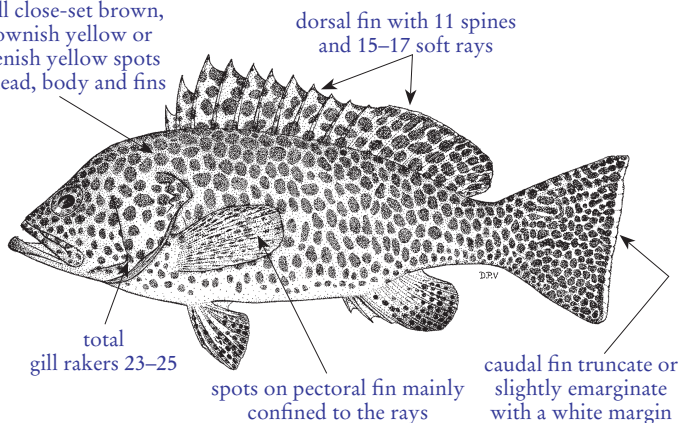


Similar species present in the area:

Epinephelus areolatus – Areolate grouper

EPR

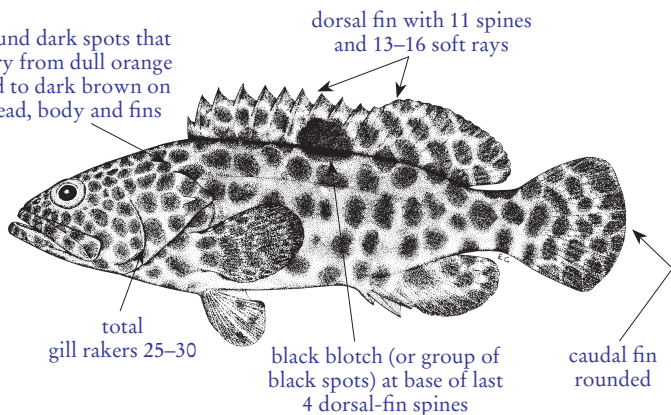
small close-set brown, brownish yellow or greenish yellow spots on head, body and fins



Epinephelus tauvina – Greasy grouper

EPT

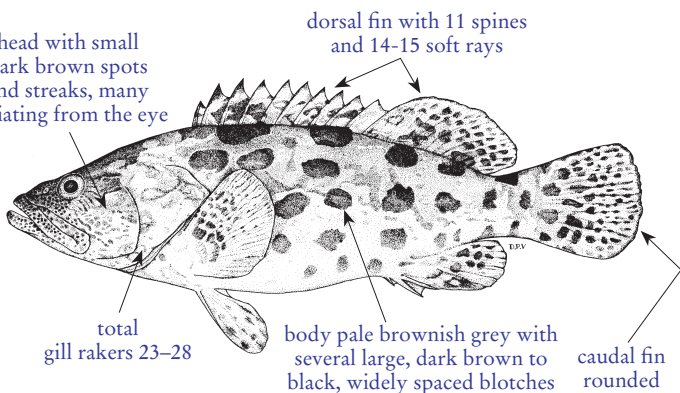
round dark spots that vary from dull orange red to dark brown on head, body and fins



Epinephelus tukula – Potato grouper

EWL

head with small dark brown spots and streaks, many radiating from the eye



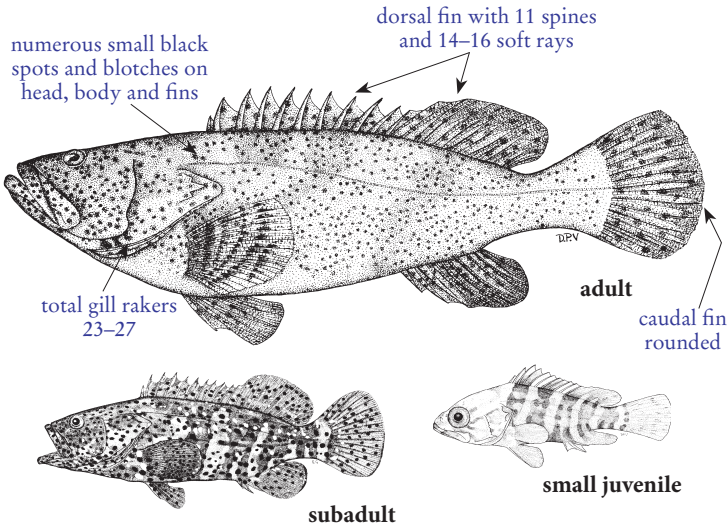
Malabar grouper

SERRANIDAE

Epinephelus malabaricus (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

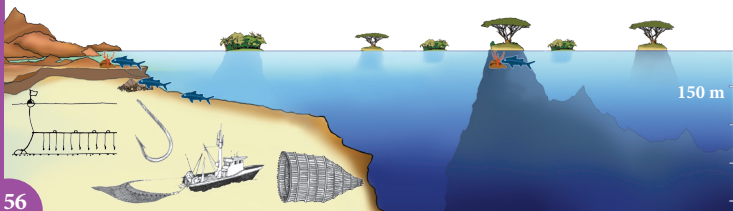
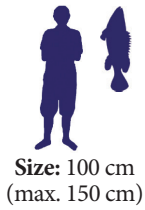
MAR

Local names: Kushar. كشر طويني ಹೆಣ್ಣು



Description: body elongate, its depth 3.0-3.7 times in standard length.

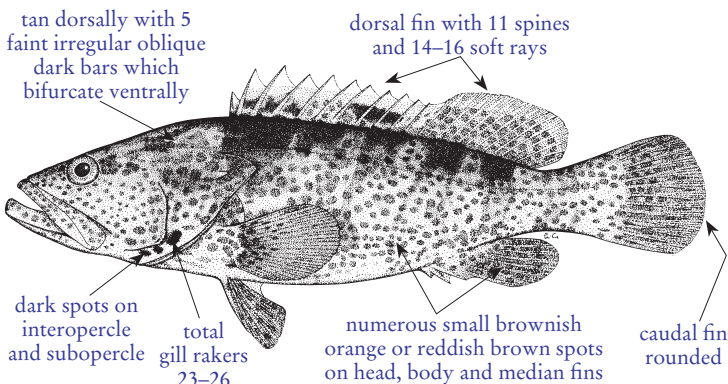
Colour: light grey to yellowish brown with 5 slightly irregular oblique dark brown bars that bifurcate ventrally.



Similar species present in the area:

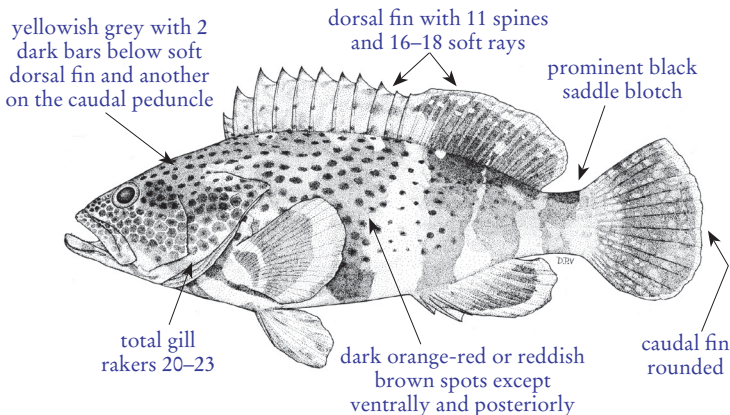
Epinephelus coioides – Orange-spotted grouper

ENI



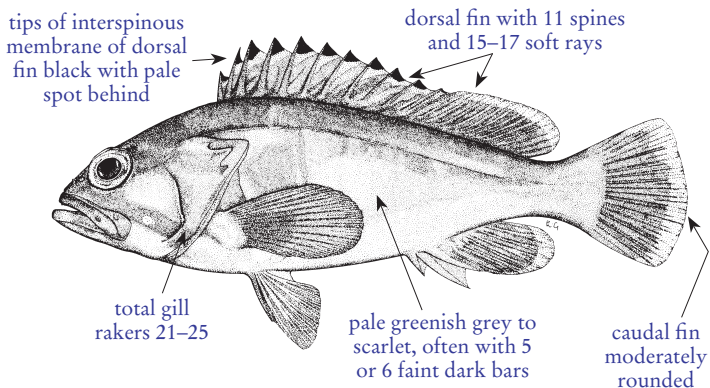
Epinephelus stoliczkae – Epaullet grouper

EPZ



Epinephelus fasciatus – Blacktip grouper

EEA



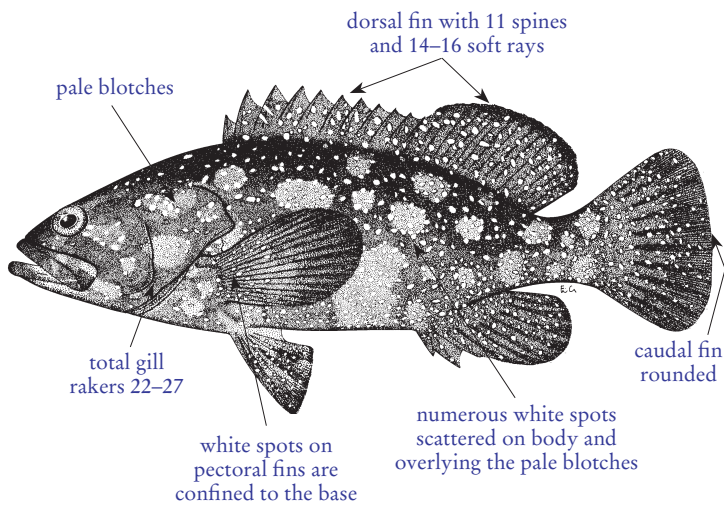
Summan grouper

SERRANIDAE

Epinephelus summana (Forsskål, 1775)

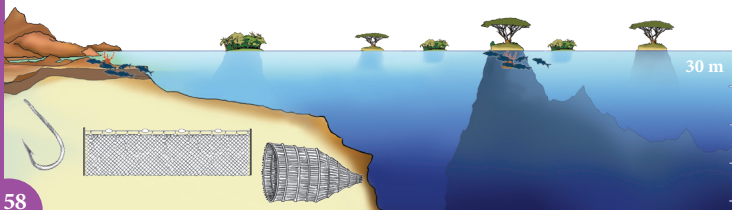
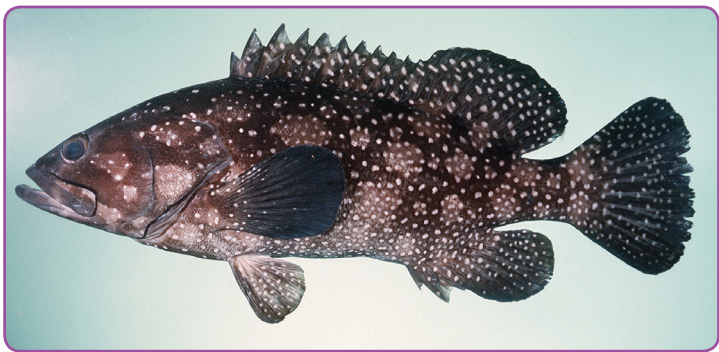
EWS

Local names: Kushar mubal'at. كشر موبالات ኩሽር፡ሙባላጉት



Description: body robust; upper edge of the operculum strongly convex; posterior nostril of adults vertically elongate.

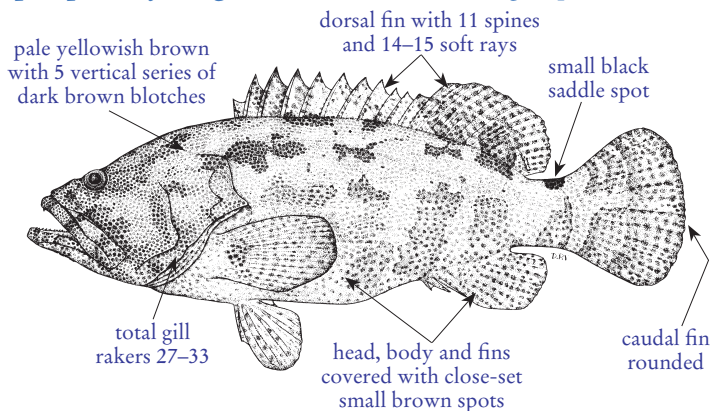
Colour: body dark olive-brown to dark brownish grey.



Similar species present in the area:

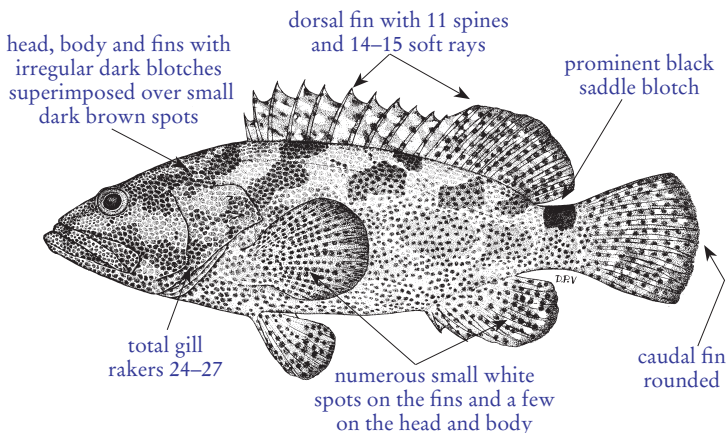
Epinephelus fuscoguttatus – Brownmarbled grouper

EWF



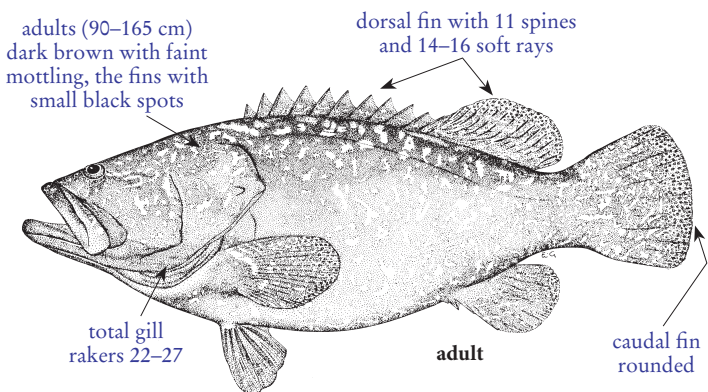
Epinephelus polyphekadion – Camouflage grouper

EEK



Epinephelus lanceolatus – Giant grouper

EEN



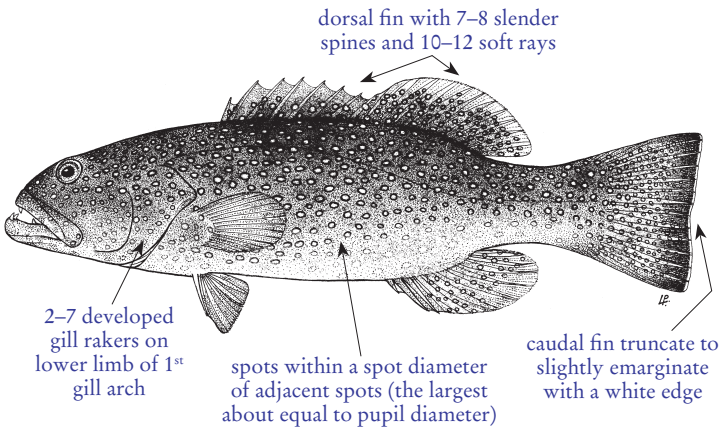
Squaretail coral grouper

SERRANIDAE

Plectropomus areolatus (Rüppell, 1830)

EME

Local names: Kushar, Najil. ኩሻር፣ ናጂል

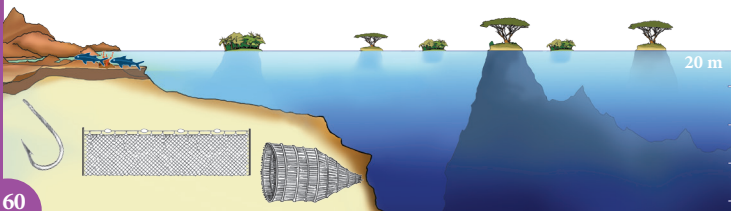
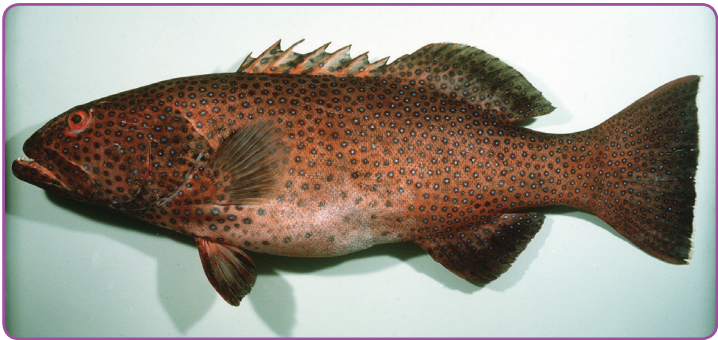


Description: body elongate and robust, depth 2.9-3.9 in standard length.

Colour: body whitish to pale grey, with numerous round to oval dark-edged blue spots; pelvic fins with dark brown to blackish membranes.



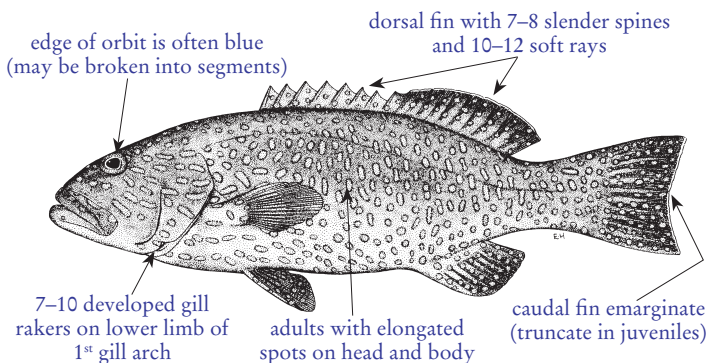
Size: 60 cm (max. 80 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

Plectropomus pessuliferus – Roving coralgroupers

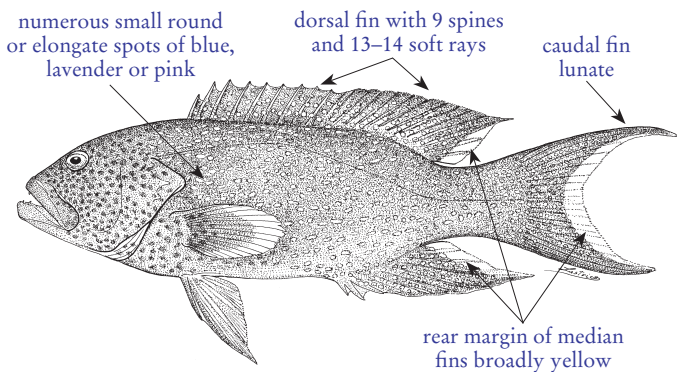
EMU



Remarks: the Red Sea population is recognized by some authors as a distinct species: *P. marisrubri* Randall & Hoese, 1986.

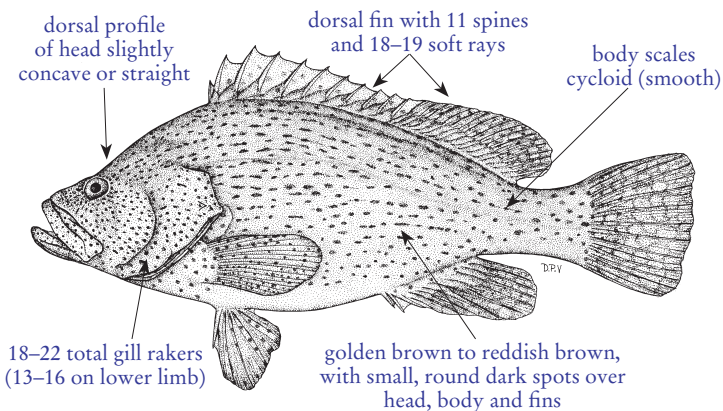
Variola louti – Yellow-edged lyretail

VRL

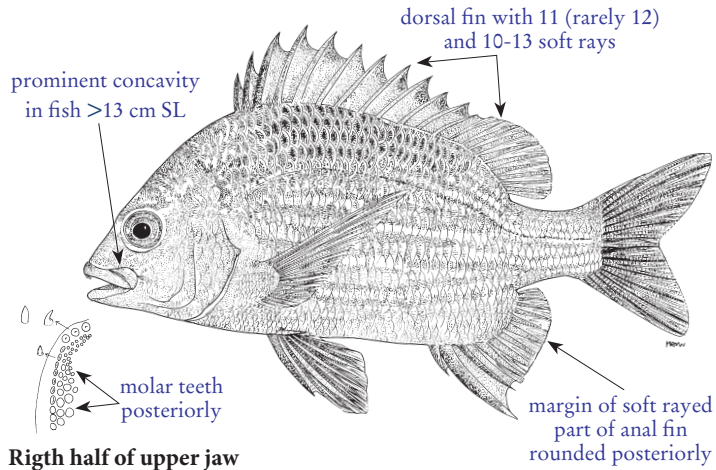


Dermatolepis striolata – Smooth grouper

DEV

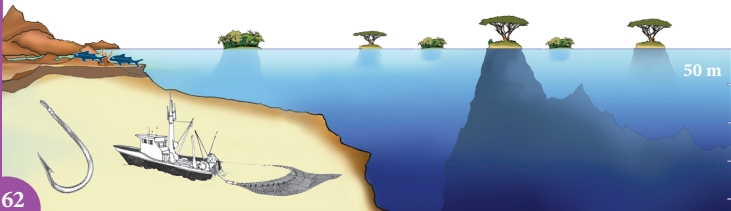


Local names: Abuberite.



Description: body fairly deep and compressed, its depth about 2 times in standard length; inter-orbital area scaleless.

Colour: grey, dark silver or olive-brown with silvery or brassy reflections; a dark edge along opercle; pectoral fins dusky with a yellow tinge; soft dorsal, anal, pelvic, and caudal fins blackish.



Similar species present in the area:

Acanthopagrus bifasciatus – Twobar seabream

EMU

silvery with 2 black bars on head, and a black spot at center of each body scale

dorsal fin with 11 spines and 12 soft rays

often side of snout and cheek below eye yellow

pelvic- and anal-fin rays dense black

dorsal, pectoral and caudal fins yellow

Crenidens crenidens – Karanteen seabream

CWC

silvery, greenish blue above with darker longitudinal stripes along scale rows

dorsal fin with usually 11 spines and 11 soft rays



teeth with 5 points on cutting edge

Upper and lower tooth

9-10 gill rakers on lower limb of 1st gill arch

4 ½ scale rows between the 10th dorsal-fin spine base and lateral line

Rhabdosargus sarba – Goldlined seabream

RSS

silvery black with yellow or golden longitudinal lines

dorsal fin with usually 11 spines and 12-14 (usually 13) soft rays



enlarged posterior molar

Right half of upper jaw

anal fin with 3 spines and 10-11 (rarely 10) soft rays

6 ½-7 ½ scale rows between the 5th dorsal-fin spine base and lateral line

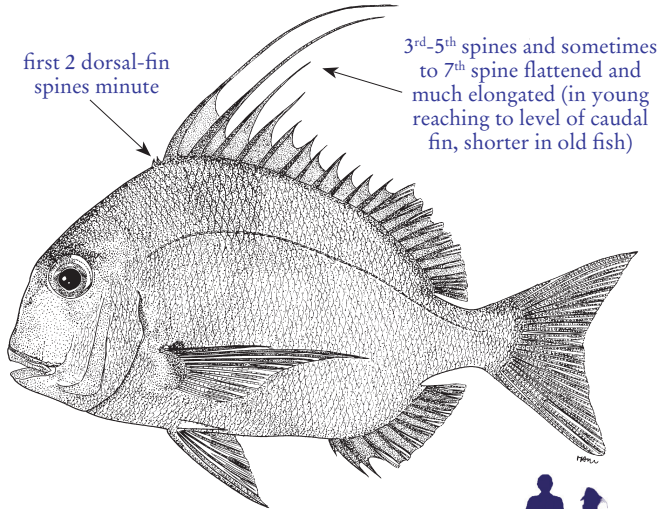
King soldier bream

SPARIDAE

Argyrops spinifer (Forsskal, 1775)

KBR

Local names: Fofal, Abyad. فوفل، ابيض ጭፋል፡ ኣብያድ

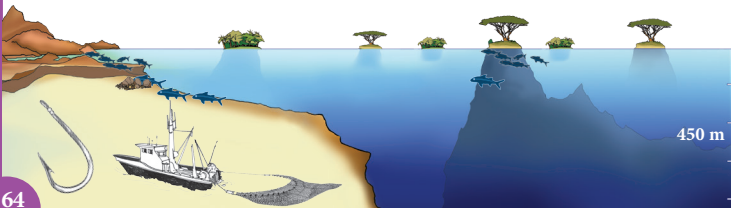


Description: body deep, strongly compressed; upper profile of head steep from upper jaw to eye.

Colour: body mainly silvery pinkish; usually dark red on margin of upper part of opercle.

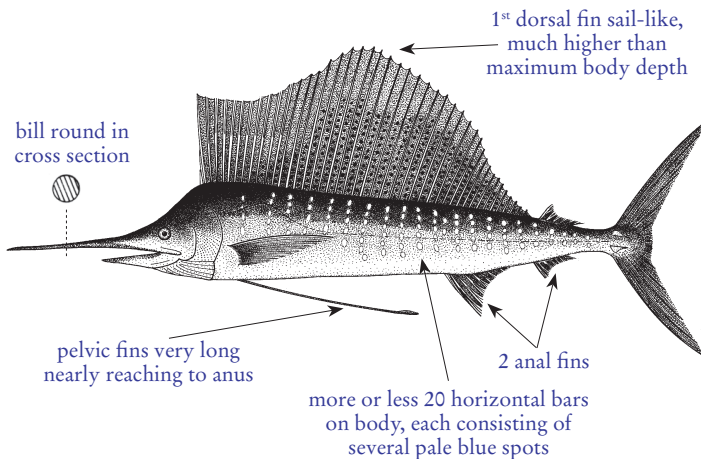


Size: 30 cm
(max. 70 cm)



Istiophorus platypterus (Shaw, 1792)

SFA

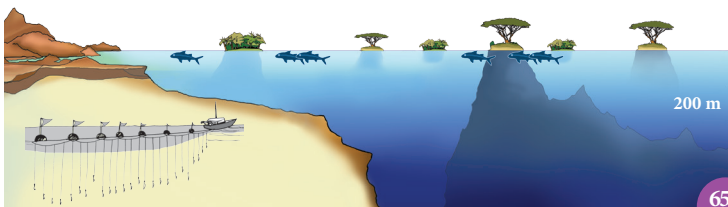
Local names: Abu feres. **أبو فرس** **ኣቡ ፈረስ**

Description: body elongate and compressed; 1st dorsal fin with about 42–49 rays; 2 separate anal fins, with 12–17 and 6–7 rays, respectively; pectoral fins falcate, with 17–20 rays.

Colour: body dark bluish violet dorsally, silvery white ventrally; 1st dorsal-fin membrane dark blue with many small black spots.



Size: 270 cm FL
(max. 348 cm FL)



Bluespine unicornfish

ACANTHURIDAE

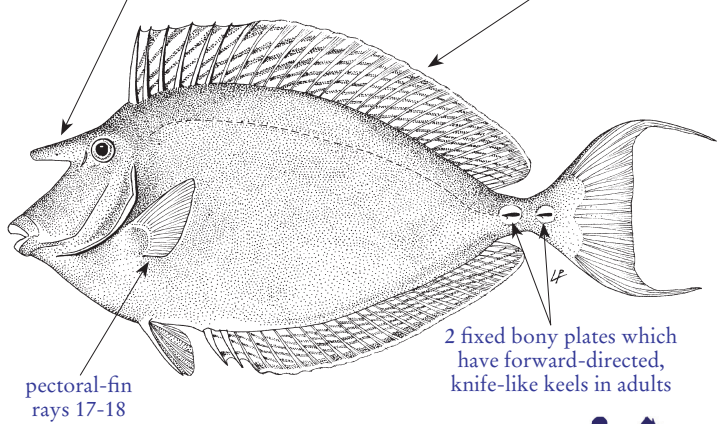
Naso unicornis (Forsskål, 1775)

NAS

Local names: Kurnjal, Abu Garn. قرنجل ኩሩንጃል፡ ኣቡ ቀርጉ

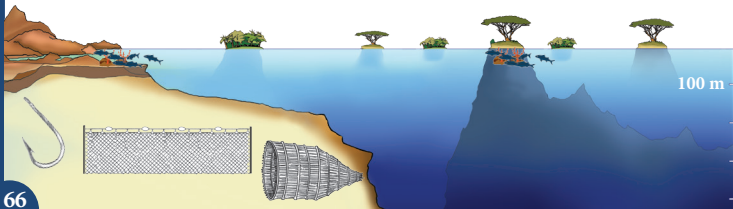
adults with a median horn-like projection anterior to eyes which does not extend in front of mouth

a continuous unnotched dorsal fin with 6 spines and 27-30 soft rays



Description: body deep and compressed, its depth 1.8-2.6 times in standard length.

Colour: light olive to yellowish grey, the peduncular spines and a small area around each bright blue.



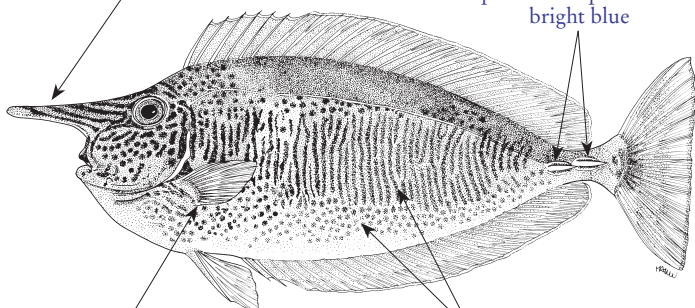
Similar species present in the area:

Naso brevirostris – Spotted unicornfish

NAB

adults with a median horn-like projection anterior to eyes which extends in front of mouth

peduncular plates not bright blue



pectoral-fin rays 15-17

olivaceous grey-brown to light grey, usually with vertical dark brown lines on body which break into small spots dorsally and ventrally

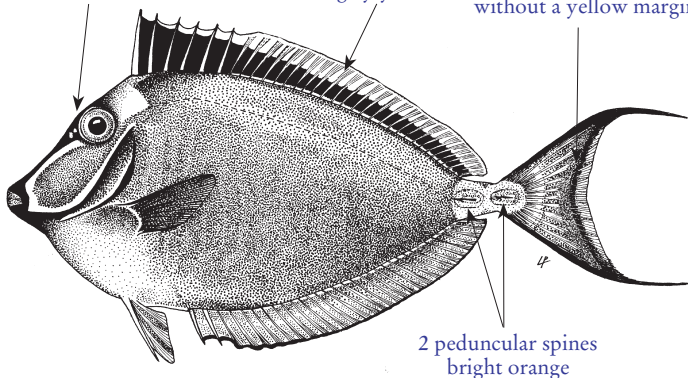
Naso lituratus – Orangespine unicornfish

NAI

no rostral prominence on snout or forehead

dorsal fin largely yellow

a black submarginal band in the caudal fin, without a yellow margin



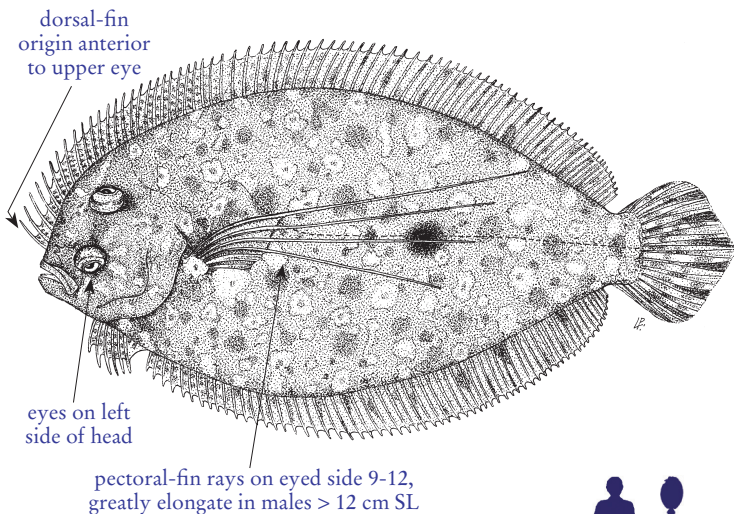
2 peduncular spines bright orange

Remarks: the form occurring in the Red Sea is recognized by some authors as a distinct species: *N. elegans* (Rüppell, 1829).

Bothus pantherinus (Rüppell, 1830)

OUN

Local names: Shebet al bahir. شبيت البحر ሽበጥ ባሕሪ

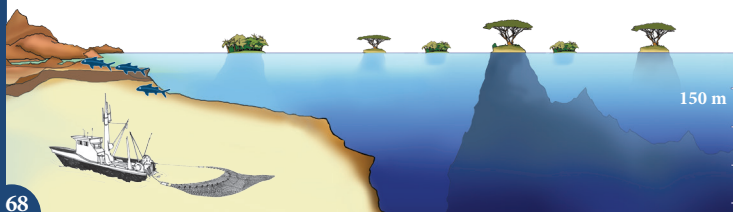


Description: body ovoid, its depth 1.6-2 times in standard length; pelvic fin of eyed side anterior to that of pelvic fin of blind side.

Colour: eyed side with numerous dark spots, blotches, and rings on body and median fins.



Size: 20 cm (max. 39 cm)

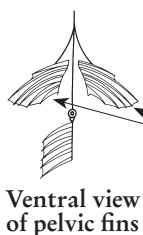
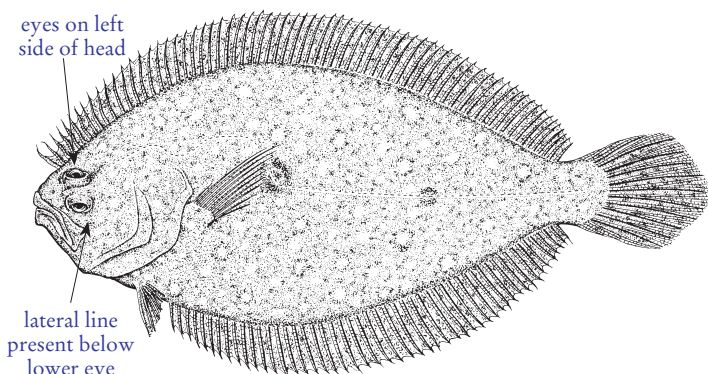


Similar families and species present in the area:

Paralichthyidae

Pseudorhombus arsius – Largetooth flounder

UHA

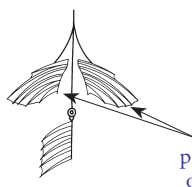
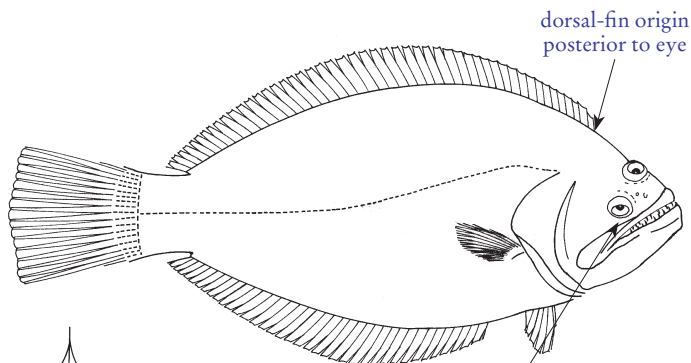


pelvic fins symmetrically placed on each side of midventral line

Psettodidae

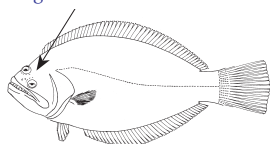
Psettodes erumei – Indian halibut

HAI



pelvic fins symmetrically placed on each side of midventral line

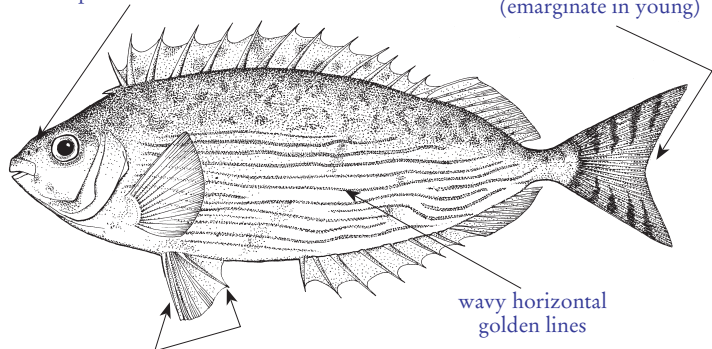
eyes on left or right side of head



Local names: Sejan. سجان ሰጃጋ

anterior nostril flap extending to, or at least halfway to orifice of posterior nostril

caudal fin forked (emarginate in young)



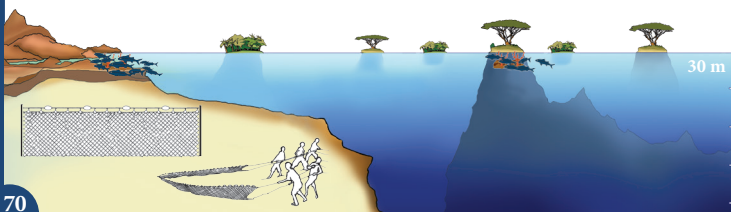
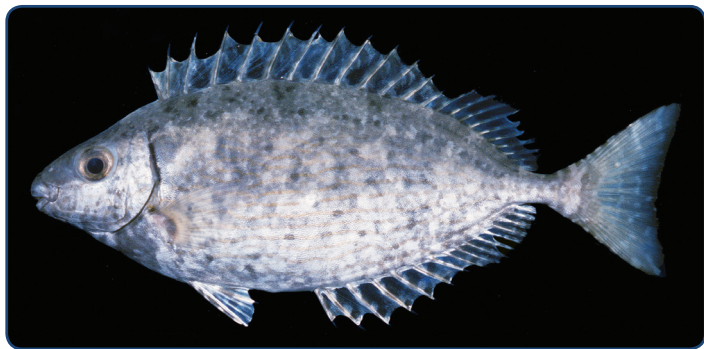
pelvic fins with 2 spines, 1 strong inner and 1 outer, with 3 soft rays in between (a character unique to this family)

Description: body compressed and slender, its depth 2.6–3.4 times in standard length; midline region of thorax scaleless.

Colour: body grey, green or brownish, silvery below, with 6–19 wavy, horizontal golden lines running length of body when fresh.



Size: 20 cm (max. 27 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

Siganus argenteus – Streamlined spinefoot

IGA

anterior nostril flap reaching to or past posterior nostril

caudal fin deeply forked

head and body with small yellow spots, bars and commas when fresh*

spots joining to form horizontal wavy lines

* colours fade rapidly at death so that head and trunk may be solid brown

Siganus luridus – Dusky spinefoot

IGU

anterior nostril flap reaching to posterior nostril

caudal fin truncate

midline region of thorax scaleless

head and body olive to very dark brown, plain or with a pattern of delicate, pale, wavy lines on sides

Siganus stellatus – Brownspotted spinefoot

IUT

dark blotch

caudal fin forked (emarginate in young)

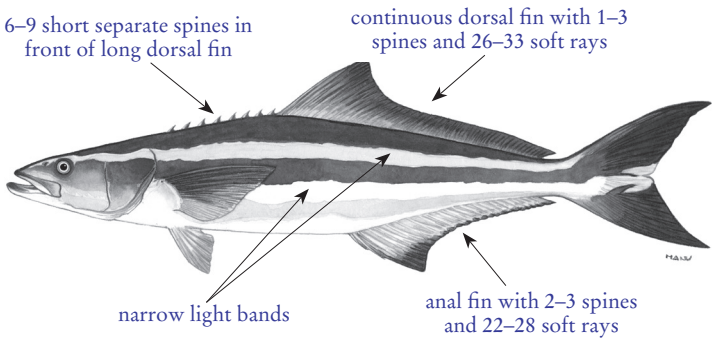
midline region of thorax scaled

head and body covered with close set dark spots on paler background

Rachycentron canadum (Linnaeus, 1766)

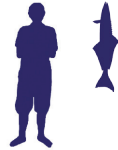
CBA

Local names: Sikla. سيكلا، فيتل، سيكين ሲቅላ፡ ኩብያ

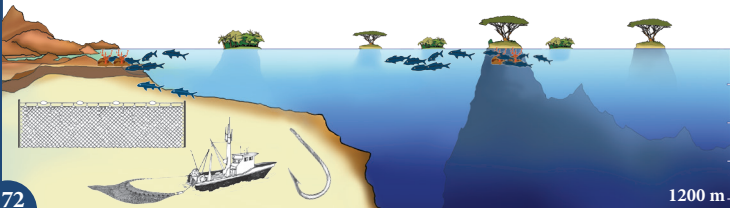


Description: head broad and depressed; mouth large, terminal, with projecting lower jaw; pectoral fins pointed; caudal fin lunate in adults (convex in juveniles) with upper lobe longer than lower

Colour: back and sides dark brown, with 2 sharply defined narrow light bands; belly yellowish.

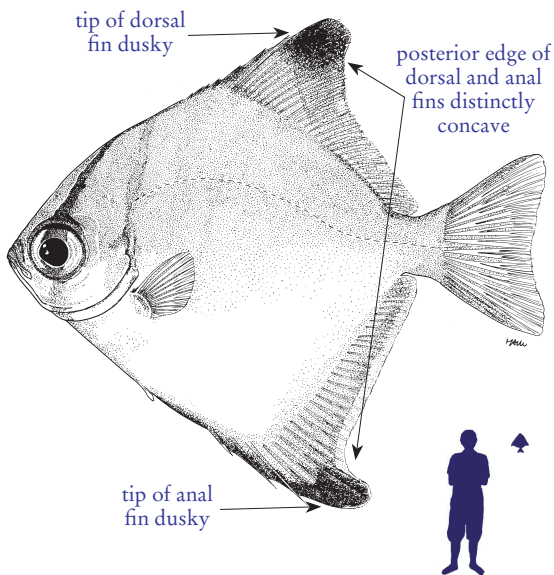


Size: 100 cm
(max. 200 cm)



1200 m.

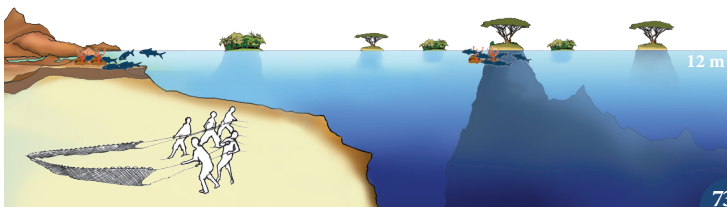
Local names: not available.



Description: body oval, deep, strongly compressed; body depth 1.2-1.6 times in standard length.

Size: 12 cm
(max. 27 cm SL)

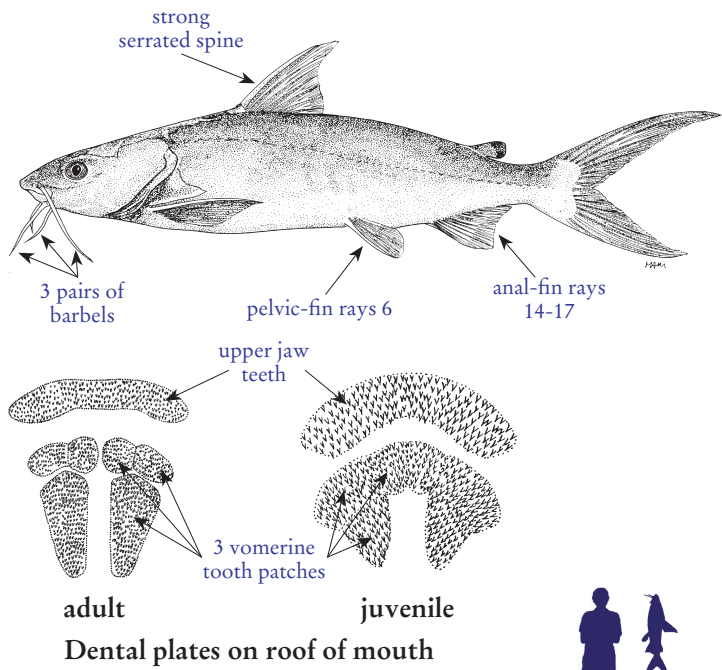
Colour: adults bright silver with yellow and dusky dorsal fin tip; small juveniles more colorful with yellow over most of the dorsal fin and two vertical black bands over the head.



Netuma thalassina (Rüppell, 1837)

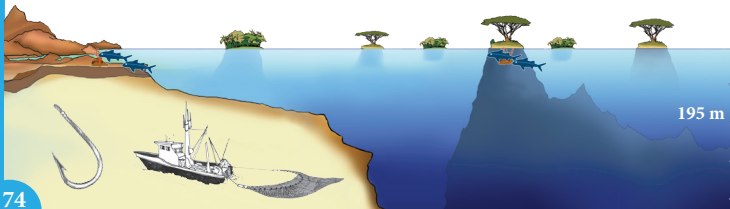
AUX

Local names: Koumel, Shilan. كومل، شيلان ኩመል፡ሺላን



Description: snout prominent and somewhat pointed; mouth inferior.

Colour: body iridescence coppery or golden.



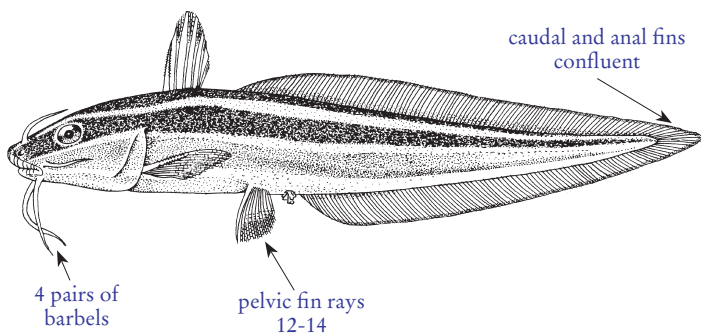
Similar species present in the area:

Netuma thalassina is the only representative of the family Ariidae known to occur in the Red Sea. A similar catfish species belonging to the family Plotosidae is here included.

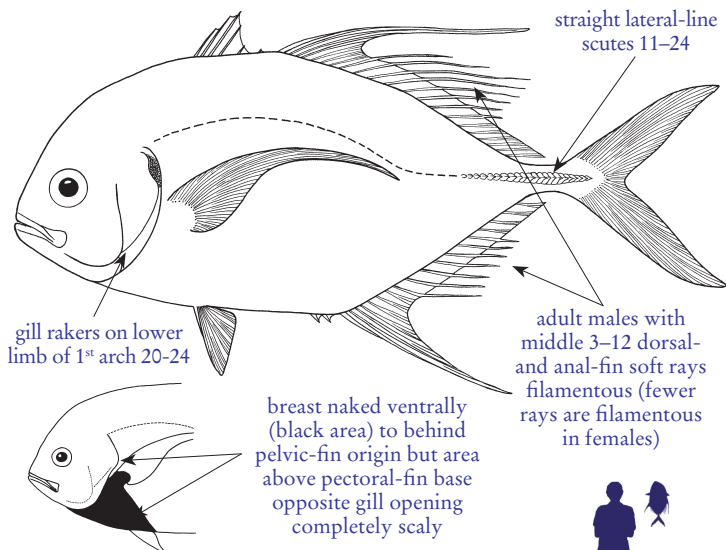
Plotosidae

Plotosus lineatus – Striped eel catfish

PII



Local names: Bayad. بياد ١٢٤

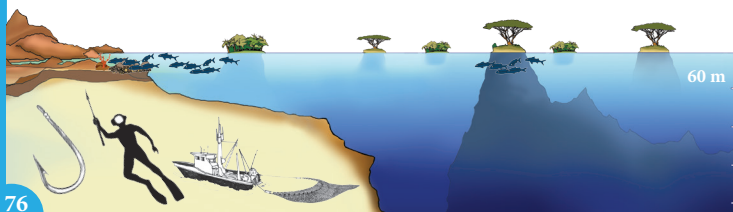


Description: head profile very steep in adults but relatively straight from snout to nape.

Colour: bluish-grey above, silvery below; blackish blotch on upper margin of opercle.



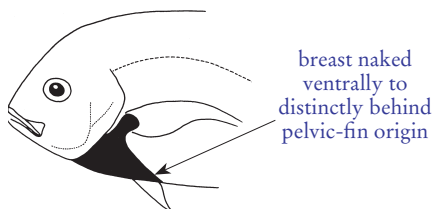
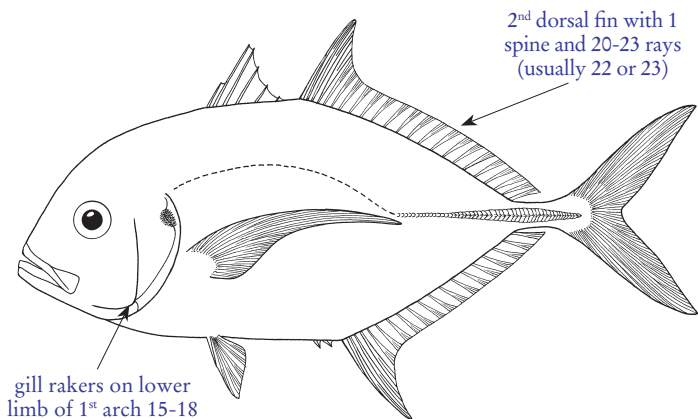
Size: 30 cm (max. 58 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

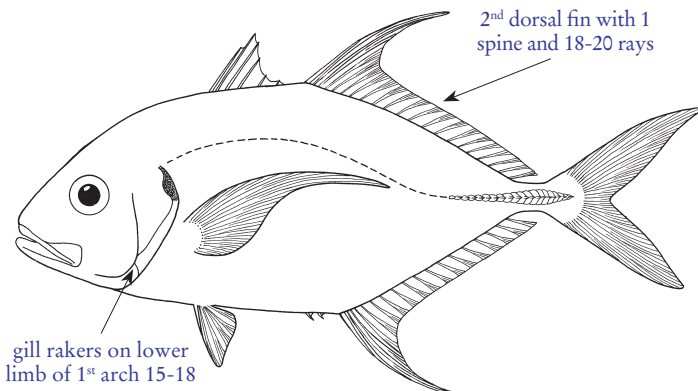
Carangoides coeruleopinnatus – Coastal trevally

NGC



Carangoides chrysophrys – Longnose trevally

NGH



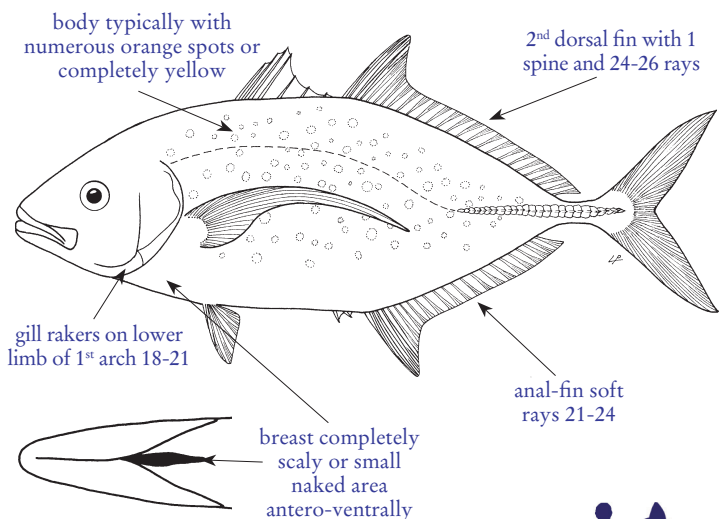
Orangespotted trevally

CARANGIDAE

Carangoides bajad (Forsskål, 1775)

NGJ

Local names: Bayad. بياد ١٢٤



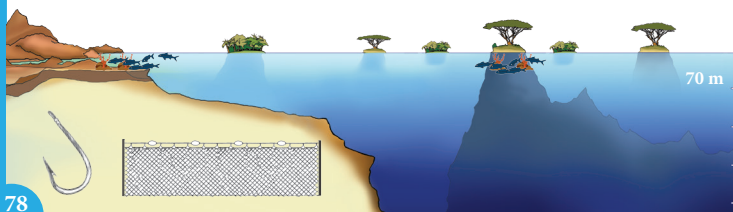
Underside of head

Description: body oblong and compressed.

Colour: brassy dorsally, shading to silvery white on sides, with numerous orange spots; no dark opercular spot.



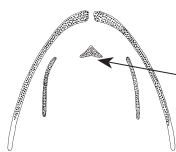
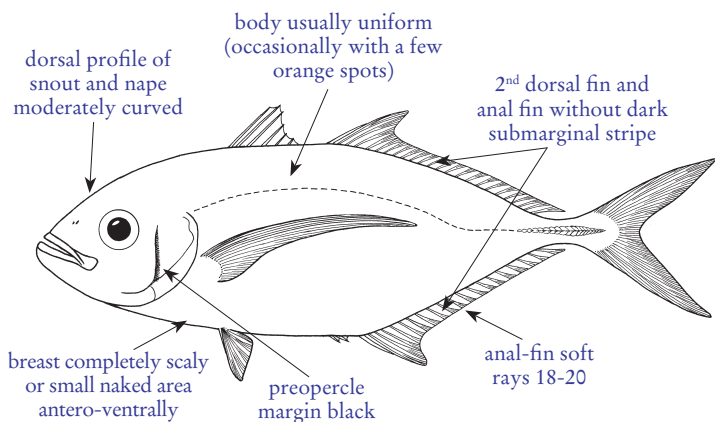
Size: 42 cm
(max. 55 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

Carangoides plagiotænia – Barcheek trevally

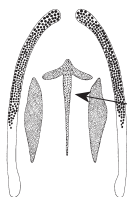
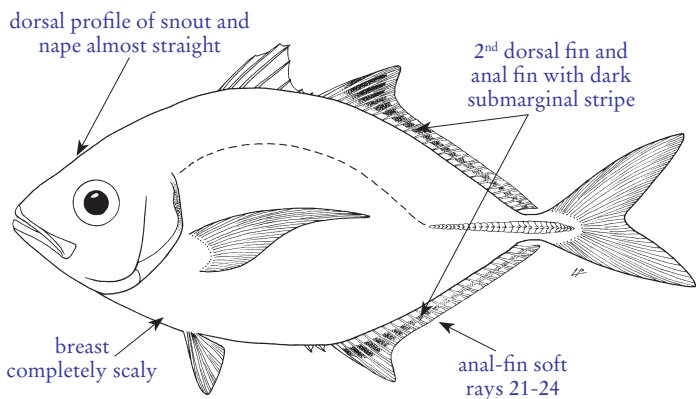
GSP



Upper jaw teeth

Carangoides equula – Whitefin trevally

NGQ



Upper jaw teeth

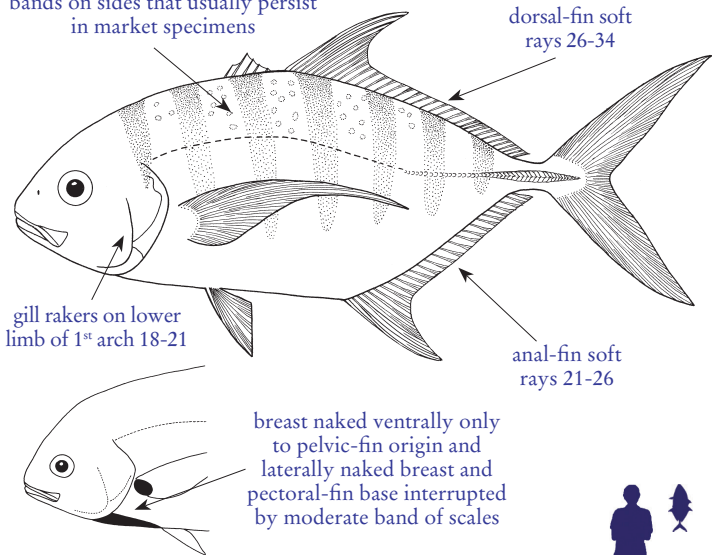
See also: *C. armatus* (p. 76); *C. ferdau* (p. 80)

Carangoides ferdau (Forsskal, 1775)

CRF

Local names: Bayad. بياد نڤڤ

adults typically with 6-7 dusky bands on sides that usually persist in market specimens

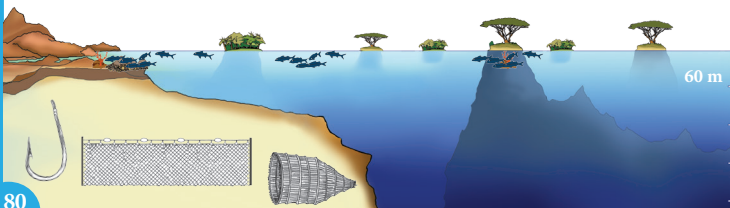


Description: dorsal profile of head slightly convex.

Colour: silvery blue-green dorsally, shading to silvery on sides and ventrally; numerous, inconspicuous golden spots often present on sides.



Size: 30 cm (max. 70 cm)

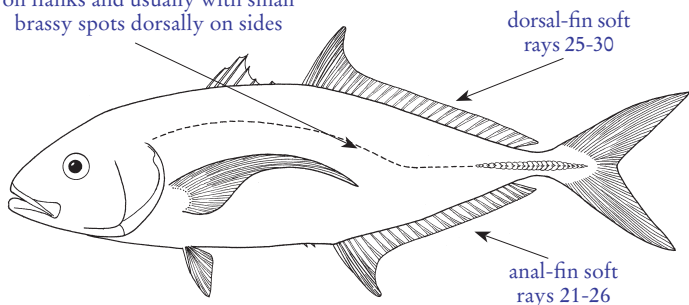


Similar species present in the area:

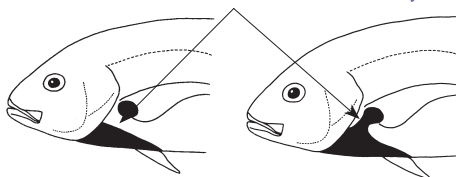
Carangoides fulvoguttatus – Yellowspotted trevally

NGU

adults often with 3-4 dark blotches on flanks and usually with small brassy spots dorsally on sides

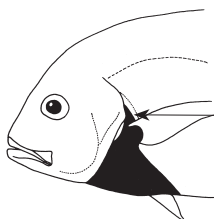
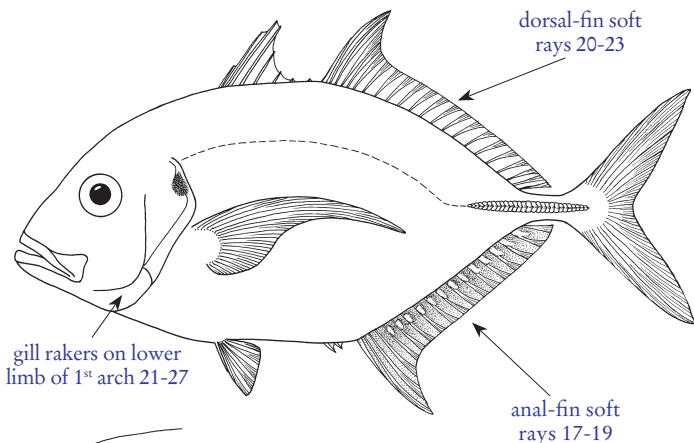


breast naked ventrally to behind pelvic-fin origin and laterally squamation variable; naked breast with or without a band of scales as in *C. ferdau*



Carangoides malabaricus – Malabar trevally

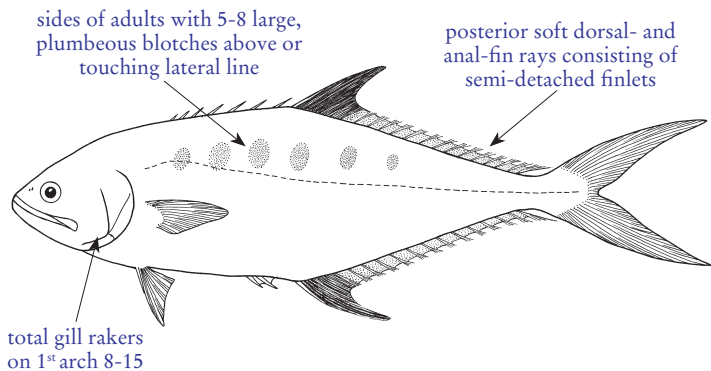
NGS



small naked area present just above pectoral-fin base opposite gill opening

Note: Another *Carangoides* species, *C. talamparoides* occurs in the Red Sea. It is similar to *C. malabaricus*, but it has 17-21 gill rakers on lower limb of 1st gill arch.

Local names: Dorob. دورب ደሮብ

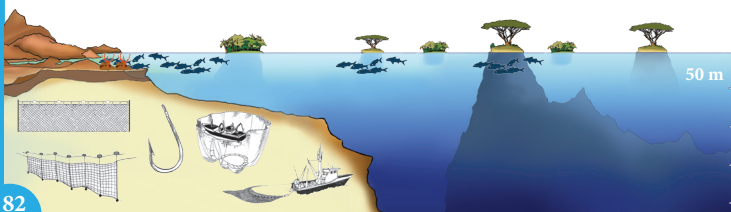


Description: body oblong to elliptical, strongly compressed; dorsal and ventral profiles similar, snout blunt with dorsal profile of head and nape slightly convex.

Colour: dorsal and anal fins dusky to dark, uniformly pigmented.



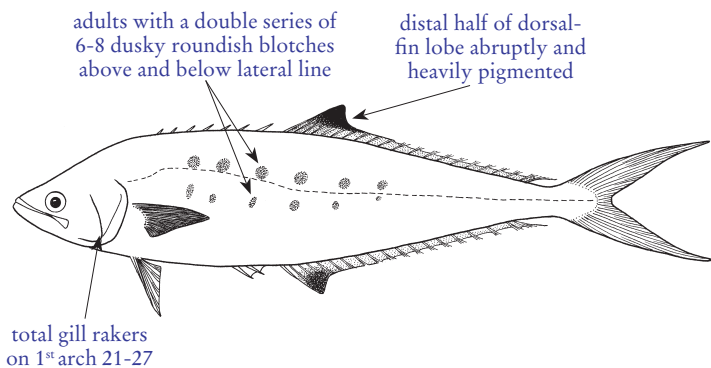
Size: 94 cm FL
(max. 120 cm FL)



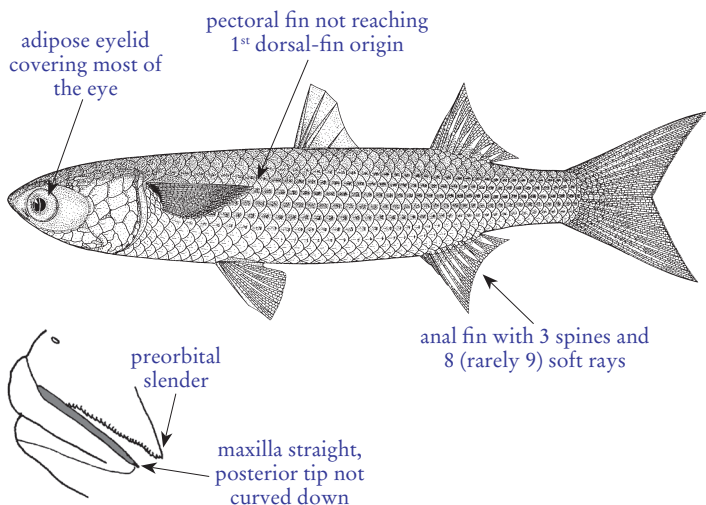
Similar species present in the area:

Scomberoides lysan – Doublespotted queenfish

OBY



Local names: Araaby. عربي ٩٤٠.



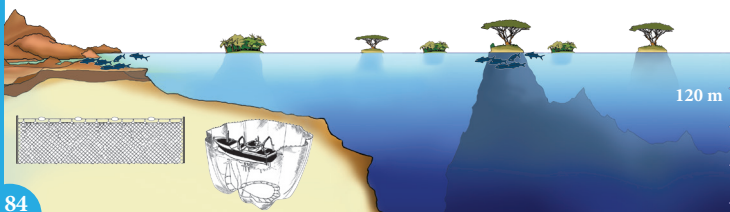
Lateral view of mouth
(maxilla shaded)

Description: body stout, cylindrical in cross-section, slightly compressed; head broad and flattened.

Colour: olive-green on back, silvery on sides with 6–7 dark stripes following rows of scales.



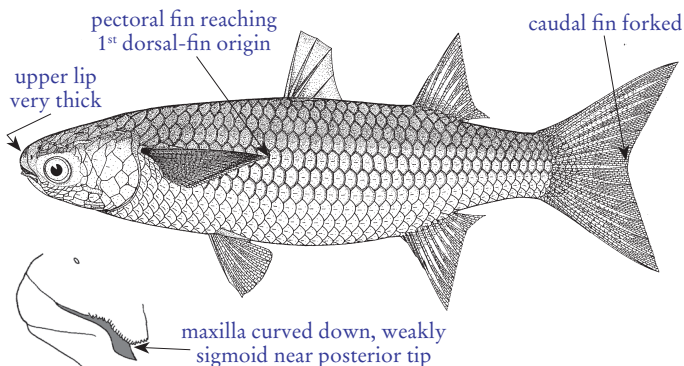
Size: 35 cm
(max. 90 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

Crenimugil crenilabis – Fringelip mullet

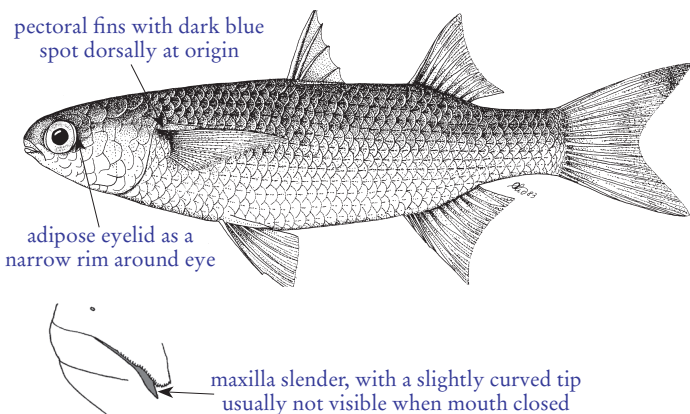
VCC



Lateral view of mouth
(maxilla shaded)

Crenimugil seheli – Bluespot mullet

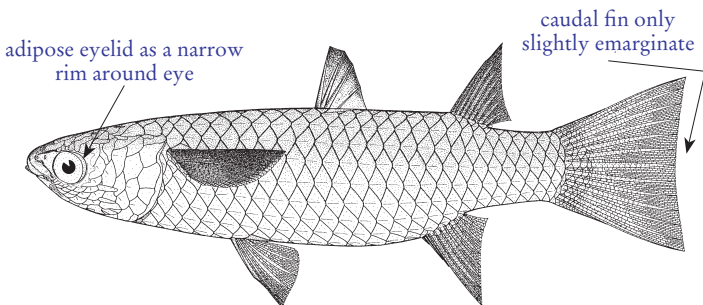
VMH



Lateral view of mouth
(maxilla shaded)

Ellochelon vaigiensis – Squaretail mullet

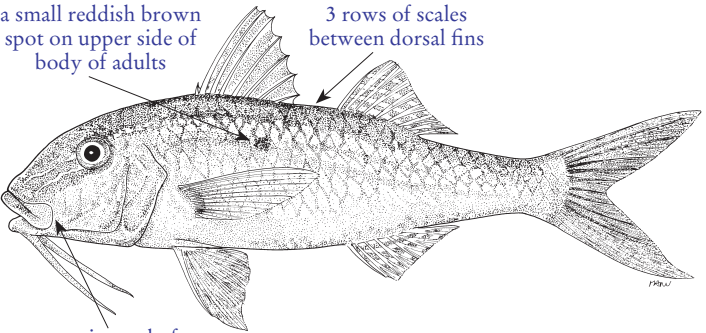
LZV



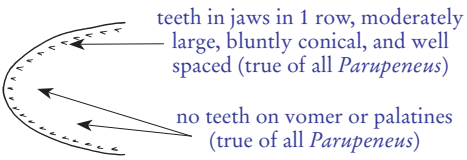
Parupeneus heptacanthus (Lacepède, 1802)

RQF

Local names: Abusheneb. ابو شنب አቡ ሽነብ



posterior end of maxilla evenly convex

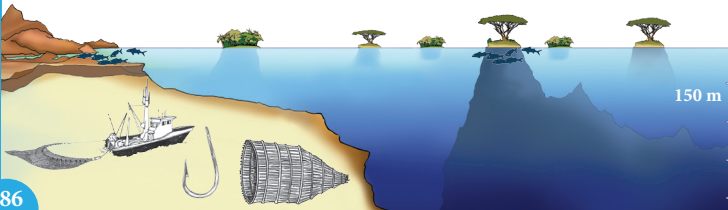


Roof of mouth



Size: 25 cm (max. 36 cm)

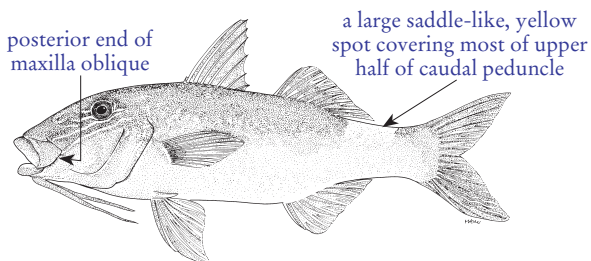
Description: body slightly elongate, its depth 3.0-3.55 times in standard length.
Colour: brownish yellow to light red.



Similar species present in the area:

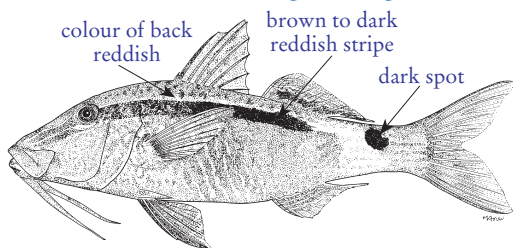
Parupeneus cyclostomus – Gold-saddle goatfish

RPY



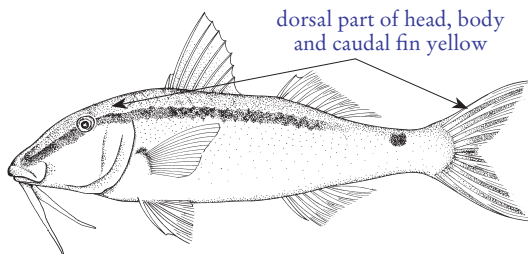
Parupeneus macronemus – Long-barbel goatfish

RPO

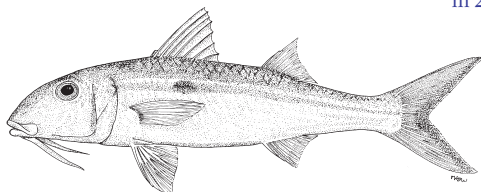


Parupeneus forsskali – Red Sea goatfish

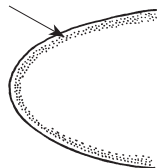
RPF



Mulloidichthys spp.



teeth in jaws small, in 2 to several rows

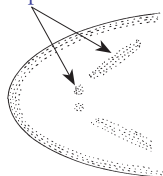
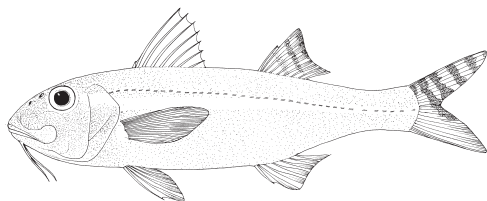


Roof of mouth

Upeneus spp. – Goatfishes

GOX

vomerine and palatine teeth present



Roof of mouth

11-12 pale golden
yellow stripes
along body

caudal fin pink,
upper tip and
filament yellow

suborbital spine
weak or absent

pectoral fins reaching to or beyond anal-fin origin

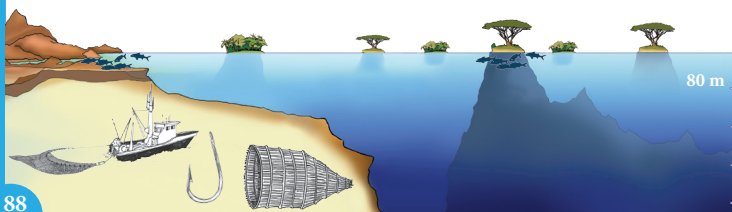
upper lobe of caudal
fin with moderately
long filament

Description: body depth 2.7-3.5 times in standard length; snout length equal to or greater than eye diameter.

Colour: upper part of body pinkish, becoming silvery below; top of head behind eye with a golden sheen.



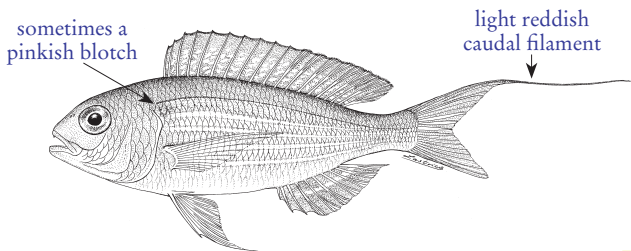
Size: 25 cm
(max. 30 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

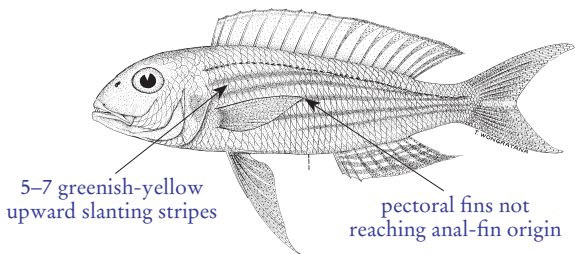
Nemipterus randalli - Randall's threadfin bream

NNZ



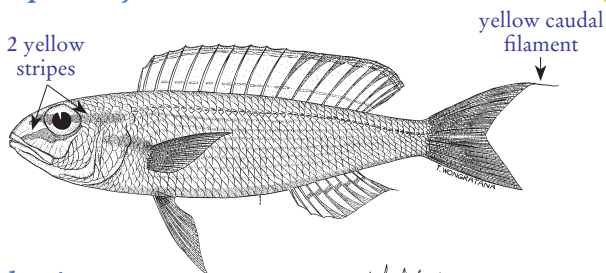
Nemipterus bipunctatus - Delagoa threadfin bream

KZJ



Nemipterus zysron - Slender threadfin bream

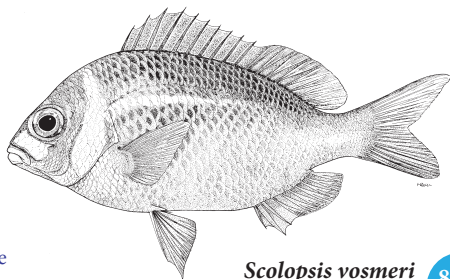
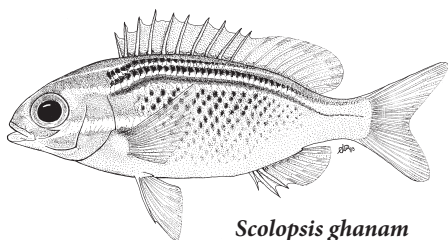
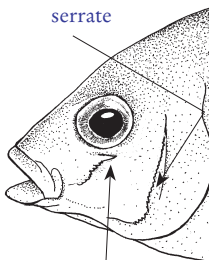
KZI



Scolopsis spp. Monocle breams

MOB

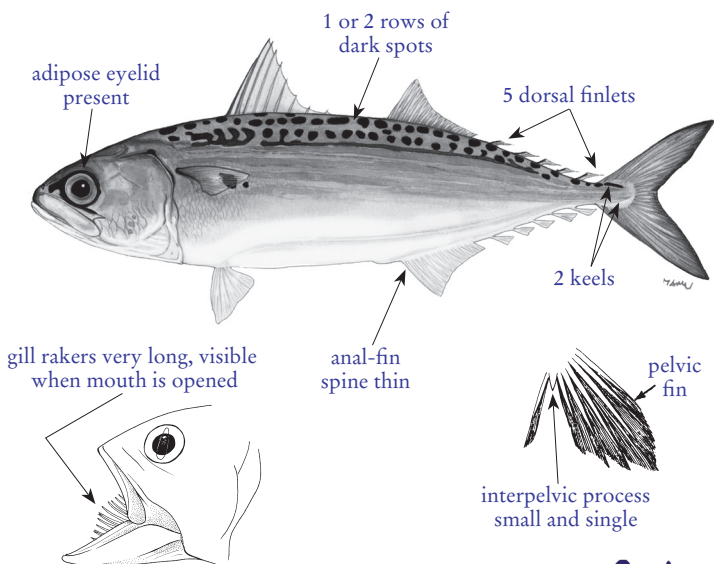
posterior margin of preopercle coarsely denticulate or serrate



Rastrelliger kanagurta (Cuvier, 1816)

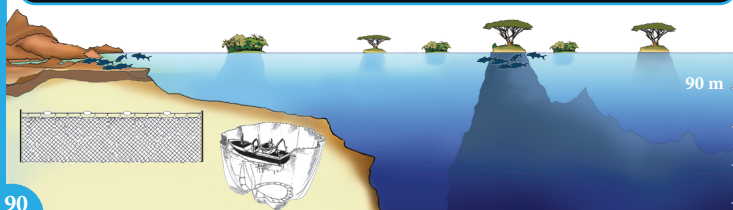
RAG

Local names: Baka. باغة ባታ



Description: body moderately deep, slightly compressed, its depth at posterior margin of opercle 4.3–5.2 times in fork length.

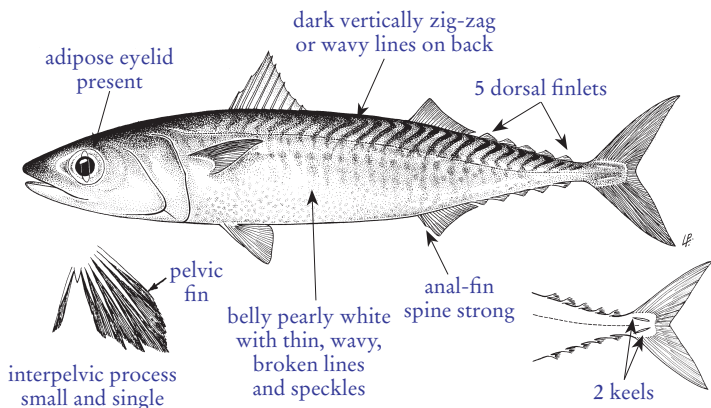
Colour: back blue-green, flanks silver with golden tint; a black spot near pectoral fins.



Similar species present in the area:

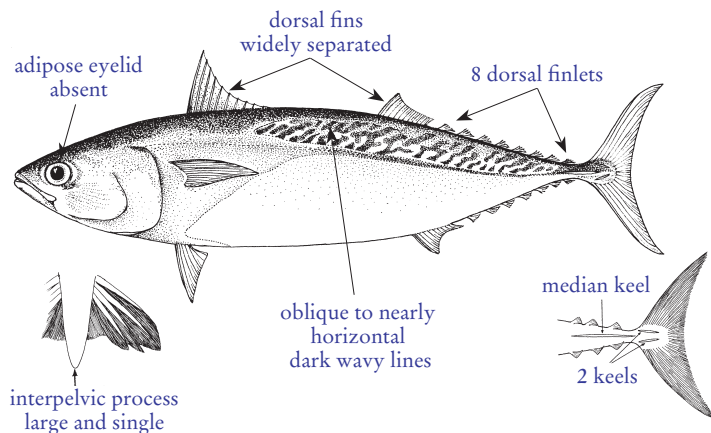
Scomber australasicus – Blue mackerel

MAA



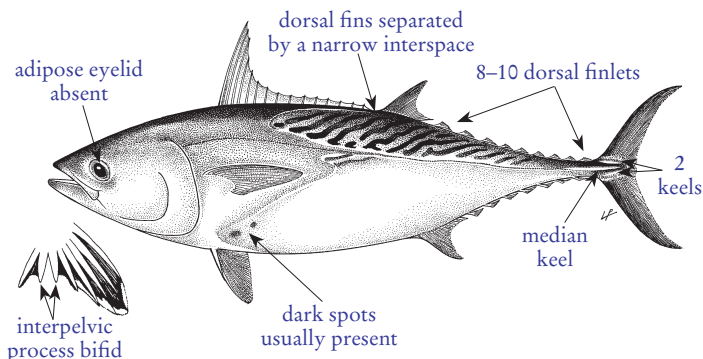
Auxis thazard – Frigate tuna

FRI



Euthynnus affinis – Kawakawa

KAW

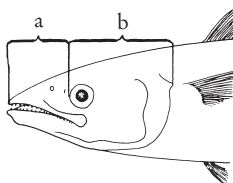
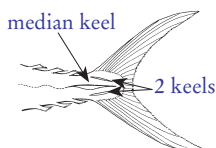
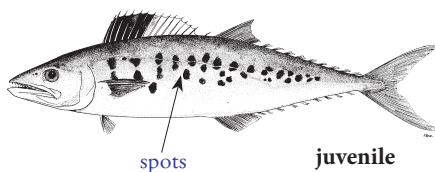
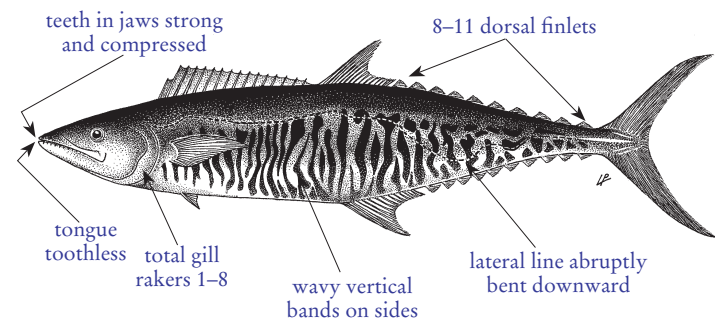


Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel SCOMBRIDAE

Scomberomorus commerson (Lacepède, 1800)

COM

Local names: Derak. دیرک

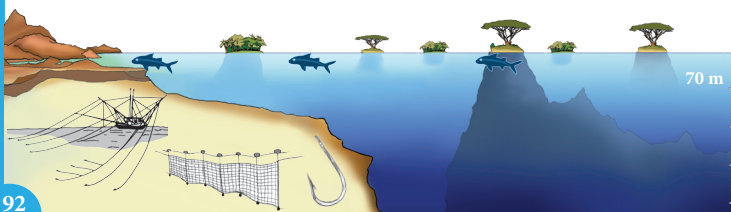


Description: body moderately compressed; snout (a) much shorter than head (b).

Colour: back iridescent blue-grey.



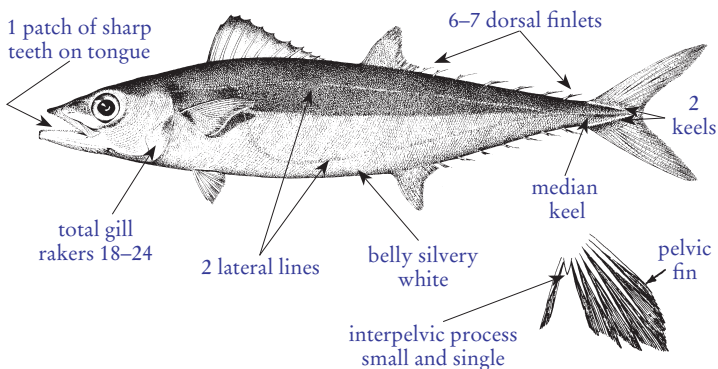
Size: 120 cm
(max. 240 cm FL)



Similar species present in the area:

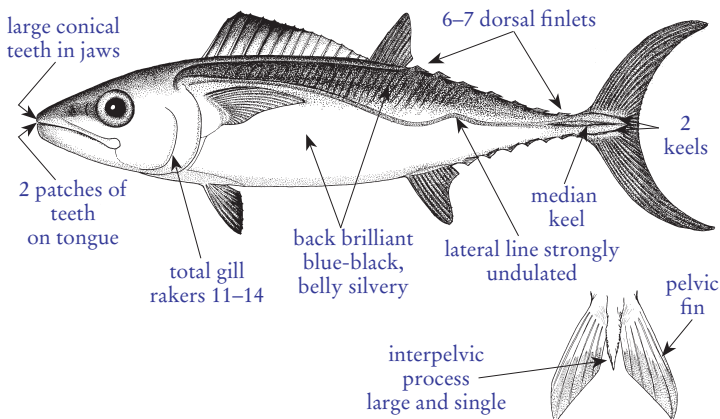
Grammatorcynus bilineatus – Double-lined mackerel

DBM



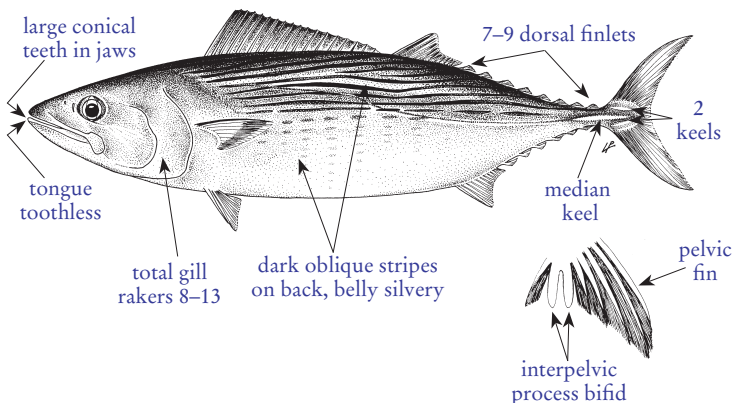
Gymnosarda unicolor – Dogtooth tuna

DOT



Sarda orientalis – Oriental bonito

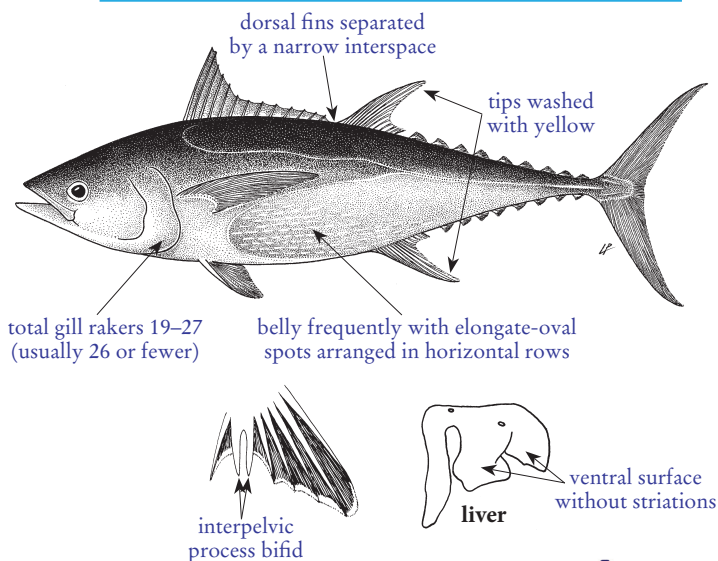
BIP



Thunnus tonggol (Bleeker, 1851)

LOT

Local names: Tonno, Shurwi. شروي، تونة ቶኖ፡ሽርዊ

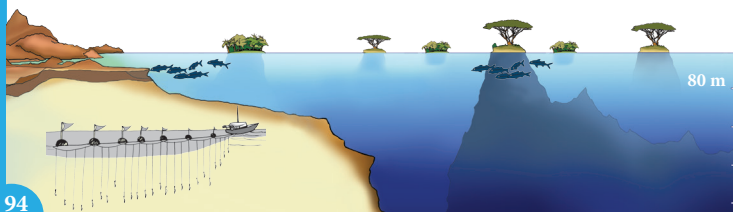


Description: a small tuna species with a long caudal peduncle; dorsal- and anal-fin lobes never greatly elongated ($< 20\%$ FL).

Colour: back dark blue or black, lower sides silvery white; dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and caudal fins blackish.



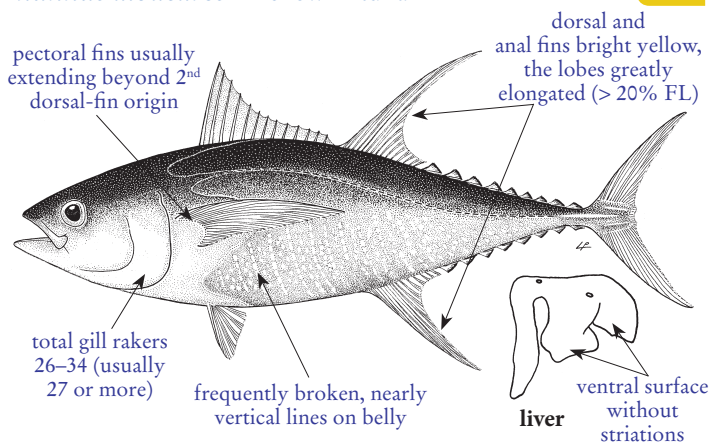
Size: 70 cm FL
(max. 130 cm FL)



Similar species present in the area:

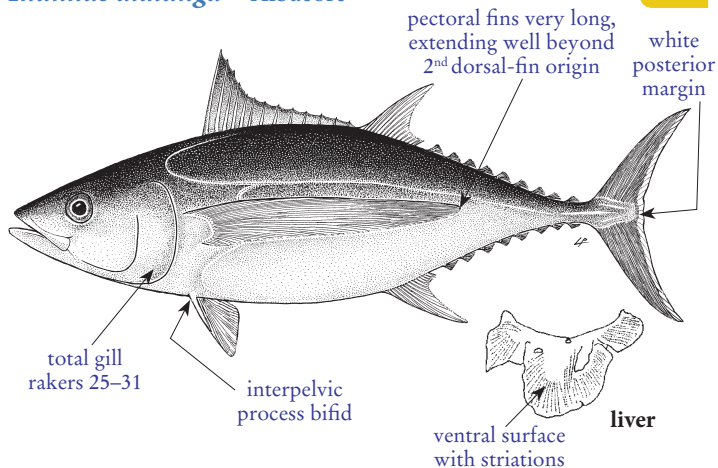
Thunnus albacares – Yellowfin tuna

YFT



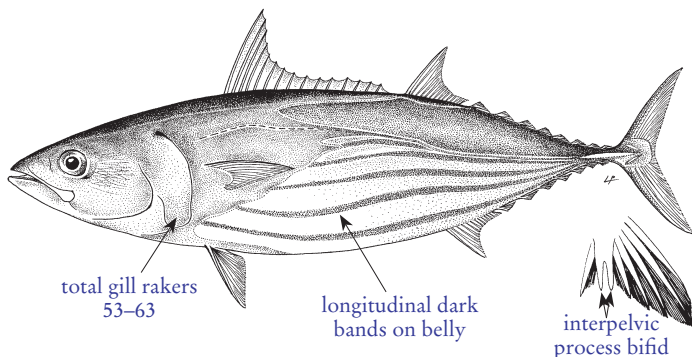
Thunnus alalunga – Albacore

ALB



Katsuwonus pelamis – Skipjack tuna

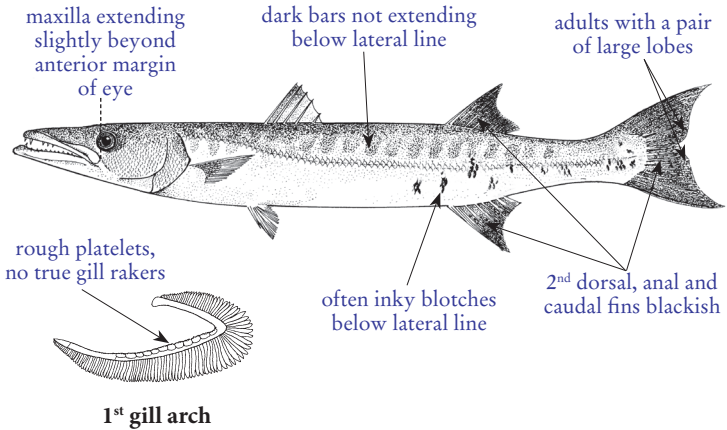
SKJ



Sphyraena barracuda (Edwards, 1771)

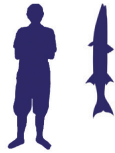
GBA

Local names: Agam, Dodaf. عقام، توداف ٩٢٧: ٩٩٤

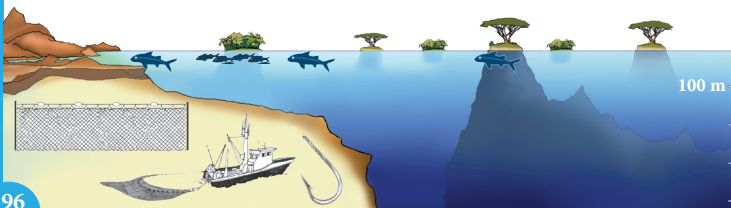


Description: body elongate, slightly compressed; jaws long, studded with large, sharp, flattened or conical teeth of unequal size (true of all *Sphyraena* species).

Colour: many oblique dark bars on upper half of body, these not crossing the lateral line; caudal fin black with white tips; juveniles with a series of large dark blotches arranged on dorso-lateral part of body.



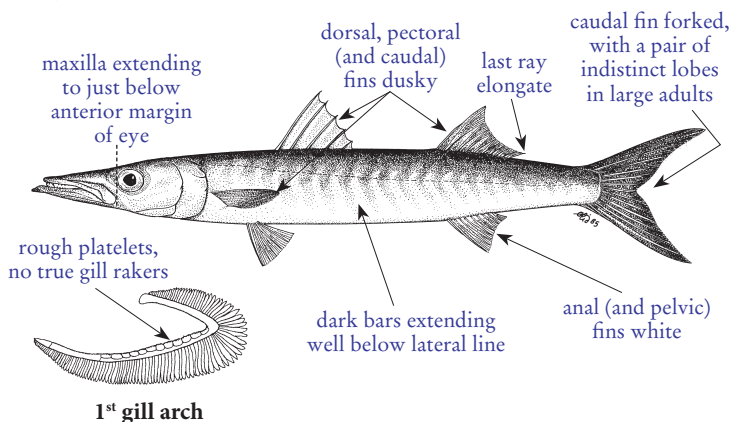
Size: 140 cm
(max. 200 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

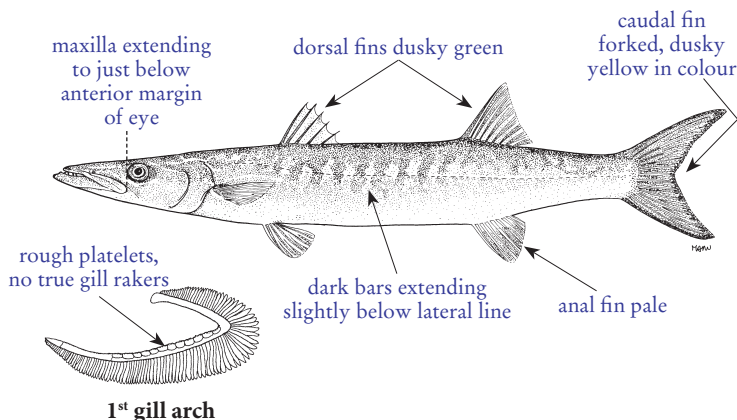
Sphyreana putnamae – Sawtooth barracuda

BAN



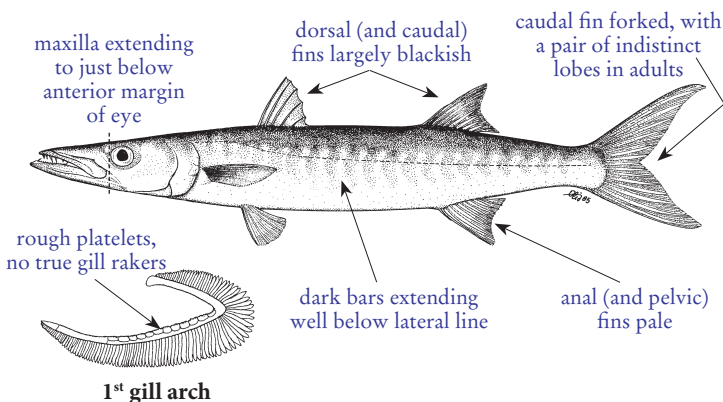
Sphyraena jello – Pickhandle barracuda

BAC



Sphyraena qenie – Blackfin barracuda

BAB

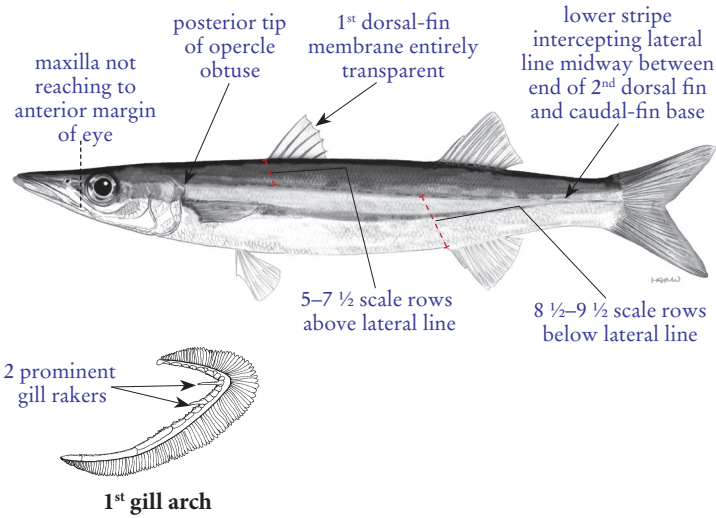


See also: other *Sphyraenidae* (pp. 98-99)

Sphyraena obtusata Cuvier, 1829

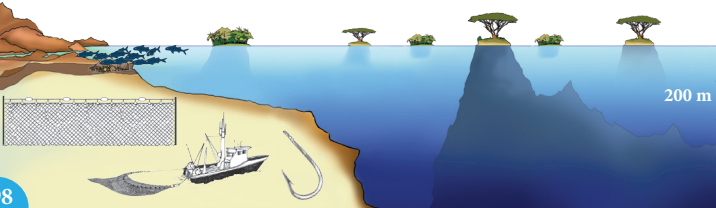
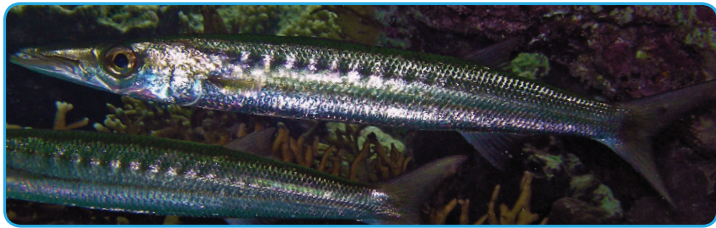
YRB

Local names: Agam, Dodaf. عقام، توداف، ڤڤوڤ: ڤڤڤڤ



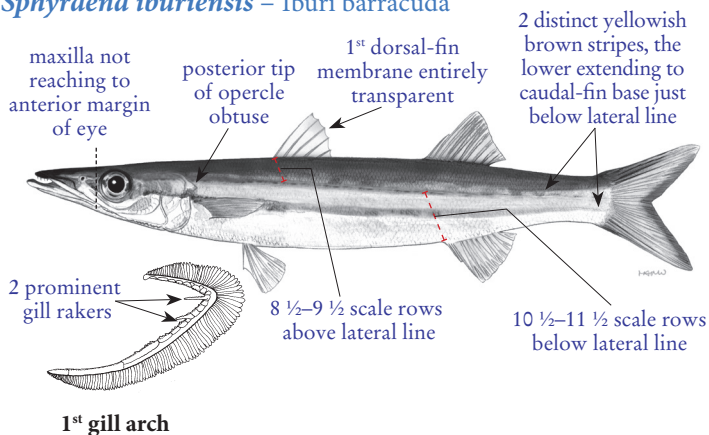
Description: a small species, with 1st dorsal-fin origin behind pelvic-fin origin and tip of pectoral fin extending past 1st dorsal-fin origin.

Colour: dark green dorsally, silvery white below, with 2 indistinct yellowish brown longitudinal stripes (when fresh); anal, dorsal and pelvic fins transparent; pectoral fin dusky; caudal fin yellowish.



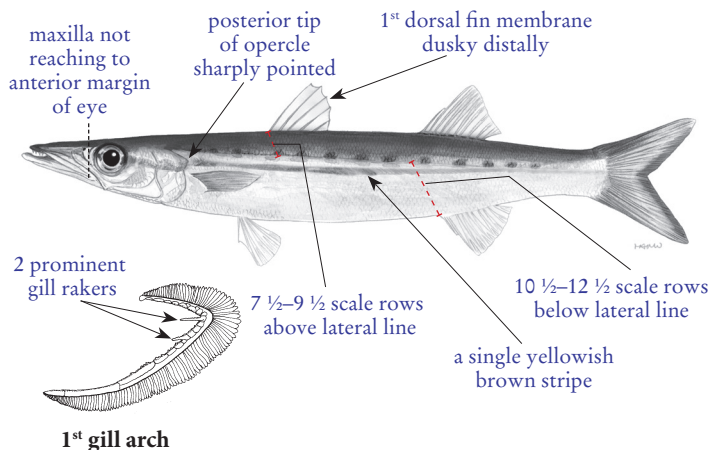
Similar species present in the area:

Sphyraena iburiensis – Iburi barracuda



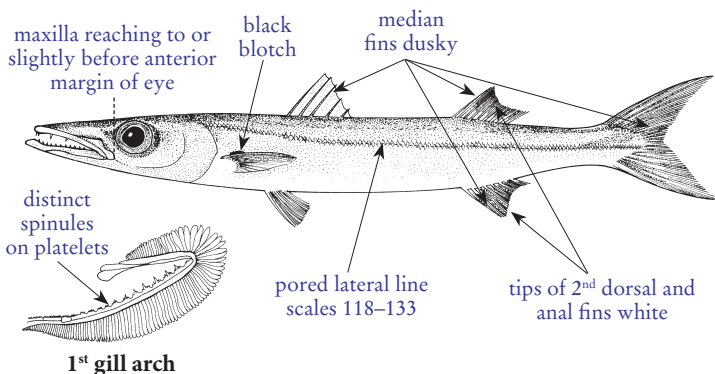
Sphyraena pinguis – Red barracuda

YRN



Sphyraena forsteri – Bigeye barracuda

YBS



Blacktip shark

CARCHARHINIDAE

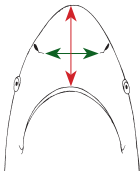
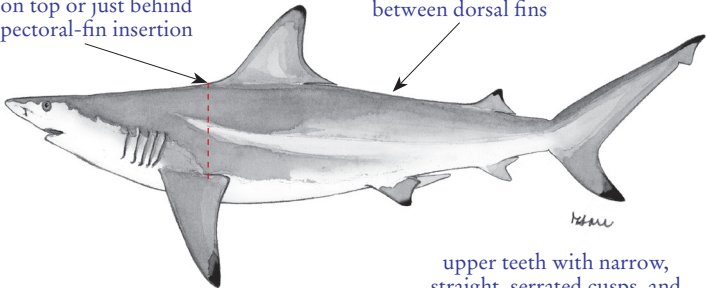
Carcharhinus limbatus (Müller & Henle, 1839)

CCL

Local names: Autat, Pechecane. عوات **ፕቺካን: አውታት**

1st dorsal-fin origin
on top or just behind
pectoral-fin insertion

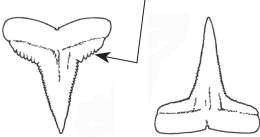
no ridge on back
between dorsal fins



snout relatively
long and narrowly
pointed, **preoral**
length 1.3-1.7 times
internarial width

Underside of head

upper teeth with narrow,
straight, serrated cusps, and
coarsely serrated bases



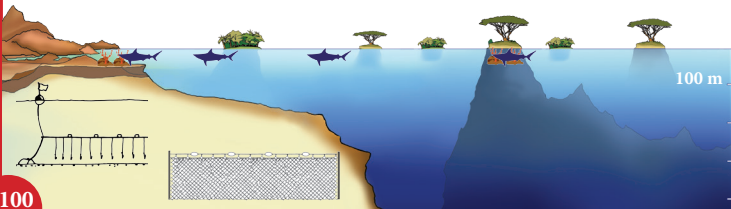
Upper and lower tooth

Description: a stout shark with a large and falcate 1st dorsal fin.

Colour: upper body grey or grey-brown, underside white; dorsal fins, pectoral fins, pelvic fins and lower lobe of caudal fin, black or dusky in young individuals, fading with growth.



Size: 150 cm
(max. 250 cm)

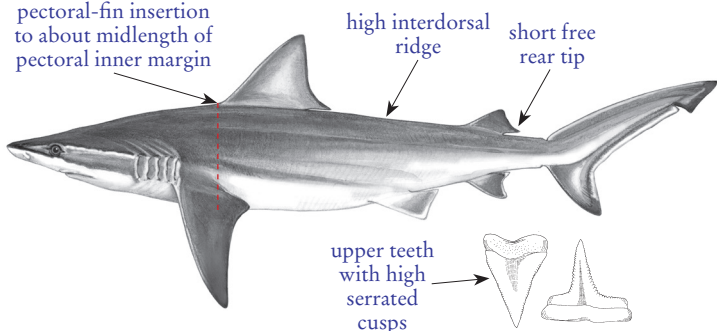


Similar species present in the area:

Carcharhinus altimus – Bignose shark

CCA

1st dorsal-fin origin over pectoral-fin insertion to about midlength of pectoral inner margin

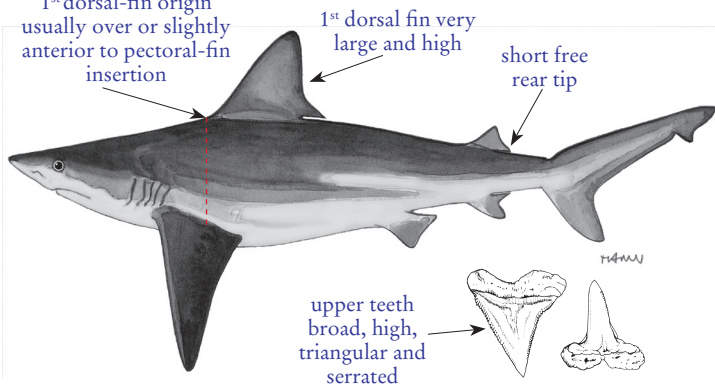


Upper and lower tooth

Carcharhinus plumbeus – Sandbar shark

CCP

1st dorsal-fin origin usually over or slightly anterior to pectoral-fin insertion

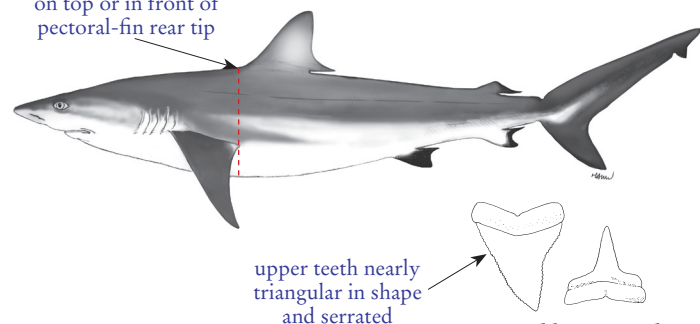


Upper and lower tooth

Carcharhinus obscurus – Dusky shark

DUS

1st dorsal-fin origin on top or in front of pectoral-fin rear tip



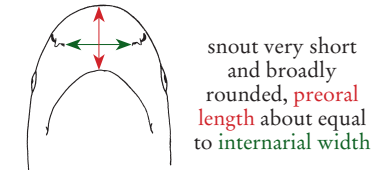
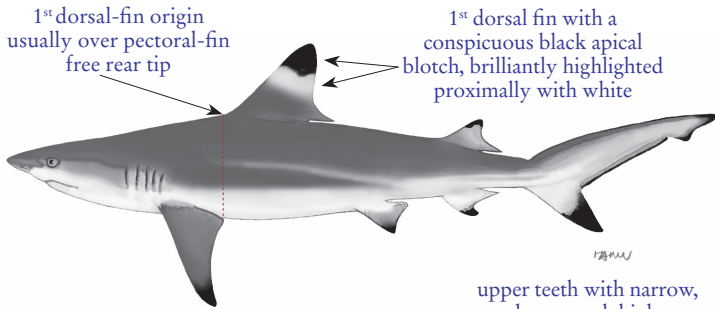
Upper and lower tooth

Blacktip reef shark

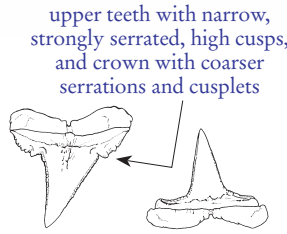
CARCHARHINIDAE

Carcharhinus melanopterus (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824) **BLR**

Local names: Zingi, Autat, Pechecane. عوات، زنجى
ፕቺካክ፡ ዚንጊ፡ ኣውታት



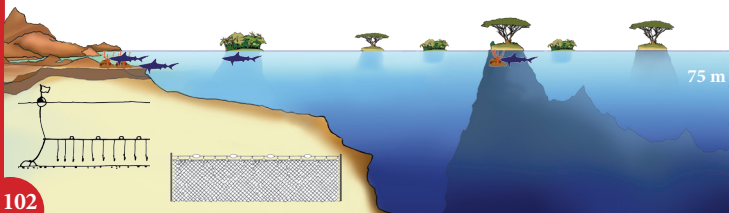
Underside of head



Upper and lower tooth

Description: a small to medium-sized shark with a moderately stout body.

Colour: yellow-brown above, white below; all fins conspicuous with black or dark brown tips.

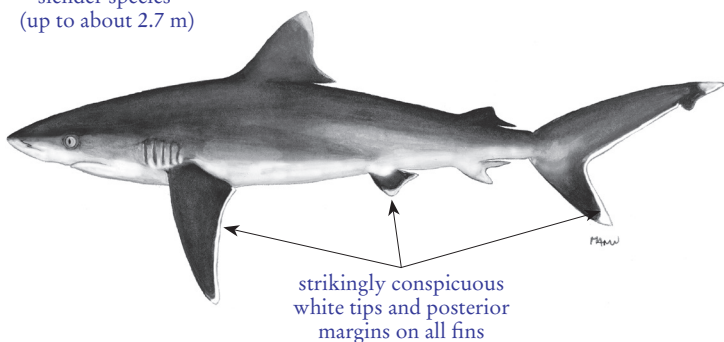


Similar species present in the area:

Carcharhinus albig marginatus – Silvertip shark

ALS

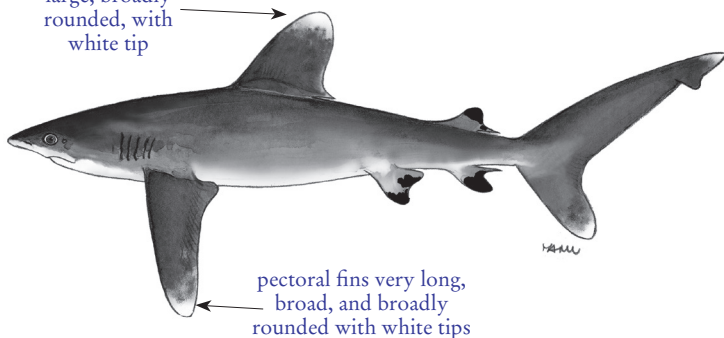
a large, fairly slender species
(up to about 2.7 m)



Carcharhinus longimanus – Oceanic whitetip shark

OCS

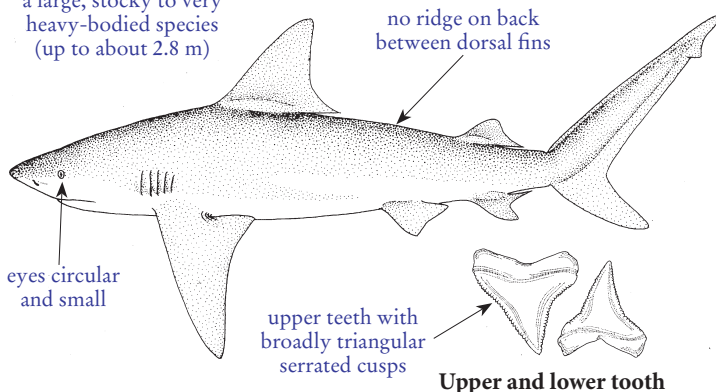
1st dorsal fin very large, broadly rounded, with white tip



Carcharhinus amboinensis – Pigeye shark

CCF

a large, stocky to very heavy-bodied species
(up to about 2.8 m)



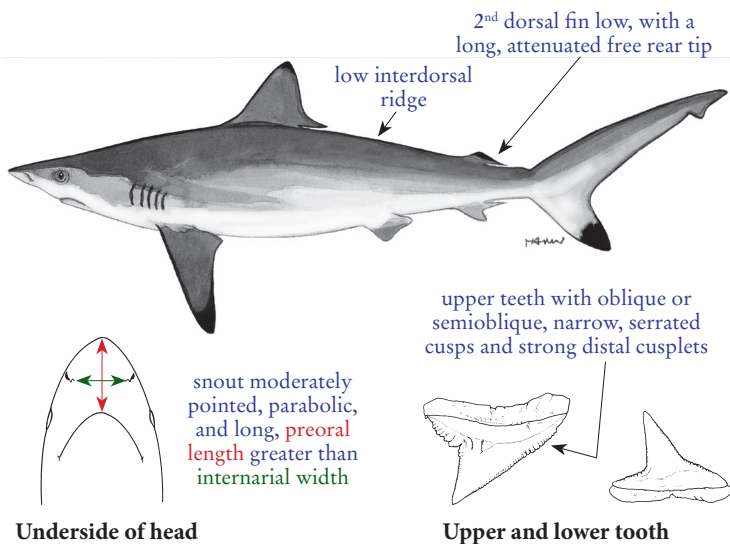
Spottail shark

CARCHARHINIDAE

Carcharhinus sorrah (Müller & Henle, 1839)

CCQ

Local names: Sweida, Pechecane. ጥቺካኑ ስዎይዳ

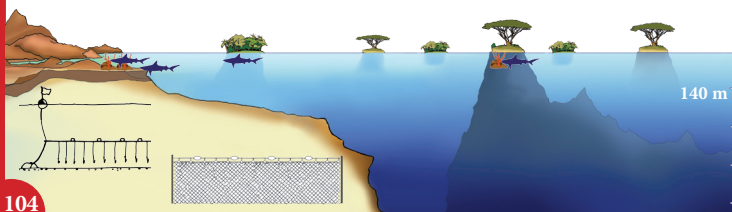


Description: a small to medium-sized shark with a slender to moderately stout body.

Colour: grey above, white below; a conspicuous and large black tip on the pectoral fins, 2nd dorsal, and ventral caudal-fin lobe, but 1st dorsal only with black edge at most.



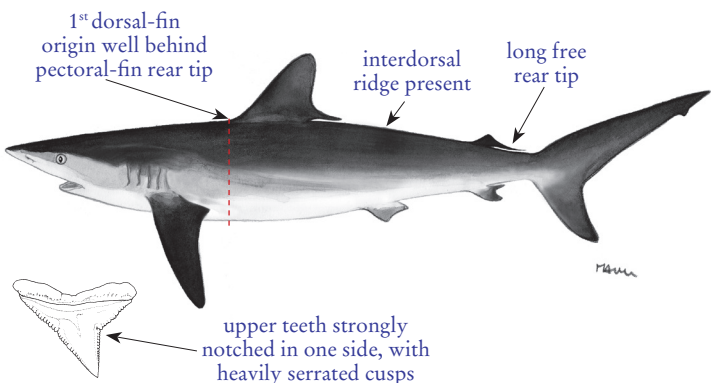
Size: 130 cm (max. 160 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

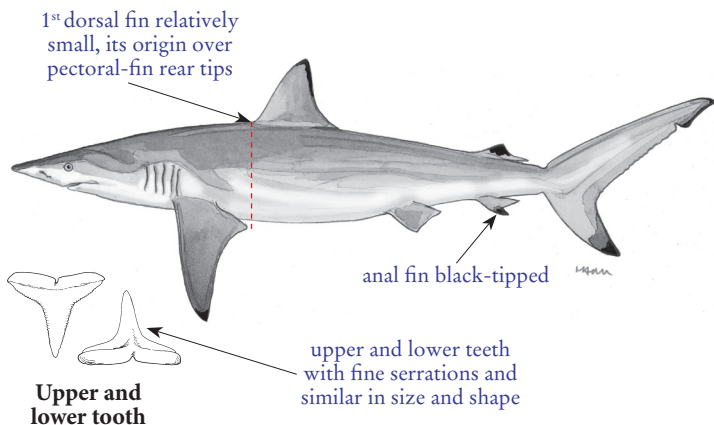
Carcharhinus falciformis – Silky shark

FAL



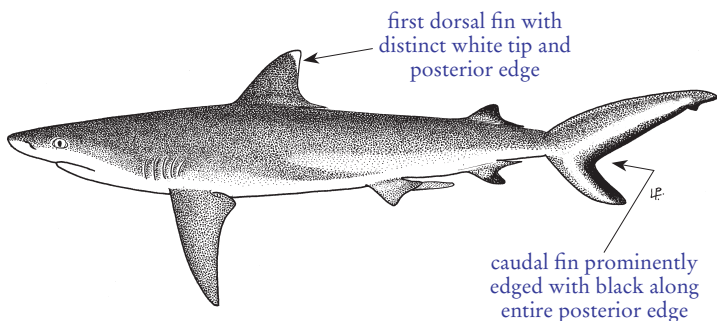
Carcharhinus brevipinna – Spinner shark

CCB

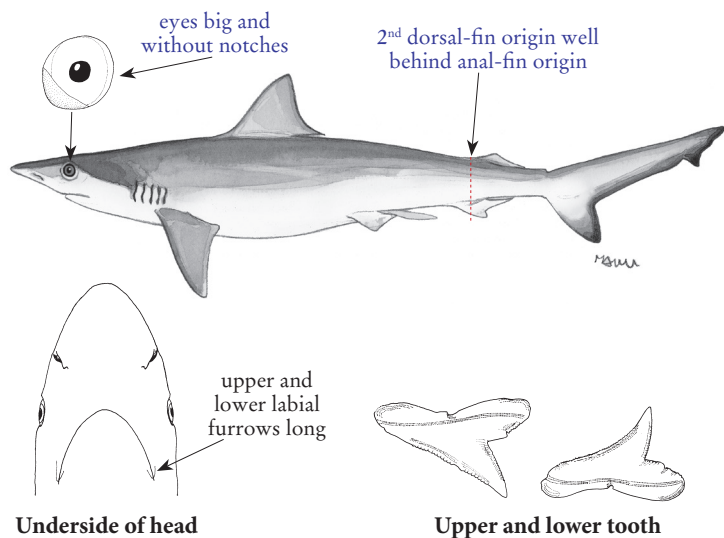


Carcharhinus wheeleri – Blacktail reef shark

CCW



Local names: Autat, Pechecane. عواتات ፕቺካን: አውታት

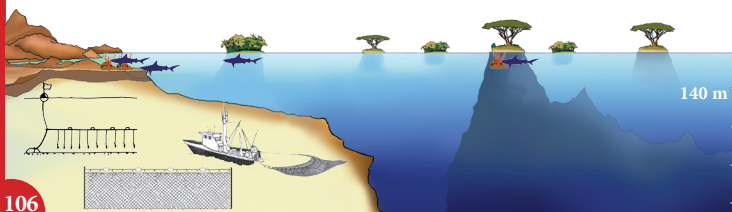
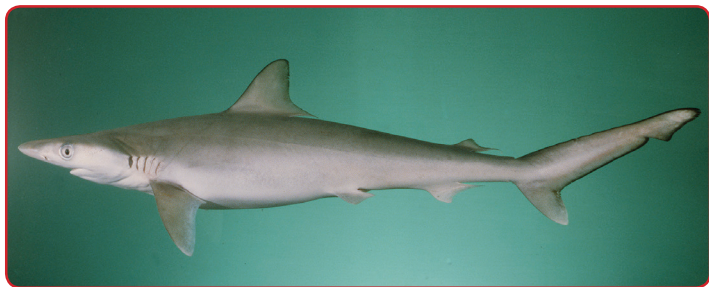


Description: a small shark with a long, narrow, snout.

Colour: grey or grey-brown above, white below; dorsal and anal fins with dusky or blackish edges.



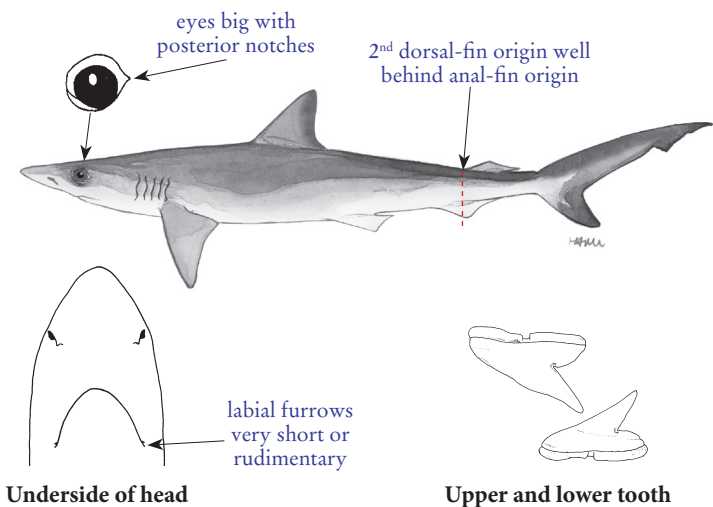
Size: 110 cm
(max. 170 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

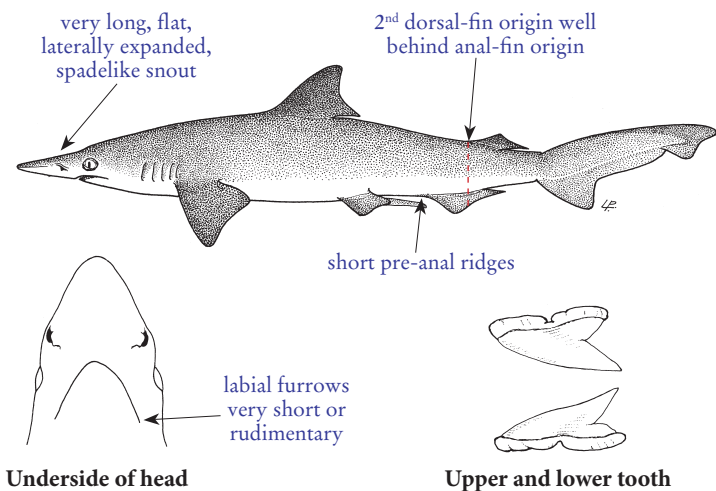
Loxodon macrorhinus – Sliteye shark

CLD

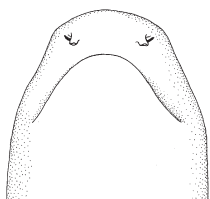
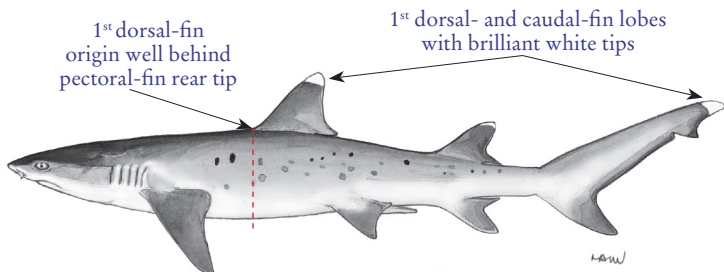


Scoliodon laticaudus – Spadenose shark

SLA

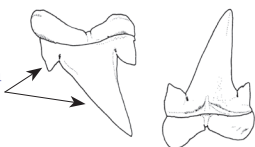


Local names: Sweida, Pechecane. **ጥቺካነ: ስዎይዳ** **سوید ا**



Underside of head

small smooth-edged teeth with strong cusplets in both jaws



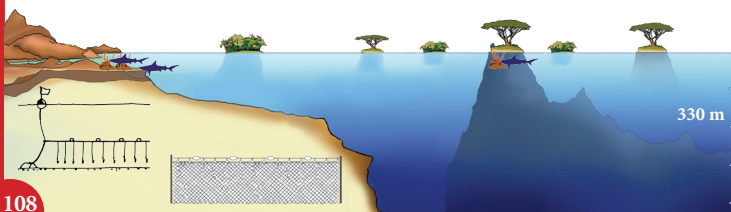
Upper and lower tooth

Description: a small, fairly slender grey requiem shark with an extremely short and broadly rounded snout.

Colour: grey-brown above, white below; sometimes with dark spots on sides.



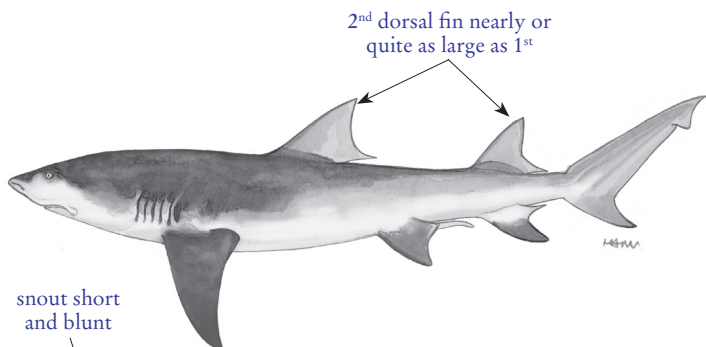
Size: 160 cm
(max. 210 cm)



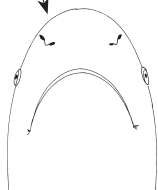
Similar species present in the area:

Negaprion acutidens – Sicklef fin lemon shark

NGA

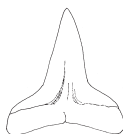
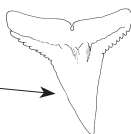


snout short and blunt



Underside of head

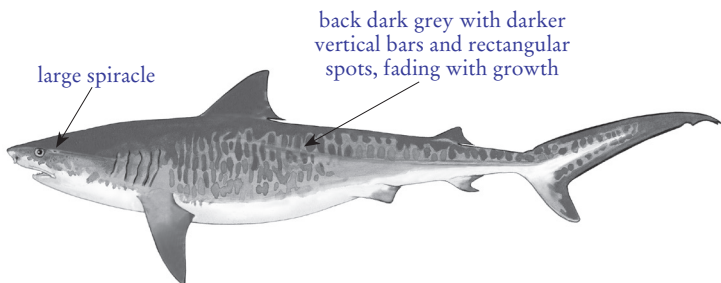
narrow, smooth-cusped teeth in both jaws



Upper and lower tooth

Galeocerdo cuvier – Tiger shark

TIG



large spiracle

back dark grey with darker vertical bars and rectangular spots, fading with growth

snout very short and bluntly rounded



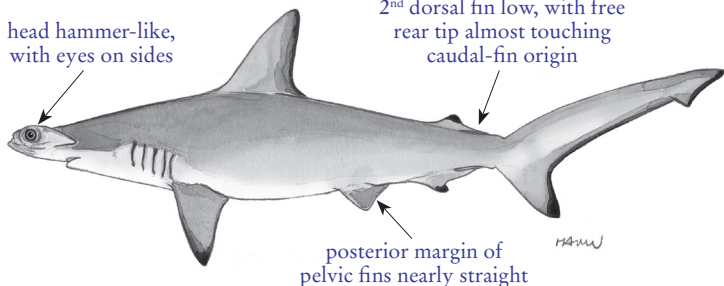
Underside of head

cockscorn-shaped curved teeth with heavy serrations and distal cusplets

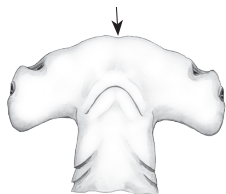


Upper and lower tooth

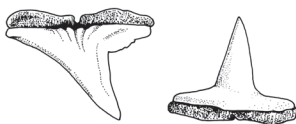
Local names: Gurna, Gurur. قرن، جرور ٧٢٢: ٧٢٢



anterior margin of head convex, with a strong notch in the middle



Underside of head



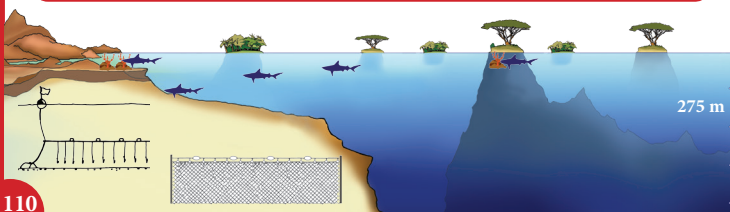
Upper and lower tooth

Description: a large hammerhead with a broad, narrow-bladed head.

Colour: greyish brown or olivaceous above, shading to white below; pectoral fins tipped grey or black ventrally.



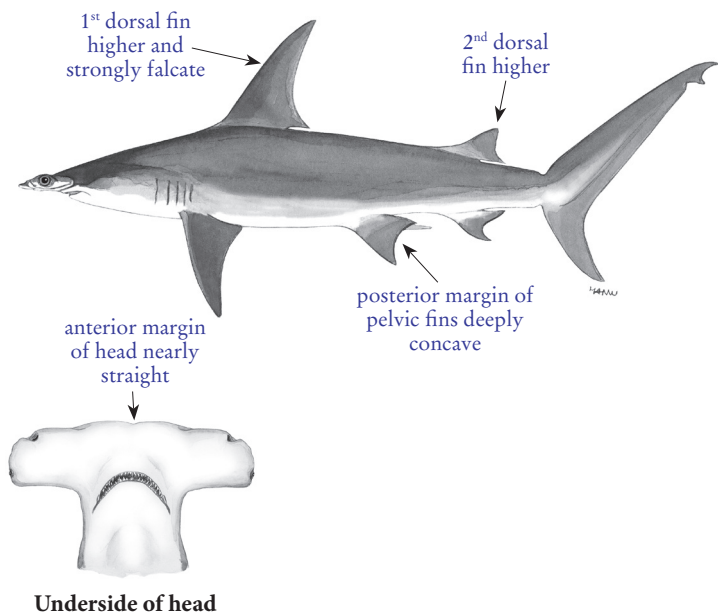
Size: 360 cm (max. 420 cm)



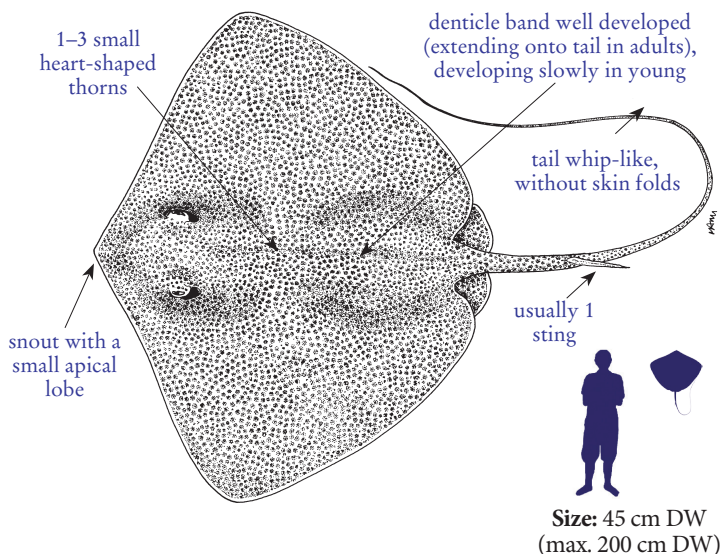
Similar species present in the area:

Sphyrna mokarran – Great hammerhead

SPK

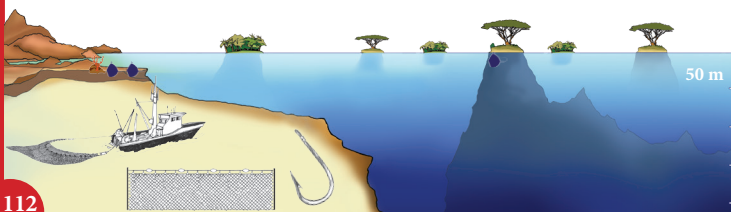


Local names: Abromis, Halai. **አብሮሚስ: ሃላይ** **ابروميس، هالاي**



Description: disc weakly rhombic with narrowly rounded apices.

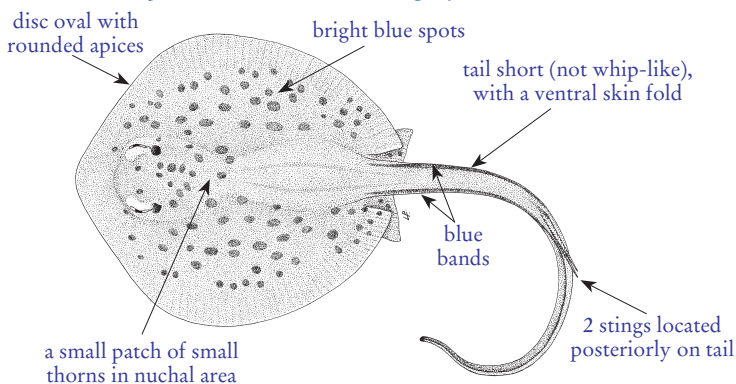
Colour: dorsal surface of adults covered with small brownish spots and flecks; subadults with fine reticulate pattern; newborns with pattern of similar sized, closely set black spots; ventral surface almost entirely white.



Similar species present in the area:

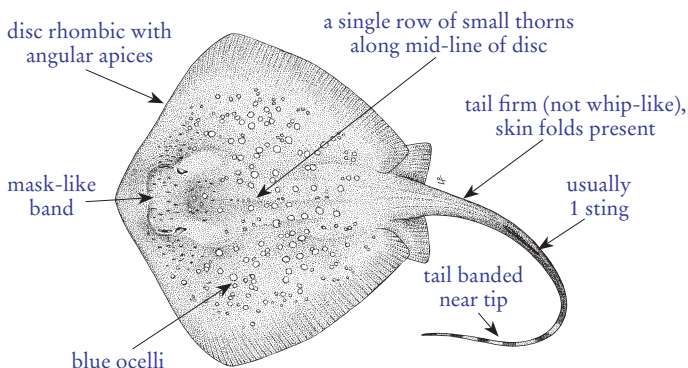
Taeniura lymma – Ribbontail stingray

RTY



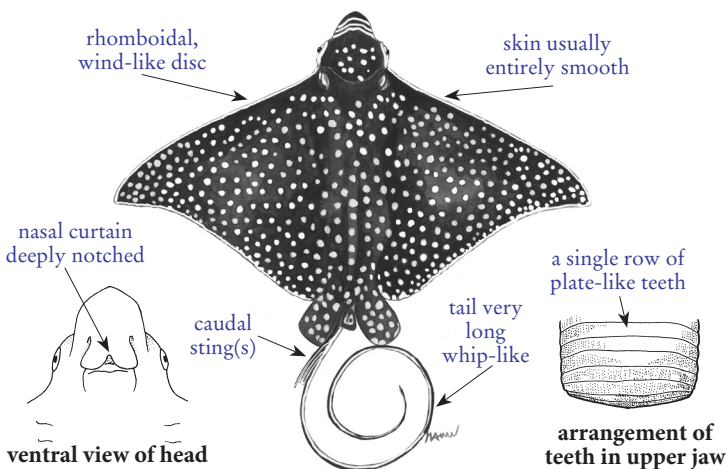
Dasyatis kuhlii – Blue-spotted stingray

RDK



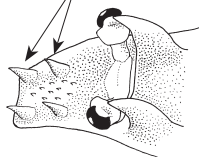
Aetobatus narinari – Spotted eagle ray

MAE



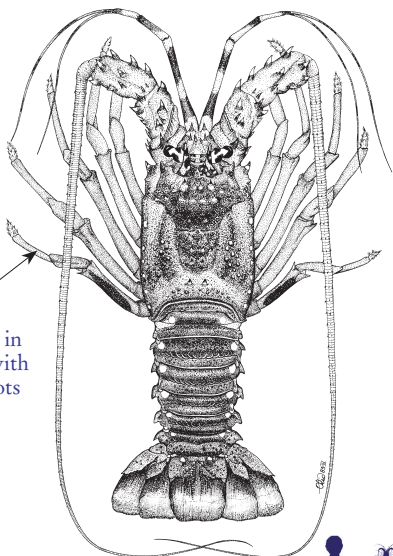
Local names: Langus, Sharkha. شرکا، لانجس ᱫᱷᱟᱱᱵᱟᱫᱽ

four equal-sized
large spines



Antennular plate

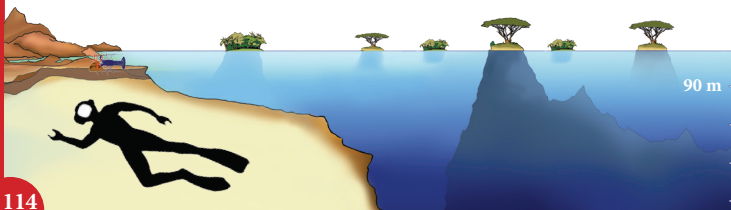
legs rather uniform in
colour, sometimes with
indistinct white spots
and stripes



Description: carapace rounded, covered with numerous spines of various sizes.

Colour: dark greenish to blackish finely spotted with white especially distinct on posterior half of abdomen, without transverse bands.

Size: 25 cm BL
(max. 31 cm BL)

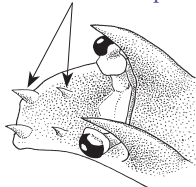


Similar species present in the area:

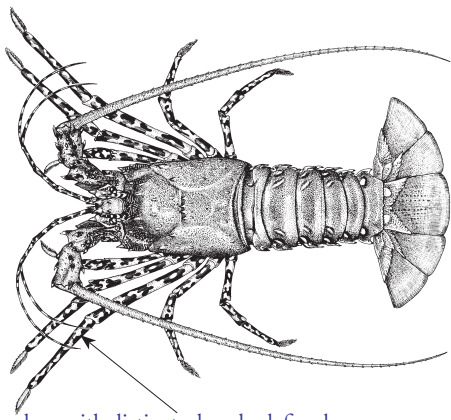
Panulirus ornatus – Ornate spiny lobster

NUR

1 pair of principal spines anteriorly and a 2nd pair, half the size of the first, in middle of the plate



Antennular plate

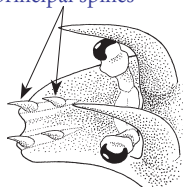


legs with distinct, sharply defined dark and pale blotches

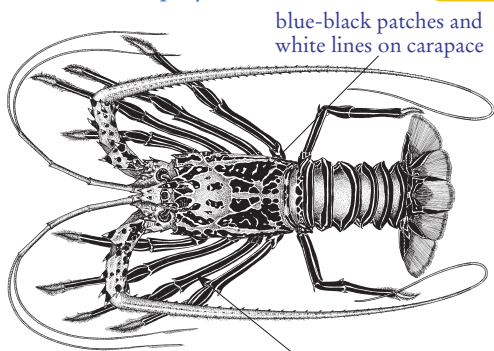
Panulirus versicolor – Painted spiny lobster

NUV

2 pairs of unequal principal spines



Antennular plate



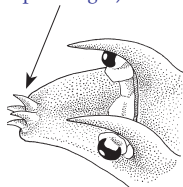
blue-black patches and white lines on carapace

legs longitudinally striped

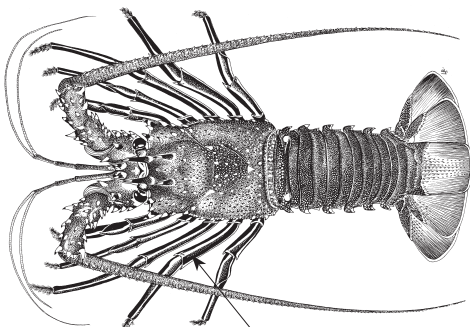
Panulirus penicillatus – Pronghorn spiny lobster

NUP

4 close-set principal spines (posterior pair larger)



Antennular plate

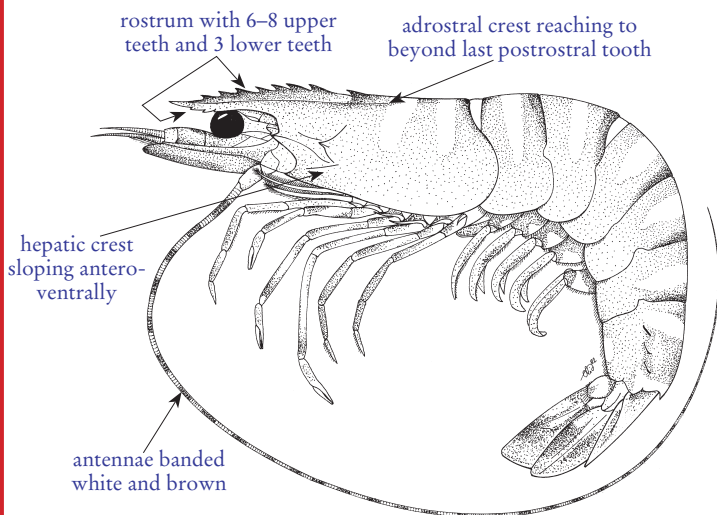


legs conspicuously striped with white lines

Penaeus semisulcatus (De Haan, 1844)

TIP

Local names: Ghamberi. جمبري

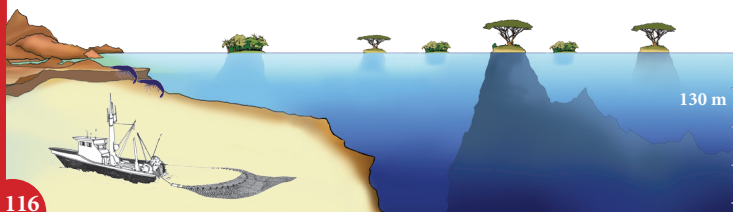


Description: carapace with distinct grooves and crests.

Colour: body pale brown, sometimes greenish; carapace often with 2 yellow-cream dorsal transverse bands; abdomen with brown-grey and pale yellow dorsal transverse bands.



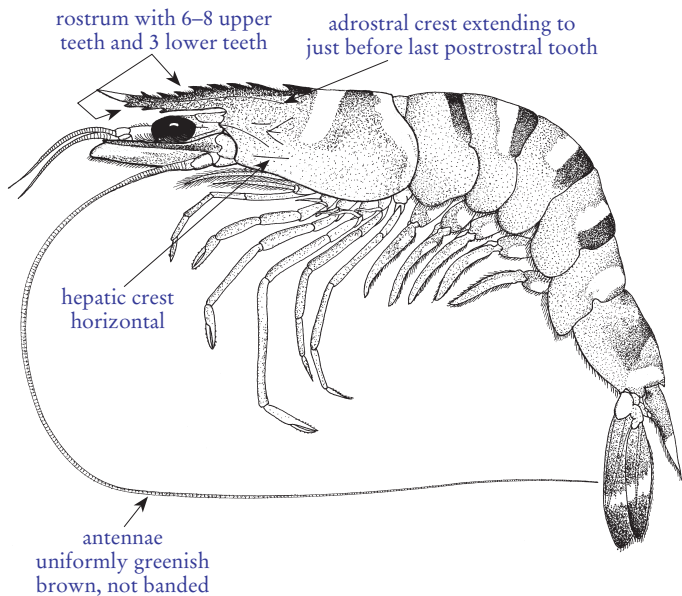
Size: 15 cm BL
(max. 23 cm BL)



Similar species present in the area:

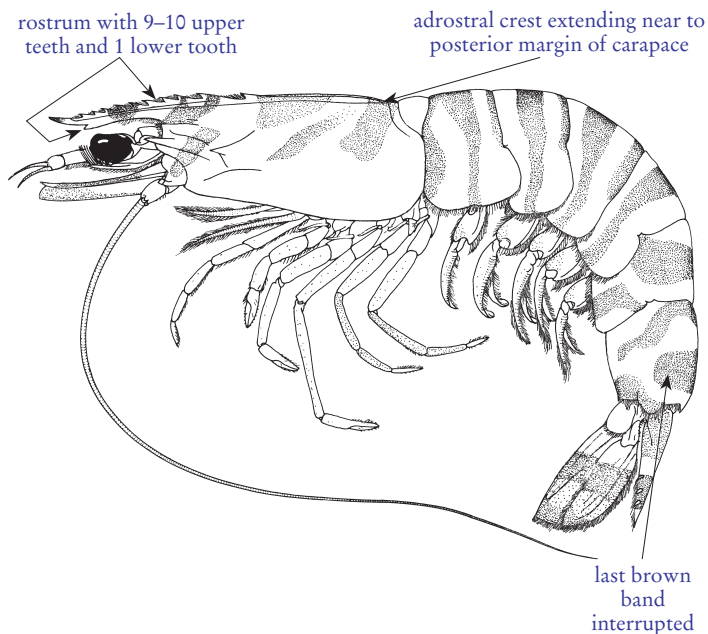
Penaeus monodon – Giant tiger prawn

GIT



Marsupenaeus japonicus – Kuruma prawn

KUP

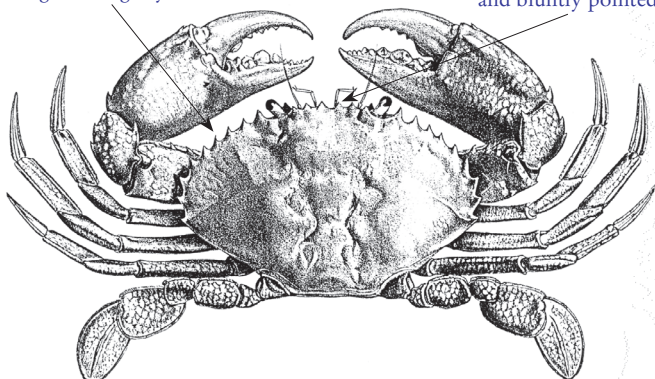


Local names: Abu Mekass, Hinkakre. هنكاكار، ابو مقص

አቡ መቀስ፡ ሒንካክረ

anterolateral carapace spines
narrow, with outer margin
straight or slightly concave

frontal lobe spines high
and bluntly pointed



Description: carapace smooth, with strong transversal ridges.

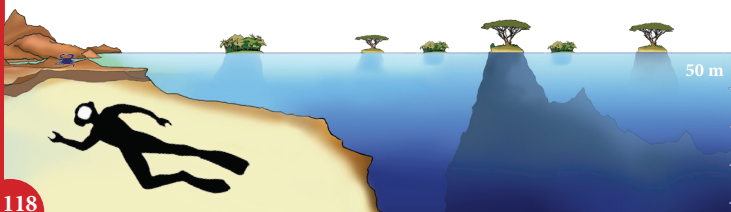
Colour: variable from purple through green to brown/black depending on habitat; chelipeds and legs all with polygonal patterning for both sexes and on abdomen of female only.



Size: 15 cm CW
(max. 28 cm CW)



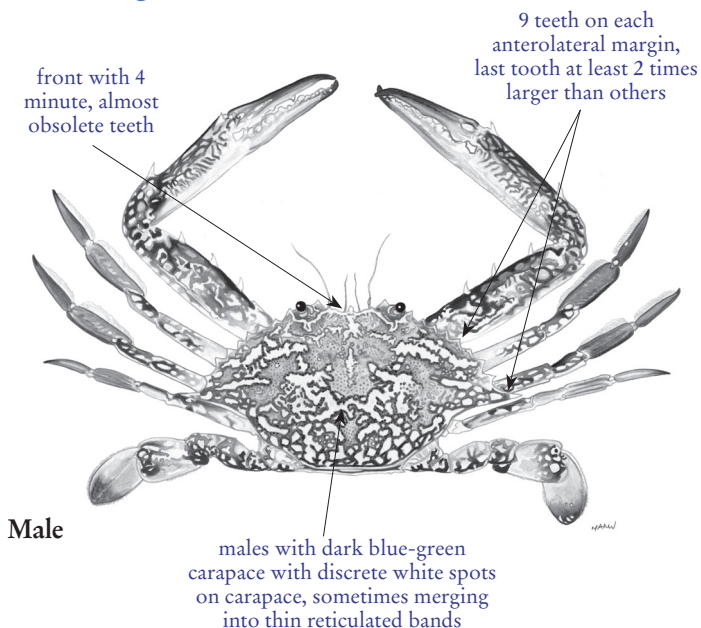
© Almandine / CC BY-SA 4.0



Similar species present in the area:

Portunus segnis - Arabian Flower Crab

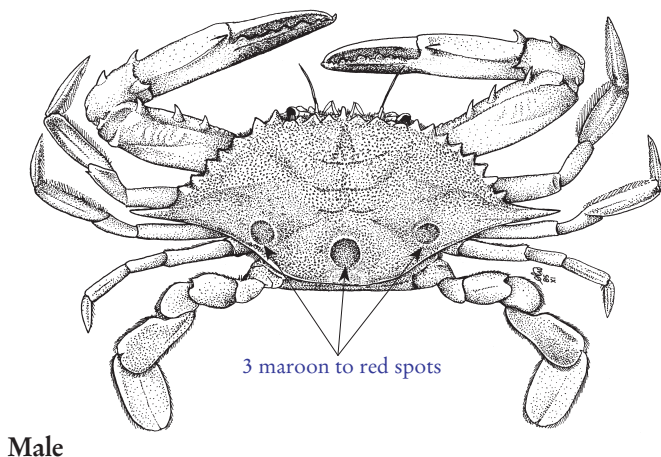
QSO



Note: females have a similar colour pattern to males except that tips of chelipeds are red tinged with brownish red instead of blue tinged with deep rust red.

Portunus sanguinolentus - Three-spot swimming crab

UNG



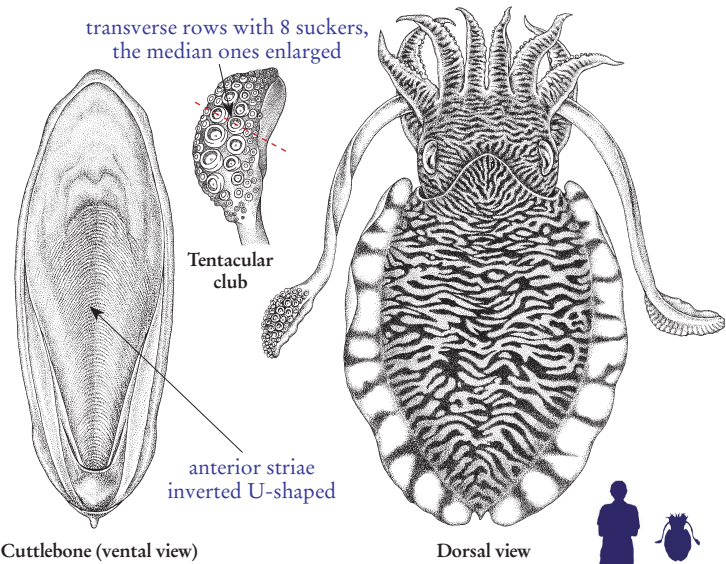
Pharaoh cuttlefish

SEPIIIDAE

Sepia pharaonis Ehrenberg, 1831

IAH

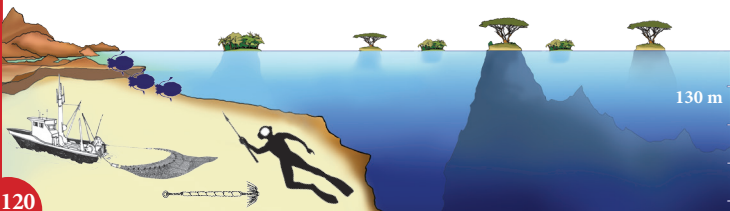
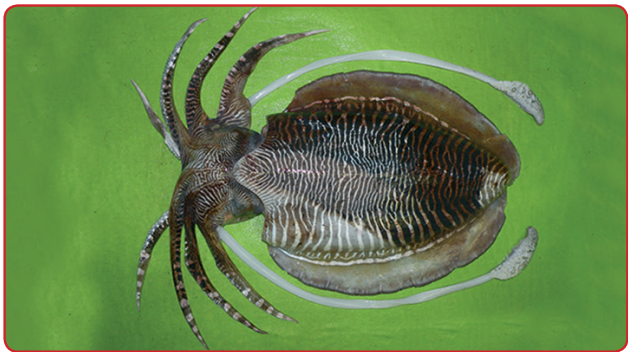
Local names: Ummel Hibir; Abu Midad. **ام الحبر**
አቡ ሚዳድ፡ ኡመል ሕብር



Description: mantle oval.

Colour: pale brownish or reddish purple; head and arms with transverse zebra-stripe pattern.

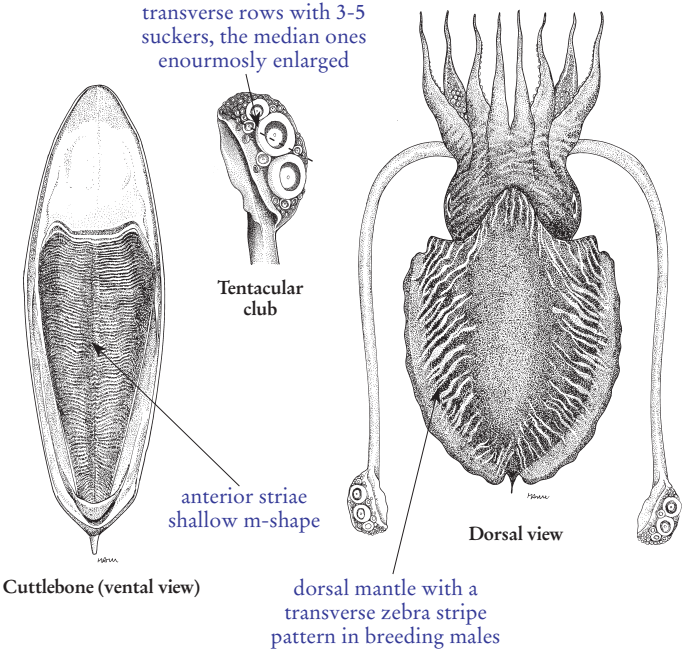
Size: 30 cm ML (max. 42 cm ML)



Similar species present in the area:

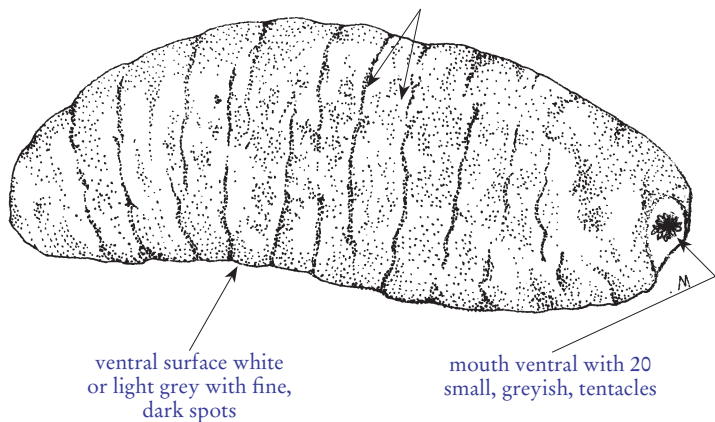
Sepia prashadi – Hooded cuttlefish

EJH



HFC

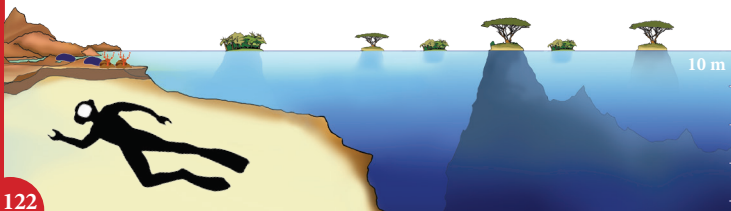
dorsal surface with deep (3 mm) wrinkles
and short (1.5 mm) papillae



Colour: colour variable; in the Indian Ocean, it is usually dark grey with white, beige or yellow transverse stripes.



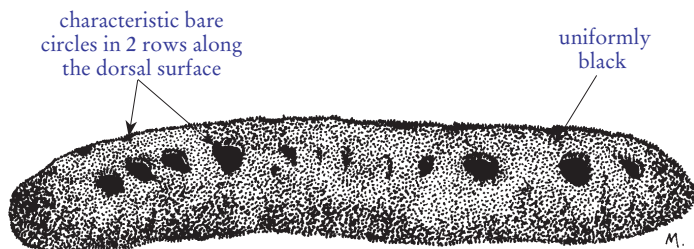
Size: 24 cm
(max. 40 cm)



Similar species present in the area:

Holoturia atra – Lollyfish

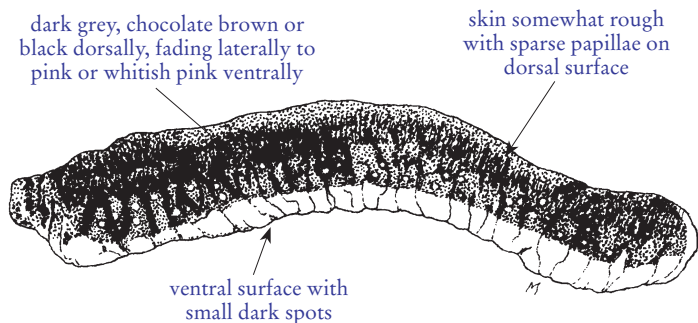
HFA



Note: this species has three morphs: a small morph (common) that is smooth and covered with sand; a morph on reef crests that has a rippled dorsal surface; and a large morph with little sand on its body, occurring more commonly in deeper waters.

Holoturia edulis – Pinkfish

HFE

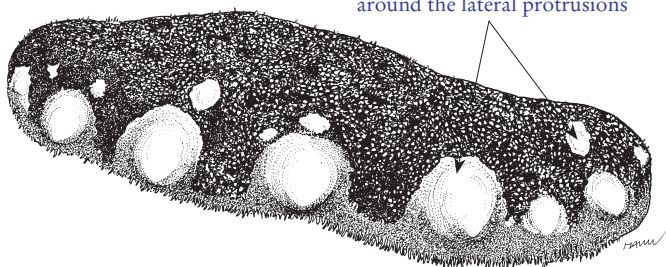


Holoturia nobilis – Black teatfish

HFN

body suboval, stout and very firm, arched dorsally and strongly flattened ventrally

black dorsally with white blotches and spots on the sides of the animal and around the lateral protrusions



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This pocket guide includes a selection of species common in the coastal marine fisheries of Eritrea and is intended to help fishery workers collecting catch data in the field in their identification.

The format of the pocket guide was developed for use by non-taxonomists and to facilitate communication with practitioners (fishers and marketers). For this purpose, the most common local names are included.

To aid in quick identification, the pocket guide includes a colour-coded grouping of species based on simple morphological characteristics (i.e. the size and position of the dorsal and anal fins) as well as symbols for maximum sizes, ecological preferences and catch methods.

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