

LOBOT

1983

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

LOBOTIDAE

Tripletails

A single species in the area,* see species sheet for:

Lobotes surinamensis (Bloch, 1790) LOBOT Lobot 1

Prepared by P. Heemstra, J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Grahamstown, South Africa

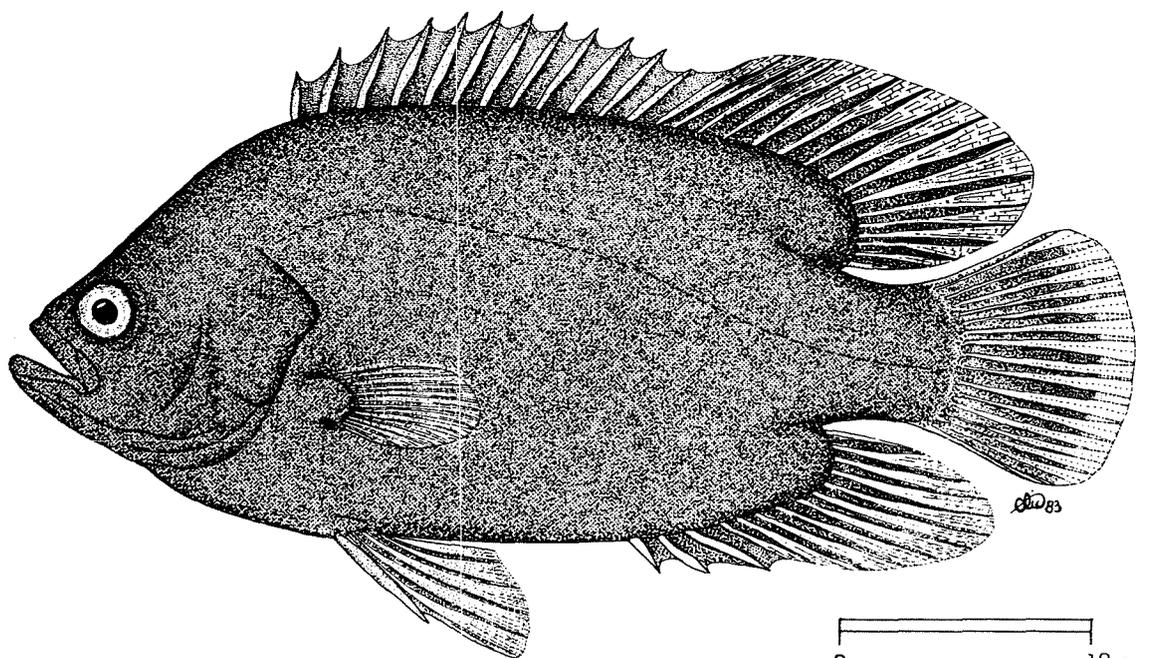
* Datnioides has been assigned to this family by some authors, but the two known species of that genus are not closely related to Lobotes

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LOBOTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Lobotes surinamensis* (Bloch, 1790)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Tripletail (= Atlantic tripletail, Areas 34/47)
 Fr - Croupia roche
 Sp - Dormilona

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body deep, somewhat compressed, the depth much greater than head length. Eye small, its diameter contained 4.5 to 8.3 times in head length; upper jaw slightly protrusible; no supramaxilla; jaws with an outer row of short, close-set canines and an inner band of much smaller teeth; vomer, palatines (roof of mouth) and tongue toothless; nostrils round, close together; preopercle coarsely serrate; opercle with 1 or 2 flat spines; branchiostegal rays 6; gill membranes narrowly united, free from isthmus; gillrakers 6 or 7 upper and 15 lower on first gill arch. Caudal peduncle deep, its depth greater than its length. Dorsal fin with 11 to 13 strong spines and 13 to 16 soft rays, soft dorsal and anal fins large and broadly rounded, reaching past base of caudal fin; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 to 12 soft rays; with the rounded caudal fin, the fish appears to have three tails. Scales fairly large, weakly ctenoid; head scaly, except for preorbital region and jaws; lateral line scales 42 to 45 (+5 on caudal fin).

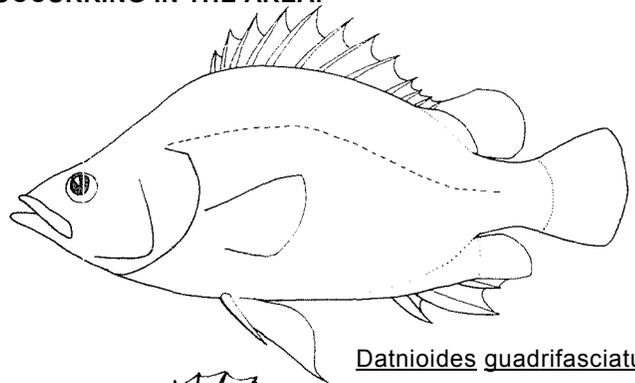
Colour: olive to dark brown, mottled with dark spots; juveniles yellow with darker spots.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Datnioides quadrifasciatus (assigned to this Family by other authors): second anal fin spine longer than third; upper jaw very protrusible; lateral line scales 55 to 62 (42 to 45 in L. surinamensis).

Aethaloperca rogae (Serranidae): 9 dorsal spines; teeth on vomer and palatines; caudal fin truncate.

Plectorhynchus nigrus (Pomadasyidae): 14 dorsal fin spines; 7 anal fin rays 9 to 12 in L. surinamensis).



Datnioides quadrifasciatus

SIZE:

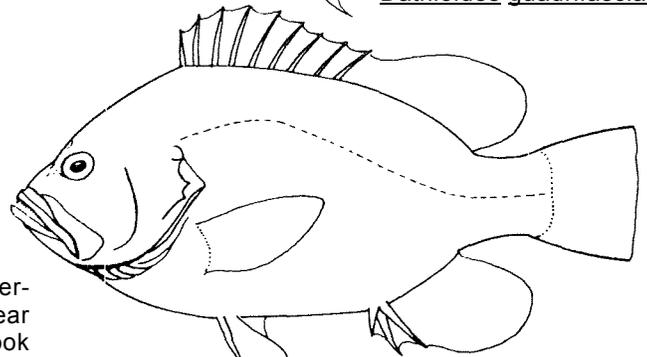
Maximum: 100 cm; common to 50 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Worldwide in tropical and subtropical waters.

A sluggish fish, inhabiting coastal waters and entering muddy estuaries; also found well offshore near floating objects. Juveniles float on their sides and look remarkably, like dead mangrove leaves.

Food consists mainly of bottom-dwelling crustaceans and small fish.



Aethaloperca rogae (Serranidae)

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

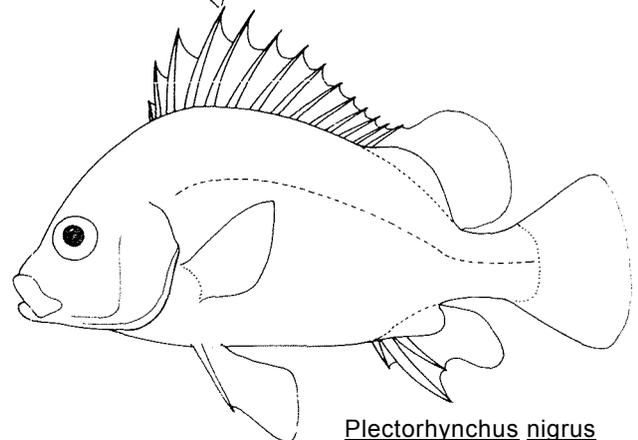
Coastal waters throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with beach seines, gillnets, traps and on hook and line. A strong fighting sport fish.

An excellent food fish; marketed fresca or frozen.



Plectorhynchus nigrus
(Pomadasyidae)

