

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

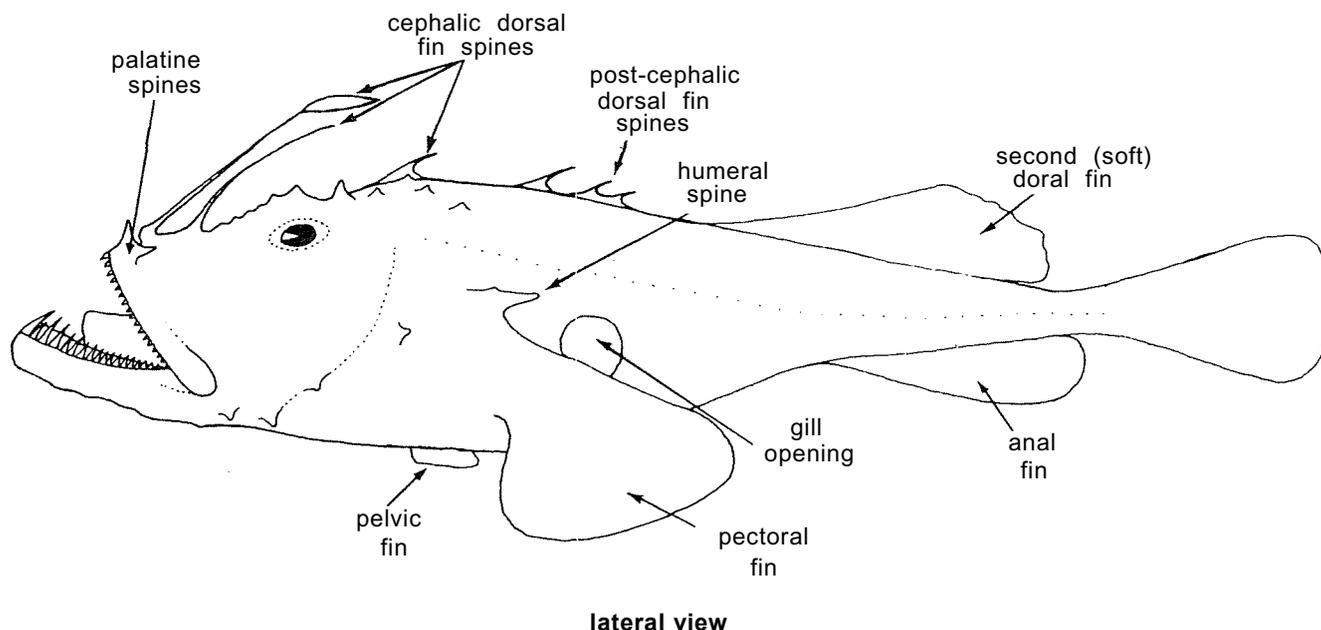
FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

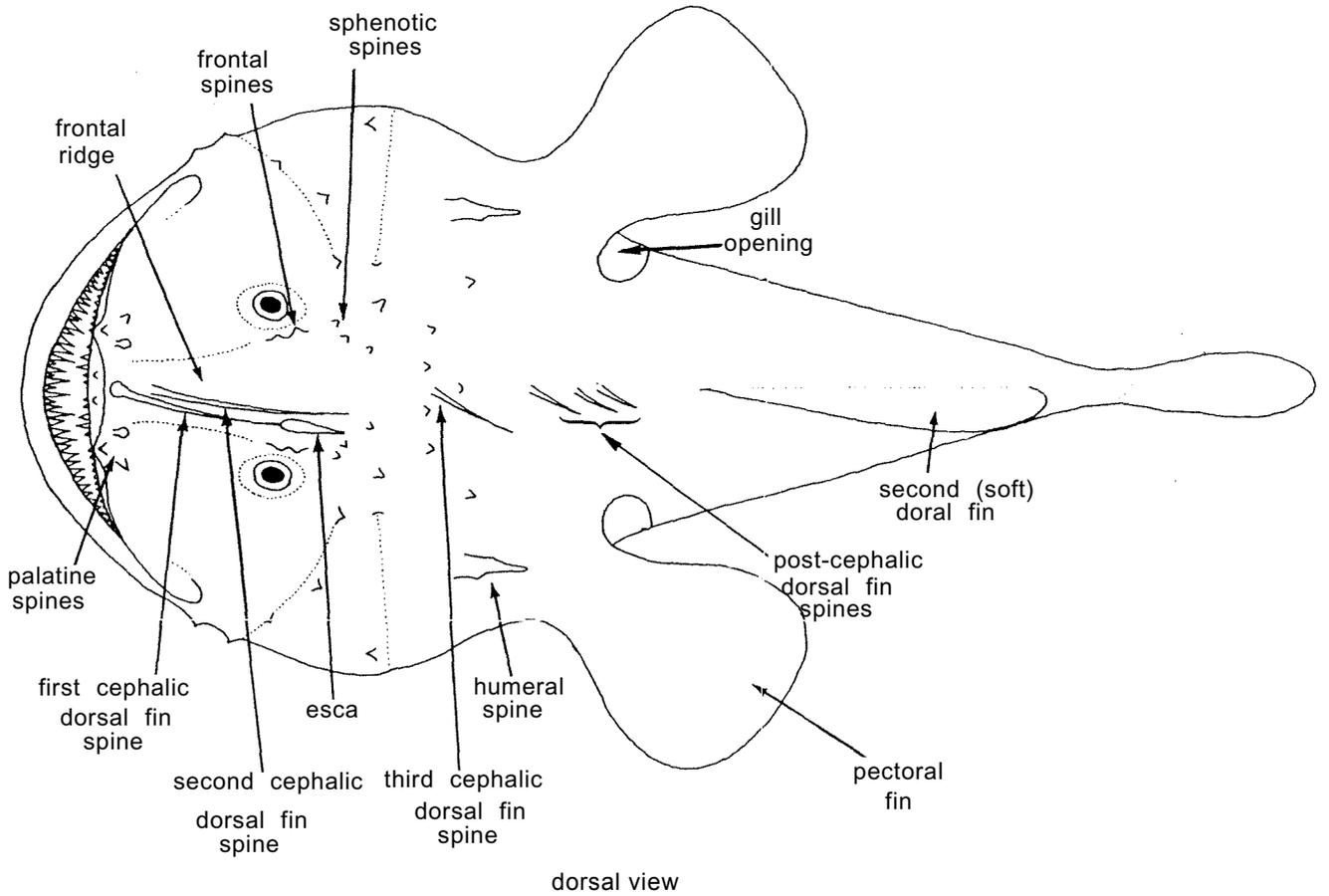
## LOPHIIDAE

## Anglerfishes

Head and anterior part of body much depressed and very broad, in most genera, but broadly rounded in *Sladenia*; posterior portion of body tapering. Head rounded, bearing numerous sharp spines and ridges on dorsal and lateral surfaces, the most conspicuous of which are the following: one very large, prominent spine or group of spines immediately anterior to each pectoral fin base (humeral spines) absent in *Sladenia*); one pair of sharp prominent spines on either side of snout, immediately behind mouth (palatine spines); a bony ridge above eyes with 2 or 3 short spines (frontal spines), and 2 bony ridges on snout running forward from eyes (frontal ridges); interorbital space slightly concave. Mouth very large and wide, upper jaw protractile and the lower projecting, both bearing numerous long, sharp, depressible teeth; gill openings fairly large, low in pectoral fin axil, sometimes extending forward in front of pectoral fin base. Two separate dorsal fins, the first composed of 2 or 3 isolated slender spines on head (cephalic spines), and the second of 1 to 3 spines (often connected by a membrane, at least in juveniles) at the level of pectoral fins (post-cephalic spines); the first 2 cephalic spines are located at anterior end of snout, the foremost modified into an angling apparatus, usually bearing a fleshy appendage (esca) at tip; the third cephalic spine, when present, is located much further back, between eyes and humeral spines; pectoral fin rays unbranched, terminating in small fleshy filaments; pelvic fins on ventral surface of head, anterior to pectoral fins; anal fin with 6 to 11 soft rays, below second dorsal fin; caudal fin with 8 rays, the 2 outer rays unbranched. Lateral line present, but usually indistinct. Skin smooth, naked, often with fleshy flaps on head and/or body (well visible only when fish is immersed in fluid).

Colour: dorsal surface usually uniform light to dark brown or grey (changing with substrate), lighter on ventral surface; distinctive markings present in some species.





Lophiid anglerfishes are benthic. Within the area, they inhabit the outer shelf and upper slope waters at depths ranging from 70 to about 800 m.

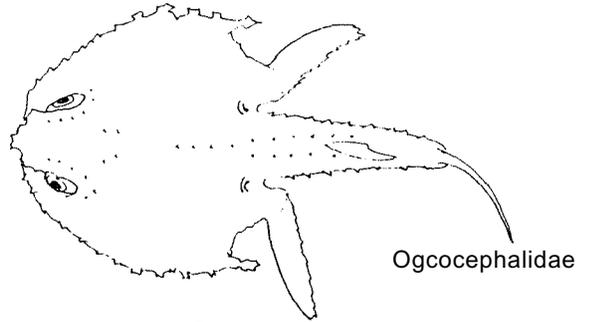
**SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Ogcocephalidae: fishing lure small, placed in a depression between snout tip and mouth; head broader and more strongly depressed, devoid of long, slender dorsal fin spines; mouth very small, without long and sharp teeth.

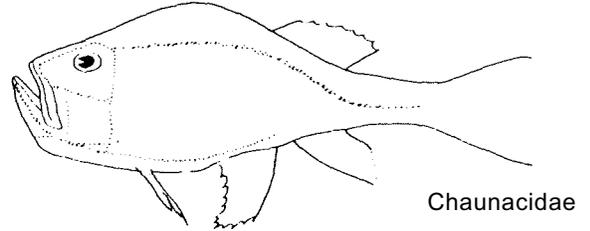
Chaunacidae: body rounded, not flattened; head cuboid, devoid of long, slender dorsal fin spines; mouth large, but without long, sharp teeth; skin loose, covered with small spiny scales; lateral line conspicuous; colour deep pink or reddish.

Antennariidae: body short, globose, slightly compressed; teeth small, villiform.

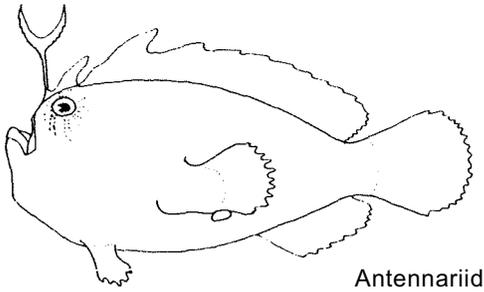
Bathypelagic anglerfish families: no pelvic fins; second and third dorsal fin spines greatly reduced or absent; also, body shape different.



Ogcocephalidae



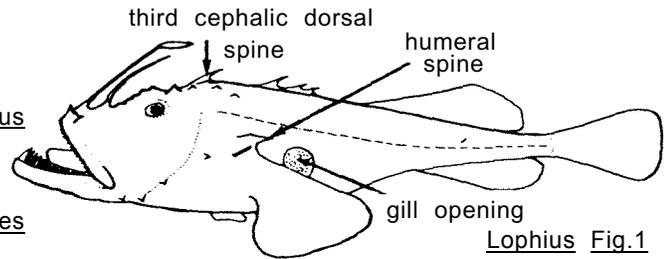
Chaunacidae



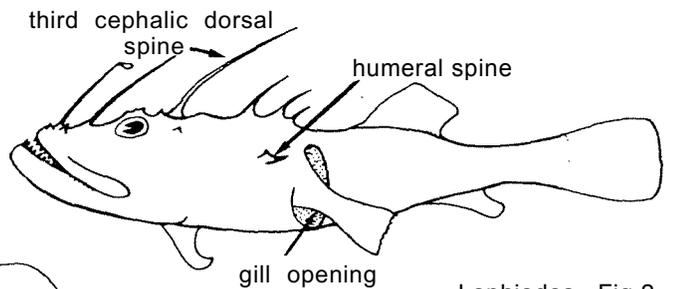
Antennariidae

**KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA**

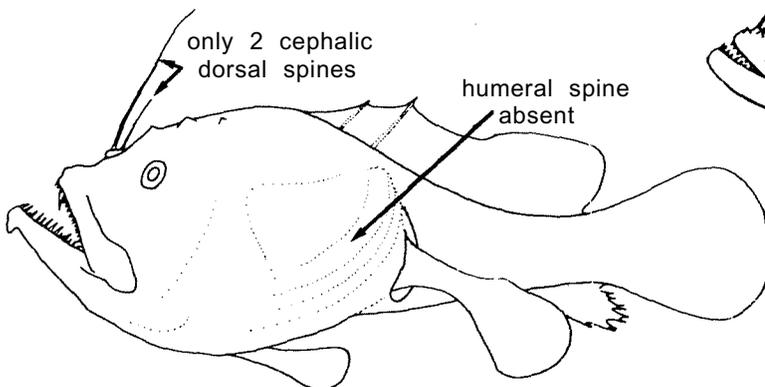
- 1a. Third cephalic dorsal fin spine present, length variable (Figs. 1,2); head and body depressed; humeral spines present.
  - 2a. Frontal ridges rugose, bearing low spines, knobs, or ridges; gill openings not extending in front of pectoral fins (Fig.1); pectoral fin rays 19 to 28
  - 3a. Floor of mouth with a distinct reticular pattern; soft dorsal fin rays 8; anal fin rays 6; vertebrae 19..... Lophiomus
  - 3b. Floor of mouth dusky or pale, without a distinct reticular pattern; soft dorsal fin rays 9 to 12; anal fin rays 8 to 11; vertebrae 26 to 31..... Lophius
- 2b. Frontal ridges smooth; gill openings extending in front of pectoral fins (Fig.2); pectoral fin rays 14 to 21..... Lophiodes
- 1b. Third cephalic dorsal fin spine absent; head and body rounded, not depressed; humeral spines absent (Fig.3)



Lophius Fig.1



Lophiodes Fig.2



Sladenia Fig.3

**LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included

<u>Lophiodes gracilimanus</u> (Alcock, 1899)	
<u>Lophiodes insidiator</u> (Regan, 1921)	LOPH Lophio 2
<u>Lophiodes mutilus</u> (Alcock, 1893)	LOPH Lophio 3
<u>Lophiomus setigerus</u> (Vahl, 1797)	LOPH Lophiom 1
<u>Lophius upsicephalus</u> Smith, 1849	LOPH Lophiu 6
* <u>Lophius vomerinus</u> Valenciennes, 1837	
** <u>Sladenia gardineri</u> Regan, 1908	

Prepared by J.H. Caruso, Department of Biology, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, USA

Original main species illustrations provided by author

\*Known from three specimens: two from off Cape of Good Hope and one from off Burma

\*\*Known from a single specimen collected off the Chagos Archipelago

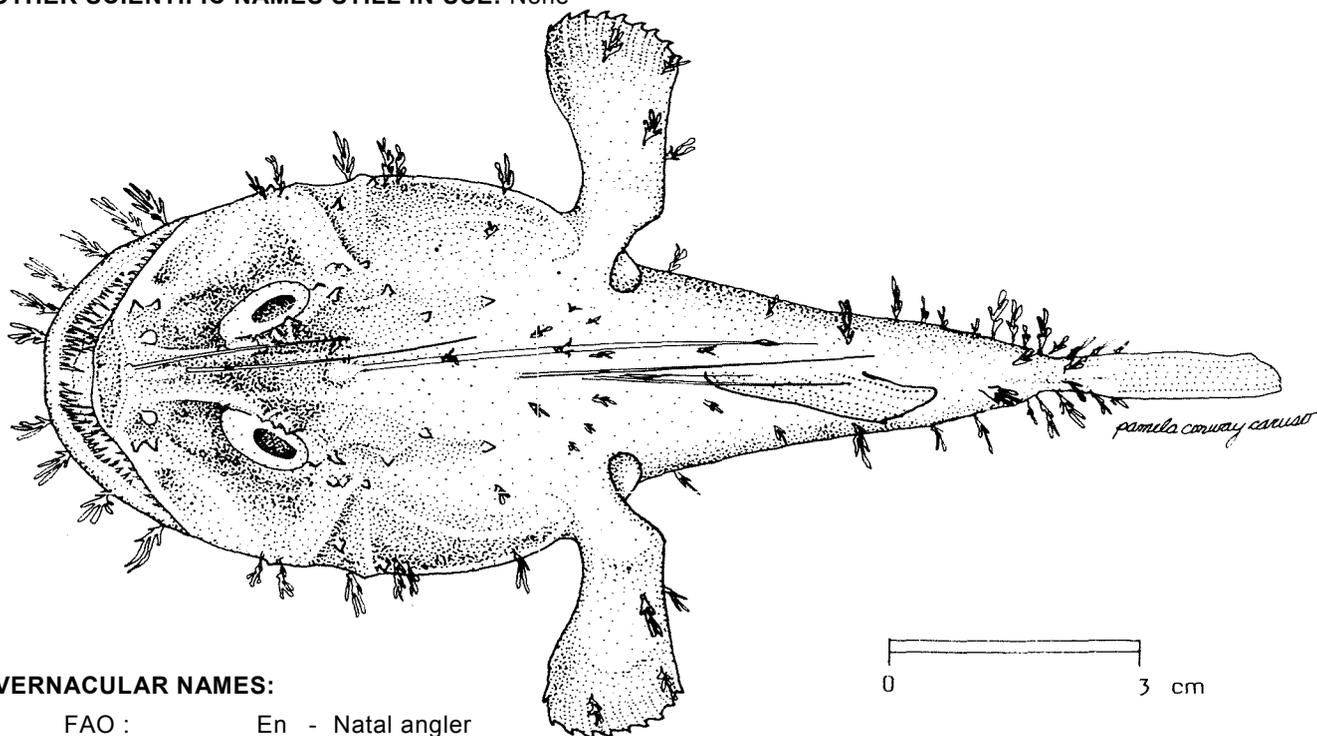
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LOPHIIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

*Lophiodes insidiator* (Regan, 1921)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

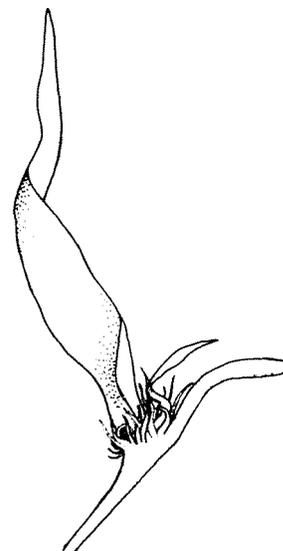
- FAO : En - Natal angler
- Fr - Baudroie du Natal
- Sp - Rape de Natal

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Head and anterior part of body broad and depressed, posterior portion of body tapering. Head with numerous sharp spines on dorsal and lateral surfaces; humeral spines (in front of pectoral fin bases) well developed, with 2 or 3 spines arising from sides; inner sphenotic spines (behind eyes) well developed and strongly recurved, outer sphenotic spines represented by low knobs; frontal ridges (running forward from eyes) smooth; gill openings extending well in front of pectoral fin bases; snout very long and narrow. First dorsal fin consisting of 3 isolated spines on head cephalic spines and a group of 3 long, slender spines behind head (post-cephalic spines); first cephalic dorsal fin spine modified into an angling apparatus bearing a fleshy bait (esca) consisting of short cirri, a prominent translucent bulb and a pennant-like flap; second cephalic dorsal fin spine distinctly longer than first; second soft dorsal fin with 8 rays; anal fin with 6 rays; pectoral fins with 14 to 16 rays. Peritoneum solid black.

Colour: uniform dark brown above, lighter below; ventral surface of pectoral fin becoming darker distally; all fin rays with pale tips.



esca

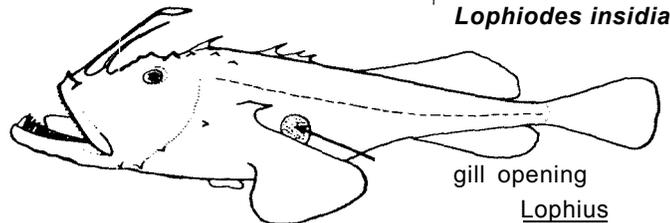
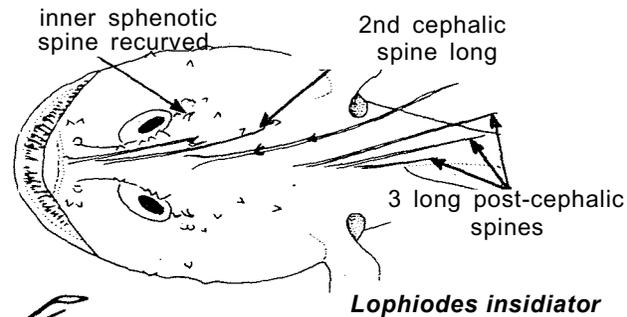
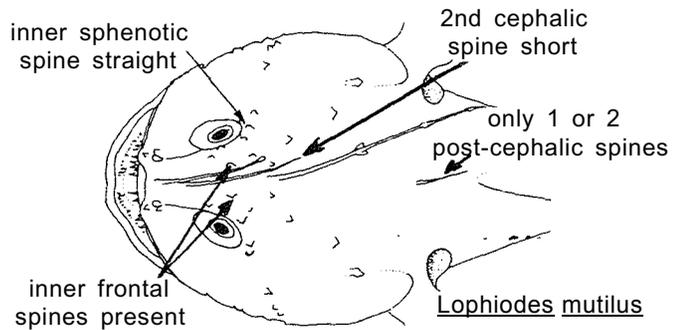
**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Lophiodes racilimanus (presently known only from Arabian Sea off India): very similar, but with pale peritoneum; second cephalic dorsal fin spine usually longer; and 14 to 18 pectoral fin rays (14 to 16 in L. insidiator).

Lophiodes mutilus: 1 or 2 reduced or imbedded post-cephalic dorsal fin spines; inner sphenotic spines not recurved; a pair of spines medial (nearer to midline) to frontal spines present (absent in L. insidiator); second cephalic dorsal fin spine usually not as long; esca a simple bulb lacking cirri or pennant-like flap.

Lophiomus and Lophius species: frontal ridges rugose; gill openings not extending in front of pectoral fin bases; pectoral fin rays 19 to 28; post-cephalic dorsal fin spines short; inner and outer sphenotic spines both well developed.

Sladenia species: third cephalic dorsal fin spine absent; head and body rounded, not depressed; humeral spines absent.



**SIZE:**

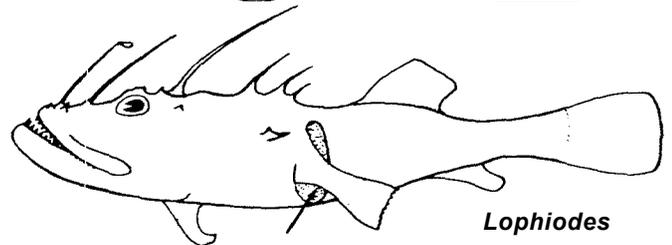
Maximum: 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

**GLOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Presently known from off the southwestern coast of Africa (Madagascar to southern South Africa).

An exclusively benthic species found at depths between 200 and 600 m.

Feeds mainly on fishes.



**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

At present, there is no special fishery for this species.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

