

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

SYNAXIDAE

Furry lobsters

A single species in the area; see species sheet for:

Palinurellus wianeckii (De Man, 1881) SYNAX Pali 2

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SYNAXIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Palinurellus wieneckii (De Man, 1881)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Palinurellus gundlachi wieneckii (De Man, 1881)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

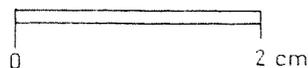
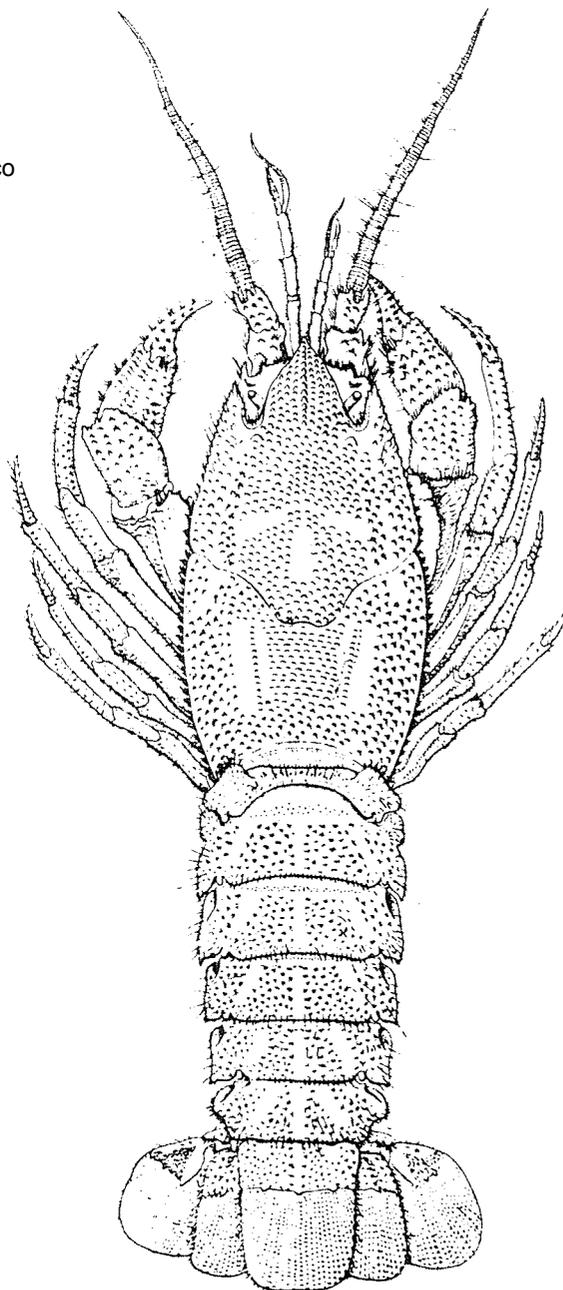
FAO : En - Indo-Pacific furry lobster
 Fr - Cacahouète Indopacifique
 Sp - Langosteta del Indo-Pacífico

NATIONAL

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A small lobster. Carapace long and rounded, entirely covered with small, rounded nodules and short hair, but without enlarged spines; a small triangular rostrum present between eyes; frontal horns absent. Antennae shorter than carapace, antennular flagella shorter than antennular peduncles. Abdominal segments hairy like the carapace, with a low smooth keel along dorsal midline, but without transverse grooves. Legs without true pincers, the first pair not longer than, but at least twice as thick as the second.

Colour: uniformly bright orange or orange-red.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

The small size, hairy body and the uniformly bright orange or orange-red colour distinguish this species at first sight from any other lobster in the area. The spiny lobsters (Family Palinuridae) are superficially similar in shape and they also lack pincers, but can be easily distinguished by their larger size, the presence of spines on the carapace, (including a pair of strong frontal horns), the long antennae and the absence of a median flattened triangular rostrum.

SIZE:

Maximum: total body length about 20 cm, maximum carapace length about 8 cm; common total body length 10 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

There are scattered finds throughout the Indo-West Pacific region. Within Fishing Area 51, the species has been reported from South Africa (Natal) and Mauritius. Outside the area, from west Sumatra, north Borneo, Japan (Amami Islands), the Caroline Islands, and the Tuamotu Archipelago. Larvae probably referable to this species have been reported from the Philippines, New Caledonia, Hawaii and Polynesia.

This rather rare species seems to inhabit coral reefs and probably lives in depths of a few metres.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

There is no special fishery for the species. Occasional specimens may be taken by divers.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Too rare and too small to be of significant importance as food. It can be kept in tropical marine aquaria and has caught the interest of the aquarium trade.

