click for previous page

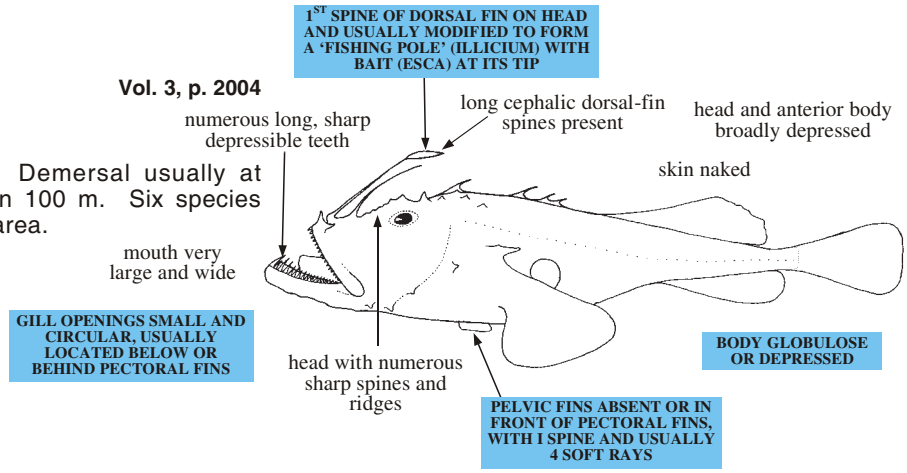
Order LOPHIIFORMES - Anglerfishes and allies

LOPHIIDAE

Vol. 3, p. 2004

Anglerfishes

To about 40 cm. Demersal usually at depths greater than 100 m. Six species recorded from the area.

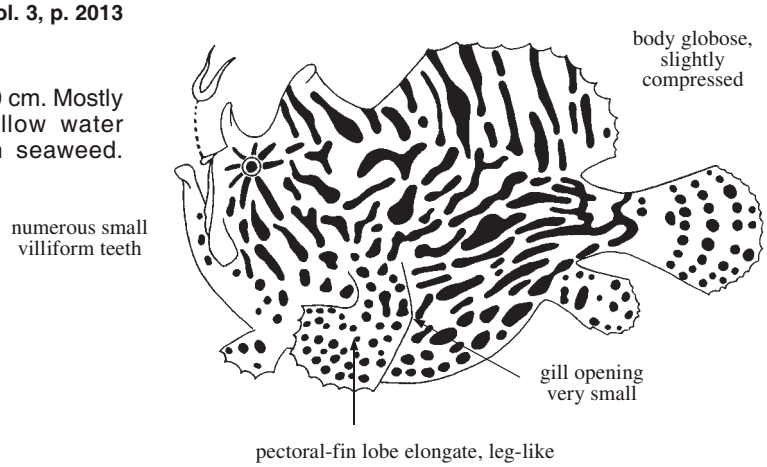


ANTENNARIIDAE

Vol. 3, p. 2013

Frogfishes

To 50 cm but usually less than 20 cm. Mostly demersal in a variety of shallow water habitats; one species floats in seaweed. Twenty-one species in the area.

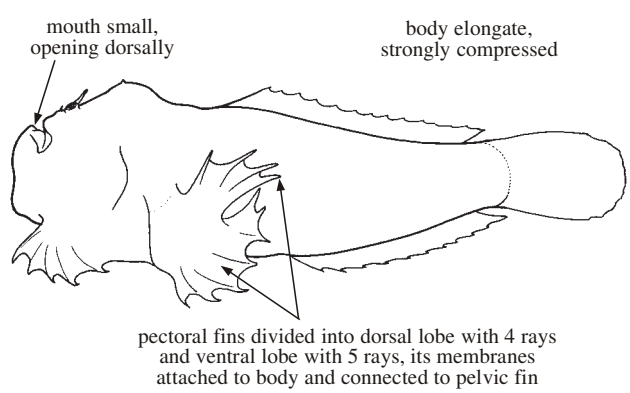


TETRABRACHIIDAE

Vol. 3, p. 2016

Doublefin frogfish

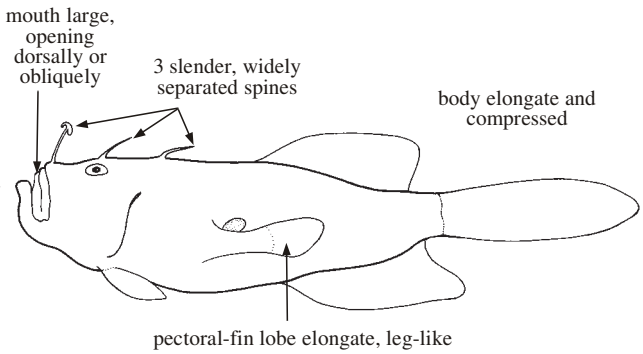
To 8 cm. Rare, presumably demersal in shallow water. A single species in the area. Sometimes considered a subfamily of the Antennariidae.



LOPHICHTHYIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2018**

Boschma's frogfish

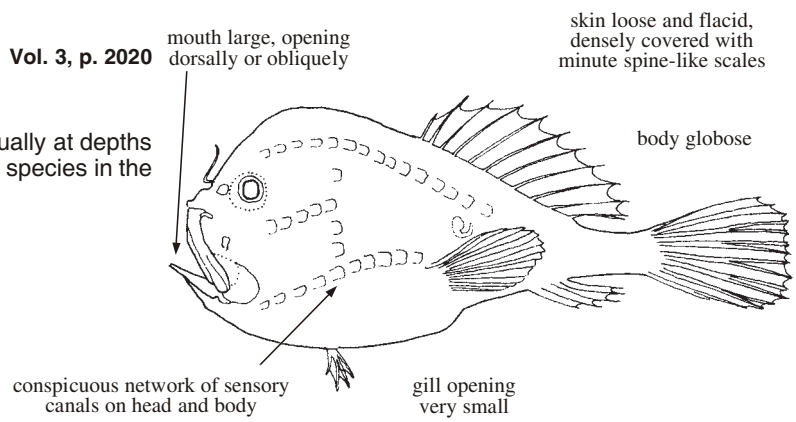
To 7.5 cm. Rare, presumably demersal in shallow water. A single species known from the area. Sometimes considered a subfamily of the Antennariidae.



CHAUNACIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2020**

Sea toads

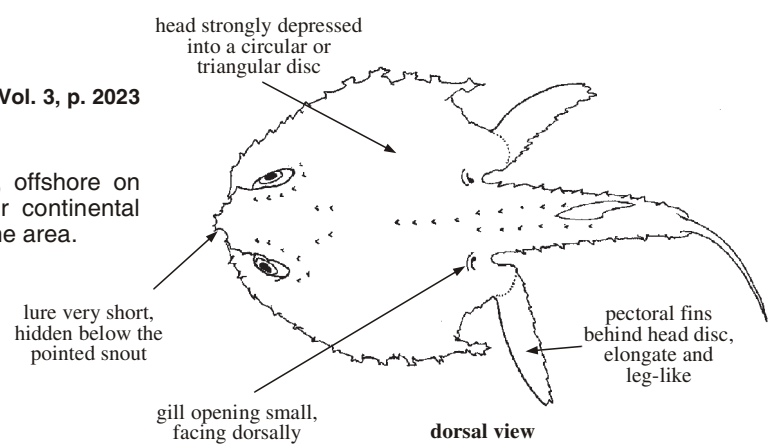
To about 40 cm. Demersal usually at depths greater than 200 m. Perhaps 8 species in the area.



OGCOCEPHALIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2023**

Batfishes

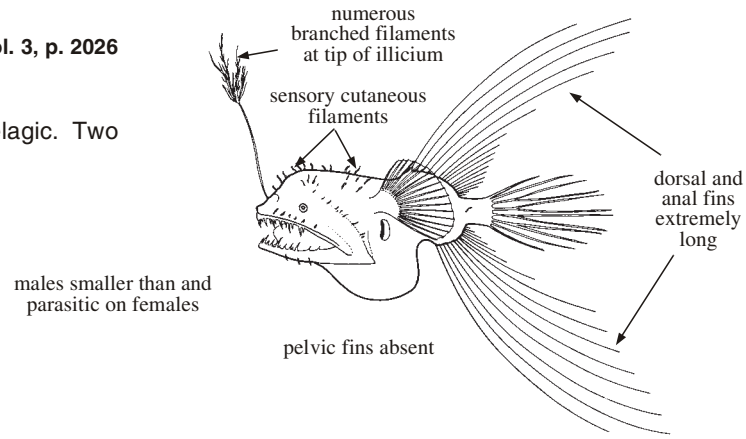
To around 20 cm. Demersal, offshore on continental shelves and upper continental slopes. Twenty species from the area.



CAULOPHRYNIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2026**

Fanfin anglerfishes

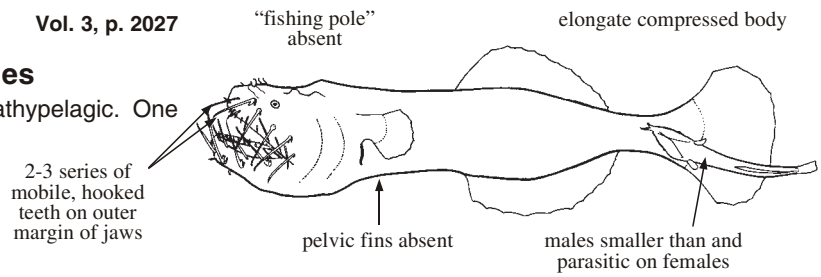
To 17 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Two species in the area.



NEOCERATIIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2027**

Neoceratiid anglerfishes

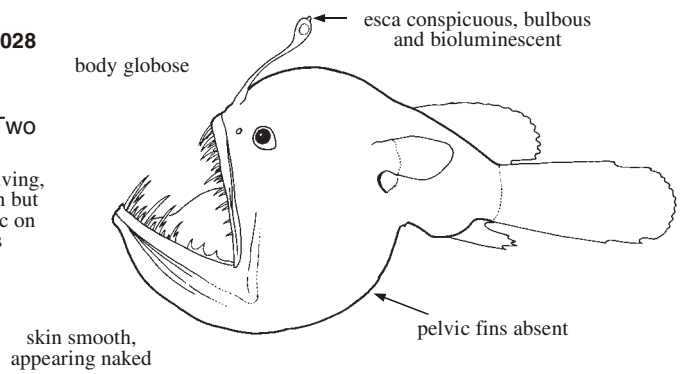
To 7.5 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. One species in the area.



MELANOCETIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2028**

Blackdevils

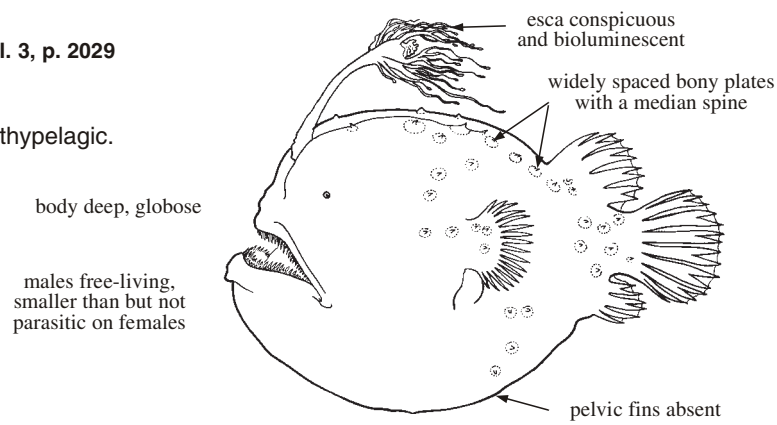
To 12 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Two species in the area.



HIMANTOLOPHIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2029**

Footballfishes

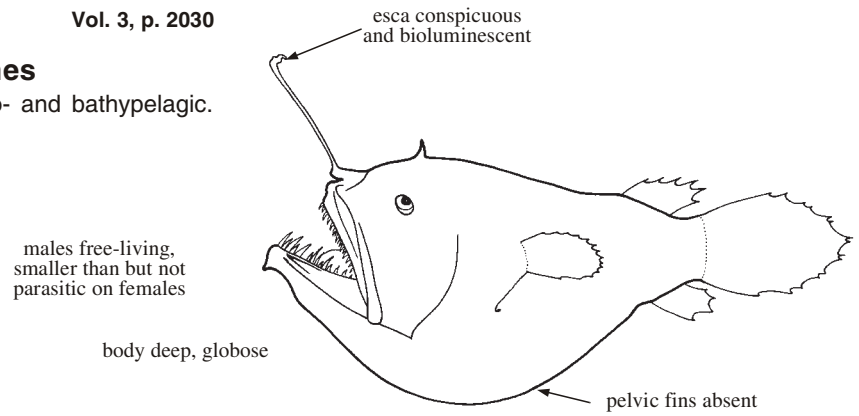
To about 47 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Six species in the area.



DICERATIIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2030**

Diceratid anglerfishes

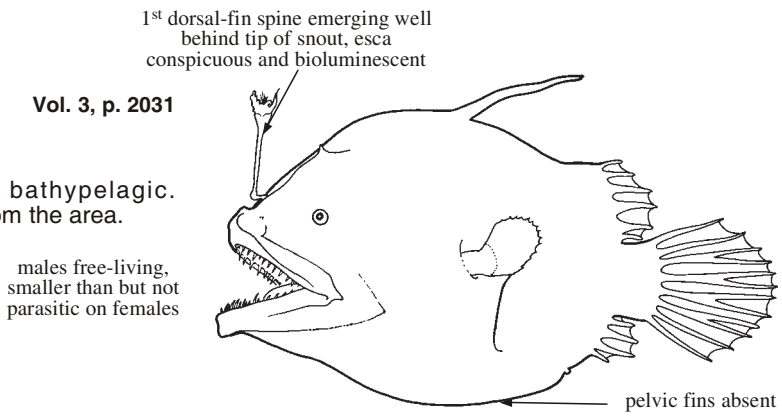
To about 24 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Two species in the area.



ONEIRODIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2031**

Dreamers

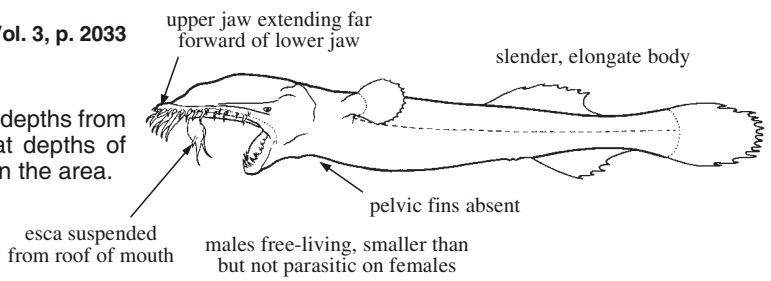
To 28 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Twenty-six species listed from the area.



THAUMATICHTHYIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2033**

Wonderfishes

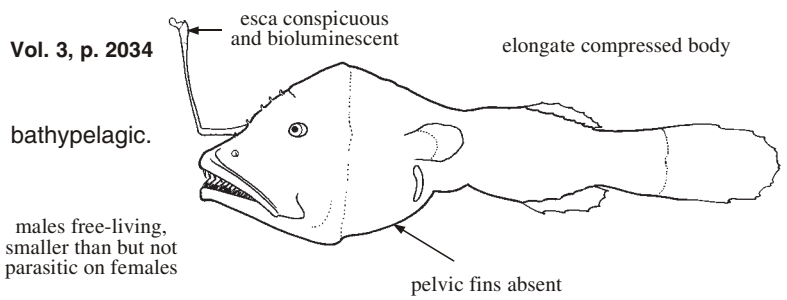
To about 30 cm. Bathypelagic at depths from 800 to 1 800 m and demersal at depths of 1 100 to 3 200 m. Two species in the area.



CENTROPHRYNIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2034**

Deepsea anglerfishes

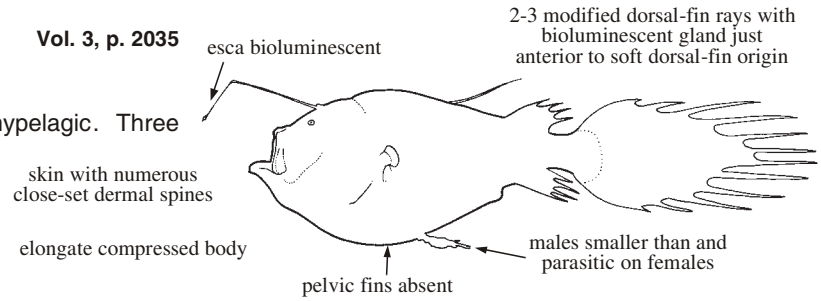
To about 23 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. One species in the area.



CERATIIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2035**

Seadevils

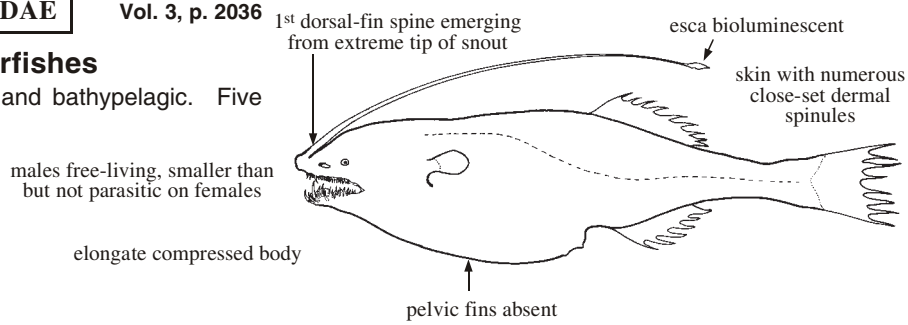
To 77 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Three species in the area.



GIGANTACTINIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2036**

Whipnose anglerfishes

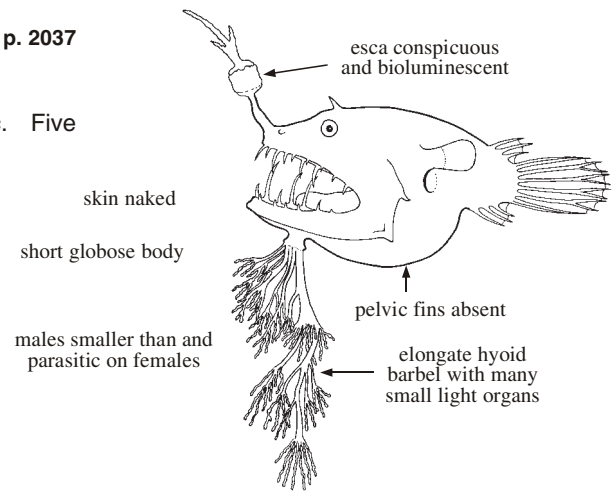
To 40 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Five species in the area.



LINOPHRYNIDAE **Vol. 3, p. 2037**

Netdevils

To 23 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Five species in the area.

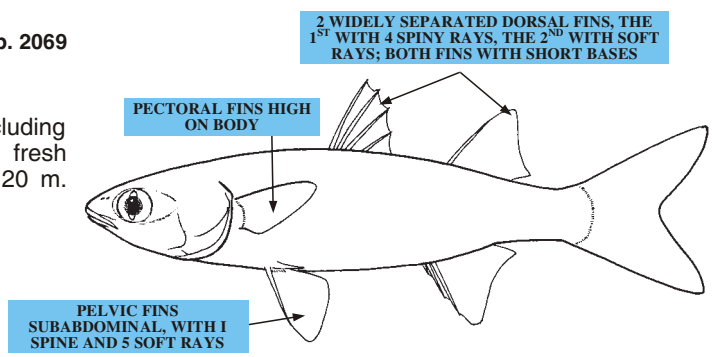


Order MUGILIFORMES - Mullets

MUGILIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2069**

Mullets

To about 90 cm. In coastal waters, including lagoons and estuaries (also entering fresh water), usually to depths of around 20 m. About 30 species in the area.



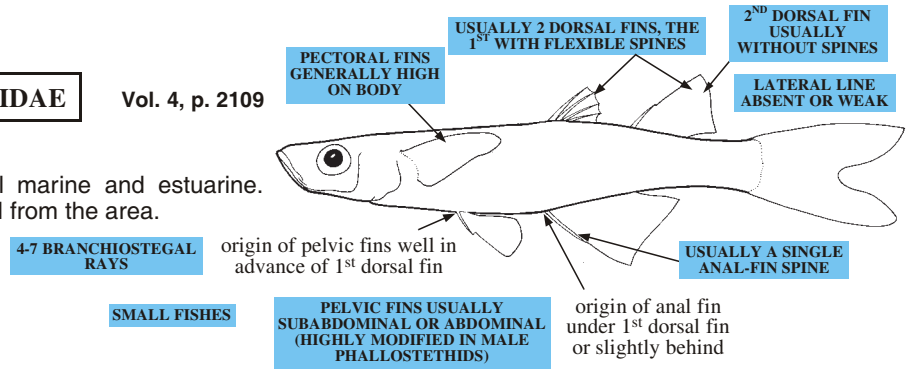
Order ATHERINIFORMES - Silversides and allies

PSEUDOMUGILIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2109

Blue eyes

To 5 cm. Coastal marine and estuarine. Three species listed from the area.

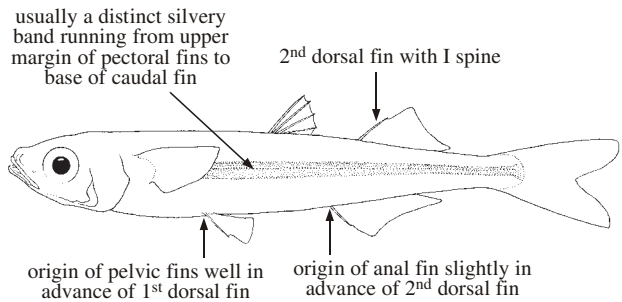


ATHERINIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2113

Silversides

To about 12 cm. Inshore pelagic near the surface to depths of 1 to 2 m. Twenty-two species listed from the area.

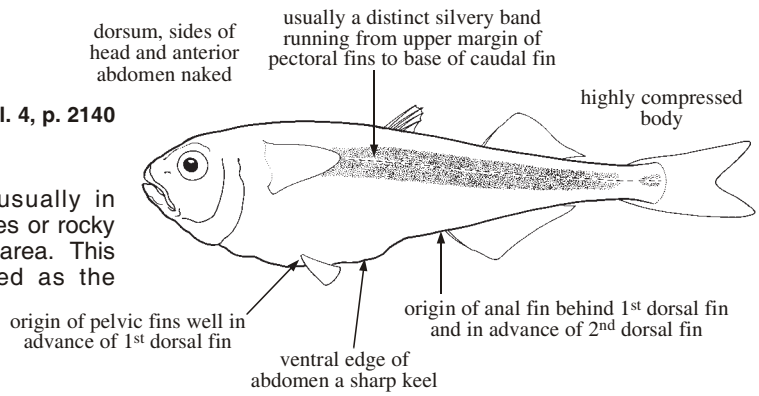


ISONIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2140

Surf sardines

To about 7.5 cm. Inshore, usually in relatively rough surf along beaches or rocky headlands. Three species in the area. This family is also sometimes listed as the Notocheiridae.

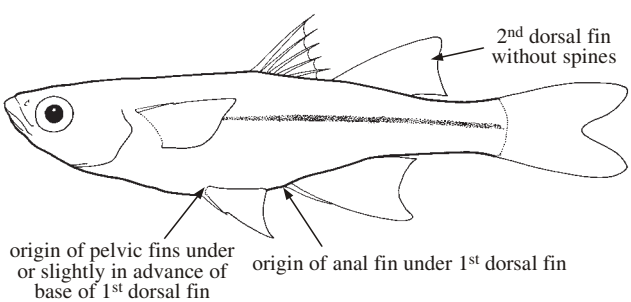


TELMATHERINIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2144

Sailfin silversides

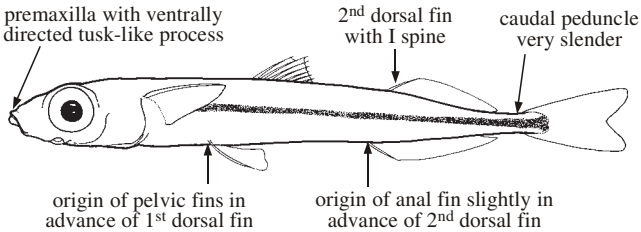
To 4.5 cm. In brackish-water mangrove swamps. One species in the area.



DENTATHERINIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2145**

Tusked silversides

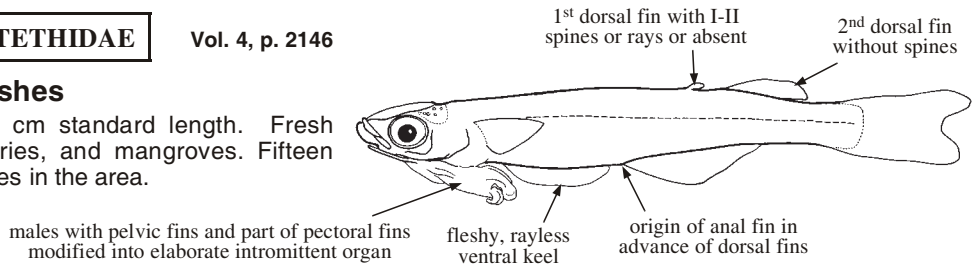
To 5 cm. Inshore around islands and coral reefs. One species in the area.



PHALLOSTETHIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2146**

Priapium fishes

To almost 4 cm standard length. Fresh water, estuaries, and mangroves. Fifteen coastal species in the area.

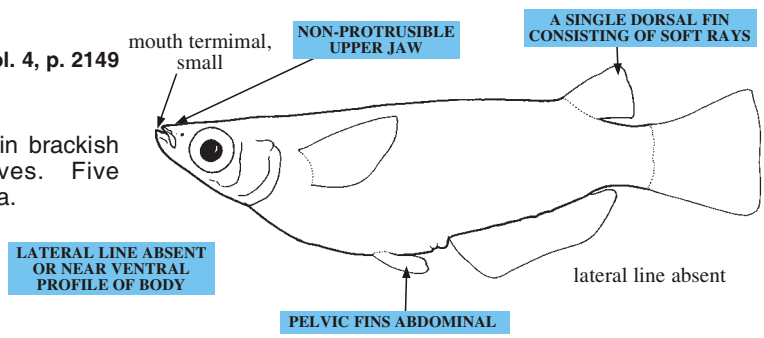


Order BELONIFORMES - Flyingfishes and allies

ADRIANICHTHYIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2149**

Ricefishes

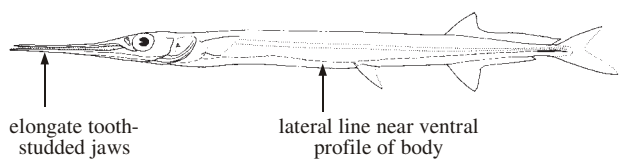
To about 18 cm. Fresh water, in brackish water, estuaries, and mangroves. Five brackish-water species in the area.



BELONIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2151**

Needlefishes

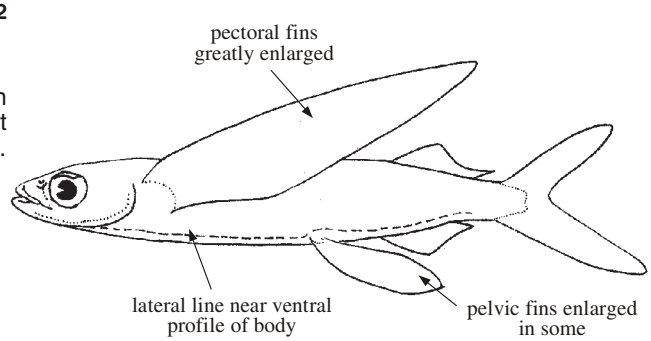
To about 2 m. In coastal and offshore surface waters, some in estuaries and lagoons and entering fresh water. Ten species in the area.



EXOCOETIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2162**

Flyingfishes

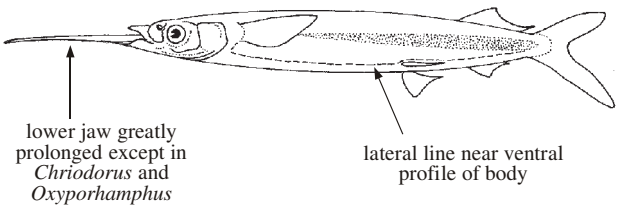
To 38 cm standard length. Pelagic in open ocean surface waters; capable of jumping out of the water and gliding for long distances. Thirty-one species in the area.



HEMIRAMPHIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2180

Halfbeaks

To 44 cm total length. Generally pelagic in coastal and offshore surface waters, some entering estuaries and even fresh water. Twenty species in the area.

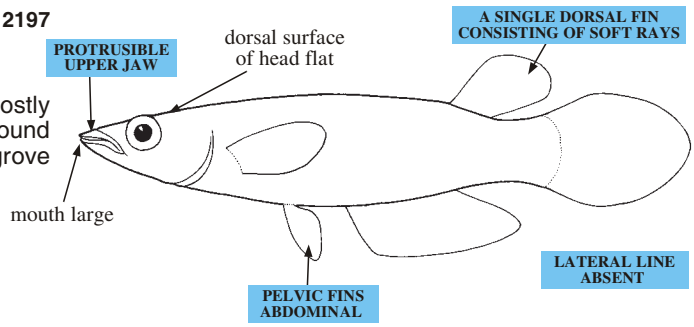


Order CYPRINODONTIFORMES - Toothcarps and allies

APLOCHEILIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2197

Egg-laying toothcarps

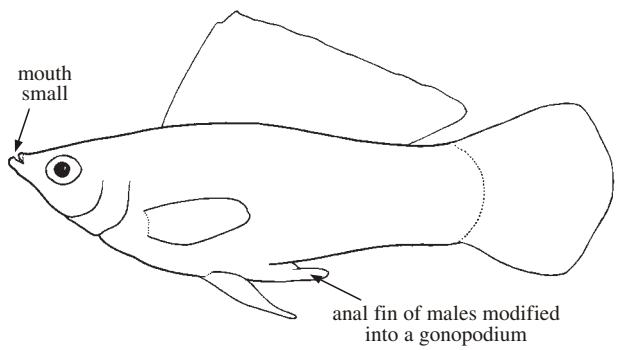
To around 6 cm standard length. Mostly fresh water, but 1 species in the area found in brackish water in estuaries and mangrove swamps.



POECILIIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2199

Livebearing toothcarps

To around 6 cm. Mostly fresh water, some entering brackish-water estuaries and mangrove swamps. Four species entering brackish water; all of these introduced into the region either for mosquito control or accidentally from aquarium stocks.

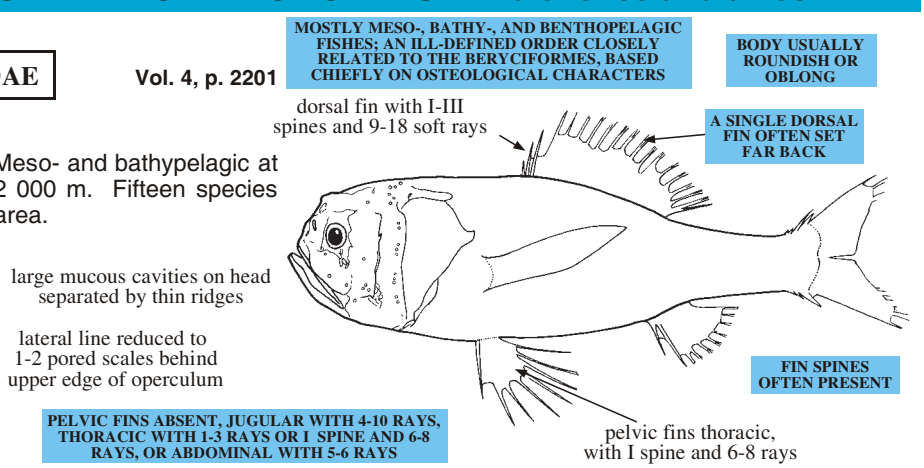


Order STEPHANOBERYCIFORMES - Whalefishes and allies

MELAMPHAIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2201

Bigscales

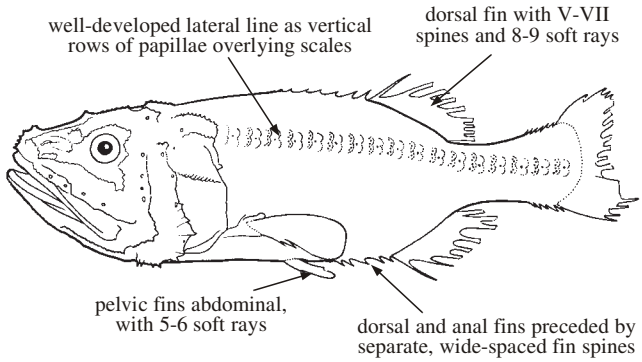
To about 16 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic at depths of 200 to 2 000 m. Fifteen species reported from the area.



GIBBERICHTHYIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2203**

Gibberfishes

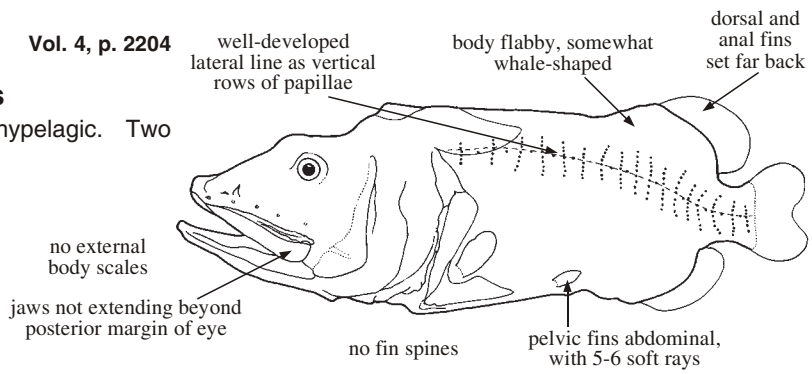
To 13 cm. Meso-, bathy-, and benthopelagic over continental slopes and off islands. One species listed from the area.



RONDELETIIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2204**

Redmouth whalefishes

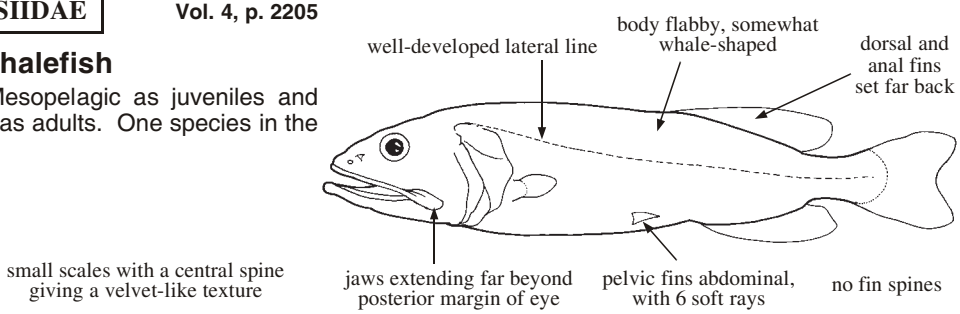
To 11 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Two species in the area.



BARBOURISIIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2205**

Redvelvet whalefish

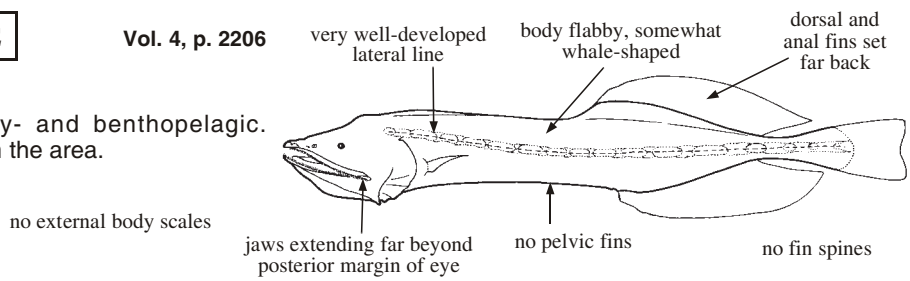
To 33 cm. Mesopelagic as juveniles and benthopelagic as adults. One species in the area.



CETOMIMIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2206**

Whalefishes

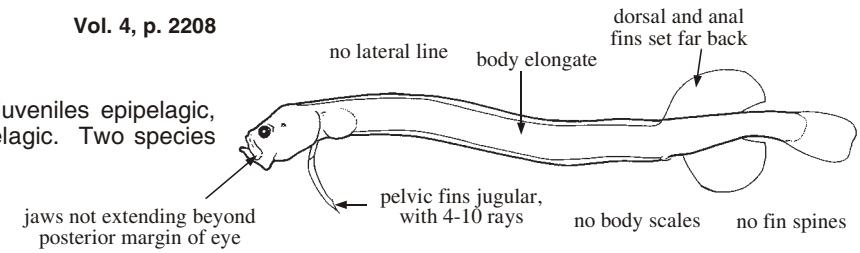
To 40 cm. Bathy- and benthopelagic. Around 8 species in the area.



MIRAPINNIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2208

Tapetails

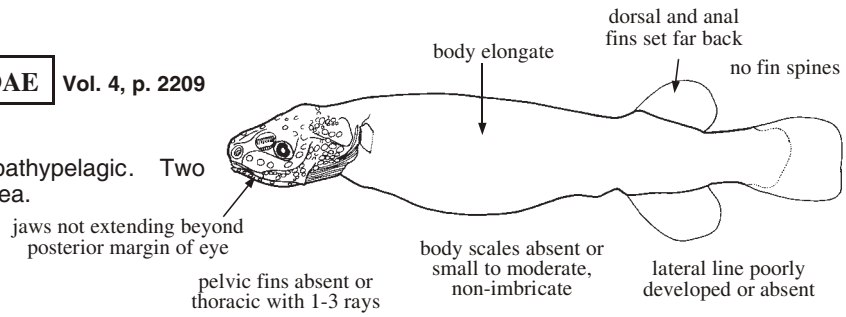
To 5 cm. Larvae and juveniles epipelagic, adults probably mesopelagic. Two species in the area.



MEGALOMYCTERIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2209

Bignose fishes

To 7 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Two species listed from the area.

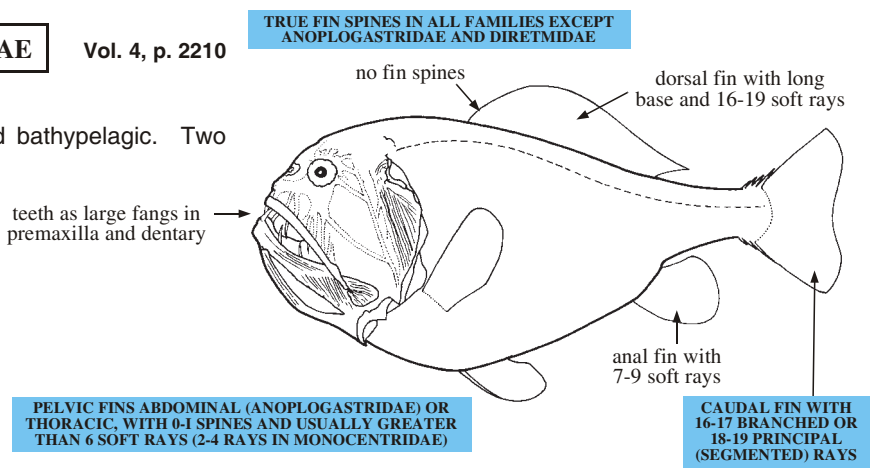


Order BERYCIFORMES - Squirrelfishes and allies

ANOPLOGASTRIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2210

Fangtooths

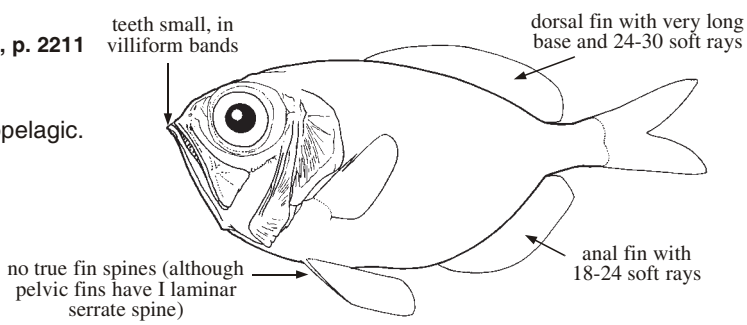
To 16 cm. Meso- and bathypelagic. Two species in the area.



DIRETMIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2211

Spinyfins

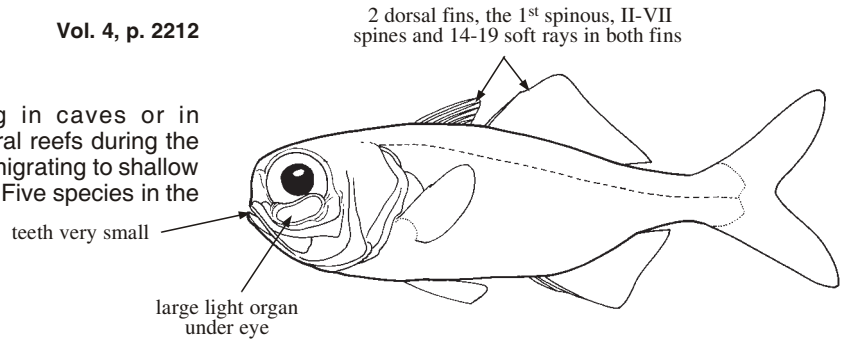
To 37 cm. Meso-, bathy-, and benthopelagic. Four species in the area.



ANOMALOPIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2212

Flashlight fishes

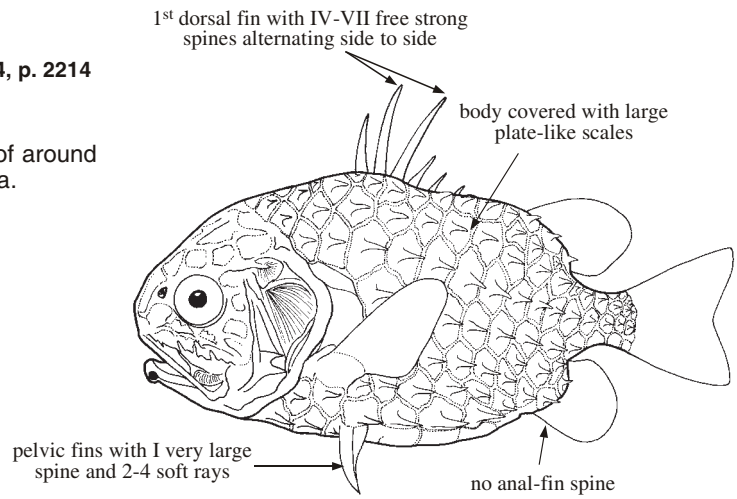
To 26 cm. Sheltering in caves or in deepwater adjacent to coral reefs during the day; on moonless nights migrating to shallow water around coral reefs. Five species in the area.



MONOCENTRIDIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2214

Knightfishes

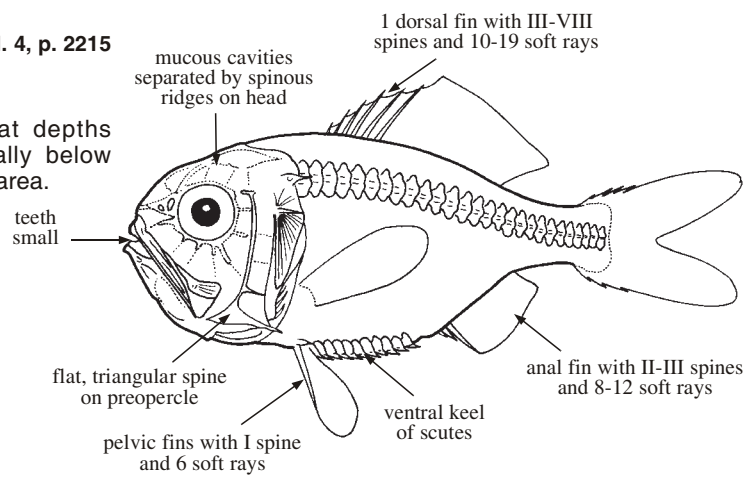
To 26 cm. Demersal from depths of around 3 to 300 m. Two species in the area.



TRACHICHTHYIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2215

Slimeheads

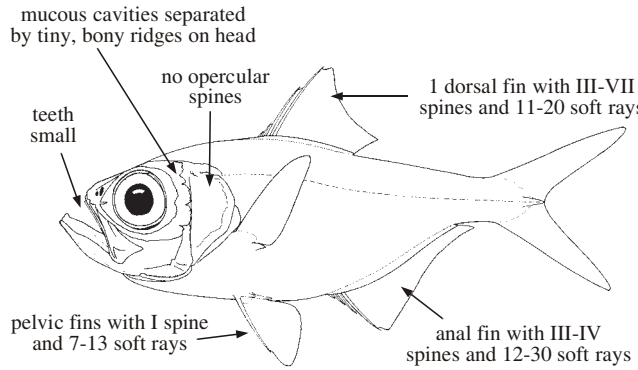
To about 60 cm. Demersal at depths between 2 and 1 500 m, usually below 150 m. Around 14 species in the area.



BERYCIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2218**

Alfonsinos

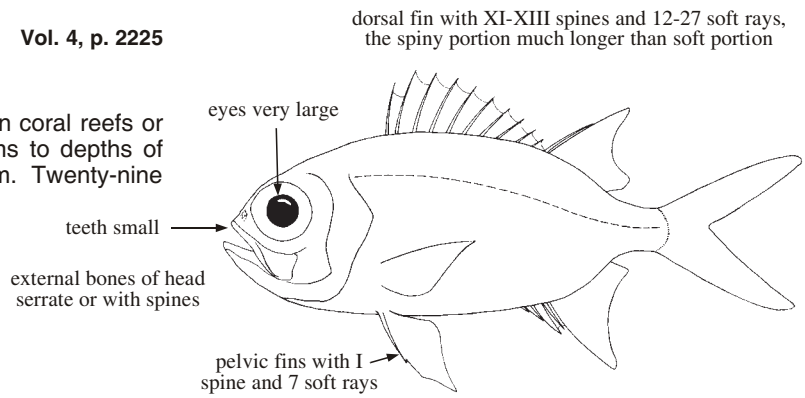
To 60 cm. Demersal or benthopelagic on the continental shelf and slope to depths of at least 1 300 m. Four species in the area.



HOLOCENTRIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2225**

Squirrelfishes

To about 45 cm. Demersal on coral reefs or shallow rocky coastal bottoms to depths of around 200 m, rarely to 600 m. Twenty-nine species in the area.

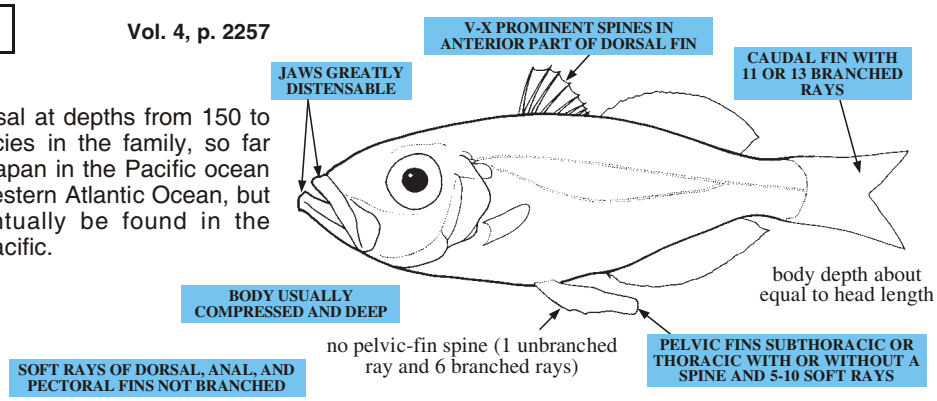


Order ZEIFORMES - Dories and allies

PARAZENIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2257**

Parazen

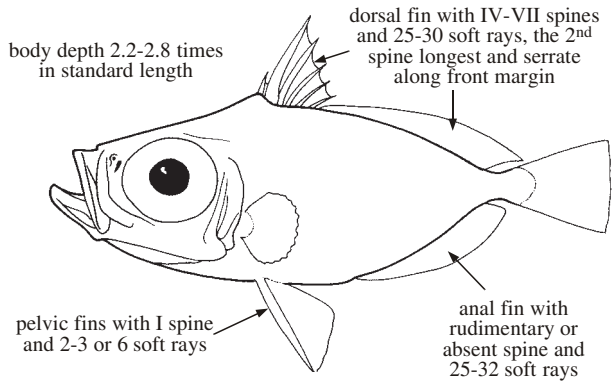
To 30 cm. Demersal at depths from 150 to 600 cm. One species in the family, so far known only from Japan in the Pacific ocean and Cuba in the western Atlantic Ocean, but expected to eventually be found in the Western Central Pacific.



MACRUROCYTTIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2258

Dwarf dories

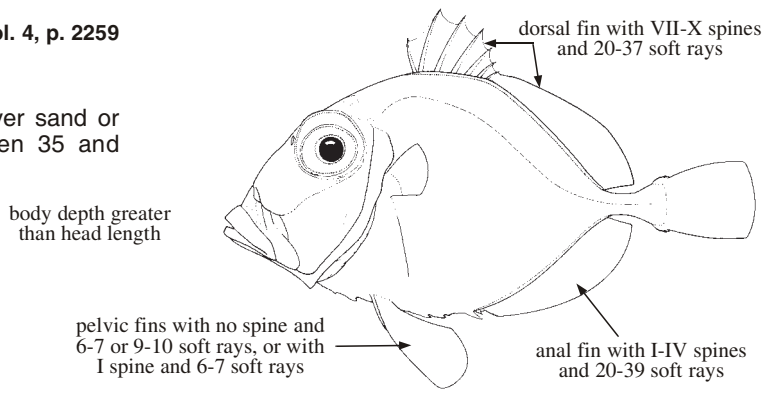
To 10 cm. Demersal over sand and mud bottoms at depths of 330 to 1 140 m. Two species in the area.



ZEIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2259

Dories

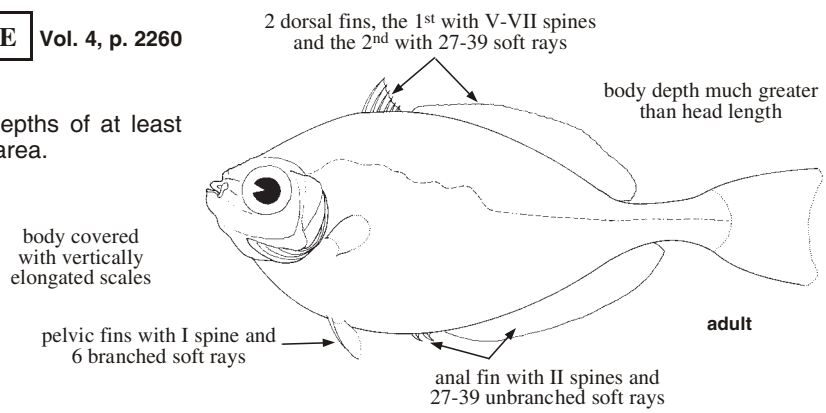
To around 60 cm. Demersal over sand or mud bottoms at depths between 35 and 600 m. Five species in the area.



GRAMMICOLEPIDIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2260

Tinselfishes

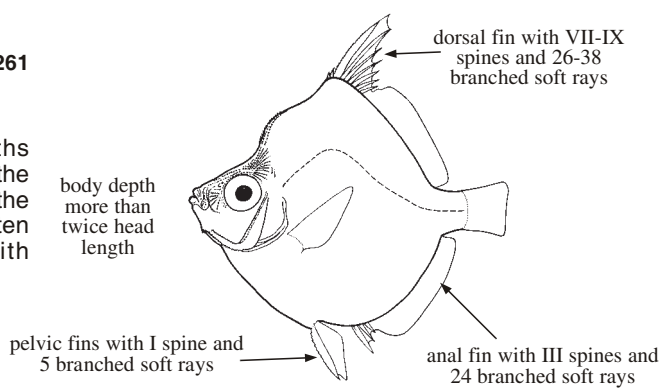
To 64 cm. Demersal to depths of at least 800 m. Two species in the area.



CAPROIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2261

Boarfishes

To about 22 cm. Demersal at depths between 50 and 600 m. Four species in the area. The placement of this family in the Zeiformes is controversial and it is often considered more closely aligned with Perciformes.



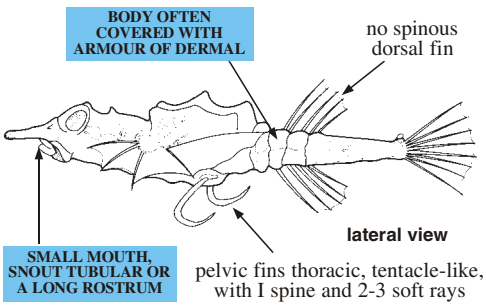
Order GASTEROSTEIFORMES - Pipefishes and allies

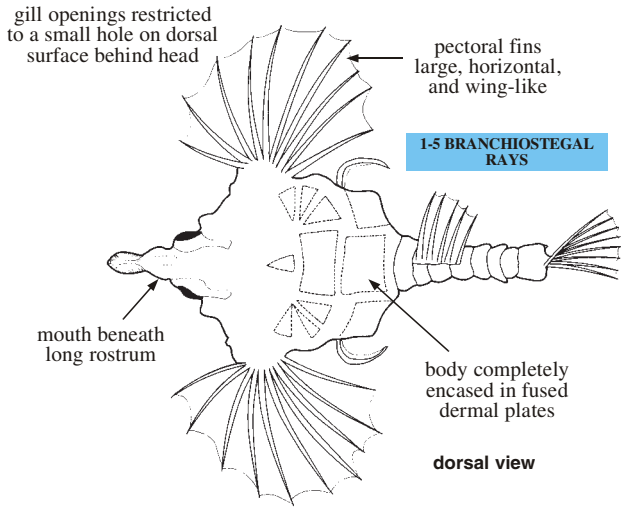
PEGASIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2262

Seamoths

To about 18 cm. Demersal in coastal waters on sand, gravel, shell-rubble, or muddy bottoms. Three species in the area.



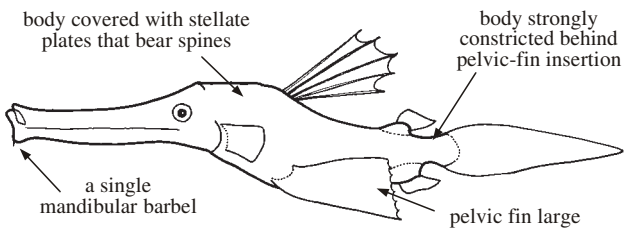


SOLENOSTOMIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2263

Ghost pipefishes

To about 16 cm. In generally shallow coastal waters over sand or mud bottoms, in seagrass beds, in algae, or in associatin with reef invertebrates. Three species in the area.

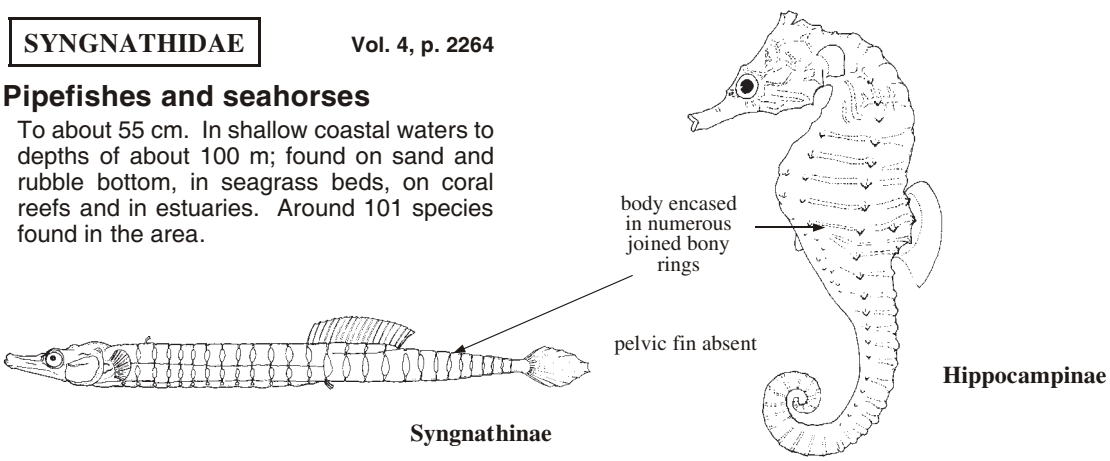


SYNGNATHIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2264

Pipefishes and seahorses

To about 55 cm. In shallow coastal waters to depths of about 100 m; found on sand and rubble bottom, in seagrass beds, on coral reefs and in estuaries. Around 101 species found in the area.

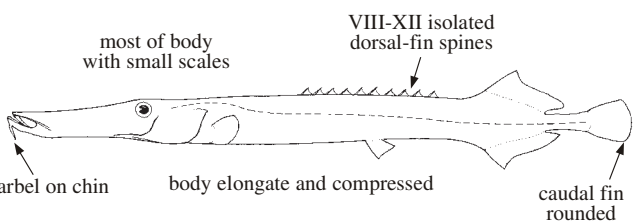


AULOSTOMIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2277

Trumpetfishes

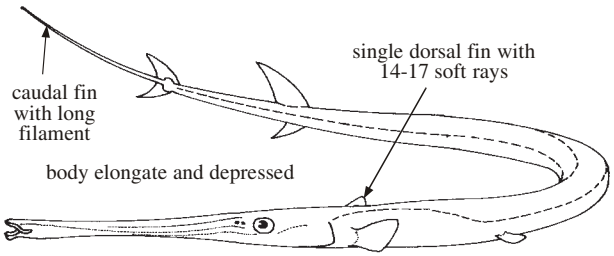
To 80 cm. In clear shallow coastal waters, often associated with reefs. A single species.



FISTULARIIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2278

Cornetfishes

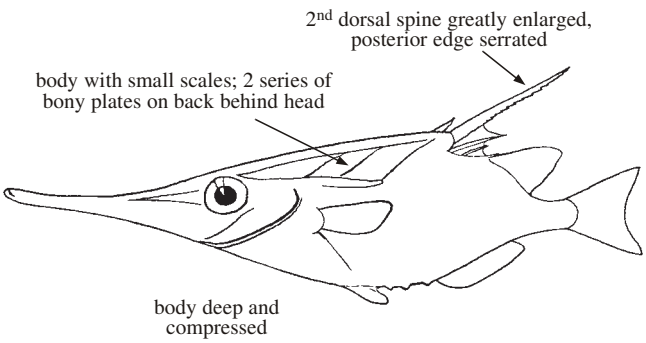
To about 2 m. In shallow coastal areas over sand or mud bottoms, or around seagrass beds and coral reefs. Two species in the area.



MACRORHAMPHOSIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2280

Snipefishes

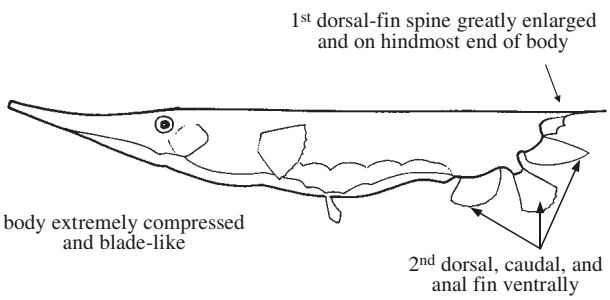
To 20 cm. Benthic or benthopelagic fishes over mud or sand bottoms in deep water to 600 m; juveniles are epipelagic in oceanic waters. A single species in the area.



CENTRISCIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2281

Shrimpfishes

To about 15 cm. In shallow coastal waters on muddy bottoms near mangroves or on coral reefs. Three species in the area.

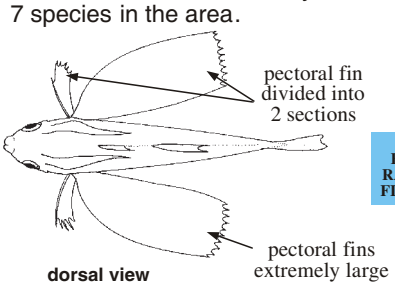


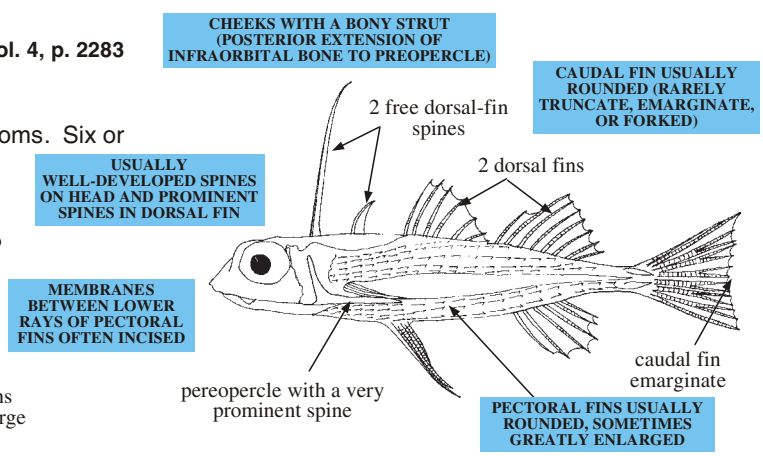
Order SCORPAENIFORMES - Scorpionfishes and allies

DACTYLOPTERIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2283

Flying gurnards

To 40 cm. Inshore on sandy bottoms. Six or 7 species in the area.

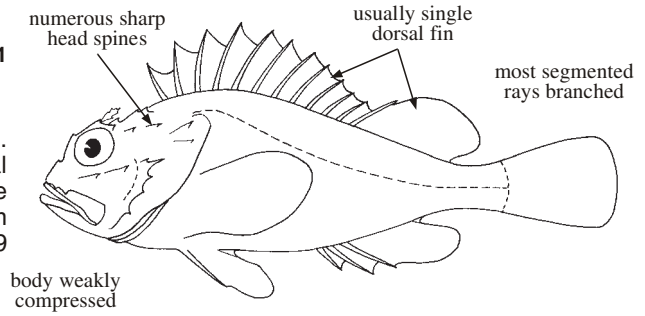




SCORPAENIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2291

Scorpionfishes, rockfishes

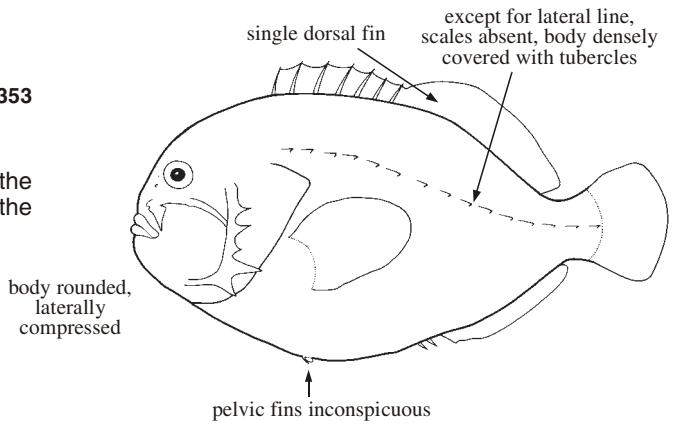
To around 38 cm but most under 20 cm. Demersal, mostly in near shore rocky or coral reef habitats to a depth of 150 m; some species over soft bottoms to depths of 800 m and some species pelagic. At least 119 species in the area.



CARACANTHIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2353

Orbicular velvetfishes

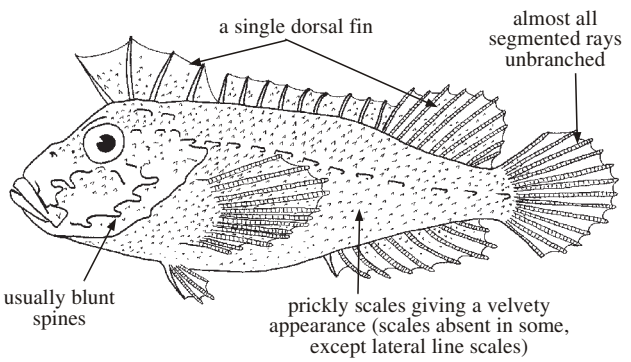
Typically less than 4 cm. Living within the branches of hard corals. Two species in the area.



APLOACTINIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2354

Velvetfishes

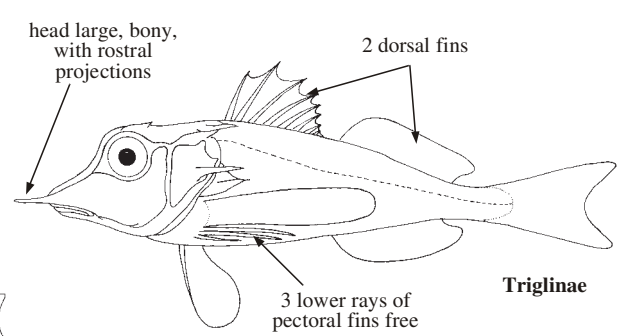
Typically less than 5 cm. Mostly nearshore cryptic among rocks or seaweeds. Around 32 species in the area.

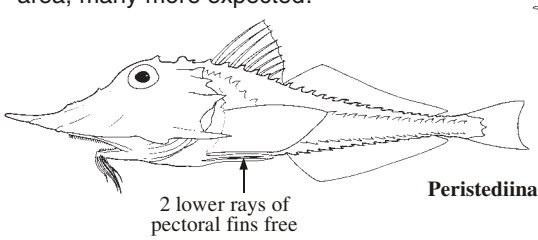


TRIGLIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2359

Sea robins, gurnards

To about 40 cm standard length. Demersal mostly on soft bottoms from nearshore areas to depths of 500 m. At least 66 species in the area, many more expected.

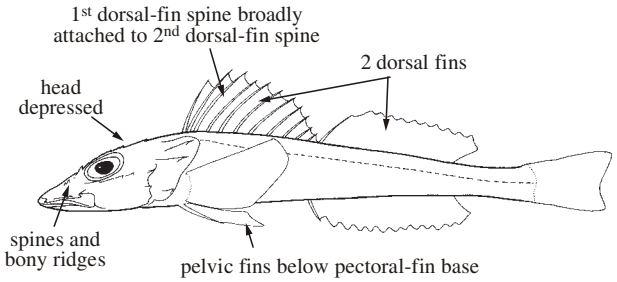




BEMBRIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2383

Deepwater flatheads

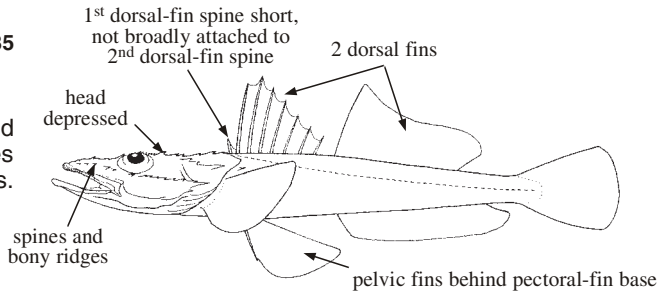
To about 30 cm. Demersal, at depths mostly between 80 and 580 m. Perhaps 7 species in the area. Certain genera of this family sometimes placed in the closely related families Parabembridae and Plectrogeniidae.



PLATYCEPHALIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2385

Flatheads

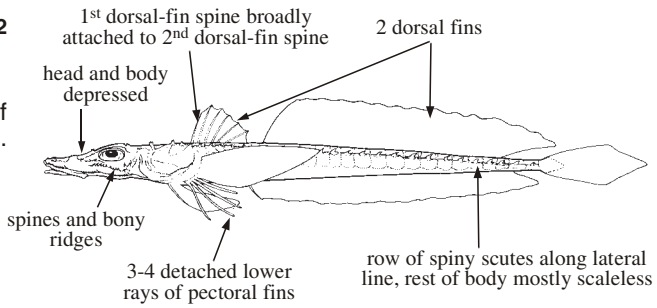
To 58 cm. Demersal, mostly on mud or sand bottoms to a depth of 300 m; some species associated with rocky bottom and coral reefs. Thirty-one species known from the area.



HOPLICHTHYIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2422

Ghost flatheads

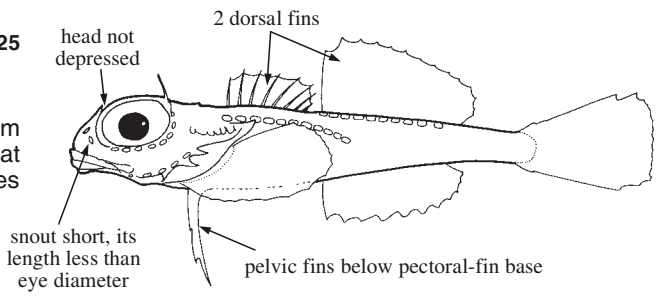
To around 18 cm. On the continental shelf and slope at depths from 60 to 1 500 m. Eight species in the area.



COTTIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2425

Sculpins

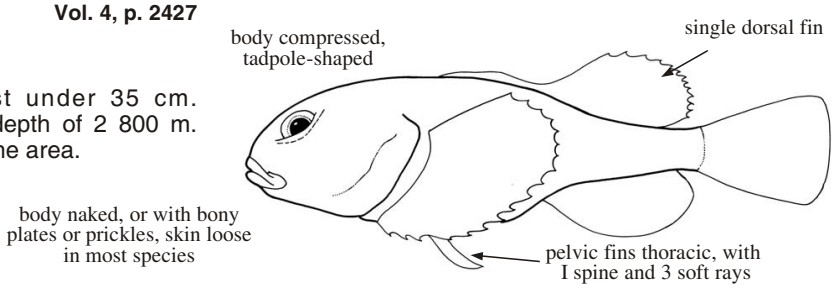
Small, largest collected to about 51 mm standard length. Deep water demersal, at depths between 150 and 765 m. Two species with a very limited distribution in the area.



PSYCHROLUTIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2427

Fathead sculpins

To about 65 cm, most under 35 cm. Demersal, inshore to a depth of 2 800 m. Four species possibly in the area.



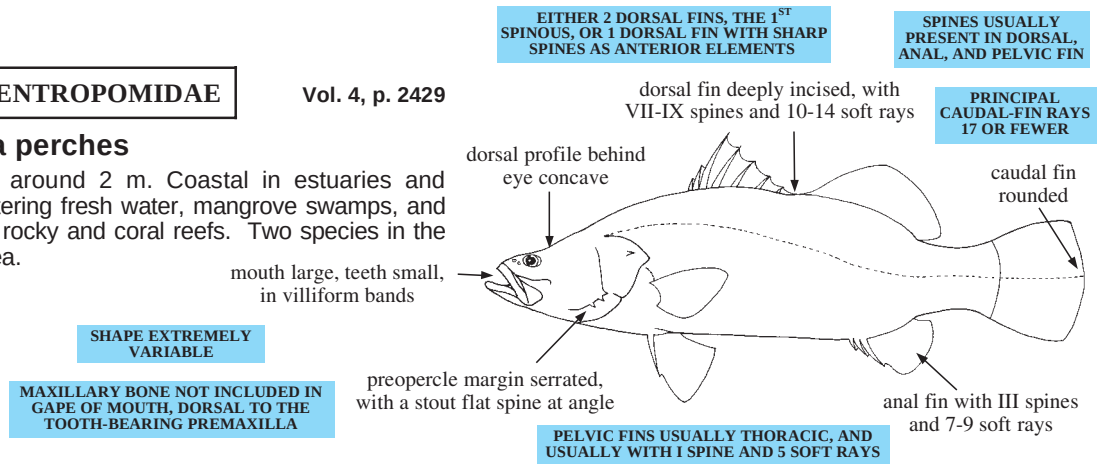
Order PERCIFORMES: PERCOIDEI - Perch-like fishes

The order Perciformes is the most diverse order of fishes with a little over 100 families represented in the Western Central Pacific. Therefore, the order is broken down into its component suborders to make this guide to families easier to use. The first suborder, the Percoidei, contains the bulk of perciform diversity and includes around 54 families.

CENTROPOMIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2429

Sea perches

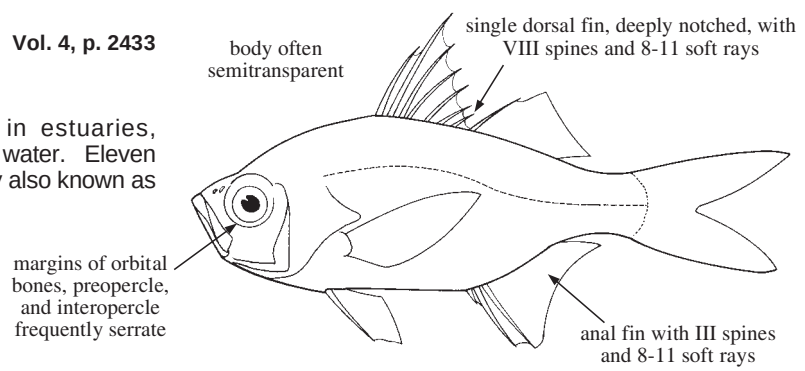
To around 2 m. Coastal in estuaries and entering fresh water, mangrove swamps, and on rocky and coral reefs. Two species in the area.



AMBASSIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2433

Perchlets, glassfishes

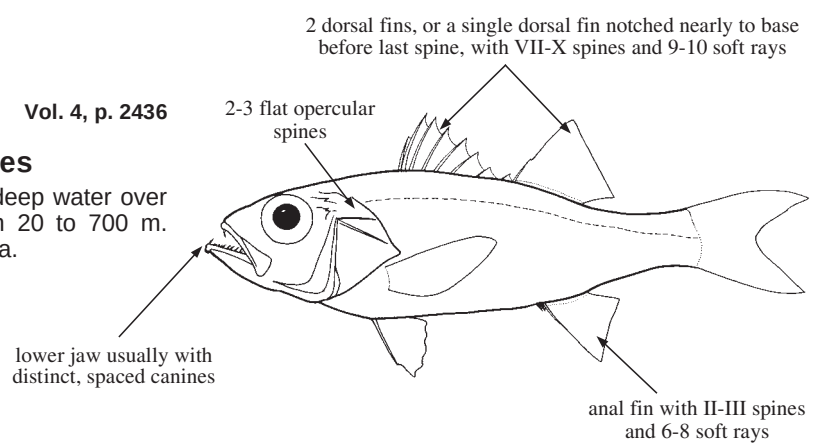
To about 12 cm. Shallow in estuaries, mangrove swamps, and fresh water. Eleven species in the area. This family also known as Chandidae.



ACROPOMATIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2436

Temperate ocean-basses

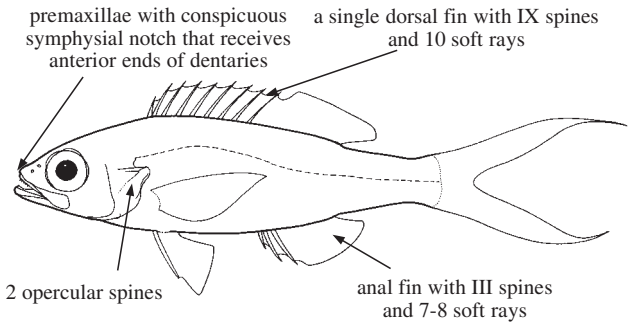
To about 40 cm. Mostly in deep water over soft bottoms at depths from 20 to 700 m. Around 16 species in the area.



SYMPHYSANODONTIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2438**

Bunquelovelies

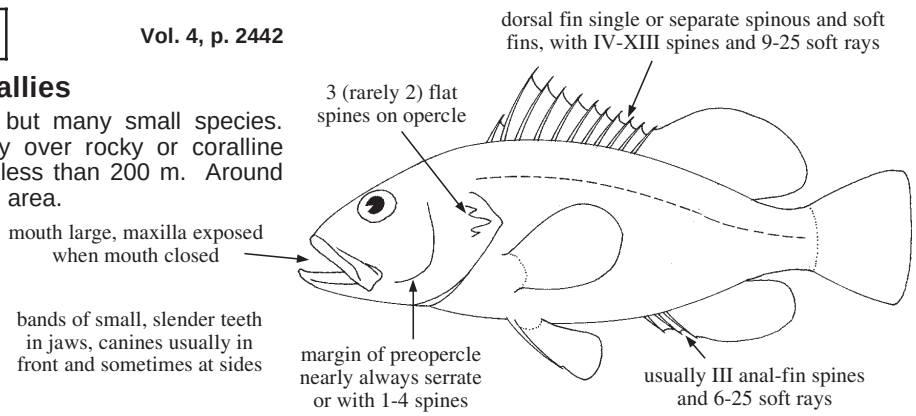
To 17 cm. Near bottom at depths of 50 to 500 m. Two species, their genus variously placed with the Acropomatidae, Serranidae, or Lutjanidae.



SERRANIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2442**

Groupers and allies

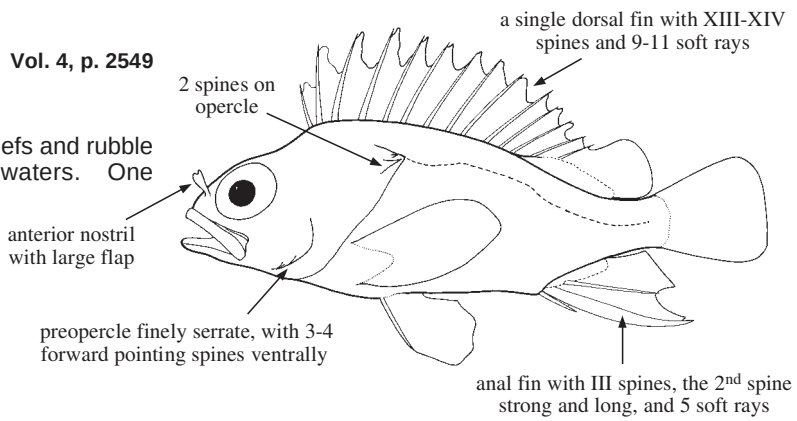
To over 250 cm but many small species. Demersal, usually over rocky or coralline bottom in depths less than 200 m. Around 189 species in the area.



CENTROGENIIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2549**

False scorpionfish

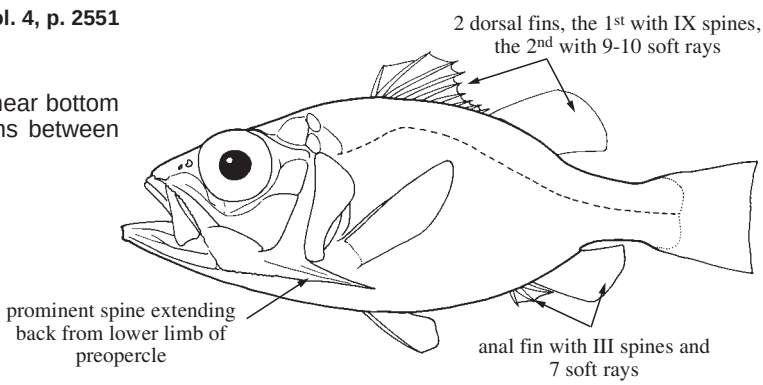
To 25 cm. Benthic on rocky reefs and rubble bottoms in shallow coastal waters. One species in the area.



OSTRACOBERYCIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2551**

Ostracoberycids

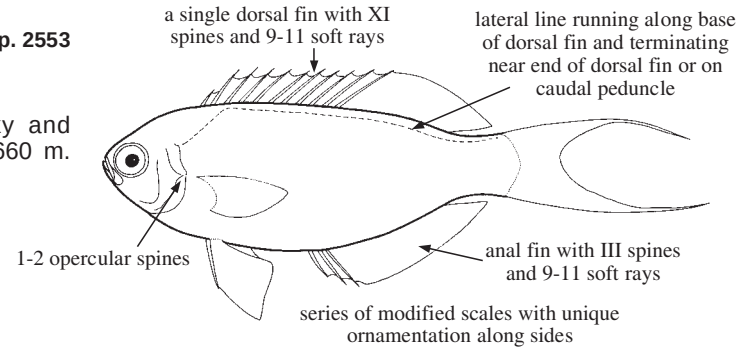
To around 20 cm. Demersal or near bottom on the continental slope at depths between 250 and 710 m.



CALLANTHIIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2553

Groppos

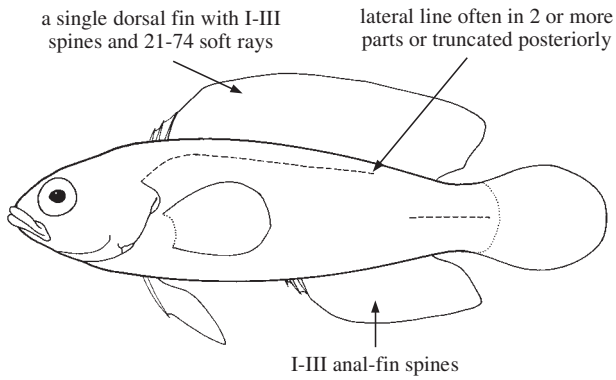
To 25 cm. Near bottom on rocky and coralline reefs at depths from 4 to 660 m. Two species in the area.



PSEUDOCHROMIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2557

Dottybacks

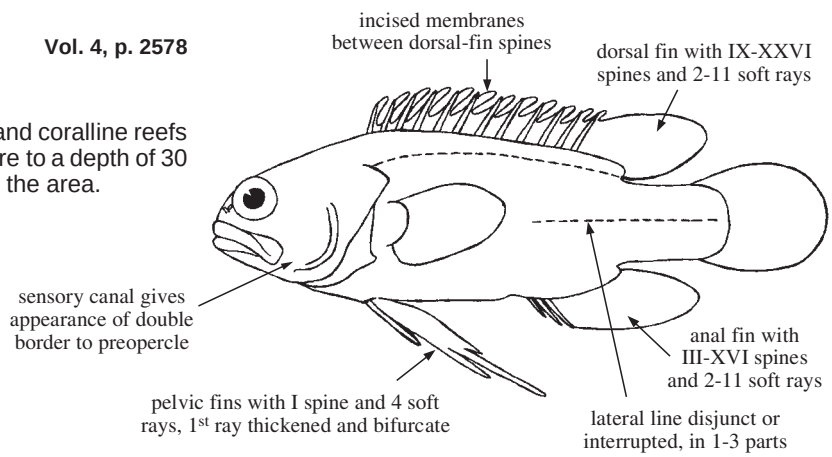
To about 10 cm, but most species less than 5 cm. Cryptic on rocky or coralline reefs from shallow intertidal areas to depths of about 100 m. Seventy-two species in the area.



PLESIOPIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2578

Roundheads

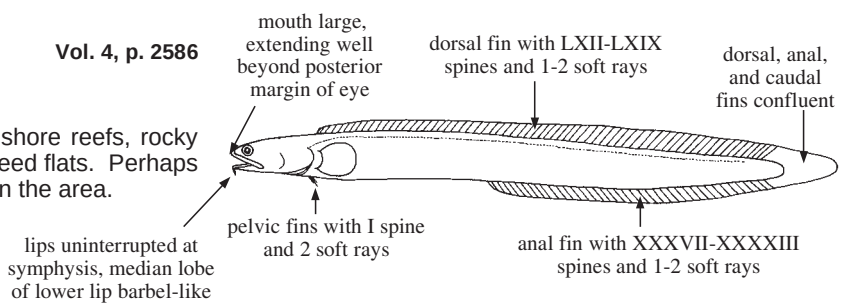
To about 30 cm. On rocky and coralline reefs and tidepools from nearshore to a depth of 30 m. Twenty-three species in the area.



NOTOGRAPTIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2586

Bearded eelblennies

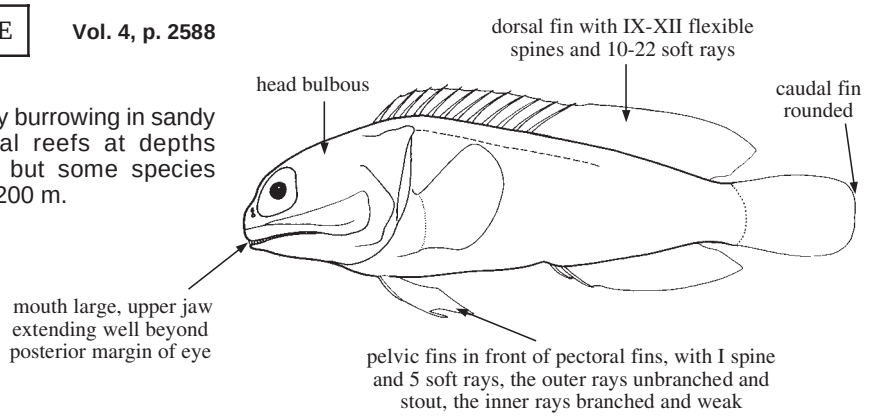
To 20 cm. On shallow inshore reefs, rocky crevices, and sandy seaweed flats. Perhaps 4 species in the family, 3 in the area.



OPISTOGNATHIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2588**

Jawfishes

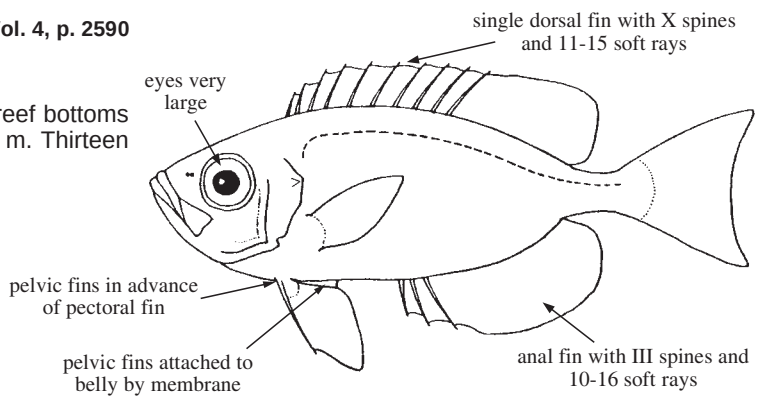
To at least 40 cm. Mostly burrowing in sandy areas adjacent to coral reefs at depths between 2 and 30 m, but some species caught at depths below 200 m.



PRIACANTHIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2590**

Bigeyes, glasseyes

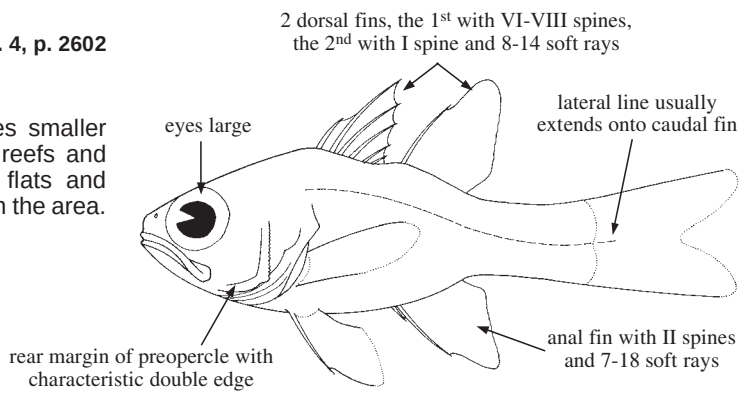
To 60 cm. Over rocky or coral reef bottoms at depths from 5 to at least 400 m. Thirteen species in the area.



APOGONIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2602**

Cardinalfishes

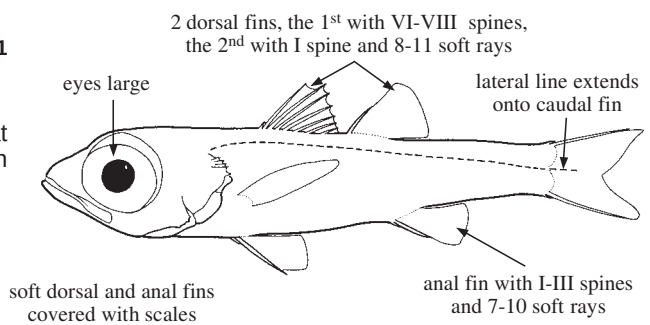
To about 20 cm, but most species smaller than 12 cm. On rocky and coral reefs and adjacent habitats such as sand flats and seagrss beds. About 150 species in the area.



EPIGONIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2611**

Deepwater cardinalfishes

To around 50 cm. Found near the bottom at depths from 75 to 3 700 m. Three species in the area.

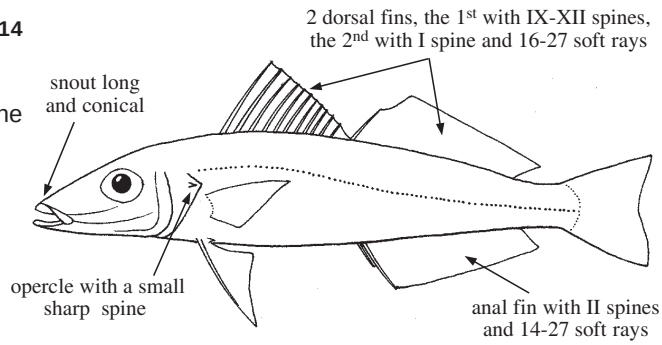


SILLAGINIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2614

Sillagos

To 51 cm. Inshore, bottom dwelling from the intertidal zone to a depth of about 180 m.

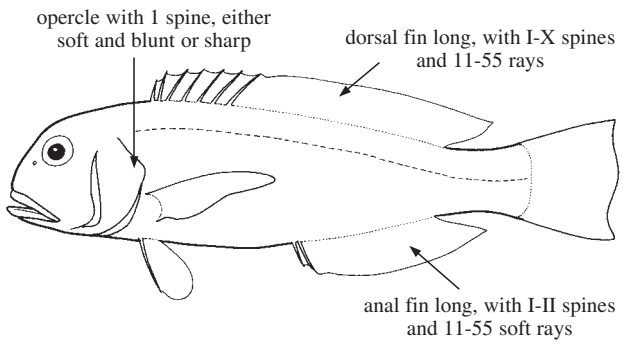


BRANCHIOSTEGIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2630

Tilefishes

To about 60 cm. Mostly on soft bottoms, often burrowing, usually at depths between 60 and 200 m. At least 14 species in the area. This family sometimes referred to as Malacanthidae and is divided into 2 subfamilies, the Branchiosteginae (=Latilinae) and Malacanthinae.

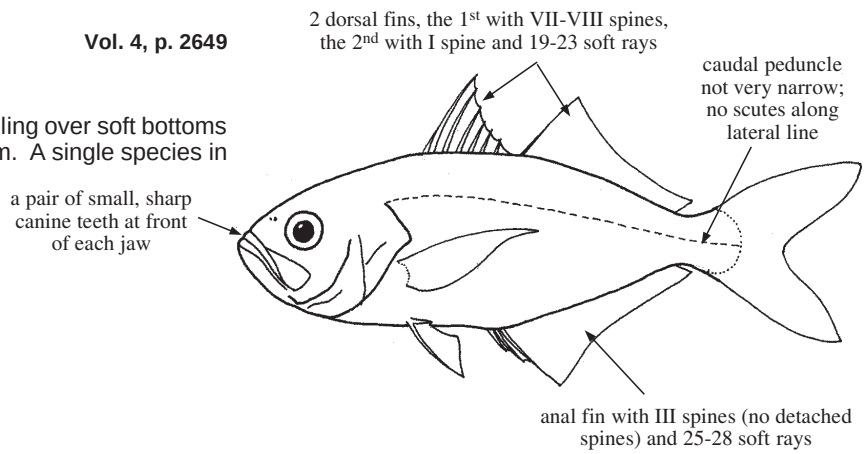


LACTARIIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2649

False trevally

To about 35 cm. Schooling over soft bottoms at depths down to 100 m. A single species in the family.

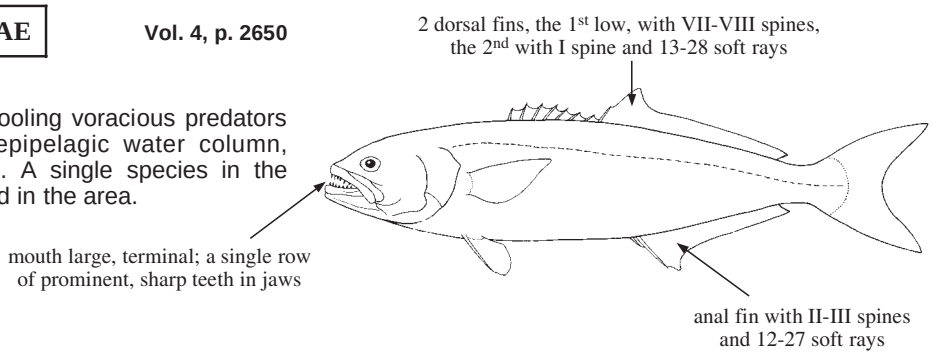


POMATOMIDAE

Vol. 4, p. 2650

Bluefishes

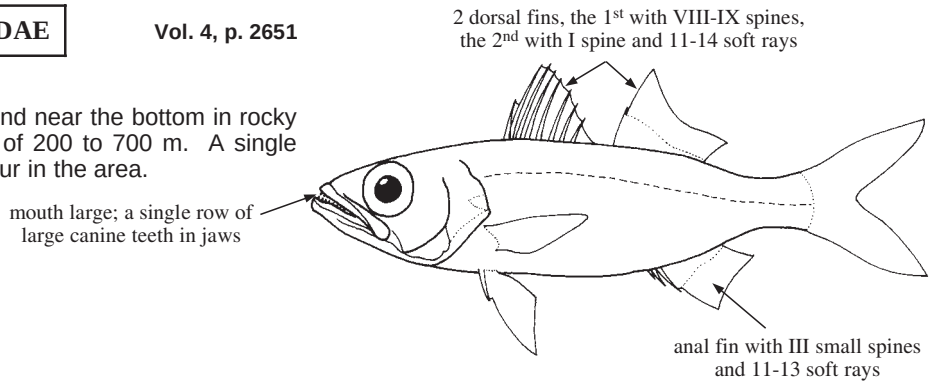
To 110 cm. Schooling voracious predators throughout the epipelagic water column, including inshore. A single species in the family, widespread in the area.



SCOMBROPIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2651**

Gnomefishes

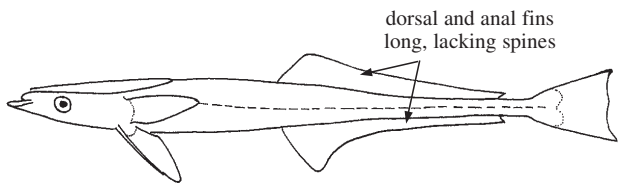
To 150 cm. Found near the bottom in rocky areas at depths of 200 to 700 m. A single species may occur in the area.

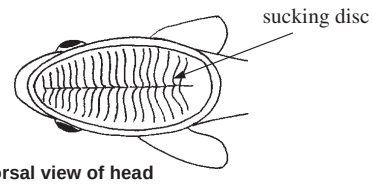


ECHENEIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2652**

Remoras

To about 90 cm. Marine, pelagic; attaches to larger marine animals such as sharks, turtles, and marine mammals. Seven species in the area.



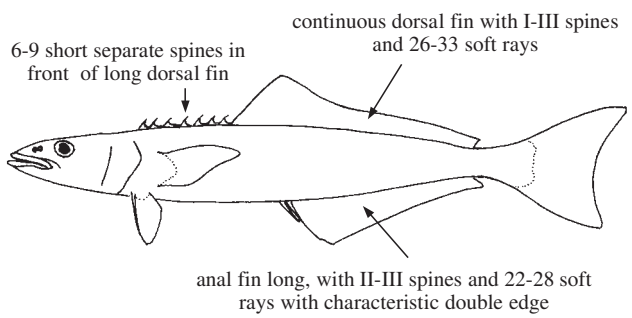


dorsal view of head

RACHYCENTRIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2655**

Cobia

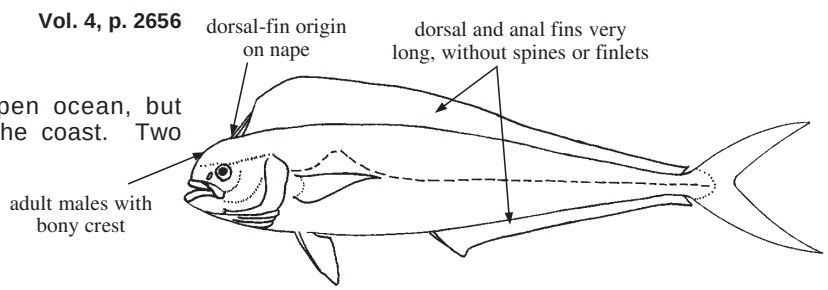
To 2 m. Pelagic in coastal waters, occasionally in estuaries. A single species.



CORYPHAENIDAE **Vol. 4, p. 2656**

Dolphinfishes

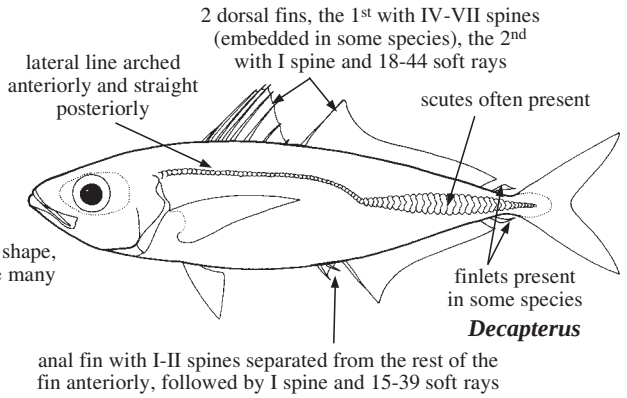
To 210 cm. Pelagic, open ocean, but sometimes approaching the coast. Two species, both in the area.

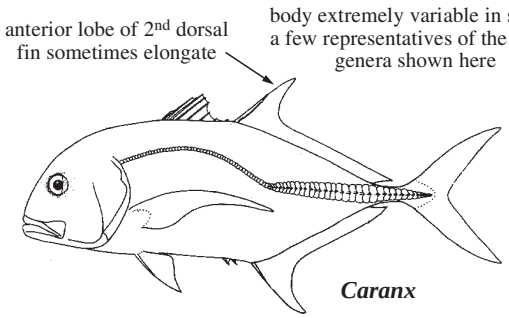


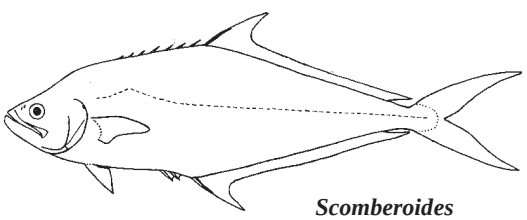
CARANGIDAE Vol. 4, p. 2659

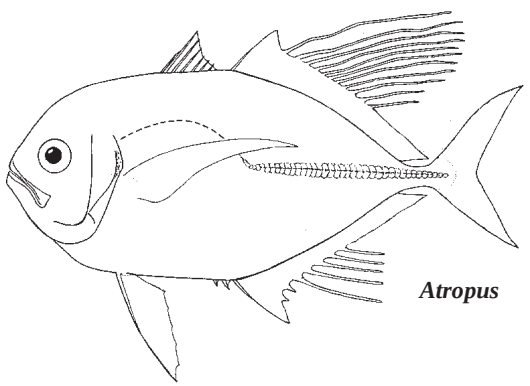
Jacks, scads, and allies

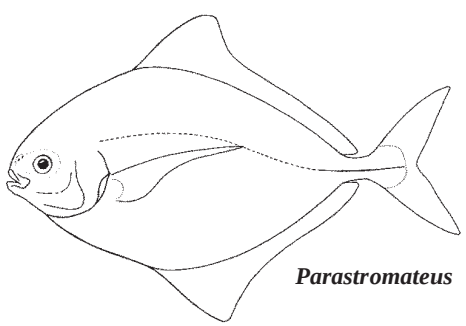
To almost 190 cm. Demersal, coastal or oceanic, from the coastline to a depth of around 200 m; a few species entering brackish waters. A large and diverse family, with about 74 species in the area.

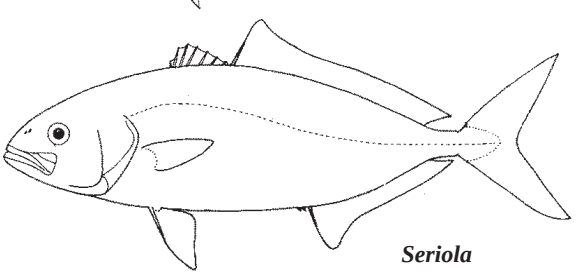








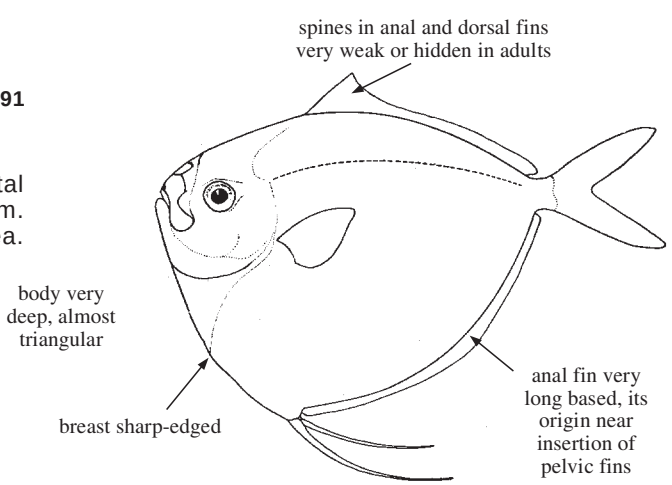




MENIDAE Vol. 5, p. 2791

Moonfish

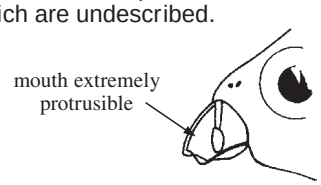
To about 30 cm. Near bottom in coastal waters and esturies to a depth of 200 m. A single species, widespread in the area.



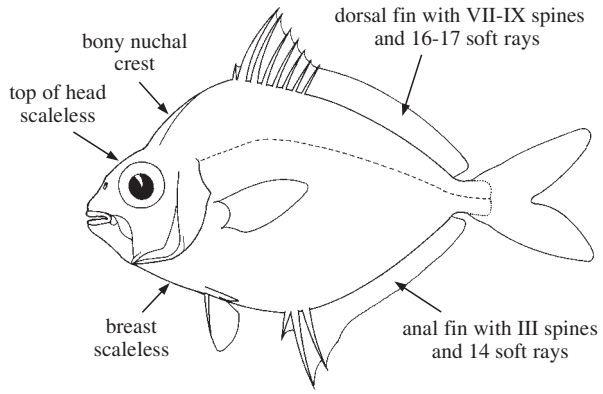
LEIOGNATHIDAE **Vol. 5, p. 2792**

Slipmouths

To 24 cm, but seldom larger than 16 cm. Demersal species over soft bottoms, some also in estuarine waters, to depths of around 40 m. Around 29 species in the area, several of which are undescribed.



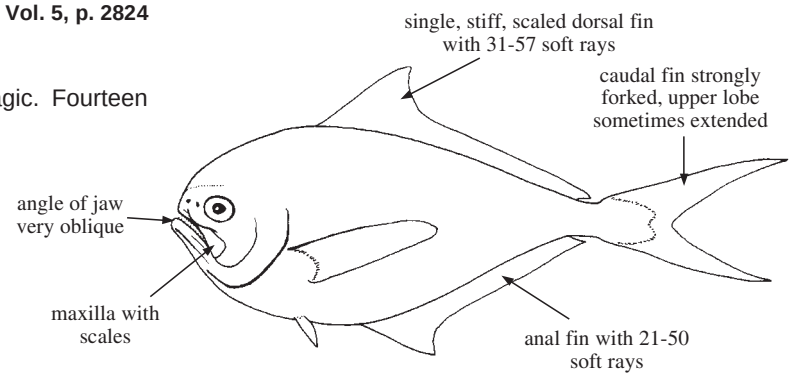
detail of head



BRAMIDAE **Vol. 5, p. 2824**

Pomfrets

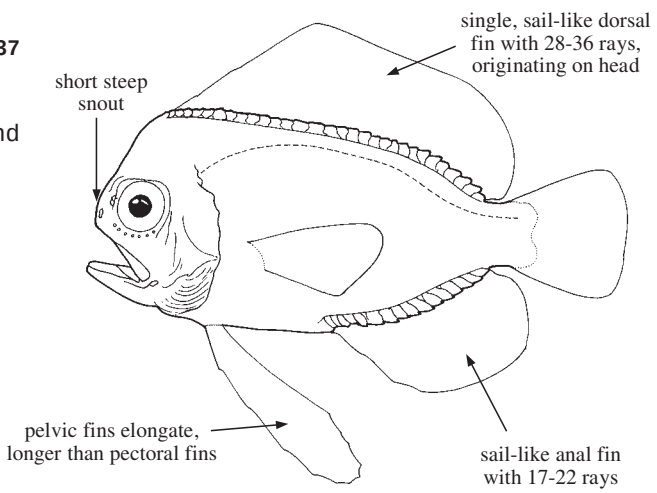
To 70 cm. Open ocean epipelagic. Fourteen species in the area.



CARISTIIDAE **Vol. 5, p. 2837**

Manefishes

To 60 cm. Oceanic, adults meso- and bathypelagic. Rare, 2 species in the area.

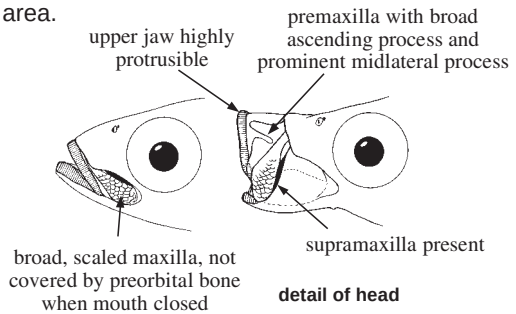


EMMELICHTHYIDAE

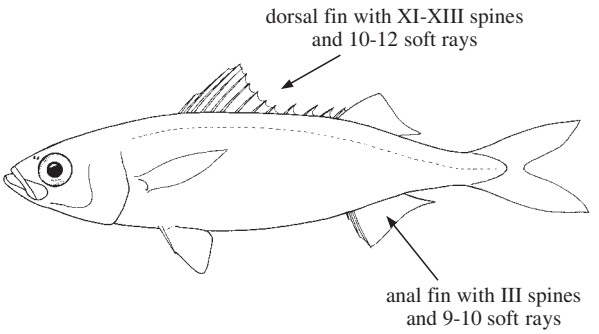
Vol. 5, p. 2838

Rovers (rubyfishes)

To 58 cm. Found near the bottom at depths between 100 and 400 m. Five species in the area.



detail of head

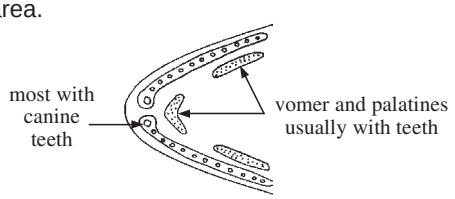


LUTJANIDAE

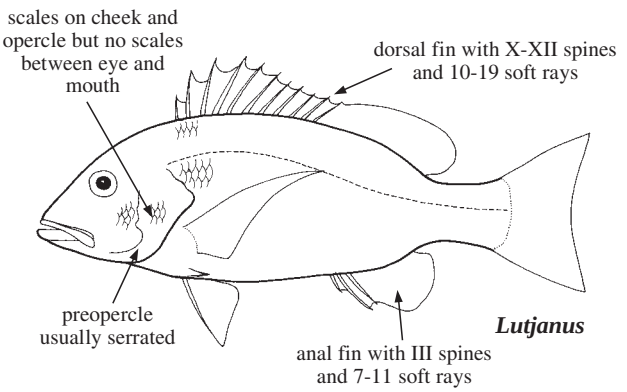
Vol. 5, p. 2840

Snappers

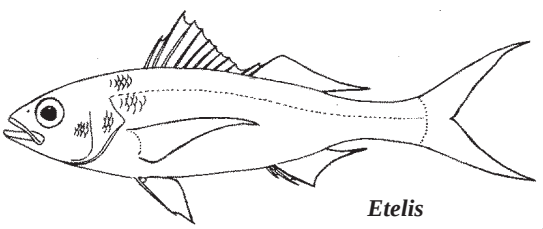
To 120 cm. Demersal, mostly inshore over reef or rocky bottom from the coastline to a depth of about 500 m; some species enter estuaries and rivers. Sixty-five species in the area.



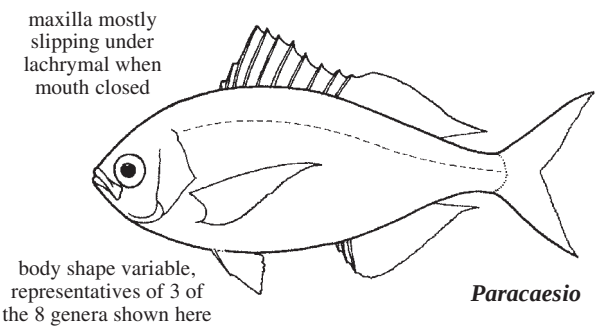
upper jaw and roof of mouth



Lutjanus



Etelis



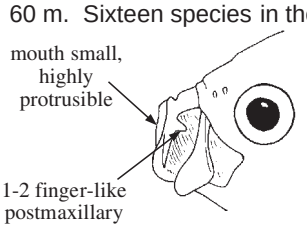
Paracaesio

CAESIONIDAE

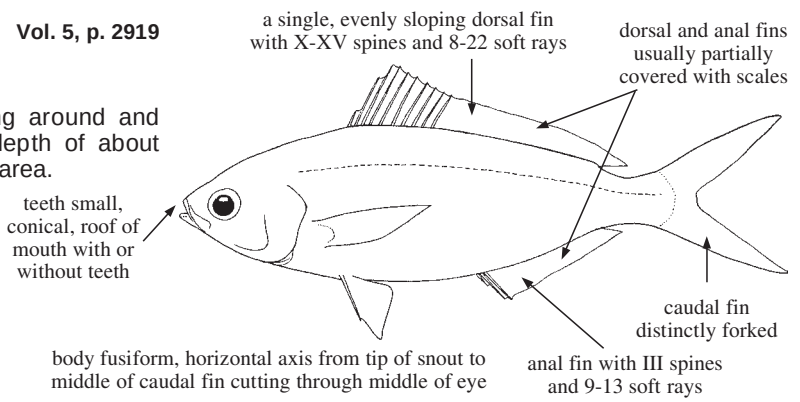
Vol. 5, p. 2919

Fusiliers

To about 50 cm. Schooling around and between coral reefs, to a depth of about 60 m. Sixteen species in the area.



detail of head



click for next page