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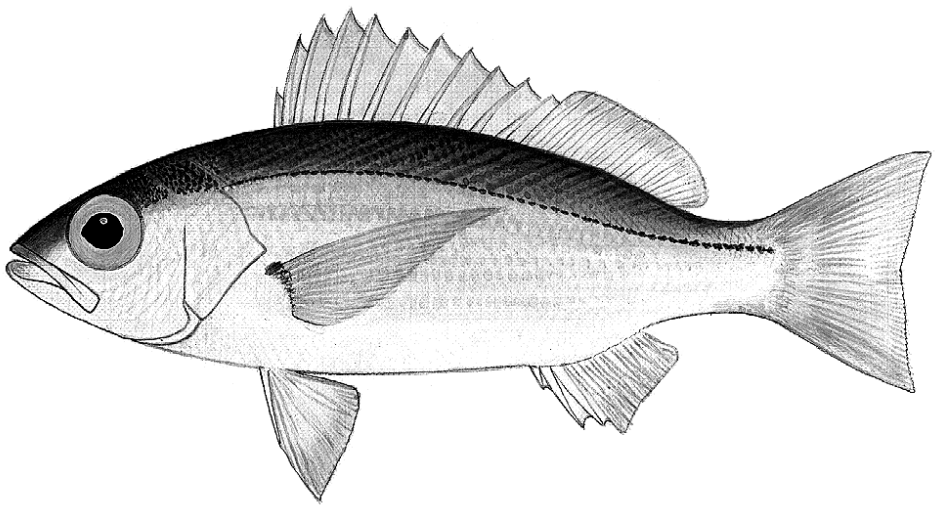
Lutjanus lutjanus (Bloch, 1790) **(Plate VII, 50)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Lutjanus lineolatus* (Rüppell, 1829) / None.

FAO names: En - Bigeye snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau gros yeux; **Sp** - Pargo de Madras.

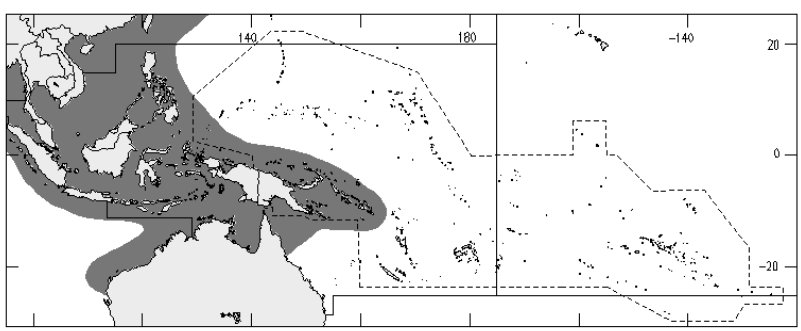


Diagnostic characters: Body fusiform, slender, its depth 2.9 to 3.3 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head gently sloped; **preorbital bone very narrow, much less than eye diameter**; preopercular notch and knob poorly developed; vomerine tooth patch triangular, with a medial posterior extension; tongue with a patch of granular teeth. First gill arch with 24 to 26 gill rakers, of which 17 to 19 (including rudiments) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with X to XII spines and 12 soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays; posterior profile of dorsal and anal fins angular. Caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate. Pectoral fins with 16 or 17 rays. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. **Colour:** upper back golden brown; sides silvery white; a broad yellow to brownish stripe from eye to caudal-fin base; a series of yellow horizontal lines (1 per scale row) on lower half of body, and similar lines running obliquely above lateral line; fins pale yellow to whitish.

Size: Maximum total length about 30 cm, commonly to 20 cm. Matures at about 12 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits offshore coral reefs and trawling grounds to depths of at least 90 m. Frequently seen in large schools of more than 100 individuals. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans. Spawning has been reported during March and November in the Gulf of Aden and off East Africa respectively, and from January to June in the Gulf of Suez. Estimated maximum age at least 11 years. One of the more common snappers found in the markets. Forms about 10 to 20% of the trawl catch in the Gulf of Suez. Caught mainly with handlines and with bottom trawls in some areas. Usually offered fresh.

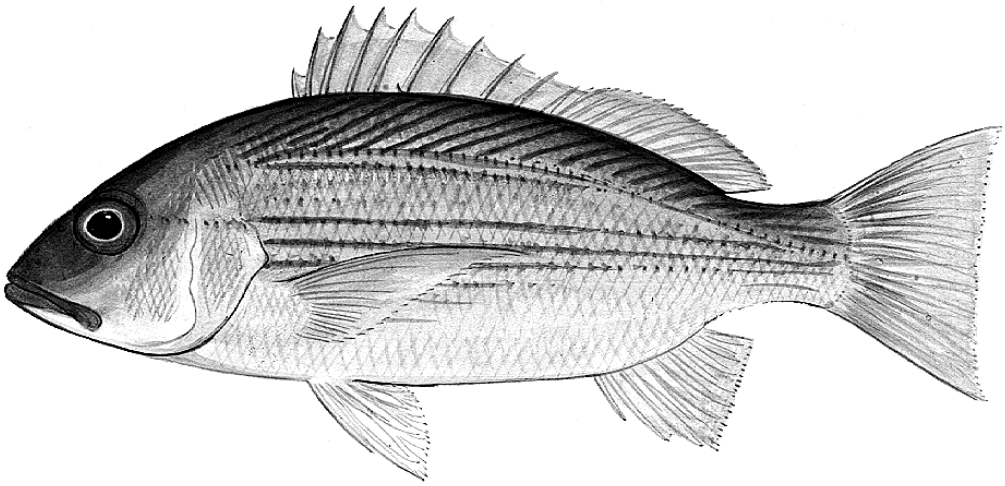
Distribution: Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific from the Solomon Islands to East Africa and from Australia to southern Japan.



Lutjanus madras (Valenciennes, 1831) **(Plate VIII, 51)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Lutjanus lutjanus* (Bloch, 1790).

FAO names: En - Indian snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau madras; **Sp** - Pargo madraseño.

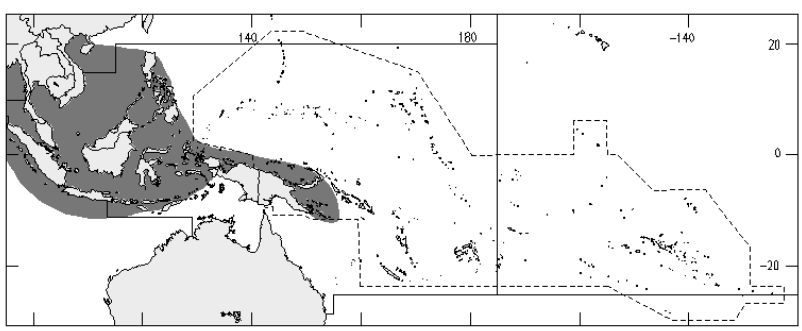


Diagnostic characters: Body fusiform, somewhat slender, its depth 2.6 to 3.1 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head moderately to gently sloped**; preorbital width about equal to 2/3 of eye diameter**; preopercular notch and knob poorly developed; vomerine tooth patch triangular with a medial posterior extension or diamond-shaped; tongue with a patch of granular teeth. First gill arch with 18 to 21 gill rakers, of which 12 to 15 (including rudiments) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 13 (rarely 11 or 14) soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 8 (rarely 9) soft rays; posterior profile of dorsal and anal fins angular. Caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate. Pectoral fins with 16 or 17 rays. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. **Colour: upper back brownish; sides whitish with a series of fine yellow horizontal lines, 1 per scale row, on lower half of body, and similar brownish lines running obliquely above lateral line**; fins yellow except pelvic fins frequently white or faintly yellow.

Size: Maximum total length about 30 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coral and rocky reefs at depths between about 5 and 90 m. Common in some markets, for example at Sri Lanka. Caught mainly with handlines, traps, and gill nets. Usually offered fresh.

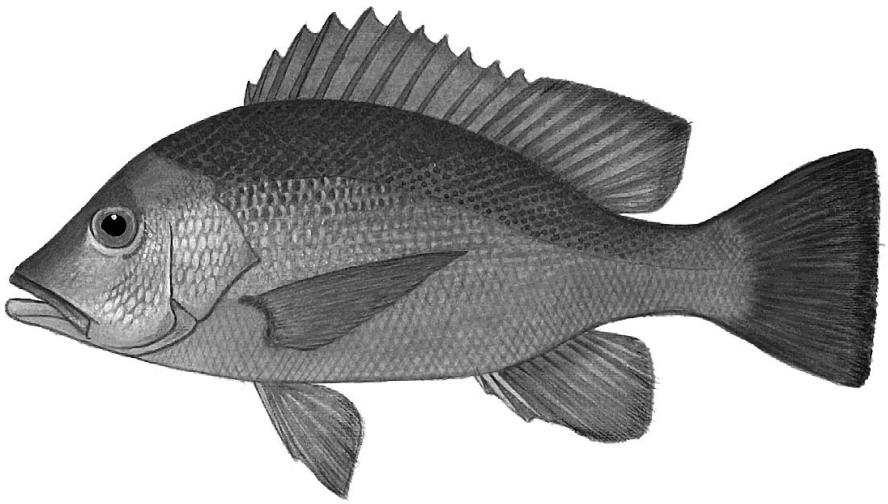
Distribution: Western Pacific and Indian Ocean from New Guinea and the Philippines to the Laccadive Islands; also found in the Seychelles.



Lutjanus malabaricus Schneider, 1801 **(Plate VIII, 52)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Malabar blood snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau malabar; **Sp** - Pargo malabárico.

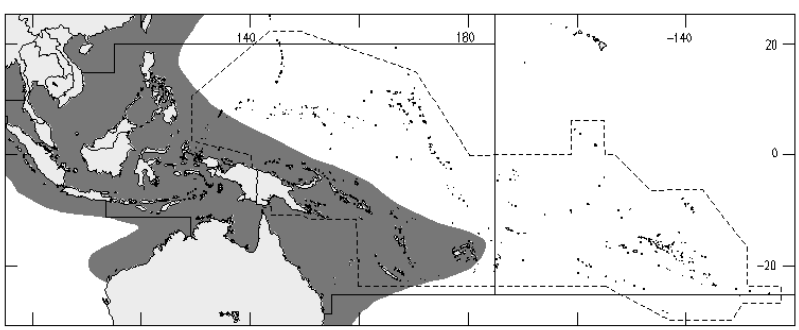


Diagnostic characters: Body relatively deep, its depth 2.2 to 2.8 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head steeply sloped; **mouth large, maxilla length about equal to distance between bases of last dorsal- and anal-fin rays**; snout profile straight or slightly concave; preorbital bone much broader than eye diameter; preopercular notch and knob poorly developed; vomerine tooth patch crescentic or triangular, without a medial posterior extension; tongue smooth, without teeth. First gill arch with 18 to 20 gill rakers, of which 12 to 14 (including rudiments) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with XI spines and 12 to 14 soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 8 or 9 soft rays; posterior profile of dorsal and anal fins slightly rounded to angular. Caudal fin truncate. Pectoral fins with 16 or 17 rays. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. **Colour: back and sides red or red-orange, lighter on lower parts; fins reddish**; juveniles with a broad, oblique band of brown or black from upper jaw to beginning of dorsal fin, and a prominent black band across caudal peduncle with a pearly white anterior border; young also with a series of narrow reddish horizontal lines (sometimes absent) on sides.

Size: Maximum total length about 100 cm, commonly to 50 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits both coastal and offshore reefs. In Australia it frequently forms mixed shoals with *Lutjanus erythropterus*. Depth range from about 12 to 100 m. Feeds mainly on fishes and benthic crustaceans. Spawning occurs throughout most of the year in lower latitudes with peak activity during spring and summer at New Caledonia. The von Bertalanffy growth coefficient (K) and exponential rate of mortality (M) were estimated as 0.31 and 0.42 respectively for the Vanuatu (New Hebrides) population (Brouard and Grandperrin, 1984). Estimated maximum age 10 to 12 years. An excellent food fish, found regularly in markets but usually in small quantities. One of the principal market fishes of Kuwait and other Persian Gulf ports. Also constitutes about 5% of trawl catch on the Northwest Shelf of Australia in combination with *L. erythropterus* and *L. sebae* (1971 to 1976 data). Caught mainly with handlines, bottom longlines, and bottom trawls. Marketed fresh or dried-salted.

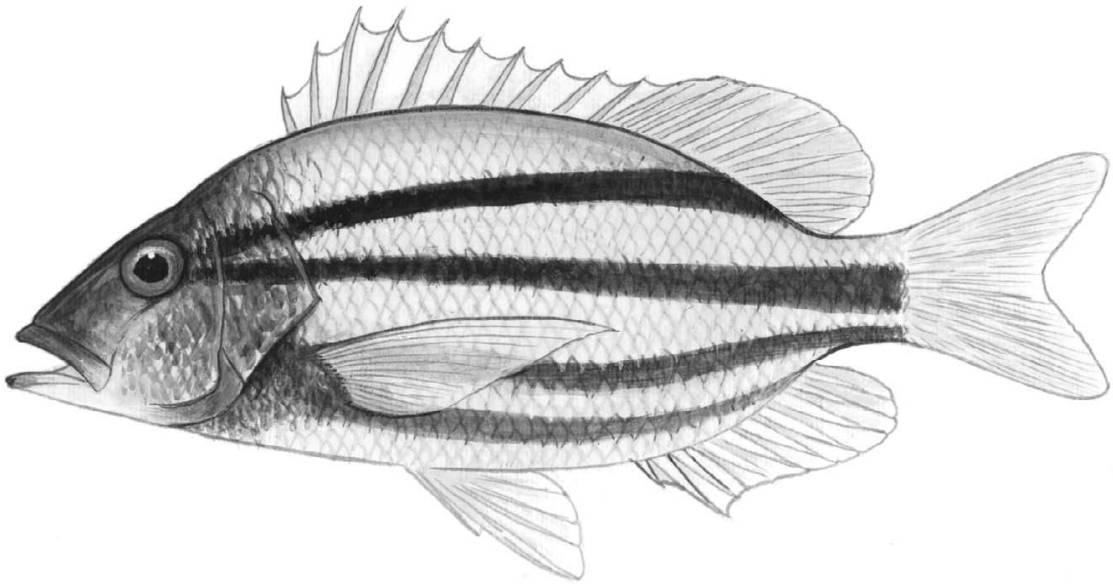
Distribution: Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific from the Fiji Islands to the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf, and from Australia to southern Japan.



Lutjanus maxweberi Popta, 1921

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Pygmy snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau nain; **Sp** - Pargo enano.

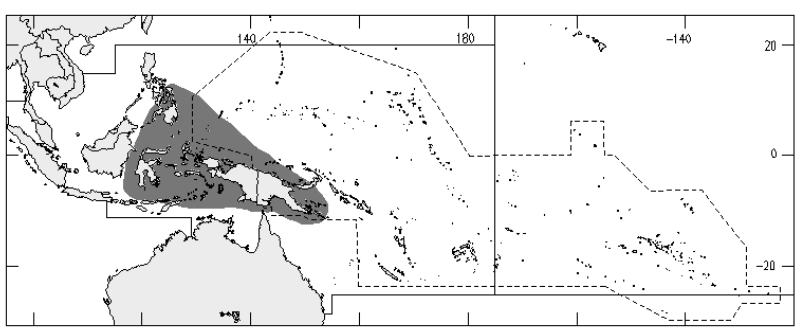


Diagnostic characters: Body relatively deep, its depth 2.2 to 2.7 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head steeply sloped; preorbital bone narrow, its width slightly less than eye diameter; **preopercular notch and knob poorly developed**; vomerine tooth patch crescentic or triangular, without a medial posterior extension; tongue smooth, without teeth. First gill arch with 16 to 19 gill rakers, of which 10 to 12 (including rudiments) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 13 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays**; posterior profile of dorsal and anal fins rounded to slightly angular. Caudal fin emarginate. Pectoral fins with 16 rays. Scale rows on back parallel to lateral line. **Colour: whitish with 4 dark brown to blackish stipes on sides**; older specimens becoming overall brownish except whitish on ventral surface.

Size: Maximum total length of known specimens 15 cm, but adults unknown.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Apparently restricted to fresh-water streams and brackish estuaries, although adult specimens are unknown. A poorly known species, of little interest to fisheries.

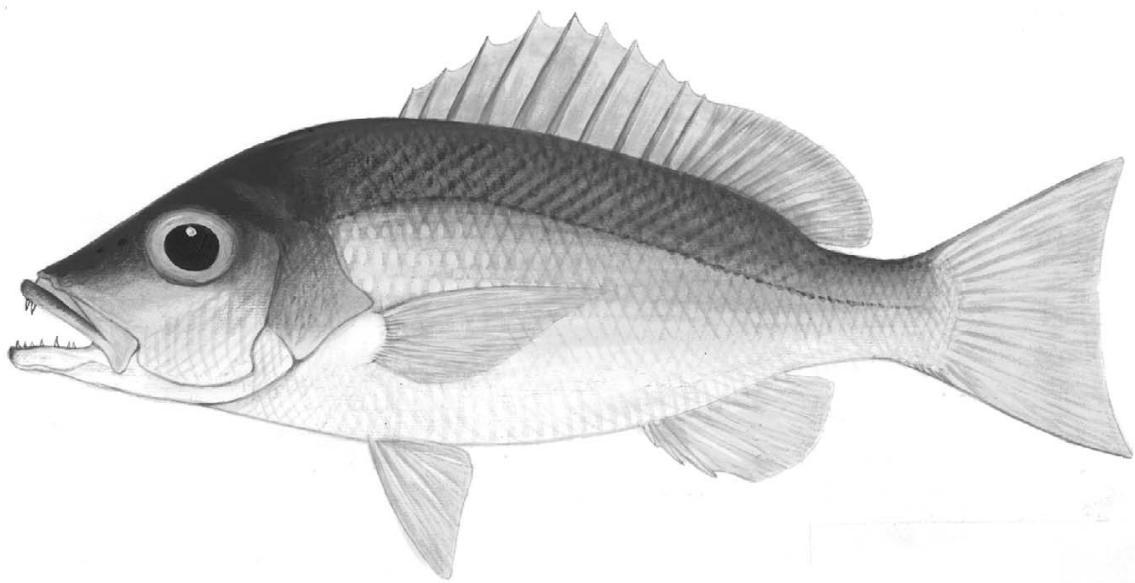
Distribution: Philippines, Indonesia (Sulawesi), and New Guinea.



Lutjanus mizenkoi Allen and Talbot, 1985

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Samoan snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau de Samoa; **Sp** - Pargo de Samoa.

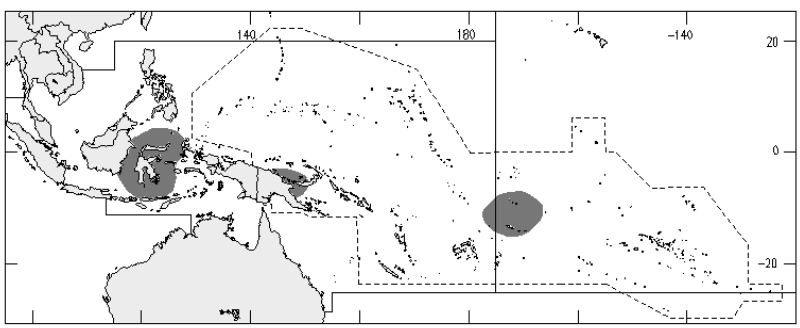


Diagnostic characters: Body relatively slender, its depth 2.9 to 3 times in standard length). Dorsal profile of head gently sloped; **preorbital bone narrower than eye diameter; preopercular notch and knob poorly developed**; vomerine tooth patch diamond-shaped; tongue with granular teeth. First gill arch with 15 or 16 gill rakers, of which 9 or 10 (including rudiments) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 13 soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays; posterior profile of dorsal and anal fins rounded. Caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate. Pectoral fins with 16 rays. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. **Colour: back and sides reddish grading to pink**; ventral portion of head and body white; **a series of faint, yellow horizontal lines, 1 per scale row on sides**; fins whitish or yellow.

Size: Maximum total length about 30 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits offshore reefs at depths between about 100 and 150 m. Of potential interest to fisheries if sufficient stocks can be located. A small, but excellent food fish occasionally found in markets in Western Samoa; caught mainly with deep handlines. Usually offered fresh.

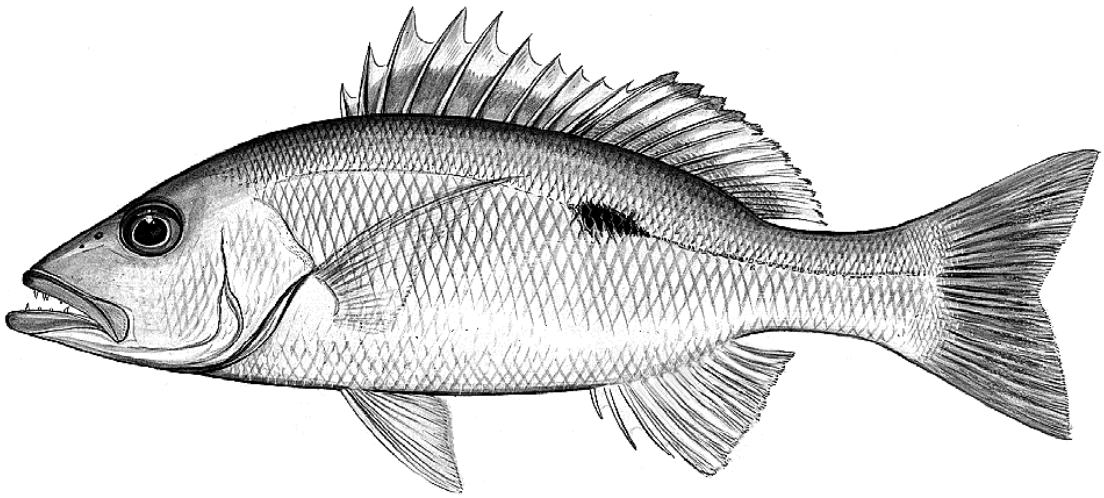
Distribution: Known only from Samoa, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia (Sulawesi).



Lutjanus monostigma (Cuvier, 1828) **(Plate VIII, 53)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Onespot snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau eglefin; **Sp** - Pargo eglefino.

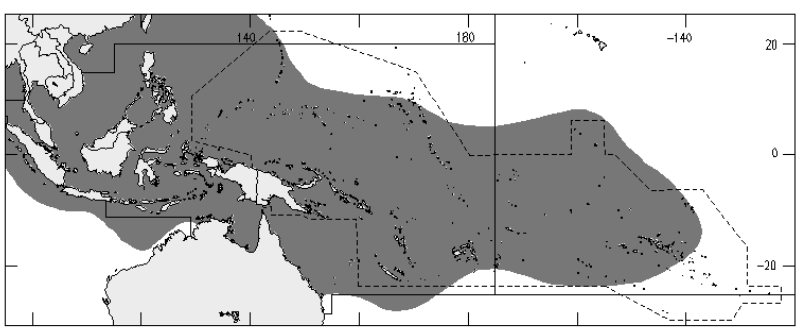


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep to somewhat slender, its depth 2.6 to 3 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head gently to moderately sloped; preorbital width about equal to eye diameter; preopercular notch and knob poorly developed; **vomerine tooth patch crescentic, without a medial posterior extension**; tongue smooth, without teeth. First gill arch with 18 or 19 gill rakers, of which 10 or 11 (including rudiments) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 13 (rarely 14) soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 8 or 9 soft rays; posterior profile of dorsal and anal fins rounded to somewhat angular. Caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate. Pectoral fins with 15 to 17 rays. **Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line**. **Colour:** generally yellowish to pinkish with dusky scale margins; grey or brown on upper back and dorsal portion of head; **a black spot, sometimes faint or absent, on back below anterior soft dorsal-fin rays**; fins yellowish.

Size: Maximum total length about 60 cm, commonly to 50 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coral reef areas, usually close to shelter in the form of caves, large coral formations, and wreckage. Solitary in habit or occurring in small groups. Depths range from about 5 to 30 m. Feeds mainly on fishes and benthic crustaceans. Spawning has been reported during February and November off East Africa. An important market fish in many areas, particularly in Oceania, although the flesh is sometimes poisonous (ciguatera). Caught mainly with handlines, traps, and gill nets. Marketed mostly fresh.

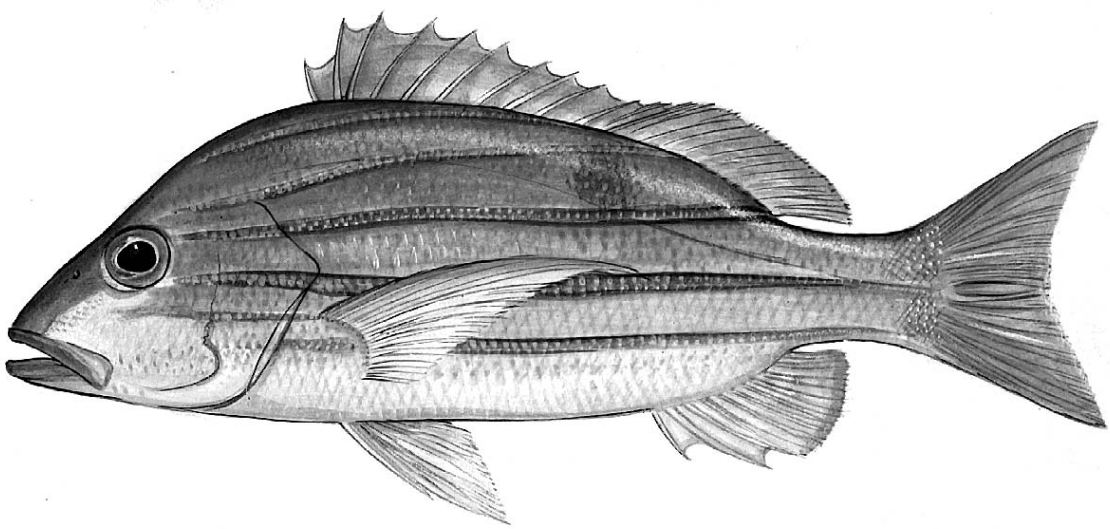
Distribution: Widespread in the Indo-Pacific from the Marquesas and Line islands to East Africa, and from Australia to the Ryukyu Islands.



Lutjanus quinquelineatus (Bloch, 1790) **(Plate VIII, 54)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Fivelined snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau à cinq bandes; **Sp** - Pargo de cinco lineas.

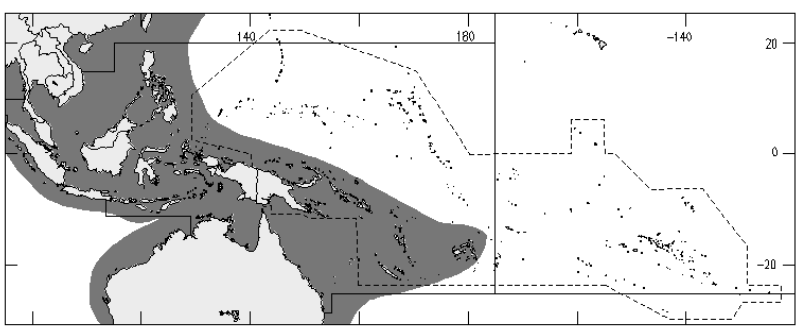


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep, its depth 2.3 to 2.9 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head steeply sloped; preorbital width usually less than eye diameter; **preopercular notch and knob well developed**; vomerine tooth patch crescentic, without a medial posterior extension; tongue smooth, without teeth. First gill arch with 20 to 23 gill rakers, of which 13 to 15 (including rudiments) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 13 to 15 soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays; posterior profile of dorsal and anal fins rounded to somewhat angular. Caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate. Pectoral fins with 16 or 17 rays. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. **Colour:** upper part of head brownish; sides and belly bright yellow; **a series of 5 bright blue stripes on sides**; a round black spot, eye-sized or larger, below anteriormost soft dorsal-fin rays at level of lateral line; fins yellow.

Size: Maximum total length about 38 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits sheltered lagoons and exposed, outer slope coral reefs at depths ranging from about 2 and 40 m. Frequently encountered in large aggregations including 100 or more individuals. At New Caledonia spawning occurs over most of the year with peak activity during summer (November to January). A good eating fish commonly found in markets throughout its range, also important in artisanal fisheries. Caught mainly with handlines, traps, and gill nets; also sought by sport fishermen off the Queensland coast of Australia.

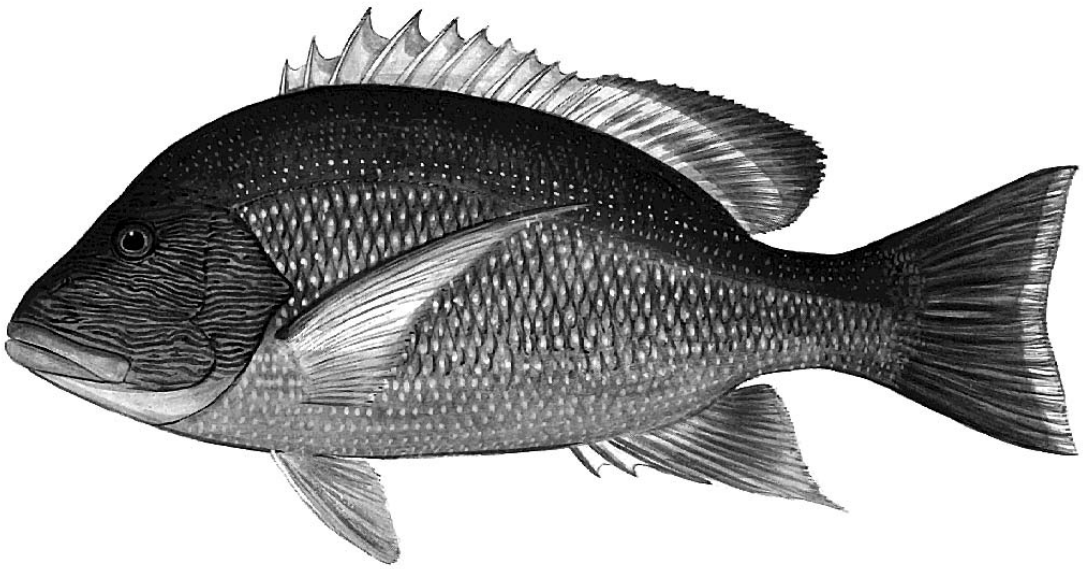
Distribution: Widespread in the Indo-Pacific from the Fiji Islands to the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, and from Australia to southern Japan.



Lutjanus rivulatus (Cuvier, 1828) **(Plate VIII, 55)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Blubberlip snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau maori; **Sp** - Pargo maori.

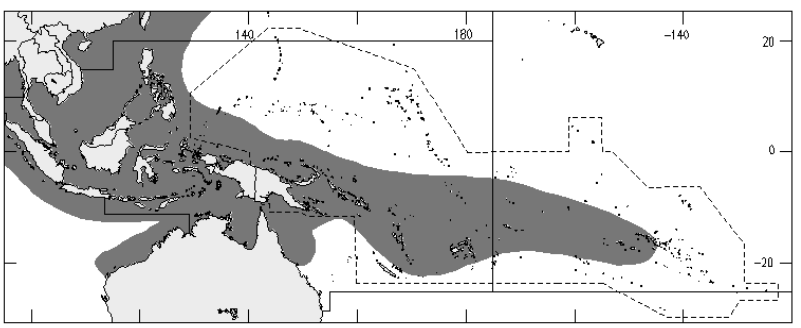


Diagnostic characters: Body very deep, its depth 2 to 2.4 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head steeply sloped; preorbital bone broad, about twice the eye diameter; preopercular notch and knob moderately developed; vomerine tooth patch crescentic, without a medial posterior extension; tongue smooth, without teeth. First gill arch with 17 or 18 gill rakers, of which 11 or 12 (including rudiments) on lower limb. **Lips greatly thickened in adults. Dorsal fin with X spines and 15 or 16 soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays; posterior profile of dorsal fin rounded; posterior profile of anal fin distinctly pointed. Caudal fin truncate or slightly emarginate. Pectoral fins with 17 rays. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. **Colour:** generally brown with a reddish tinge; each scale on side with a pale brown border and 2 to 3 small bluish white spots in central portion; **head with numerous undulating blue lines**; lips tan; fins largely yellowish to dusky grey-brown. Juveniles with a series of 3 to 8 brown bars on sides and a chalky white spot, with a broad blackish margin, present below anterior soft dorsal-fin rays at level of lateral line.

Size: Maximum total length about 65 cm, commonly to 35 cm. Matures at about 50 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occasionally encountered on coral reefs or shallow inshore flats. Also occurs in deeper water to at least 100 m. Found solitarily or in small groups of up to 15 to 20 fish. Feeds on fishes, cephalopods and benthic crustaceans. An excellent food fish frequently found in markets and important to artisanal fisheries. Caught with handlines, traps, and gill nets, occasionally trawled. Marketed mostly fresh.

Distribution: Widespread in the Indo-Pacific from Tahiti to East Africa, and from Australia to southern Japan.



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