

## Suborder SCOMBROLABRACOIDEI

## SCOMBROLABRACIDAE

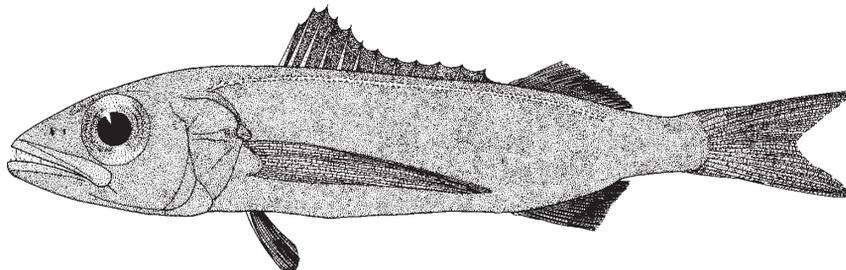
## Longfin escolars

by I. Nakamura and N.V. Parin

A single species in this family.

*Scombr labrax heterolepis* Roule, 1922**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Longfin escolar; Fr - Escolier aile longue; Sp - Escolarín.**Diagnostic characters:**

Body moderately elongate and compressed. Head large, with a flat interorbital region. **Eye very large, its diameter almost as long as snout.** Mouth large, a little protrusible. Lower jaw slightly projecting. Two or 3 large fangs at front of upper jaw. Both jaws with strong lateral teeth,



those in upper jaw more numerous and smaller than those of lower jaw. Several small teeth on vomer and small uniserial teeth on palatines. Two nasal openings each side of snout. Lower limb of first gill arch with 4 or 5 well-developed denticulate gill rakers, about 10 clusters of minute spines on upper limb, and a large denticulate gill raker at corner of first gill arch. Two dorsal fins, the first with XII spines and the second with I spine and 14 or 15 soft rays; base of first dorsal fin about twice base of second dorsal fin; origin of first dorsal fin slightly posterior to pectoral-fin base. Anal fin with II spines and 16 to 18 soft rays, similar to second dorsal fin in size and shape. Caudal fin forked and moderately small. **Pectoral fins very long, nearly reaching anal-fin origin.** Pelvic fins well developed, originating below origin of pectoral fins. **Lateral line single, running closely to dorsal contour, ending slightly before end of second dorsal fin.** No keels on caudal peduncle. Lateral-line scales about 44 to 49; scales irregular in size and shape, very deciduous. Vertebrae 30 (13+17). **Colour:** body uniformly dark brown without distinct markings, fins darker; buccal cavity black.

**Similar families occurring in the area**

Scombridae: caudal fin lunate; back blue or blue-black with bars, spots, or other dark markings; keels present on caudal peduncle; dorsal and anal finlets present.

Gempylidae: eyes smaller, their diameter not exceeding 1/2 length of snout; pectoral fins short, far anterior to anal-fin origin; if only a single lateral line present, not running close to dorsal contour.

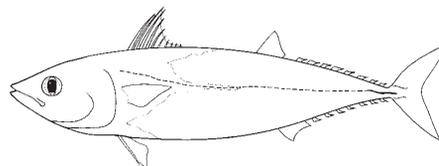
**Size:** Maximum standard length 30 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabiting continental shelves and slopes at depths between 100 and 900 m. Found in stomachs of tunas and billfishes, but details of biology of this species unknown. Not commercially fished at present, caught only incidentally by trawls.

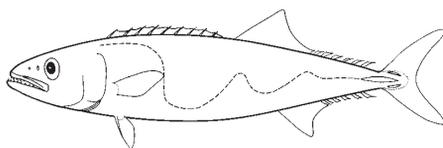
**Distribution:** Widely distributed in tropical and subtropical parts of the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans. Not recorded from the eastern Pacific and southeastern Atlantic.

**Reference**

Potthoff, T., W.J. Richards, and S. Ueyanagi. 1980. Development of *Scombr labrax heterolepis* (Pisces: Scombr labracidae) and comments on familial relationships. *Bull. Mar. Sci.*, 30(2):329-357.



Scombridae



Gempylidae

