

Gempylus serpens Cuvier, 1829



English Name: Snake mackerel
Local Name: Ali tholhi
Size: Max. 1 m (standard length)

Family: GEMPYLIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P0186/88

Distinctive Characters; Dorsal fin divided. First part with 26-32 spines, then 1 spine and 11-14 rays, followed by 5-7 finlets. Anal fin with 10-12 rays and 5-6 finlets. Pectoral fin with 12-15 rays. Body greatly elongate and strongly compressed. Two lateral lines. Pelvic fins reduced. Caudal fin forked.

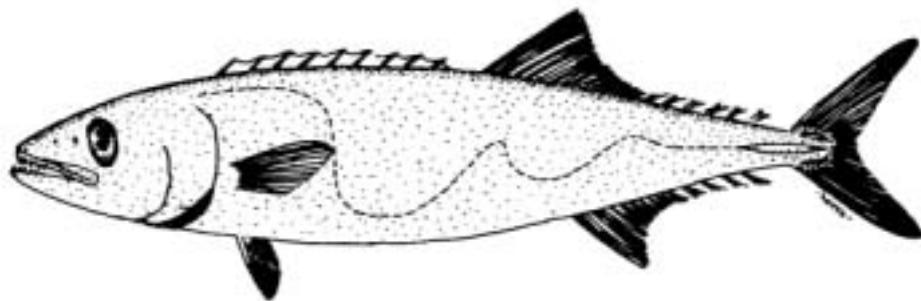
Colour: Uniformly dark grey brown with light metallic reflections. Sometimes a few small black spots on pectoral fin base. Fins dark brown with darker margins.

Habitat and Biology: Oceanic. Occurs at depths to at least 200 m or more. Often found near surface at night, attracted by night light. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods.

Distribution: World-wide in warm waters.

Remarks: The specimen of *Gempysus serpens* on which this report is made was caught by longline from R.V. 'Matha Han' about 30 miles east of Lhavyani Atoll on 10th February 1988.

Lepidocybium flavobrunneum (Smith, 1849)



English Name: Escolar
Local Name: Rongu theyomas
Size: Max. 2 m (standard length)

Family: GEMPYLIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P0 185/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8-9 spines. Second dorsal fin with 16-18 rays, followed by 4-6 finlets. Anal fin with 1 or 2 comprised spines, 12-14 rays and 4-5 finlets. Pectoral fin with 15-17 rays. Body moderately elongate and slightly compressed. Caudal peduncle with large keel flanked by two smaller ones. Lateral line single, distinct and wavy.

Colour: Body uniformly dark brown, becoming almost black with age.

Habitat and Biology: Pelagic and oceanic. Found at depths of 200 m or more. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods.

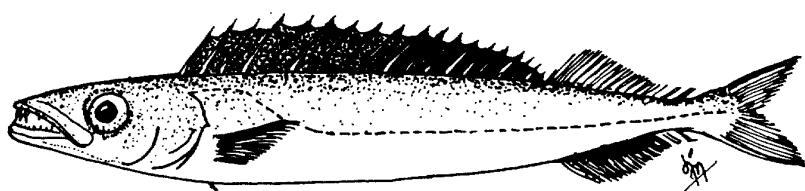
Distribution: Warm oceanic waters of the world.

Remarks: Like other Gempylids, *Lepidocybiumflavobrunneum* is a moderately deep water fish. However, it does come up to the surface at night. Its flesh is very oily and causes stomach upsets if eaten.

سُورَةُ الْمُنْذِر

می خواستند که این را بگیرند و آنها نیز می خواستند که این را بدهند. "خوب است" گفت کارو و سپس کارو شروع کرد:

Promethichthys prometheus (Cuvier, 1832)



English Name: Promethean escolar

Local Name: Kattelhi

Size: Max. 1 m (standard length)

Family: GEMPYLIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/P0329/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 17-18 spines. Second dorsal fin with 1 spine, 17-20 rays, followed by 2 finlets. Anal fin with 2 comprised spines, 15-17 rays and 2 finlets. Pectoral rays about 15. Anal fin similar to the second dorsal fin in shape and size. Single lateral line curving sharply down between fourth to seventh dorsal spines.

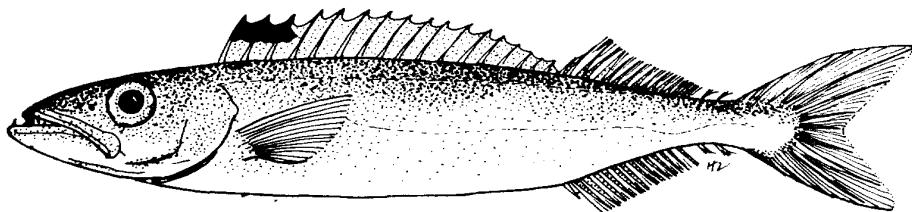
Colour: Dark brown with violet reflections, fading to dull brown after death. First dorsal fin membrane black, other fins blackish brown.

Habitat and Biology: Oceanic and benthopelagic. Found at depths of 100 to 750 m. Nocturnal. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods.

Distribution: Warm waters of Atlantic, Indian and West and Central Pacific Oceans.

Remarks: This record of *Promethichthys prometheus* is based on a series of photographs of a specimen caught in very deep water by handline off Fuah Mulaku on the nights of 3-4 January 1987.

Rexea prometheoides (Bleeker, 1856)



English Name: Royal escolar, Silver gemfish
Local Name: Lah kattiehi
Size: Max. 40cm (standard length)

Family: GEMPYLIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0071/86

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 18 spines. Second dorsal fin with 1 spine, 14-17 rays and 2 finlets. Anal fin with 2 spines (I free), 12-15 rays and 2 finlets. Pectoral fin with 13 rays. Double lateral line. Lateral line originating above upper angle of gill opening bifurcating below fifth dorsal spine or before it, the upper branch ending below middle of second dorsal fn base, the lower one slightly undulating along the posterior part of body.

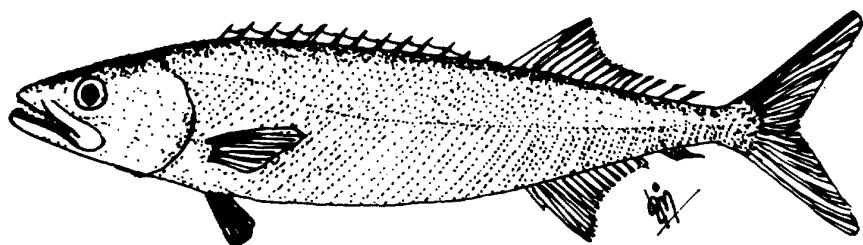
Colour: Silvery brown. A black blotch on front of first dorsal fin.

Habitat and Biology: Oceanic and benthopelagic, but closer to the coasts than other Gempylids. Found at depths of 135 to 540 m. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods.

Distribution: All warm seas.

Remarks: *Rexea prometheoides* is a moderately deep water fish. This record is based on specimens caught in 200 m depth by bottom troll near the north of Baa Atoll by R.V. Dr. Fridtjof Nansen during its visit to Maldives in 1983.

Ruvettus pretiosus Cocco, 1829



English Name: Oil fish
Local Name: Theyo mas
Size: Max. 3 m

Family: GEMPYLIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0187/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 13-15 spines, second dorsal fin with 15-18 rays and 2 finlets. Anal fin with 15-18 rays and 2 finlets. Pectoral fin with 13-15 rays. Belly keeled, with dermal processes between pelvic fins and anus. Eye fairly large and round. Lateral line single and often obscure. Scales cycloid (smooth). No keels on caudal peduncle. Caudal fin broad and forked.

Colour: Body uniformly violet or purplish or brown when alive. Dull brown after death.

Habitat and Biology: Benthopelagic, mostly occurring on continental shelf and oceanic slope in depths of 100 to 700 m. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods.

Distribution: World wide in warm waters.

Remarks: The specimen of *Ruvettus pretiosus* on which this record made was taken by gillnet from R.V. 'Matha Han' about 30 miles east of Male on 16 March 1988.