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FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREAS 57, 71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

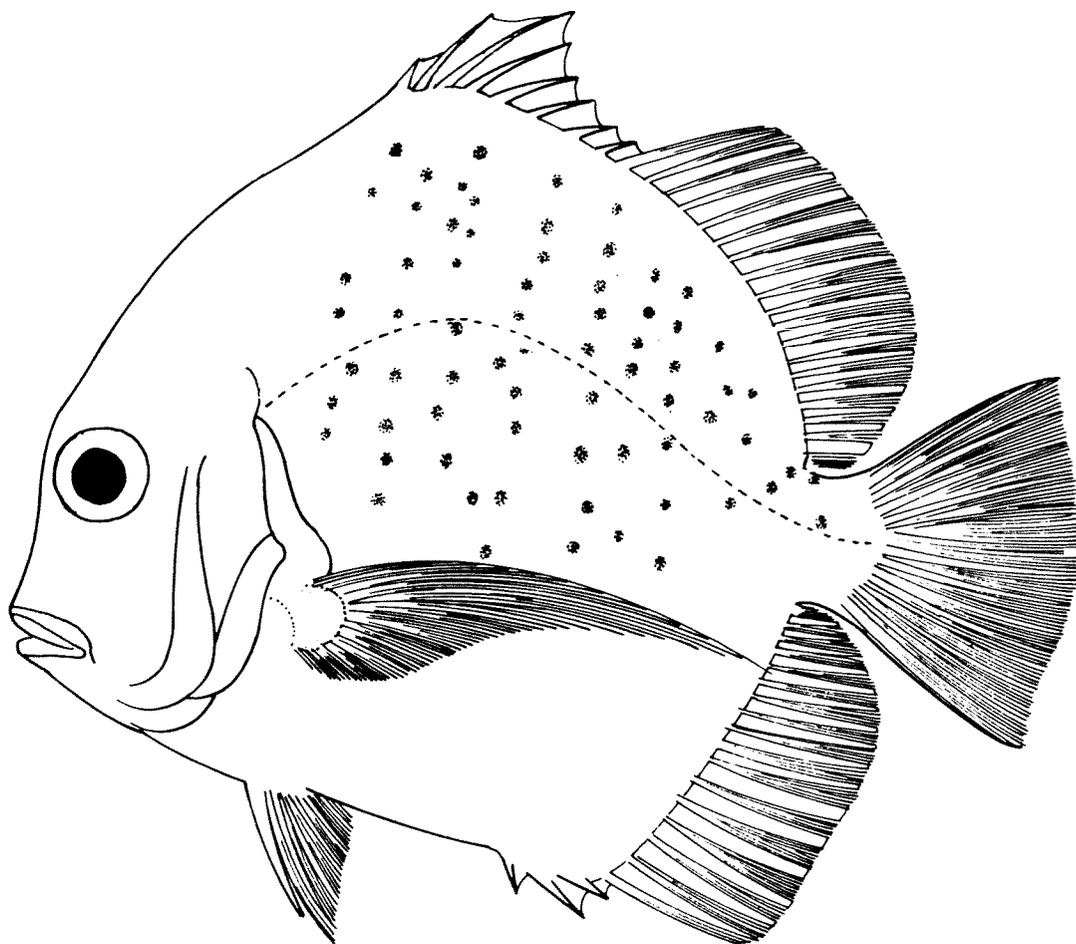
DREPANIDAE

Sicklefishes

(placed by some authors, together with the Platacidae, in the family Ephippidae)

Body very deep and strongly compressed; head short, with parabolic profile; scales absent in front of eye and on preoperculum, the latter with a denticulate lower border. Mouth very small, terminal and protractile, forming a downward-pointing tube; teeth small and setiform. Dorsal fin with 8 to 10 spines (the 1st small, procumbent, visible only in young), the spinous part separated from the soft part by a deep notch. Pectoral fins long, falcate; pelvic fins present; anal fin with 3 spines; hind margin of caudal fin rounded. Scales of moderate size, finely ciliated, extending onto dorsal and anal fins; lateral line strongly arched.

Colour: silvery grey above, silvery white below, with dusky spots or grey vertical bars.



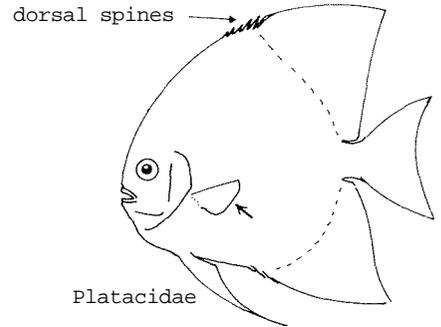
SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Ehippidae: pectoral fins short, not falcate; also, mouth not protractile.

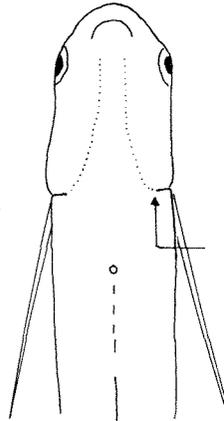
Platacidae: pectoral fins short, not falcate; also, 5 to 9 spines in dorsal fin, increasing in length posteriorly and not separated from soft part of fin by a notch.

Stromateidae (deep-bodied species): no pelvic fins in adults and gill membranes broadly united to isthmus (gill openings mere lateral slits).

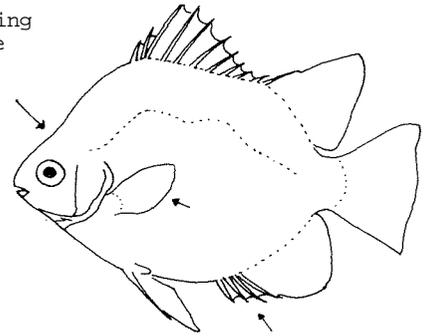
Scatophagidae: 4 anal fin spines and pectoral fins small and rounded; also, snout profile concave.



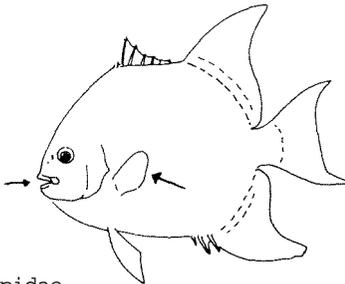
Platacidae



Stromateidae (underside)



Scatophagidae



Ehippidae

Key to Genera

Drepane only

List of Species occurring in the Area

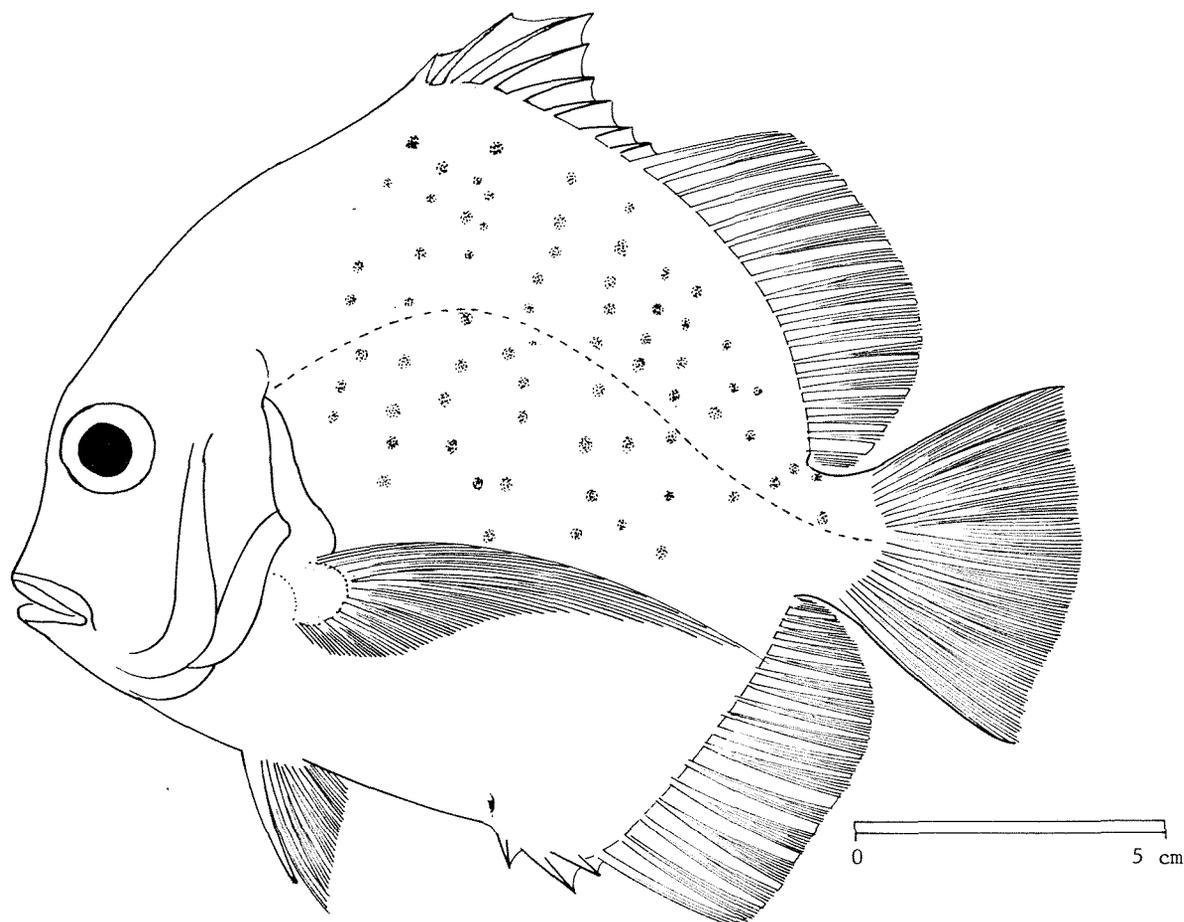
(Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included)

- Drepane longimana*
- Drepane punctata*

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FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: DREPANIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57, 71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Drepane punctata* (Linnaeus, 1758)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Chaetodon punctata* Linnaeus, 1758

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Spotted sicklefish
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Head and body deep, strongly compressed. Mouth protractile; teeth pointed, slender, crowded together; fringe of 4 to 6 short cirri ventrally on lower jaw (absent in specimens 10 or more inches in total length. Dorsal fin with 8 to 9 spines and 19 to 22 soft rays; the 4th dorsal spine the longest;

anal fin with 3 spines and 17 to 19 soft rays; pectoral fins long and pointed, reaching to base of caudal fin.

Colour: generally silvery with greenish tinge on upper half of body and a large orange spot just above the base of the pectoral fin; 4 to 11 vertical bands of small black spots on upper half of body; margins of dorsal, anal, caudal and pelvic fins greyish black.

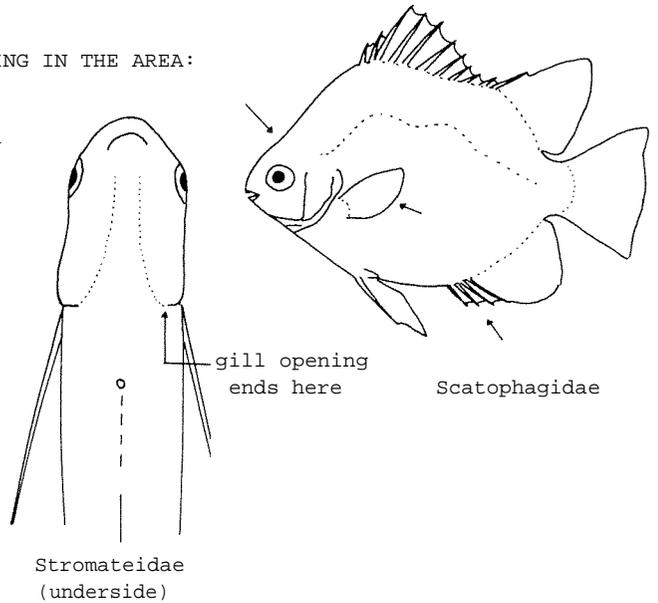
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Drepane tongimanna: 4 to 9 vertical grey bars on upper half of sides, but no spots; also, 8 dorsal fin spines (9 in *D. punctata*).

Ehippus species: pectoral fins short, not falcate; mouth not protractile.

Scatophagidae: 4 anal fin spines, pectoral fins small and rounded; also, head profile concave above snout.

Platax species: pectoral fins short, not falcate; spines of dorsal fin increasing in length posteriorly; no notch between spinous and soft parts of dorsal fin.



SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm; common: 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

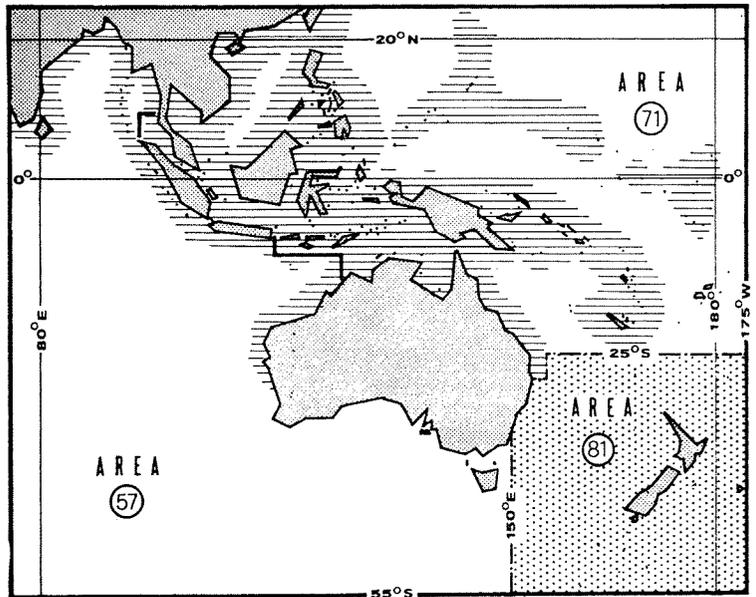
Throughout northern part of area and southward to New South Wales (Australia); also, westward to East Africa.

Found in shallow waters around coral and rocky reefs.

Feeds on bottom-living invertebrates and fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics for this species are reported only by Malaysia (1972: 400 tons).

Caught mainly with hand lines, traps and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh only.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

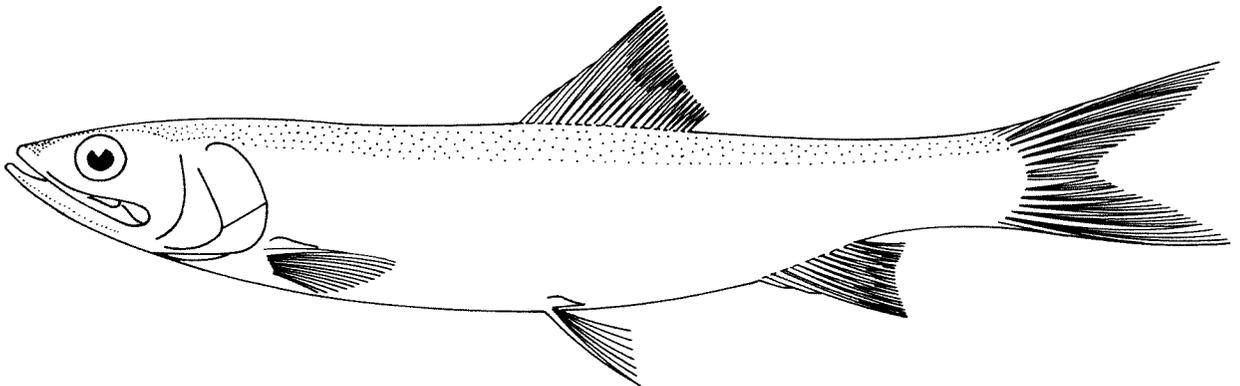
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

ELOPIDAE

Tenpounders, ladyfishes

Elongate, fusiform fishes with cylindrical bodies, resembling the *Clupeidae* (herrings) but possessing a lateral line and lacking scutes along belly. A single dorsal fin, with soft unbranched rays, set at about midpoint of body; anal fin origin a little behind last dorsal ray. Bony gular plate between arms of lower jaw. Pseudobranch present (gill-like structure on inner face of gill cover). Scales present, small; lateral line with about 100 scales.

Colour: blue/green on back, flanks silvery.



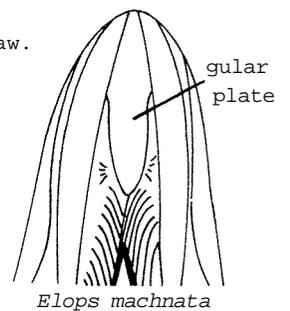
SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chanidae: lack a gular plate and have a small mouth with very short upper jaw.

Clupeidae: lack a gular plate and lateral line; also, belly usually with a sharp keel of scutes.

Megalopidae: possess a gular plate but last dorsal fin ray filamentous and scales very large.

Albulidae: possess a gular plate but have a projecting snout and inferior mouth.



Key to Genera

Elops only

List of Species occurring in the Area
(Code numbers are given for those species
for which Identification Sheets are included)

Elops maehnata (*Elops hawaiiensis* probably a synonym) ELOP Elop 1

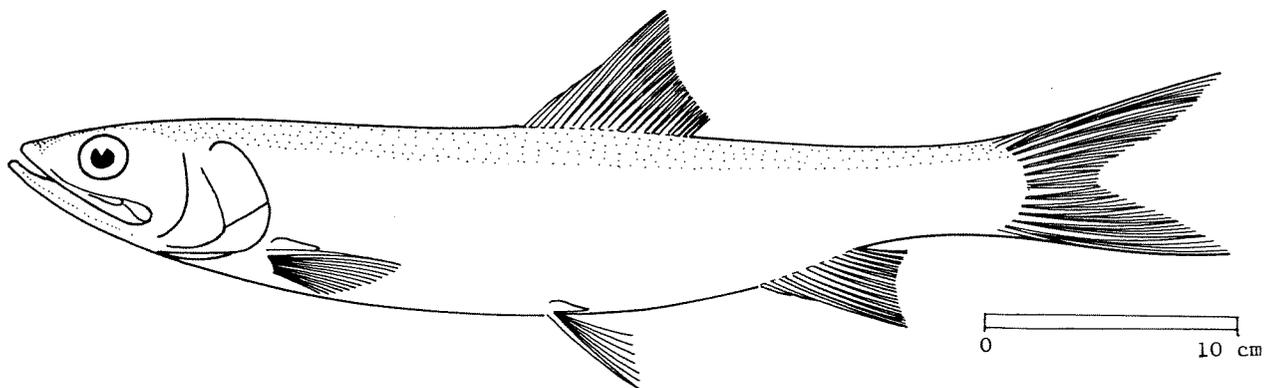
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ELOPIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

Elops machnata (Forsskål, 1775)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Elops hawaiiensis*: Weber & de Beaufort, 1913
Elops saurus: misidentification



VERNACULAR NAMES

FAO: En - Tenpounder
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Elongate, fusiform body, sub-cylindrical, with smooth unkeeled belly. Single dorsal fin, with the unbranched rays soft, set near midpoint of body; pelvic fin base below middle of dorsal fin base; anal fin origin well behind last dorsal ray. Upper jaw long, tip of maxilla reaching well beyond eye; lower jaw projecting slightly. Gular plate present between arms of lower jaws. Branchiostegal rays 25 to 35. Pseudobranch present (gill-like structure on inner face of gill cover). Scales present, small; lateral line with about 100 scales.

Colour: back blue/green, flanks silvery.

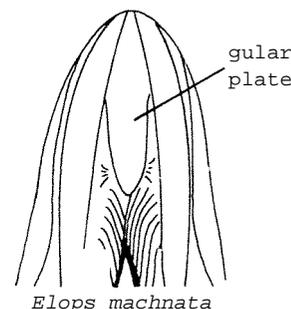
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Elops saurus: not found in Indo-Pacific region.

Species of Clupeidae and Engraulidae: lateral line and gular plate absent; scutes along belly in most species.

Megalops cyprinoides: a filamentous last dorsal ray and much bigger scales (not more than 40 in lateral line; about 100 in *Elops machnata*).

Chanos chanos: a small sub-terminal mouth and no gular plate.



Elops machnata

SIZE:

Maximum: 90 cm; common: 50 cm.

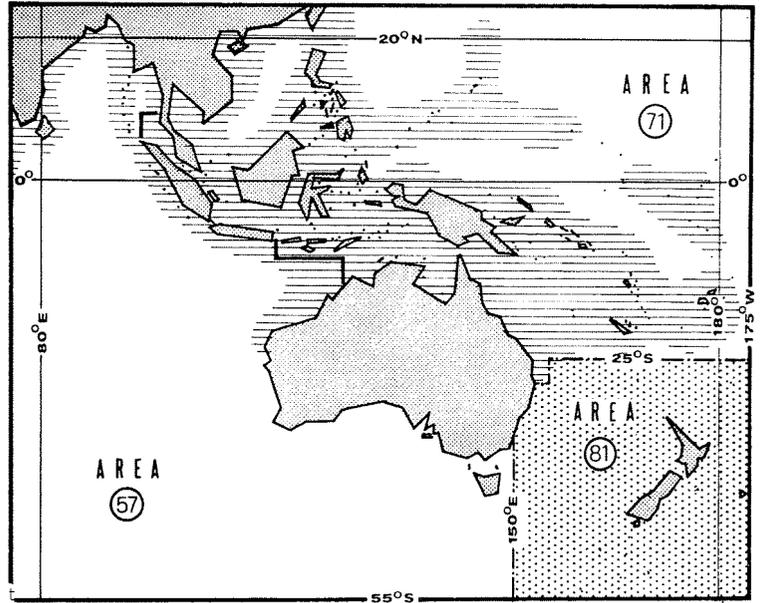
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout whole northern part of area and southward to tropical waters of Australia; also, westward to East Africa and eastward possibly to Hawaii (as *E. hawaiiensis*).

Inhabits coastal waters; pelagic.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Catches probably small but perhaps locally important. Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with gill nets and by trolling.

Marketed mainly fresh; also dried-salted.