

Geographical Distribution : Widespread in the tropical Indo-Pacific Ocean, but known from relatively few localities including the Ryukyu Islands, South China Sea, Andaman Sea, and the northwestern portion of the Arabian Sea.

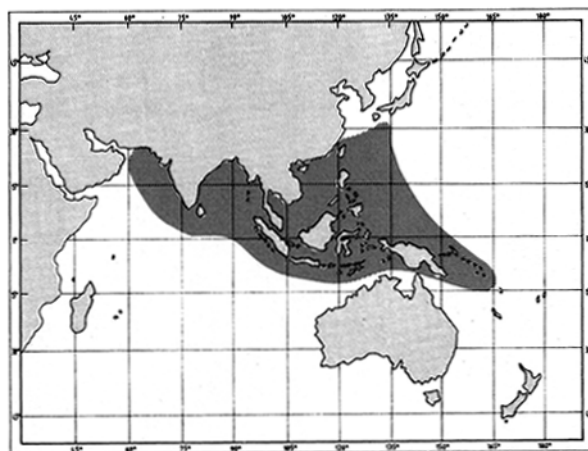
Habitat and Biology : Occurs over rocky bottoms of the continental shelf at depths between 90 and 300 m. Probably feeds on fishes and large invertebrates.

Size : Maximum total length about 60 cm; common to 40 cm.

Interest to Fisheries : A moderately common constituent of the longline fishery of the continental shelf off South China. Caught mainly with longlines and handlines; also taken with bottom trawls.

Local Names : JAPAN: Kibire-fuedai.

Literature : Anderson, Talwar & Johnson (1977); Fischer & Bianchi (eds) (1984).



Lutjanus Bloch, 1970

LUT Lut

Genus : Lutjanus Bloch, 1790:108. Type-species Lutjanus lutjanus Bloch, 1790, by absolute tautonymy.

Synonyms : Genus Lutianus Bloch, 1790; Genus Diacope Cuvier, 1815; Genus Mesoprion Cuvier (in C. & V.), 1828; Genus Genyroroge Cantor, 1849; Genus Neomaensis Girard, 1859; Genus Evoplites Gill, 1862; Genus Hypoplites Gill, 1862; Genus Neomesoprion Castelnau, 1875; Genus Raizero Jordan & Fesler, 1893; Genus Bennettia Fowler, 1904; Genus Parkia Fowler, 1904; Genus Rhomboplitoides Fowler, 1918; Genus Loxolutjanus Fowler, 1931.

Diagnostic Features : Small to large-sized snappers with oblong and relatively deep to slender and fusiform bodies. Mouth relatively large, protractile; pointed, conical teeth in jaws arranged in one or more rows, with an outer series of canine teeth, some of which, particularly those at front of jaws, are generally enlarged and fang-like; vomerine tooth patch V-shaped or crescentic to triangular, with or without a medial posterior extension, or diamond-shaped; interorbital space convex; preopercle serrate, its lower margin with a shallow to deep notch, and opposite portion of interopercle sometimes with a bony knob, most strongly developed in species with a deep preopercular notch. Dorsal fin continuous, often with a slight notch between the spinous and soft portions, with 10 or 11 spines and, 11 to 16 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 to 10 soft rays; pectoral fins with 15 to 18 rays; dorsal and anal fins scaled; caudal fin truncate or emarginate, rarely forked. Colour: extremely variable, but often consisting of a reddish, yellow, grey, or brown background and a pattern of darker stripes or bars; frequently with a large blackish spot on upper sides below anterior dorsal soft rays.

Biology, Habitat and Distribution : Lutjanus species are conspicuous inhabitants of coral reef areas and several are commonly taken by trawlers and deep handlining in more offshore waters. Most reef species are encountered in depths less than about 30 to 40 m. Some of the large red snappers penetrate to depths of at least 200 m. The smaller species are frequently seen in large, daytime aggregations close to the surface of the reef. They disperse at night to forage mainly on fishes and crustaceans. Group spawning has been observed in L. kasmira. Males initiate courtship by pecking and rubbing against the body of a female. Eventually other fish join the activities and initiate a spiral ascent, releasing the gametes just below the surface. The tiny (about 0.8 mm diameter), spherical eggs hatch in 18 hours and the newly hatched fry are about 1.8 mm in total length. The grey snapper (L. griseus) of the western Atlantic reaches sexual maturity at an age of about 2 years and is capable of producing more than 5 million eggs per spawning.

Geographical Distribution : Inshore circumtropical and subtropical waters throughout the world.

Interest to Fisheries : The larger species are good eating and are important market fishes throughout the tropics. They are captured by a variety of methods which include handlines, traps, spears, nets and trawling gear. Most species are marketed fresh; sometimes they are frozen or dry-salted.

KEY TO Lutjanus BY REGIONS

A. Key to the eastern Pacific species of Lutjanus :

1a. Longitudinal scale rows above lateral line entirely horizontal (Fig. 1)

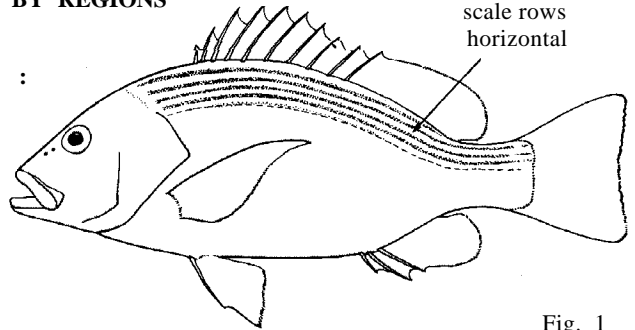


Fig. 1

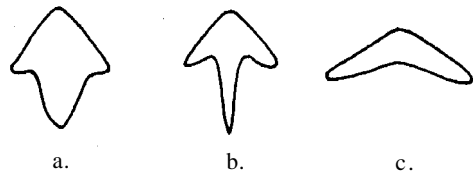
2a. Vomerine tooth patch roughly diamond-shaped or having a medial posterior extension

3a. Vomerine tooth patch roughly diamond-shaped (Fig. 2a); colour mainly red L. jordani (Fig. 3)

L. jordani
(Fig. 3)

3b. Vomerine tooth patch V-shaped or crescentic, sometimes triangular with an elongate posterior extension (Fig. 2b); colour mainly yellow L. argentiventris (Fig. 4)

L. argentiventris
(Fig. 4)



vomerine tooth patches

Fig. 2

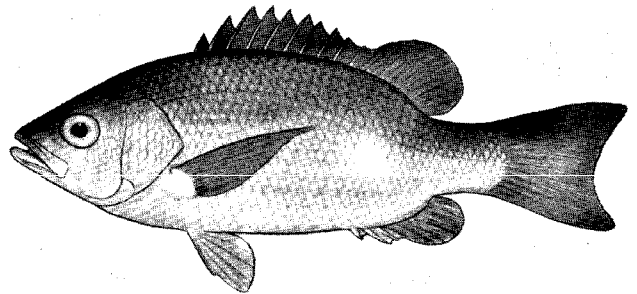
2b. Vomerine tooth patch without a medial posterior extension (Fig. 2c)

4a. Dorsal spines 11 or 12; colour dark grey-green to red with alternating dark and light stripes on sides L. aratus (Fig. 5)

L. aratus
(Fig. 5)

4b. Dorsal spines 10; colour mainly red L. colorado (Fig. 6)

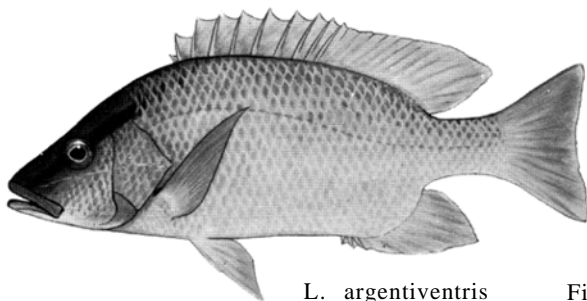
L. colorado
(Fig. 6)



L. jordani

Fig. 3

1b. Longitudinal scale rows above lateral line obliquely positioned (Fig. 7)



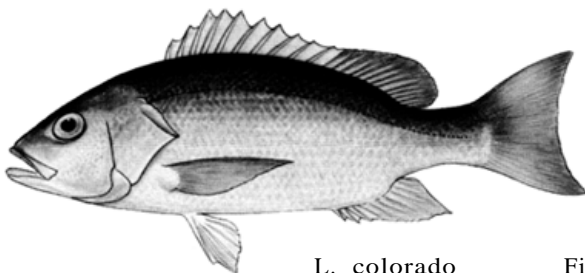
L. argentiventris

Fig. 4



L. aratus

Fig. 5



L. colorado

Fig. 6

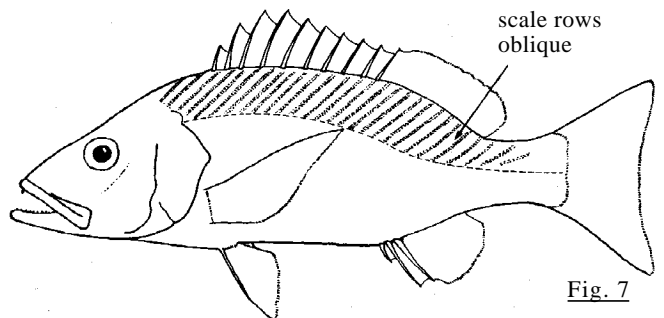
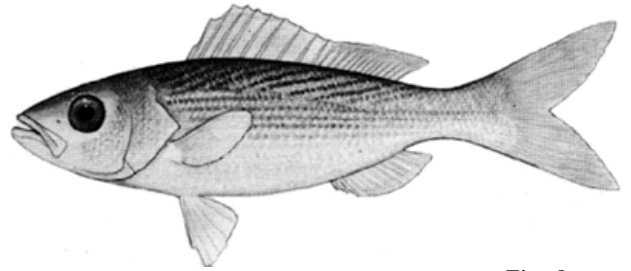


Fig. 7

5a. Body slender, the greatest depth about 3.5 times in standard length; anal soft rays 11 **L. inermis**
(Fig. 8)

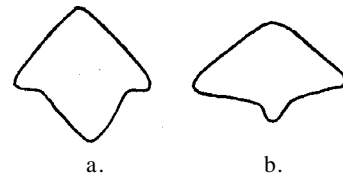


L. inermis **Fig. 8**

5b. Body deeper, the greatest depth about 2.5 to 3 times in standard length; anal soft rays 8

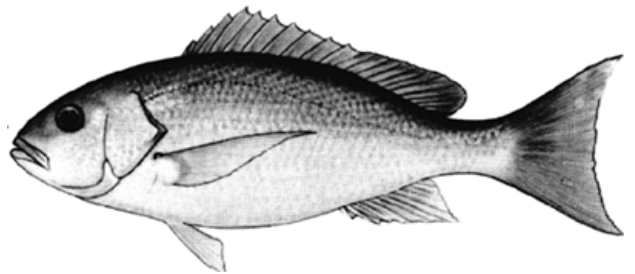
6a. Vomerine tooth patch with a medial posterior extension

7a. Vomerine tooth patch roughly diamond-shaped (Fig. 9a); gill rakers on lower limb of first arch 12 or 13, but only 7 or 8 distinct, the remainder in form of low rudiments; large adults with grooves from eye to nostrils and at top of preopercle; colour uniformly reddish **L. peru**
(Fig. 10)



vomerine tooth patches **Fig. 9**

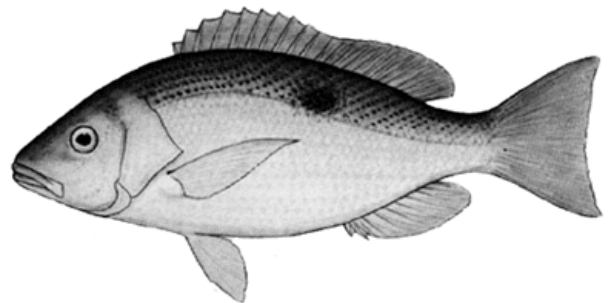
7b. Vomerine tooth patch triangular with a relatively short backward prolongation (Fig. 9b); gill rakers on lower limb of first arch 12 to 14, all relatively distinct; no grooves in front of eye or at top of preopercle; colour red with horizontal rows of blue-grey spots and a large blackish blotch on upper side **L. guttatus**
(Fig. 11)



L. peru **Fig. 10**

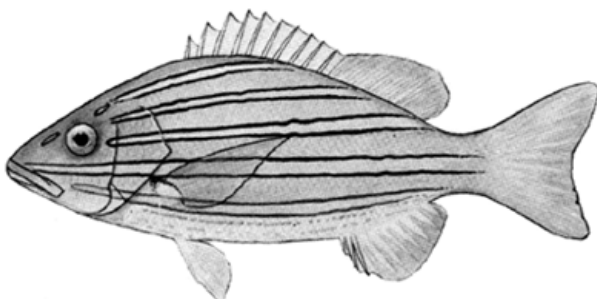
6b. Vomerine tooth patch without a medial posterior extension (Fig. 2c)

8a. Body colour pale (yellow in life) with 5 dark-margined bluish stripes on sides; tongue without teeth **L. viridis**
(Fig. 12)

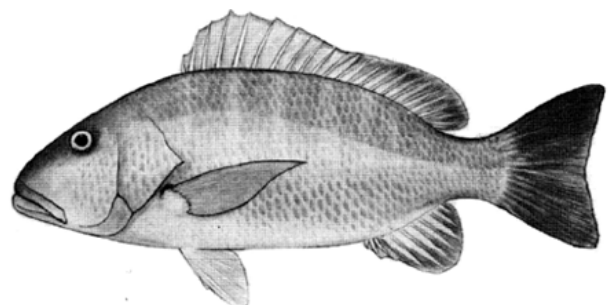


L. guttatus **Fig. 11**

8b. Body colour brown or reddish without stripes; tongue with one or more patches of granular teeth. . . . **L. novemfasciatus**
(Fig. 13)



L. viridis **Fig. 12**



L. novemfasciatus **Fig. 13**