

SCOMBRO

1983

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

**FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)**

SCOMBROLABRACIDAE

Longfin escolar

A single species in the area - see species sheet for:

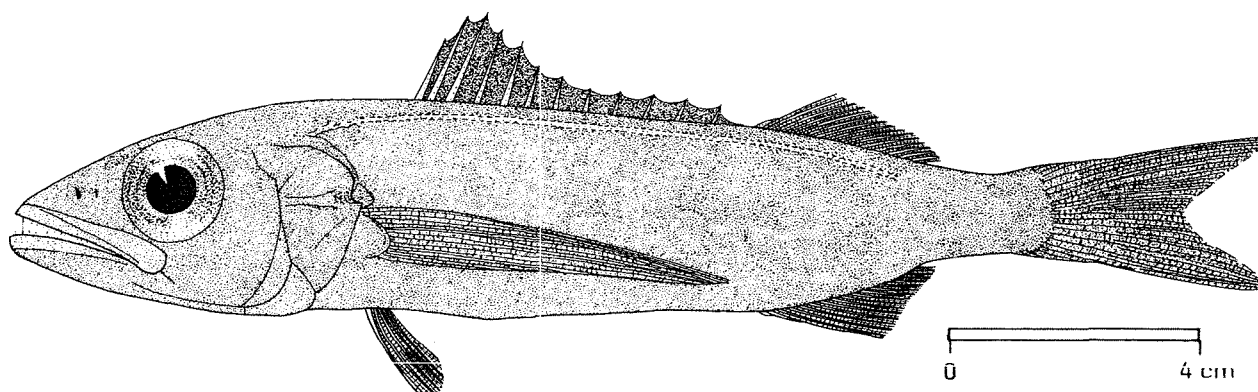
Scombr labrax heterolepis Roule, 1922 SCOMBRO Scombro 1

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCOMBROLABRACIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Scombrolabrax heterolepis Roule, 1922

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Longfin escolar
 Fr - Escolier aile longue
 Sp - EscolarIn

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

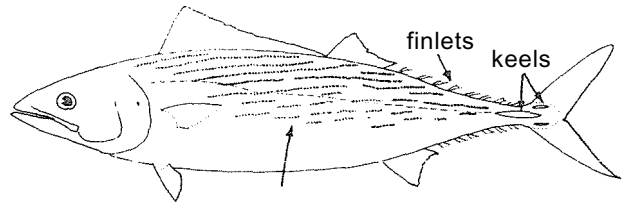
Body moderately elongate and compressed. Head large, with a flat interorbital region; eye very large, its diameter almost as long as snout; mouth large, a little protrusible, lower jaw slightly projecting; 2 or 3 large fangs at front of upper jaw, strong lateral teeth present in both jaws, those in upper more numerous and smaller than those of lower jaw; several small teeth on vomer and small uniserial teeth present on palatines; 2 nostrils on each side of snout. Four or 5 well developed denticulate gillrakers on lower limb of first arch, about 10 clusters of minute spines on upper limb and a large denticulate raker at corner of first arch. Two dorsal fins, first dorsal fin with 12 spines and second dorsal fin with 1 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 2 spines and 16 to 18 soft rays, similar to second dorsal fin in size and shape; pectoral fins very long, reaching nearly anal fin origin; pelvic fins well developed, originating below origin of pectoral fin; caudal fin forked and rather small. No keels on caudal peduncle. Lateral line single, running closely to dorsal contour, ending slightly before end of second dorsal fin. Lateral line scales about 44 to 49; scales irregular in size and shape, very deciduous (easily shed). Vertebrae 30 (13 + 17).

Colour: body uniform dark brown with no distinct markings, fins darker. Buccal cavity black.

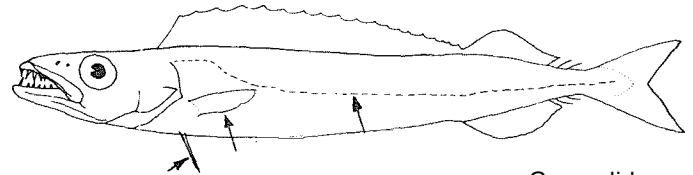
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

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 half length of snout; pectoral fins short, far anterior to anal fin origin; if only a single lateral line present, not running closely to dorsal contour.



Scombridae



Gempylidae

SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm standard length.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widely distributed in the tropical and subtropical parts of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. No records from the eastern Pacific and Southeast Atlantic.

A rather rare fish, inhabiting the continental shelf and slope between 100 and 900 m depth.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Not commercially fished at present.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught incidentally by trawls.

