

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

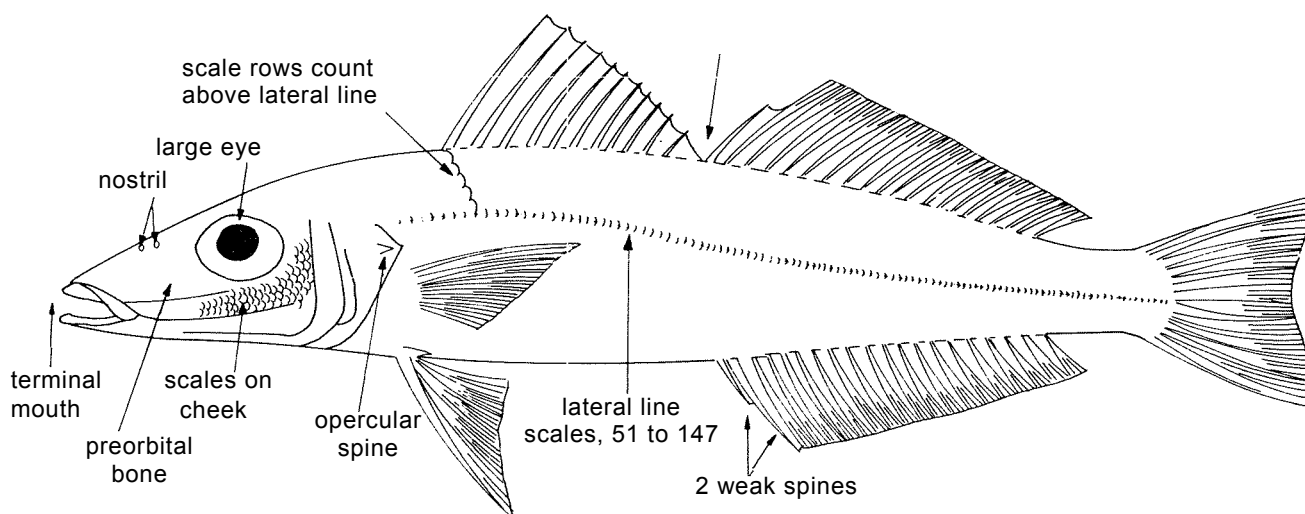
SILLAGINIDAE

Sillagos

Body elongate, slightly compressed, tapering from middle of spinous dorsal fin to head and tail. Opercle with a small, sharp spine; mouth small, terminal; end of upper jaw slides below preorbital bone; jaw teeth villiform, in broad bands; small teeth on roof of mouth restricted to anterior part of vomer, none on palatines. Two separate dorsal fins, the first with 9 to 12 slender spines, its origin above middle of pectoral fins; the second with 1 spine and 16 to 26 rays, its base about twice that of 1st dorsal fin; pelvic fin origin slightly behind origin of pectoral fin; anal fin with two weak spines. Scales small, ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line slightly arched.

Colour: silvery grey/green, sometimes with black spots.

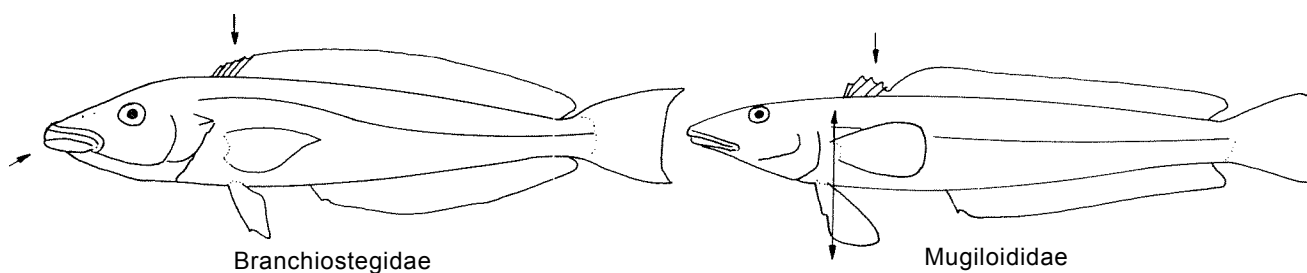
Small to medium-sized fishes (all less than 50 cm in total length) inhabiting sandy or muddy bottoms in shallow marine waters and estuaries. Caught with bottom trawls, beach seines, castnets and handlines. Good foodfishes, flesh of excellent flavour.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Branchiostegidae: a single continuous dorsal fin; mouth large, with fleshy lips.

Mugiloididae (Parapercidae): dorsal fin spines short; spinous dorsal fin sometimes joined to soft dorsal fin; bases of pelvic fins in advance of pectoral fin bases.

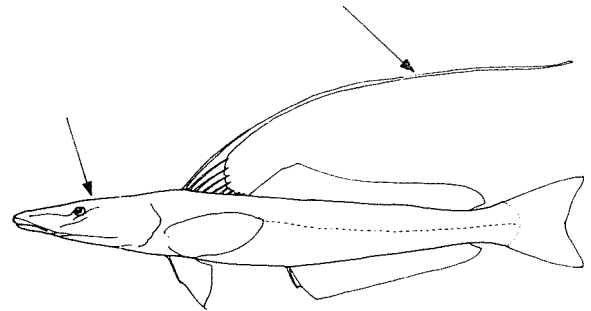


KEY TO GENERA AND SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

1a. Snout and head greatly depressed; second dorsal spine very elongate; eyes small, 3 to 11% of head length, and almost covered by adipose tissue (Fig.1); swim bladder vestigial or absent Sillaginopsis panijus

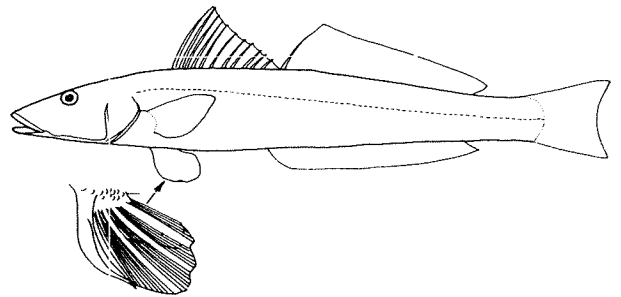
1b. Snout and head not depressed; second dorsal spine not elongate; eyes normal, 17 to 22% of head length; swimbladder present..... Sillago

2a. Pelvic fin with the spine inconspicuous and almost hidden by the much thickened club-like first pelvic ray (Fig.2); swimbladder without post-coelomic projections into the tail section; vertebral column without modified haemal spines overlying the posterior extensions of the swimbladder (no haemal funnel) ... Sillago chondropus



Sillaginopsis panijus Fig.1

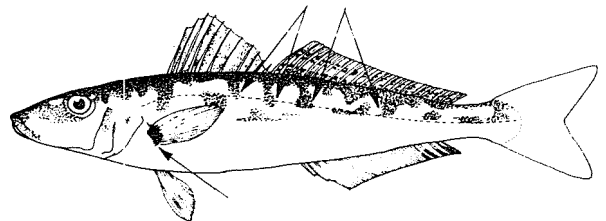
2b. Pelvic fin without a thickened club like first ray; swimbladder with 1 or 2 postcoelomic extensions; vertebral column with some modified haemal spines overlying the posterior part of the swimbladder (haemal funnel present)



Sillago (S.) chondropus Fig.2

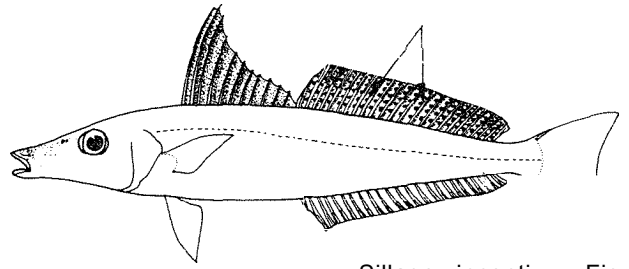
3a. Base of pectoral fin with a conspicuous dark brown, black or blue-black blotch or spot; body with irregular dark blotches; dorsal fin rays 10 to 21; anal fin rays 19 to 21 (Fig.3) Sillago maculata

3b. Base of pectoral fin without a dark brown or blackish blotch, or spot; body without dark blotches, although the belly or sides may be darkened; dorsal fin rays 21 to 23; anal fin rays 21 to 24



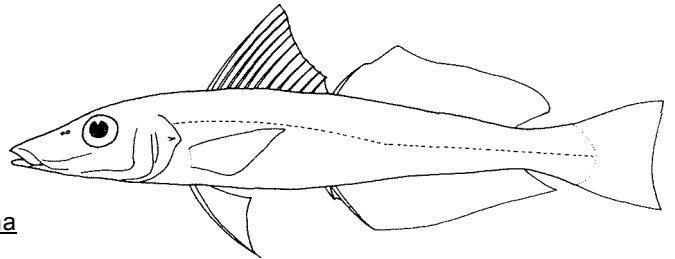
Sillago maculata Fig.3

4a. Second dorsal fin with at least 5 rows of dusky-black or black-brown spots that may be quite separate or somewhat confluent (Fig.4); swimbladder with only one post-coelomic extension and no anterolateral or anterior tubular extensions projecting forward or extending laterally towards the vent (Fig.6a) Sillago vincenti



Sillago vincenti Fig. 4

4b. Second dorsal fin with or without rows of dusky spots on the membranes, and when spots are present these may be confluent (Fig.5); swimbladder with 2 very distinct postcoelomic extensions, 2 anteriorly directed extensions, and an anterolateral convoluted tube that may send off small blind tubules and continues along the lateral wall of the abdomen to the region of the vent or a little beyond (Fig.6b)..... Sillago sihama



Sillago sihama Fig.5

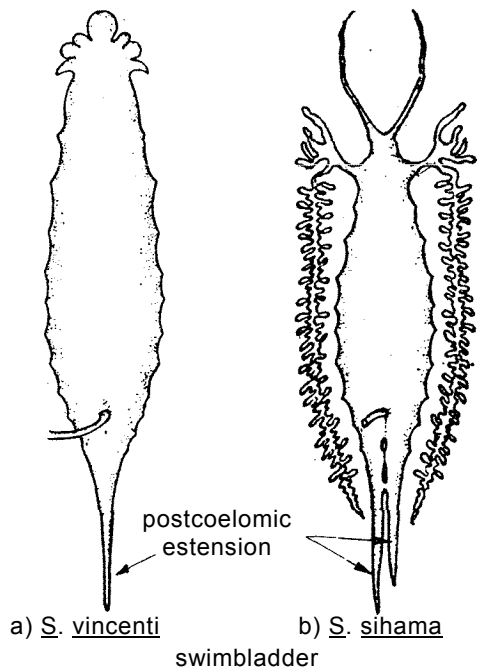


Fig.6

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA

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

<u>Sillaginopsis panijus</u> (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)	SILL Si 1
<u>Sillago (Sillaginopodys) chondropus</u> Bleaker, 1849	SILL Sill 3
<u>Sillago maculata</u> Quoy & Gaimard, 1824	SILL Sill 1
<u>Sillago sihama</u> (Forsskål, 1775)	SILL Sill 2
<u>Sillago vincenti</u> McKay, 1980	SILL Sill 4

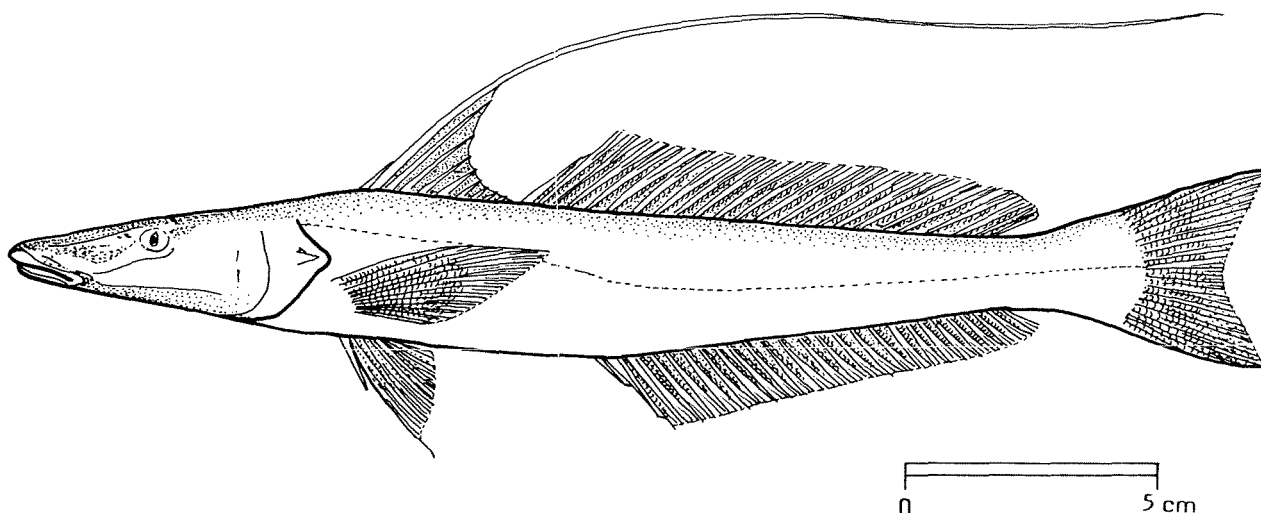
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SILLAGINIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Sillaginopsis panijus</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)
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OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Flathead sillago
 Fr - Pêche-madame camus
 Sp - Silago chato

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate. Head greatly flattened; eyes small, covered by adipose tissue; mouth small, terminal; teeth villiform, in bands on jaws and vomer, the outer row of teeth in jaws slightly enlarged, with the 2 anterior - most teeth in the upper jaw larger than the remainder; 3 or 4 series of scales on cheek. First dorsal fin with 10 spines, second spine filamentous; second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 25 to 27 rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 24 to 27 rays. Lateral line with 84 to 88 scales, 6 rows above lateral line. Swimbladder vestigial or absent.

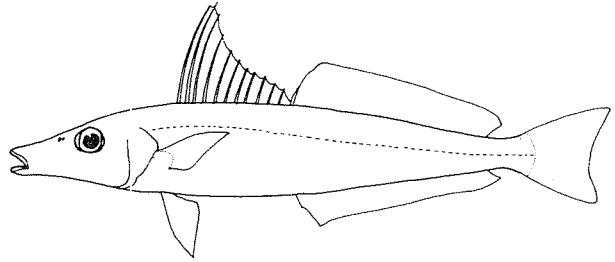
Colour: back light brown, lower flanks and belly pale brown to white; fins pale brownish, with a light dusting of fine black spots.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Sillago species: head not flattened; eyes normal; second dorsal fin spine not filamentous.

SIZE:

Maximum: 44 cm; common to 25 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, recorded only from the southwest coast of India. Also present in the Eastern Indian Ocean, from Pondicherry northward along the Coromandel coast, Ganges delta, Burma, southward to Malaysia and rarely to the Indonesian Archipelago.

Inhabits shallow, open muddy bays and estuaries.

Feeds on small fishes and crustacea.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow waters throughout its range; its main fisheries are outside Fishing Area 51, in the Hooghly and Ganges river deltas

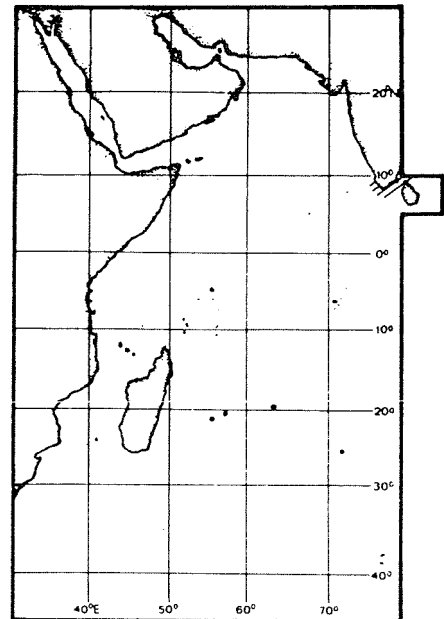
CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with nets and longlines.

Flesh white, of good quality; marketed fresh, frozen and dried salted.

Sillago



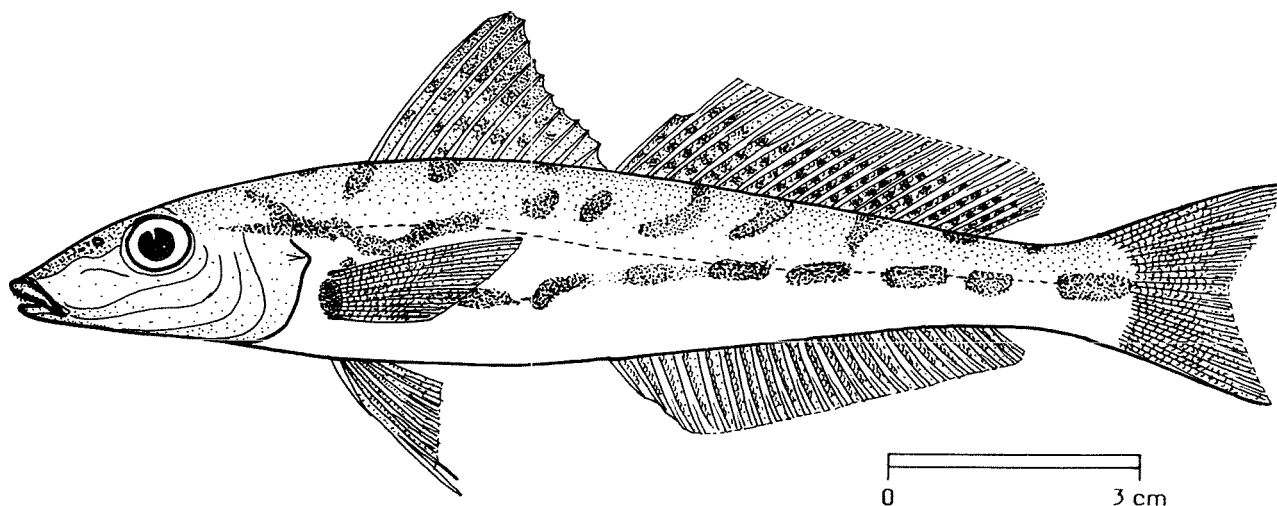
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SILLAGINIDE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Sillago maculata</i> Quoy & Gaimard, 1824
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OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Trumpeter sillago
 Fr - Pliche-madame trompette
 Sp - Silago trompetero

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate. Snout pointed; upper head profile slightly convex; mouth small, terminal; villiform teeth in jaws and on vomer (roof of mouth); 3 series of scales on cheek; a small, sharp spine on opercle; gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 10. First dorsal fin with 11 spines; second dorsal with 1 spine and 18 to 21 soft rays; anal fin with 2 slender spines and 18 to 21 soft rays. Lateral line with 67 to 74 scales; 5 or 6 scale rows above lateral line. Swimbladder with a single postcoelomic extension. Three subspecies, distinguished by the structure of the swimbladder, are recognized (*S. maculata maculata*, *S. maculata burrus* and *S. maculata aeolus*) of which only the latter occurs in the Western Indian Ocean.

Colour: back light brown, lower flanks and belly whitish or silvery, with a silvery stripe along middle of flanks; conspicuous dark blotches on back and flanks; a blue/black spot at base of pectoral fin; spinous dorsal fin blotched on membrane; second dorsal fin blotched to form 2 horizontal or slightly converging bars; anal fin hyaline to yellow with a horizontal stripe very finely speckled with black or dark brown and with a white margin; upper and lower margins of caudal fin brown, hind margin dark.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other species of Sillaginidae: base of pectoral fin without a blackish spot; flanks without dark blotches.

SIZE:

Maximum: 20 cm; common to 12 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

The subspecies occurring in the Western Indian Ocean, *S. maculata aeolus*, is found off East Africa and the southern coast of India, but its precise distributional range is not well known. It also occurs outside the area, in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific, northward to China, but does not extend southward to southern New Guinea or Australia.

Inhabits shallow sandy bottoms of shores and bays; also estuaries.

Feeds on small invertebrates.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow waters throughout its range; apparently not common off East Africa and India.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls, beach seines and handlines.

Not a very good food fish because of its small size; the flesh is white and of good quality; marketed fresh, frozen and dried salted.

