

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

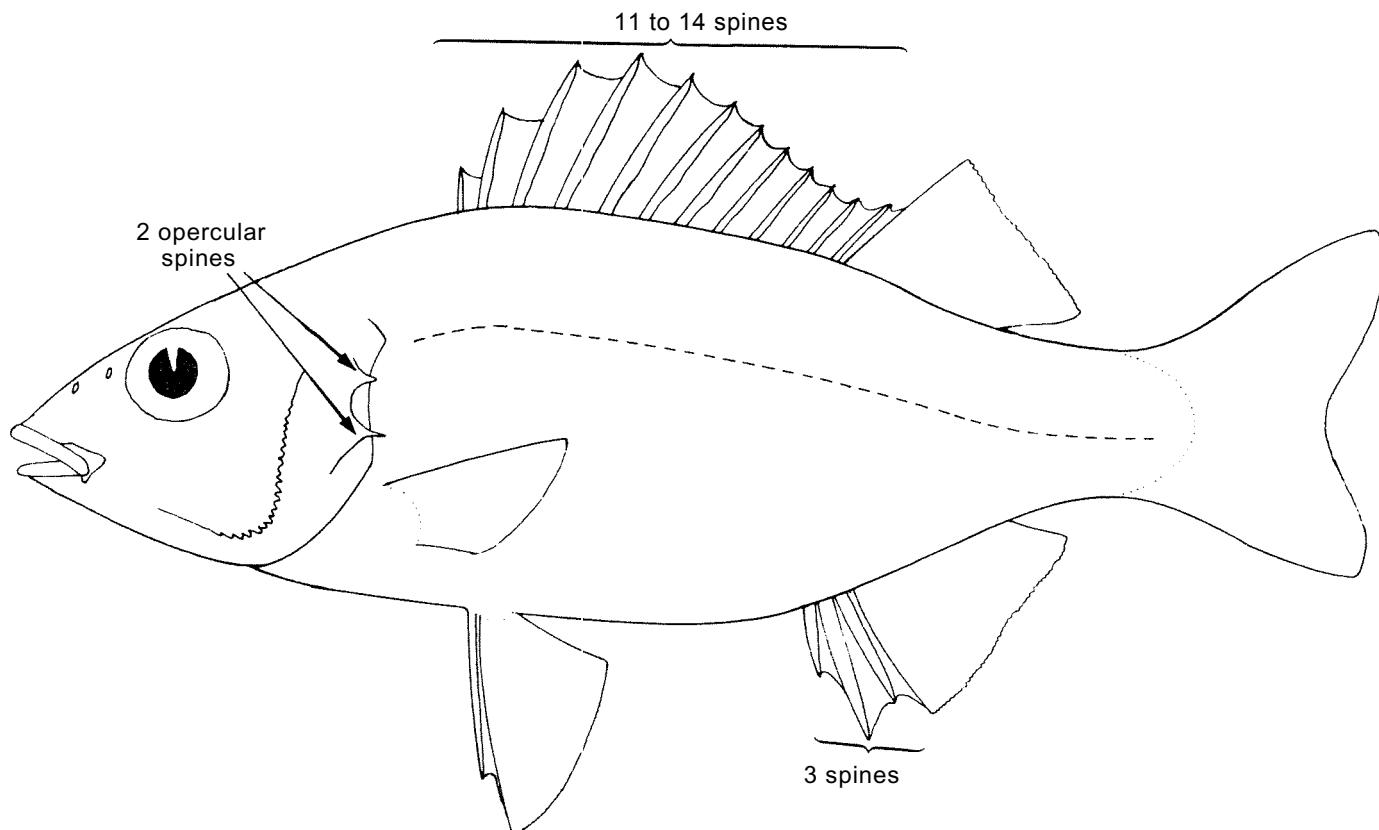
TERAPONIDAE

Terapon-perches, terapons

Small to medium-sized perch-like fishes with an oblong to oblong-ovate body, moderately compressed. Mouth moderate, protractile, with gape usually oblique; jaws equal, the upper not reaching beyond centre of orbit; jaw teeth usually in villiform bands (reduced to 2 or 3 rows in some freshwater species), with the outer row enlarged; shape of jaw teeth conical, flattened or tricuspidate; teeth also present on vomer and palatines in juveniles of most species, lacking in adults of most species; preopercle serrate, serrations more prominent in juveniles; lacrimal bone (first infraorbital) serrate, serrations reduced with age in some species; opercle with 2 spines, the lower one larger and stronger; post-temporal bone exposed in some species, its posterior margin serrate. Dorsal fin single, arched, with 11 to 14 spines and 8 to 14 soft rays, 4th to 7th dorsal fin spines longest, those following decreasing in length to penultimate spine, which is much shorter than the last spine in some species, this resulting in a notched spinous dorsal fin; anal fin with 3 strong spines and 7 to 12 soft rays; pelvic fin base located behind vertical line through base of pectoral fin; caudal fin usually emarginate (rounded or truncate in some freshwater species). Lateral line single and complete. Scales adherent, finely ctenoid (rough to touch).

Colour: body tan or light grey; most marine species with 3 or more longitudinal body stripes.

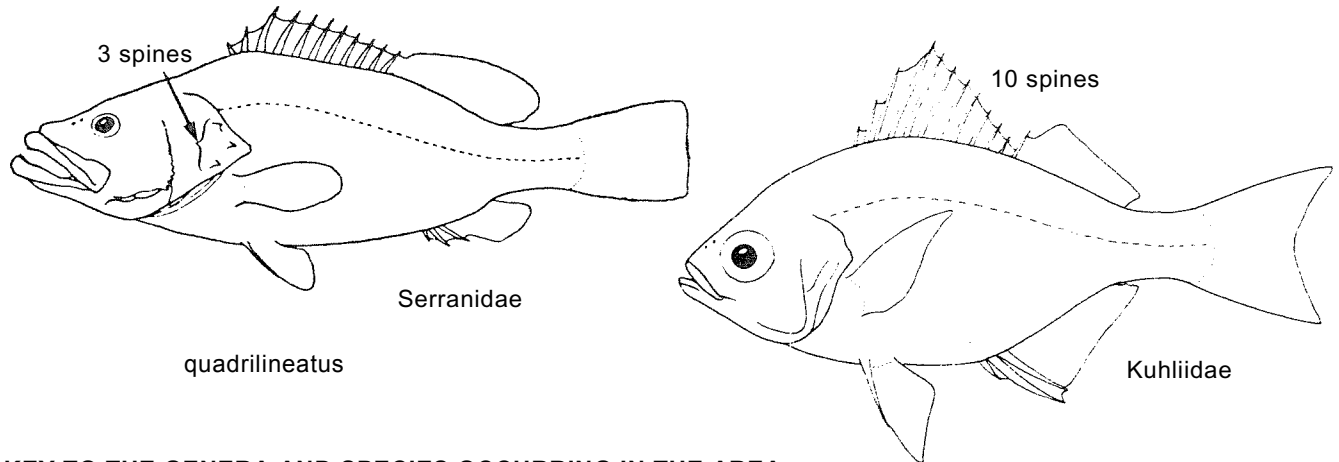
Terapons inhabit inshore marine and brackish waters and some species also enter freshwaters. They are good foodfishes entering the catches by artisanal and other inshore fisheries, but none of the species is important enough to support a special fishery.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA :

Serranidae. mouth large, with upper jaw usually reaching posteriorly to vertical through rear margin of orbit; 3 spines on opercle (2 in Teraponidae); caudal fin usually rounded.

Kuhliidae: 10 dorsal fin spines*(11 to 14 in Teraponidae).



KEY TO THE GENERA AND SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

1 a. Post-temporal bone covered with skin and scales, not expanded posteriorly, its posterior edge not serrate (Fig. 1a) Pelates quadrilineatus

1 b. Post-temporal bone expanded, exposed and serrate posteriorly, its skin and scale covering reduced (Fig. 1b)

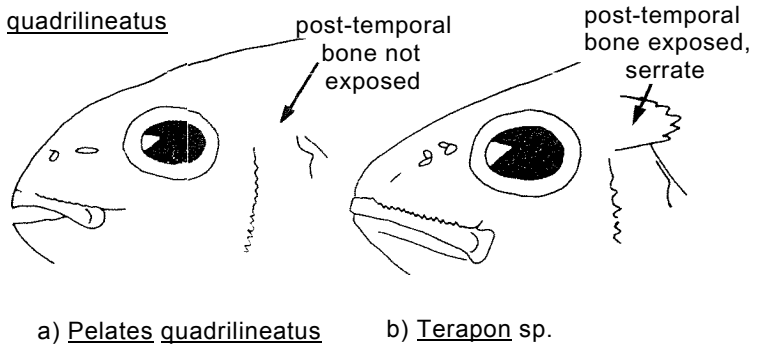


Fig. 1

2 a. Lower opercular spine greatly developed, extending beyond edge of opercular lobe (Fig. 2a); lobes of caudal fin with oblique brown or black stripes; spinous dorsal fin with a large black blotch on membranes between middle spines; 2nd anal fin spine subequal to 3rd spine; longitudinal body stripes present throughout life (Figs 3,4)

3 a. Forty-six to 56 pored lateral line scales to hypural joint; 6 to 8 rows of scales above lateral line to base of dorsal fin sheath Terapon theraps

3 b. Seventy or more pored lateral line scales to hypural joint; 10 to 17 rows of scales above lateral line to base of dorsal fin sheath

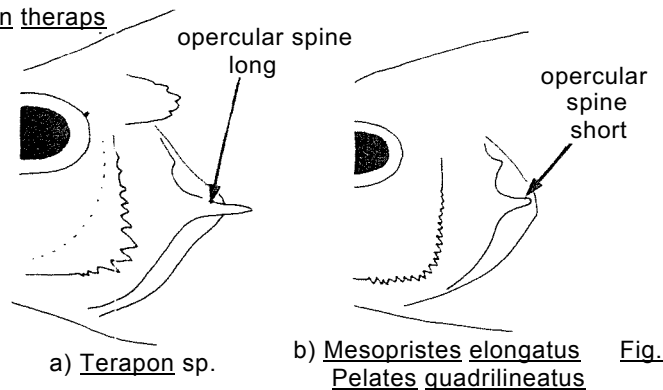


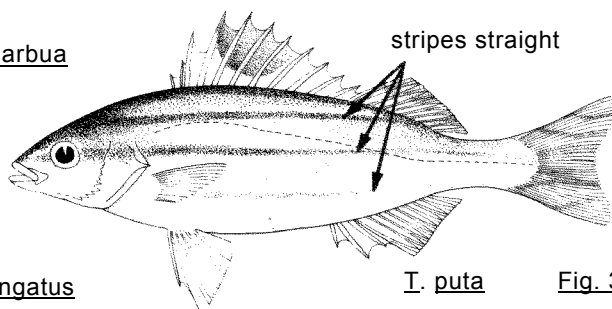
Fig. 2

*Applicable to Western Indian Ocean representatives only

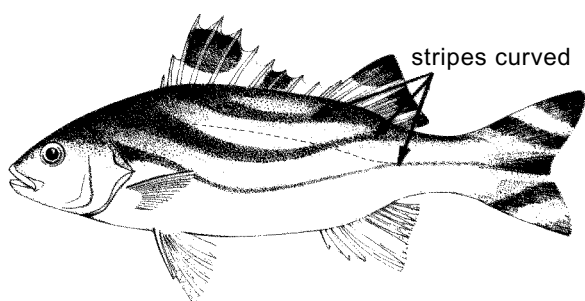
4 a. Two to 4 straight longitudinal stripes along side of body (Fig. 3); 18 to 24 gillrakers on lower limb of first gill arch ... Terapon puta

4 b. Three downwardly curved longitudinal stripes along side of body (Fig. 4); 12 to 15 gillrakers on lower limb of first gill arch Terapon jarbua

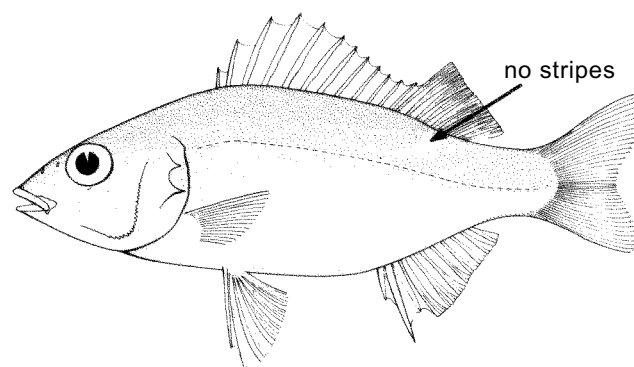
2 b. Lower opercular spine moderate, not extending beyond edge of opercular lobe (Fig. 2b); caudal fin lobes lacking oblique stripes; spinous dorsal fin without a large black blotch on middle portion; 2nd anal fin spine stronger and longer than 3rd spine (Fig. 5); longitudinal body stripes present only in juveniles Mesopristes elongatus



T. puta Fig. 3



T. jarbua Fig. 4



Mesopristes elongatus Fig. 5

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

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

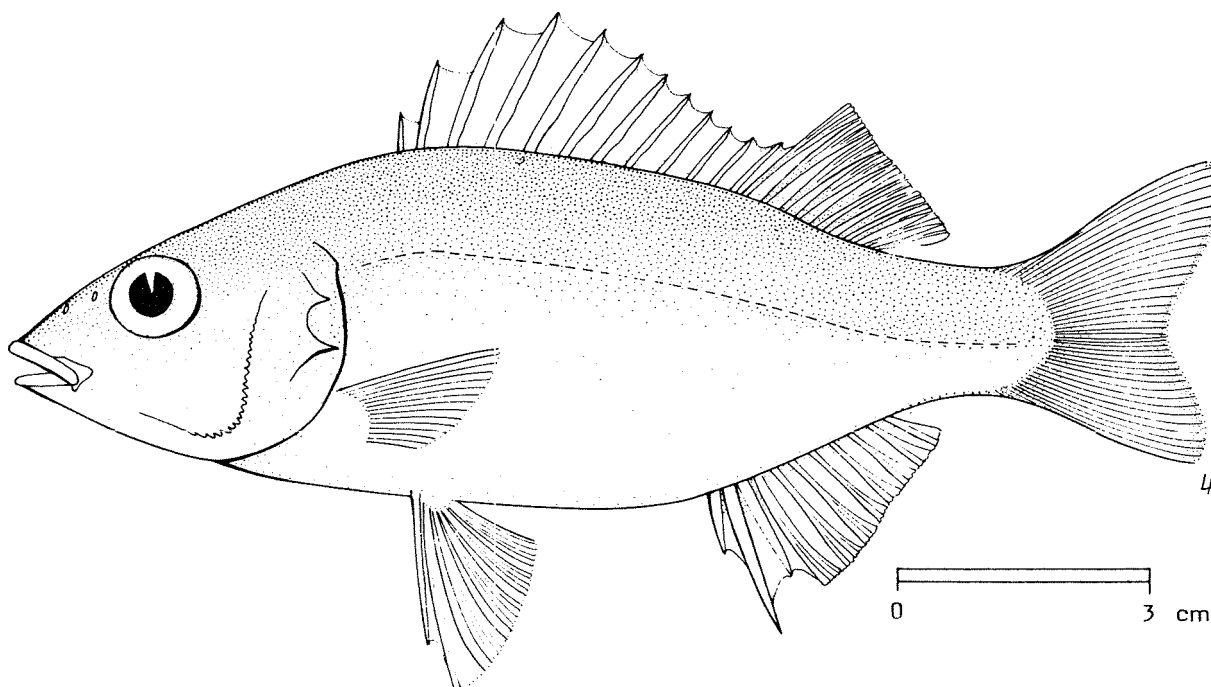
<u>Mesopristes elongatus</u> (Guichenot, 1866)	TER Meso 1
<u>Pelates quadrilineatus</u> (Bloch, 1790)	TER Pela 2
<u>Terapon arbua</u> (Forsskål, 1775)	TER Ter 1
<u>Terapon puta</u> Cuvier, 1829)	TER Ter 3
<u>Terapon theraps</u> (Cuvier, 1829)	TER Ter 2

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TERAPONIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Mesopristes elongatus* (Guichenot, 1866)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Plain terapon
 Fr - Violon franc
 Sp - Baraonga

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

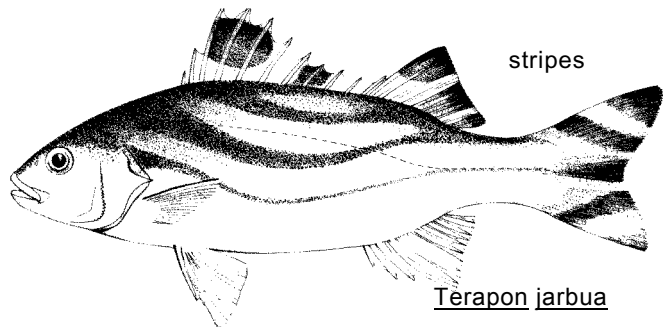
A moderately small species. Body oblong, compressed. Jaws equal, gape oblique; posterior edge of upper jaw extending to vertical through posterior nostril; teeth in villiform bands, outer row enlarged; vomer and palatines (on roof of mouth) toothless; preopercle serrate, serrations largest at angle; lower opercular spine stronger and longer than upper, but not extending beyond edge of opercular lobe; post-temporal bone expanded, exposed and serrate posteriorly; cleithrum serrate posteriorly; gillrakers on first gill arch: 7 or 8 on upper limb and 15 to 17 on lower limb. Dorsal fin with 11 or 12 spines and 10 or 11 soft rays, the spinous part of fin arched, the 4th or 5th spine longest, and the last two spines of approximately same length; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 or 8 soft rays, the 2nd spine longest and as long as longest anal ray. Pored scales in lateral line 48 to 50; 9 or 10 scale rows above lateral line and 20 to 24 rows below it.

Colour: dorsal portion of body dark grey to black in adults, ventral portion of body light grey. Juveniles with 3 brown longitudinal body stripes. Spinous part of dorsal fin clear, slightly dusky on edge; caudal fin lobes clear, dusky on edges.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Terapon species: lower opercular spine greatly developed, extending beyond edge of opercular lobe; lobes of caudal fin with oblique stripes, and longitudinal stripes on body in adults. Spinous part of dorsal fin with a large black blotch; 2nd anal fin spine subequal to 3rd (2nd longer than 3rd in M. elongatus).

Pelate quadrilineatus: post-temporal bone covered with skin and scales, 1 not expanded posteriorly, its posterior edge without serrations.



SIZE:

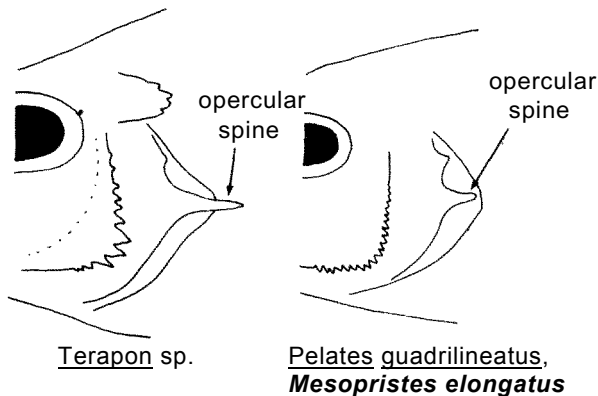
Maximum: 18 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Brackish and freshwaters of Madagascar.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

No reliable records available, probably confused with other species.

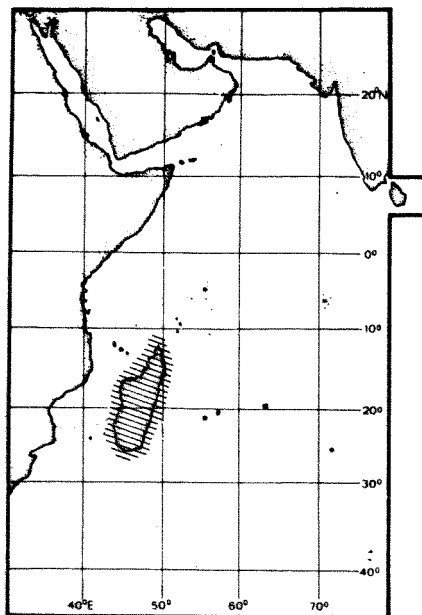
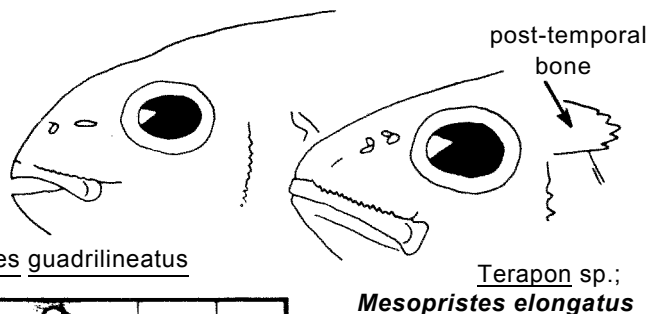


CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with all types of inshore gear.

Probably marketed fresh.

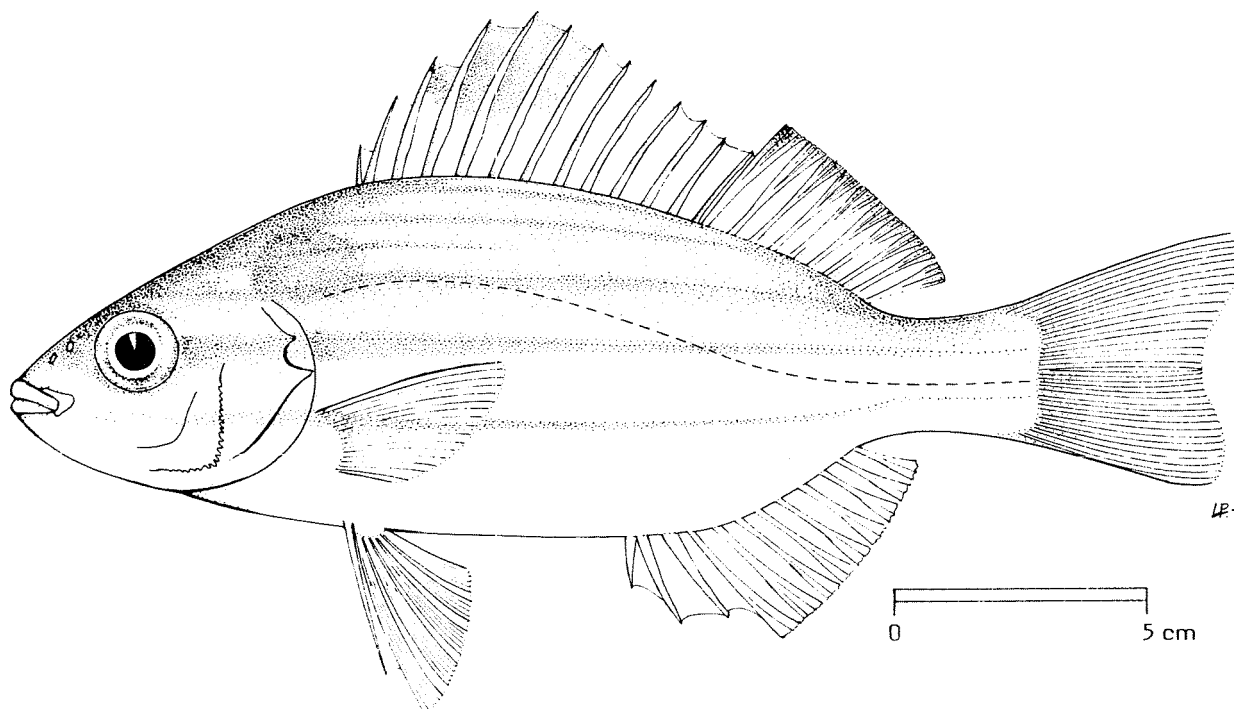


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : TERAPONIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Pelates quadrilineatus* (Bloch, 1790)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Fourlined terapon
Fr - Violon crépuscule
Sp - baraonga aurora

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

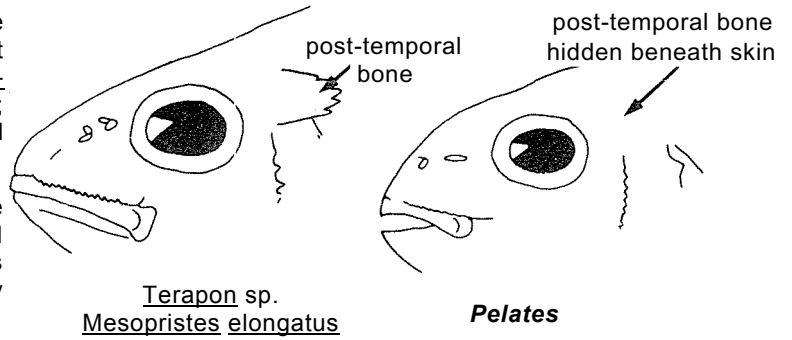
A moderately small species, body oblong, compressed. Jaws equal, gape oblique; posterior edge of upper jaw extending to vertical through posterior nostril; teeth brown-tipped, two rows in lower jaw and 3 rows or a band in upper jaw; vomer and palatines (on roof of mouth) toothless; preopercle serrate, serrations larger along vertical border, particularly in adults; lower opercular spine stronger and longer, but not extending beyond edge of opercular lobe; post-temporal bone not expanded or exposed, covered with skin and scales; gillrakers on first gill arch: 16 to 18 on upper limb and 22 to 27 on lower limb. Dorsal fin with 12 or 13 spines and 9 to 11 soft rays, the spinous part of fin arched, the 5th to 7th spines longest, and the last two spines of approximately same length; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 or 10 soft rays; the 2nd anal spine subequal to the 3rd and shorter than longest anal rays. Pored scales in lateral line 66 to 75; 9 to 11 rows of scales above lateral line and 19 to 23 below it.

Colour: dorsal portions of body silvery-grey, ventral part of body silvery-white; 4 to 6 narrow, dark brown or black horizontal stripes on body, the middle stripe extending onto caudal fin base. Juveniles in addition have 6 or 7 greyish vertical bars. Spinous part of dorsal fin with a black blotch dorsally on membranes between 3rd to 7th dorsal fin spines; a blotch of variable intensity on side of body posterior to nape. Mouth and gill cavity red in life.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Terapon species: post-temporal bone expanded, exposed and serrate posteriorly (not expanded and covered by scales in P. quadrilineatus); caudal fin lobes with transverse stripes; lower opercular spine extending distinctly beyond edge of opercular lobe.

Mesopristes elongatus: post-temporal bone expanded, exposed and serrate posteriorly; 2nd anal fin spine distinctly longer than 3rd (spines subequal in P. quadrilineatus). No stripes on body in adults.



SIZE:

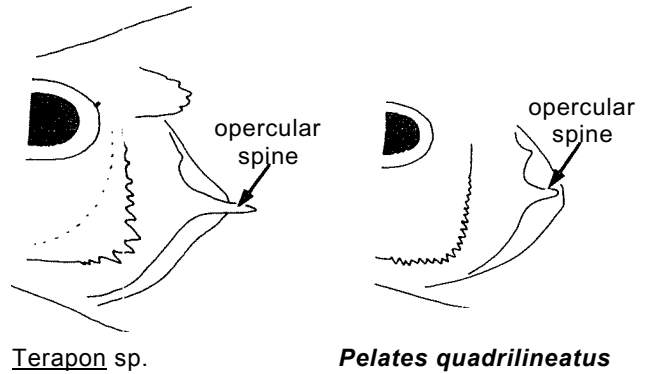
Maximum: 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Along the coasts of East Africa north of Natal, Madagascar, Red Sea, Arabian Peninsula, the "Gulf" and India.

Found in inshore waters, sometimes in brackish waters.

Feeds on, small, fishes and invertebrates.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

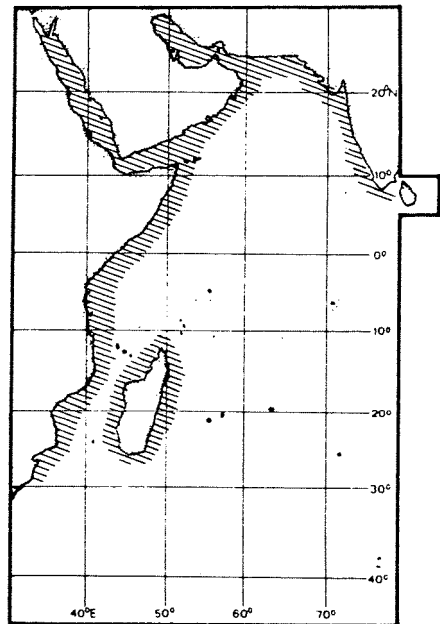
Throughout its range; no special fishery.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with all types of inshore fishing gear, including gillnets, traps, handlines and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.

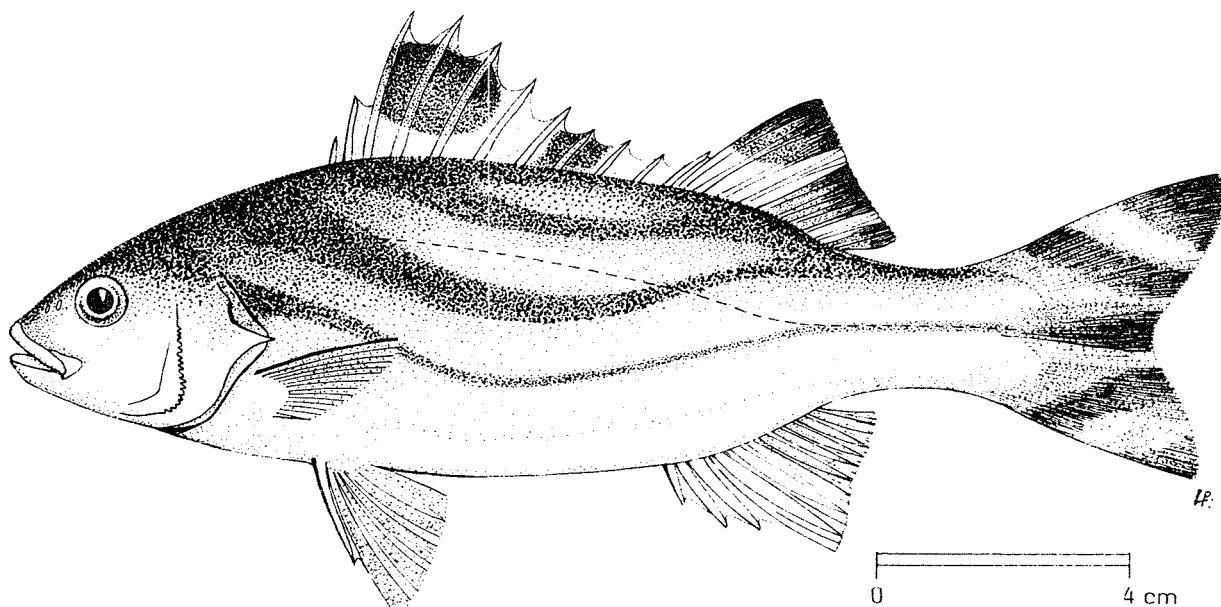


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TERAPONIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Terapon jarbua</i> (Forsskål, 1775)
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OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : *Holocentrus servus* Bloch, 1790

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Jarbua terapon
 Fr - Violon jarbua
 Sp - Baraongajarbúa

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A moderate-sized species. Body oblong compressed. Jaws equal, gape slightly oblique; rear end of upper jaw reaching to vertical through middle of orbit in adults; teeth conical, slightly recurved, in villiform bands, the outer row much enlarged; vomer and palatines (on roof of mouth) with teeth in juveniles, often toothless in adults; preopercle strongly serrate, particularly at angle; lower opercular spine very long and strong, extending distinctly beyond edge of opercular lobe; post-temporal bone expanded, exposed and serrate posteriorly; cleithrum serrate posteriorly; gillrakers on first gill arch: 6 to 8 on upper limb and 12 to 15 on lower limb. Dorsal fin with 11 or 12 spines and 9 to 11 soft rays, the spinous part of the fin strongly arched and deeply notched; the first spine very short, the 4th to 6th spines longest, and the penultimate spine about one-half the length of the ultimate; margin of soft portion of dorsal fin straight or emarginate; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 to 10 soft rays, the 2nd anal fin spine subequal to 3rd spine and shorter than longest anal rays; margin of soft part of anal fin concave; caudal fin emarginate. Pored scales in lateral line 75 to 100; 13 to 17 rows of scales above lateral line and 19 to 24 rows below it.

Colour: body silvery-greyish or tan dorsally and silvery white ventrally; 3 or 4 dark brown or black, downwardly curved longitudinal stripes on body. Spinous part of dorsal fin with a blackish band on upper portions of fin membranes between 3rd to 6th spines; soft part of dorsal fin with membranes between first 3 rays tipped with black and membranes between 5th to 7th rays entirely black; caudal fin with median rays pigmented; both caudal lobes with dark tips and a transverse band.

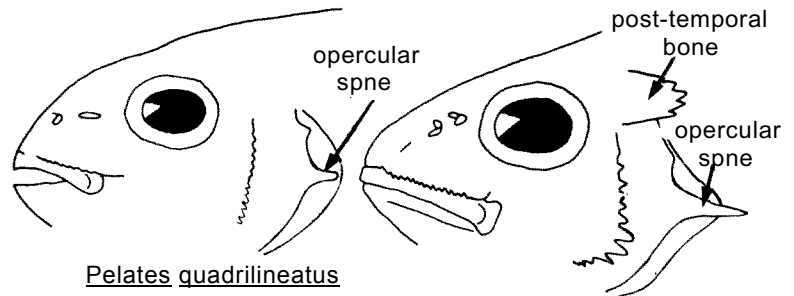
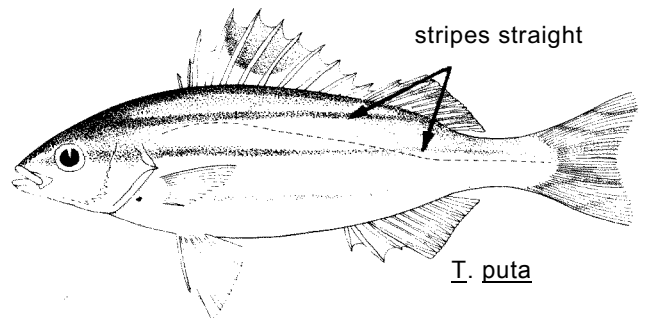
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Terapon theraps: longitudinal body stripes straight; 46 to 56 pored lateral line scales to hypural joint on base of caudal fin (75 to 100 in T. jarbua); 6 to 8 rows of scales above lateral line to base of dorsal fin sheath (13 to 17 rows in T. jarbua).

T. puta: longitudinal body stripes straight; 18 to 24 gillrakers on lower limb of first gill arch (12 to 15 in T. jarbua).

Pelates quadrilineatus: post-temporal bone covered with skin and scales, not expanded or serrate posteriorly; caudal fin lobes plain; lower opercular spine not extending beyond edge of opercular lobe.

Mesopristes elongatus: caudal fin lobes plain and no stripes on body in adults; lower opercular spine not extending beyond edge of opercular lobe; spinous part of dorsal fin plain; 2nd anal fin spine much longer than 3rd (spines subequal in T. jarbua).



SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Along the coast of East Africa, Madagascar, Red Sea, Arabian Peninsula, the "Gulf" and India; also widely distributed in the Eastern Indian Ocean, and the Western Pacific, northward up to Japan.

Found in inshore waters, often occurring in brackish and freshwaters.

Feeds on fishes and invertebrates; commonly a scale-eater.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Throughout its range; no special fishery.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with all types of inshore fishing gear, including gillnets, traps, handlines and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.

