

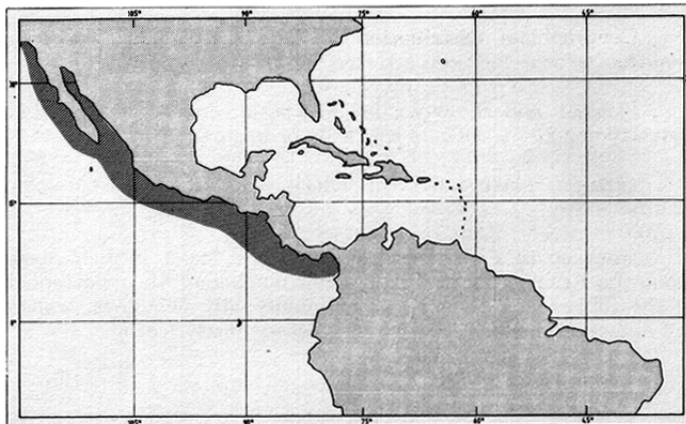
**Geographical Distribution :** Eastern Pacific Ocean from southern California to Panama. Rare north of Baja California.

**Habitat and Biology :** An inshore, reef-dwelling species found over hard bottoms.

**Size :** Maximum total length about 90 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries :** Caught throughout its range with nets, trawls, and handlines. A common foodfish marketed either fresh or frozen.

**Local Names :** COSTA RICA: Pargo, Pargo colorado, Pargo rojo, Rojo; EL SALVADOR: Pargueta; GUATEMALA: Huachinango, Pargo; MEXICO: Huachinango, Pargo colorado, Pargo lunarejo.



**Literature :** Jordan & Evermann (1896).

**Remarks :** There are unsubstantiated reports of this species from localities as far south as northern Peru.

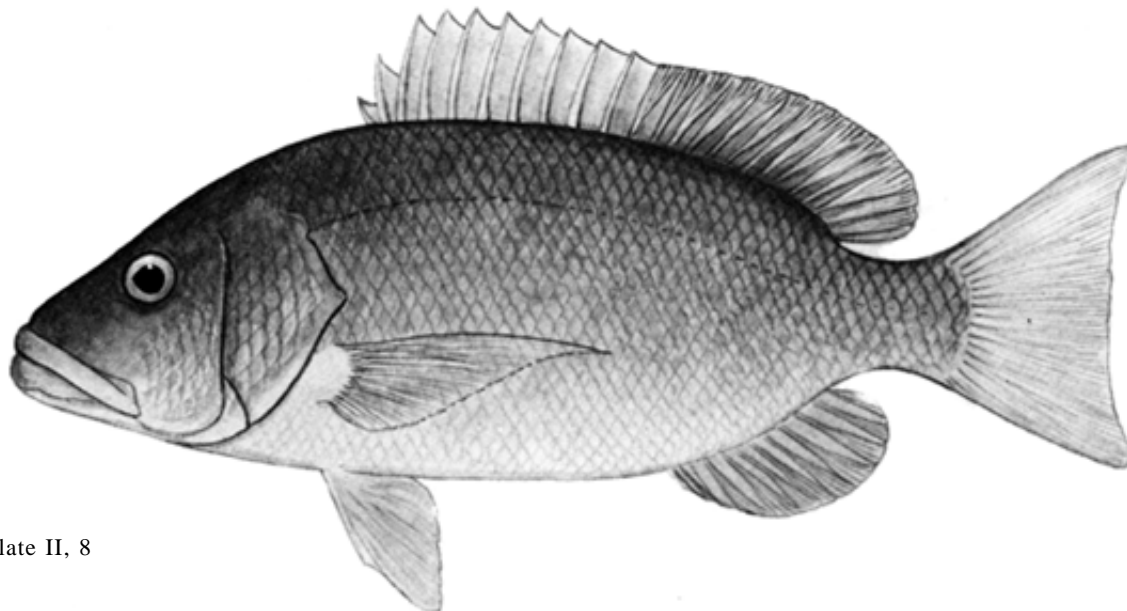
**Lutjanus cyanopterus** (Cuvier, 1828)

LUT Lut 17

Mesoprión cyanopterus Cuvier (in C. & V.), 1828, Hist.Nat.Poiss., 2:472 (Brazil).

**Synonyms :** Mesoprión pargus Cuvier (in C. & V., 1828); Lutjanus cubera Poey (1871); Lutjanus cynodon Poey (1868).

**FAO Names :** En - Cubera snapper; Fr - Vivaneau cubéra; Sp - Pargo cubera.



See Plate II, 8

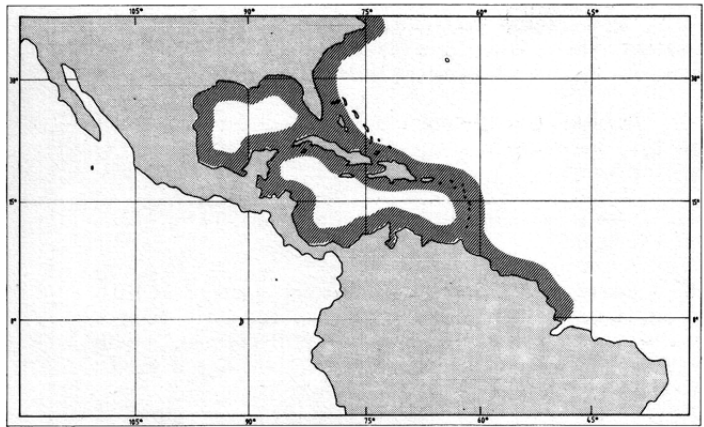
**Diagnostic Features :** Body relatively elongate and slender. Mouth with thick lips; preopercular notch and knob weak; canine teeth in both jaws very strong and equally developed; vomerine tooth patch crescentic to triangular, without a medial posterior extension. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 14 soft rays; anal fin rounded, with 3 spines and 7 or 8 soft rays; pectoral fins short, not reaching level of anus; with 16 to 18 rays; caudal fin nearly truncate. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. Colour: back and sides pale to dark grey, with a reddish tinge; dorsal and caudal fins greyish; anal and pelvic fins reddish and pectoral fins translucent or greyish.

**Geographical Distribution :** Tropical western Atlantic Ocean, northward to the eastern USA and southward to Brazil. Rare north of Florida and apparently rare in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Habitat and Biology :** Adults found mainly around ledges over rocky bottoms or around reefs at depths to about 40 m. Young sometimes inhabit mangrove areas. Feeds mainly on fishes, shrimps and crabs.

**Size :** Maximum total length about 160 cm total length; common to 90 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries :** A good quality food fish of large size. Caught mainly on hook-and-line and with bottom longlines; also with gill nets and bottom trawls, and occasionally speared by divers.



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**Local Names :** CUBA: Cubera; PUERTO RICO: Guasinuco; VENEZUELA: Pargo caballo.

**Literature :** Jordan & Evermann (1896); Anderson (1967); Randall (1968); Fischer (ed.) (1978).

**Remarks :** Sometimes implicated in cases of ciguatera fish poisoning.

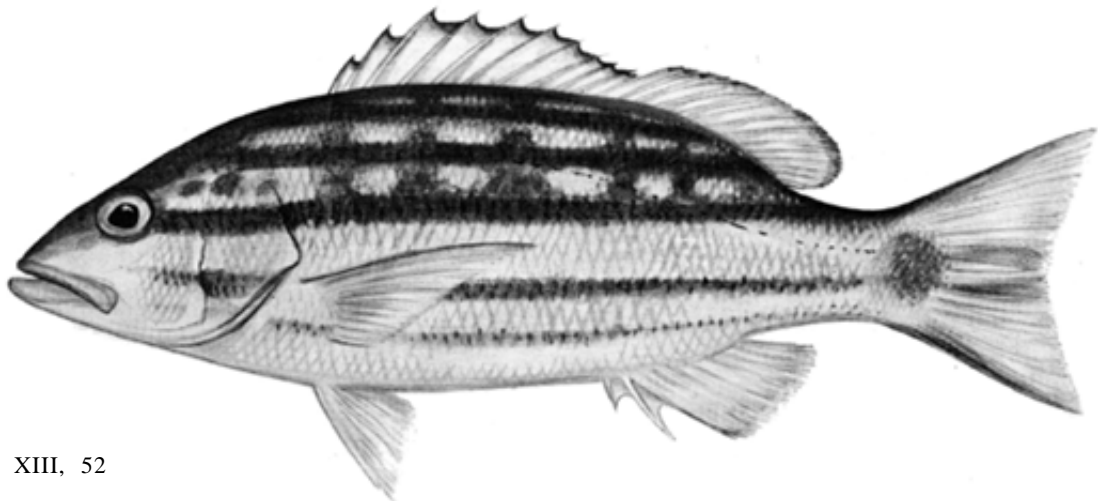
**Lutjanus decussatus** (Cuvier, 1828)

LUT Lut 51

Mesoprion decussatus Cuvier (in C. & V.), 1828, Hist.Nat.Poiss., 2:487 (Java).

**Synonyms :** Mesoprion therapon Day (1869).

**FAO Names :** En- Checkered snapper; Fr - Vivaneau damier; Sp - Pargo ajedrezado.



See Plate XIII, 52

**Diagnostic Features :** Body moderately deep (greatest depth 2.6 to 3.1 times in standard length). Dorsal profile of head moderately sloped; preorbital bone usually about equal to eye diameter or slightly narrower; preopercular notch and knob poorly developed; vomerine tooth patch crescentic, without a medial posterior extension; tongue with a patch of granular teeth; gill rakers on lower limb of first arch (including rudiments) 8 to 10, total rakers on first arch 14 to 16. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 13 or 14 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 or 9 rays; posterior profile of dorsal and anal fins rounded; with 16 or 17 rays; caudal fin emarginate. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. Colour: generally whitish with a "checker-board" pattern (see colour illustration) on upper half of sides, consisting of dark brown bars and stripes surrounding rectangular, whitish "windows"; lower half of sides with 2 dark brown stripes; a large black spot covering most of caudal fin base.

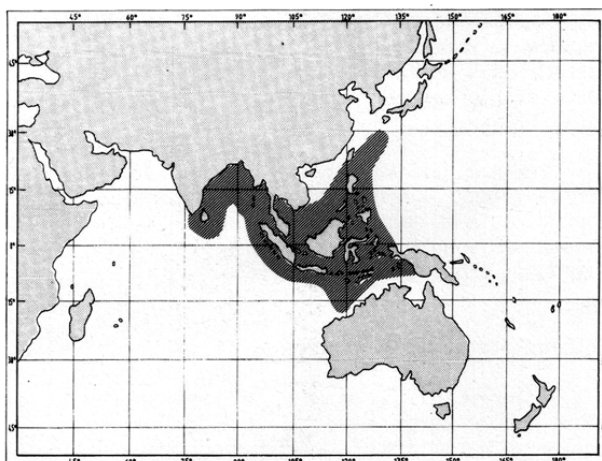
**Geographical Distribution :** Western Pacific and eastern Indian Ocean from New Guinea to Sri Lanka and southern India and northward to the Ryukyu Islands.

**Habitat and Biology :** Inhabits coral reefs usually at depths between about 5 and 30 m. Occurs both solitary and in schools.

**Size :** Maximum total length about 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries :** A small snapper of little importance to commercial fisheries, regularly seen in markets and caught by subsistence fishermen, mainly with handlines, traps, and gill nets. Marketed mostly fresh.

**Local Names :** JAPAN: Amime-fuedai; THAILAND: Pla kapong dang; THE PHILIPPINES: Bala-bala, Buegsang, Dolesan, Tambangao.



**Literature :** Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola (1984); Shen (1984); Masuda et al. (1984); Allen & Talbot (1985).

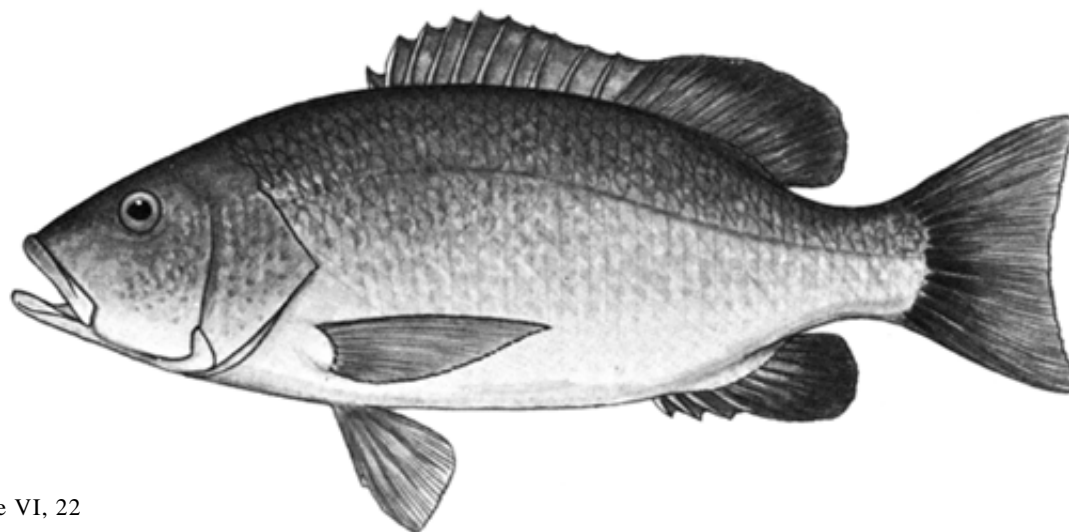
**Lutjanus dentatus** (Duméril, 1860)

LUT Lut 25

Mesoprion dentatus Duméril, 1860, Arch.Mus.Hist.Nat., 10:245 (Gorée).

**Synonyms :** Lutjanus eutactus Bleeker (1863).

**FAO Names :** En - African brown snapper; Fr - Vivaneau brun (d'Afrique); Sp - Pargo marrón africano.



See Plate VI, 22

**Diagnostic Features :** Body relatively deep. Head slightly rounded, its dorsal profile curving gently; preorbital bone broad; lips thick; maxilla extending to about mid-eye level or beyond; preopercular notch and knob weak; vomerine tooth patch V-shaped in juveniles, but triangular, often with a short posterior extension in adults; gill rakers on lower limb of first arch (including rudiments) 10 or 11. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 13 or 14 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral fins of adults not reaching level of anus with 17 rays; caudal fin emarginate. Scales moderate-sized, about 46 to 48 in lateral line; scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line; scales between lateral line and base of dorsal fin (at middle of spinous portion) 4½ or 5; scale rows on cheek 9 or 10. Colour: back and upper sides smoke-grey; whitish to pink on lower sides and belly; juveniles with a series of alternating light and dark bars of about equal widths on side.