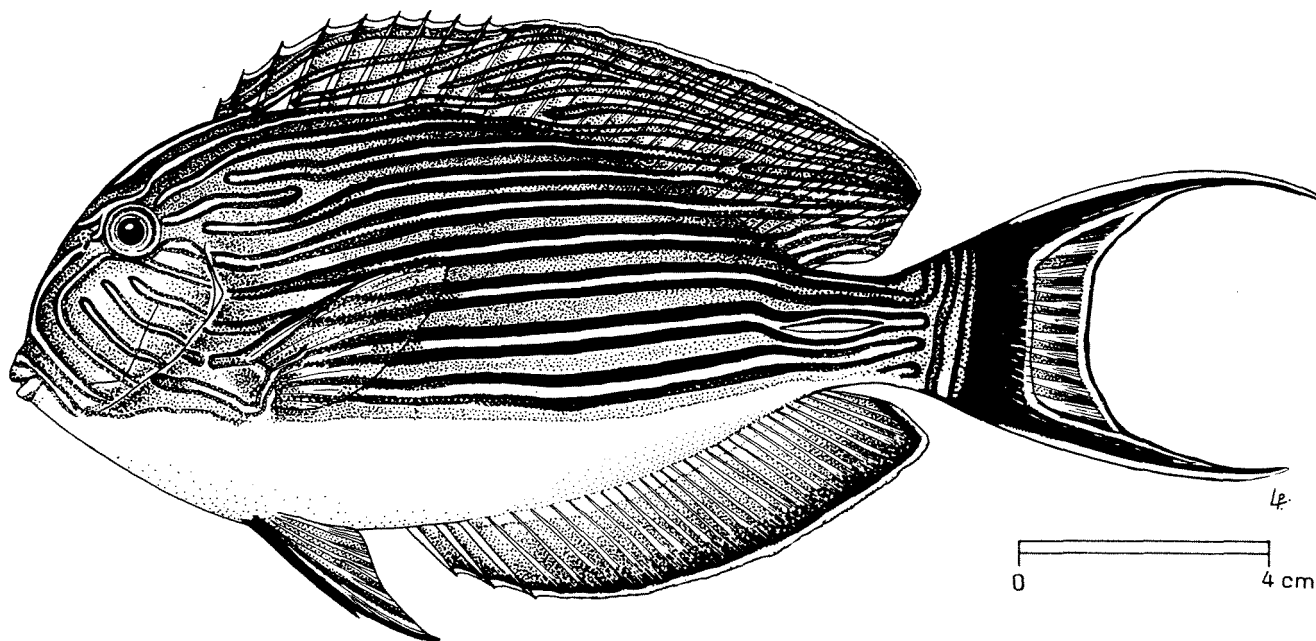


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ACANTHURIDAE

FISHING, AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Acanthurus lineatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Lined surgeonfish
 Fr - Chirurgien zèbre
 Sp - Navajón cebra

NATIONAL:

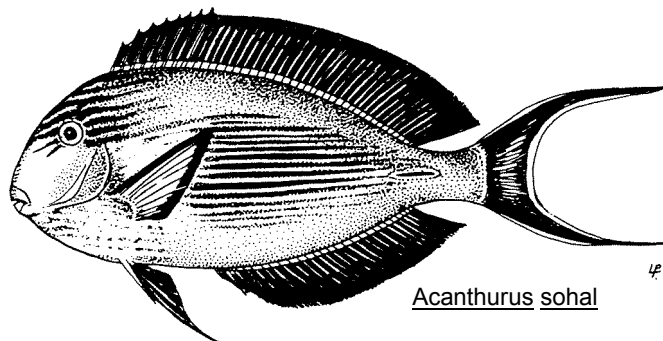
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A high-bodied, compressed fish, the depth 2.1 to 3 times in standard length (body of juveniles relatively deeper than that of adults). Snout 5.2 to 5.7 times in standard length; mouth small; teeth spatulate, close-set, with denticulate edges; gillrakers on first arch 14 to 16. A continuous unnotched dorsal fin with 9 spines and 27 to 30 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 25 to 28 soft rays; caudal fin deeply lunate, the caudal concavity 3.3 to 4.5 times in standard length. A lancelet-like spine on side of caudal peduncle which folds into a deep horizontal groove; caudal spine long, 1.9 to 2.5 times in head length, and venomous. Stomach thin-walled.

Colour: upper three-fourths of body and head with alternating black-edged blue and yellow stripes, those on the head mainly diagonal; lower fourth pale lavender to bluish white; dorsal fin finely striped pale blue and yellowish; anal fin grey with a yellow basal band and a light blue margin; caudal fin blackish with a large, grey crescent centro-posteriorly, edged at the front in bluish white and at the posterior margin with black; pectoral fins pale except basally where they are coloured like the body; pelvic fins yellow-orange with a white lateral margin and a blackish submarginal line.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Acanthurus sohal (a related species ranging from Red Sea to Gulf of Oman): light grey with about 15 black stripes on side of body below lateral line; median and pelvic fins blackish with a blue margin; pectoral fins edged in black; a spot of orange in pectoral region; caudal spine sheath and socket orange.



SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widespread in the Indo-Pacific; in the Western Indian Ocean southward to Delagoa Bay, Mozambique; absent from the Red Sea and the "Gulf".

An inshore species of coral reefs or rocky substrata exposed to wave action.

Grazes benthic algae.

An aggressive territorial fish.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

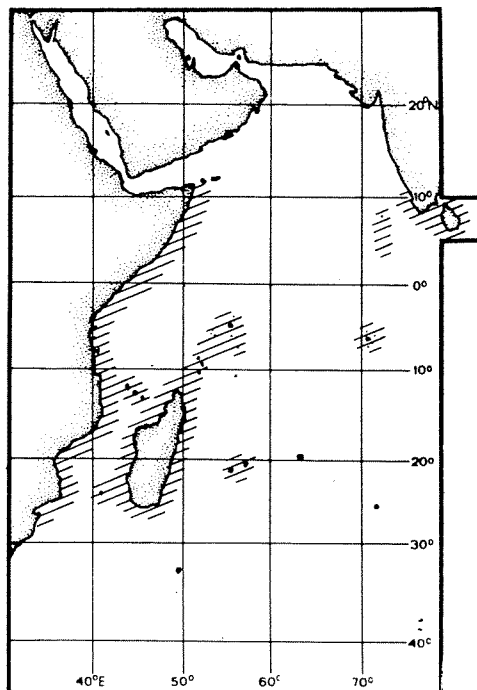
No definite fishing grounds.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

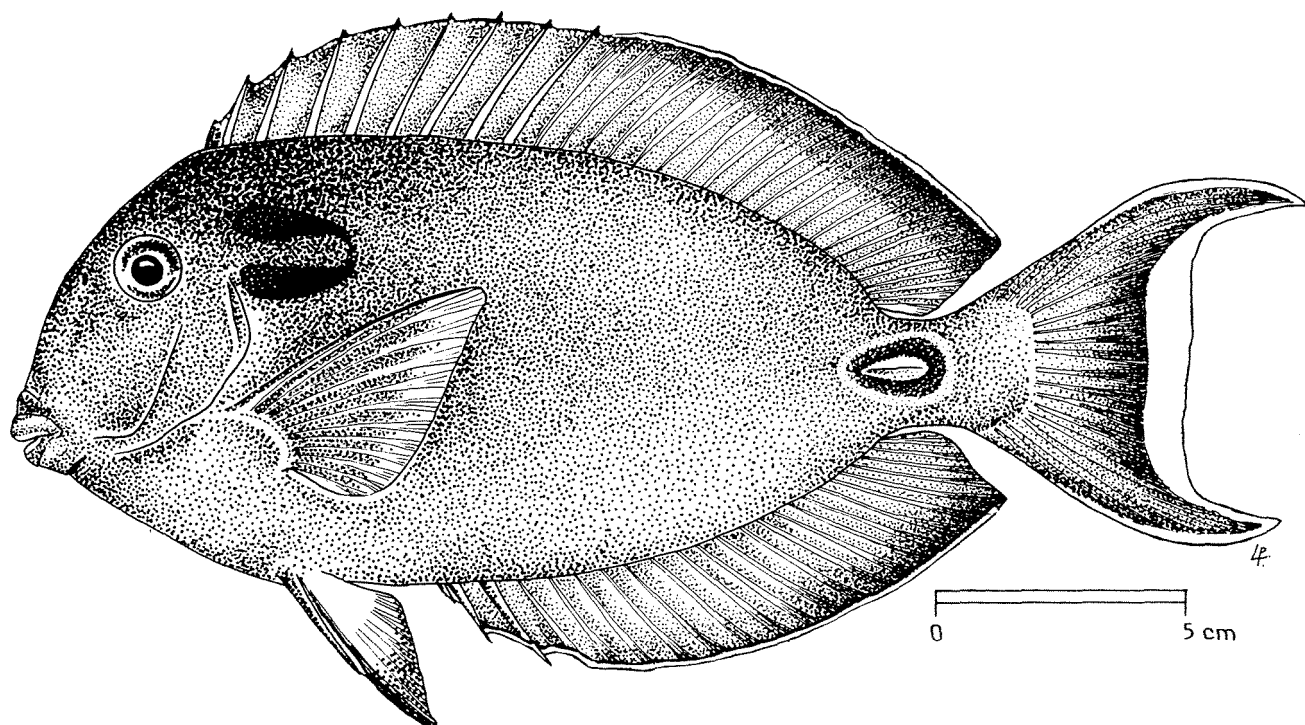
Taken by throw nets, gillnets, spears, and traps.

Marketed fresh.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : ACANTHURIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Acanthurus tennentii* Günther, 1861OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Acanthurus bicommatum* Smith, 1955

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Double-band surgeonfish
Fr - Chirurgien fer à cheval
Sp - Sangrador herradura

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS :

A high-bodied, compressed fish, the depth 2 to 2.35 times in standard length. Snout 4.6 to 6.3 times in standard length; mouth small; teeth spatulate, close-set, with denticulate edges; gillrakers on first arch 23 to 25. A continuous unnotched dorsal fin with 9 spines and 23 or 24 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 22 or 23 soft rays; caudal fin emarginate in young to lunate in adults, the caudal concavity 5 to 10 times in standard length. A lancet-like spine on side of caudal peduncle which folds into a deep horizontal groove; length of caudal spine 2.5 to 3.8 times in head length. Stomach thick-walled, gizzard-like.

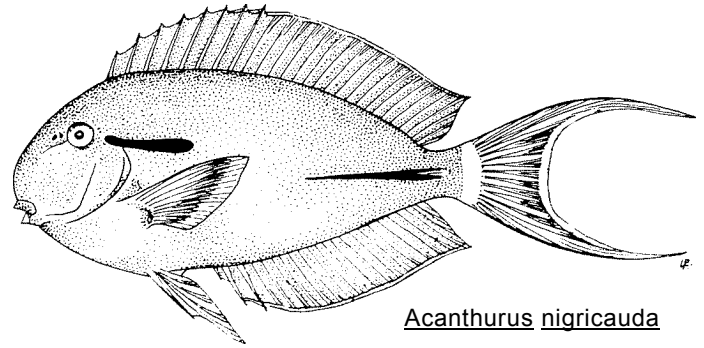
Colour: brown with 2 black bands, one beginning at upper end of gill opening, the second above and parallel to it (these two bands are joined posteriorly to form a horseshoe-shaped mark on juveniles and subadults); caudal spine surrounded by a broad blackish ovoid area edged in blue; caudal fin with a pure white border which is expanded into a broad crescent centro-posteriorly; outer third of pectoral fins pale.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Acanthurus nigricauda: a single black band extending posteriorly from upper end of gill opening; a narrow, pointed black streak extending anteriorly from caudal spine.

SIZE:

Maximum: 31 cm; common to 25 cm.



Acanthurus nigricauda

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Known only from the Indian Ocean; recorded from Kenya, Tanzania, the Seychelles, Aldabra, Mauritius, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

A reef-dwelling species which has been observed in less than 1 m depth to over 20 m. Sometimes occurs in small shoals.

Grazes on benthic algae.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

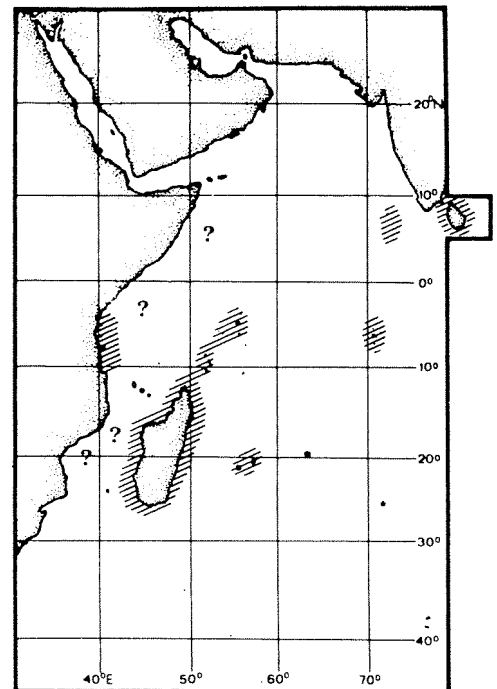
No definite fishing grounds.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with nets and traps.

Marketed fresh.

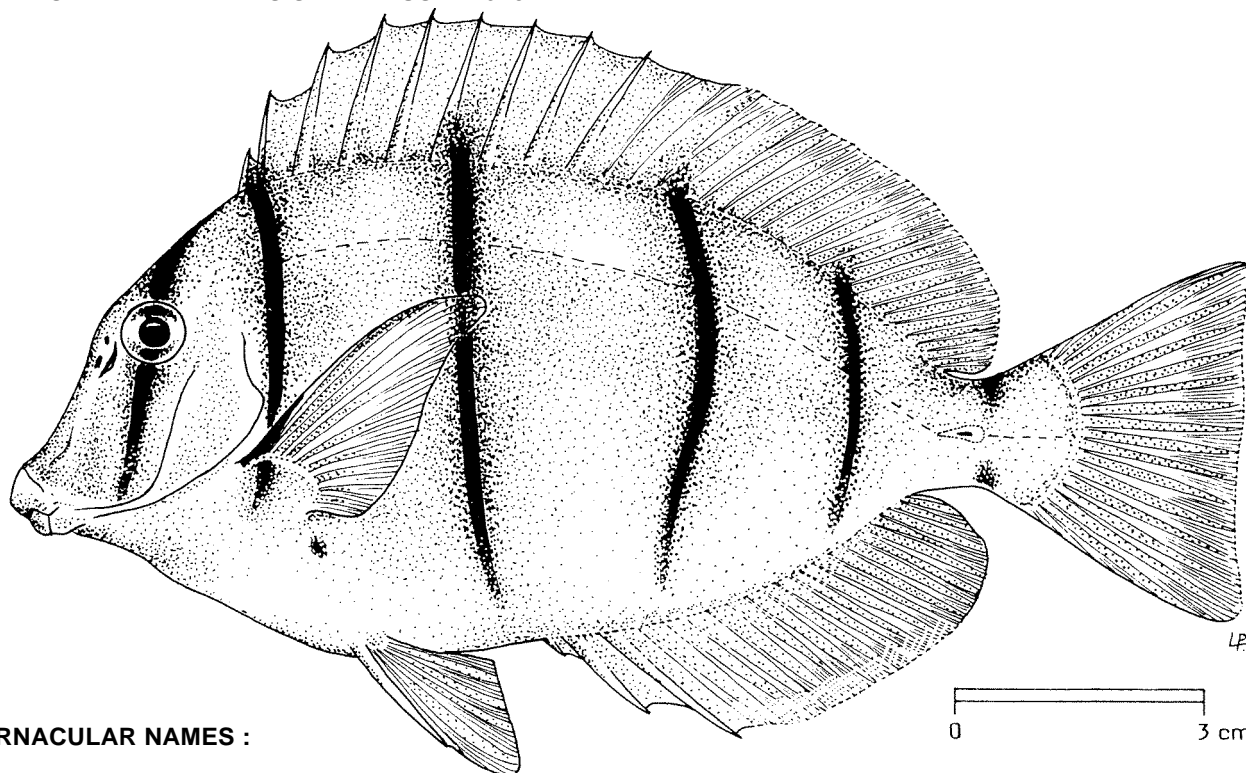


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ACANTHURIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Acanthurus triostegus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES :

FAO : En - Convict surgeonfish
 Fr - Chirurgien bagnard
 Sp - Sangrador carcelario

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A high-bodied, compressed fish, the depth 1.8 to 2.1 times in standard length. Snout 4.9 to 5.4 times in standard length; mouth small; teeth spatulate, close-set, with denticulate edges; gillrakers on first arch 19 to 22. A continuous unnotched dorsal fin with 9 spines and 22 to 24 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 19 to 22 soft rays; pectoral fin rays 14 to 16; caudal fin truncate to slightly emarginate. A lancet-like spine on caudal peduncle which folds into a deep horizontal groove; caudal spine small, 11 to 16.5 times in head length. Stomach thin-walled.

Colour: light greenish grey, white ventrally, with narrow dark bars as follows: 1 on head passing through eye, 4 on body beneath dorsal fin, and 1 on caudal peduncle.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Acanthurus polyzona (known from Réunion and Mauritius): 12 dark bars (4 on head, 6 on body beneath dorsal fin which are notably broader dorsally than ventrally, and 2 on caudal peduncle).

SIZE:

Maximum: 24 cm; common to 17 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Broadly distributed from East Africa to the west coast of Mexico. Occurs as adults as far south as the Natal coast of South Africa, the postlarvae drifting to Port Alfred. Not known from the Red Sea or the "Gulf".

An abundant inshore species. Feeds on attached filamentous algae, either as solitary individuals or in large aggregations (which as a group overcome territorial herbivorous fishes). Spawning takes place at dusk, also in aggregations. There is a lunar periodicity to the spawning, most occurring in the period from 12 days before to 2 days after full moon. Eggs are pelagic, spherical with a single oil droplet, and an average of 0.68 mm in diameter. Hatching occurs in about 26 hours; feeding commences in 5 1/2 days. The duration of larval life for the Hawaiian subspecies was estimated as 2 1/2 months. The prejuveniles which average about 25 mm standard length are orbicular, scaleless and transparent, except for silvery sheen over the abdomen and much of the head. They seek out the very shallow water of tide pools or reef flats at night and transform to the juveniles stage in 4 to 5 days. Juveniles grow at the rate of about 12 mm per month. By the time a standard length of 100 to 120 mm is attained, growth has slowed to about 1 mm per month.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

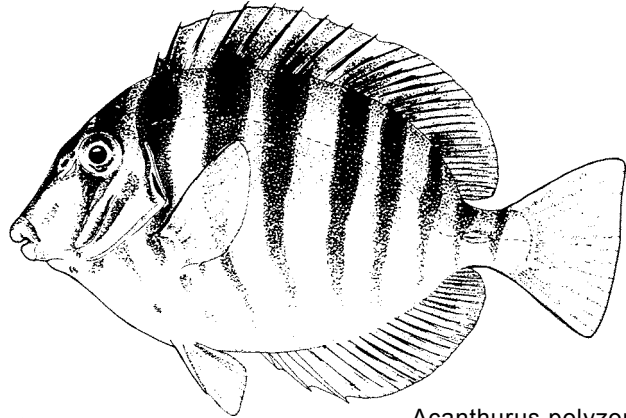
Reef flats, particularly in insular areas.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

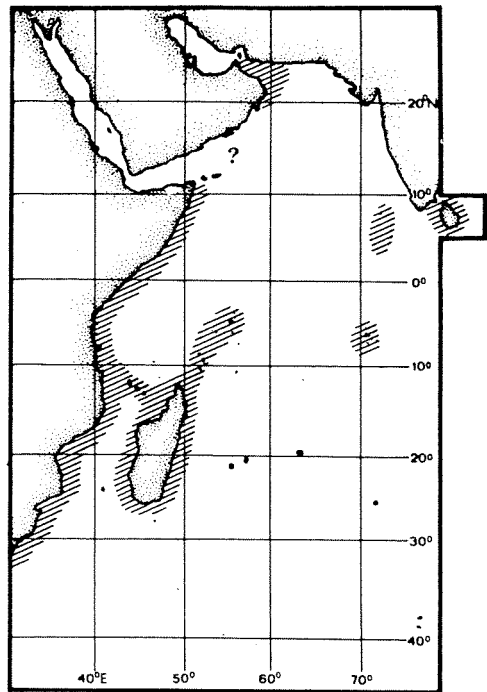
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken mainly with throw nets, drive nets, and gill-nets.

Marketed fresh.

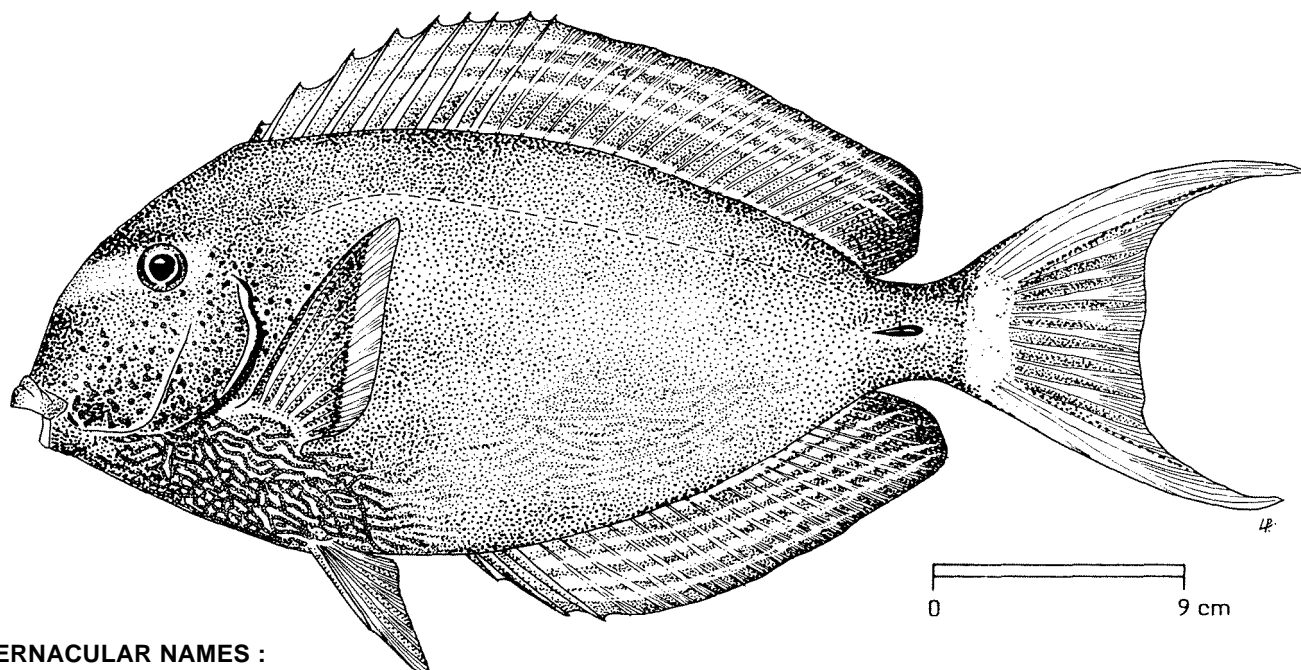


Acanthurus polyzona



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ACANTHURIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Acanthurus xanthopterus* Valenciennes, 1835OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Acanthurus matoides* Bleeker, 1850
Acanthurus fuliginosus Lesson, 1830

VERNACULAR NAMES :

FAO : En - Yellowfin surgeonfish
Fr - Chirurgien aile jaune
Sp - Navajón aleta amarilla

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A high-bodied, compressed fish, the depth 1.95 to 2.25 times in standard length. Snout 4.8 to 5.3 times in standard length; eye 3.9 to 5.6 times in head length (at standard length of 12.7 to 41.5 cm); mouth small; teeth spatulate, close-set, with denticulate edges; gillrakers on first arch 16 to 24. A continuous, unnotched dorsal fin with 9 spines and 25 to 27 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 23 to 25 soft rays; caudal fin emarginate to lunate, the caudal concavity varying from 7 times in standard length for 13-cm specimens to 4.6 times in 32-cm specimens. A lancet-like spine on sides of caudal peduncle which folds into a deep horizontal groove; length of caudal spine 4.4 to 5.7 times in head length relatively longer in larger individuals). A thick-walled, gizzard-like stomach.

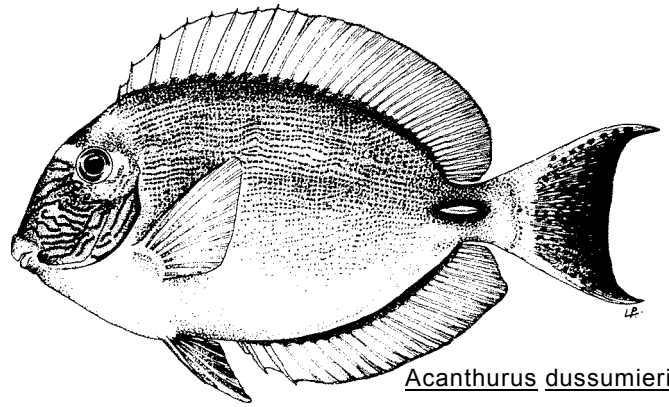
Colour: purplish to brownish grey, sometimes with irregular dark bluish grey lines of about 2 scales in width on body; an indistinct region of dull yellow anterior to eye and to a lesser extent posterior from eye; a whitish band across base of caudal fin; dorsal and anal fins brownish yellow with 4 longitudinal blue bands and a blue-grey band at base; pectoral fins dusky, the outer third yellow, becoming hyaline distally.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Acanthurus dussumieri: caudal fin with small dark spots; a distinct interocular yellow band; dorsal and anal fins yellow without blue bands or with only a few narrow ones distally in fins; caudal spine moderately large, the sheath whitish.

SIZE:

Maximum: 65 cm; common to 50 cm.



Acanthurus dussumieri

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

East Africa to the tropical eastern Pacific. In the Western Indian Ocean, southward to Durban on the Natal coast; absent from the Red Sea and the "Gulf".

Most common in bays or lagoons, the adults usually at depths of 10 to 15 m or more. More inclined than other Acanthurus to stray from the shelter of coral reefs or rocky outcrops. May occur as solitary individuals or in small aggregations.

Feeds on benthic algae, often on those growing on surface of sedimentary substrata.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

No definite fishing areas; caught incidentally in many localities.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken mainly in traps, occasionally by hook and line (unusual in this respect for an Acanthurus).

Marketed fresh.

