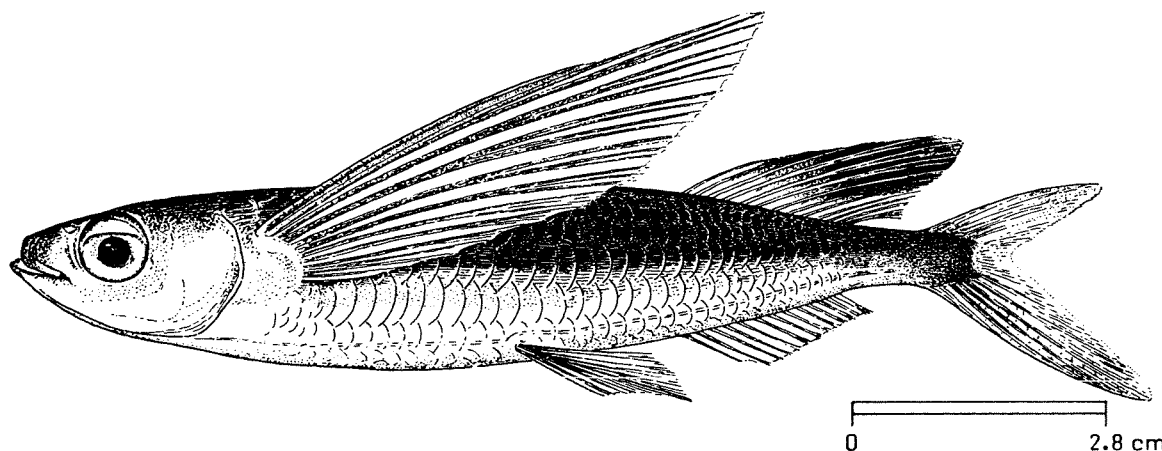


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: EXOCOETIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Parexocoetus brachypterus* (Richardson, 1846)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None. May be referred to subspecies *P. b. brachypterus* (Richardson, 1846)

VERNACULAR NAMES

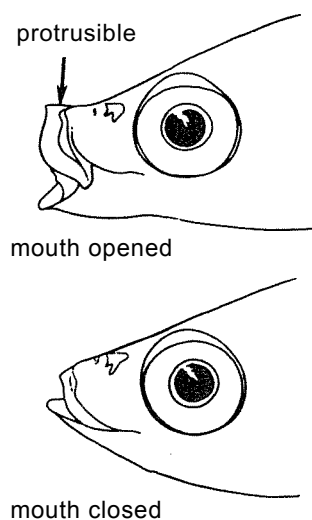
FAO : En - Sailfin flyingfish
 Fr - Exocet voilier
 Sp - Volador aletón

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, somewhat compressed, rounded ventrally. Upper jaw protrusible. Dorsal and anal fins with 12 to 14 rays, their bases opposite; dorsal fin high, its middle rays the longest, reaching well beyond origin of upper caudal fin lobe when depressed; pectoral fins long, about 50 to 60% of standard length; pelvic fins abdominal, medium-sized, reaching well beyond anal fin origin, their insertion closer to anal fin origin than to pectoral fin insertion. Pectoral branch of lateral line present. Scale rows across back in front of dorsal fin (predorsal scales) usually 20 to 24. Juveniles with a pair of short chin barbels, which often remain even in adults.

Colour: dark above, pale below, the dark colour usually iridescent greenish-blue in life; dorsal fin with much black pigment; pectoral fins transparent.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Parexocoetus mento: dorsal fin lower, scarcely reaching origin of upper caudal fin lobe when depressed; predorsal scales 16 to 20 (20 to 24 in P. brachypterus); dorsal fin with 9 to 12, anal fin with 10 to 12 rays (both fins with 12 to 14 rays in P. brachypterus), juveniles without chin barbels.

All other flyingfishes occurring in the area: pectoral fins longer than 60% of standard length; body not compressed; dorsal fin lower, rays at anterior end the longest (except juveniles of some Cheilopogon), with or without a black spot; upper jaw not protrusible; pectoral branch of lateral line absent. Furthermore, in Exocoetus pelvic fin insertion closer to pectoral fin insertion than to anal fin origin.

SIZE :

Maximum: about 14 cm standard length.

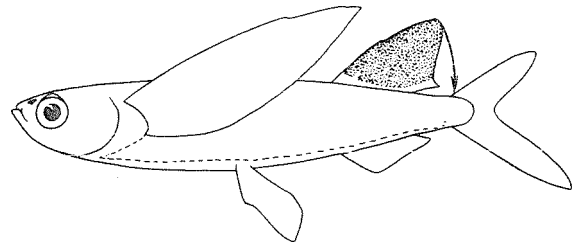
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widely distributed in the tropical Indian Ocean. Also occurs in the Pacific Ocean.

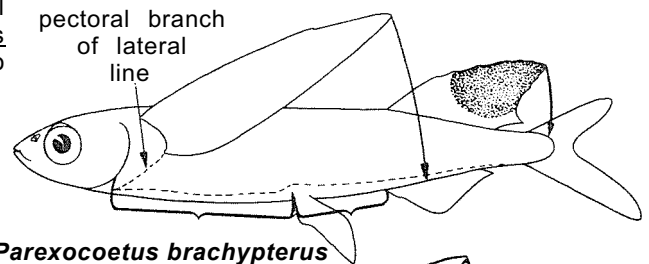
Pelagic in neritic surface waters, rare in the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding for long distances above the surface.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

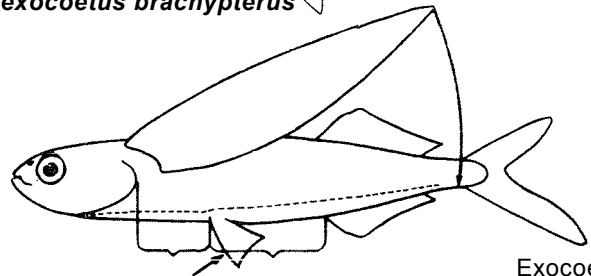
Not known to be a commercial species, but included in this publication to facilitate future field identification and data collection.



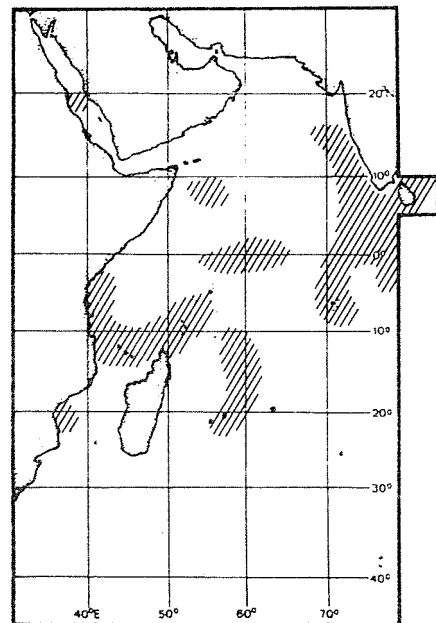
Parexocoetus mento



Parexocoetus brachypterus

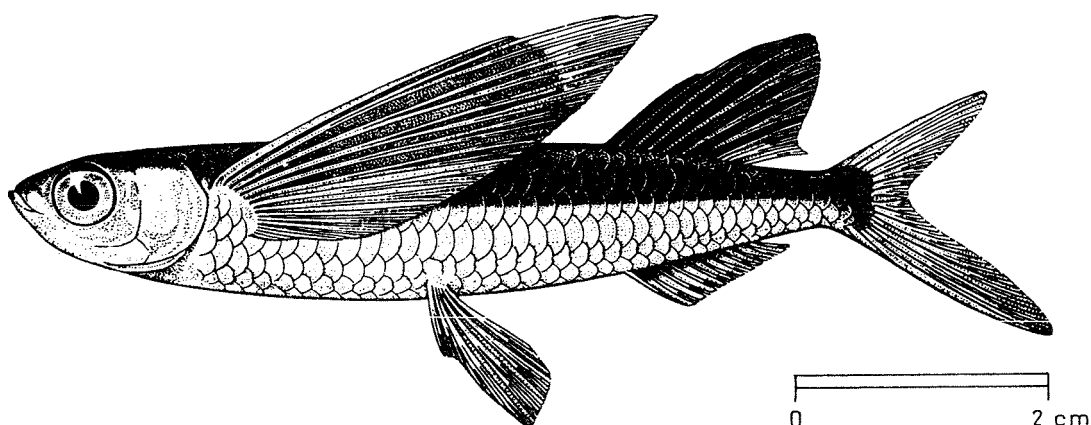


Exocoetus



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: EXOCOETIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Parexocoetus mento (Valenciennes, 1846)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None. May be referred to subspecies P. m. mento (Valenciennes, 1846)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

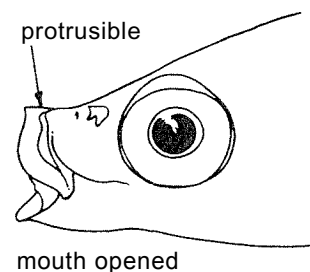
FAO : En - African sailfin flyingfish
Fr - Exocet voilier africain
Sp - Volador aletón africano

NATIONAL:

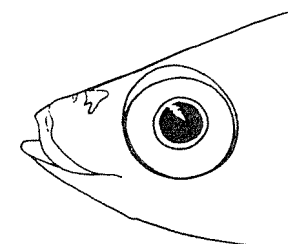
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, somewhat compressed, rounded ventrally. Upper jaw protrusible. Dorsal fin with 9 to 12 rays, anal fin with 10 to 12 rays, their bases opposite; dorsal fin high, its middle rays the longest, almost reaching to origin of upper caudal fin lobe when depressed; pectoral fins long, about 50 to 55% of standard length; pelvic fins abdominal, medium-sized, reaching beyond anal fin origin, their insertion closer to anal fin origin than to pectoral fin insertion. Pectoral branch of lateral line present. Scale rows across back in front of dorsal fin (predorsal scales) usually 16 to 20. Juveniles without chin barbels, which often remain even in adults.

Colour: dark above, pale below, the dark colour usually iridescent greenish-blue in life; dorsal fin with much black pigment; pectoral fins greyish.



mouth opened

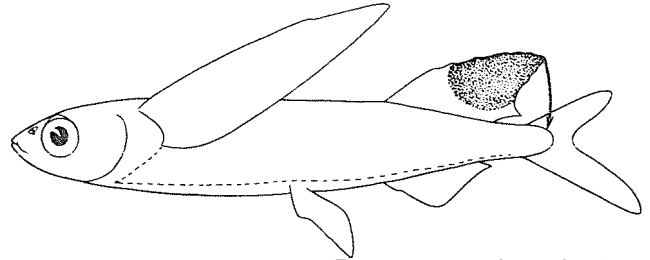


mouth closed

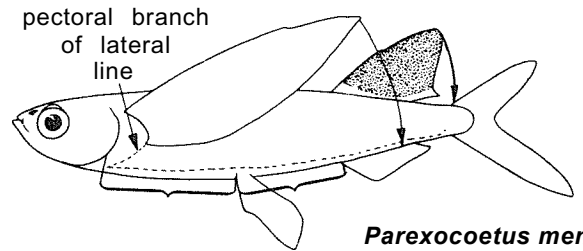
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Parexocoetus brachypterus: dorsal fin higher, reaching well beyond origin of upper caudal fin lobe when depressed; predorsal scales 20 to 24 (16 to 20 in P. mento); dorsal and anal fins with 12 to 14 rays (9 to 12 and 10 to 12, respectively, in P. mento); juveniles with a pair of chin barbels.

All other flyingfishes occurring in the area: pectoral fins longer than 60% of standard length; body not compressed; dorsal fin lower, rays at anterior end the longest (except juveniles of some Cheilopogon), with or without a black spot; upper jaw not protrusible; pectoral branch of lateral line absent. Furthermore, in Exocoetus pelvic fin insertion closer to pectoral fin insertion than to anal fin origin.



Parexocoetus brachypterus



Parexocoetus mento

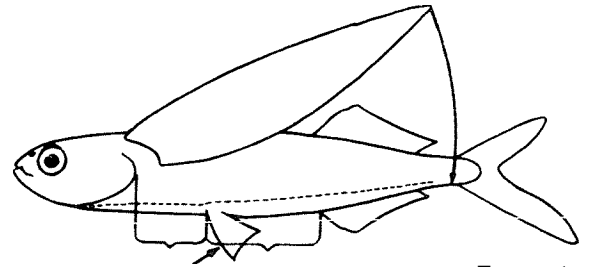
SIZE:

Maximum: about 10 cm standard length.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Probably widely distributed in the tropical Indian Ocean including the Red Sea and the "Gulf". Also occurs in the western Pacific Ocean and eastern Mediterranean.

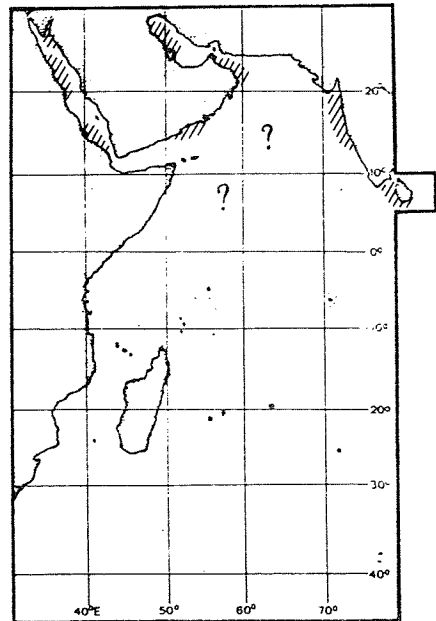
Pelagic in nearshore surface waters, absent in the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding for long distances above the surface.



Exocoetus

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Not known to be a commercial species, but included in this publication to facilitate future field identification and data collection.

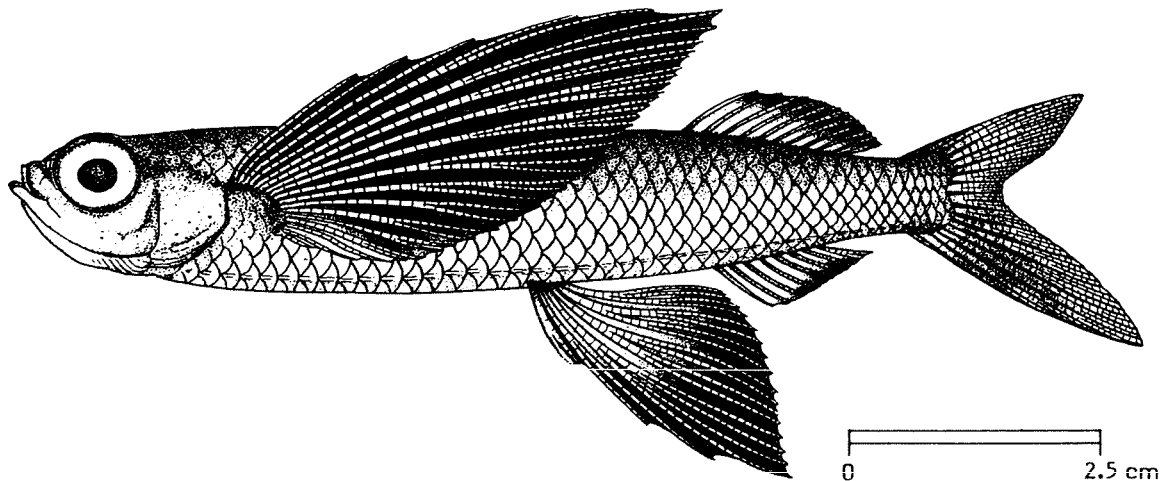


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: EXOCOETIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Prognichthys brevipinnis* (Valenciennes, 1846)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Shortfin flyingfish
 Fr - Exocet aile courte
 Sp - Volador de ala corta

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, thick, somewhat flattened ventrally. Head shorter than distance between dorsal fin origin and origin of upper caudal fin lobe; lower jaw a little shorter than the upper; upper jaw not protrusible; lower jaw included beneath the upper; palatine teeth (on root of mouth) absent. Dorsal fin with 10 to 11 rays, anal fin with 8 to 10 rays; anal fin origin 3 to 5 rays behind origin of dorsal fin; dorsal fin low, rays at anterior end the longest; pectoral fins strikingly long, 65 to 70% of standard length, with 3 unbranched rays; pelvic fins abdominal, large, reaching well beyond anal fin origin, their insertions closer to anal fin origin than to pectoral fin insertion and much nearer to hind margin of head than to origin of lower caudal fin lobe. Pectoral branch of lateral line absent. Scale rows across back in front of dorsal fin (predorsal scales) 25 to 28. Juveniles without chin barbels.

Colour: dark above, pale below, the dark colour usually iridescent blue in life; dorsal fin greyish; pectoral fins grey above, lower part and tip transparent; pelvic fins unpigmented (in juveniles both pectoral and pelvic fins black).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Prognichthys sealei: pectoral fins with 4 unbranched rays (3 in P. brevipinnis).

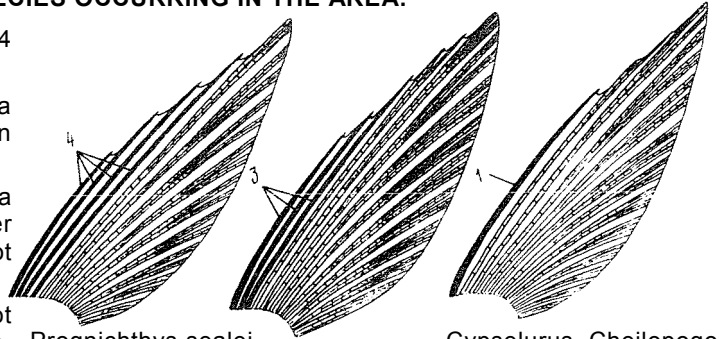
Cypselurus species: pectoral fins with a single unbranched ray; juveniles with a single chin barbel or without barbel.

Cheilopogon species: pectoral fins with a single unbranched ray; jaws of equal length or lower jaw a little longer than the upper; lower jaw not included beneath the upper.

Hirundichthys species: anal fin origin not more than 3 rays behind origin of dorsal fin; pectoral fins with 1 or 2 unbranched rays; jaws of equal length; lower jaw not included beneath the upper.

Exocoetus species: pectoral fins with a single unbranched ray; pelvic fin insertion closer to pectoral fin insertion than to anal fin origin; pelvic fins short, not reaching anal fin origin.

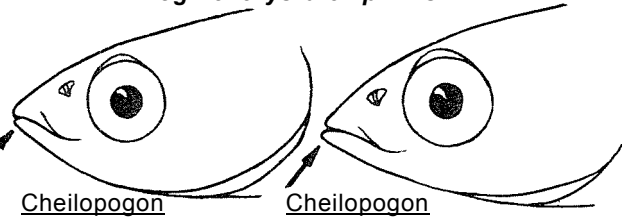
Paraexocoetus species: pectoral fins shorter, 55 to 60% of standard length (65 to 70% in Prognichthys brevipinnis); dorsal fin high, with middle rays the longest; pectoral branch of lateral line present; upper jaw protrusible.



Prognichthys sealei

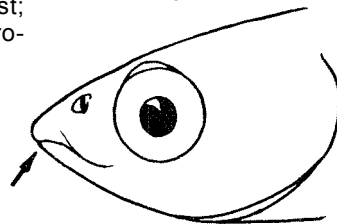
Cypselurus, Cheilopogon

Prognichthys brevipinnis

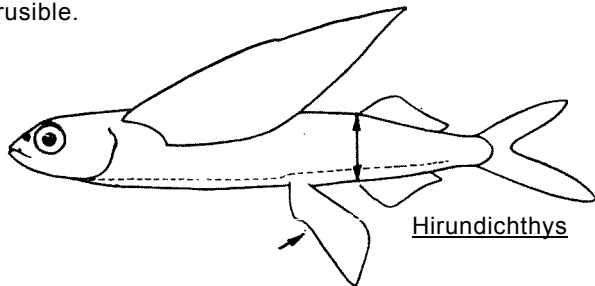


Cheilopogon

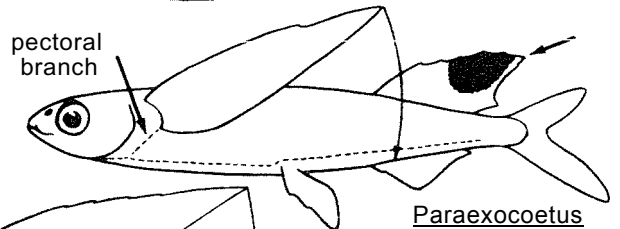
Cheilopogon



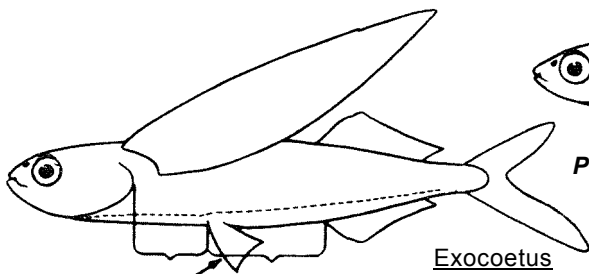
Prognichthys



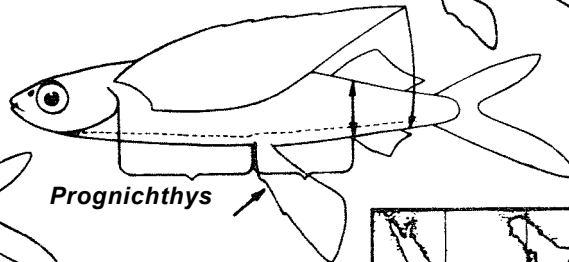
Hirundichthys



Paraexocoetus



Exocoetus



Prognichthys

SIZE:

Maximum: 19 cm standard length.

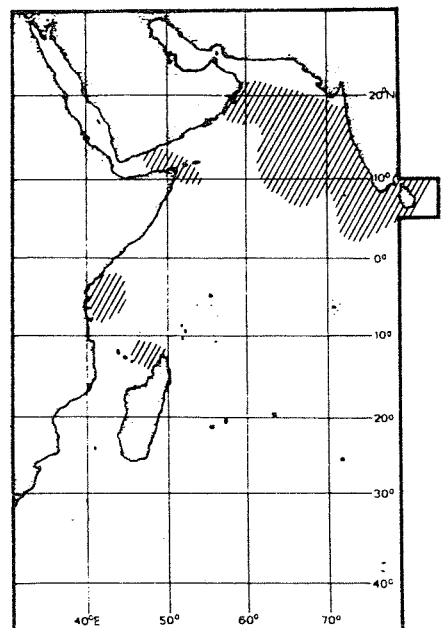
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widely distributed in the tropical Indian Ocean; very common in the Arabian Sea. Also occurs in the western Pacific Ocean.

Pelagic in neritic surface waters, rare in the open ocean; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding for long distances above the surface.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Not known to be a commercial species, but included in this publication to facilitate future field identification and data collection.



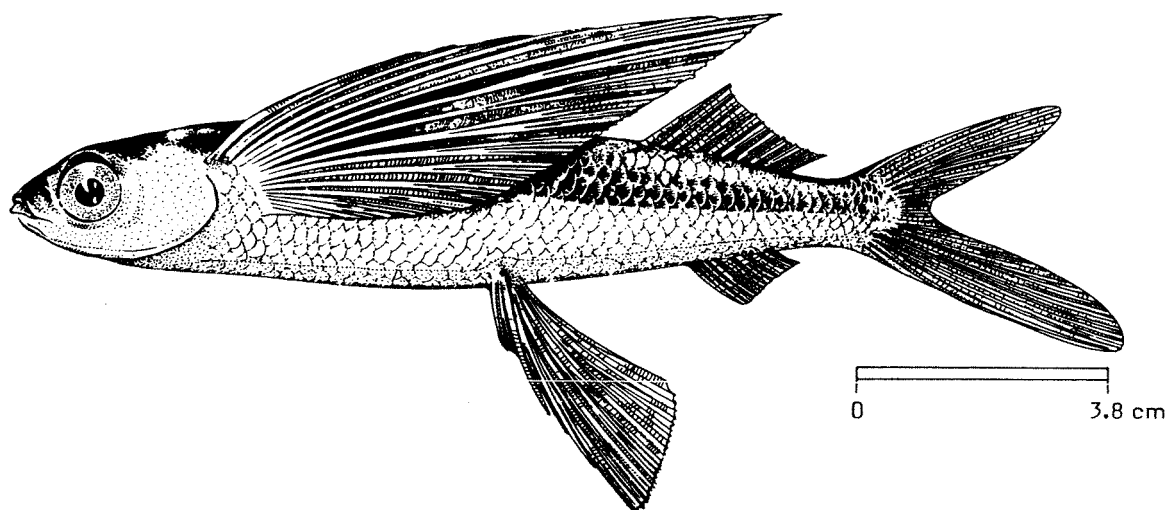
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: EXOCOETIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Prognichthys sealei</i> Abe, 1955

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :	En - Sailor flyingfish
	Fr - Exocet matelot
	Sp - Volador marintero

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, thick, somewhat flattened ventrally. Head shorter than distance between dorsal fin origin and origin of upper caudal fin lobe; lower jaw a little shorter than the upper; upper jaw not protrusible; lower jaw included beneath the upper; palatine teeth (on roof of mouth) absent. Dorsal fin with 10 or 11 rays, anal fin with 8 or 9 rays; anal fin origin 4 to 6 rays behind origin of dorsal fin; dorsal fin low, rays at anterior end the longest; pectoral fins strikingly long, 65 to 70% of standard length, 4 unbranched rays; pelvic fins abdominal, large, reaching well beyond anal fin origin, their insertion closer to anal fin origin than to pectoral fin insertion and much nearer to hind margin of head than to origin of caudal fin lobe. Pectoral branch of lateral line absent. Scale rows across back in front of dorsal fin predorsal scales 25 to 28. Juveniles without chin barbels.

Colour: dark above, pale below, the dark colour usually iridescent blue in life; dorsal fin greyish; pectoral fins grey above, lower part and tip transparent; pelvic fins unpigmented (in juveniles both pectoral and pelvic fins black).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Prognichthys brevipinnis: pectoral fin with 3 unbranched rays in P. sealei).

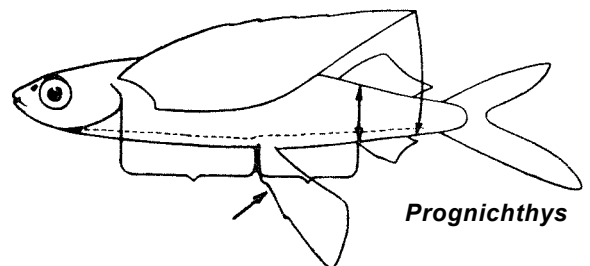
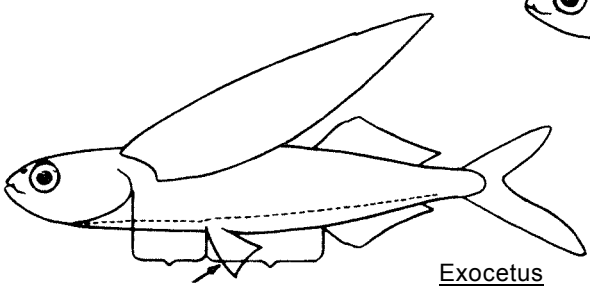
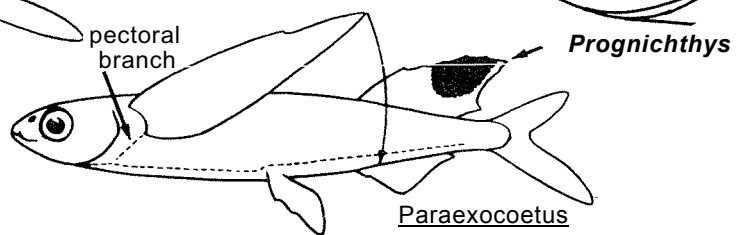
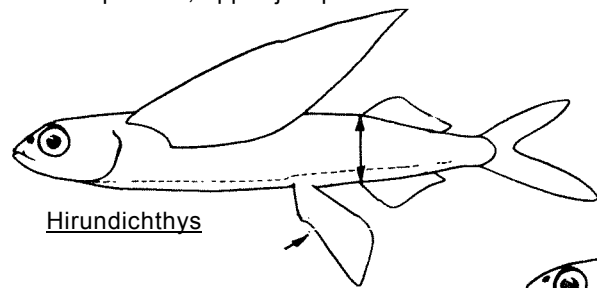
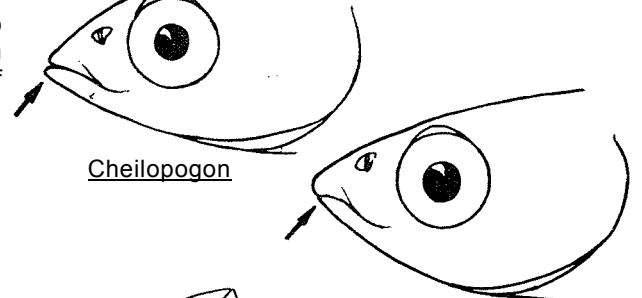
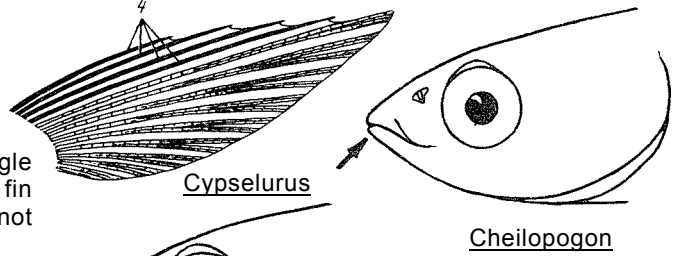
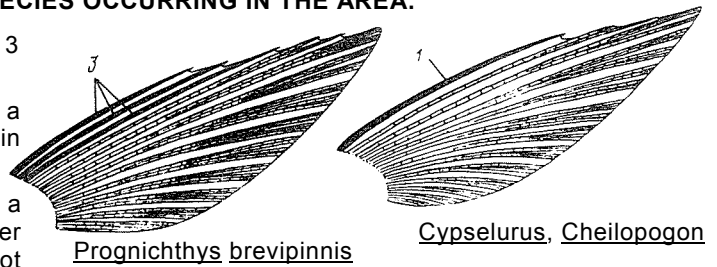
Cypselurus species: pectoral fins with a single unbranched ray; juveniles with a single chin barbel or without barbel.

Cheilopogon species: pectoral fins with a single unbranched ray; jaws of equal length or lower jaw a little longer than the upper; lower jaw not included beneath the upper.

Hirundichthys species: anal fin origin not more than 3 rays behind origin of dorsal fin; pectoral fins with 1 or 2 unbranched rays; jaws of equal length; lower jaw not included beneath the upper.

Exocoetus species: pectoral fins with a single unbranched ray; pelvic fin insertion closer to pectoral fin insertion than to anal fin origin; pelvic fins short, not reaching anal fin origin.

Paraexocoetus species: pectoral fins shorter, 55 to 60% of standard length (65 to 70% in P. sealei); dorsal fin high, with middle rays the longest; pectoral branch of lateral line present; upper jaw protrusible.



SIZE:

Maximum: 19 cm standard length

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widely distributed in the tropical Indian Ocean, but absent from the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and the "Gulf". Also occurs in the Pacific Ocean.

Pelagic in open ocean surface waters; capable of leaping out of the water and gliding for long distances above the surface.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Not known to be a commercial species, but included in this publication to facilitate future field identification and data collection.

