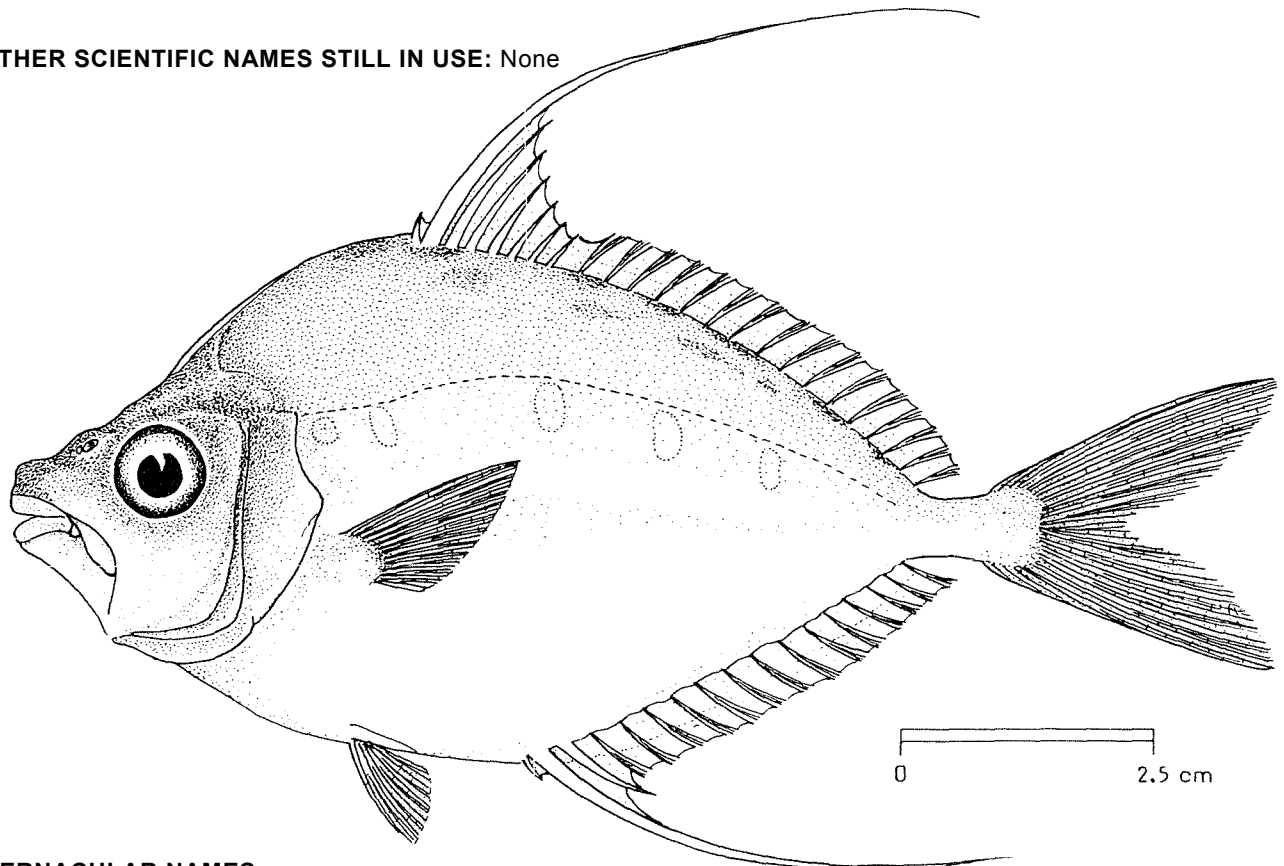


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LEIOGNATHIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Leiogathus smithursti* (Ramsay & Ogilby, 1886)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Smithurst's ponyfish
 Fr - Sapsap panache
 Sp - Motarrobo de penacho

NATIONAL

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oval and compressed; anterior part of dorsal profile more strongly arched than anterior part of ventral profile; body depth contained about 1.9 times in standard length. Snout blunt, mouth pointing downward when protracted. Second dorsal and anal fin spines greatly elongated (sometimes reaching to caudal fin). Head and breast scaleless.

Colour: belly more silvery than back which shows a few faint, unevenly spaced and horizontally elongate blotches; a few blotches below lateral line. Tip of snout grey; dorsal and anal fins with yellow colouring, particularly on margins, caudal fin faint yellow with a more intense yellow blotch on lower lobe; underside of pectoral fin base with minute black dots.

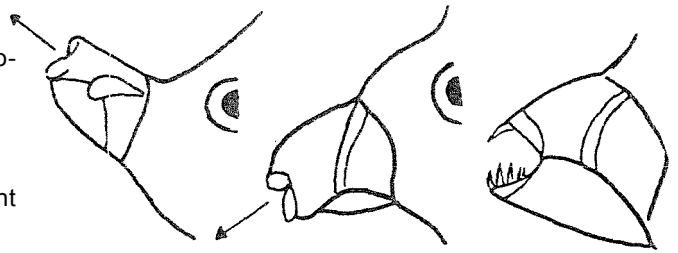
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other Leiognathus species: second anal fin spine not greatly elongated; colour pattern different.

Secutor species: mouth pointing upward when protracted.

Gazza species: caniniform teeth present in jaws.

Gerreidae: head scaly and nuchal crest absent (present in Leiognathidae).



Secutor sp. *Leiognathus smithursti* Gazza sp.

protracted mouth

SIZE:

Maximum: 16 cm; common to 13 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, only off south India (Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar) and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific, westward to the Fiji Islands and Australia.

Inhabits shallow waters down to depths of about 40 m; found predominantly at the bottom, usually forming schools.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans and nematodes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

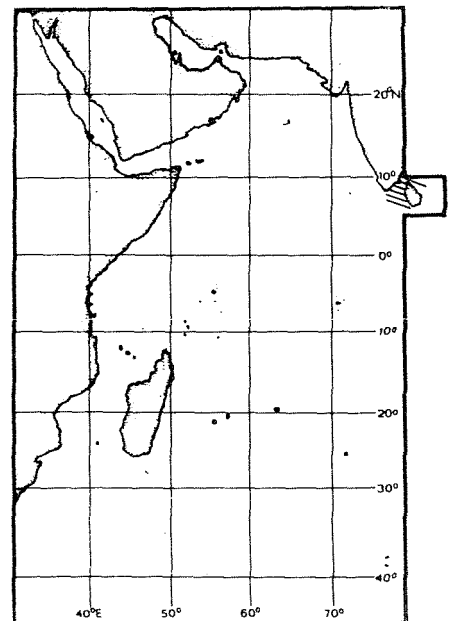
Inshore waters, caught only occasionally.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

Marketed dried salted together with other pony-fishes.

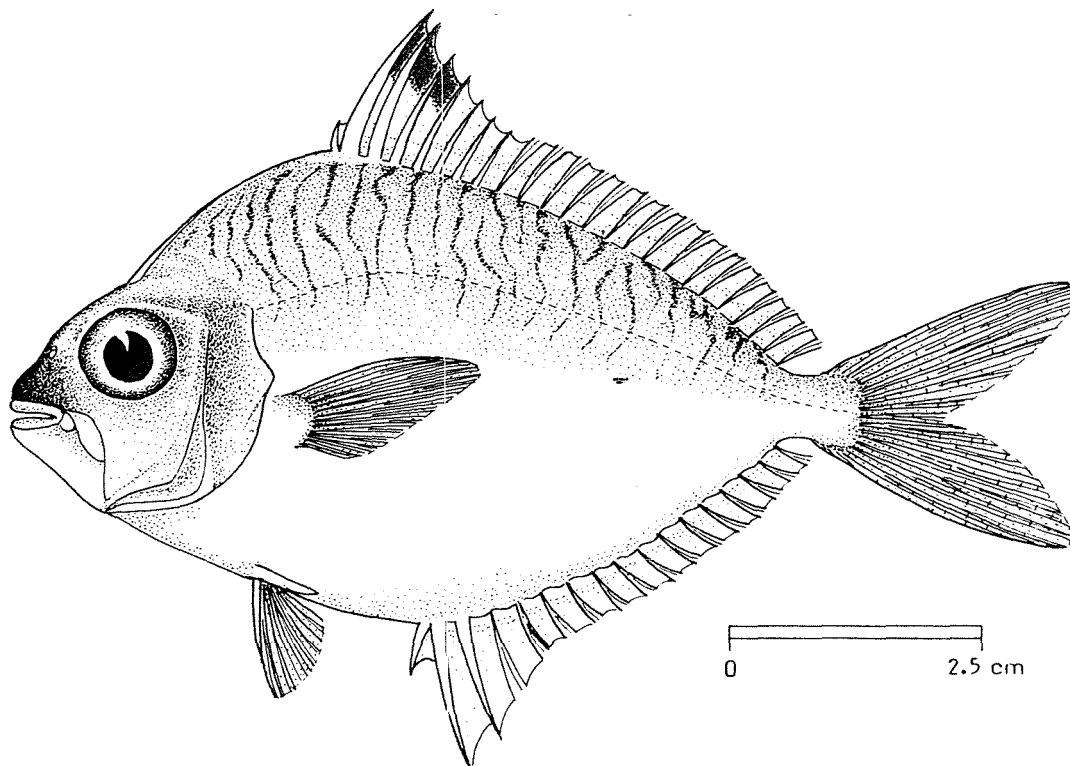


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LEIOGNATHIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Leiognathus splendens (Cuvier, 1829)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Splendid ponyfish
 Fr - Sapsap soleil
 Sp - Motambo esplendor

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body compressed and deep, anterior part of dorsal profile more strongly arched than anterior part of ventral profile; body depth contained 1.75 to 2.05 times in standard length. Snout short (shorter than eye diameter) and blunt; mouth pointing slightly downward when protracted. Head scaleless, but prominent scales present on breast.

Colour: belly silvery; back greyish silvery, with faint, grey wavy vertical lines above lateral line in adults; tip of snout dotted black (in juveniles, a few blotches instead of wavy lines). Scales of lateral line, bases of pectoral fins, margins of dorsal and anal fins bright yellow; usually a black spot on upper third of spinous portion of dorsal fin.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Leiognathus jonesi: spinous dorsal membrane between 2nd and 6th spines grey; dorsal and anal fin spines weak (strong in L. splendens).

L. daura: body more regularly oval, dorsal and ventral profiles more or less evenly curved; a broad yellow band along lateral line; no wavy vertical lines above lateral line.

L. dussumieri: body more slender, eye diameter slightly less than snout length (greater than snout length in L. splendens); never a black blotch on dorsal fin.

Other Leiognathus species: either body more slender, or one of the dorsal or anal spines elongated, or colour pattern different.

Secutor species: mouth pointing upward when protracted.

Gazza species: caniniform teeth present in jaws.

Species of Gerreidae: head scaly and nuchal crest absent (present in Leiognathidae).

SIZE:

Maximum: 14 cm; common to 10 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, known to occur off Mauritius Madagascar, in the Red Sea, along the coasts of India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific, extending westward to Australia and the Fiji Islands.

Inhabits shallow waters down to depths of about 40 m; found predominantly at the bottom in schools. Enters estuaries.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans, foraminiferans and bivalves.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

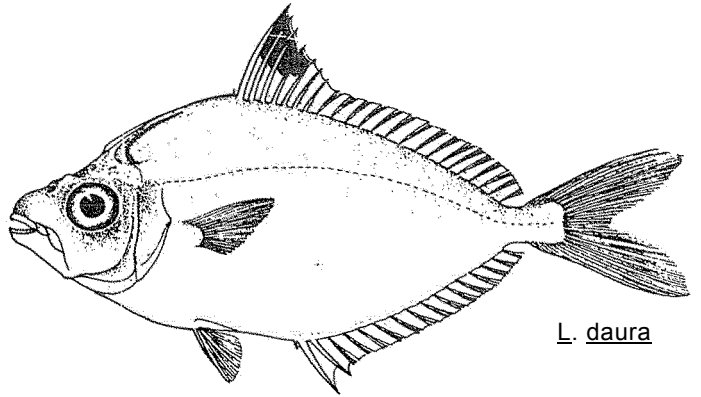
Inshore waters throughout the year.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

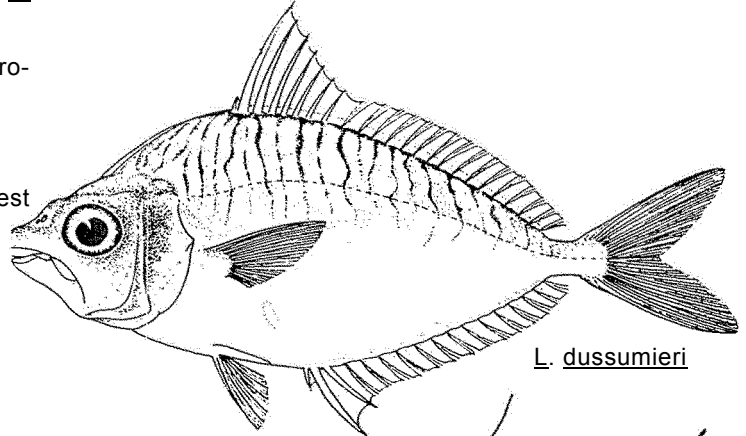
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls; limited quantities are also landed in bag nets and shore seines.

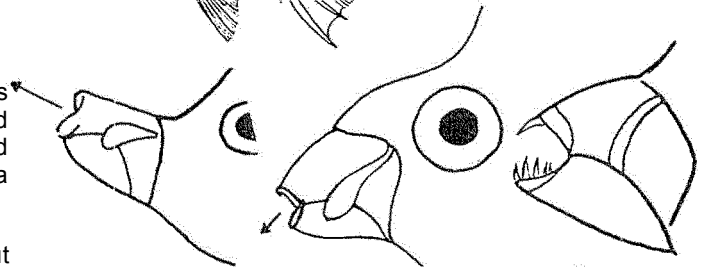
Marketed dried salted, together with other pony-fishes; also used for fishmeal.



L. daura

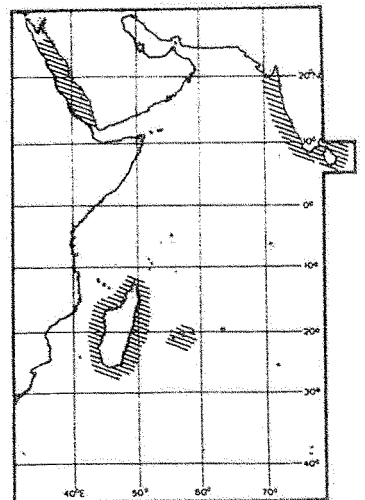


L. dussumieri



Secutor sp. ***Leiognathus splendens*** Gazza sp.

protracted mouth



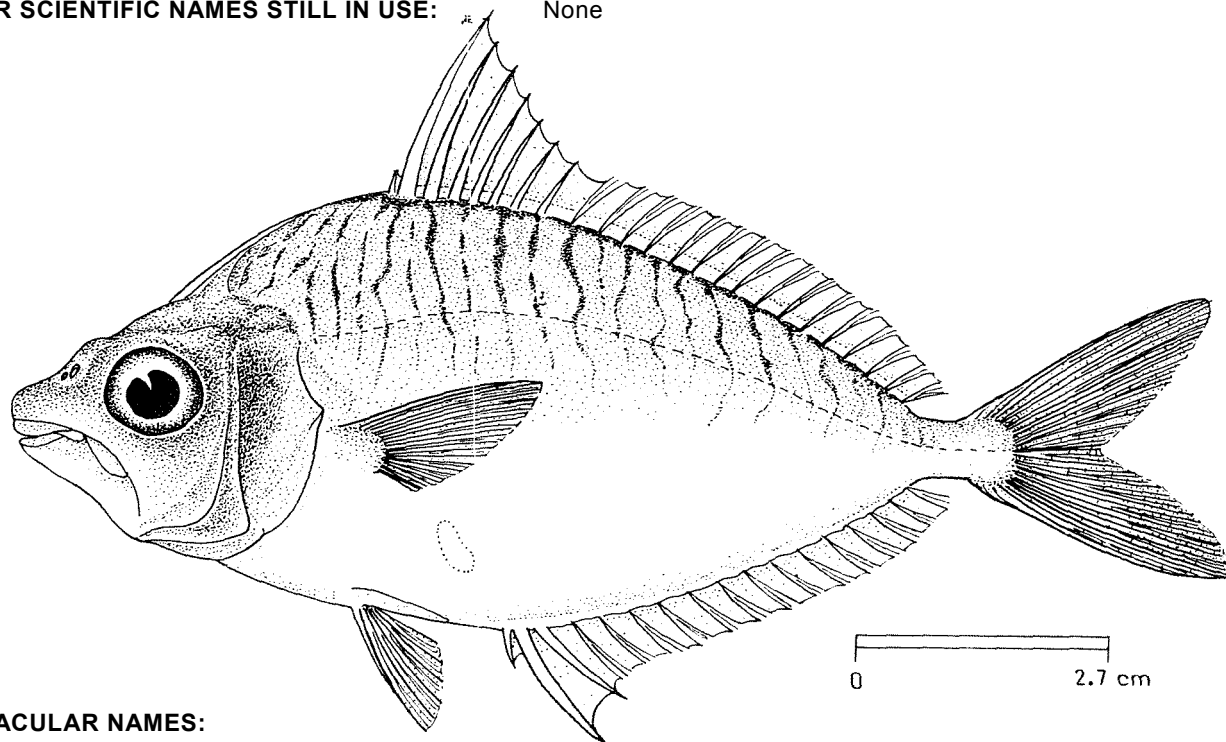
*Not recognized as a valid species by other authors

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LEIOGNATHIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Leiognathus dussumieri (Valenciennes, 1835)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Dussumier's ponyfish
Fr - Sapsap vaguelette
Sp - Motambo de onda

NATIONAL:

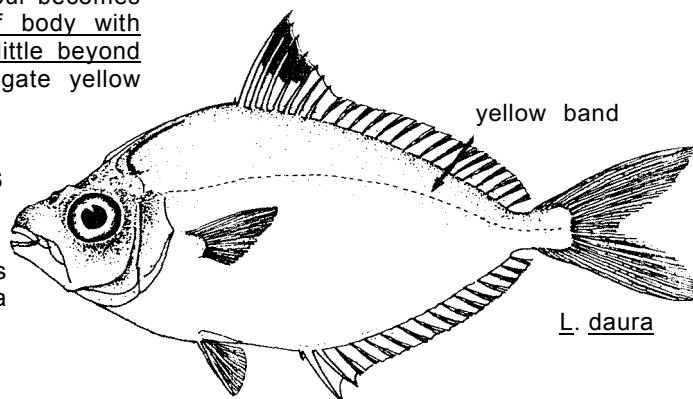
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately slender, compressed, anterior part of dorsal profile more strongly arched than anterior part of ventral profile; body depth contained 2.02 to 2.28 times in standard length. Snout pointed, slightly longer than eye diameter; mouth pointing downward when protracted. Head scaleless, but conspicuous scales present on breast.

Colour: back greenish to brownish, belly silvery, fins yellowish (often blue-green due to settlement of algae, and this colour becomes more prominent on preservation in formalin); sides of body with grey, wavy, vertical lines descending from the back to little beyond lateral line, often faint or fading after death; an elongate yellow spot on belly below pectoral fin.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Leiognathus daura: dark black blotch on spinous part of dorsal fin; no wavy lines on sides of body, but a broad yellow band along lateral line.

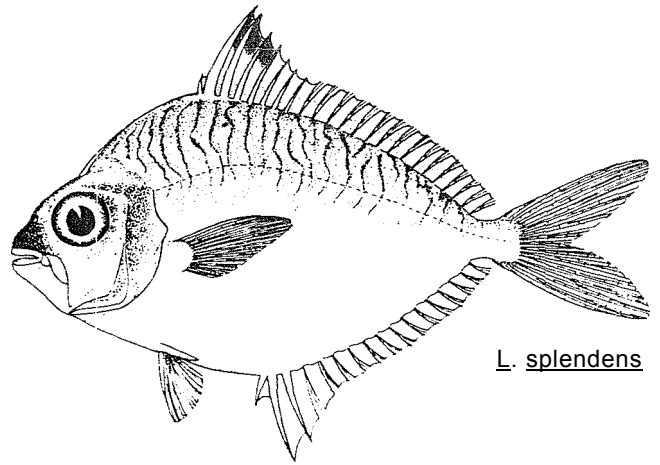


L. splendens (and L. jonesi): body usually deeper; eye diameter distinctly longer than snout length (shorter in L. dussumieri); a black blotch usually present at tip of spinous part of dorsal fin.

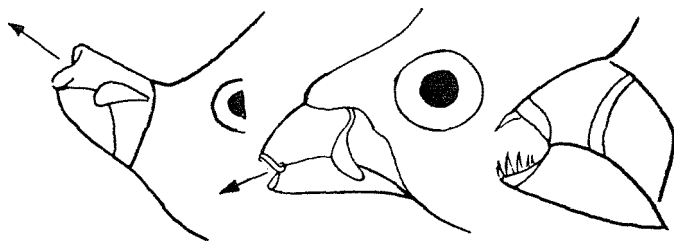
Other Leiognathus species: either more slender, the body depth less than 1.97 times in standard length (2.02 to 2.28 times in L. dussumieri), with the back not more strongly arched than ventral profile (e.g., L. lineolatus) or distinctly deeper (body depth less than 1.93 times in standard length). Furthermore, second dorsal fin spine elongated in L. fasciatus, L. leuciscus and L. smithursti.

Secutor species: mouth pointing upward when protracted.

Gazza species: head scaly and nuchal crest absent (present in Leiognathidae).



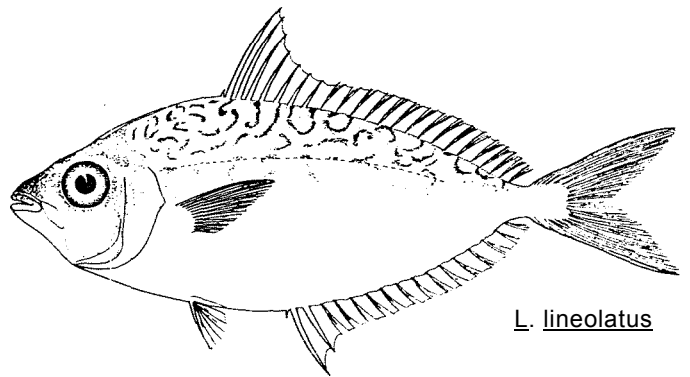
L. splendens



Secutor sp.

Leiognathus dussumieri

Gazza sp.



L. lineolatus

SIZE:

Maximum: 14 cm; common to 11 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, known to occur off Madagascar and Réunion Islands along the coasts of India and off Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, in the Eastern Indian Ocean, including the east coast of India, Andaman Islands, the Philippines and the Indo-Australian Archipelago.

Inhabits shallow waters down to depths of about 40 m, predominantly near the bottom.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans, polychaetes, foraminiferans, bivalves, gastropods and nematodes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

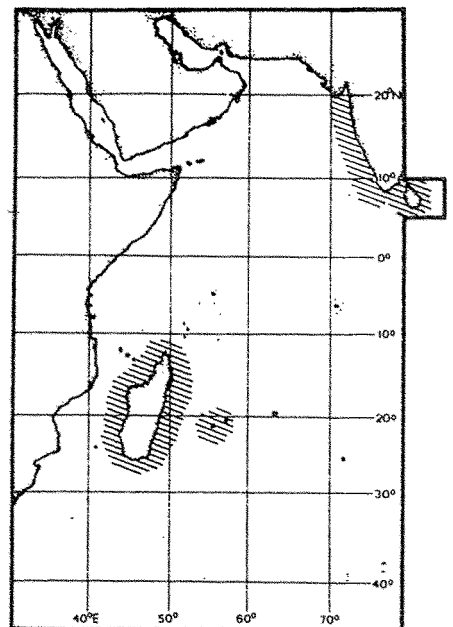
Inshore waters, throughout the year.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls and gillnets.

Marketed dried salted together with other pony-fishes; also used for fishmeal.

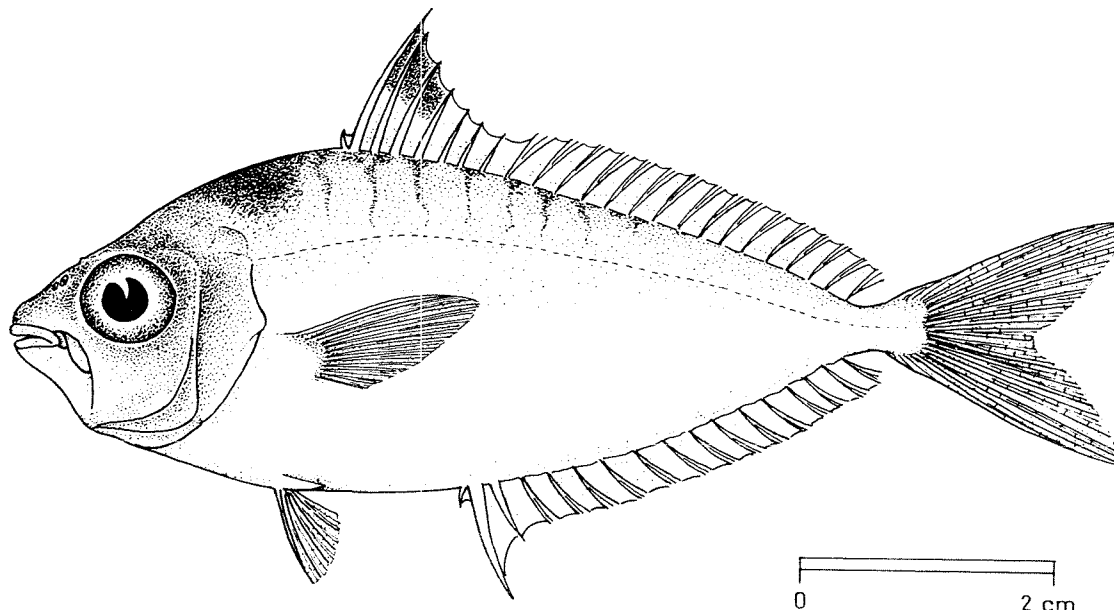


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LEIOGNATHIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Leiognathus blochi (Valenciennes, 1835)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Twoblotch ponyfish
 Fr - Sapsap à deux taches
 Sp - Motambo de dos manchas

NATIONAL :

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oval, compressed and rather elongate, the dorsal and ventral profiles almost equally convex; body depth contained 2.39 to 2.68 times in standard length. Snout pointed; mouth pointing downward when protracted. Head scaleless, but conspicuous scales present on breast.

Colour: belly silvery; back light brown with dark, irregular vertical lines extending down to about lateral line; a brown blotch on nape which becomes diffuse on preservation in formalin. Tip of snout, head and ventral half of body with fine black dots. The dorsal fin membrane from about half its height to tips of second to fifth spines black; soft part of dorsal and anal fin, as well as caudal fin, yellow with grey edges; pelvics and pectorals colourless, underside of pectoral fin base dotted black.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Leiognathus brevirostris: also with a dark blotch on nape, but only grey dots on spinous dorsal fin membrane; a conspicuous diffuse golden yellow patch on abdomen about midway between origin of ventrals and anal. Breast scaleless.

Other Leiognathus species: no blotch on nape. Furthermore, these species are either much deeper-bodied, or have the 2nd dorsal or 2nd anal fin spine greatly elongated, or they lack the black blotch on spinous part of dorsal fin.

Secutor species: mouth pointing upward when protracted.

Gazza species: caniniform teeth present in jaws.

Species of Gerreidae: head scaly and nuchal crest absent (present in Leiognathidae).

SIZE:

Maximum: 10 cm; common to 8 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, only known to occur in Pakistan and down the west coast of India (to about 12°N). Elsewhere, in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific, westward to Australia.

Inhabits shallow waters down to depths of 40 m, predominantly near the bottom. Apparently not abundant.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans, foraminiferans and nematodes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

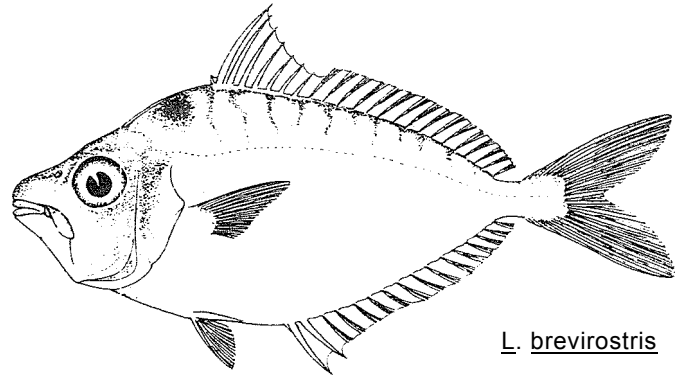
Inshore waters, throughout the year.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

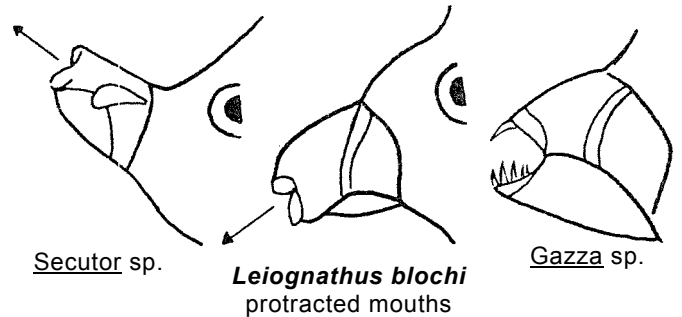
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls and shore seines.

Marketed fresh, and dried salted, together with other ponyfishes; also used for fishmeal.



L. brevirostris



Secutor sp.

Leiognathus blochi
protracted mouths

Gazza sp.

