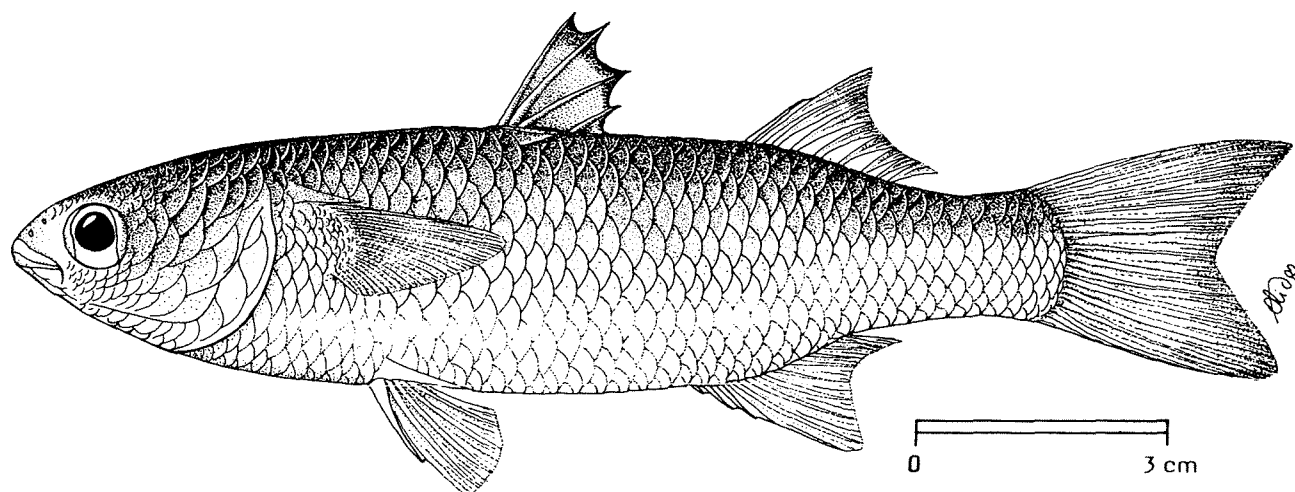


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MUGILIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Valamugil speigleri (Bleeker, 1858)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Speigler's mullet  
Fr - Mulet chiraya  
Sp - Lisa chiraya

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately robust; head wide, flattened above. Head length 23 or 24% of standard length; fatty (adipose) tissue covering most of iris; lips thin, lower lip with a high symphysial knob; hind end of upper jaw reaching vertical from anterior rim of eye; teeth labial, numerous fine ciliiform teeth on lower lip, similar but shorter, finer and sparser teeth on upper lip; preorbital bone moderately wide, filling the space between lip and eye, notched on anterior edge. First dorsal fin origin nearer to snout tip than to caudal fin base; second dorsal fin origin on vertical through end of anterior quarter of anal fin base; pectoral axillary scale long (32 to 34% of the pectoral fin length); pectoral fin 85 to 99% of head length, reaching the vertical through second dorsal spine; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 soft rays; second dorsal and anal fins densely scaled. Scales in lateral series 37 to 40; 7 rows of scales on side of caudal peduncle.

Colour: back green, flanks and belly silvery, pectoral fin with a black axillary spot; first dorsal fin margin black; other fins dusky.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Valamugil cunnesius: scales in lateral series 30 to 35 (37 to 40 in V. speigleri); second dorsal and anal fin moderately scaled.

V. engeli: first dorsal fin origin nearer to caudal fin base than to snout tip.

V. robustes: pectoral fin does not reach vertical from first dorsal fin origin.

V. seheli and V. buchmanani: adipose tissue only a rim around eye; 9 rows of scales on each side of caudal peduncle (7 in V. speigleri).

Myxus capensis and Liza species: pectoral axillary scale rudimentary or absent.

Mugil cephalus: 8 anal fin rays (9 in Valamugil species).

Crenimugil crenilabis and Oedalechilus labiosus: lip ornamentation present.

Agonostomus species: lips thick, interorbital space convex; 2 anal fin spines (3 in Valamugil species).

### SIZE:

Maximum: 20 cm; common to 14 cm.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, from Pakistan to the west coast of India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere extending to the east coast of India, Indonesia and Australia.

A schooling species occurring in shallow coastal waters, estuaries, backwaters, frequently entering freshwaters. Spawning takes place at sea.

Feeds on small algae, diatoms and other organic matter, both living and detrital, taken in with sand and mud. Fries feed on copepods and floating algae, usually occur in shallow inundated areas along the sea coast, soon after heavy rains.

### PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

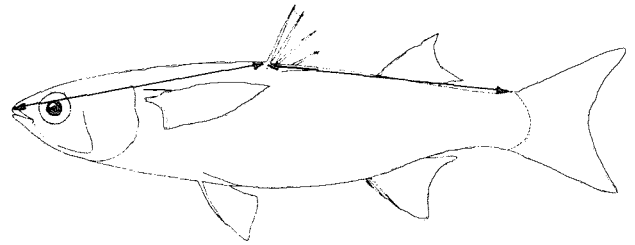
Caught throughout its range.

### CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

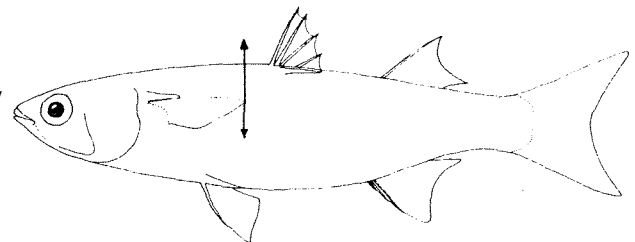
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught especially with gillnets, castnets, stakenets or barrier nets, lift nets, beach seines, pouch nets and trawls.

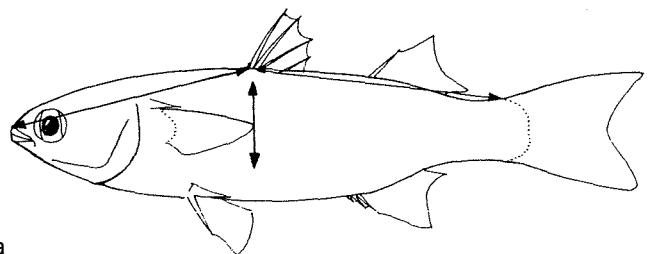
Marketed fresh.



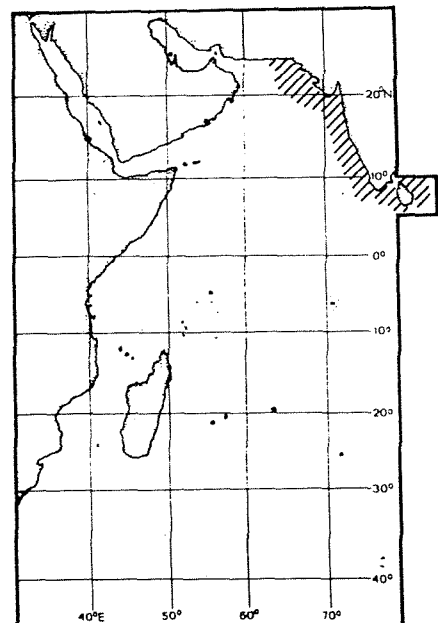
V. engeli



V. robustus



V. speigleri

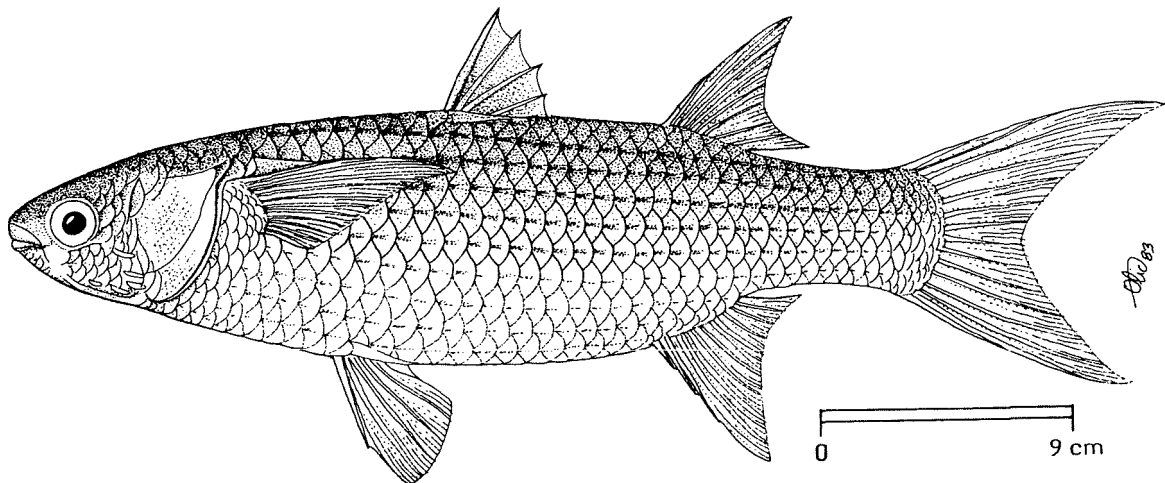


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MUGILIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Valamugil buchanani (Bleeker, 1853)

## OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Mugil ceylonensis Günther, 1861Oedalechilus kesteveni Whitley, 1943

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Blue-tail mullet  
                   Fr - Mulet à queue bleue  
                   Sp - Lisa rabo azul

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body robust, head wide, dorsally flattened. Head length 25 or 26% of the standard length; snout short and bluntly rounded; fatty (adipose) tissue a rim around eye; lips thin, lower lip with a high, double symphyseal knob; hind end of upper jaw reaching vertical between posterior nostril and anterior rim of eye; teeth labial, small, fine and spaced, sparser in upper lip; preorbital bone wide, filling the space between lip and eye, notched anteriorly. First dorsal fin origin equidistant from caudal fin base and snout tip; second dorsal fin origin on vertical from anal fin origin and opposite 21st to 23rd scale of lateral series; pectoral axillary scale elongate (30 to 33% of pectoral length); pectoral fin 91 to 96% of head length, just reaching vertical through first dorsal fin origin; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 soft rays; second dorsal and anal fins densely scaled. Scales in lateral series 32 to 35; 9 rows of scales on side of caudal peduncle.

Colour: greenish on back, silver on sides and belly; a dark axillary spot on base of pectoral fin; a slight patch of gold on upper operculum and on iris.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Valamugil seheli: scales in lateral series 38 to 42 (32 to 36 in V. buchanani); second dorsal fin origin opposite 26th to 28th scale of lateral series (21st to 23rd scale in V. buchanani).

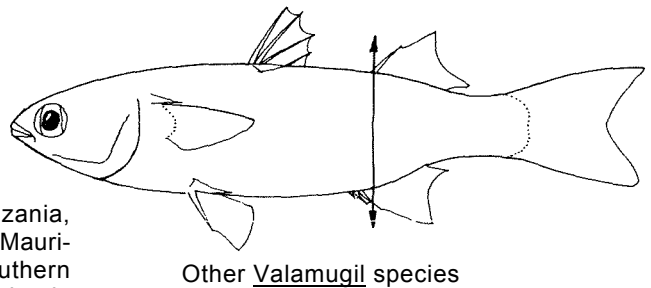
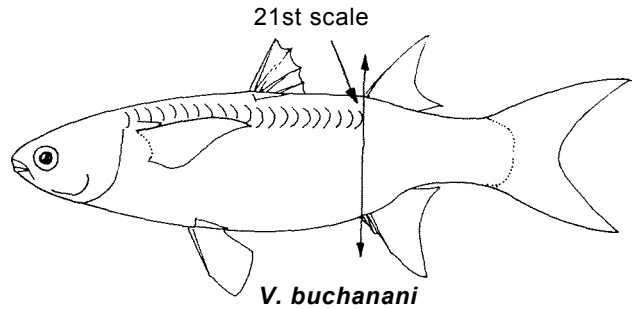
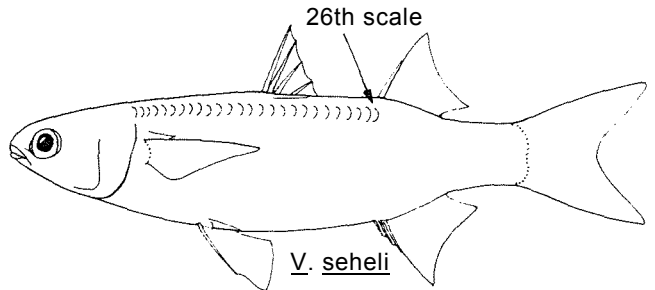
Other Valamugil species: vertical through second dorsal fin origin falling behind anterior quarter of anal fin.

Myxus capensis and Liza species: pectoral axillary scale rudimentary or absent.

Mugil cephalus: 8 anal fin rays (9 in V. buchanani).

Crenimugil crenilabis and Oedalechilus labiatus: lip ornamentation present.

Agonostomus species: lips thick, interorbital space convex; 2 anal fin spines (3 in Valamugil species).



**SIZE:**

Maximum: 48 cm; common to 35 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

In the area, found from Natal (South Africa) to Tanzania, including Madagascar, Réunion, Zanzibar, Seychelles and Mauritius Islands. Also in the Gulf of Aden, along the southern coasts of India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, in the Mariana Islands and Australia.

Young fish ascend river lagoons and backwaters.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

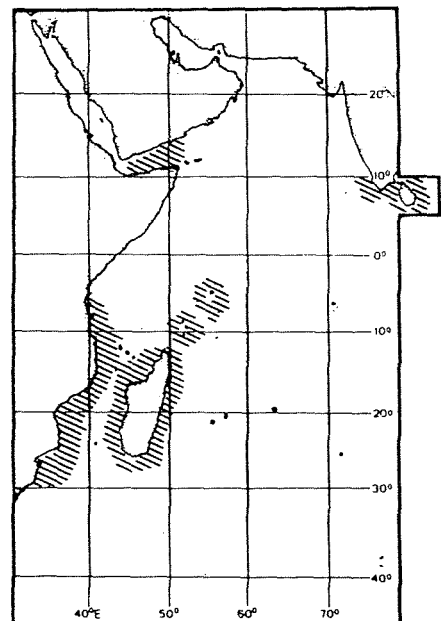
Coastal waters and adjacent lagoons.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with gillnets, castnets, stake or barrier nets, liftnets and beach seines; pouch nets are usually adopted during the spawning run.

Marketed fresh.



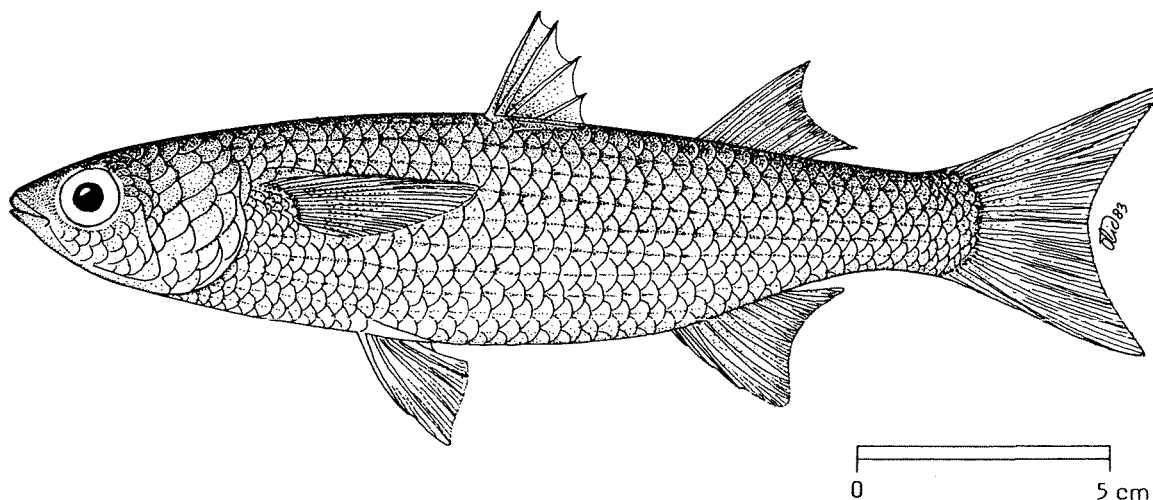
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MUGILIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

Valamugil engeli (Bleeker, 1858)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Mugil kandavensis Günther, 1877



VERNACULAR NAMES:

- FAO: En - Kanda
- Fr - Mulet oeil de perdrix
- Sp - Lisa ojo de perdiz

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body robust, head wide, flattened above. Head length 25 to 26.5% of standard length; fatty (adipose) tissue covering part of iris; lips thin, lower lip with a high symphysial knob; hind end of upper jaw reaching vertical from anterior rim of eye; preorbital bone wide, filling the space between lip and eye, notched anteriorly. First dorsal fin origin nearer to caudal fin base than to snout tip or mid-way; second dorsal fin origin on vertical through end of anterior third of anal fin base; pectoral axillary scale long (34.5 to 36% of the pectoral fin length); pectoral fin 88 to 95% of head length, reaching beyond vertical through base of first dorsal fin spine; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 soft rays; second dorsal and anal fins scaled only between rays (rays visible). Scales in lateral series 32 to 36.

Colour: back olive, sides silvery, fins hyaline.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Valamugil cunnesius and V. speigleri: first dorsal fin origin nearer to snout tip than to caudal fin base.

V. robustus: pectoral fin not reaching vertical through first dorsal fin origin.

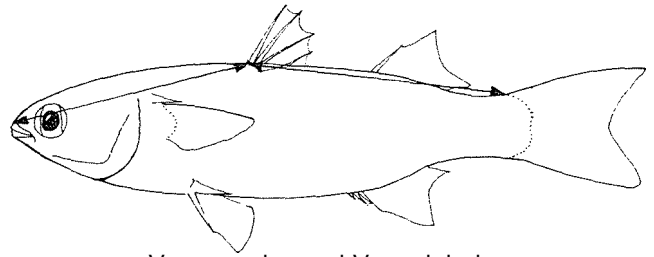
V. seheli and V. buchanani: second dorsal fin origin on vertical through anal fin origin; adipose tissue a rim around eye.

Myxus capensis and Liza species: pectoral axillary scale rudimentary or absent.

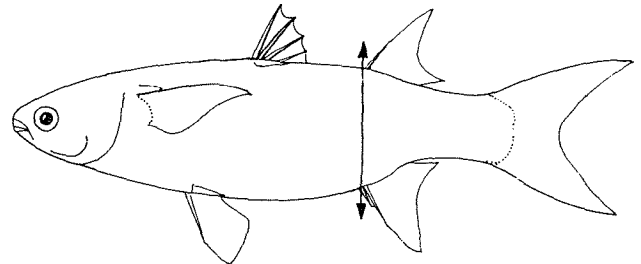
Mugil cephalus: 8 anal fin rays (9 in Valamugil species).

Crenimugil crenilabis and Oedalechilus labiosus: lip ornamentation present.

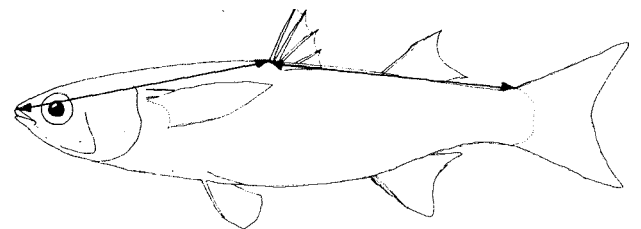
Agonostomus species: lips thick: interorbital space convex; 2 anal fin spines (3 in Valamugil species).



V. cunnesius and V. speigleri



V. seheli and V. buchanani



**V. engeli**

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 30 cm; common to 25 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

In the area, found along the coasts of Mozambique, Kenya and Madagascar; also in the Western Pacific.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

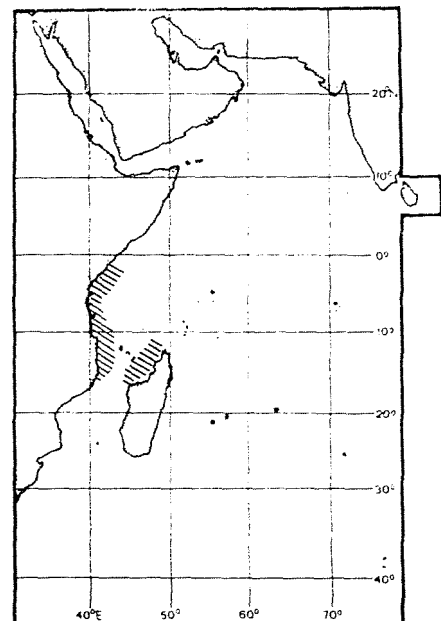
Coastal waters throughout its range.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with seine nets and liftnets.

Marketed fresh; used as live bait in pole and line fishing for tuna.

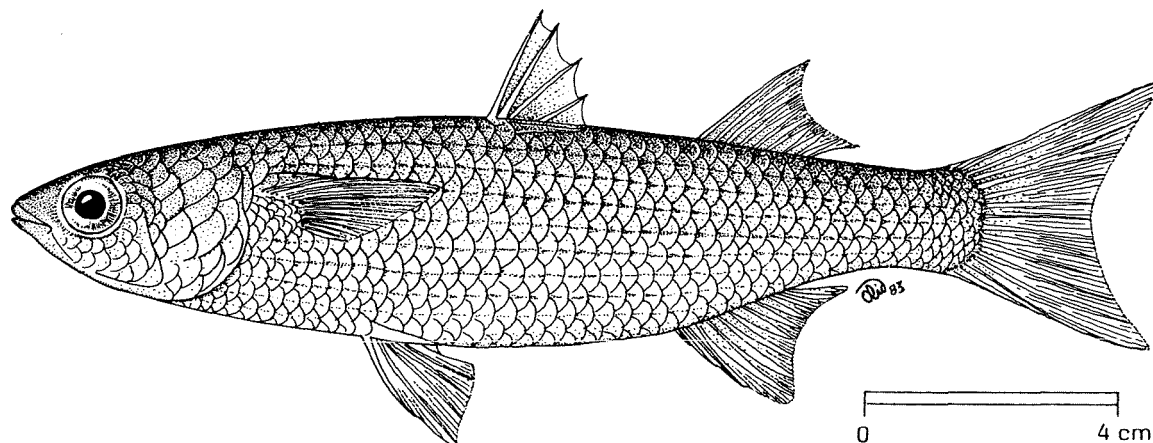


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MUGILIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Valamugil robustus (Günther, 1861)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Robust mullet  
                   Fr - Mulet robuste  
                   Sp - Lisa malana

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body robust, head wide, dorsally flattened. Head length 24 to 28% of standard length; fatty (adipose) tissue covering iris; lips thin, lower lip with a high symphysial knob; upper jaw ending before level of anterior rim of eye; upper lip toothless; lower lip with few scattered and ciliate teeth; preorbital bone, not quite filling the space between lip and eye, notched anteriorly. First dorsal fin origin equidistant from caudal fin base and snout tip; second dorsal fin origin on vertical through end of anterior third of anal fin base; pectoral axillary scale long (41 to 46% of pectoral fin length); pectoral fin 70 to 72.5% of head length, not reaching vertical from first dorsal fin origin; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 soft rays; second dorsal and anal fins densely scaled. Scales in lateral series 33 to 37.

Colour: golden, greenish above; a small black spot on pectoral fin.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

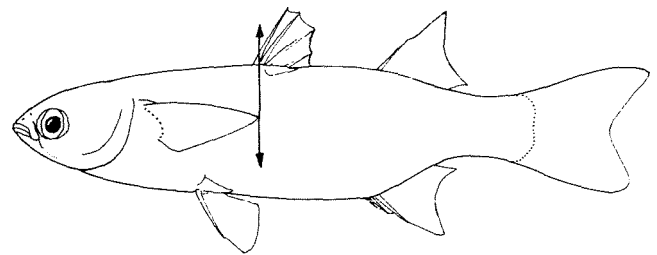
Other Valamugil species: pectoral fin reaching to or beyond vertical through first dorsal fin origin.

Myxus capensis and Liza species: pectoral axillary scale rudimentary or absent.

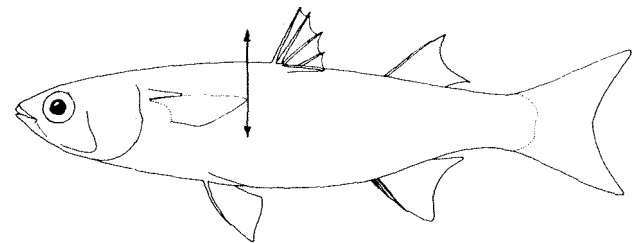
Mugil cephalus: 8 anal fin rays (9 in Valamugil species).

Crenimugil crenilabis and Oedalechilus labiatus: lip ornamentation present.

Agonostomus species: lips thick; interorbital space convex; 2 anal fin spines (3 in Valamugil species).



Other Valamugil species



*V. robustes*

## SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm; common to 22 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, occurring from Natal (South Africa), to Mozambique and Madagascar.

Usually found in estuaries.

## PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, estuaries. Nowhere abundant.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with beach seines, castnets and gillnets.

Marketed fresh.

