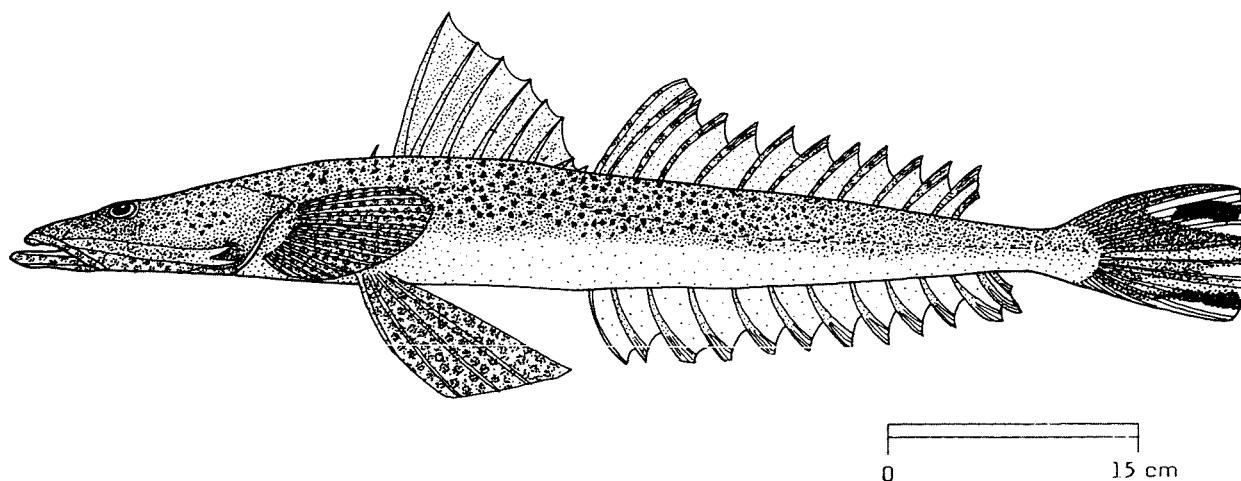


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PLATYCEPHALIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Platycephalus indicus (Linnaeus, 1758)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Platycephalus insidiator (Forsskål, 1775)

0 15 cm

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Bartail flathead  
                   Fr - Platycéphale indien  
                   Sp - Chato Indico

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate with head strongly depressed. Head with smooth bony ridges; a single, small preocular spine; vomerine teeth in one transverse patch; preopercular spines 2, the upper a little shorter than the lower and set at about a 40° angle to the lower; gillrakers on first arch i to 2 plus 6 to 9; interopercular membrane with a small, finger-like flap. First dorsal fin with 7 to 10 spines (usually 9), the first and last often separated from the remainder of the fin; second dorsal and anal fins usually with 13 rays; pectoral fins with 17 to 20 rays, usually 19. Pored lateral line scales 67 to 84, usually 70 to 79. Scale rows slanting downward and backward above lateral line numbering from about 85 to 106.

Colour: brownish or greyish above, whitish below; several indistinct dark bands crossing back in some individuals, small dark blotches on back and head in others. Pectoral and pelvic fins with numerous brown blotches; caudal fin with 2 or 3 horizontal black bars near rear margin.

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

All other species of Platycephalidae: vomerine teeth in 2 separate patches; pored lateral line scales number from about 30 to 60 (usually 67 to 84 in Platycephalus indicus).

#### **SIZE :**

Maximum: to about 100 cm; common to 60 cm.

#### **GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

From Durban north, through the Red Sea and eastern Mediterranean, the "Gulf" and along Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. Also in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific eastward to Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia.

A benthic fish found on sand or mud bottoms taken in very shallow areas in estuaries and near shore to depths of about 25 m.

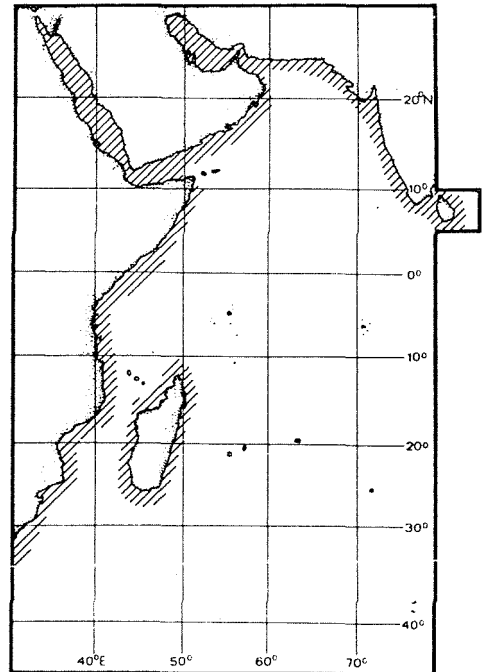
#### **PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS**

Taken throughout its range.

#### **CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORM OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mostly with bottom trawls.

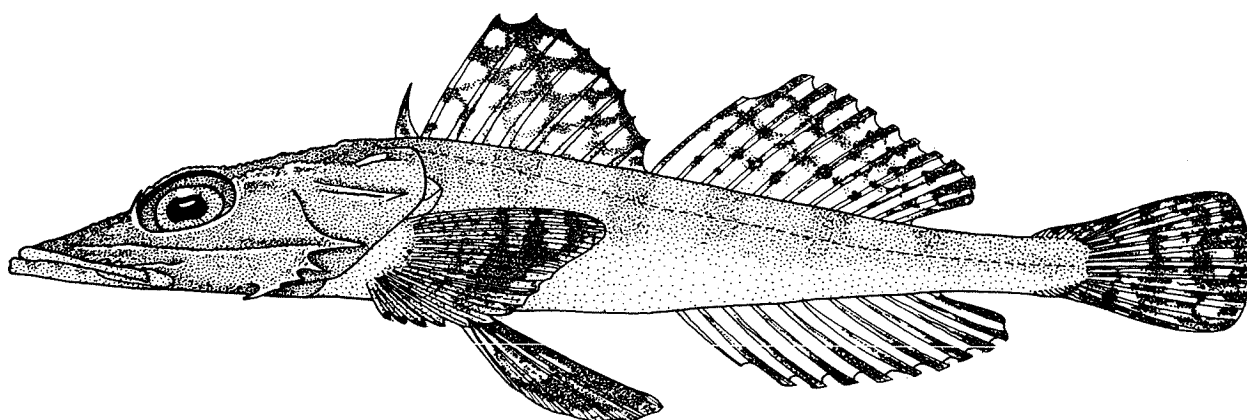


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PLATYCEPHALIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Rogadius asper</i> (Cuvier, in Cuv. & Val., 1829)
--

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Rogadius pristiger* (Cuvier, in Cuv. & Val., 1829)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

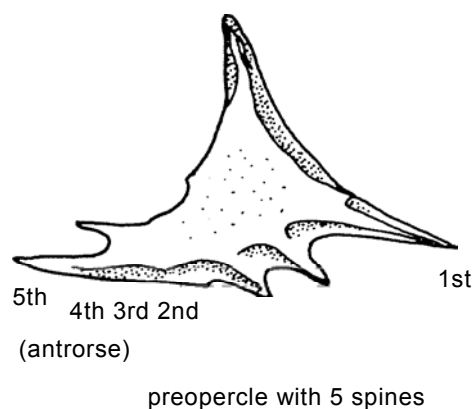
FAO: En - Thorny flathead  
Fr - Platycéphale épineux  
Sp - Chato espinudo

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate with head moderately depressed. Bony ridges of head with fine serrations; a single preocular spine; peopercular spine usually 4, plus a strong antrorse (forward-pointing) spine on lower face; lower opercular spine lacks serrations along base; gillrakers on first arch 1 plus 6 or 7; margin of interopercular membrane entire. Second dorsal and anal fins rays 10 to 12, usually 11; pectoral fins 21 to 23, usually 22 or 23. Pored lateral line scales 49 to 54, usually 52 or 53; anterior 5 to 12 scales bearing a small spine. Scale rows slanting downward and backward above lateral line about the same number as the pored lateral line scales.

Colour: brownish above, whitish or tanish below; 4 or 5 dark bands usually crossing back. Caudal fin with a dark band near base, a lighter area in middle and a dark band near posterior margin.



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

Other genera of Platycephalidae: lack the antrorse spine on lower preopercular margin.

## SIZE:

Maximum: about 17 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Known from Mozambique and Amirantes to the Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. Also in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific to Japan, the Philippines and Australia.

A benthic fish found on sand or mud bottoms of the continental shelf at depths from 15 to 95 m.

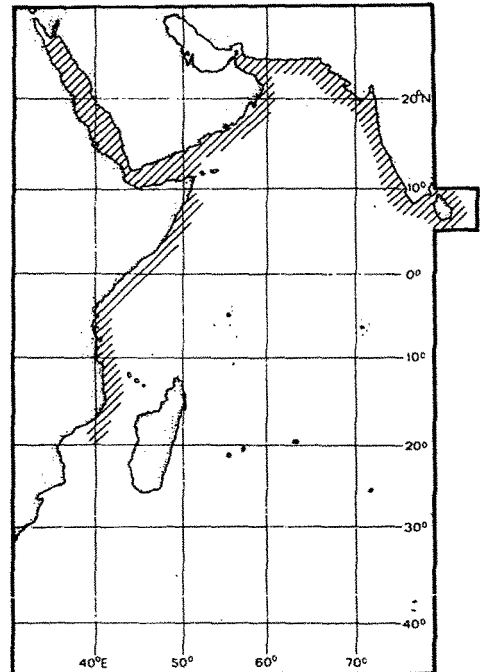
## PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Taken in trawl fisheries throughout its range.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

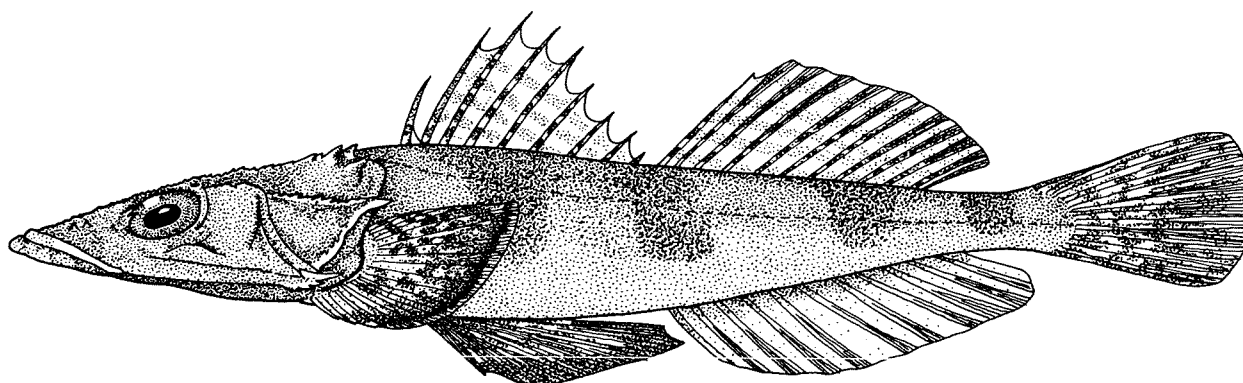
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mostly with bottom trawls.



## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PLATYCEPHALIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Sorsogono tuberculata (Cuvier, in Cuv. & Val., 1829)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Platycephalus tuberculatus Cuvier, in Cuv. & Val., 1829

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Tuberculated flathead  
                   Fr - Platycéphale poignard  
                   Sp - Chato punalero

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate with head moderately depressed. Top of head with bony tubercles and bony ridges bearing small spines or serrations; lower opercular spine bearing serrations along base; preocular spines usually 2, sometimes a 3rd tiny spine is present; preopercular spines usually 4 or more; gillrakers on first arch usually 1 plus 7 or 8; margin of interopercular membrane entire. Second dorsal and anal fins usually with 11 soft rays; pectoral fins with 19 to 22 rays, usually 21. Pored lateral line scales 49 to 53, usually 51 or 52, the anterior 19 to 33 bearing a small spine. Scale rows slanting downward and backward along lateral line about the same number as the pored lateral line scales.

Colour: body brownish above, pale below, with 3 or 4 dark bands crossing back. Fins more or less dusky.

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

Sorsogona nigripinna: 12 second dorsal and anal fin rays (11 in S. tuberculata); preopercular spines usually 3 (4 or more in S. tuberculata); gillrakers 4 or 5 plus 12 or 13 (1 plus 7 or 8 in S. tuberculata). Known only from off Somalia and Oman.

S. prionota: usually with 12 second dorsal and anal fin rays; preopercular spines usually 3; gillrakers 2 or 3 plus 7 to 9. Humeral area beneath opercle a dark purple colour with a network of light lines (absent in S. tuberculata and S. nigripinna).

Other genera of Platycephalidae: pored scales in lateral series about 40 or fewer in Onigocia; preocular spine single, lower opercular spine lacking serrations along base in Rogadius; Platycephalus has a single, transverse patch of vomerine teeth; all other genera usually with larger spines on bony ridges of head.

## SIZE:

Maximum: about 14 cm; common to 12 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

From near Cochin, India to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. Outside the area, in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific to Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia.

A benthic fish found on sand or mud bottoms of the continental shelf at depths from about 9 to 61 m.

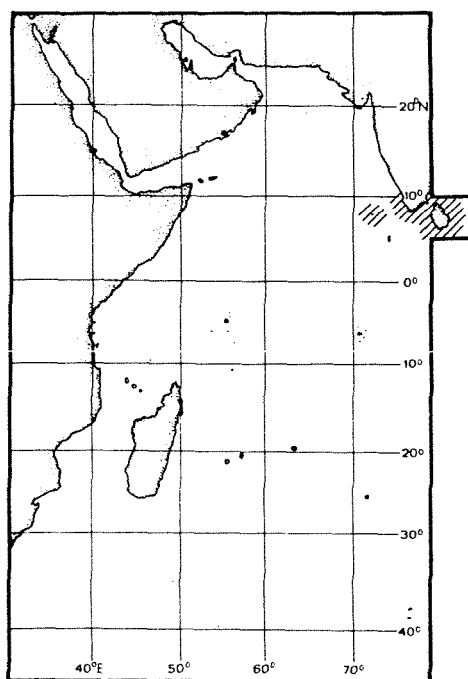
## PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Taken in trawl fisheries throughout its range.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

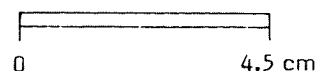
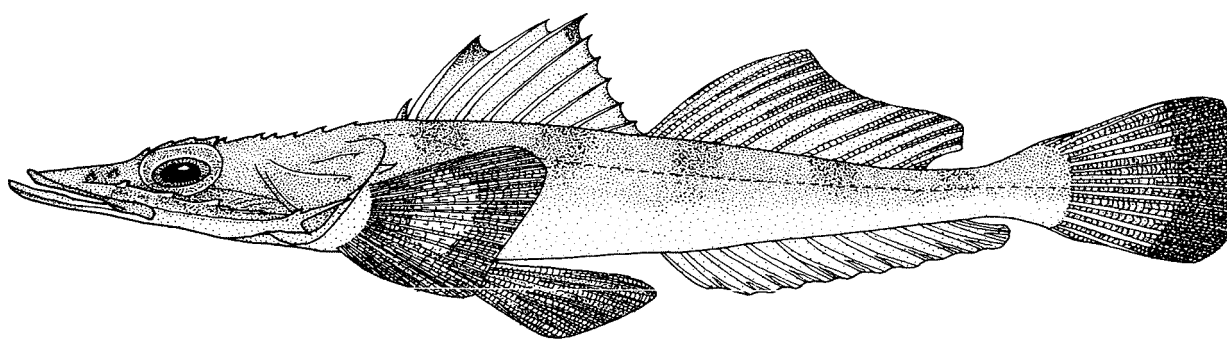
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.



## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PLATYCEPHALIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)*Suggrundus rodricensis* (Cuvier, in Cuv. & Val., 1829)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Suggrundus bengalensis* (Rao, 1966)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Spiny flathead  
                   Fr - Platycéphale cocarde  
                   Sp - Chato rodrigo

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate with head moderately depressed. Head with bony ridges bearing stout spines, the ridge crossing cheek below eye usually with 4 or more spines; preopercular spines usually 3; gillrakers on first arch 2 plus 7 to 9; interopercular membrane with a finger-like flap. Second dorsal fin with 11 soft rays; anal fin with 12 rays; pectoral fins with 18 to 20 rays, usually 19 or 20; posterior margin of pectoral fin falcate, upper rays longer than lower. Pored lateral line scales 52 to 54, anterior 3 to 16 bearing a small spine. Scale rows slanting downward and backward above lateral line about the same number as the pored lateral line scales.

Colour: brownish above, light tan below, 4 or 5 vague dark bands crossing back. Fins dusky, usually a light area in middle of pectoral fin.

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

Sugggrundus cooperi: gillrakers 1 plus 6 or 7 (2 plus 7 to 9 in S. rodricensis); interopercular margin lacks finger-like flap. Known only from Cargados Carajos Shoals.

S. macracanthus: usually 12 second dorsal fin rays (11 in S. rodricensis); second dorsal fin with brown spots (dusky in S. rodricensis); pectoral fin lacks falcate margin.

Thysanophrys species: gillrakers on first arch 1 plus 4 to 6; iris lappet of eye with finger-like or branched lobes.

## SIZE:

Maximum: about 25 cm; common to 17 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

From the Gulf of Oman to Sri Lanka. Also in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific eastward to Indonesia, Japan and Australia.

A benthic fish found on sand or mud bottoms of the continental shelf at depths from about 6 to 75 m.

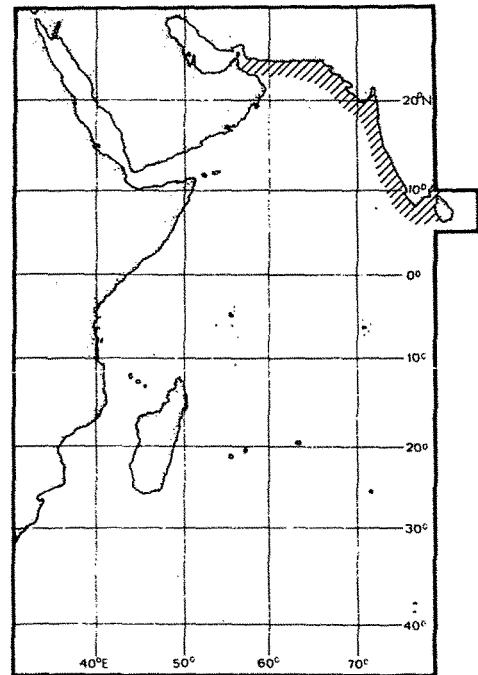
## PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Taken in trawl fisheries throughout its range.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.

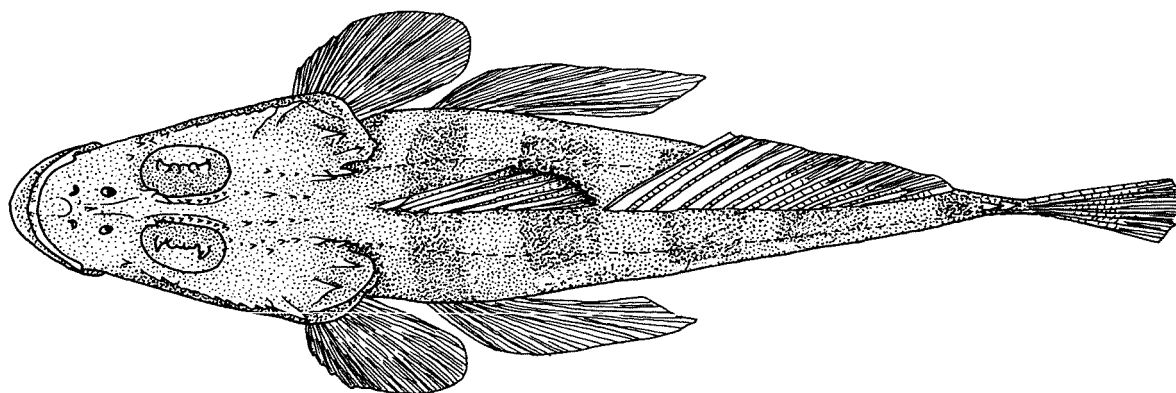


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: PLATYCEPHALIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)*Thysanophrys chiltonae* Schultz, 1966

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Longsnout flathead  
                   Fr - Platycéphale clin d'oeil  
                   Sp - Chato guinón

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate with head moderately depressed. Iris lappet of eye with finger-like or branched lobes; snout long, greatest diameter of eye 1.5 or more times in distance from front of orbit to tip of lower jaw; top of head with spines and bony ridges; bony ridge crossing cheek below eye with 4 or more spines; preopercular spine single; preopercular spines usually 2 or 3; gillrakers on first arch 1 plus 5 or 6; interopercular membrane with a distinct notch in margin behind preopercular spines. Second dorsal fin with 11 soft rays; anal fin usually with 12 rays; pectoral fins with 19 to 21 rays. Pored lateral line scales 50 to 57, anterior 2 to 4 scales bearing a small spine. Scale rows slanting downward and backward above lateral line about the same number as the pored lateral line scales.

Colour: body greyish or light tan above, pale below, with 4 or 5 dark bands crossing back. Spinous dorsal fin pale, with a broad black band near margin; caudal fin with several vertical dark bands.

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

Thysanophrys otaitensis: lips with well-developed papillae (lacking in all other species of Thysanophrys).

T. arenicola: second dorsal fin rays usually 12 (11 in T. chiltonae, T. otaitensis, T. carbuculus and T. armatus).

T. armatus: snout short, greatest diameter of eye about equal to distance from anterior margin of orbit to tip of lower jaw (snout much longer in T. chiltonae).

T. celebicus: second dorsal fin rays usually 12, anal fin rays 13 (11 and 12 rays, respectively, in T. chiltonae); a single, small papilla on upper surface of eye (lacking in T. chiltonae).

T. carbunculus: a line of small, wart-like papillae along upper surface of eye, 1 or 2 of which are long and finger-like.

Sugggrundus species: gillrakers on first arch usually 1 plus 6 or 7 or 2 plus 7 to 9 (1 plus 4 to 6 in Thysanophrys).

## SIZE:

Maximum: about 23 cm; common to 18 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, known from Mauritius, Comoros, Seychelles, Amirantes, the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Aqaba and Sri Lanka. Also found off Indonesia, Kuroshima Island, the Philippines, Australia, Fiji and the Marquesas Islands.

A benthic fish found over sand in coral reef areas from shallow depths to about 30 m.

## PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Taken in small numbers throughout its range.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught primarily by hook and line and by spear fishermen.

