

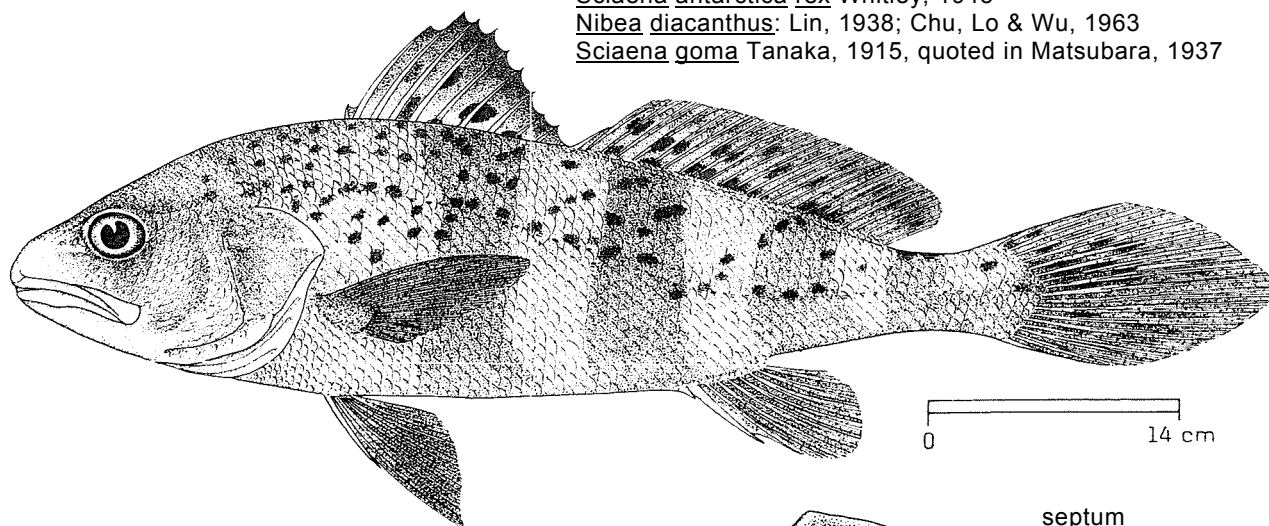
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Protonibea diacanthus (Lacepède, 1802)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Corvina maculata (part, nec Schneider), 1830
Corvina catalea Valenciennes, 1834
Johnius valenciennii Eydoux & Souleyet, post-1848
Sciaena diacanthus: Day, 1865
Corvina nigromaculata Borodin, 1930
Pseudosciaena diacanthus: Weber & de Beaufort, 1936
Sciaena antarctica rex Whitley, 1945
Nibea diacanthus: Lin, 1938; Chu, Lo & Wu, 1963
Sciaena goma Tanaka, 1915, quoted in Matsubara, 1937



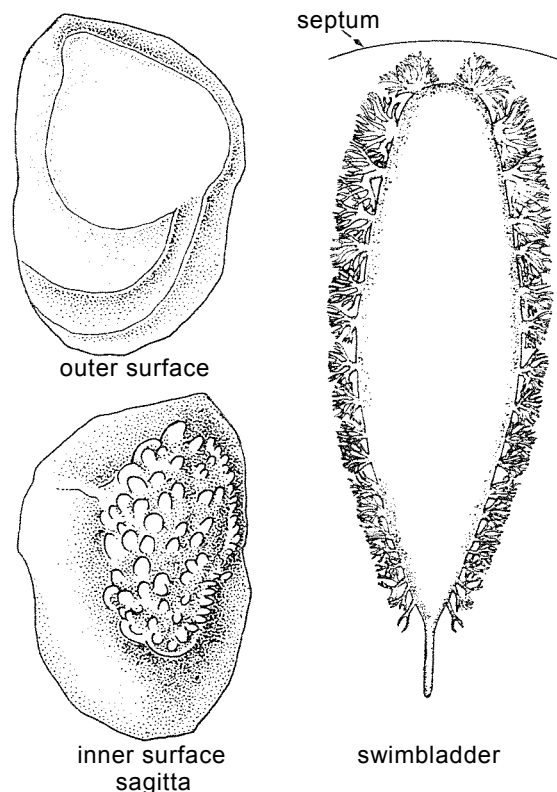
VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Spotted croaker
 Fr - Courbine pintade
 Sp - Corvina pintada

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A large species with a pointed snout and a big, nearly horizontal and terminal mouth. Teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws; rostral pores 3, marginal pores 5; mental pores in 3 pairs, the first pair close to the symphysis and joined by a semicircular groove; no canine teeth; sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression of which the "tail" is bent sharply at about a right angle, very narrowly separated from the ventral edge; gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 7 or 8. Dorsal fin with 9 or 10 spines, followed by a low notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 22 to 24 soft rays; pectoral fin fairly small, a little more than half of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 soft rays, the second spine rather strong; caudal fin rhomboid. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and below eyes, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 16 to 20 pairs of arborescent appendages, the first branching on transverse septum but not entering head, the last two small and simple, the rest branching, but without dorsal limbs.



Colour: 5 dark bars along back and many small black spots (about the size of pupil) on top of head, upper half of body and caudal fin pectoral, pelvic, anal and lower part of caudal fins black. in larger fishes the 5 bars and the smaller spots are absent.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Nibea maculata: lower fins pale; also black blotches on body, but numerous black dots never present; mouth inferior; anterior pair of swimbladder appendages entering through transverse septum into head.

Other croakers in the area; lack the distinctive colour pattern of blotches and spots on body and fins.

SIZE:

Maximum: 120 cm; common to 70 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, found in the "Gulf", the Gulf of Oman, and along the coasts of India and Sri Lanka. Eastward extending to Queensland (Australia).

Found in coastal waters, down to about 60 m depth; primarily a species of muddy grounds, living off the sea-bed; spawning from June to August.

Feeds mainly on crustaceans and small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

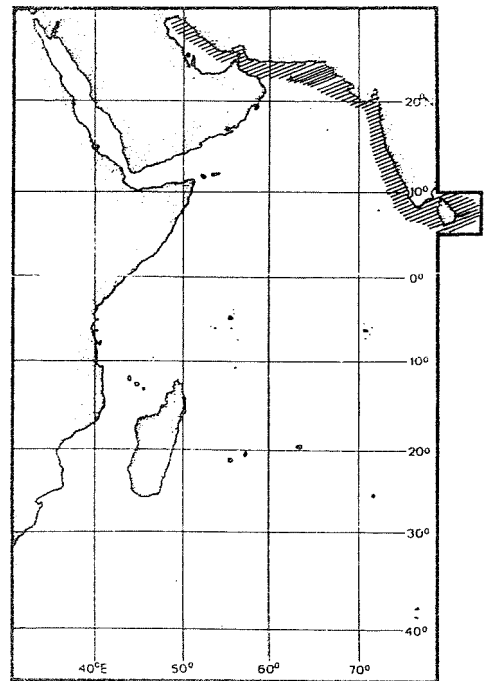
Coastal waters throughout its range; forms a fishery along the northwest coast of India.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not recorded for this species within the area.

Caught with bottom trawls and gillnets.

Marketed fresh; sometimes dried/salted; swimbladder dried.

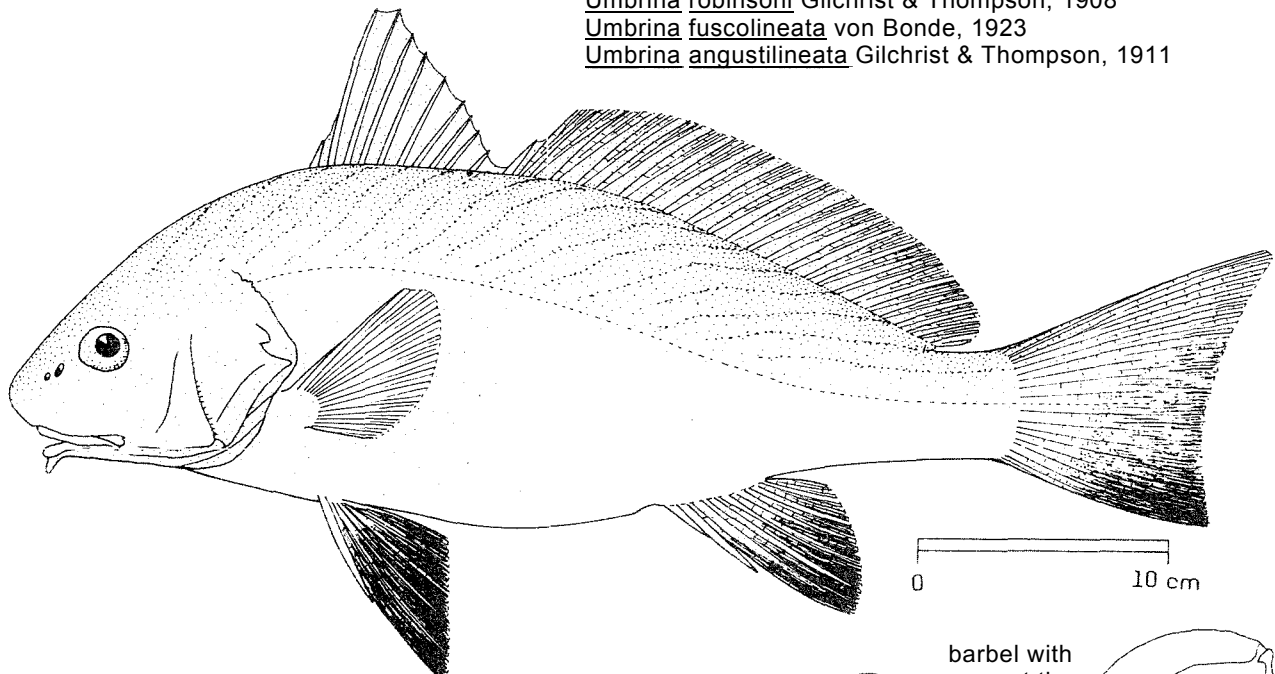


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Umbrina ronchus* Valenciennes, 1843

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Umbrina capensis (?Pappe, 1853)*Sciaena capensis*: J.L.B. Smith, 1949*Umbrina fusta* Dardignac, 1958*Umbrina robinsoni* Gilchrist & Thompson, 1908*Umbrina fuscolineata* von Bonde, 1923*Umbrina angustilineata* Gilchrist & Thompson, 1911

VERNACULAR NAMES:

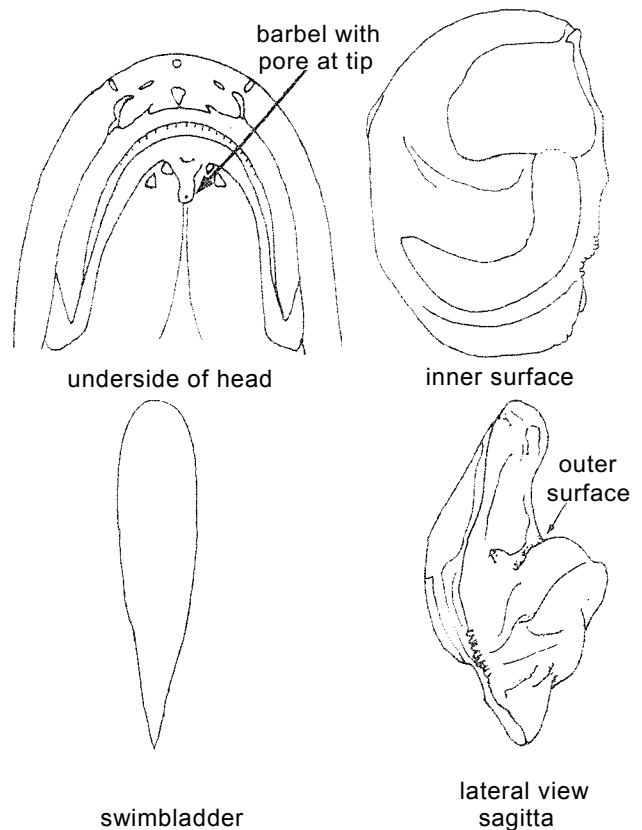
FAO: En - Fusta croaker
Fr - Ombrine fusta
Sp - Verrugato fusto

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A medium-sized species with a deep body, the depth 2.5 to 3 times in standard length. Eye small; snout rounded, mouth inferior and horizontal; a single, well developed barbel on chin; rostral pores 3, marginal pores 5; mental pores 5, the median at the tip of mental barbel; teeth differentiated in size in upper jaw and in a uniform band in lower jaw, canines absent; sagitta (large ear-stone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, of which the "tail" is bent sharply, tapering, not reaching the ventral edge; gillrakers short, 8 or 9 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 10 spines, followed by a deep notch, second part of fin with 1 spine and 23 to 25 soft rays; caudal fin subtruncate in adults; scales ctenoid rough to touch) on head and body, lateral-line scales extending to caudal fin; swimbladder simple without appendages.

Colour: greyish above; body with about 20 distinct dark oblique streaks, pectoral fin axil with a dark spot, snous part of dorsal fin and pelvic fins black, soft part of dorsal with a dark margin.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Umbrina canariensis: dorsal soft rays 27 to 29 (24 or 25 in U. ronchus).

Johnius dussumieri and J. macropterus: mental barbel without a pore at its tip; swimbladder with arborescent appendages; body with cycloid scales and ctenoid scales, respectively.

SIZE :

Maximum: 80 cm; common to 50 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Found along the south Africa coast, extending northward to Mozambique and in the Gulf of Oman. Also known from Morocco.

Inhabits coastal waters up to 50 m. Enters estuaries and congregates on sand banks for feeding.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

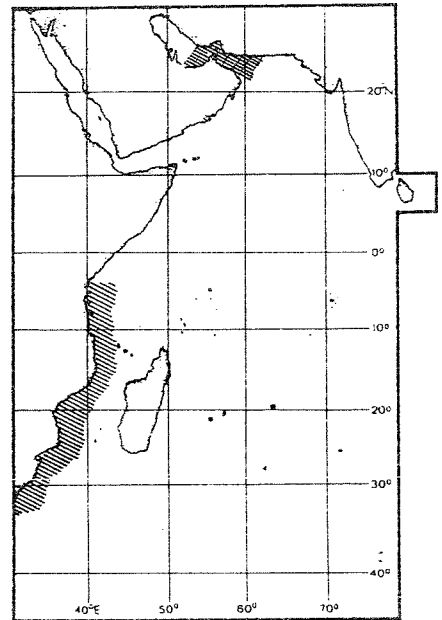
Coastal waters throughout its range; rather abundant off South Africa.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species within the area.

Caught with bottom trawls and hand lines.

Marketed fresh. A very good table fish.

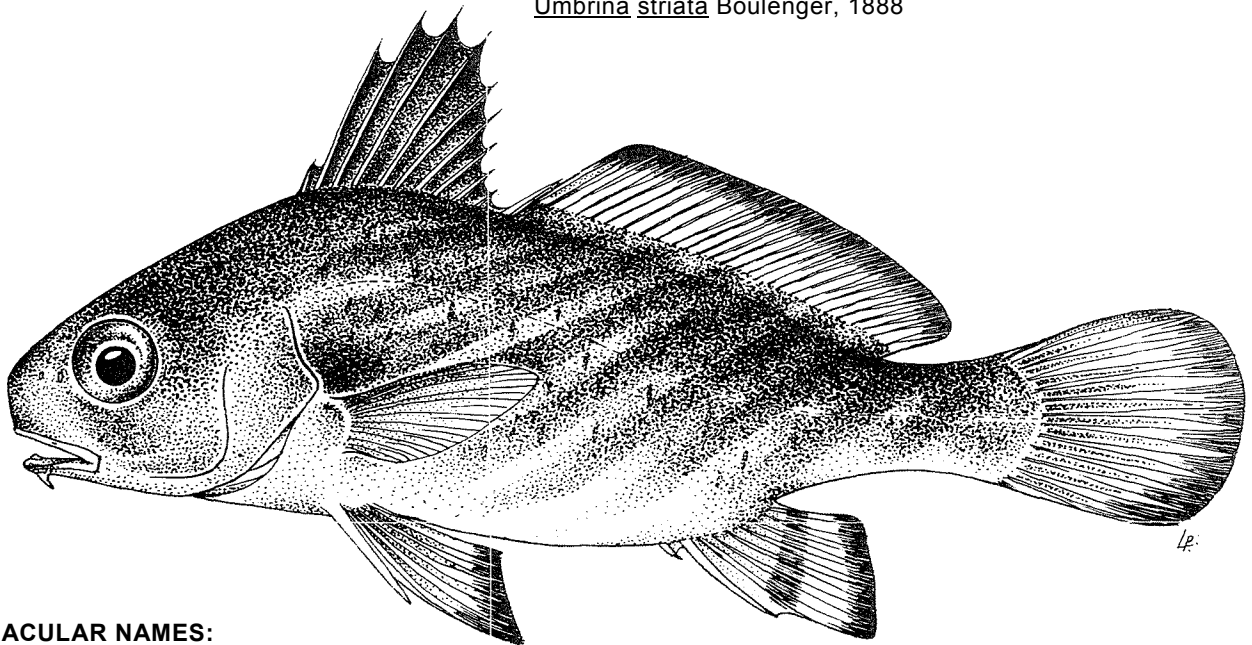


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Umbrina canariensis* Valenciennes, 1843

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Umbrina sinuata day, 1876*Sciaena sinuata*: J.L.B. Smith, 1949*Umbrina striata* Boulenger, 1888

VERNACULAR NAMES:

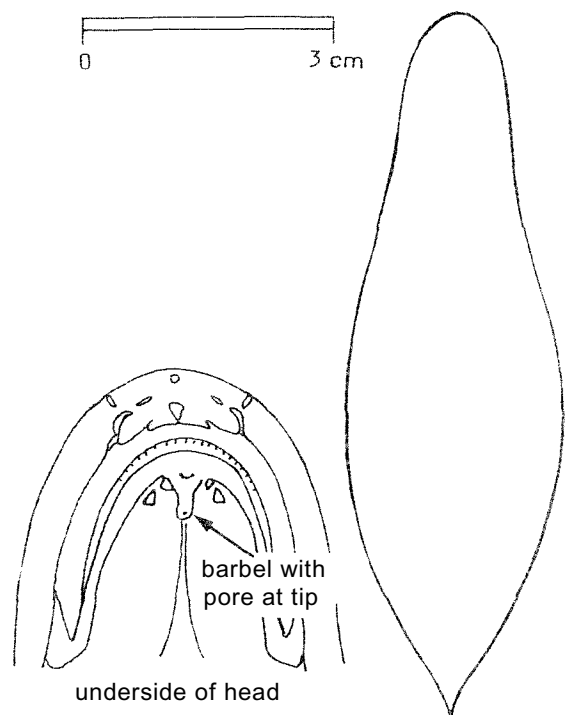
FAO : En - Canary drum
Fr - Umbrine bronze
Sp - Verrugato de Canarias

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A small-sized species with a fairly deep body, its depth about 3 times in standard length. Snout rounded, mouth inferior, maxilla reaching to middle of eye; a single, well developed barbel on chin; rostral pores 3, marginal pores 5; mental pores 5, the median pore at the tip of mental barbel; teeth differentiated into large and small in upper jaw, lower jaw with uniform teeth; no canines; sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, of which the "tail" is bent sharply, tapering, not reaching the ventral edge. Dorsal fin with 10 spines, followed by a deep notch, second part of fin with 1 spine and 27 to 29 soft rays; pectoral fins moderate, about 3/4 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 rays, second anal spine strong, about half of head length; caudal fin wedge-shaped. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout, ctenoid (rough to touch) elsewhere; scales present on base of anal fin. Swimbladder oblong, without appendages.

Colour: body with about 9 sinuous brown bands; a dark blotch at axilla, first part of dorsal fin black; a black band along the length of second dorsal and anal fins; pelvic fins black.



underside of head

schematic view
of swimbladder

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Umbrina ronchus: soft dorsal fin rays 23 to 25.

Johnius dussumieri and J. macropterus: mental barbel without a medium pore at its tip; swimbladder with arborescent appendages.

SIZE :

Maximum: 20 cm; common to 15 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Known from the east coast of Africa northwards to Somalia and from the northeastern Arabian Sea.

inhabits shallow coastal waters.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species within the area.

Caught with trawls.

Marketed fresh; also dried salted.

