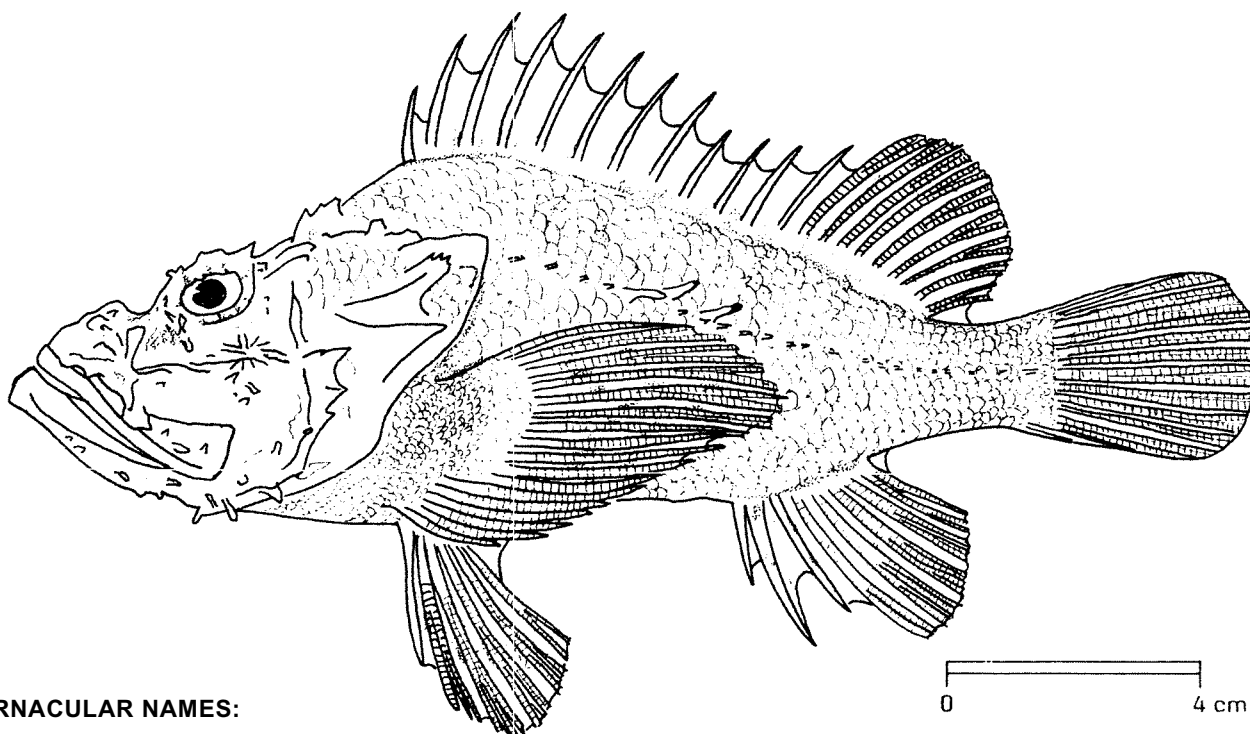


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCORPAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)*Scorpaenopsis gibbosa* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Humpbacked scorpionfish  
                   Fr - Rascasse bossue  
                   Sp - Rascacio jorobado

NATIONAL

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A robust fish, with a markedly humped back (size of hump increases with age). Pectoral fin with 17 or 18 rays (usually 17); 43 to 48 scales above lateral line.

Colour: variable, usually reddish and marbled and mottled with green, yellow, maroon and white. Dorsal fin green or grading to red, with orange mottling; anal fin brown or maroon, spotted and marbled, often with a broad oblique brown bar; caudal fin with a pink to brown crossbar at base, followed by a pinkish bar and a wide maroon bar that is streaked with green and white; pectoral fins grading from maroon with green mottling at base to dark maroon brown, and yellowish-orange terminally; inner surface of pectoral fins blue at base, bright orange yellow, with black spots and a black subterminal bar over body of fin, yellowish-white terminally.

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

Scorpaenopsis diabolus: has a strongly arched back and upturned mouth like S. gibbosa but does not have a subterminal black band on the inner surface of the pectoral fin; usually 18 pectoral rays usually 17 in S. gibbosa).

Other species of Scorpaenopsis: back not strongly arched; mouth terminal or only slightly upturned.

Other species of Scorpaeninae: either with 13 dorsal spines (12 in S. gibbosa), or with palatine teeth, or with a compressed body.

#### **SIZE:**

Maximum: 21 cm (standard length); common to 17 cm.

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

From South Africa, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, Red Sea and Laccadive Islands.

An inshore species found among rocks and coral.

#### **PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

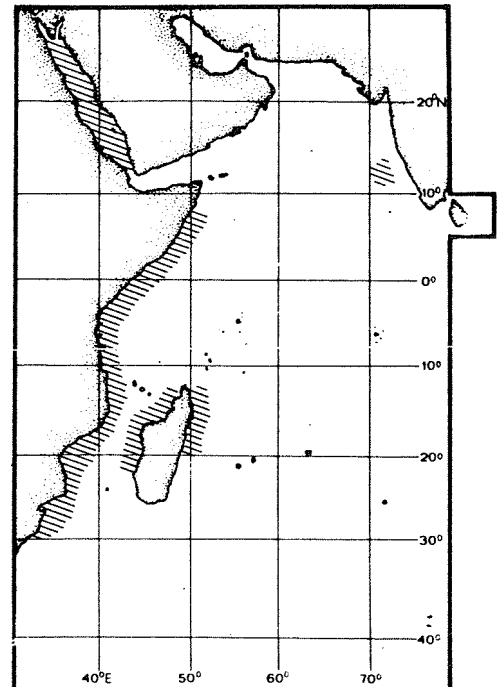
Caught incidentally throughout its range.

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

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Occasionally taken in bottom trawls; also by spearing and native fishing methods.

Marketed fresh in small quantities.



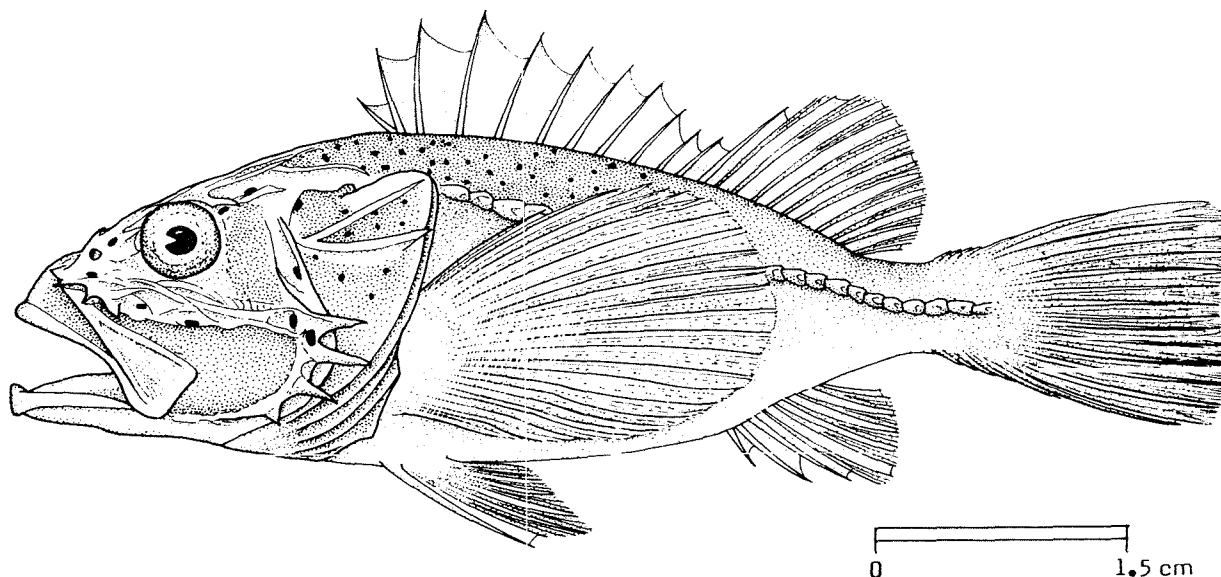
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCORPAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

Setarches guentheri Johnson, 1862

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

- FAO :           En - Deepwater scorpionfish  
                   Fr - Rascasse serran  
                   Sp - Rascacio serrano

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Head cavernous, with weak ossification; top of head scaleless; second preopercular spine subequal to, or longer than first and third preopercular spines; anteriormost preorbital spine on lacrimal as long as the posterior two. Dorsal fin usually with 12 spines and 10 segmented rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 5 segmented rays; pectoral fin rays 20 to 25. Body covered with tiny cycloid scales. Lateral line a continuous trough covered by thin membranous scales which lack distinct tubes (often lost during capture).

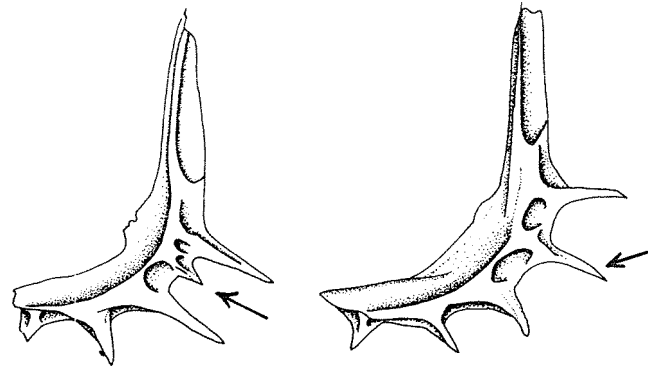
Colour: body greyish or pinkish.

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

Setarches longimanus: second preopercular spine much shorter than first third (subequal or longer in S. guentheri).

Ectroposebastes imus: scales present on top of head; anteriormost preorbital spine on lacrimal bone much shorter than the posterior 2; pectoral fin rays 18 to 20, usually 19 (20 to 25 in S. guentheri).

Other scorpaenids: head not cavernous and weakly ossified; lateral line scales form tubes.



S. longimanus

**S guentheri**

preopercular spines

## SIZE:

Maximum: 20 cm (standard length); common to 8 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, from Natal and Durban to Zanzibar, the west coast of India, and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, in the western Atlantic, Gulf of Guinea, Cape Verde Islands, Senegal, Morocco, Madeira, Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea, Indo-Australian Archipelago, the Philippines, Japan, Western Australia, Fiji and Hawaii. This is the most widely distributed scorpaenid.

An offshore species, living on or near the bottom, depth of capture 180 to 650 m.

## PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

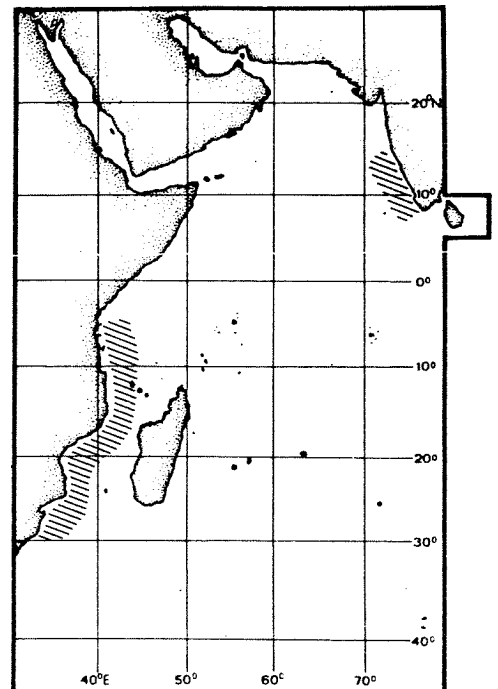
Caught in large numbers as bycatch in trawl fisheries throughout its range.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawl.

Marketed fresh in small quantities.

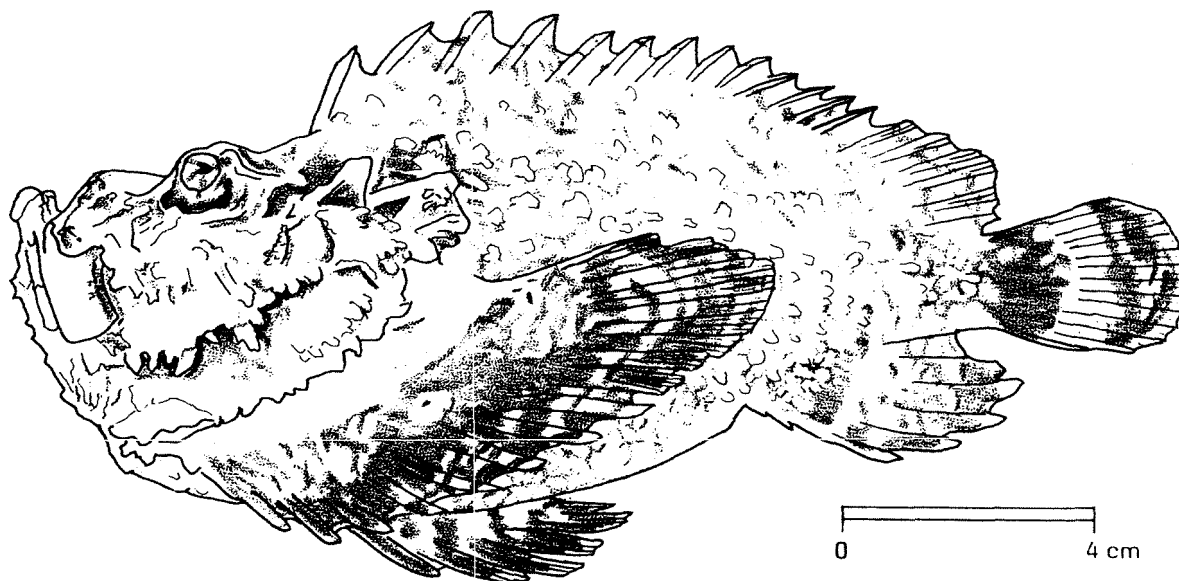


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCORPAENIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean.)*Synanceia verrucosa* Bloch & Schneider, 1801

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Stonefish  
Fr - Poisson pierre commun  
Sp - Pez piedra común

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Head strongly depressed, eyes only slightly elevated and far apart, separated by a deep depression; occipital area elevated, bordered laterally by a pit behind each eye; a small pit below and before eye, pit smaller than orbit; gill slits restricted by fusion of branchiostegal membranes to isthmus. Dorsal fin with 12 to 14 (usually 13) spines of nearly equal length covered by thick skin, with prominent venom glands; and with 5 to 7 segmented rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 5 segmented rays; pectoral fins with 18 or 19 (usually 18) rays; pelvic fins with 1 spine and 5 segmented rays; all segmented rays usually branched and covered with thick skin.

Colour: body brownish; pectoral, pelvic and caudal fins tipped with white; caudal fin with subterminal dark bands; a paler area on body, usually well marked, between the segmented part of dorsal and anal fins.

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

Synanceia nana: 14 pectoral fin rays (18 or 14 in S. verrucosa).

Pseudosynanceia melanostigma: pelvic fins with 1 spine and 3 segmented rays.

Trachicephalus uranoscopus: pelvic fins with 1 spine and 4 segmented rays; pectoral fin rays 14 or 15.

Other species of scaleless scorpaenids: 1, 2 or 3 lower pectoral fin rays free from remainder of fin (none in S. verrucosa).

## SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm (standard length); common to 20 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, from 26°S northward; coasts of Natal, Mozambique, Zanzibar, Kenya, the Red Sea, Madagascar, Aldabra, Seychelles, Réunion, Mauritius, Laccadives, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Tahiti and from Australia north to Japan.

Found in shallow waters among coral reefs and coral rubble; in pools at low tide levels. Venom associated with fin spines can cause death in humans.

## PKESEN I FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught incidentally throughout its range.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly by spearing and native fishing methods.

Uncommon in markets.

