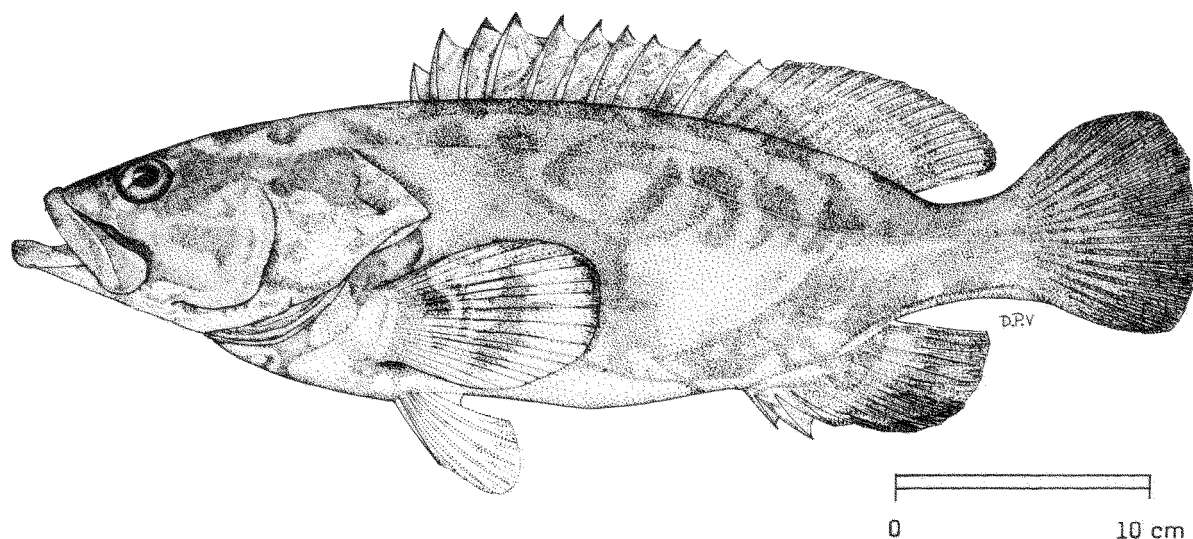


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Epinephelus caeruleopunctatus* (Bloch, 1790)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

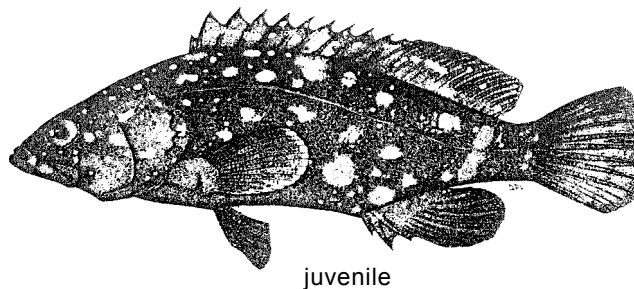
FAO : En - White-spotted grouper
 Fr - Vielle taches blanches
 Sp - Mero nevero

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth distinctly less than head length, 3.0 to 3.4 times in standard length. Interorbital area flat; opercular flap acute, the upper edge nearly straight; uppermost opercular spine more anterior than lowest spine. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 15 or 16 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral fin rays 17 to 19; caudal fin rounded. Lateral line scales 52 to 62.

Colour: head, body and fins dark brown or black; head and body with many small and medium-sized, white or pale yellow spots; dorsal, anal and pectoral fins spotted like body, also proximal part of caudal fin. Pelvics uniformly dark. A dark "moustache" streak along maxillary groove. In adults (larger than 30 cm standard length) the white spots have merged on the body to form wavy pale lines and mottlings.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Epinephelus summana: opercular flap obtuse, the upper edge strongly convex; body depth 2.75 to 3.1 times in standard length (3 to 3.4 times in E. caeruleopunctatus); pelvic fins with white spots as on body; body also with large pale blotches.

E. onus: opercular flap obtuse, the upper edge strongly convex; pectoral rays 15 to 17 (17 to 19 in E. caeruleopunctatus); uppermost opercular spine more posterior than lowest one; body with overlying pattern of large pale blotches.

SIZE:

Maximum: 55 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widespread in the Western Indian Ocean, but not recorded from the Red Sea or the "Gulf". Also found in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific, eastward to Japan and Australia.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

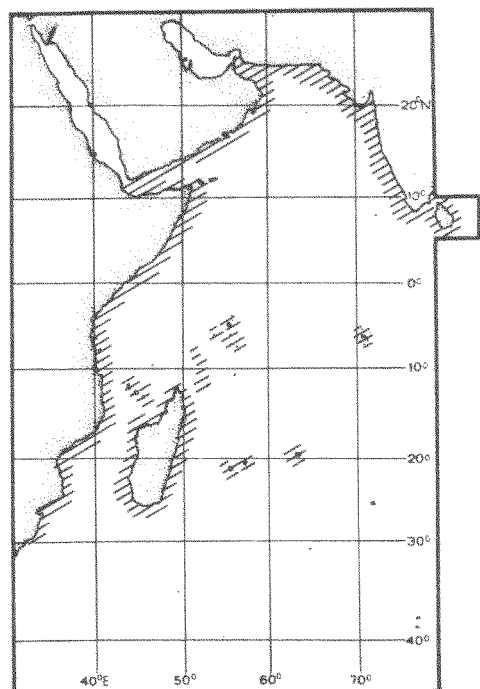
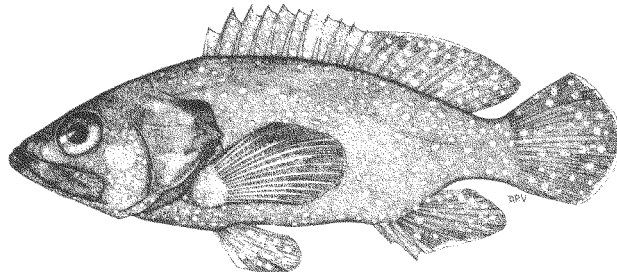
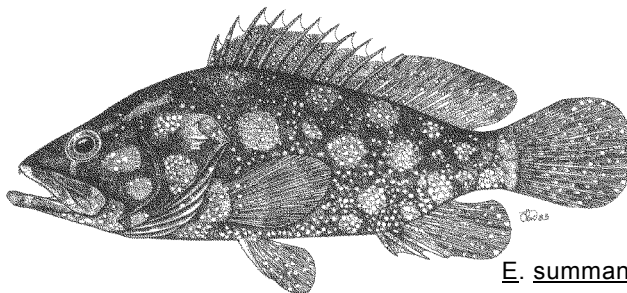
Coral reefs from 20 to 65 m depths.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with hook and line, in traps and gillnets.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.

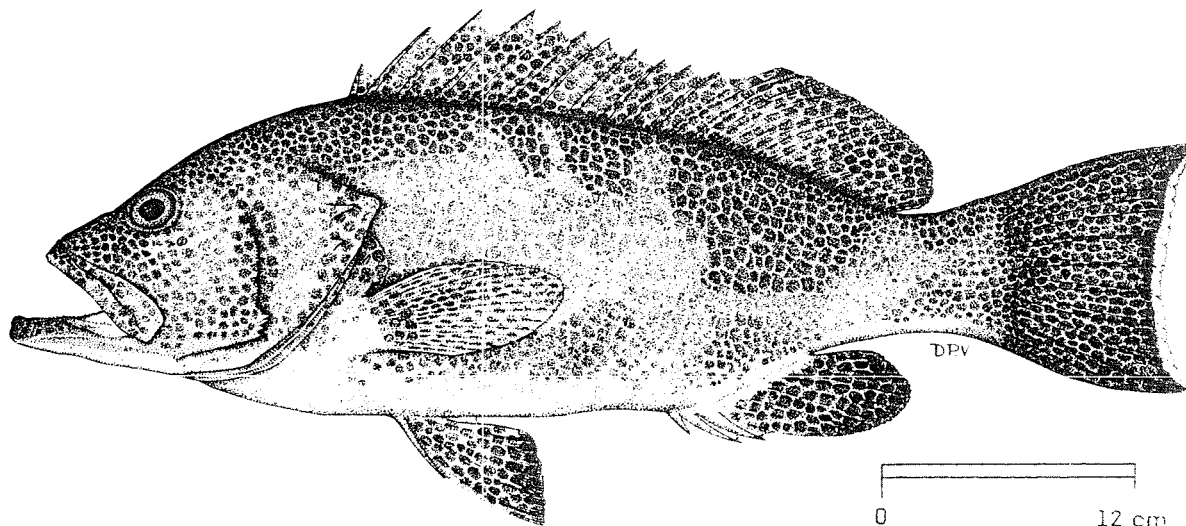


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Epinephelus chlorostigma* (Valenciennes, 1828)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Brownspotted grouper
 Fr - Mérou pintade
 Sp - Mero pintado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.6 to 3.3 times in standard length. Eye diameter 5.0 to 7.3 times in head length; preopercle serrate, with enlarged serrae at the angle; lower gillrakers 14 to 18. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 16 to 18 soft rays; dorsal fin membrane not much incised between the spines; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral fin rays 17 to 19; anal fin of adults angular (especially in Red Sea specimens); caudal fin truncate or rear margin slightly concave. Pored lateral line scales 49 to 53; lateral scale series 99 to 119. Pyloric caeca 26 to 30.

Colour: head, body and fins covered with small, closely-set, brown spots, the largest about half greatest pupil diameter; a narrow white edge usually visible along rear margin of caudal fin; spots on pectoral fins confined to the rays; ventral margin of anal fin dusky.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Epinephelus areolatus: dark spots larger, the largest on body about size of pupil; eye 4.1 to 5.5 times in head (5 to 7.3 times in E. chlorostigma); pyloric caeca 11 to 17 (26 to 30 in E. chlorostigma); posterior membranes of spinous dorsal fin distinctly incised.

E. microdon: dorsal fin rays 14 or 15 (16 to 18 in E. chlorostigma); caudal fin rounded.

E. multinotatus: rear edge of caudal fin slightly convex; dorsal fin membrane not incised between the spines; irregular white blotches usually present on body; small dark spots not discernible on fins or dorsal half of body.

Other Epinephelus species: caudal fin rounded or colour pattern not like E. chlorostigma.

SIZE:

Maximum: 75 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widespread in the Western Indian Ocean including the Red Sea and the "Gulf". Also found in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific, eastward to Japan, New Caledonia and the Caroline Islands.

Occurs over a wide range of depths and habitats (4 to 280 m); generally associated with coral reefs.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

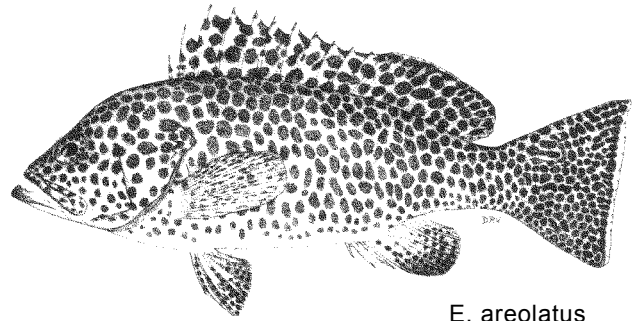
Rocky bottoms in 4 to 280 m depths.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

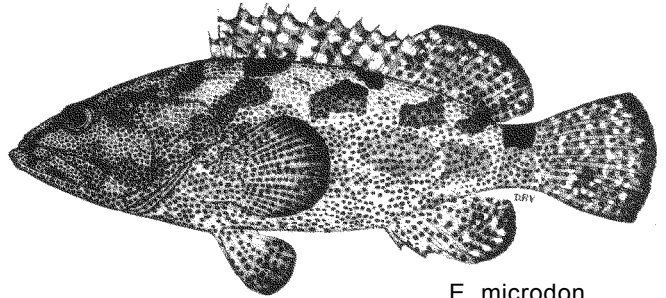
Separate statistics are not reported for this species, often confused with other species of Epinephelus.

Caught with hook and line, in traps and gillnets.

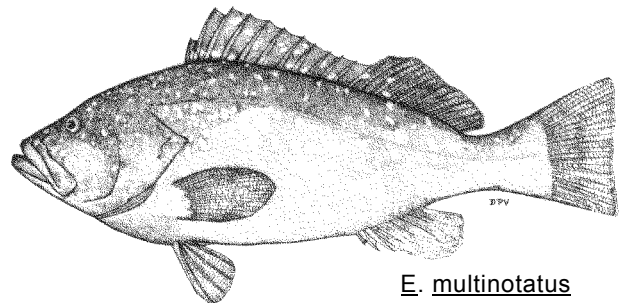
Sold fresh in local markets; also dried salted.



E. areolatus



E. microdon



E. multinotatus

