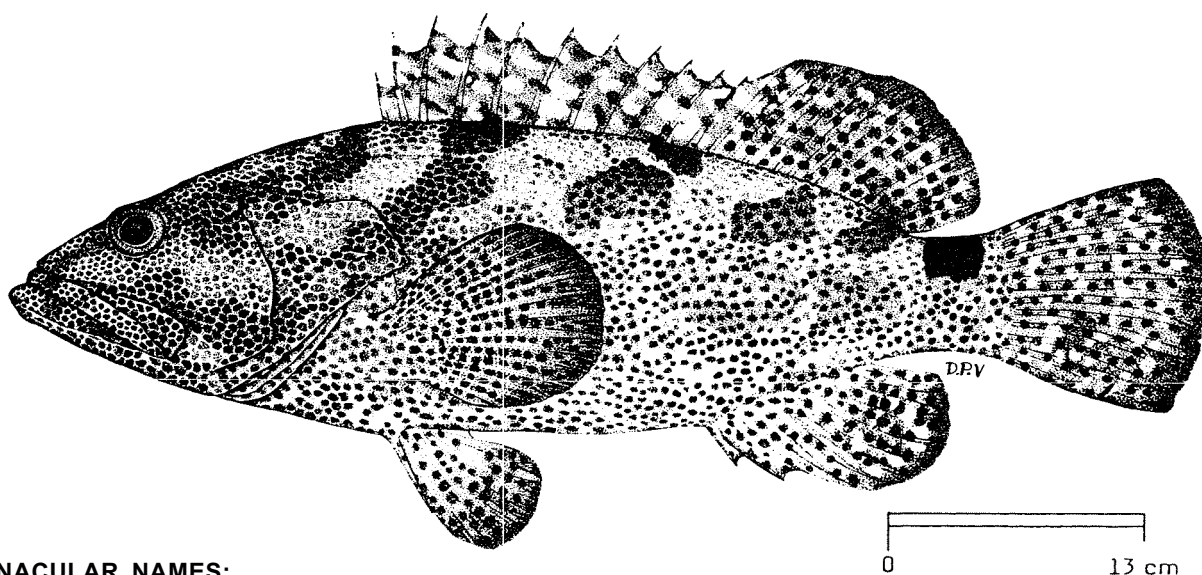


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Epinephelus microdon (Bleeker, 1856)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Epinephelus dispar (Playfair, 1866), often misidentified as E. fuscoguttatus (Forsskål, 1775), which is a different species

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Camouflage grouper
Fr - Mérou camouflage
Sp - Mero disfrazado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.7 to 3.2 times in standard length. Dorsal head profile smoothly convex; interorbital area flat; preopercle finely serrate, the serrae at the angle slightly enlarged; rear nostrils circular, not much bigger than front nostrils; lower gillrakers 14 to 18. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 14 or 15 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 to 9 (usually 8) soft rays; pectoral rays 16 or 17. Pored lateral line scales 49 to 53; lateral scale series 107 to 113; midlateral body scales mostly ctenoid, not covered by skin.

Colour: head, body and fins generally brownish, covered with small (larger than pupil size) dark spots; head and body with more or less distinct dark blotches, the blotch on top of caudal peduncle usually brownish-black and most conspicuous.

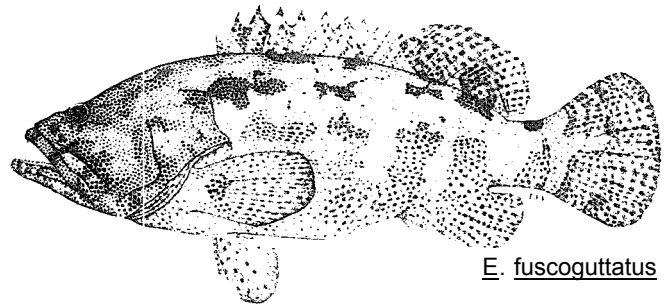
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Epinephelus fuscoguttatus: pectoral rays 18 to 20 (16 or 17 in *E. microdon*); lower gillrakers 18 to 21 (14 to 18 in *E. microdon*); dorsal head profile with an indentation above rear edge of eye.

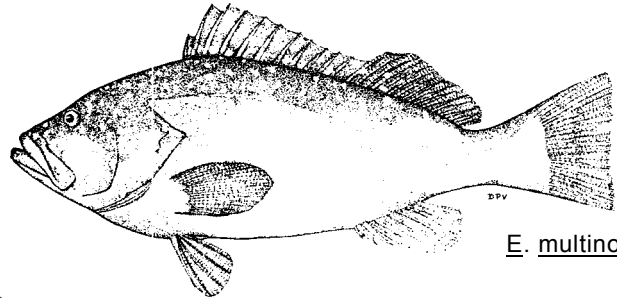
E. multinotatus: dorsal fin membranes only slightly indented between the spines; caudal fin truncate; pored lateral line scales 67 to 77 (49 to 53 in *E. microdon*).

E. tauvina: body depth 3.1 to 3.5 times in standard length (2.7 to 3.2 in *E. microdon*); pored lateral line scales 67 to 74; lower gillrakers 16 to 20.

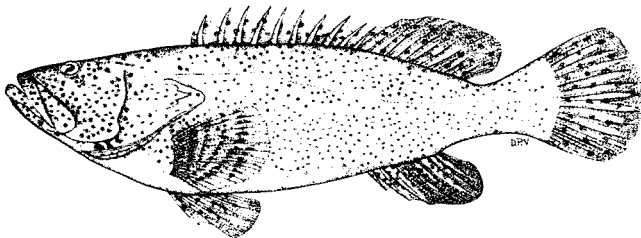
E. malabaricus: body depth 3.0 to 3.5 times in standard length; pectoral rays 18 to 20.



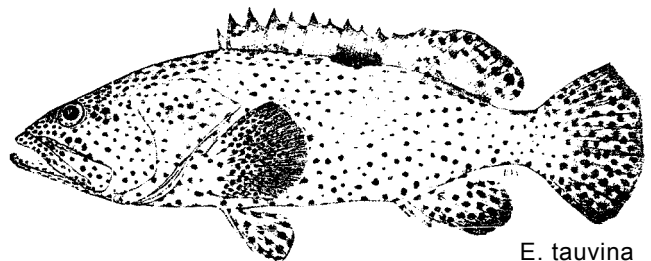
E. fuscoguttatus



E. multinotatus



E. malabaricus



E. tauvina

SIZE:

Maximum: 90 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the Western Indian Ocean, known from the Red Sea, east African coast southward to Mozambique, Seychelles, Chagos Archipelago and the Laccadives. Also present in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific eastward from southern Japan to Queensland.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

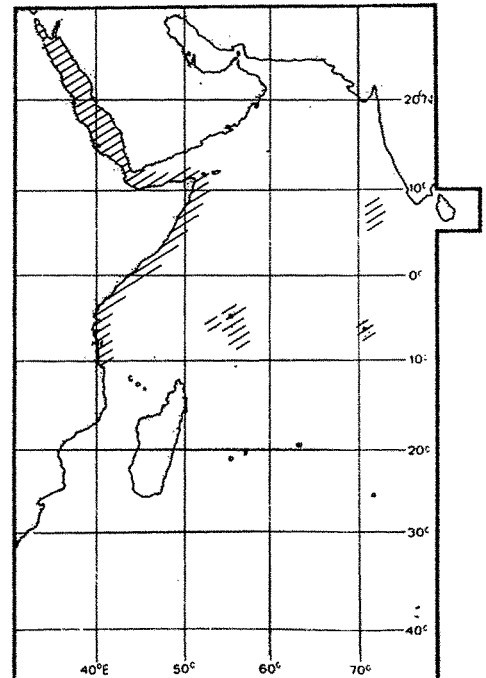
Coral reef areas. Common off the coast of Tanzania and Kenya.

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.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Epinephelus miliaris* (Valenciennes, 1830)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Epinephelus dictiophorus* (Bleeker, 1856)
Epinephelus fuscus Fourmanoir, 1961

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Honeyfin grouper
 Fr - Vielle abeille
 Sp - Mero colmenar

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.9 to 3.1 times in standard length. Preopercle finely serrate; maxilla not reaching past eye; sides of lower jaw with 2 rows of teeth; lower gillrakers 14 to 16. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 16 to 18 soft rays; third or fourth dorsal spine longest, longer than longest dorsal soft ray; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral rays 17 or 18; caudal fin rounded. Pored lateral line scales 48 to 51; lateral scale series 96 to 101; body scales ctenoid, except on belly.

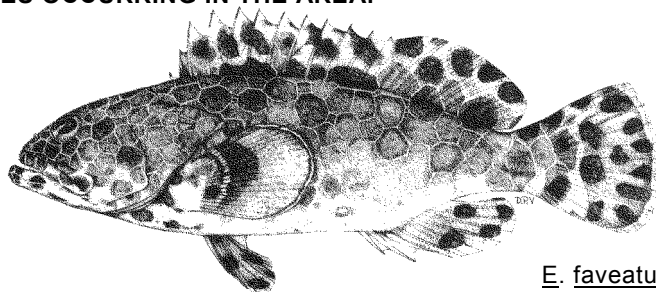
Colour: head, body and spinous dorsal fin covered with small, closely-set, brown spots separated by pale lines; spots often indistinct or running together and not forming a pale reticulation everywhere. Fins with large blackish spots.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

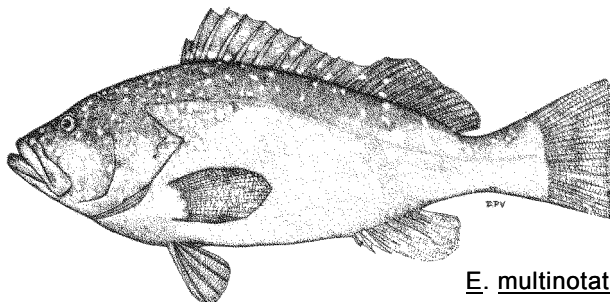
Epinephelus faveatus: body scales mostly cycloid; dark spots on body larger, some as large as eye; pectoral fins dusky, without dark spots; chest with large dark blotches.

E. multinotatus: dark spots on fins not larger than those on body; pored lateral line scales 67 to 77 (48 to 51 in E. miliaris).

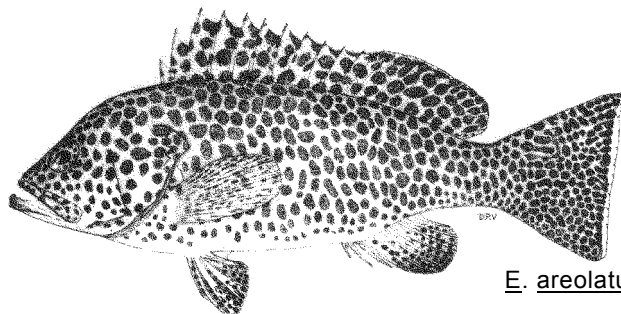
E. areolatus and E. chlorostigma: caudal fin truncate; spots on fins not bigger than those on body.



E. faveatus



E. multinotatus



E. areolatus

SIZE:

Maximum: 45 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the Western Indian Ocean only known from Mozambique, Madagascar, Comores and Seychelles. Also present in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific extending eastward to southern Japan.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

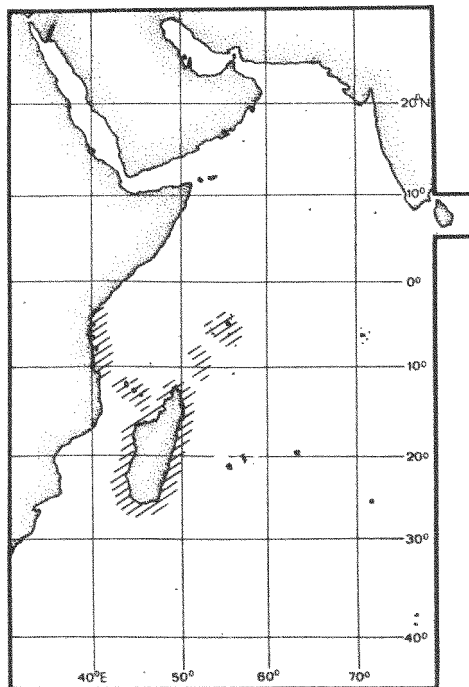
Coastal waters.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

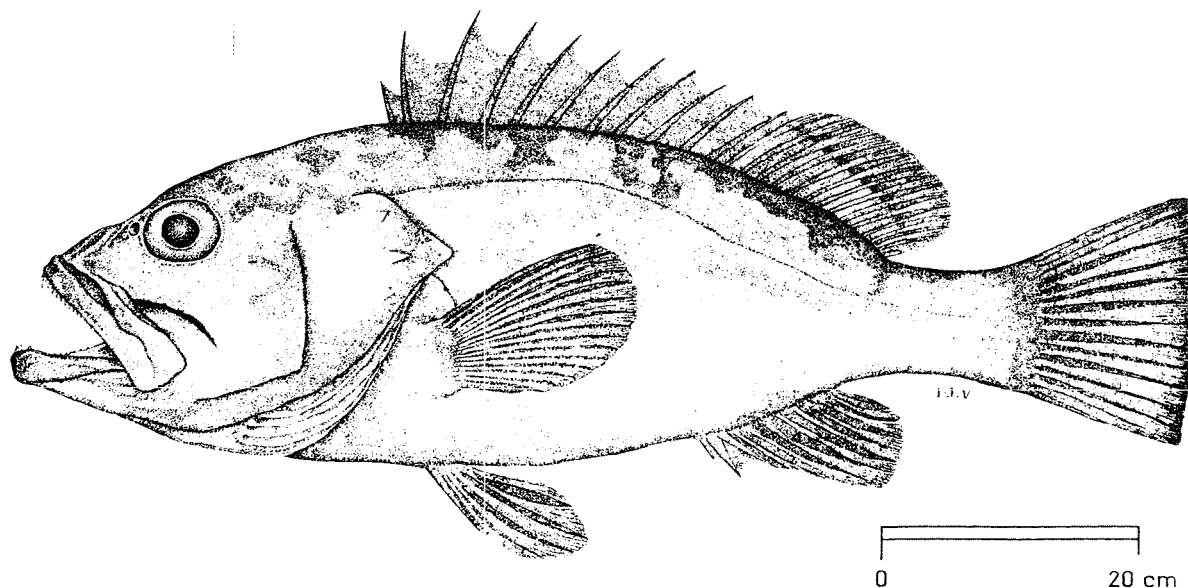
Caught with hook and line and traps.

Sold fresh in local markets.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Epinephelus modestus* Gilchrist & Thompson, 1909OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Epinephelus clarkei* Smith, 1958

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Moustached grouper
Fr - Mérou moustache
Sp - Mero bigotudo

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.6 to 2.8 times in standard length. Preopercle finely serrate; maxilla reaches vertical to rear edge of eye; sides of lower jaw with 2 rows of teeth; lower gillrakers 15 to 17; rear nostril 3 or 4 times larger than front nostril. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 14 or 15 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 soft rays; pectoral rays 17 or 18; caudal fin truncate. Pored lateral line scales 62 to 69; lateral scale series 104 to 114; scales on body ctenoid, without auxiliary scales except a few above lateral line.

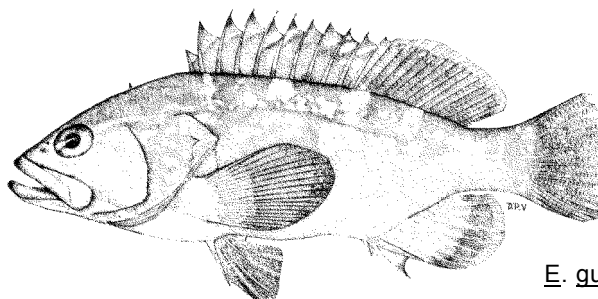
Colour: mostly greyish or brown, with vague darker blotches along back above lateral line; dorsal surface of peduncle blackish brown; a prominent black "moustache" streak on maxillary groove. Large adults nondescript grey-brown.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

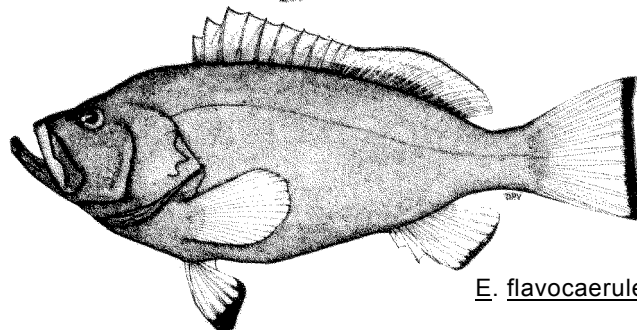
E. guaza: anal fin rays 8 (9 in E. modestus); body scales with numerous tiny auxiliary scales; head, body and fins often with yellowish pigment.

E. flavocaeruleus: body depth contained 2.4 to 2.7 times in standard length (2.6 to 2.8 times in E. modestus); lateral scale series 130 to 150 (104 to 114 in E. modestus); anal fin rays 8; juveniles with bright yellow fins and peduncle.

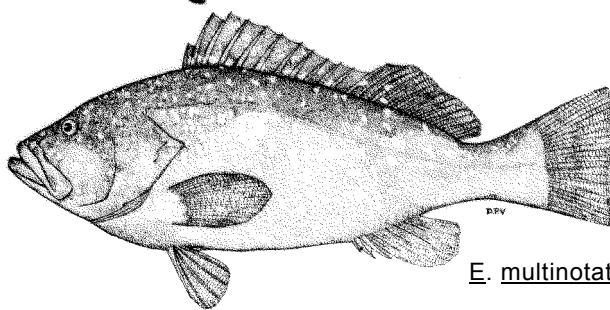
E. multinotatus: anal fin rays 8; body with pale spots or blotches in life; dorsal fin membrane not incised between the spines.



E. guaza



E. flavocaeruleus



E. multinotatus

SIZE:

Maximum: 137 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Known only from Algoa Bay (South Africa) to Kenya.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Depths of 30 to 180 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with hook and line and in traps.

Sold fresh in local markets.

