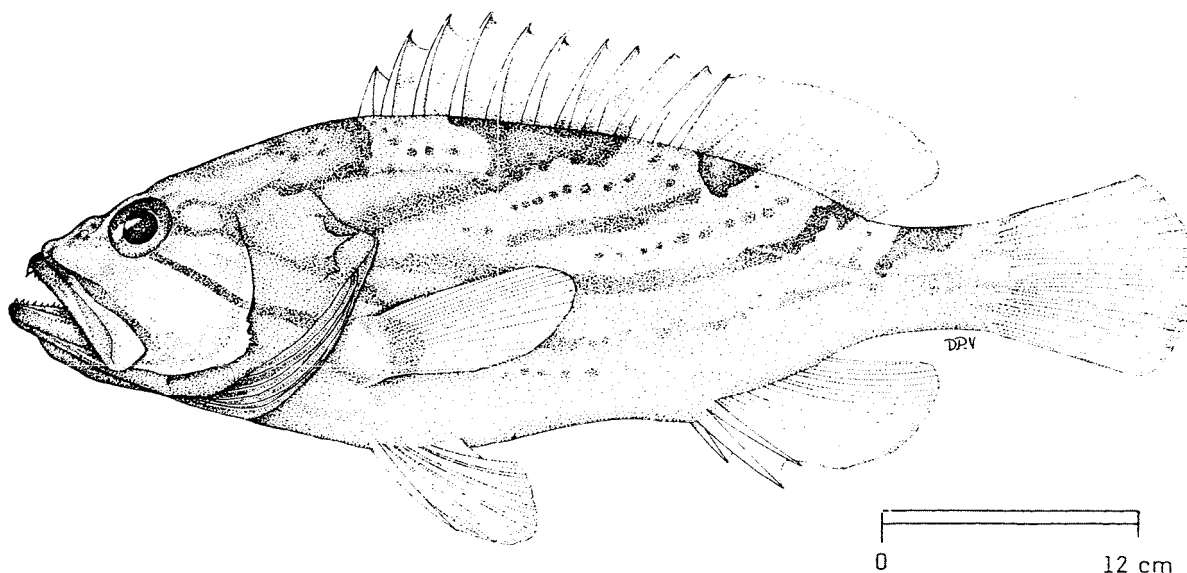


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Epinephelus morrhua* (Valenciennes, 1833)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Epinephelus cometae* Tanaka, 1927

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Comet grouper
 Fr - M  rou com  te
 Sp - Mero cometa

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.8 to 3.1 times in standard length. Preopercle serrate, with 2 to 5 enlarged serrae at the angle; maxilla not reaching past eye; 2 rows of teeth along sides of lower jaw; lower gillrakers 14 to 17. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 14 or 15 soft rays; dorsal fin membrane distinctly indented between the spines; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 or 8 soft rays; pectoral rays 17 or 18; caudal fin slightly to moderately rounded. Pored lateral line scales 57 to 64; lateral scale series 108 to 123; body scales ctenoid (except on belly) without auxiliary scales.

Colour: head and body tan, with curving dark brown bands as follows: 1 from upper posterior part of eye passing above upper end of gill opening and ending broadly on nape; 1 from upper edge of opercular flap, broadening above lateral line, and ending at base of fifth to ninth dorsal spines; 1 from behind middle of eye across opercle onto midside of body, bifurcating above distal end of pectoral fin, the upper segment extending to base of anterior soft portion of dorsal fin and the lower to rear base of fin; a broken band from beneath pectoral fin along lower side, curving upward to end dorsally on caudal peduncle; 2 diagonal bands on cheek; there may be a row of dark spots between adjacent dark brown bands on body; fins not spotted.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

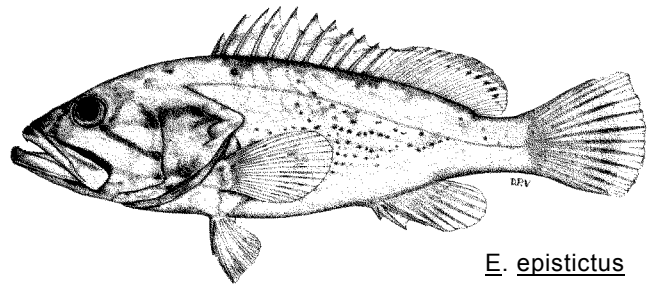
Epinephelus epistictus: juveniles with 3 slightly curving dark brown lines from eye across opercle and continued on body as rows of small dark spots; adults with numerous small dark spots on body dorsally.

E. poecilonotus: an elongate dark brown spot or group of spots centred at base of spinous portion of dorsal fin; below this a series of slightly curved parallel rows of dark brown spots.

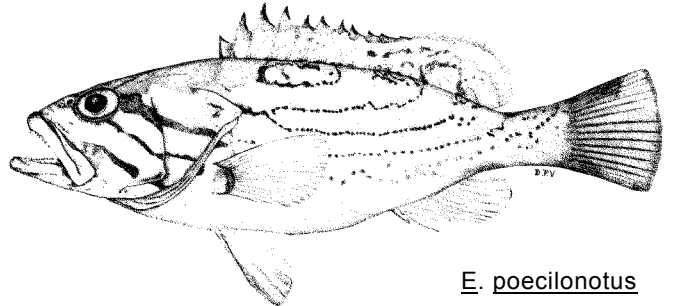
E. magniscuttis: small dark spots on dorso-lateral parts of head and body and extending onto dorsal fin; no dark spots on ventral parts of head and body or on anal and paired fins.

E. latifasciatus: dorsal soft rays 12 to 14 (14 or 15 in E. morrhua); 3 or 4 longitudinal dark lines on body (may break into dashes and spots on large adults); dorsal and caudal fins with black spots.

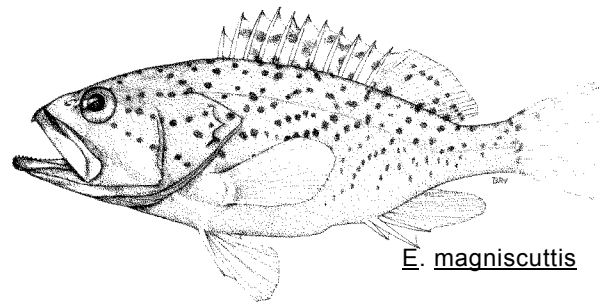
E. radiatus: no band or series of dark spots from end of opercle to rear end of dorsal fin base; small dark spots on dorsal and caudal fins in adults.



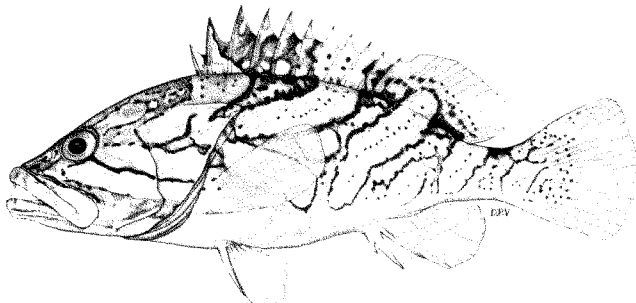
E. epistictus



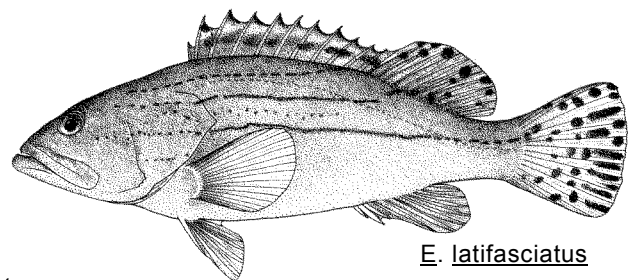
E. poecilonotus



E. magniscuttis



E. radiatus



E. latifasciatus

SIZE:

Maximum: 90 cm

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Red Sea and western part of the area southward to Durban (South Africa); absent from the "Gulf". Also found in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific eastward to southern Japan and New Caledonia.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

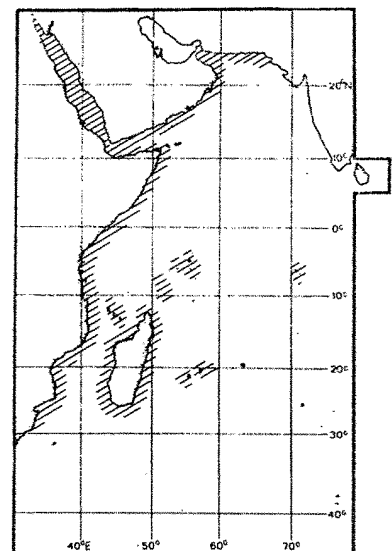
Depths of 120 to 370 m. Seems to be rare.

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.

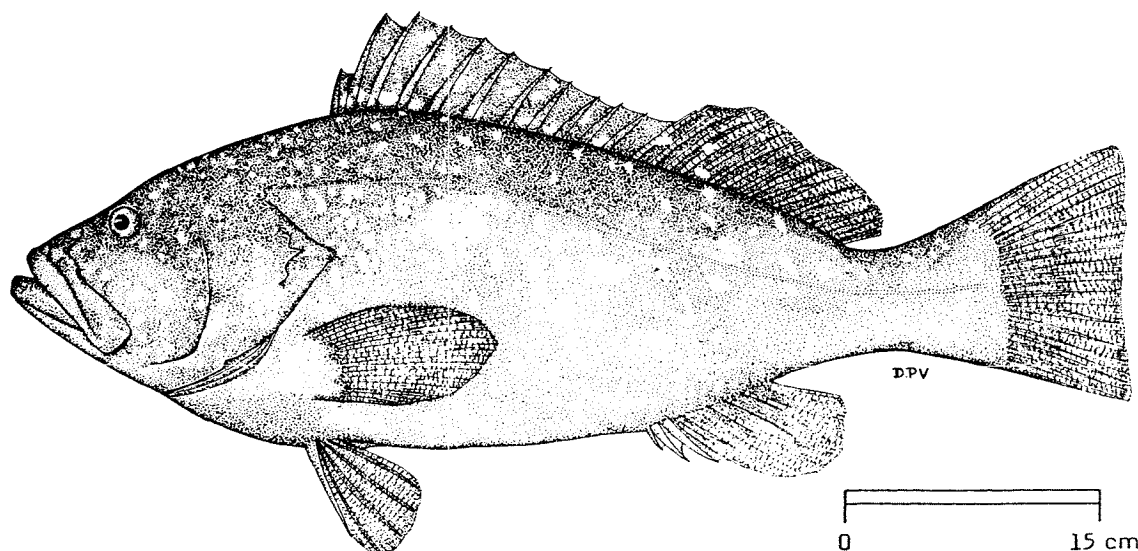


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Epinephelus multinotatus (Peters, 1876)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Epinephelus jayakari (Boulenger, 1889)
Epinephelus leprosus Smith, 1955

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - White-blotched grouper
 Fr - Vielle plate grise
 Sp - Mero de lunares

NATIONAL:

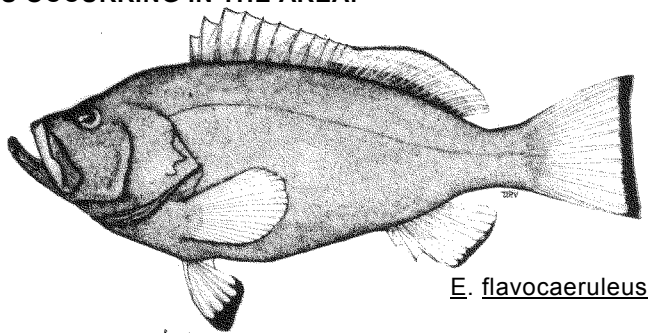
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.6 to 2.9 times in standard length. Interorbital area convex; preopercle finely serrate; lower gillrakers 15 to 17. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 15 to 17 soft rays, the fin membrane not incised between the spines; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral rays 18 or 19; caudal fin truncate rounded in small juveniles). Pored lateral line scales 67 to 77; lateral scale series 134 to 150; scales on body ctenoid (except on belly).

Colour: body and head brown, the ventral part often covered with small, dark, reddish-brown sots; in life, with irregular pale grey or white spots or blotches on dorsal fin and dorsal part of head and body these pale spots usually fade after death).

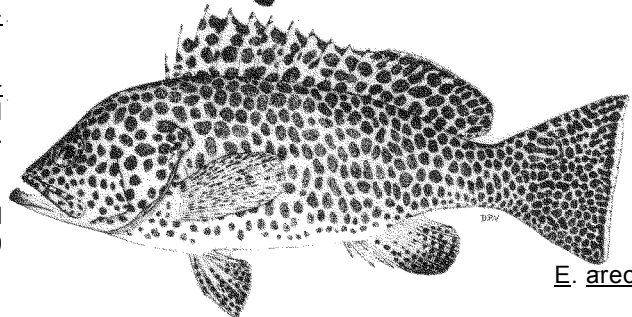
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Epinephelus flavocaeruleus: juveniles with bright yellow, black-edged fins; adults dark grey or purplish brown with yellow reduced to small areas of head and margin of spinous dorsal fin: rear nostrils much larger than anterior ones; no small dark spots on lower part of head and body.



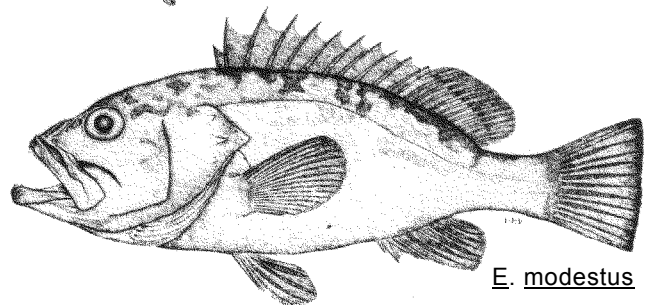
E. flavocaeruleus

E. areolatus: body depth contained 3.0 to 3.3 times in standard length (2.6 to 2.9 times in E. multinotatus); head and body with dark spots dorsally as well as ventrally; dark spots also on fins; lateral line scales 50 to 56 (67 to 77 in E. multinotatus).



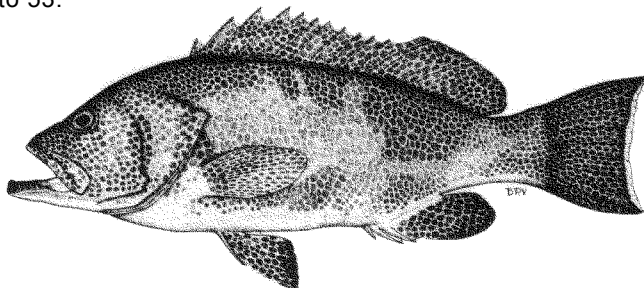
E. areolatus

E. modestus: anal fin rays 9 (8 in E. multinotatus); dorsal fin membrane distinctly incised between the spines; lateral scale series 104 to 114 (134 to 150 in E. multinotatus).



E. modestus

E. chlorostigma: head, body and fins covered all over with small dark spots; lateral line scales 49 to 53.



E. chlorostigma

Maximum: 100 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Western Indian Ocean from Mozambique to Pakistan, including the Seychelles, Comores, Aldabra, Madagascar, Mauritius and Réunion.

Adults found in shallow as well as deep water.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

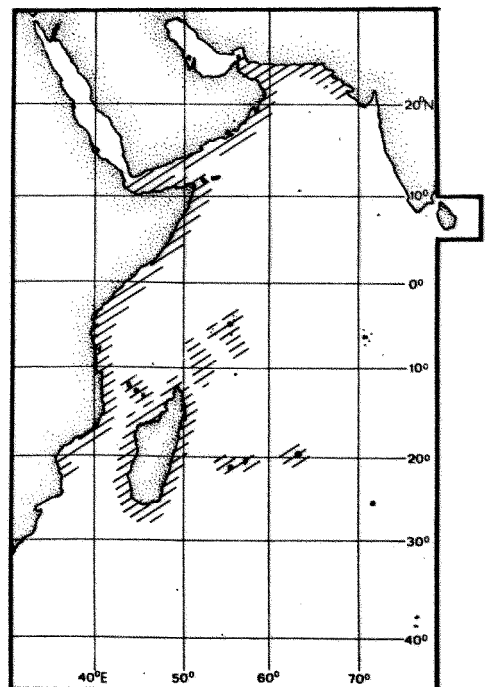
Depths of 2 to 90 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

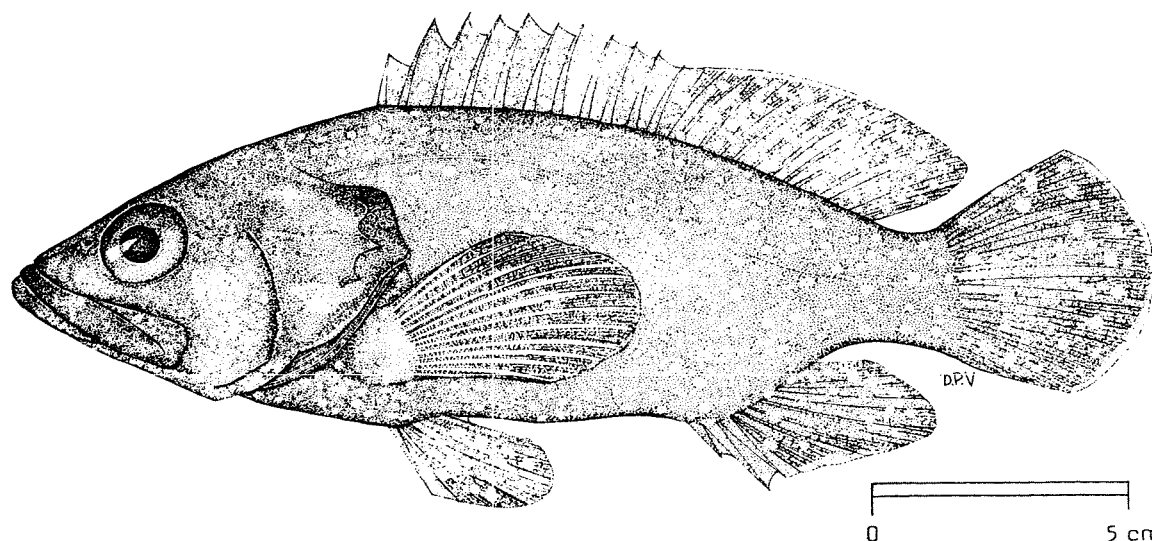
Caught with hook and line, in traps and gillnets.

Sold fresh in local markets.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Epinephelus ongus (Bloch, 1790)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: ? Epinephelus hoevenii (Bleeker, 1849)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - White-streaked grouper
 Fr - Mérou à flocons
 Sp - Mero nubífero

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

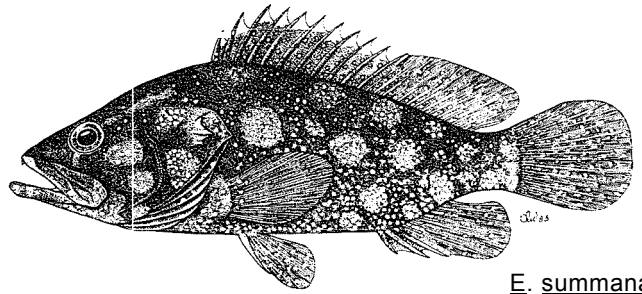
Body depth contained 2.7 to 3.2 times in standard length. Interorbital area flat; opercular flap obtuse, the upper edge very convex; uppermost opercular spine not more anterior than lower spine; lower gillrakers 13 to 17. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 15 or 16 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral rays 15 to 17; pectoral fin length 1.4 to 1.7 times in head length; caudal fin rounded. Pored lateral line scales 47 to 53; lateral scale series 95 to 107; scales on body ctenoid, except on belly.

Colour: generally dark grey or greyish brown covered with small spots of pale grey or blue-grey; some fish with an overlying pattern of pale blotches; maxillary groove black; pale spots of large adults joined to form horizontal bands.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Epinephelus summana: pectoral fin length contained 1.7 to 2.1 times in head length (1.4 to 1.7 times in E. ongus); pale spots not joining in large adults.

E. caeruleopunctatus: pectoral fin rays 17 to 19 (15 to 17 in E. ongus ; opercular flap acute, the upper edge nearly straight.



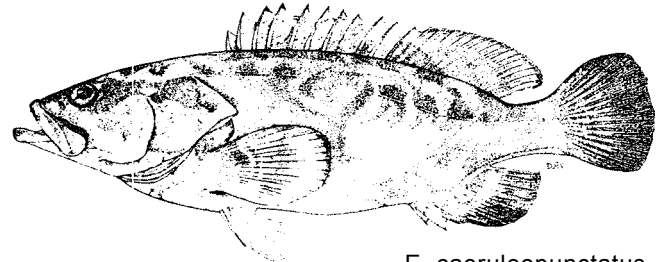
E. summana

SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the Western Indian Ocean, along the East African coast from Mozambique northward to Somalia, around the Seychelles and along the coast of India and Sri Lanka. Also present in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific eastward to the Marshall Islands and Japan.



E. caeruleopunctatus

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coral reef areas in depths from 5 to 30 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with hook and line, in traps and gillnets.

Sold fresh and dried salted in local markets.

