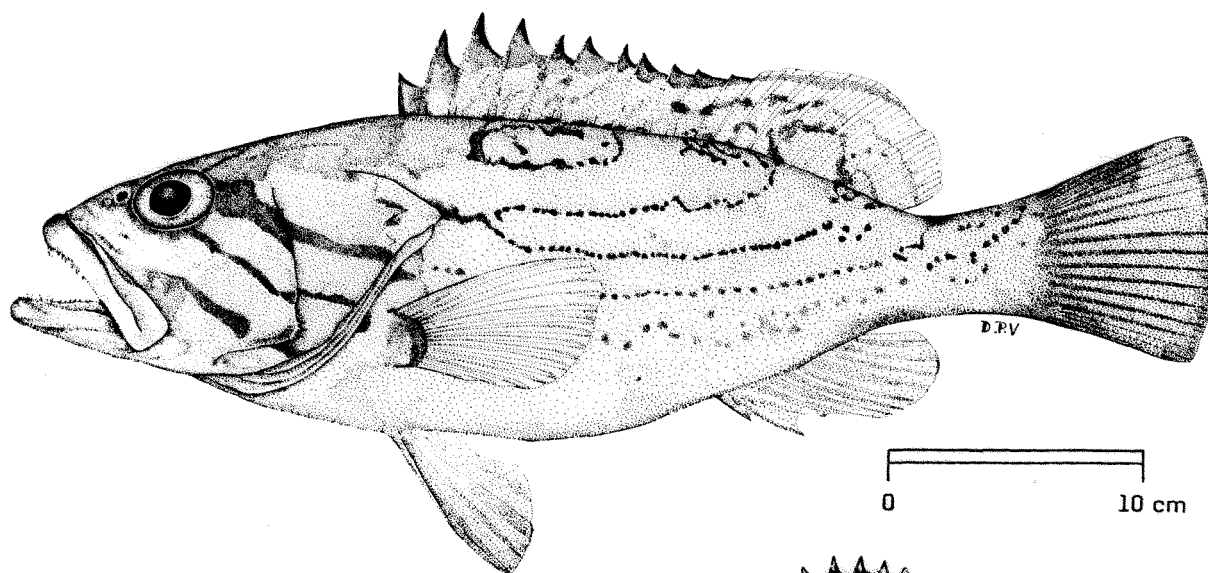


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

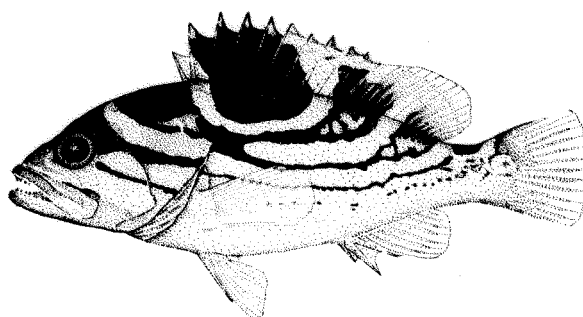
FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Epinephelus poecilonotus (Temminck & Schlegel, 1842)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Often misidentified as "Epinephelus morrhua (Valenciennes)"

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En – Dot-dash grouper
Fr – Mérou morse
Sp – Mero punto y línea

NATIONAL:



juvenile

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.6 to 3.1 times in standard length. Preopercle serrate, with 2 to 4 enlarged serrae at the angle; sides of lower jaw with 2 rows of teeth; lower gillrakers 15 to 17. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 14 or 15 soft rays; interspinous membranes of dorsal fin deeply incised; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral rays 17 or 18; caudal fin slightly to moderately rounded. Pored lateral line scales 58 to 65; lateral scale series 110 to 136.

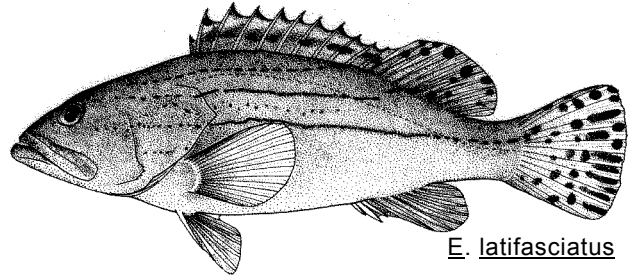
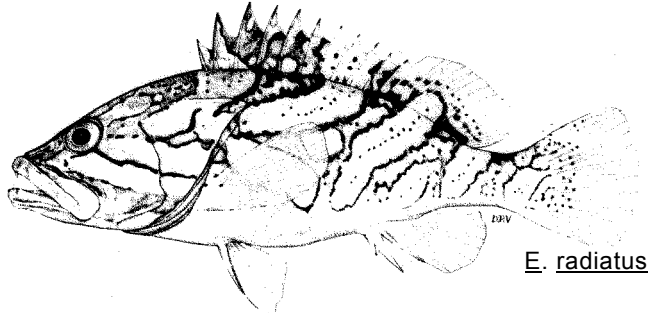
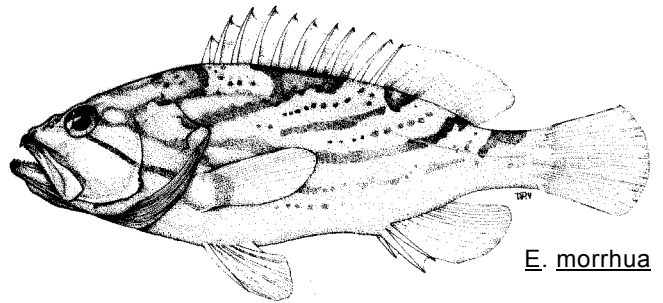
Colour: juveniles with a large dark brown to black spot on body below third to ninth dorsal spines and extending into fin to margin, this spot broadly edged in pale brown (except distally on dorsal fin between second and sixth spines); a broad dark brown band on nape, narrowing as it follows the contour of pale border of black dorsal spot, bifurcating below this spot, the upper part broadening as it curves dorsally to end in middle of dorsal fin between 10th dorsal spine and fifth soft ray, the lower part paralleling it, ending broadly in posterior part of fin; 2 narrow dark brown bands extending posteriorly from orbit, paralleling the bands above, the uppermost ending in a black saddle-like spot dorsally on caudal peduncle, the lower breaking up into a series of brown spots which end in basal part of caudal fin; anal fin, paired Fins and caudal fin (except for basal spots) uniformly pale yellowish. Adults have basically the same colour pattern but the large dark dorsal spot and the brown bands are replaced by a series of small spots. In large adults the spots on the body are faint or absent.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Epinephelus morrhua: a dark brown band from upper end of gill opening to rear base of dorsal fin, with 2 diagonal branches extending dorsally from it to dorsal fin (1 in middle of spinous portion and 1 anteriorly in soft portion).

E. radiatus: 4 dark-edged brown bands passing diagonally downward and forward on body (3 originating in dorsal fin and 1 on caudal peduncle, the 2 middle bands branching in central part of body); dorsal and caudal fins of adults with small dark spots.

E. latifasciatus: dorsal soft rays 12 or 13 (14 or 15 in E. poecilonotus); narrow dark bands or rows of spots on body horizontal.



SIZE:

Maximum: 65 cm

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the Western Indian Ocean, along the East African coast from about 28°S to about 8°N and at the Comores, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius and Chagos Archipelago. Also present in the South China Sea, East Burma Sea and southern Japan.

A species of moderately deep water from about 60 to 200 m depth.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

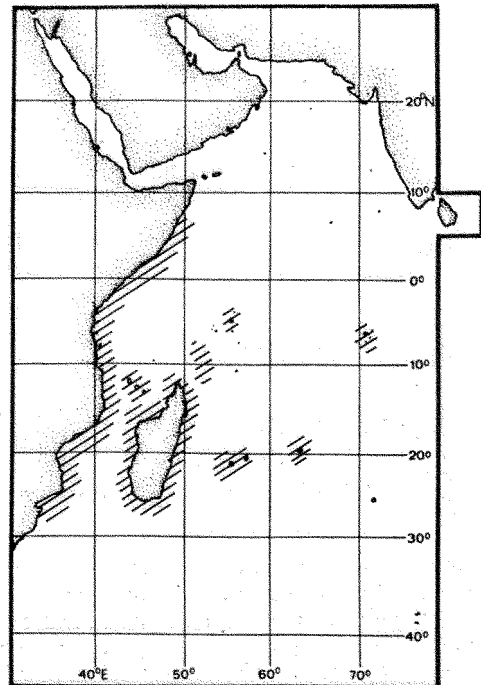
Deep banks throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with vertical longlines.

Marketed fresh.

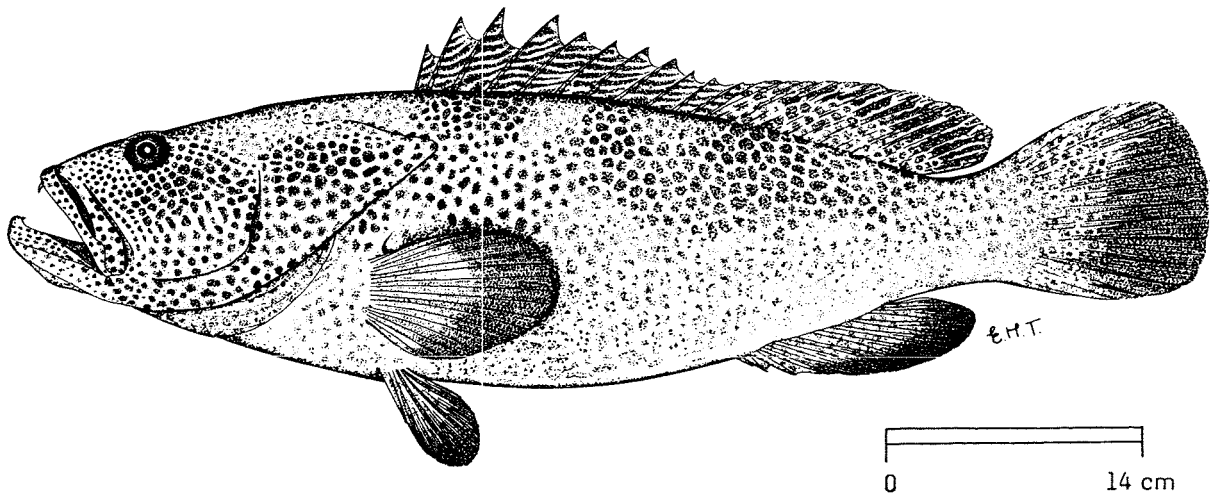


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Epinephelus posteli* Fourmanoir & Crosnier, 1964

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Tiger grouper
 Fr - Mérou tigre
 Sp - Mero tigre

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 3.0 to 3.5 times in standard length; caudal peduncle depth about twice length of second anal fin spine. Preopercle finely serrate, with a slight notch; maxilla not reaching past eye; a pair of large canines at front of both jaws; an outer row of canines in upper jaw and 2 rows of canines at sides of lower jaw; lower gillrakers 9 or 10. Anterior and posterior nostrils of equal size. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 16 soft rays, the membrane deeply incised between the first 7 or 8 spines; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 soft rays; pectoral rays 18; caudal fin rounded. Scales on body smooth, mostly embedded, not easily counted.

Colour: head, body, caudal, anal and soft dorsal fins covered with small, closely-set, dark, reddish-brown spots forming a pale network pattern; spinous dorsal fin with subhorizontal dark stripes; other fins dark brownish distally obscuring the small dark spots; inside of mouth reddish orange.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other Epinephelus species: no horizontal dark stripes on dorsal fin; anal fin rays 8 (except in E. modestus and E. septemfasciatus which have 9), teeth smaller.

Plectropomus species: dorsal fin with 8 spines and 11 soft rays (11 spines and 16 soft rays in E. posteli); preopercle with 3 ventrally directed spines.

SIZE:

Maximum: at least 100 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Natal, Mozambique and Madagascar; probably more widely distributed, but only recently recognized as a distinct species.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

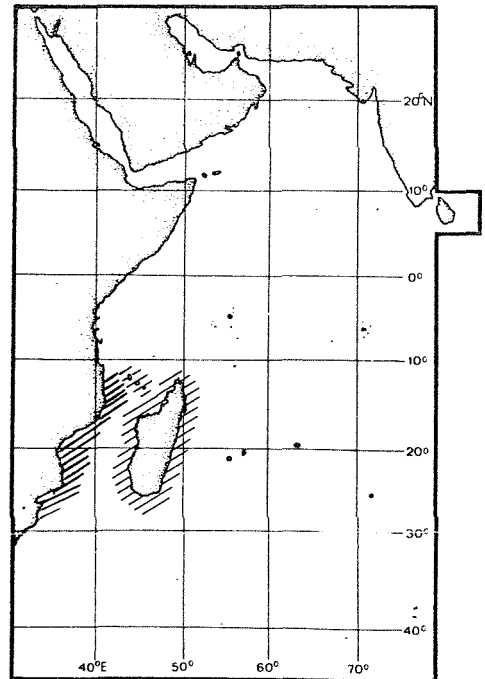
Coral reef areas in depths from 20 to 50 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

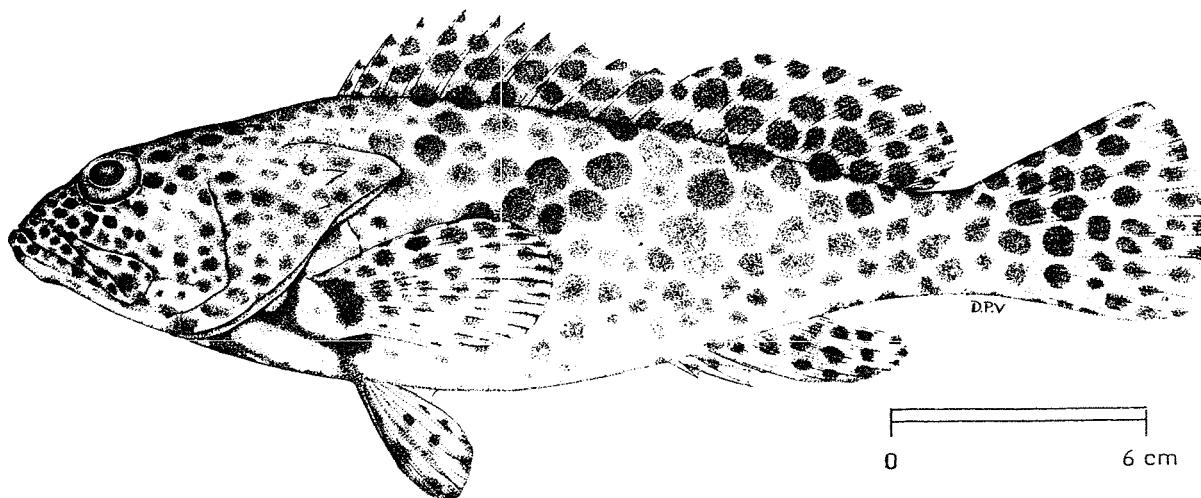
Caught with hook and line and in traps.

Sold fresh in local markets.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Epinephelus quoyanus* (Valenciennes, 1830)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : ? *Epinephelus gilberti* (Richardson, 1859)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Barred-chest grouper
 Fr - Mérou écharpe
 Sp - Mero bandeado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 3.0 to 3.6 times in standard length. Interorbital area concave, its least width contained 1.4 to 1.7 times in eye diameter, and eye diameter contained 1.1 to 1.5 times in least depth of caudal peduncle of fish larger than 15 cm standard length; preopercle serrae mostly covered by skin; lower gillrakers 13 to 16. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 16 to 18 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral rays 17 to 19; pectoral fins 1.2 to 1.5 times in head length; caudal fin rounded. Pored lateral line scales 47 to 50; body scales mostly cycloid (smooth).

Colour: head and body pale, with numerous, round, dark brown spots about pupil size; some spots at dorsal fin base larger and darker than others on body; chest pale with 2 vague diagonal dark brown bands; pectoral fin dusky, with a dark brown bar across dorsal 3/4 of base and obscure dark spots more distinct on inner surface of fin; spots on median fins darker than those on body.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

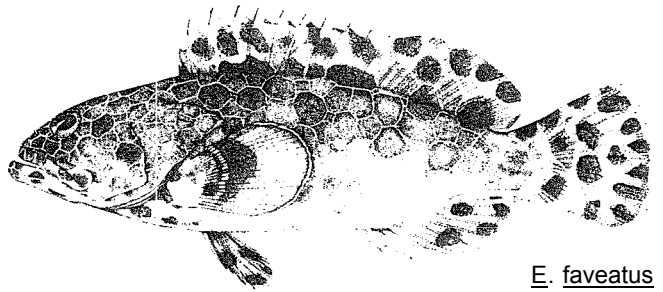
Epinephelus faveatus: pectoral fin not covered with small dark spots, outer surface dusky, with a narrow white edge distally; chest and pectoral fin base with dark spots or blotches (no dark bands); dark spots on body and head not sharply delimited by pale network pattern; interorbital width contained 0.9 to 1.4 times in eye diameter (1.4 to 1.7 times in *E. quoyanus*) and eye diameter contained 1.4 to 2.1 times in least depth of peduncle for specimens larger than 15 cm standard length (1.1 to 1.5 times in *E. quoyanus*); pectoral fins 1.65 to 1.95 times in head length (1.2 to 1.5 times in *E. quoyanus*).

E. spilotoceps: pored lateral line scales 60 to 67 (47 to 50 in *E. quoyanus*); body scales ctenoid; no dark bands on chest.

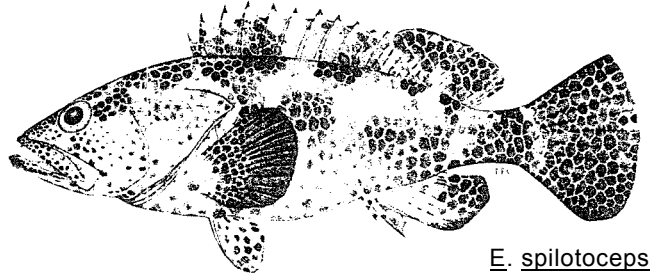
E. hexagonatus: pored lateral line scales 61 to 66; body scales ctenoid; lower gillrakers 17 to 19 (13 to 16 in *E. quoyanus*); prominent silvery-white specks on body; no dark bands on chest.

E. melanostigma: no dark bands on chest; pored lateral line scales 57 to 61; body scales ctenoid; midlateral part of lower jaw with 3 to 5 rows of teeth (2 rows in *E. quoyanus*).

E. merra: pectoral and median fins with prominent, small dark spots (much smaller than dark spots on body); body scales ctenoid.



E. faveatus



E. spilotoceps



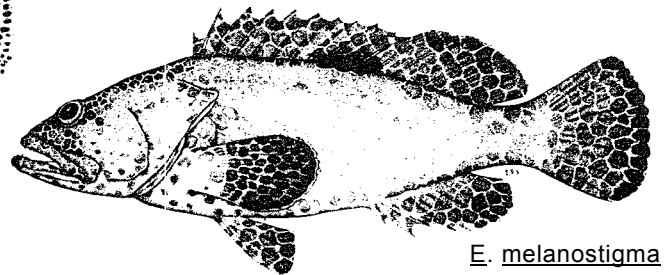
E. hexagonatus



E. merra

SIZE:

Maximum: 35 cm.



E. melanostigma

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

The distribution of this species is not clear because of confusion with other species. It is not uncommon on the west coast of India, and it also occurs outside the Western Indian Ocean at New Guinea.

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, in traps and gillnets.

Sold fresh or dried salted in local markets.

