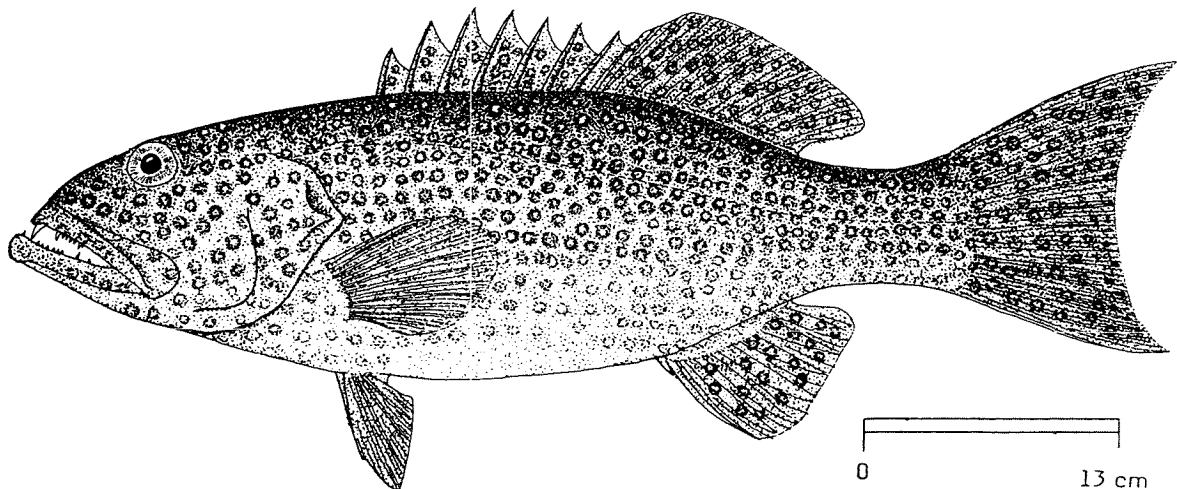


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Plectropomus maculatus (Bloch, 1790)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Spotted coral-trout
 Fr - Vielle Saint-Silac
 Sp - Mero de coral

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 3.2 to 3.7 times in standard length. Preopercle rounded, the lower edge with 3 large spines directed downward and forward; opercular spines poorly developed; lower jaw with 1 to 3 large fixed teeth posteriorly on each side; posterior nostrils subequal to anterior nostrils; gillrakers at angle of first arch longer than gill filaments; 7 to 10 developed rakers on lower limb; no scales between eyes or on snout. Dorsal fin with 8 spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; distal margin of fin straight to concave, forming a right angle with front margin when fin is erected; pectoral rays 15 to 17; caudal fin emarginate, the middle rays shortest.

Colour: brownish orange-red, with dark-edged blue spots, those on head and front part of body larger and more elongate than the small round spots on rear part of body and median fins; pectoral fin rays dark brown, the membrane pale, with a few blue spots basally and a pale margin; pelvic fins orange with blue spots.

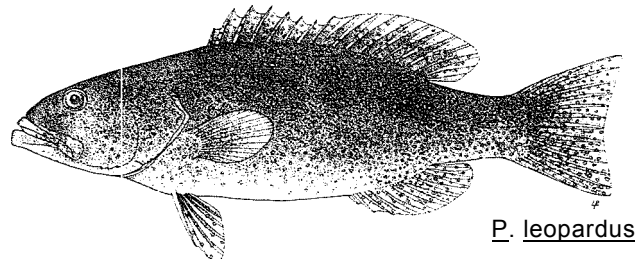
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Plectropomus truncatus: interorbital area scaly; developed gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 2 to 4 (7 to 10 in P. maculatus); raker at angle shorter than gill filaments.

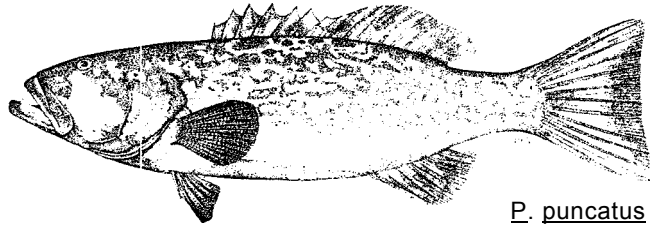
P. leopardus: distal margin of anal fin convex, the fin broadly rounded; head, body and median fins covered with blue dots; 8 or more spots on cheek; pectoral base with 4 or more spots.

P. punctatus: developed gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 2 to 7. Adults (?) generally purplish brown, body with pale mottling.

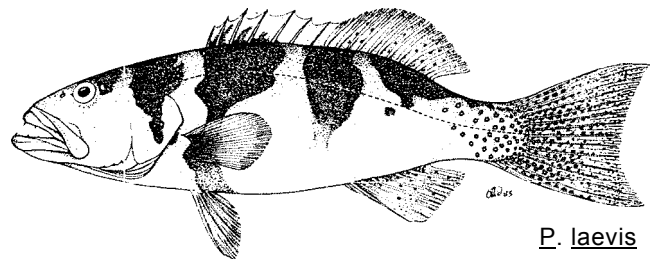
P. laevis: posterior nostrils elongate, much longer than front nostrils; gillrakers at angle usually shorter than gill filaments; colour generally tan or yellowish with 4 dark, wedge-shaped saddle-like blotches on body.



P. leopardus



P. punctatus



P. laevis

SIZE:

Maximum: 100 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widespread in the Western Indian Ocean north of about 27° S, including the Red Sea but not the "Gulf". Also present in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific, extending eastward to southern Japan and Australia.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

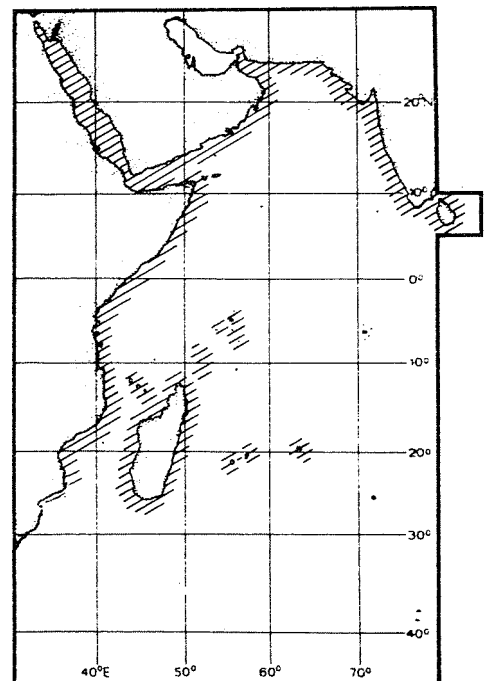
Coral reefs in depths of 13 to 160 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

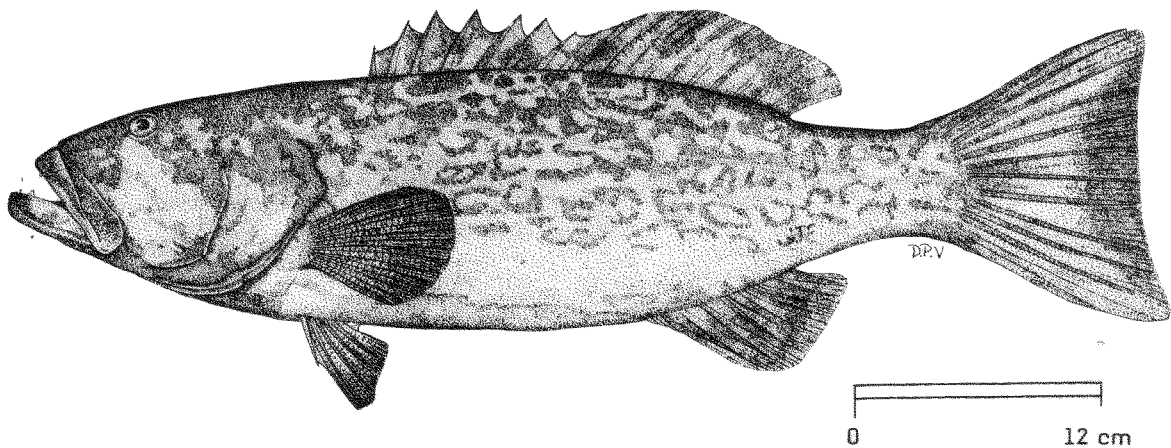
Caught with hook and line, spear, traps and gillnets.

Sold fresh in local markets.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

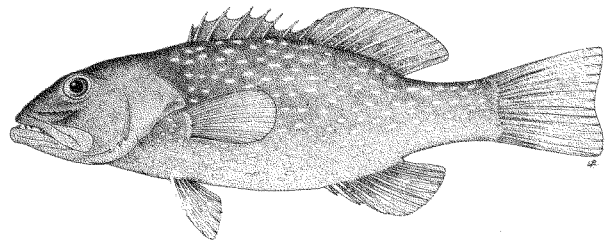
FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Plectropomus punctatus* Quoy & Gaimard, 1824OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: ? *Plectropomus marmoratus* Talbot, 1958

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Mottled coral-trout
 Fr - Mérou pointillé
 Sp - Mero pecoso

NATIONAL:



juvenile

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 3.2 to 3.7 times in standard length. Preopercle rounded, the lower edge with 3 large spines directed downward and forward; opercular spines poorly developed; lower jaw with 1 to 3 fixed teeth posteriorly on each side; posterior and anterior nostrils subequal; gillrakers at angle of first arch subequal to gill filaments, 2 to 7 developed rakers on lower limb of first arch; no scales between eyes. Dorsal fin with 8 spines and 10 or 11 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; distal margin convex; pectoral rays 16 to 18; caudal fin emarginate, the middle rays shortest.

Colour: juveniles with horizontally elongate pale blue spots all over body; adults (?) generally purplish brown; the body and dorsal fin with irregular pale mottling.

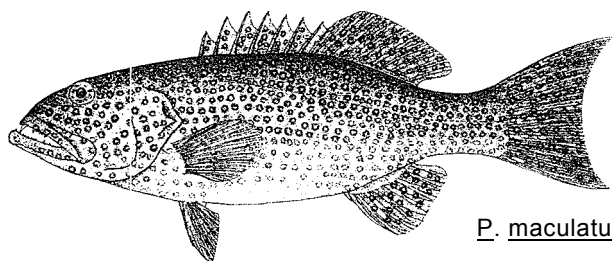
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Plectropomus maculatus: developed gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 7 to 10 (2 to 7 in P. punctatus); colour generally orange-red, with dark-edged blue spots on head and body.

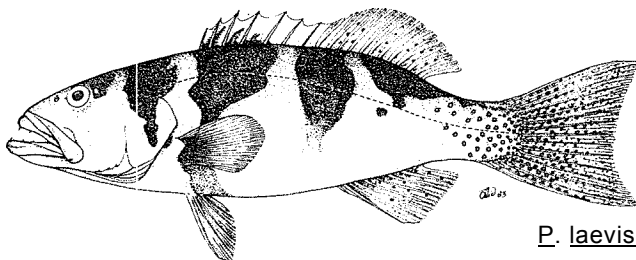
P. laevis: posterior nostrils much longer than anterior nostrils; colour tan or yellowish, with 4 dark, wedge-shaped saddle-like blotches dorsally on body.

P. leopardus: head, body and median fins reddish orange, covered with blue dots.

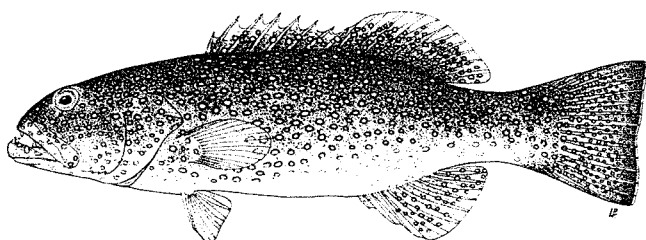
P. truncatus: middle caudal fin rays subequal to upper and lower rays; interorbital area and snout scaly; head, body and median fins covered with black-edged blue spots.



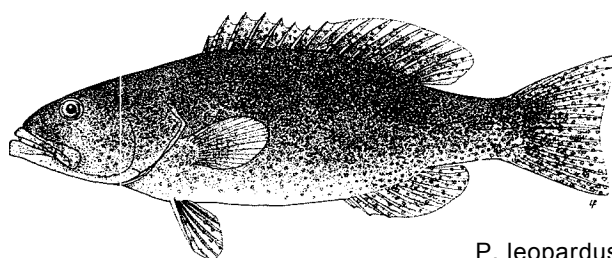
P. maculatus



P. laevis



P. truncatus



P. leopardus

SIZE:

Maximum: 90 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Known only in the Western Indian Ocean from Zanzibar, Kenya, Comoros, Aldabra, Seychelles, Mauritius and Chagos.

A common shallow-water species.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

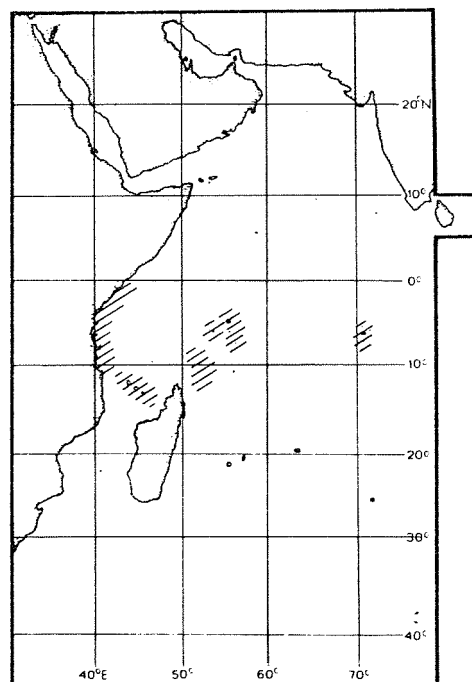
Coral reefs in depths of 5 to 15 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with hook and line and spears.

Sold fresh in local markets.

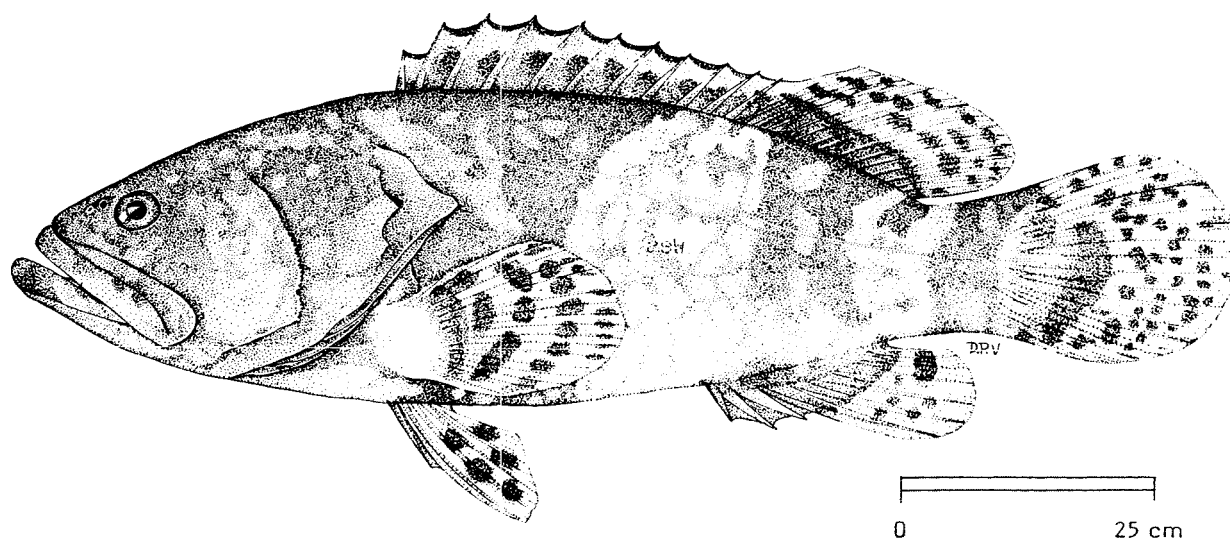


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Promicrops lanceolatus (Bloch, 1790)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

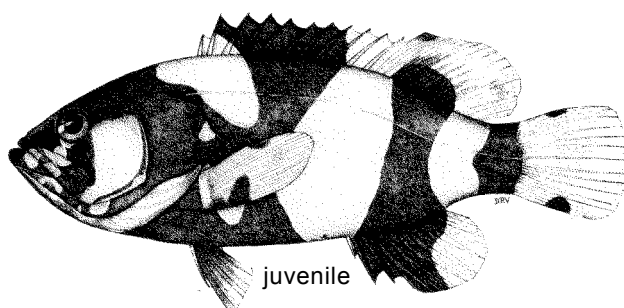
FAO : En - Brindle grouper
 Fr - Mérou lancéolé
 Sp - Mero lanceolado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 3.0 to 3.4 times in standard length. Eye small, its horizontal diameter contained 6 to 12 times in head length and 1 to 3 times in interorbital width; preopercle rounded, finely serrate; maxilla reaches well past eye; 2 or 3 rows of teeth (more in adults?) at sides of lower jaw; developed lower gillrakers 7 to 9; gill arches covered with numerous shagreen-like platelets. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 14 to 16 soft rays; dorsal fin spines increasing in length to the last (except in juveniles which have the 3rd or 4th spines longest), which is considerably shorter than the soft-rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral rays 19; caudal fin rounded. Pored lateral line scales 53 to 67; lateral scale series 89 to 110; lateral line tubes with several branches; body scales cycloid.

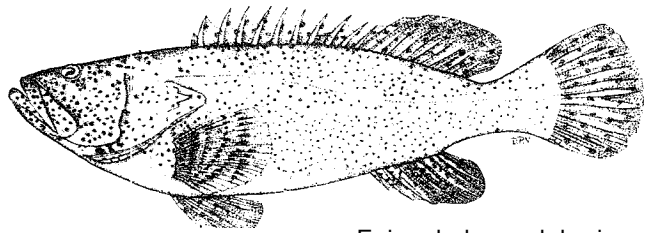
Colour: juveniles variegated brown and yellow, the fins yellow with dark brown or black spots and blotches; adults dark greyish or brown with pale mottlings.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Epinephelus malabaricus: last dorsal fin spine not the longest; lateral line tubes not branched; midlateral body scales ctenoid (rough).

E. tauvina: lateral line tubes not branched; last dorsal fin spine not the longest; head and body covered with small dark orange-red to brown spots.



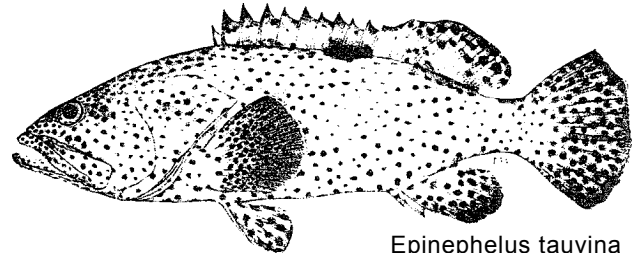
Epinephelus malabaricus

SIZE:

Maximum: 270 cm, and over 400 kg.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Found along the entire coastline of the Western Indian Ocean from Algoa Bay (South Africa) to Sri Lanka, but not in the Red Sea or the "Gulf"; also off Mauritius and the Seychelles. Outside the area, reported from Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan Island and Australia.



Epinephelus tauvina

Common in harbours, estuaries and around wrecks.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Depths of 5 to 100 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with hook and line and spears.

Sold fresh in local markets.

