

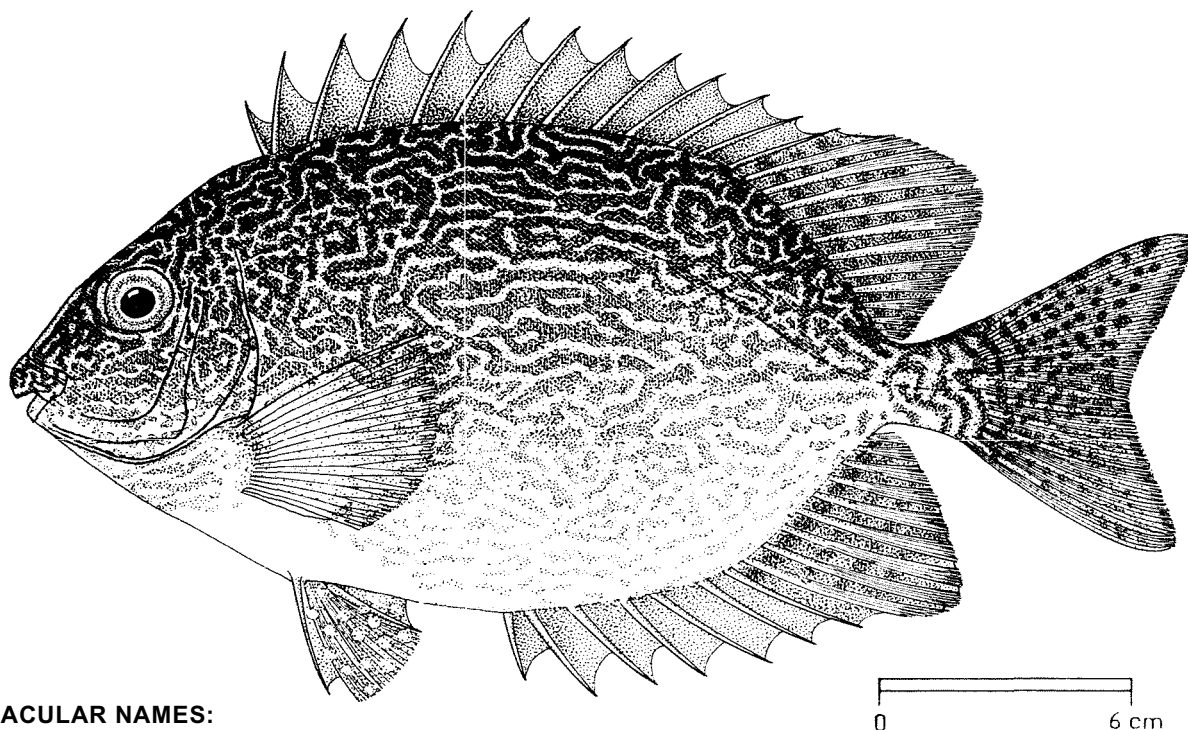
1983

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SIGANIDAE

 FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Siganus vermiculatus (Valenciennes, 1835)

 OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Teuthis vermiculata* (Valenciennes, 1835)


VERNACULAR NAMES:

 FAO: En - Vermiculated spiaefoot
Fr - Sigan vermicelle
Sp - Sigano vermiculado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body deep and compressed, its depth contained 1.9 to 2.2 times in standard length. Nape convex, interorbital space concave, snout convex, deep and blunt; anterior nostril with a flange which is slightly broadened posteriorly. A forward-directed spine present in front of dorsal fin, but imbedded in nape; last dorsal fin spine longest in individuals above 12.5 cm standard length, and 5th to 8th spines longest in smaller fish; last anal fin spine the longest, about 1.8 times the length of the first; soft parts of dorsal and anal fins high, particularly the dorsal in which the longest ray is at least 1.5 times the longest dorsal spine; caudal fin emarginate. Scales minute; cheeks covered with prominent scales; 17 to 26 scale rows between lateral line and bases of leading dorsal spines.

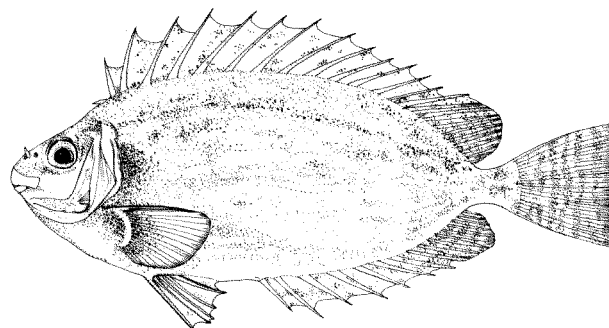
Colour: head and body with a vermiculate pattern, the darker coloured areas brownish, the paler ones bluish above grading to silvery below; darker lines much broader than paler ones on nape and head, about equal in breadth posteriorly. Head with a golden flush; lines on cheeks blue. Dark lines breaking into spots on caudal fin, spots arranged in 4 vertical rows. Dark spots also present on soft parts of dorsal and anal fins, arranged in rows, the proximal row prominent; other parts of median fins dusky; pectoral fins hyaline; pelvic fins dusky and golden yellow.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING THE AREA:

Siganus luridus: caudal fin truncate and longest anal spine the 3rd or 4th (last anal spine the longest in S. vermiculatus).

S. spinus: a prominent pale bar present at base of caudal fin; longest anal spine the 3rd or 4th; body more slender, 2.3 to 2.8 times in standard length (1.9 to 2.2 in S. vermiculatus).

Other Siganus species: sides not covered with vermiculating lines.



S. luridus

SIZE:

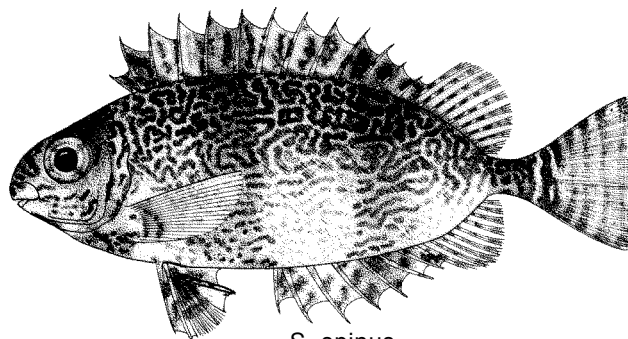
Maximum: 45 cm; common to 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, found along the southwest coast of India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, from the coasts of India through the Indo-Malayan Archipelago to the Philippines and Belau islands, northern Australia and the Fiji islands.

Occurs in small schools in and about river mouths and brackish lagoons; said to enter freshwater.

Herbivorous.



S. spinus

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

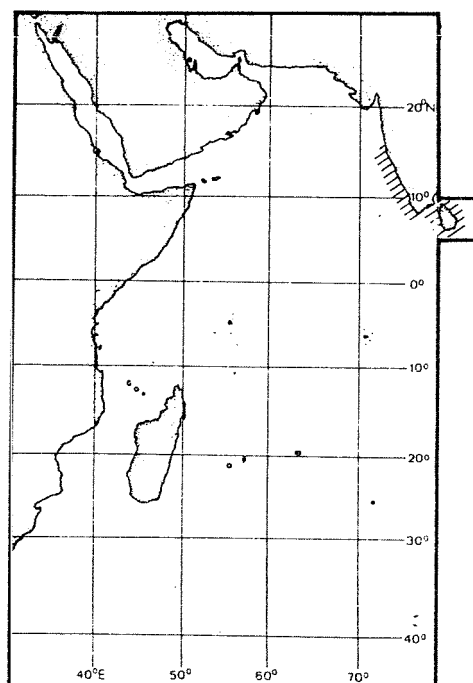
Estuarine and mangrove areas.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

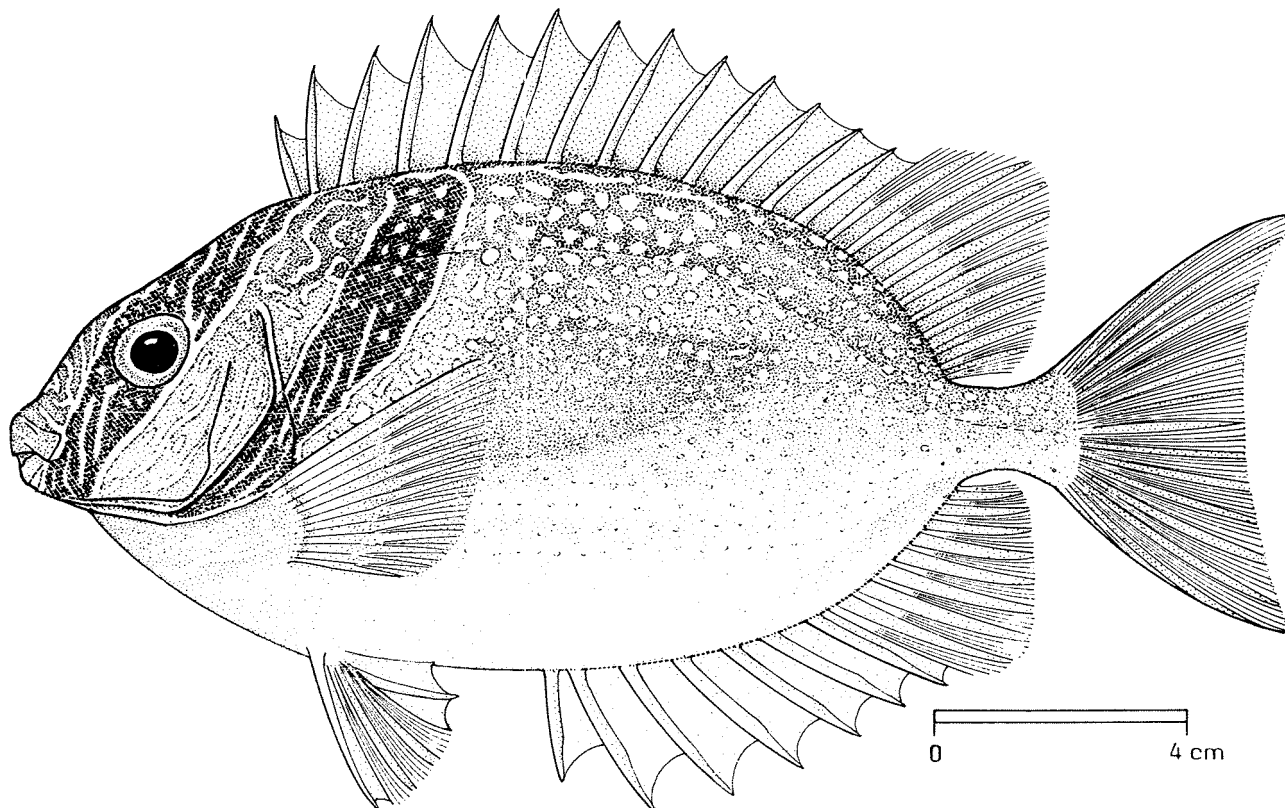
Caught mainly with nets and fixed traps.

Marketed mostly fresh; commands very high prices.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SIGANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Siganus virgatus* (Valenciennes, 1835)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Teuthis virgata* (Valenciennes, 1835)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Double-barred spinefoot
 Fr - Sigan à deux bandes
 Sp - Sigano de dos bandas

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body deep and compressed, its depth contained 1.8 to 2.2 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head convex; anterior nostril with a high flange, a little higher and pointed posteriorly. A forward-directed spine present in front of dorsal fin, imbedded in nape; longest dorsal spine the 5th to 7th, 1.2 to 1.4 times the length of last dorsal spine; longest anal spine, typically the 3rd or 4th, only a little longer than the last anal spine which is infrequently the same length; soft parts of dorsal and anal fins moderately high, longest dorsal ray 1 to 1.2 times the longest dorsal spine; caudal fin emarginate. Scales minute; cheek scalation variable, ranging from a few scattered scales to almost fully scaled, but scales usually confined to posterior part of cheek; 19 to 27 scale rows between lateral line and bases of leading dorsal spines.

Colour: a seal brown bar running from nape through eye to chin ("ocular") another from base of 4th to 6th dorsal spines to base of pectoral fin ("shoulder"). Shoulder bar and posterior margin of ocular bar outlined with blue lines, which are persistent after death even though brown fades. Shoulder bar contains small blue spots sometimes elongated into short lines, residual area orange-brown; ocular bar below eye containing blue spots. Area between two bars lemon yellow, with meandering blue lines breaking up into blue spots on cheek. Snout orange; about 10 blue lines running transversely across nape and snout; upper lip yellow, with 2 or 3 transverse blue lines. A pale lemon yellow bar immediately behind shoulder bar, and narrower than it. Lemon yellow areas between bars and posterior to shoulder bar flashing silvery in life. Sides of trunk lemon yellow above to silvery below with rosy flush on midsides. Posterior to shoulder bar, sides variously marked with small blue ocelli and short blue lines, sometimes covering most of upper sides, sometimes confined to small area just behind shoulder bar; 4 ephemeral yellow lines from base of pectoral fin across thorax. Dorsal spines orange, some with a blue streak, in a dusky orange membrane; soft part of dorsal fin and caudal fin yellow; spinous part of anal fin dusky and silver; anal rays orange, membrane bluish; pelvic fins silvery; pectoral fins hyaline.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

No other Siganus species in the area possesses both ocular and shoulder bars.

SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, found only in southern India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, in the Indo-Malayan Archipelago, Ryukyu Islands, Irian Jaya and northwest Australia.

Lives in pairs about coral reefs.

Feeds on bottom algae.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow coastal waters.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught by spearing, with setnets and traps.

Marketed fresh.

