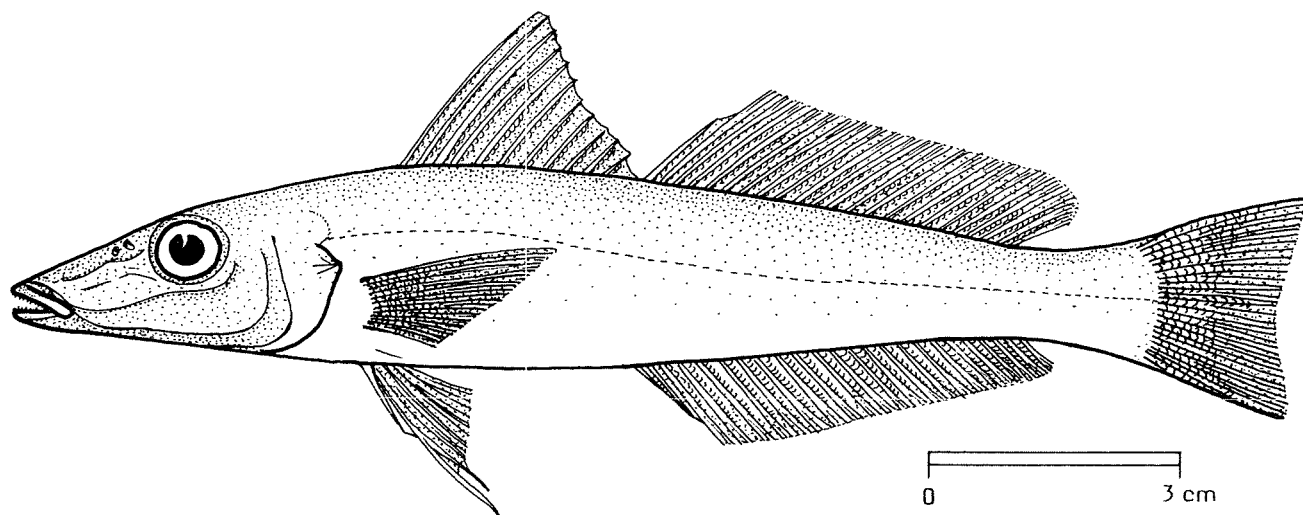


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SILLAGINIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Sillago sihama (Forsskål, 1775)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Silver siliago  
                   Fr - Pêche-madame argenté  
                   Sp - Silago plateado

NATIONAL:

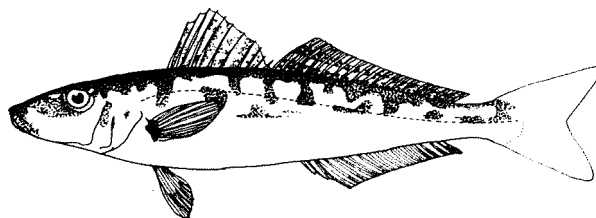
## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate. Snout pointed; upper head profile slightly convex; mouth small, terminal; villiform teeth present in jaws and on vomer (roof of mouth); 2 or 3 (usually 2), series of scales on cheeks; a small, sharp spine on opercle; gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 7 to 9. First dorsal fin higher than second and with 11 weak spines; second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 20 to 23 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 21 to 24 soft rays. Lateral line with 66 to 73 scales; 5 to 6 scale rows above lateral line. Swimbladder with 2 postcoelomic extensions.

Colour: back light brown, lower ventral flanks and belly whitish or silvery, without dark blotches. Both dorsal fins and caudal fin dusky, other fins pale.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

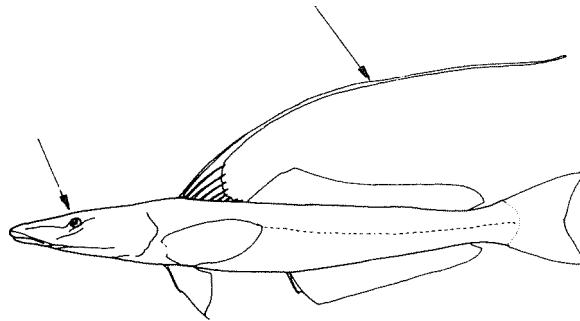
Sillago maculata: conspicuous dark blotches on back and flanks, and darker markings on dorsal and caudal fins.

Sillago maculata

Sillago (Sillaginopodys) chondropus: pelvic fin spines minute, first soft ray thickened to form a club-like structure.

Sillago vincenti: swimbladder with a single postcoelomic extension; 5 to 7 rows of dark spots on second dorsal fin.

Sillaginopsis panijus: head greatly flattened, eyes small, covered with adipose tissue; second dorsal fin spine filamentous.



Sillaginopsis panijus

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 25 cm; common to 15 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Throughout most of the area. Elsewhere, in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific, southward to the northern coasts of Australia.

Inhabits shallow sandy bottoms of shores and bays, also estuaries.

Feeds on small invertebrates.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

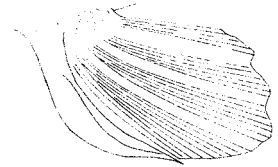
Shallow waters throughout its range.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

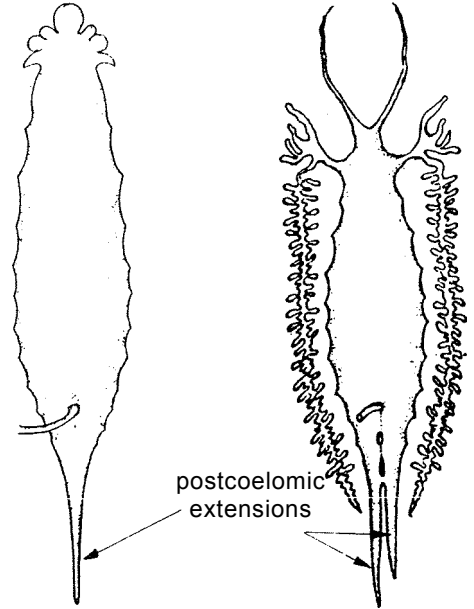
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with beach seines and handlines.

A very good food fish, marketed fresh, frozen and dried salted.



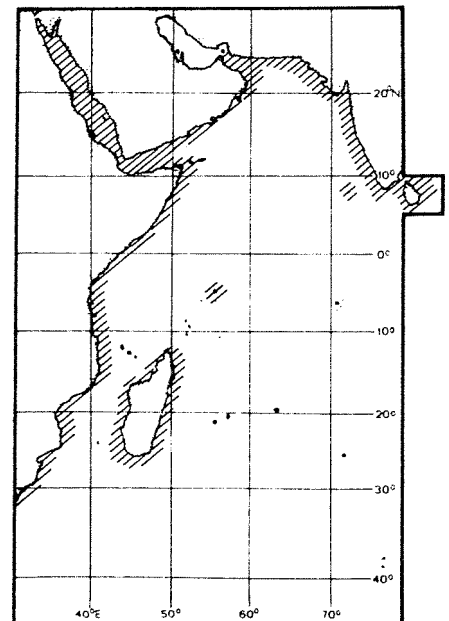
pelvic fin  
S. chondropus



S. vincenti

S. sihama

swimbladder



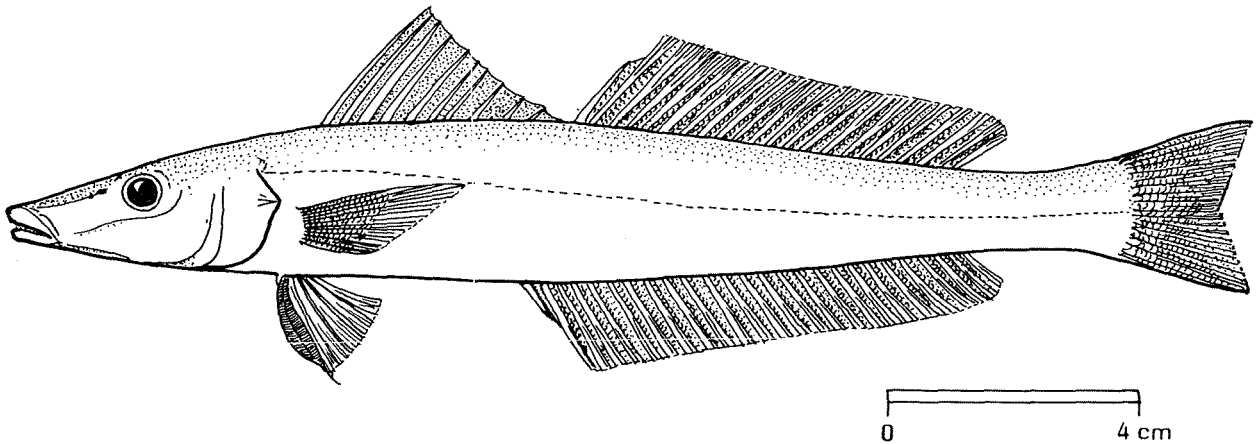
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SILLAGINIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

|  |
|--|
| <i>Sillago (Sillaginopodys) chondropus</i> Bleeker, 1849 |
|--|

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

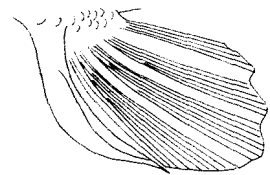
FAO :           En - Clubfoot sillago  
                  Fr - Pêche-madame diablotin  
                  Sp - Silago pateta

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate. Snout pointed; upper head profile slightly convex; mouth small, terminal; villiform teeth present in jaws and on vomer (roof of mouth); 3 or 4 series of scales on cheeks; a small, sharp spine on opercle. First dorsal fin higher than second and with 11 or 12 weak spines; second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 20 to 22 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 22 or 23 soft rays; pelvic fin with spine minute and first ray greatly thickened to form a club-like structure. Lateral line with 66 to 73 scales; 6 scale rows above lateral line. Swimbladder flattened, not penetrating into tail musculature.

Colour: back pale brown, lower ventral flanks and belly paler; a dull silver-grey midlateral band; fins pale, the first dorsal fin with dusky tip.



pelvic fin  
S. chondropus

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Other species of Sillaginidae: pelvic fins normal, without a thickened first ray.

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 36 cm; common to 20 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

From the East Africa coast to India. Also present in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Central Pacific northward to the Philippines, but not extending to southern New Guinea or Australia.

Inhabits shallow sandy bottoms of shores and bays, also estuaries.

Feeds on small invertebrates.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

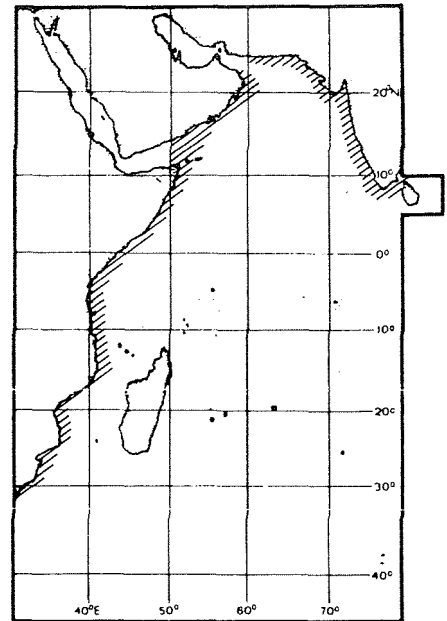
Shallow waters throughout its range.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with beach seines, handlines and castnets.

A good food fish, marketed fresh.

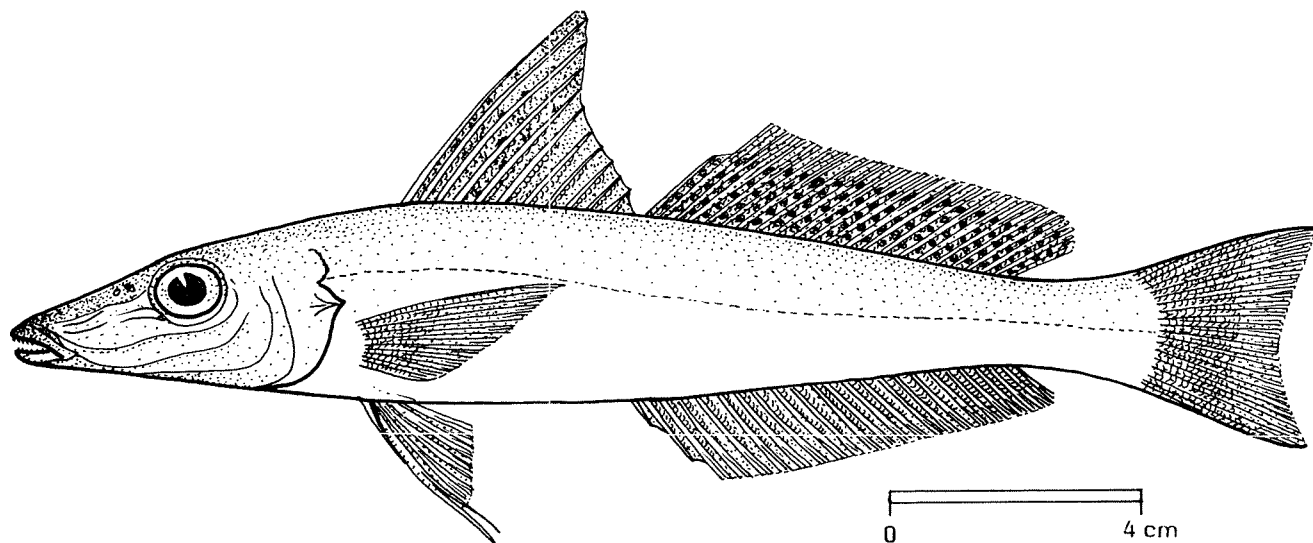


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SILLAGINIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)*Sillago vincenti* McKay, 1980

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Vincent's sillago  
                   Fr - Pêche-madame truité  
                   Sp - Silago de Vincent

NATIONAL:

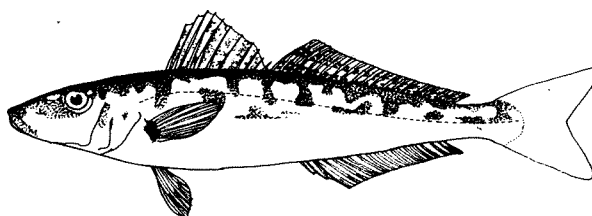
## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate. Snout pointed; upper head profile slightly convex; mouth small, terminal; villiform teeth present in jaws and on vomer (roof of mouth); 2 series of scales on cheeks; a small, sharp spine on opercle. First dorsal fin higher than second and with 10 to 12 weak spines; second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 21 to 23 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 22 to 24 soft rays. Lateral line with 70 to 74 scales; 5 or 6 scale rows above lateral line. Swimbladder with a single postcoelomic extension.

Colour: back light brown, lower ventral flanks and belly white, without dark blotches. First dorsal fin pale with a dark tip and scattered dark irregular blotches, second dorsal fin pale with 5 to 7 rows of blackish spots; other fins pale, yellowish or white, the caudal sometimes with the lower lobe dark.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

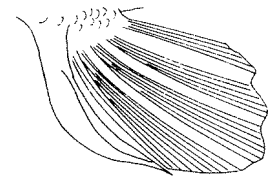
Sillago maculata: conspicuous dark blotches on back and flanks; a darker spot at base of pectoral fin.

*Sillago maculata*

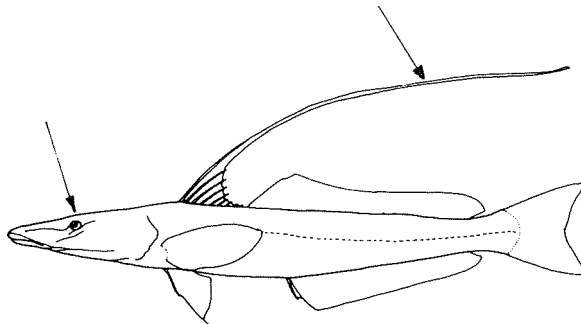
Sillago sihama: second dorsal fin usually without dark spots; posterior end of the swimbladder, where it projects into the tail below the vertebral column, bifurcate.

Sillago (Sillaginopodys) chondropus: pelvic fin spines minute, first soft ray thickened to form a club-like structure.

Sillaginopsis panijus: head greatly flattened, eyes small, covered with adipose tissue; second dorsal fin spine filamentous.



pelvic fin  
S. chondropus



Sillaginopsis panijus

**SIZE:**

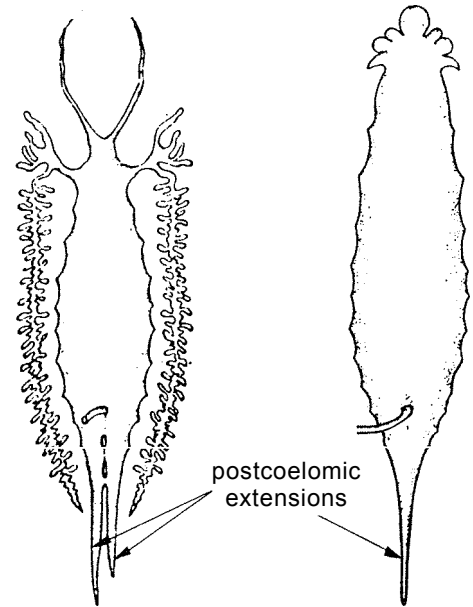
Maximum: 31 cm; common to 20 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Known only from southwest India but possibly of wider distribution.

Inhabits shallow bottoms of estuaries.

Feeds on polychaete worms.



S. sihama

S. vincenti

swimbladder

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

Estuarine waters of southwest India.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with beach seines and castnets.

A very good food fish of excellent flavour, marketed fresh.

