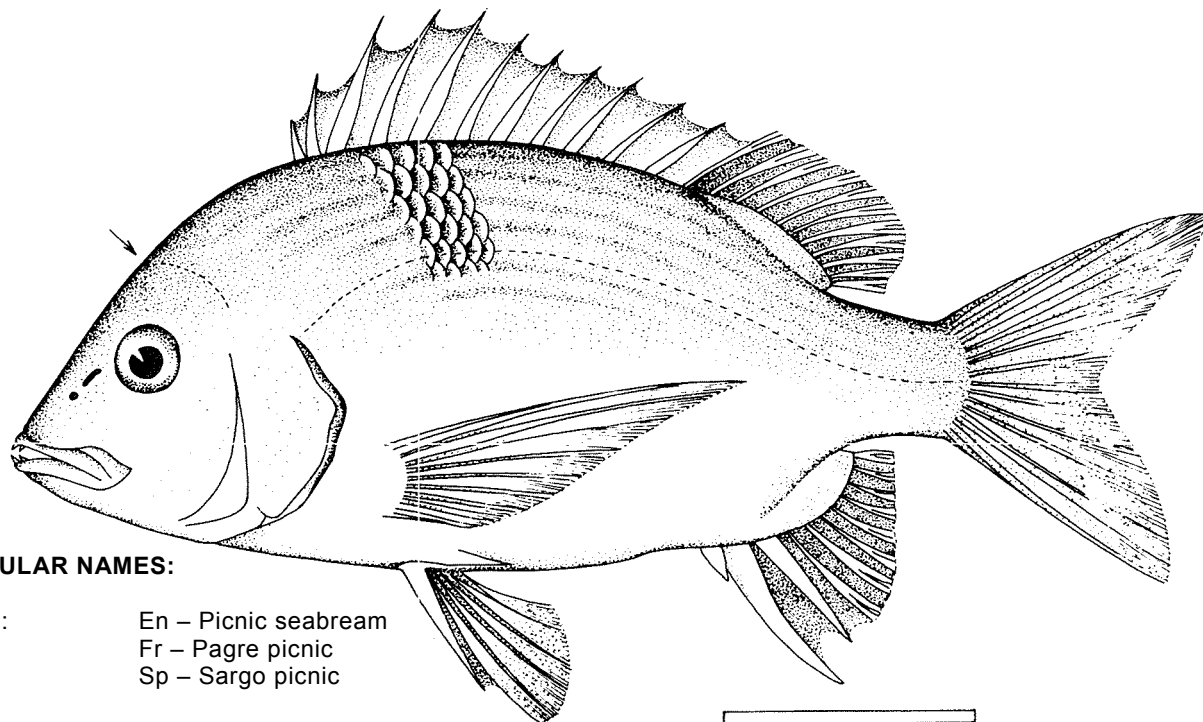


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

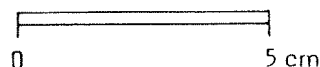
FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)(= SPARID Myl 1)
Areas 57,71*Acanthopagrus berda* (Forsskål, 1775)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Myllo berda* (Forsskål, 1775)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En – Picnic seabream
Fr – Pagre picnic
Sp – Sargo picnic

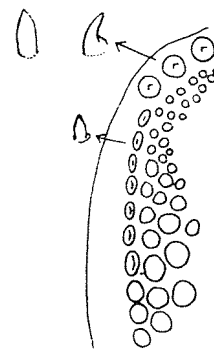
NATIONAL:



DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body fairly deep, compressed, its depth about twice in standard length. Head 3 or 4 times in standard length, its upper profile straight (sometimes a bulge above eye); snout pointed; eye moderate in size; ventral profile almost straight to anus; in both jaws, 4 to 6 large, more or less compressed teeth in front, followed by 3 to 5 rows of molar-like teeth; upper lateral teeth of outer row conical and blunt; gillrakers 9 to 11 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 11 (rarely 12) spines and 10 to 13 (usually 11 or 12) soft rays, 4th to 6th spines longest (spines appear alternately broad and narrow on either side); anal fin with 3 spines and 8 or 9 soft rays, 1st spine shorter than eye diameter, 2nd spine flattened laterally, longer and stronger than the 3rd; pelvic fins with a strong spine; caudal fin slightly forked, with rounded lobes. Scales large, 43 to 45 in lateral line (to base of caudal fin); 4 to 4.5 scale rows between lateral line and 4th dorsal spine; a scaly sheath at base of dorsal and anal fins; a long pelvic axillary process.

Colour: grey, dark silver/grey or dull olive/brown with silvery or brassy reflections; upper part of body and base of scales darkest, lower part of head and body paler, a dark edge along opercle. Spinous dorsal fin with a dark edge and spines often silvery; pectoral fins dusky with a yellow tinge, soft dorsal, anal and pelvic fins blackish; caudal fin grey with darker shading.

right half of upper jaw
from below

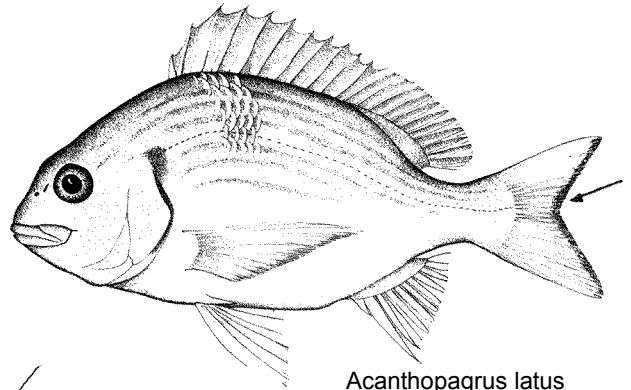
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Acanthopagrus latus: caudal fin bright yellow with a black margin; anal and pelvic fins whitish, tinged with yellow.

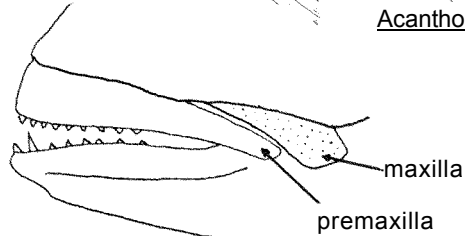
Rhabdosargus sarba: a yellow flare upward and backward from pelvic fin; 6 or 7 scales between lateral line and 4th dorsal spine, dorsal spines not appearing alternately broad and narrow on each side; 2nd anal spine about equal to 3rd (stronger and longer than third in A. berda).

Gymnocranius griseus (Lethrinidae, but under Pentapodidae in areas 57/71): dorsal fin with 10 spines and 10 soft rays; tip of premaxilla not overlapping maxilla; vertical bars on body and head, particularly in juveniles.

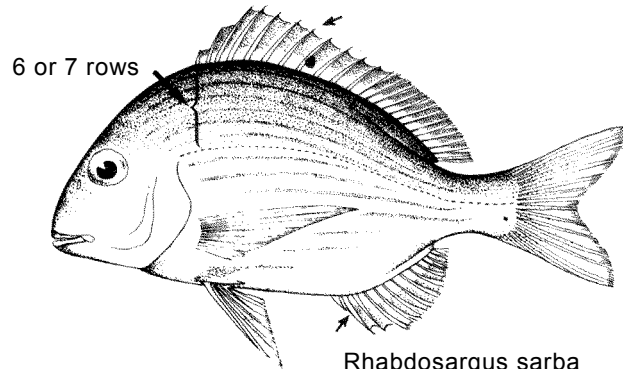
Pomadasys guoraca (Pomadasyidae): margin of preopercle serrated; scales between eye and mouth, snout blunt, lower profile of head straight, horizontal; 2 to 6 pores and a pit behind lower lip.



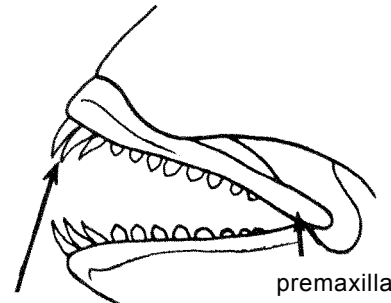
Acanthopagrus latus



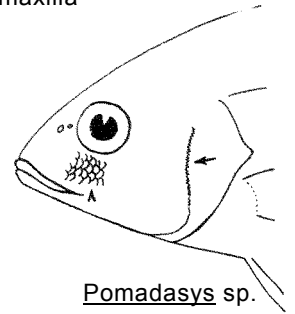
Gymnocranius



Rhabdosargus sarba



Sparidae



Pomadasys sp.

SIZE:

Maximum: 75 cm; common to 30

sometimes incisor-like teeth

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Whole area from South Africa to India, extending to Western Pacific, Japan and Northern Australia. Not yet recorded in Mauritius and Réunion.

A bottom-living fish, very shy, cunning, found mainly on rough and muddy sand grounds in coastal waters, particularly in estuaries, from shallow water to depths of about 50 m. Juveniles usually occur in more sheltered shallow bays and estuaries.

Feeds on a wide variety of bottom invertebrates (worms, molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms, etc.).

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

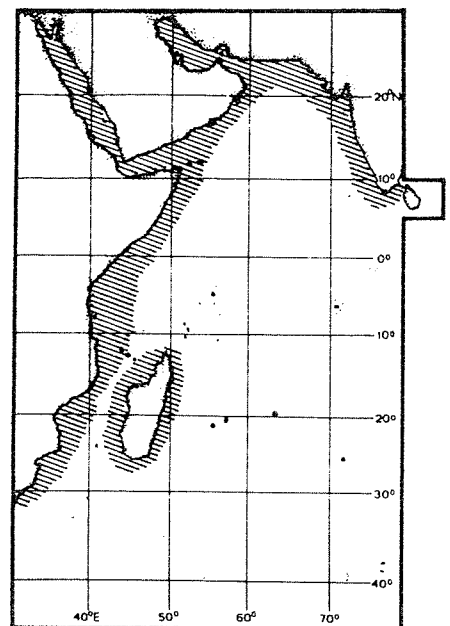
Not intensively fished, but locally exploited by artisanal fisheries along the Arabian and Indian coasts.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls and handlines.

Marketed fresh, the flesh is excellent.



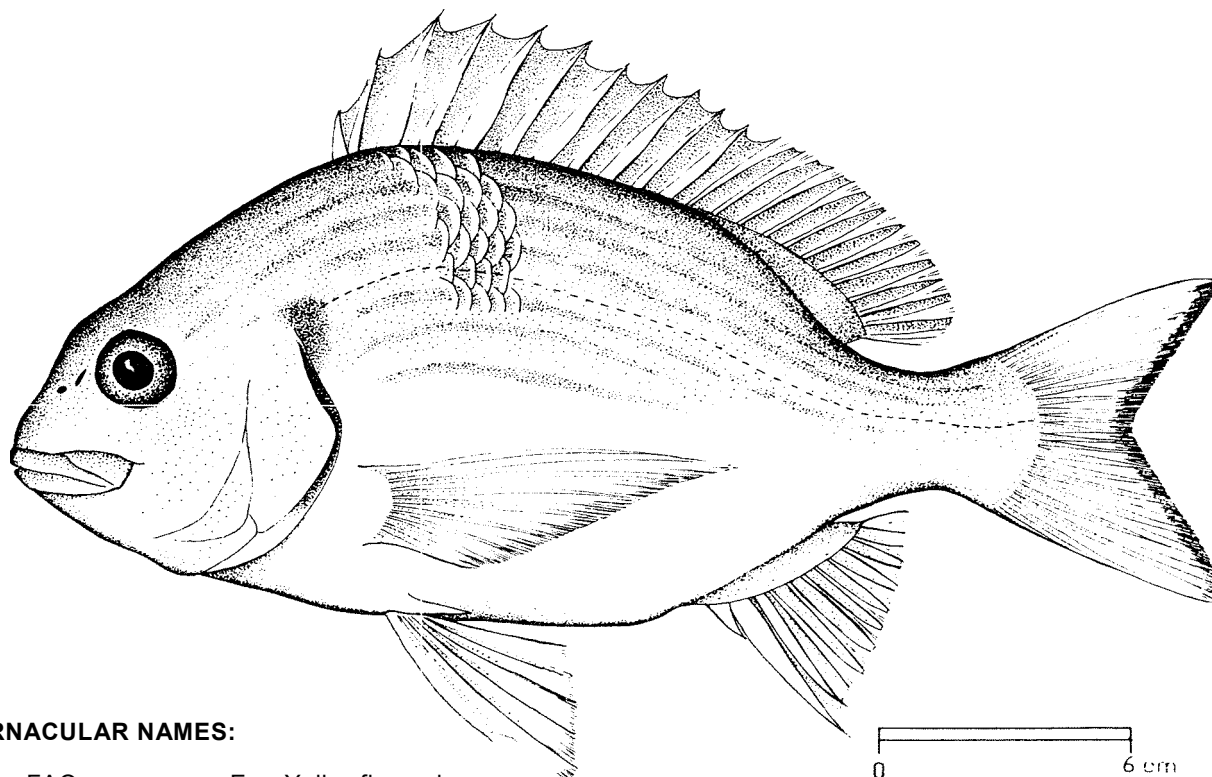
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)
 (= SPARID Myl 2)
 Areas 57 71

Acanthopagrus latus (Houttuyn, 1782)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Sparus latus Houttuyn, 1782
Mylio latus (Houttuyn, 1782)

**VERNACULAR NAMES:**

FAO : En - Yellowfin seabream
 Fr - Pagre à nageoires jaunes
 Sp - Sargo aleta amarilla

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body fairly deep, compressed, its depth about twice in standard length. Head 3 times in standard length, its upper profile notably convex and angular due to a prominent bulge at eye; eye moderate in size; in both jaws, 4 to 6 large, more or less compressed teeth in front, followed by 3 to 5 rows of molar-like teeth; upper lateral teeth of outer row conical and blunt. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 11 or 12 soft rays, 4th to 6th spines longest (spines appear alternately broad and narrow on either side); anal fin with 3 spines and 8 or 9 soft rays, the 1st spine shorter than eye diameter, 2nd spine flattened laterally, longer and stronger than 3rd, pelvic fins with a strong spine; caudal fin slightly forked, with tips sharp. Scales large, about 48 to 50 in lateral line (to base of caudal fin); 4 to 4.5 rows between lateral line and 4th dorsal spine; a scaly sheath at base of dorsal and anal fins; a long axillary pelvic process.

Colour: pale grey to whitish, darker above, belly usually yellowish; golden streaks along longitudinal rows of scales; a diffuse dark blotch at origin of lateral line; a dark interorbital band and a dark edge along opercle. Dorsal fin greyish to hyaline, pelvic and anal fins whitish, tinged with yellow; caudal bright yellow with a black margin.

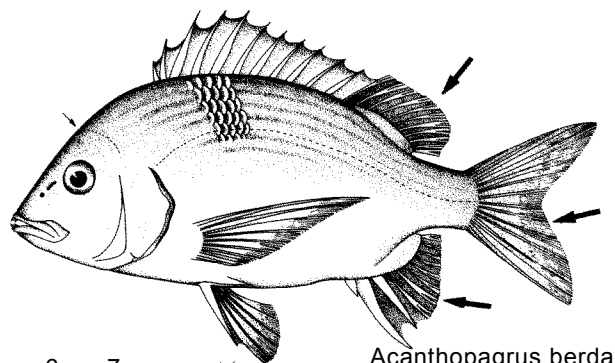
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Acanthopagrus berda: caudal fin grey dusky (bright yellow with a black margin in A. latus); soft dorsal, anal and pelvic fins blackish.

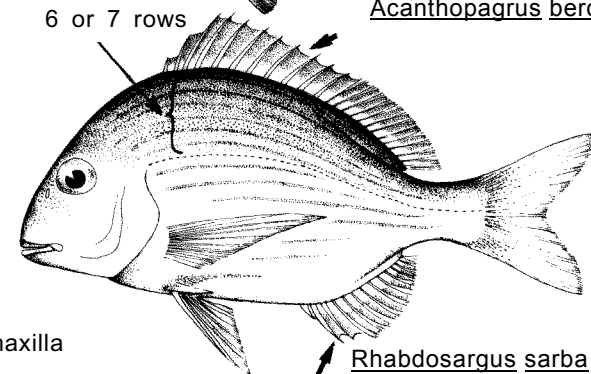
Rhabdosargus sarba: a bright yellow band upward and backward from pelvic fin; 6 or 7 scales between lateral line and 4th dorsal spine; dorsal spines not appearing alternately broad and narrow on each side; 2nd anal spine about equal to 3rd (longer and stronger than third in A. latus).

Sparidentex hasta: body more elongate, depth about 2.6 to 3 times in standard length (about 2 times in A. latus); no molars.

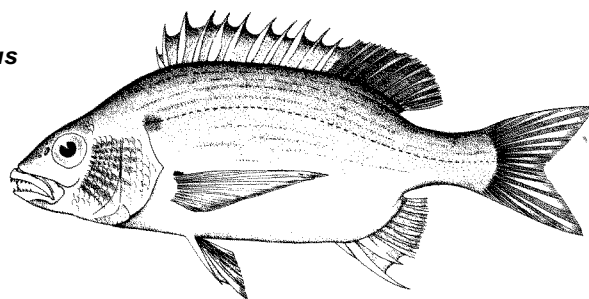
Gymnocranius griseus: dorsal fin with 10 spines; tip of premaxilla not overlapping maxilla; vertical bands on body and head, particularly in juveniles.



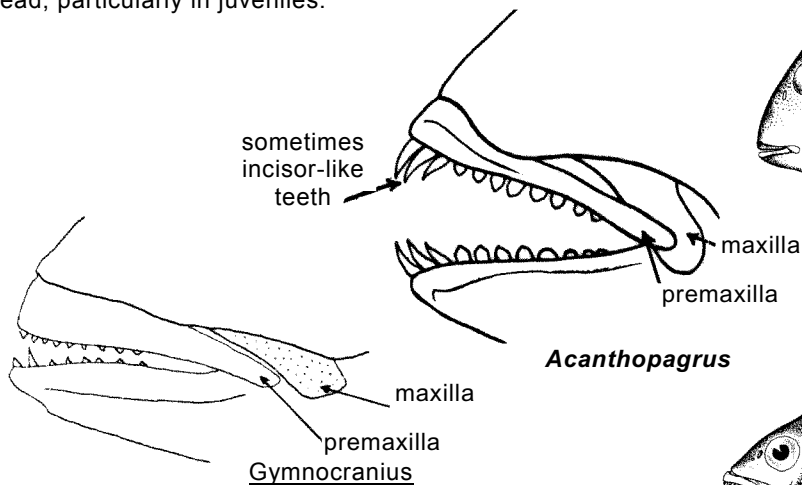
Acanthopagrus berda



Rhabdosargus sarba



Sparidentex hasta



Acanthopagrus

Gymnocranius

SIZE:

Maximum: 45 cm; common to 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area found in the "Gulf" and along the coasts of India; eastward extending to the Philippines, Japan and Northern Australia.

Inhabits shallow coastal waters to about 50 m depth; enters estuaries.

Carnivorous, feeds on invertebrates, mainly echinoderms, worms, crustaceans and molluscs.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

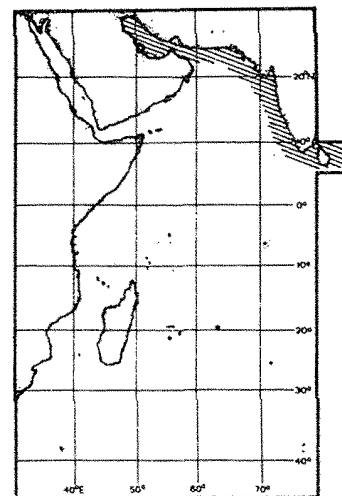
Coastal waters throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

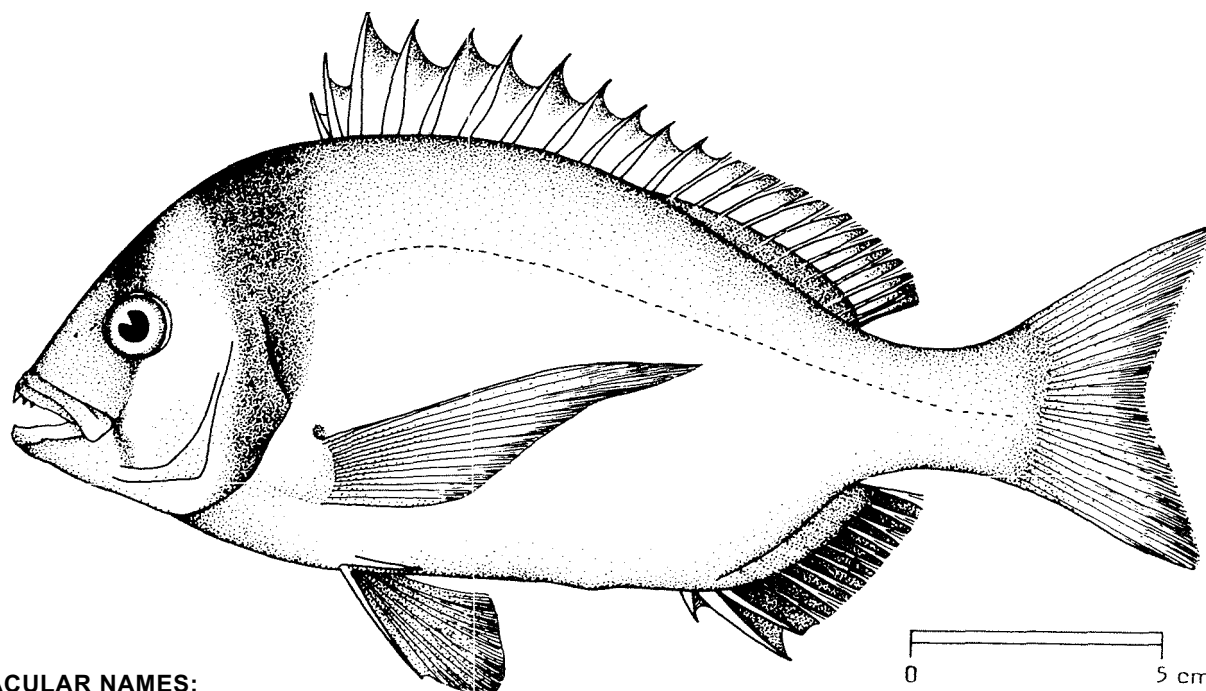
Caught with bottom trawls and lines. Mainly exploited by artisanal fisheries.

Marketed fresh, whole.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Acanthopagrus bifasciatus (Forsskål, 1775)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : Sparus bifasciatus Forsskål, 1775
Mylio bifasciatus (Forsskål, 1775)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Twobar seabream
Fr - Pagre double bande
Sp - Sargo de dos bandas

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body fairly deep, compressed. Upper profile of head nearly straight in young adults, abruptly bent at eye level in juveniles, and developing a bulge over eye with age; eye moderate in size; mouth slightly oblique, the maxilla reaching to below pupil of eye; in front of each jaw, 4 to 6 larger, more or less compressed teeth, followed behind and within by 4 to 6 rows of molars; upper lateral teeth of outer row conical and blunt. Gillrakers 11 or 12 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin single, with 11 spines and 12 to 15 soft rays (spines appear alternately broad and narrow on either side); anal fin with 3 spines and 10 to 12 soft rays, 1st spine short, 2nd the strongest and slightly longer than third; caudal fin forked. Scales large, less than 50 in lateral line; a scaly sheath at base of dorsal and anal fins, a long pelvic axillary process.

Colour: body yellowish above, silvery below, head silvery; 2 vertical black bars across head, the first ending below angle of jaw, the second larger from nape across opercle to its inferior edge; dorsal fin yellow with a narrow black edge, pectoral and caudal fins bright yellow, pelvic and anal fins black.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

The coloration described above (two black bars across head) easily separates A. bifasciatus from all other species of this or any other genus in the area.

SIZE :

Maximum: 50 cm; common between 20 and 35 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Found in shallow coastal waters throughout the area, including Madagascar, Aldabra, Rodrigues and Mauritius islands (not yet recorded from Seychelles); eastward extending into Indo-Malayan waters. Enters estuaries and bays, mainly around coral reefs.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

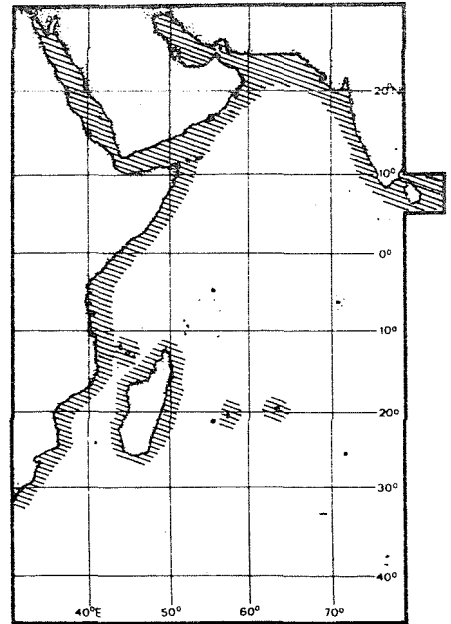
Throughout its range, mainly around coral reefs.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

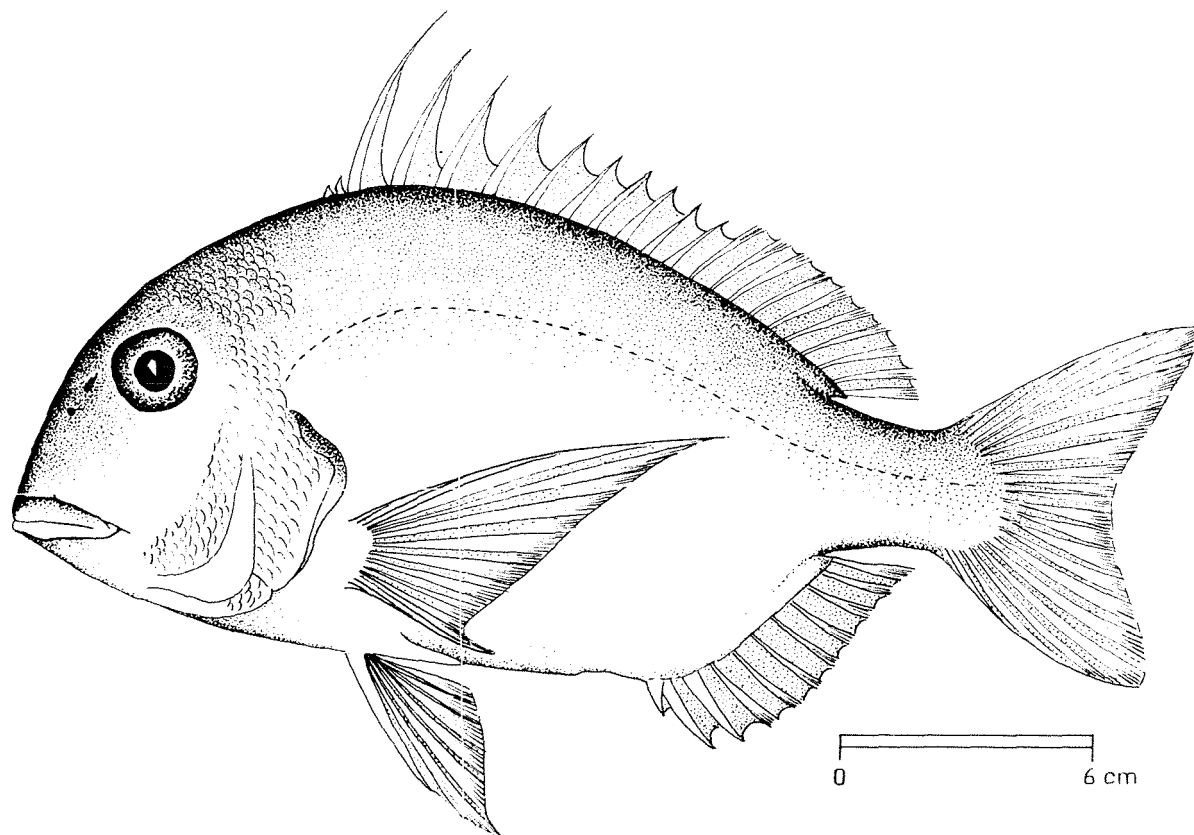
Caught mainly with longlines, handlines, stakenets and traps. Not intensively fished.

Marketed fresh or dried.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Argyrops spinifer* (Forsskål, 1775)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : *Sparus spinifer* Forsskål, 1775

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - King soldierbream (Longspine seabream, areas 57,71)
Fr - Spare royal
Sp - Sargo real

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body deep, strongly compressed. Upper profile of head steep and almost straight from upper jaw to eye; eye rather large; at front of jaws, 4 upper enlarged canines and 4 to 6 lower, followed in both jaws by 2 rows of molars, those of outer row bluntly conical anteriorly; small molars behind canines; gillrakers 10 or 11 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 11 or 12 spines and 10 or 11 soft rays, the first 2 spines very short, 3rd to 5th spines (sometimes to 7th) flattened and much elongated (in young reaching to level of caudal fin, shorter in old fish); anal fin with 3 spines (2nd and 3rd subequal and 8 or 9 soft rays; caudal fin deeply emarginate to forked with pointed lobes. Scales large, 50 to 54 in lateral line, scaled area between eyes narrow, ending in a point; soft dorsal and anal fins with low basal scaly sheaths.

Colour: body mainly silvery pinkish, darker on head; usually dark red on margin of upper part of opercle; all fins red. Young fish with several vertical red bars on body.

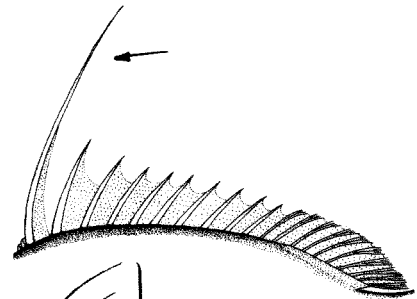
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Argyrops filamentosus: only 3rd and sometimes 4th dorsal spine elongate 3rd to 5th, even 7th in A. spinifer; scale area between eyes broad U-shaped at end.

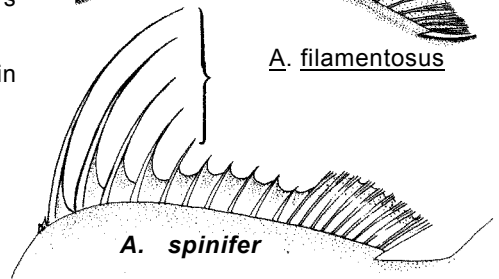
Chrysoblephus lophus: red and yellow lines across corrugated, pitted bony interorbital space; scales on preopercle flange and suborbital space (none in Argyrops).

Cheimerius nufar: profile of head not as steep and curving gently up to nape; no molar teeth; juveniles with 6 darker pink bars across head and body.

Other species of Sparidae: no elongate or filamentous spine in dorsal fin greater than head length.

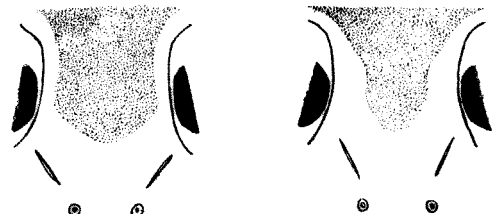


A. filamentosus



A. spinifer

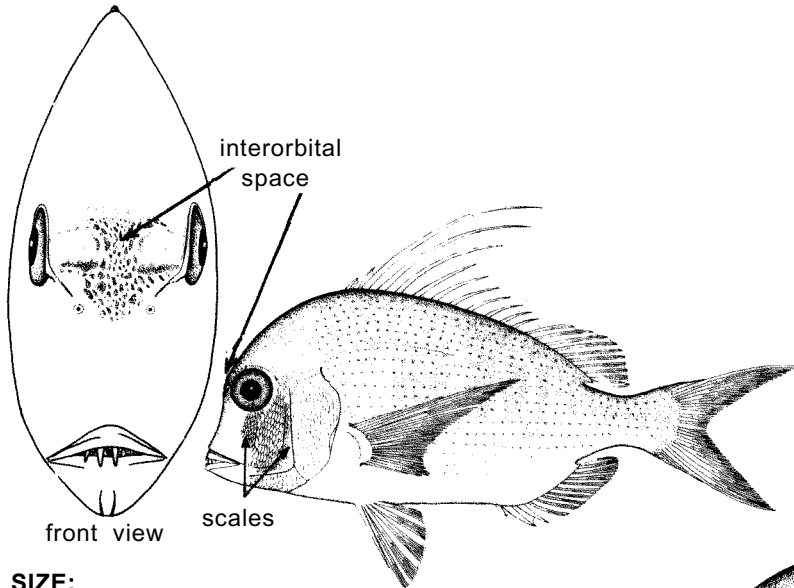
dorsal fin (subadults)



A. filamentosus

A. spinifer

scaled interorbital area



interorbital space

front view

scales

SIZE:

Maximum: 65 cm; common to 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Present throughout the area; eastward extending to the Indo-Malayan archipelago and northern Australia.

This common species inhabits a wide range of bottoms (most common between 5 and 100 m). The young individuals occur in very shallow waters of sheltered bays, the larger ones at greater depths.

Feeds on bottom-living invertebrates, mainly molluscs.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

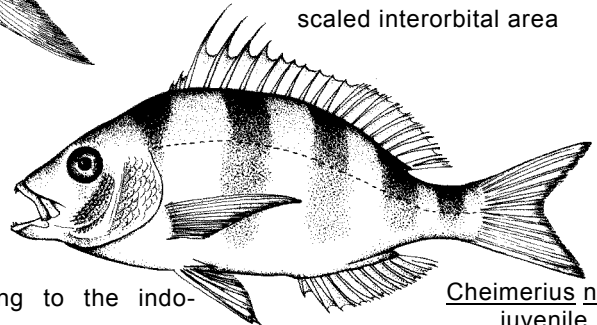
Shallow to moderate depths, throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls, longlines and handlines, also with stake traps and fish traps. Mainly exploited by artisanal fisheries.

Marketed usually fresh.



Cheimerius nufar juvenile

