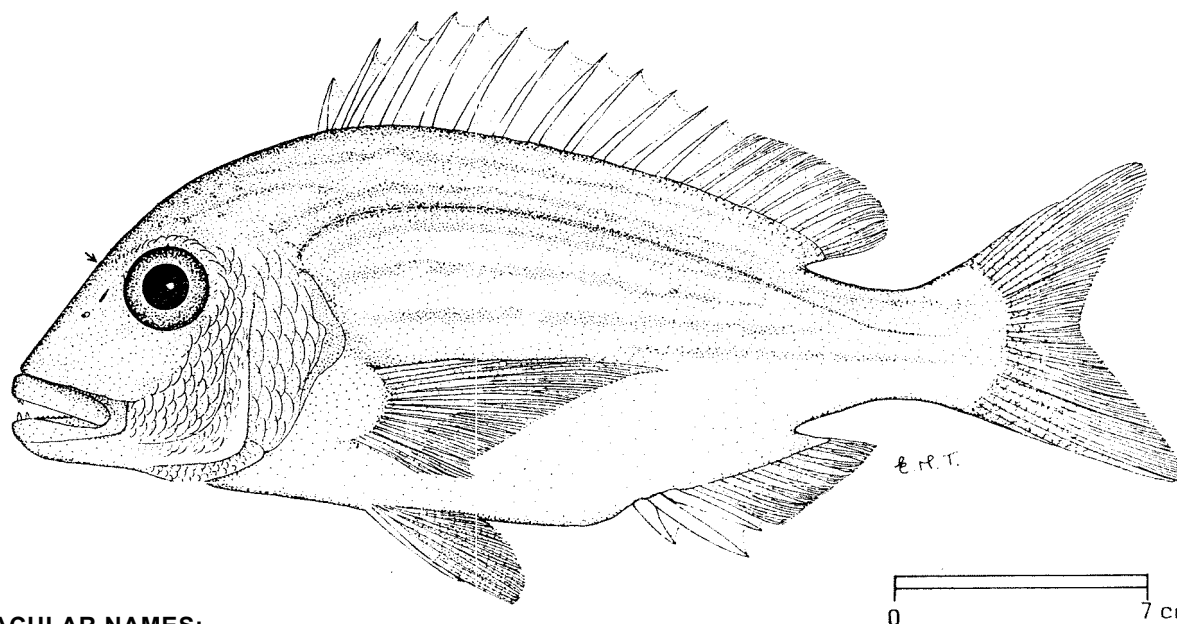


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Polysteganus baissaci* Smith, 1978

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Frenchman seabream
 Fr - Denté guingham
 Sp - Dentón guingan

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately deep, its depth about 2.3 to 2.5 times in standard length and longer than head length. Head profile gently curving from upper lip to dorsal fin origin; eye moderate; maxilla reaching to below anterior part of eye; 4 enlarged canines in each jaw, the inner pair smaller than outer, the latter flaring slightly outward and backward; laterally, subconical teeth forming a cutting edge, and inner bands of smaller granular teeth, those behind enlarged canines slightly bigger; in lower jaw, two of these granular teeth (those nearest behind enlarged canines) are larger than the remainder; gillrakers 11 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 12 stout spines and 10 soft rays; anal fin with 3 stout spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral fins reaching to above anterior anal rays; caudal fin forked. Scales rough, moderate, 48 to 50 in lateral line; scalation on to of head extending forward to level of posterior nostrils; preopercle flange scaly anteriorly, with about 173 of margin naked; soft dorsal and anal fins with a scaly basal sheath.

Colour: rosy pink with a golden sheen, silvery below; 6 to 7 subparallel, narrow, wavy, blue bands along body, extending onto head as blue spots on area above eye; fins reddish, except fin membranes of dorsal and soft anal which are bluish; eye rosy.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

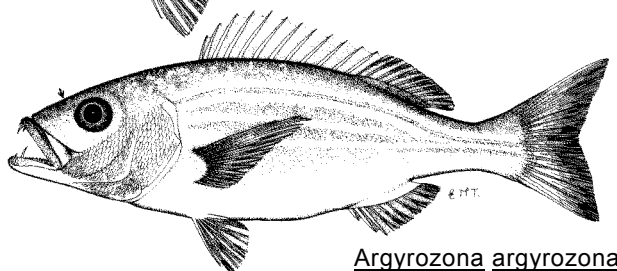
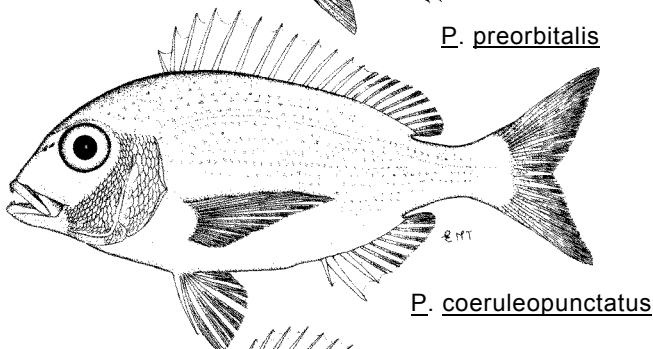
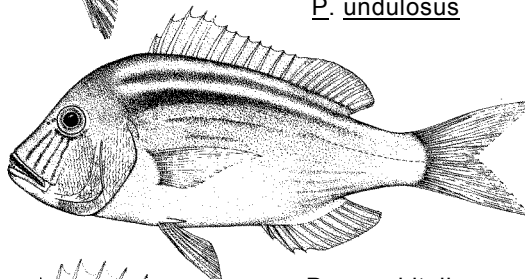
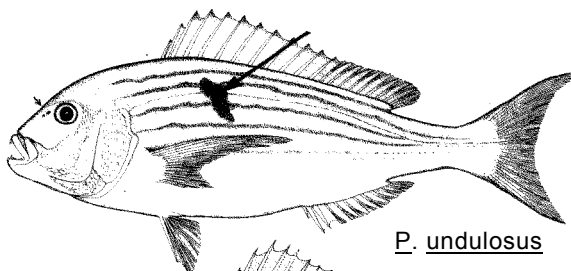
Polysteganus undulosus: a large oval blotch across lateral line below 5th and 6th dorsal spines.

P. preorbitalis: eye smaller than suborbital space.

P. coeruleopunctatus: each scale with a blue dot, resulting in rows of dots along body.

Argyrozona argyrozona: head length equal to body depth, shorter in P. baissaci; fish slender, depth 3 times in standard length (2.3 to 2.5 times in P. baissaci); gillrakers 17 to 20 lower (11 in P. baissaci).

Other species of Sparidae with lines along the body and no blotch: no enlarged canines anteriorly, but granular or molar teeth present.



SIZE :

Maximum: ?; common from 30 to 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

At present known only from off Mauritius and Madagascar at depths between 80 and 100 m. Free swimming around reefs and on sandy bottoms.

Carnivorous.

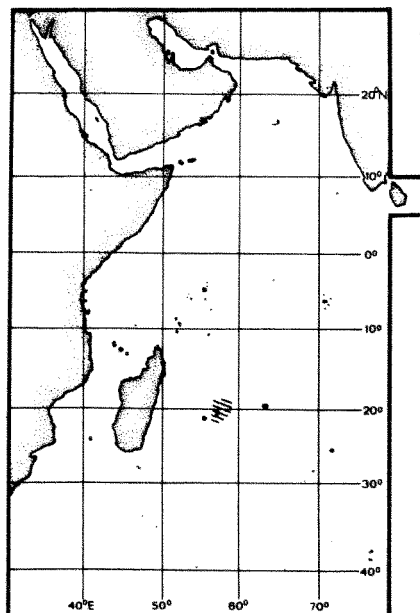
PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Mainly north of the main island of Mauritius.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

A premier eating fish caught on lines.

Marketed fresh.

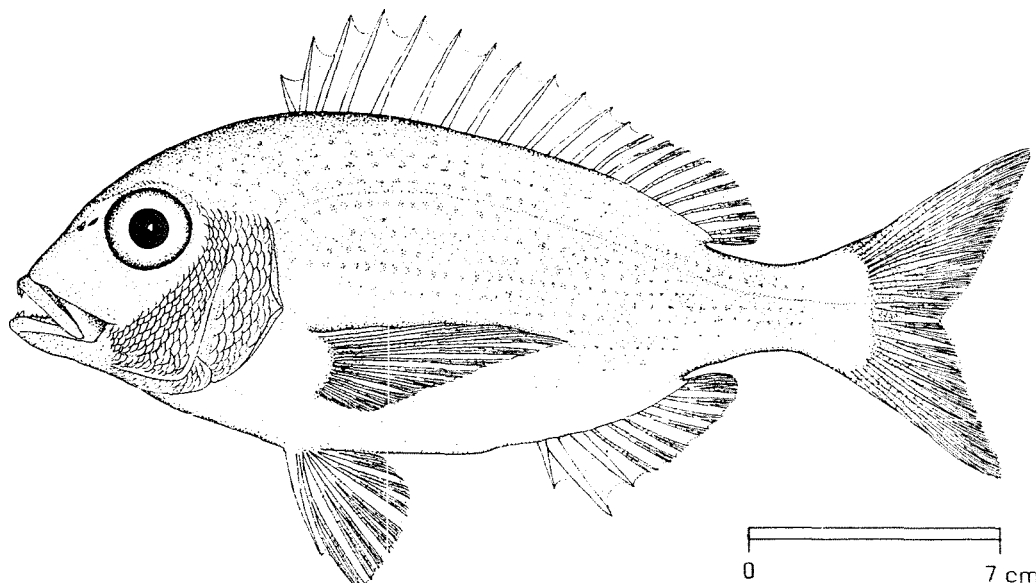


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Polysteganus coeruleopunctatus Klunzinger, 1870

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Blueskir, seabream
 Fr - Denté à points bleus
 Sp - Dentón azul

NATIONAL:

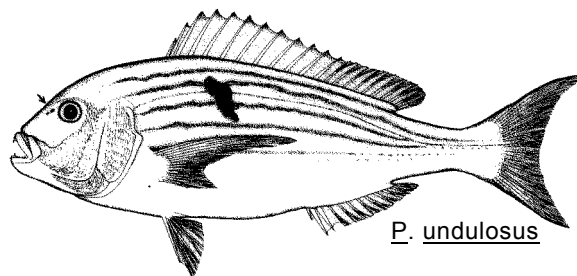
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body rather deep, robust, its depth greater than head length. Head profile convex, with a slight bump in front of eyes in adults; eye large, at least equal to suborbital depth; mouth subterminal, large, the maxilla reaching to anterior eye margin; front canine; not very strong, 4 in upper, 6 in lower jaw, subequal; outer lateral teeth broadly conical, the hindmost obtuse; a few series of small teeth behind the canines, granular laterally; no molars; gillrakers 12 or 13 or, lower limb of the first arch. Dorsal fin single, with 12 spines and 10 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines (2nd stouter than 3rd) and 8 soft rays; pectoral fins long, reaching to beyond anal spines; caudal fin forked. Scales fairly large, 50 to 52 in lateral line; scalation on top of head reaching to beyond level of anterior eye margin; preopercle flange scaly, except at margin; soft dorsal and anal fins with a basal scaly sheath.

Colour: deep rosy pink above, silvery below; a blue spot on each scale on dorsal half of body forming longitudinal lines of blue spots along scale rows; dorsal, anal, caudal and pectoral fins rosy pink, pelvic fins pink basally with distal 2/3 blue; eye deep ruby with silver reflections.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES
OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Polysteganus undulosus: narrow blue lines along every alternate scale row forming 8 or 9 wavy lines along body; a large black blotch over lateral line, below 6th dorsal spine.

P. undulosus

P. baissaci: narrow blue lines along every alternate scale row forming S or 9 wavy lines along body; 4 enlarged canines in lower jaw.

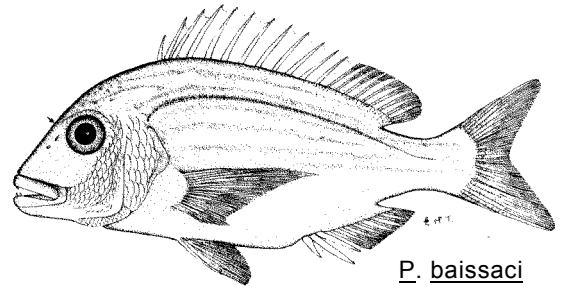
P. preorbitalis: eye small, preorbital depth 1.5 to 2 times the eye diameter (usually less than, or equal to eye diameter in P. coeruleopunctatus).

Argyrozona argyrozona: body elongate, snout pointed; head about equal to body depth (smaller than body depth in P. coeruleopunctatus); lower jaw projecting; pectoral fins much shorter than head (about equal to head in P. coeruleopunctatus).

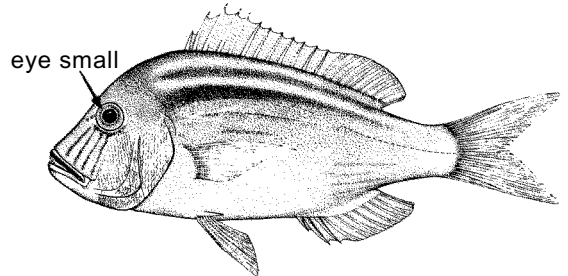
Cheimerius nufar: dorsal spines elongate (normally graduated in P. coeruleopunctatus).

Argyrops species: 2 or more elongate dorsal spines; molar teeth present.

Other species of Sparidae: incisiform and/or molar teeth present.

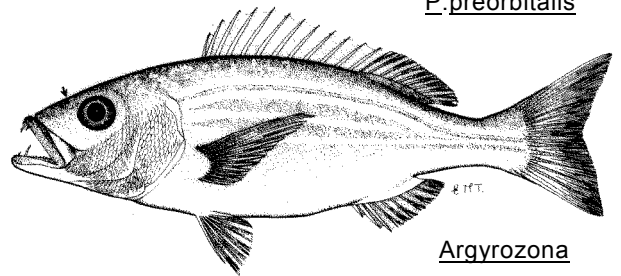


P. baissaci

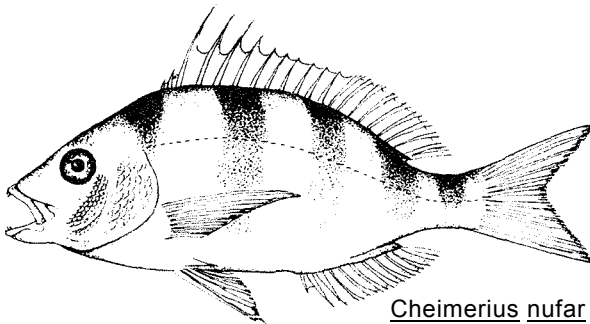


eye small

P. preorbitalis



Argyrozona



Cheimerius nufar

SIZE:

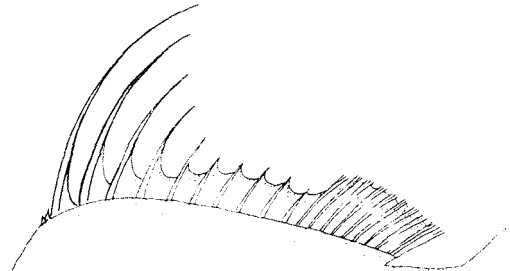
Maximum: 50 cm; common from 25 to 35 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, from South Africa (Natal) to the Red Sea, including Madagascar.

Lives mainly in deep waters around reefs.

Carnivorous predator.



Argyrops spinifer

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Over reefs and in deep waters.

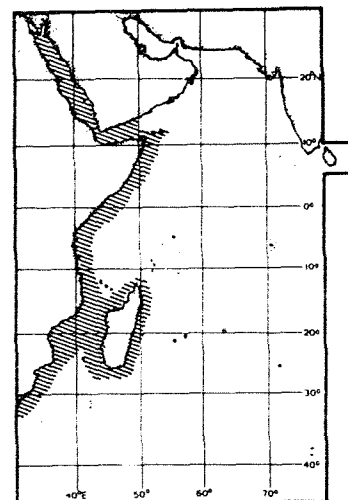
Most abundant in northern South Africa during winter season.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught generally on line gear.

An excellent fish, usually marketed fresh.

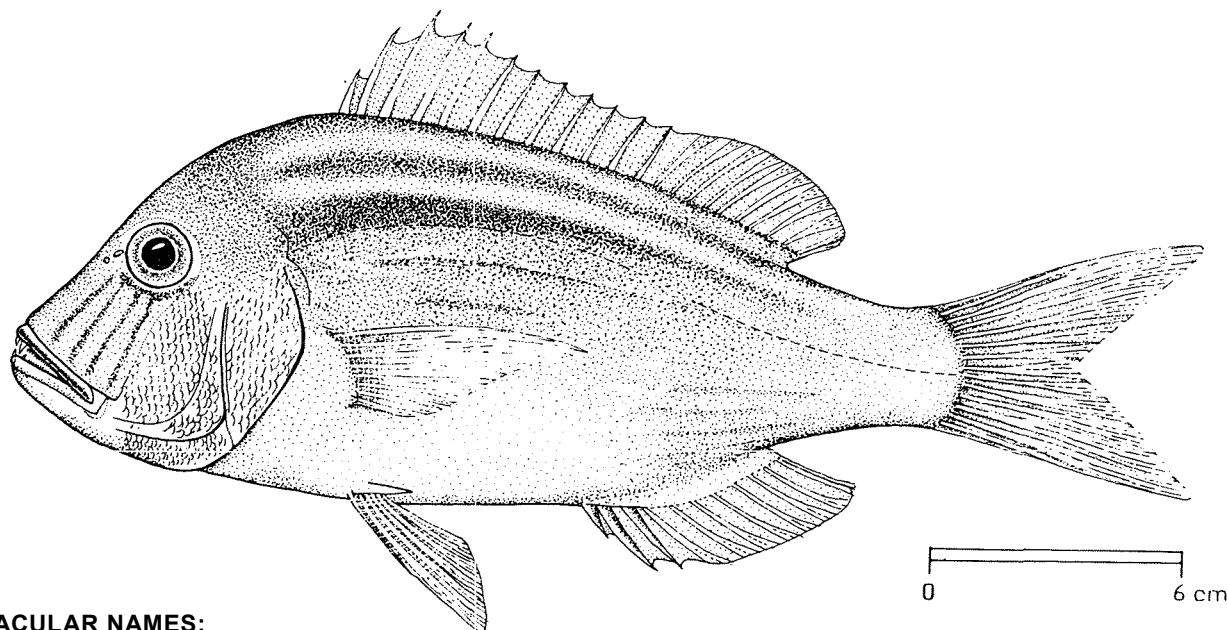


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Polysteganus praeorbitalis* (Günther, 1859)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Scotsman seabream
 Fr - Denté du Natal
 Sp - Dentón de Natal

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately deep, its depth 2.5 to 2.8 times in standard length. Head profile moderately steep up to sharp nape which, in large specimens, bends to become almost straight to dorsal fin origin; eye always smaller than deep suborbital space (which is twice the eye: in large specimens); maxilla not reaching beyond anterior eye margin; preopercle feebly serrate in juveniles; at front of jaws, 4 upper and 6 lower, widely spaced canines, the inner pair smallest; lateral teeth in outer series conical and fairly stout; conical teeth on inner band fine; gillrakers 15 or 16 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 12 or 13 spines and 10 soft rays, base of soft portion half that of spinous portion; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral fins equal to or shorter than head; caudal fin forked. Scales rough, moderately small, 59 to 63 in lateral line, those above lateral line much smaller than those below; scales on opercle very small, scalation on top of head extending to above anterior nostril; preopercle flange scaly except for a narrow margin; dorsal and anal fins with a deep and heavy scaly sheath.

Colour: brilliantly coloured; red generally, with blue lines from eye to mouth; blue lines along lips and suborbital edge; blue (and yellow along lateral line) lines along body; dorsal and anal fins red, with blue and yellow mottlings; caudal fin red.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

The combination of characters described above, particularly the brilliant colouring, small eye, deep suborbital space, enlarged canines anteriorly and absence of molars, easily separates this species from any other sparid within its range.

Lethrinus elongatus (Lethrinidae): similar colouring; but snout long and pointed, no cheek scales, and 10 dorsal spines (10 or 13 in P. praeorbitalis).

SIZE:

Maximum: 50 cm; common from 30 to 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Found only in the southern part of the area, from Durban (Natal, South Africa) to Beira (Mozambique); southward reaching Algoa Bay.

A rock-haunting species.

Carnivorous, generally more abundant during the winter months.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

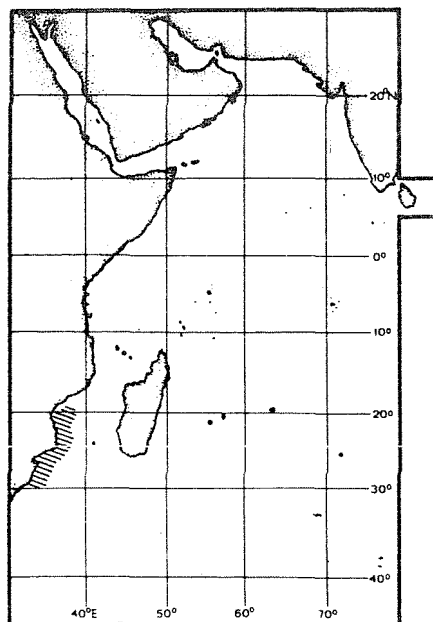
Off Natal, Zululand and Mozambique coast down to 100 m depth.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught on line year.

Marketed fresh.

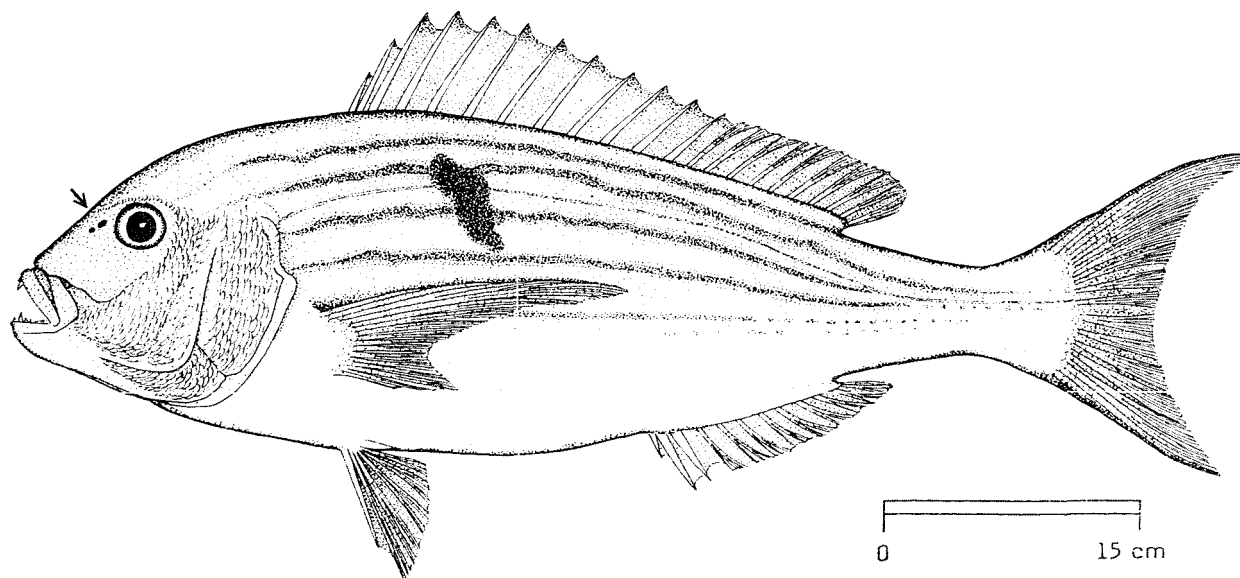


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Polysteganus undulosus* (Regan, 1908)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Seventy-four seabream
 Fr - Denté maculé
 Sp - Dentón marichado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately deep, its depth 2.4 to 2.9 times in standard length. Head profile evenly convex but a nuchal gibbosity can develop in large males; eye moderate; mouth small, the maxilla reaching to, or almost to, below anterior eye margin; at front of jaws, 4 rather feeble, subequal upper canines, and 6 weak, lower canines, the innermost pair smallest; lateral teeth curved, slender, fang-like; an inner, small band of fine conical teeth behind canines and laterally; gillrakers 14 to 16 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 12 moderate spines and 10 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 or 9 soft rays; pectoral fins reaching to above anal fin origin; caudal fin forked in young, becoming almost lunate with growth. Scales rough, moderately small, 58 to 62 in lateral line; scalation on top of head extending to above anterior nostril; preopercle flange scaly, except for a narrow margin; dorsal and anal fins with low scaly sheaths.

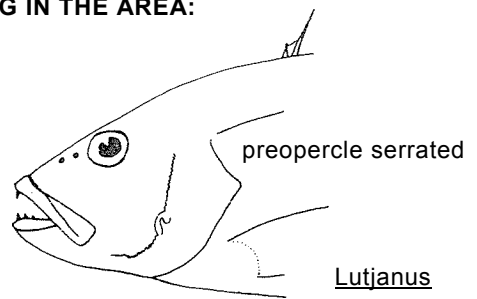
Colour: reddish, with wavy blue lines or dots along sides, mostly above pectoral fins, the lines edged with red, and the interspaces yellow; a large, oval blue-black blotch across lateral line below the 5th and 6th spines; chirp and ventral part of body silvery, fins red.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Lutjanus species: 10 dorsal spines (12 in P. undulosus); edge of preopercle serrated and often with a notch; species with blotch on sides have it further back, below junction of spinous and soft dorsal.

Lethrinus harak: cheek naked, 10 dorsal spines; blotch horizontally oval, below lateral line, at level of 8th spine to 3rd ray of dorsal fin.

The large, vertically oval blotch across lateral line below 5th and 6th dorsal spines, and the blue lines along scale rows above lateral line easily separate this species from any other similar ones in the area.



SIZE:

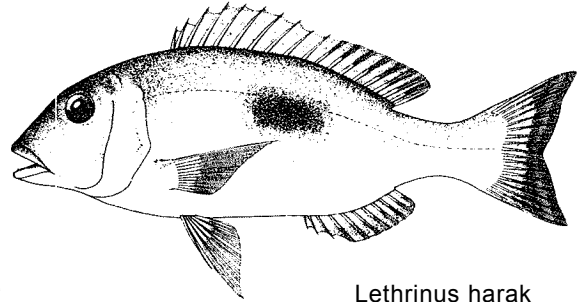
Maximum: 120 cm; common from 70 to 90 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Southern part of the area, from Durban (Natal, South Africa) to southern Mozambique; southward extending to the Cape of Good Hope.

Occurs in deep waters where it is most abundant over rocky areas and banks.

Carnivorous, feeds mainly on fish, squid, etc.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Has mostly been fished out along the Cape Province fishing grounds, reviving somewhat off Transkei and Natal.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with line gear off banks at sea.

Premier food fish, marketed fresh.

