

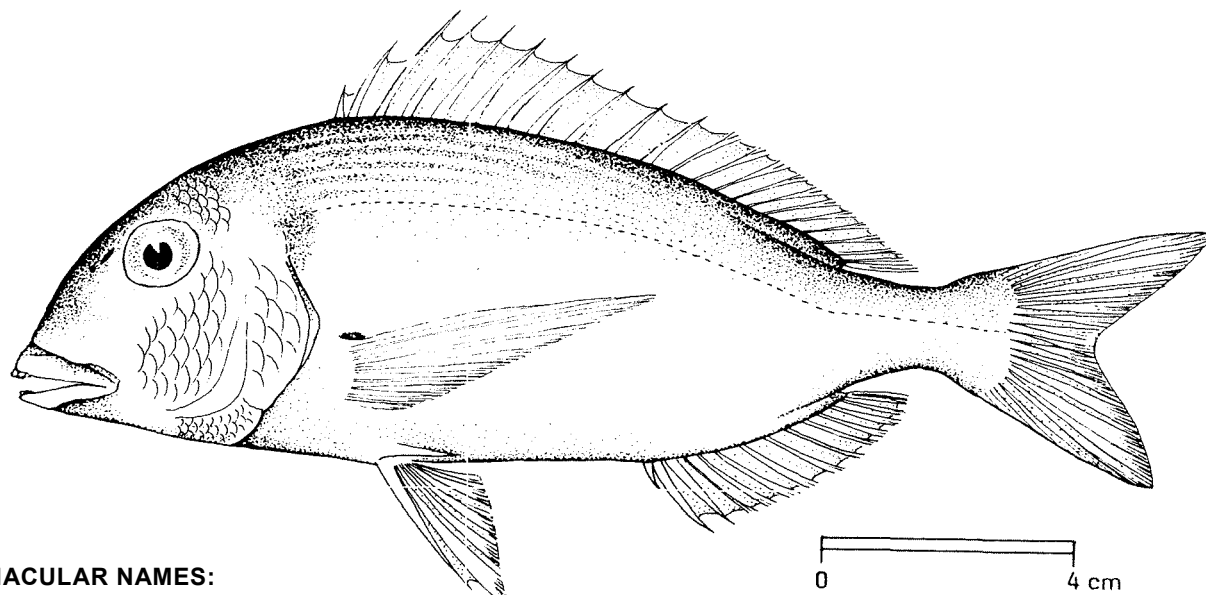
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Rhabdosargus haffara</i> (Forsskål, 1775)
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OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Haffara seabream
 Fr - Sargue haffara
 Sp - Sargo hafara

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body rather elongate (depth 2.5 to 3 times in standard length), compressed. Head large, its length about 3 to 3.5 times in standard length, upper profile very convex, more abruptly bent at eye level; mouth almost horizontal and low, the maxilla reaching to below anterior half of eye; eye moderate in size; at front of each jaw, 4 to 6 incisiform teeth followed by 3 to 5 series of molariform teeth, of which the inner posterior one is greatly enlarged; anterior teeth of external row bluntly conical; gillrakers short, few, 7 to 9 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin single, with 11 or 12 rather slender spines and 11 to 14 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 10 or 11 rays, 2nd and 3rd spines subequal; pectoral fins long, reaching almost to level of first anal spines; pelvic fins not reaching anus, with a long axillary process; caudal fin forked. Scales cycloid (smooth), 58 to 66 in lateral line; 6 scale rows between lateral line and 4th dorsal spine; scalation of head extending to above anterior half of eye; preopercle flange naked; soft dorsal and anal fins with a low scaly sheath at base.

Colour: silvery grey with golden or bluish reflections on back; a dark blotch (more or less faint) at origin of lateral line; a little dark spot at the pectoral fin axil; longitudinal dark lines appear along body after death; fins pale pink, hyaline.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Rhabdosargus sarba: body rather deep, depth about twice in standard length (2.5 to 3 times in R. haffara); golden longitudinal lines on body; belly, pectorals, pelvics and caudal fins yellowish (pale pink hyaline in R. haffara).

Acanthopagrus berda: less than 55 scales in lateral line; dorsal spines appearing alternately broad and narrow on each side (subequal and rather slender in R. haffara); 2nd anal spine longer and stouter than 3rd (subequal in R. haffara); 4 or 42 rows of scales between lateral line and 4th dorsal spine (6 in R. haffara).

Argyrops species: 1 or more elongate dorsal spines.

SIZE:

Maximum: 35 cm; common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

This species seems to be endemic of the Red Sea, and especially common in the North.

Occurs in shallow waters, at about 10 m depth, mainly around coral reefs, and over sandy or mud-sandy bottoms.

Carnivorous, feeds on bottom invertebrates (gastropods and crustaceans), mostly on sand.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

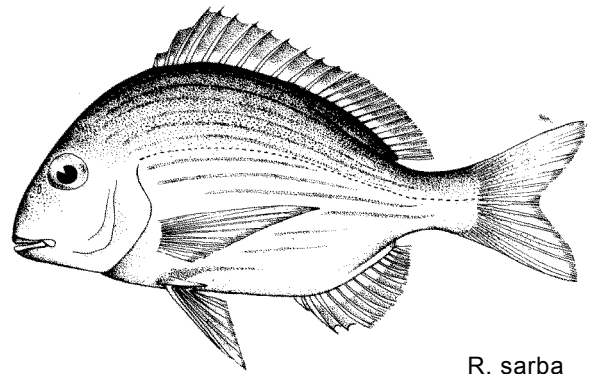
Throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

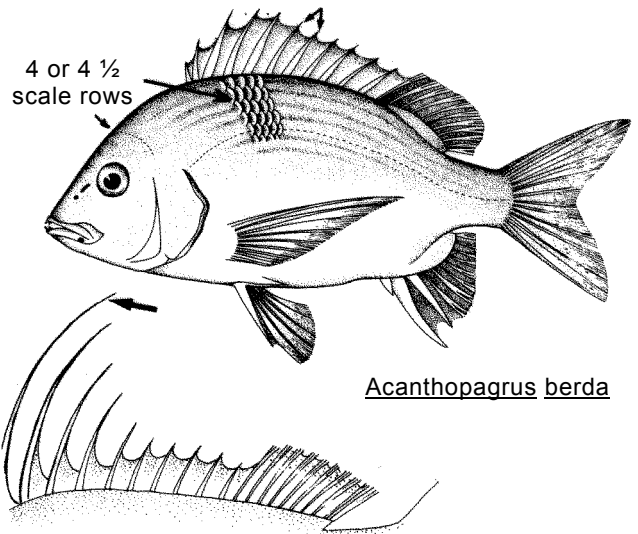
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

One of the most commonly fished sparids in the Gulf of Aqaba and Gulf of Suez, is caught mainly with trammelnets, gillnets, beach seines and sometimes with handlines.

Consumed fresh.

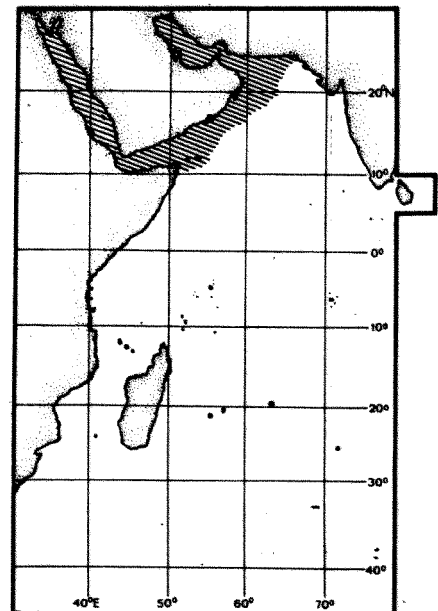


R. sarba



Acanthopagrus berda

Argyrops sp.

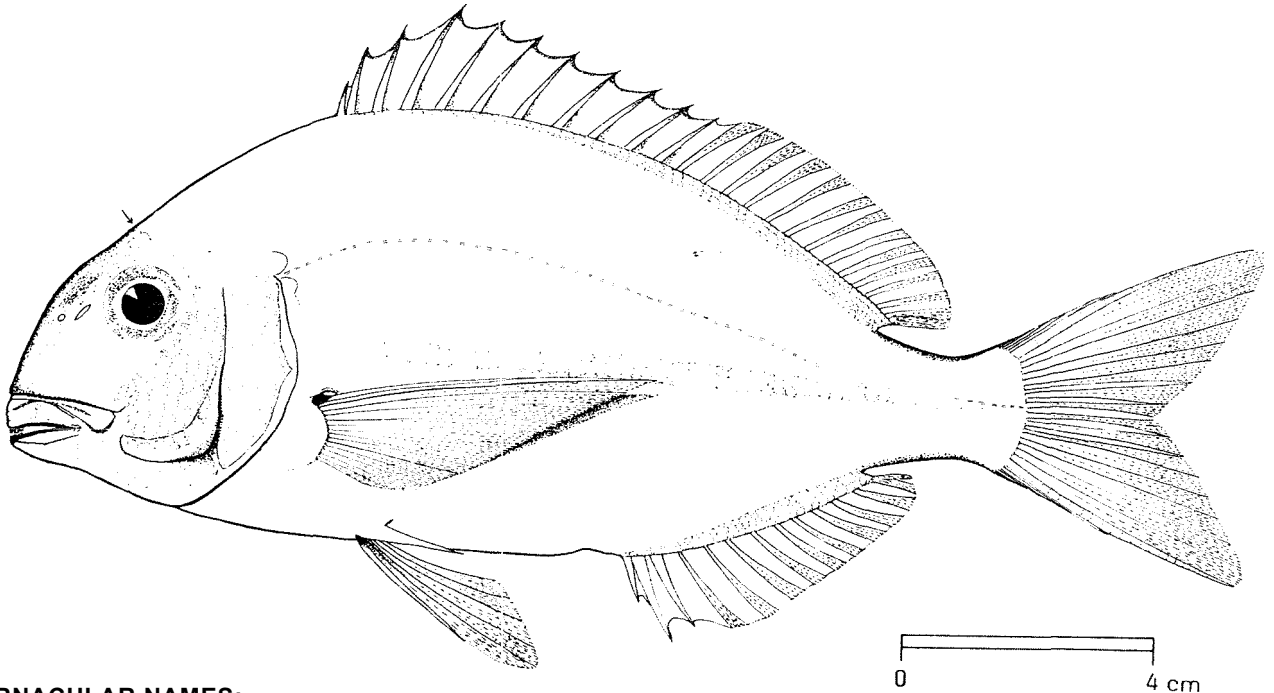


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Rhabdosarcus holubi* (Steindachner, 1881)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Cape stumpnose
Fr - Sargue du Cap
Sp - Sargo del Cabo

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately deep, its depth 2.2 to 2.4 times in standard length. Head profile fairly steep to bulge before eye, thence, gently rounded to dorsal fin origin; eye moderate; maxilla extending to below anterior third of eye; at front of jaws, 6 upper, and 6 to 8 lower incisiform teeth, tricuspid in juveniles (becoming blunted in very large specimens), followed by 4 or 5 upper and 3 or 4 lower series of molars, the inner hind-most molar enlarged; in juveniles, anterior teeth of outer row blunty cortical; 8 or 9 short gill rakers on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 11 rather slender spines and 12 or 13 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 10 or 11 soft rays; pectoral fins reaching to above anal fin; caudal fin forked. Scales moderate, 55 to 90 in lateral line; scalation of head extending to above vertical diameter of eye; preopercle flange with few scales mostly near ridge; 6 scales between lateral line and 4th dorsal spine; soft dorsal and anal fins with a scaly sheath at base.

Colour: bright silvery, darker above and with darker lines along scales, and a conspicuous yellow band along flank above pectoral fin, extending to caudal fin; fins yellowish or greenish, the dorsal with pale band basally, posterior part of caudal fin dark; a black spot in pectoral fin axil.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other Rhabdosargus species: scales absent on preopercle flange; anterior teeth never tricuspid in juveniles; no conspicuous yellow band along sides.

The conspicuous yellow band along sides distinguishes R. holubi from all other fish species in its range.

SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm; common from 15 to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Only found in the southern part of the area, off Natal and Zululand (South Africa); southward extending to the Cape of Good Hope.

Abounds in estuaries and shallow waters (over sand and between rocks) especially between Mossel Bay and East London. Feeds on worms, crustaceans and especially on molluscs.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

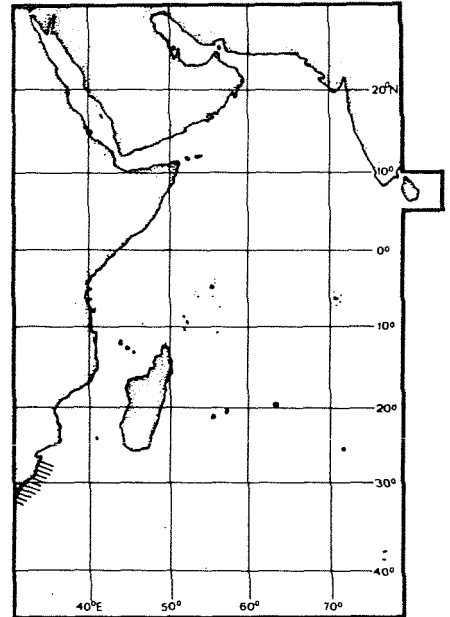
Shallow water throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with line gear and seines.

Used mainly as bait, larger specimens eaten fresh.

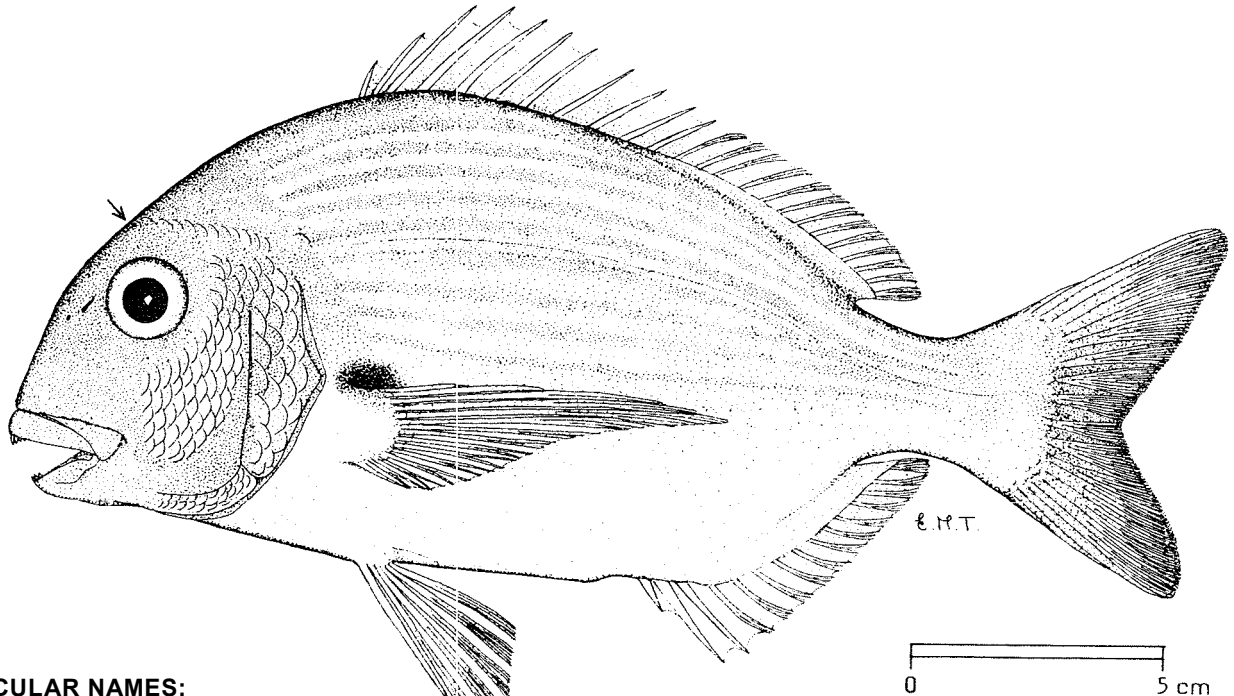


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Rhabdosargus thorpei* Smith. 1979

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Bigeye stumpnose
 Fr - Sargue à gros yeux
 Sp - Sargo ojigrande

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

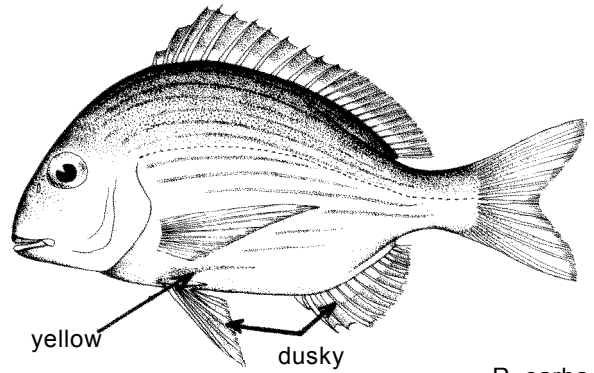
Body moderately deep, its depth 1.9 to 2.2 times in standard length (adults). Head profile well rounded from upper lip to dorsal fin origin with a slight bulge: before eyes; eye rather large; mouth subhorizontal, the maxilla extending to beyond anterior margin of pupil; at front of both jaws, 6 enlarged incisiform teeth (spatulate in juveniles) followed by 4 or 5 upper and 3 or 4 lower rows of molariform teeth, the inner hindmost enlarging with growth; in juveniles, anterior teeth of outer row bluntly conical; gillrakers 10 to 12 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 11 fairly slender spines and 13 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 12 soft rays; pectoral fins reaching to above anal rays; caudal fin moderately forked. Scales moderate, 55 to 62 in lateral line; scalation on head extending to above or beyond vertical diameter of eye; preopercle flange naked; 6½ or 7 scale rows between lateral line and 4th dorsal spine; dorsal and anal fins with a basal sheath.

Colour: body bluish silvery, with numerous yellow reflections, and yellow lines along scale rows of upper body; whole area from chest to above end of anal fin including pelvic and anal fins bright yellow; a prominent dark area round pectoral fin axils; pectoral fins bright yellow; caudal fin dusky with a darker posterior margin.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

R. sarba: eye relatively smaller; yellow on ventral area confined to a conspicuous "flare" of colour up from pelvic fin and petering out before reaching above anal; pelvic and anal fins dusky; lower gillrakers 7 to 9 (10 to 12 in R. thorpei); anal rays 11 (12 in R. thorpei).

The bright yellow ventral area including pelvic, anal and pectoral fins distinguishes R. thorpei from all other similar species in its range.



R. sarba

SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm; common to 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Abundant off Natal and Zululand (South Africa), reaches Madagascar and Europa Island northward. Shoals congregate off the Tugela River (Natal) and many are found in estuaries further north which probably use as nurseries.

Feeds on worms, crustaceans and particularly molluscs.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

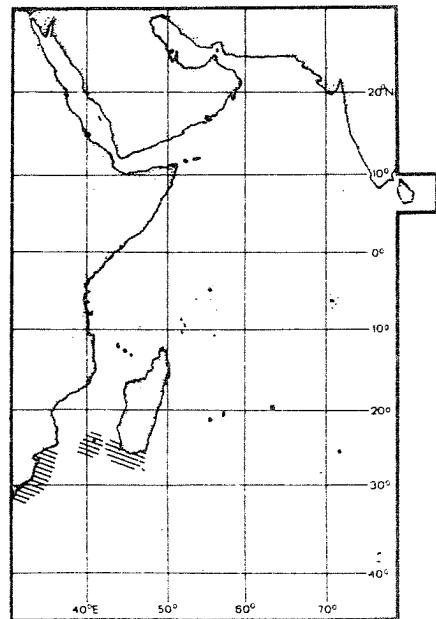
Off Natal and Zululand.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with lines and seines (when permitted).

Marketed fresh, flesh esteemed.



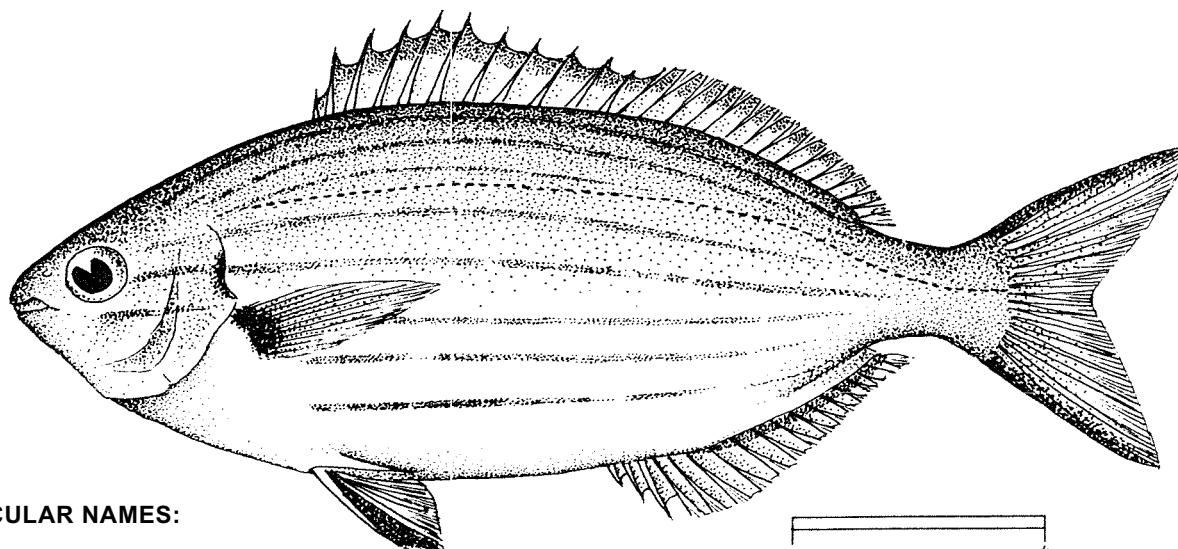
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SPARIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Sarpa salpa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Box salpa Linnaeus, 1758
Boops salpa (Linnaeus, 1758)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En – Salema
Fr – Saupe
Sp - Salema

NATIONAL :

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body neatly oval, moderately compressed, its depth 2.75 times in standard length. Head short, its dorsal and ventral profile regularly convex; snout blunt, mouth terminal, small, the maxilla not reaching front eye margin; lips thick; a single series of incisors in each jaw, those in upper jaw notched at edges, those in lower jaw ending in a single, triangular point, all with roots exposed, well visible inside mouth; no molars; gillrakers 12 to 14 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin single, with 11 (rarely 12) slender spines, and 14 to 17 soft rays, anal fin with 3 slender spines and 13 to 15 soft rays; pectoral fins short, reaching to about half way to above anal fin origin; caudal fin forked. Scales small, 70 to 80 in lateral line; interorbital space and preopercle flange naked; soft dorsal and anal fins with a deep basal scaly sheath.

Colour: body bluish silvery with 8 to 10 longitudinal golden yellow bands, some extending onto head which is silvery with golden reflections; lateral line darker; a few, faint lines along chest and belly scales; base of pectoral fin dark; margin of anal fin bluish silver; that of dorsal fin broadly gold; edges of caudal, base of anal and first ray of pelvic fins with wide golden yellow bands.

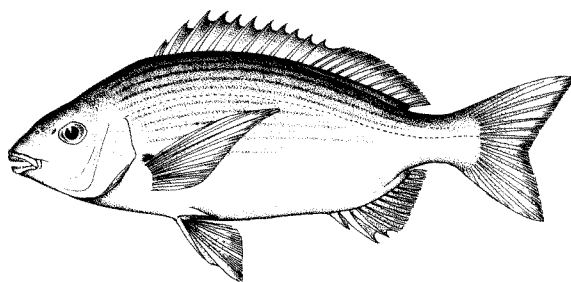
upper and lower
jaws

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

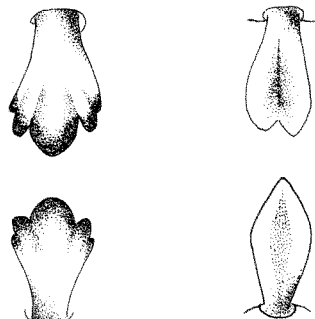
Crenidens crenidens: background duller, with dark bars along scale rows (golden yellow bands in S. salpa); 2 series of wavy-edged incisors, the outer movable, with brown edges, and small molars within (1 series of incisors, the upper notched, the lower pointed, and no molars in S. salpa).

Other species of Sparidae: 2 or more series of incisors in each jaw, or canines, or molars (a single series of incisors and no molars in S. salpa).

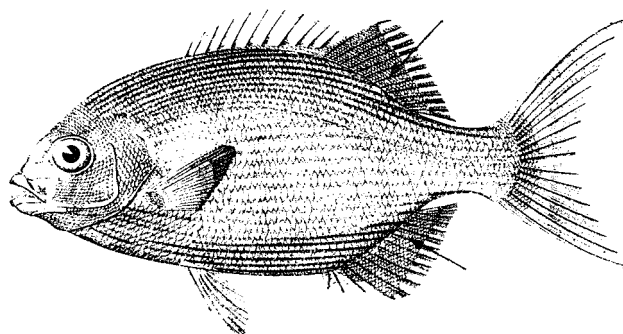
Species of Kyphosidae: soft dorsal and anal fins heavily scaled (only a basal scaly sheath in S. salpa); background dark brown (silver in S. salpa).



Crenidens crenidens crenidens



Crenidens S. salpa
upper and lower teeth



SIZE: Kyphosidae

Maximum: 45 cm; common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, off South Africa and southern Mozambique; elsewhere, extending to the Cape of Good Hope and along the West African and southern European coasts, and into the Mediterranean Sea.

Inhabits rocky and sandy bottoms covered with seaweeds, to depth of about 70 m; when upwelling occurs, huge shoals are driven into the estuaries.

Feeds chiefly on seaweeds, but also on small crustaceans.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Sandy beaches and rocky outcrops throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught chiefly with seines and on hook and line.

Only irregularly exploited, locally consumed fresh; excellent bait.

