SYNOD Sauri 9

1983

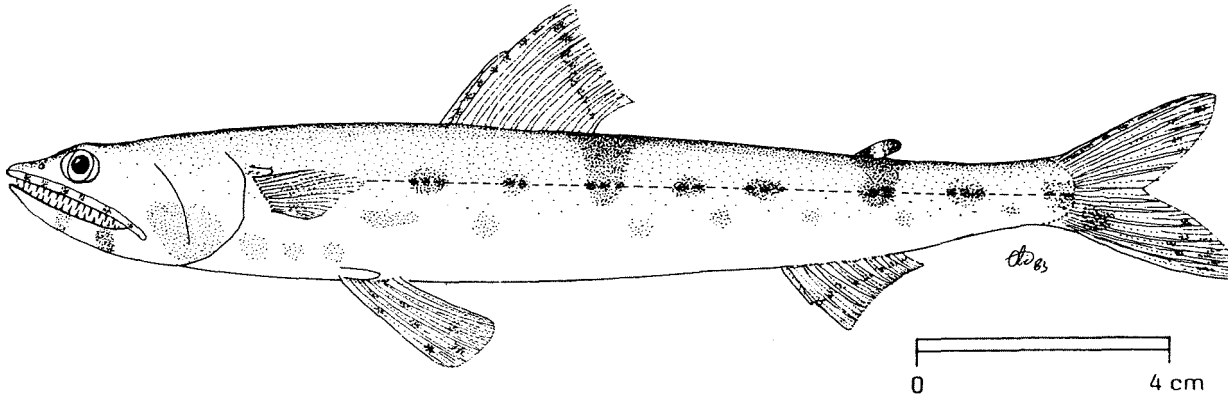
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Saurida nebulosa Valenciennes in Cuv. & Val., 1849

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: often wrongly identified as Saurida gracilis (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO:
En - Clouded lizardfish
Fr - Anoli nuageux
Sp - Lagarto nubifero

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and tubular; head and caudal peduncle somewhat depressed. Several rows of teeth visible on both jaws even when mouth is closed; 2 series of teeth on palate (roof of mouth), outer series in 1 or 2 rows anteriorly, inner series in 2 distinct rows; vomer toothless. Dorsal fin rays 10 or 11; longest ray less than 3 times as long as last ray; pectoral fin rays 12 (rarely 11 or 13), longest ray less than 12% of standard length and extending posteriorly only as far as 3rd to 6th predorsal scale row. Pelvic rays subequal in length. Lateral line scales 46 to 52; 3½ scale rows above lateral line.

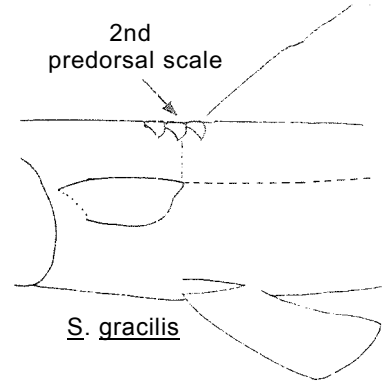
Colour: ground colour white or silvery, mottled on back and sides with yellowish or greenish brown. A series of darker spots at intervals along lateral line and darker crossbands on back at base of caudal fin, around adipose fin and behind dorsal fin; all fins with dark spots or flecks, often faint on pelvic and anal fins; caudal fin with a broad, vertical, pale band near base.

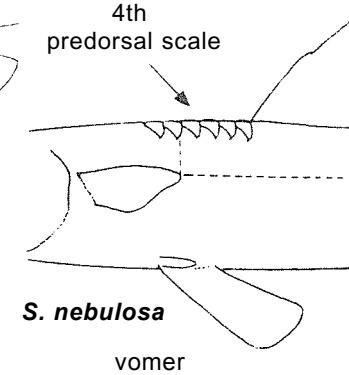
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Saurida gracilis: pectoral fin longer, 12% or more of standard length (less than 12% in S. nebulosa), with 13 rays; (usually 12 in S. nebulosa), and extending posteriorly) at least to 3rd predorsal scale row (3rd to 6th in S. nebulosa); inner palatine teeth in about 3 indistinct rows (2 in S. nebulosa); teeth may be present on vorner.

S. tumbil and S. undosquamis: no spots on fins (except 2nd dorsal ray and upper caudal ray in S. undosquamis); pectoral axillary scale long, pointed: pectoral fin rays 14 or 15 (usually 12 in S. nebulosa); longest dorsal ray more than 3 times as long as last ray (less than 3 times in S. nebulosa).

S. longimanus: pectoral fin very long, extending to about middle of dorsal fin base.





SIZE:

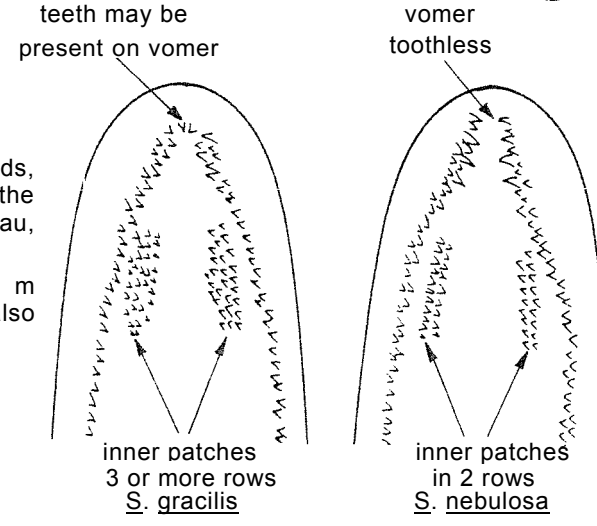
Maximum: a relatively small species, apparently not exceeding 20 cm total length.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, known from Mauritius and Aldabra Islands, and from southern India. Elsewhere, frurn Thailand to the Philippines, Australia, New Guinea, Okinawa, Guam, Palau, Tahiti and Hawaii.

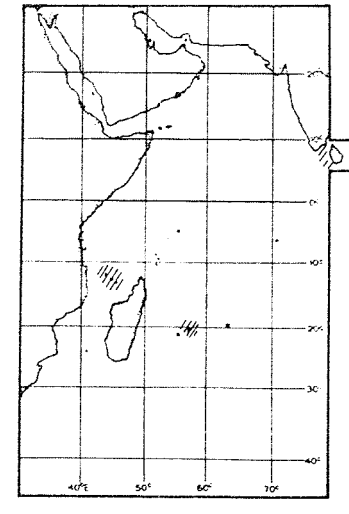
Generally found in very shallow waters (less than 5 m depth), particularly over muddy bottoms near mangroves; also enters brackish waters, near streams and river mouths.

Mainly piscivorous.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow waters over muddy bottoms.



CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with artisanal gear.

Marketed fresh.

SYNOD Synod 3

1983

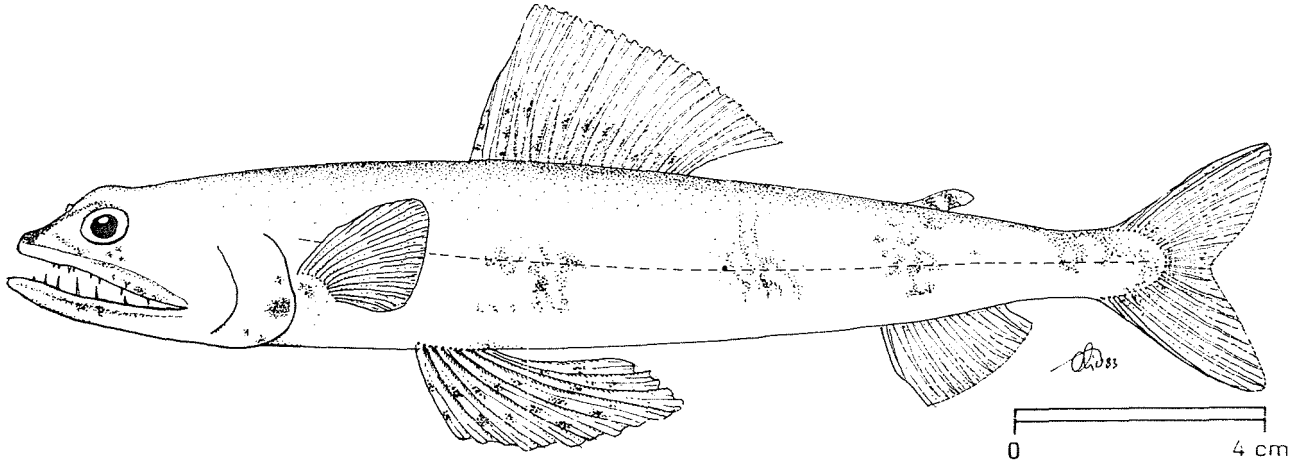
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Synodus binotatus Schultz, 1953

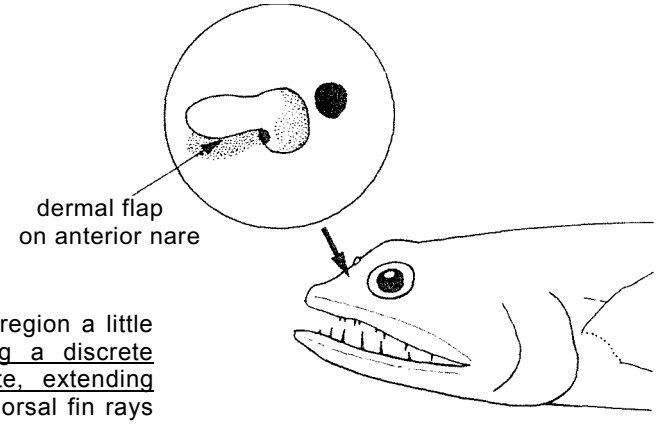
OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Two-spot lizard fish
Fr - Anoli à deux taches
Sp - Lagarto dos manchas

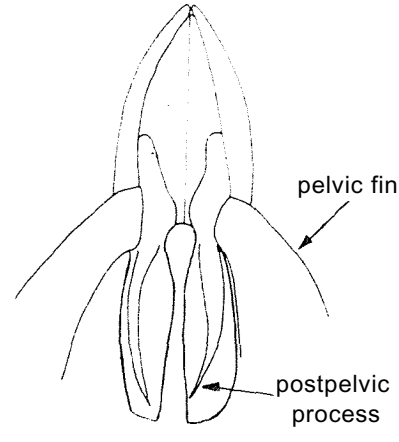
NATIONAL:



DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body tubular, head somewhat depressed, caudal region a little compressed. Anterior palatine teeth long and forming a discrete group. Dermal flap on anterior nares large, spatulate, extending well beyond edge of nares when depressed anteriorly. Dorsal fin rays 12 to 14 (average 12.9). Anal fin rays 8 to 10 (average 8.9); procurrent caudal rays 27 to 33 (average 30.2). Posterior pelvic process wide. Large cycloid scales on body extending onto cheeks and operculum; scales above lateral line 3.5. Total vertebrae 51 to 55, average 53.1.

Colour: 2 conspicuous pigment spots on snout. A series of 4 dark brown dorsal saddle-like bands on tan background. All fins barred. Peritoneum pale, with 0 to 3 dark spots.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

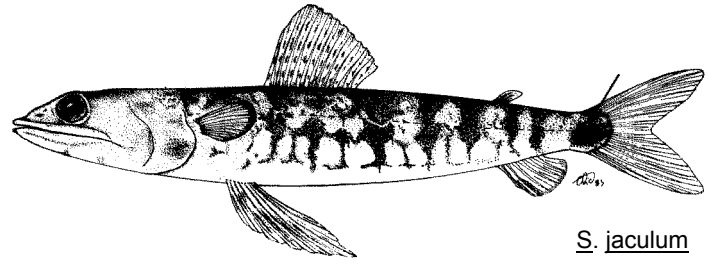
Synodus englemani, S. jaculum and S. variegatus: 5.5 scales above lateral line (3.5 in S. binotatus). Furthermore, dermal flap on anterior nares short and tubular in S. englemani; a conspicuous dark pigmented area on caudal peduncle in S. jaculum and 4 to 6 spots on snout in S. variegatus (only 2 in S. binotatus).

S. hoshinonis: a conspicuous black area on upper distal corner of operculum.

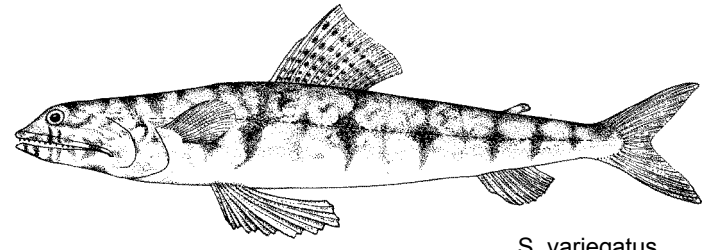
S. indicus: 2 small pigment spots at upper distal corner of operculum; 9 to 11 peritoneal spots (0 to 3 in S. binotatus).

S. macrops: posterior pelvic process narrow; 3 X-shaped pigmented areas laterally; peritoneum grey to black.

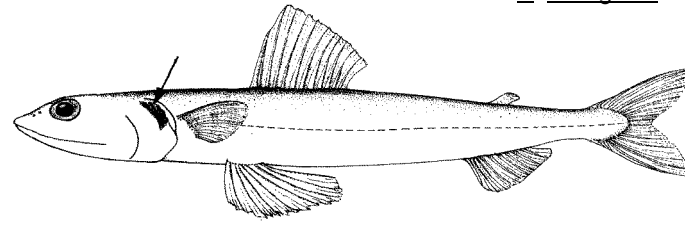
S. sageneus: anal fin ray 14 or 15 (8 to 10 in S. binotatus); 4.5 scales above lateral line.



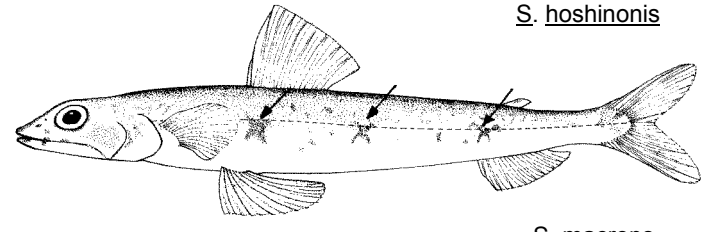
S. jaculum



S. variegatus



S. hoshinonis



S. macrops

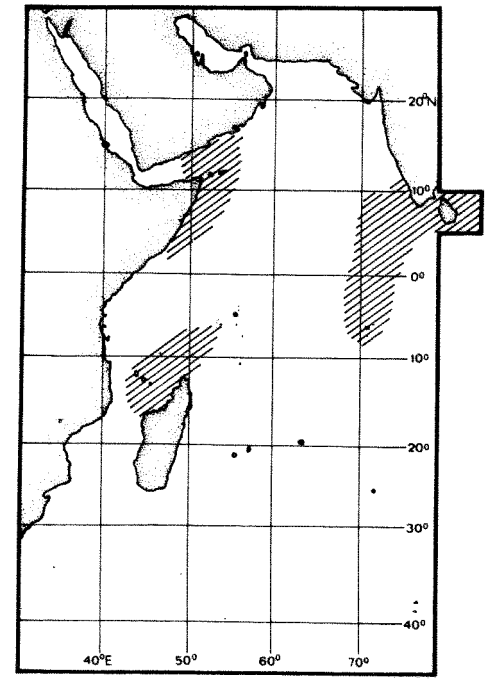
SIZE:

Maximum: 17 cm; common to 10 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, known from north Madagascar, Comores, Somalia, Gulf of Aden, Chagos, Maldives and Laccadive Islands, southern India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, the Eastern Indian Ocean and throughout the Western Pacific to Hawaii.

A common shallow water species, usually found at depths less than 10 m.



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 artisanal gear.

Marketed fresh or dried salted.

SYNOD Synod 4

1983

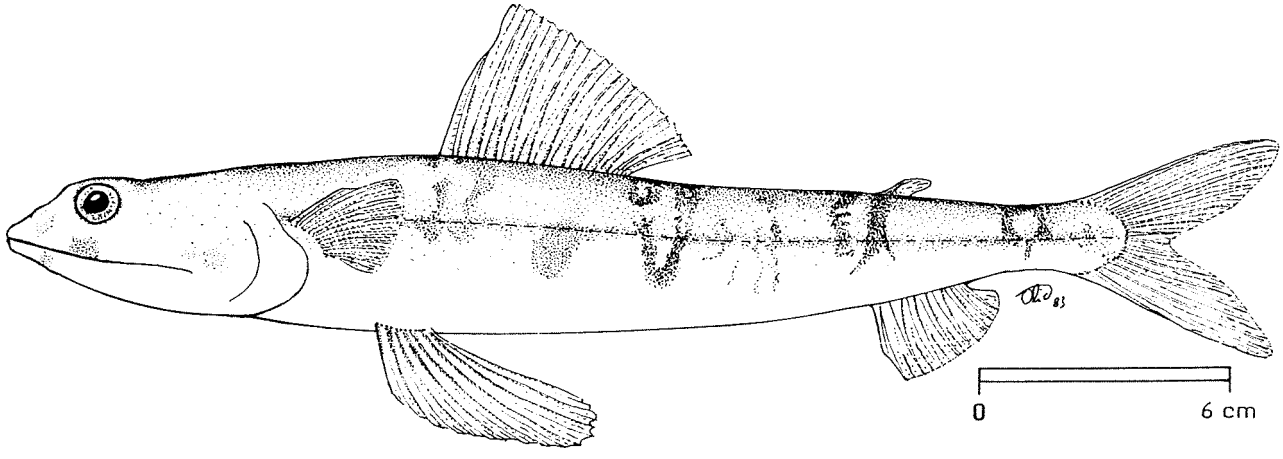
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Synodus englemani Schultz, 1953

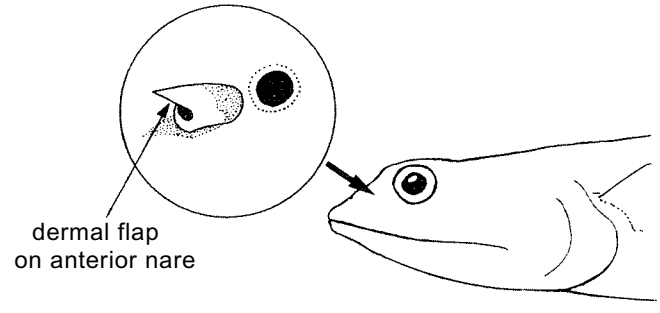
OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Engleman's lizardfish
Fr - Anoli d'Engleman
Sp - Lagarto de Engleman

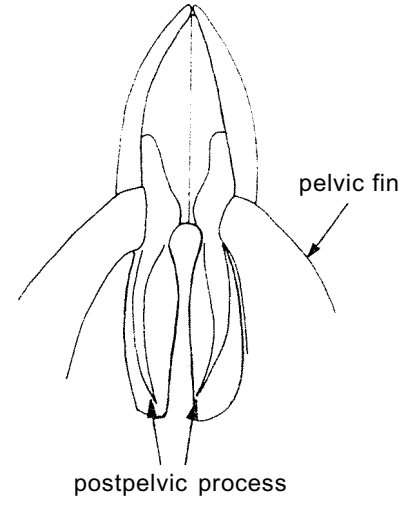
NATIONAL



DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body tubular, head somewhat depressed, caudal region a little compressed. Anterior palatine teeth long and forming a discrete group; dermal lap on anterior nares short, tubular. Dorsal fin rays 12 or 13 (average 12.7); anal fin rays 8 to 10 (average 8.9); procurrent caudal rays 28 to 37 (average 32.2). Posterior pelvic process wide. Large cycloid scales on body, extending onto cheeks and operculum; scales above lateral line 5.5. Total vertebrae 59 to 62, average 60.3.

Colour: background tan; a series of 8 or 9 dark brown, saddle-like bars, widest dorsally; frequently a dark band along lateral line. Peritoneum pale; internal peritoneal spots 7 to 10, average 8.2 (visible externally in larvae, persist in adult on wall of peritoneum).

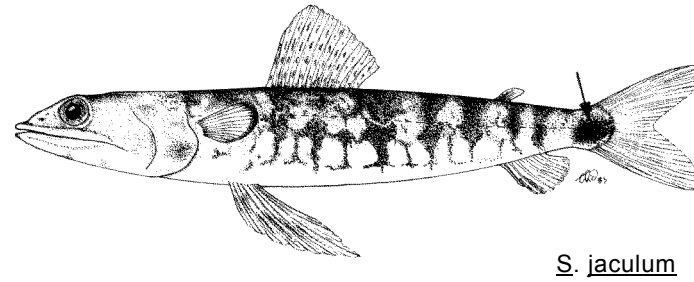


DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Svnodus jaculum: a conspicuous dark pigment area on caudal peduncle; peritoneal spots 11 to 13 (7 to 10 in S. englemani).

S. variegatus: dermal flap on anterior nares long, flagellum extending well beyond edge of nares when depressed anteriorly; peritoneal spots 10 to 12.

All other Synodus species have less than 5.5 scales above lateral line.



S. jaculum

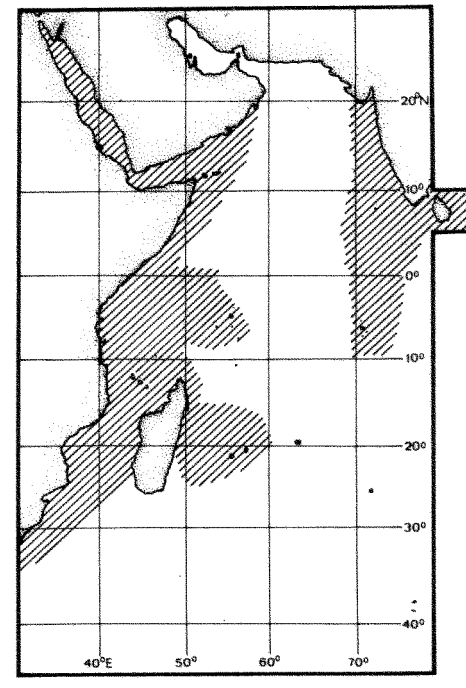
SIZE:

maximum: 30 cm; common to 15 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout the Indo-West Pacific to Hawaii (not recorded from the "Gulf" and from Pakistan).

Common in depths of 5 to 40 m, rarely deeper. Often captured with S. variegatus especially in shallower waters.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow shelf waters throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with artisanal gear.

Marketed fresh or dried salted.

SYNOD Synod 5

1983

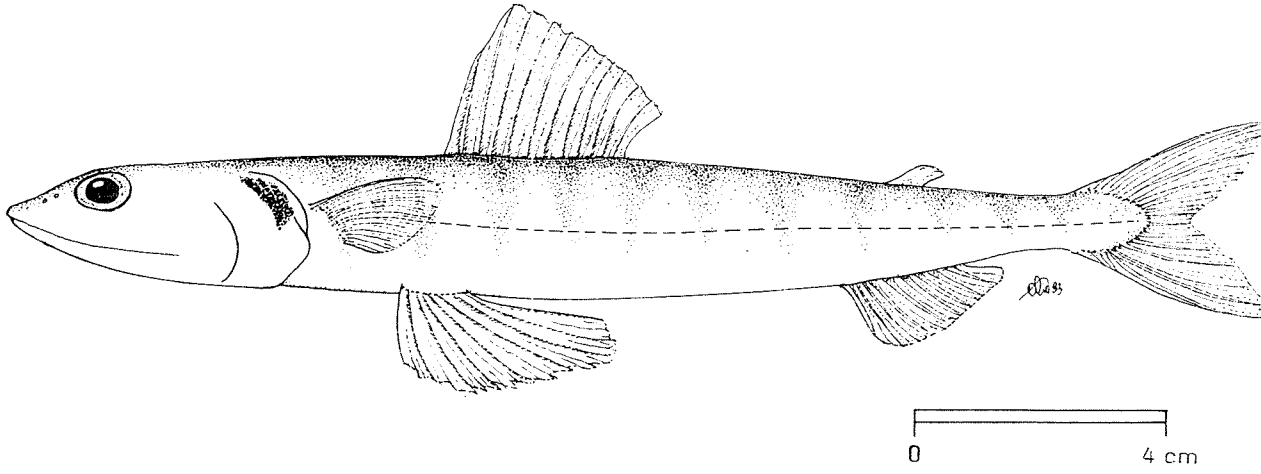
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Synodus hoshinonis Tanaka, 1917

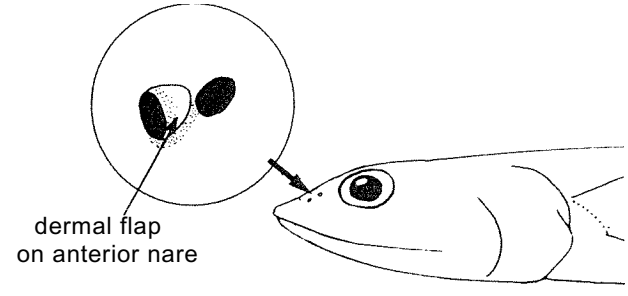
OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Blackear lizardfish
Fr - Anoli oreille noire
Sp - Lagarto orejas negras

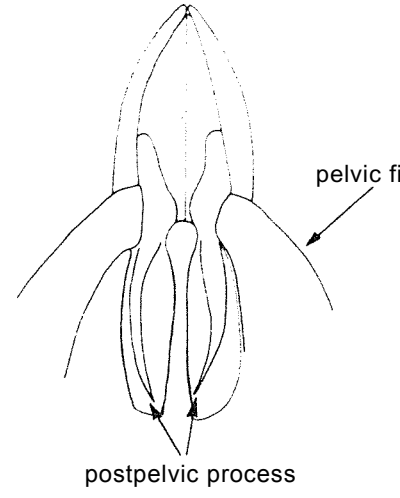
NATIONAL:



DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body tubular, head somewhat depressed, caudal region a little compressed. Anterior palatine teeth long, forming a discrete group; dermal flap on anterior nares short, rounded, not extending beyond marin of nares when depressed anteriorly. Dorsal fin rays 12 to 14 (average 13). Anal fin rays 8 to 10 (average 9.6); procurrent caudal rays 25 to 29 (average 27.1). Posterior pelvic process wide. Large cycloid scales on body extending onto cheeks and operculum; scales above lateral line 3.5. Total vertebrae 54 to 56 (average 54.7).

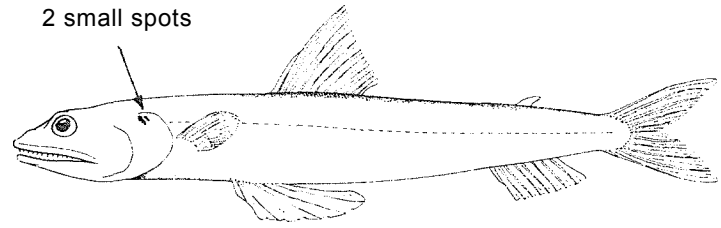
Colour: background tan; a conspicuous black pigmented area on upper distal corner of operculum. Alternating light and dark brown saddle-like patches laterally. Fins pale, unbarred. Peritoneum pale; peritoneal spots 12 or 13 (average 12.3).



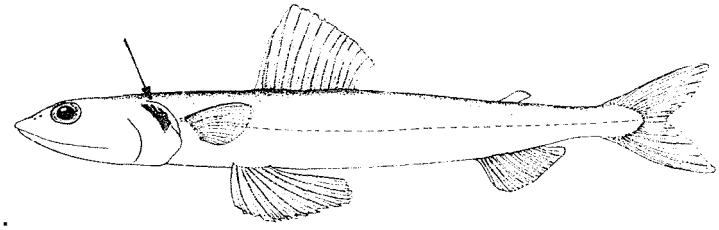
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

The conspicuous black pigmented area on upper distal corner of operculum readily distinguishes this species from all other lizard fishes occurring in the area.

Synodus indicus: also have some pigment on the upper corner of operculum, but in the form of 2 small spots. It can be further distinguished by the presence of a long, triangular dermal flap on the anterior nares.



S. indicus



S. hoshinonis

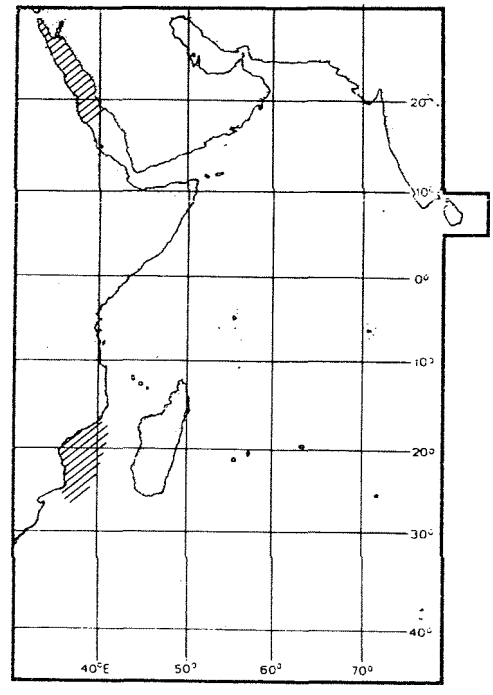
SIZE:

Maximum: 20 cm; common to 12 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, known from the Red Sea and the Mozambique Channel. Elsewhere in the Andaman Sea and Western Pacific (not known east of Australia).

Depth of capture records indicate a preference for moderately deep water (60 to 96 m).



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shelf waters.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with trawls.

Marketed fresh.

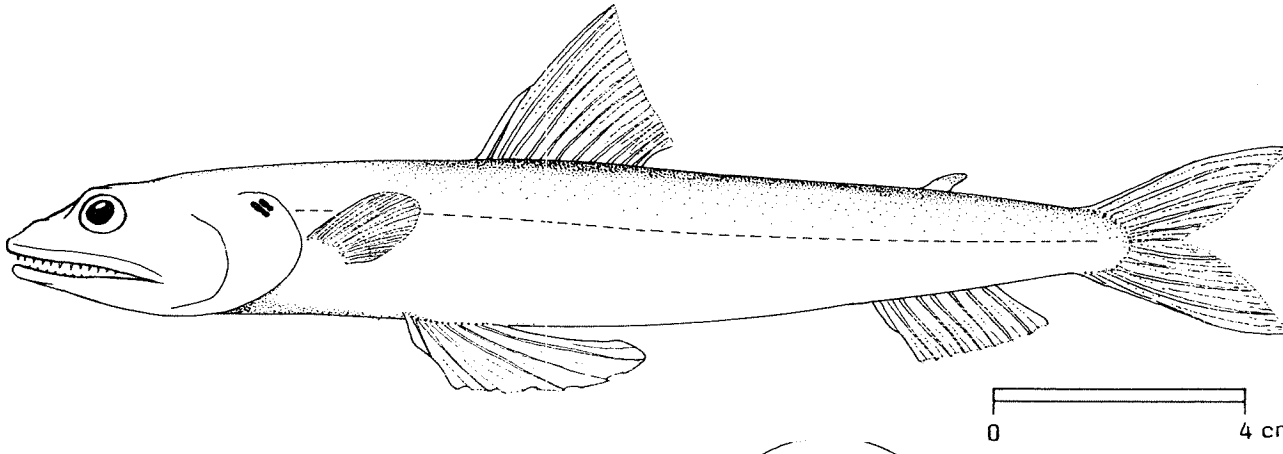
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

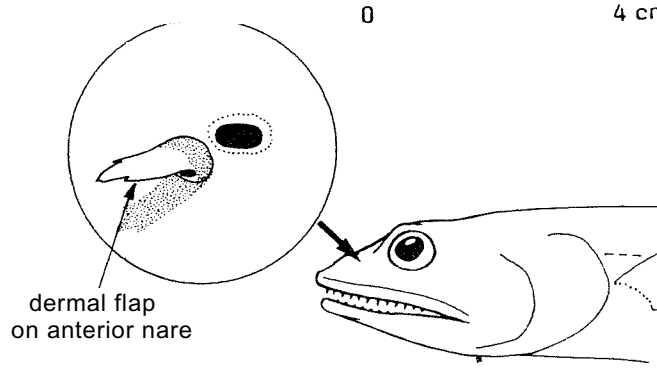
FAMILY: SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Synodus indicus (Day, 1873)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Synodus dietrichi Kotthaus, 1967





VERNACULAR NAMES:

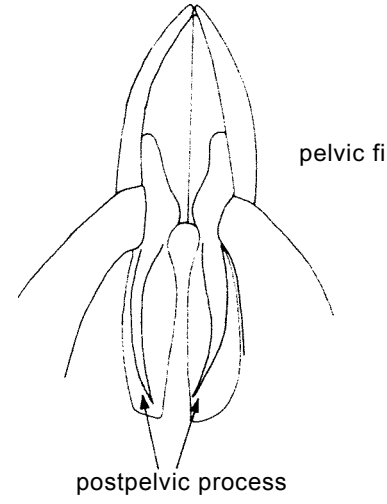
FAO : to - Indian lizardfish
Fr - Anoli indien
Sp - Lagarto indico

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

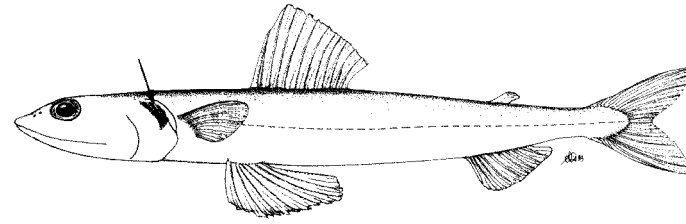
Body tubular, head somewhat depressed, caudal region a little compressed. Anterior palatine teeth short, not forming a discrete group; dermal flap on anterior nares long, triangular, often notched distally. Dorsal fin rays 11 to 13 (average 11.9); anal fin rays 8 to 11 (average 9.4); procurrent caudal rays 27 to 32 (average 28.7). Posterior pelvic process wide. Peritoneum pale. Large cycloid scales on body, extending onto cheeks and operculum; scales above lateral line 3.5. Total vertebrae 52 to 58 (average 55.9).

Colour: 2 small pigment spots at upper distal corner of operculum. Peritoneum pale; peritoneal spots 9 to 11, average 10.4 (visible externally in larvae, present in adult on wall of peritoneum).

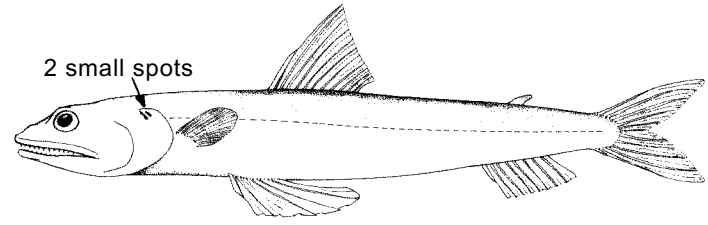


DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

No other lizardfish occurring in the area, has the 2 pigment spots on upper corner of operculum. Synodus hoshinonis has a very prominent dark area at upper corner of operculum. It can be further distinguished by the very short and rounded flaps on anterior nares and by having 12 or 13 peritoneal spots (9 to 11 in S. indicus).



S. hoshinonis



S. indicus

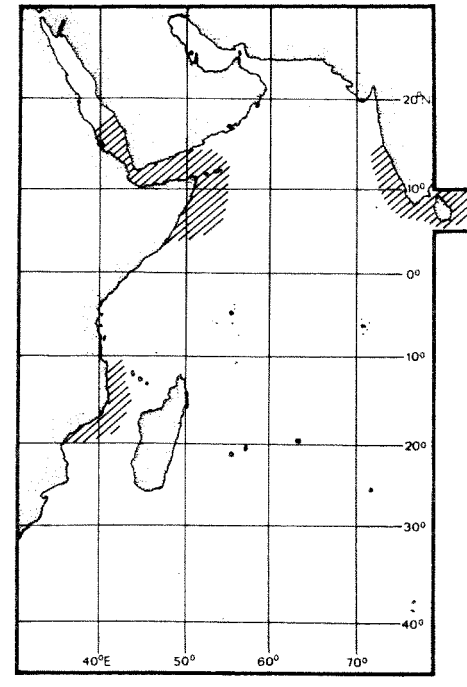
SIZE:

Maximum: 20 cm; common to 12 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, known from the southern Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the Somalian coasts, the Mozambique Channel, southern India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, a single specimen known from the Philippines.

Usually found between 20 and 100 m depth.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shelf waters throughout its range.

CATCHES FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with trawls.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.