SYNOD Synod 7

1983

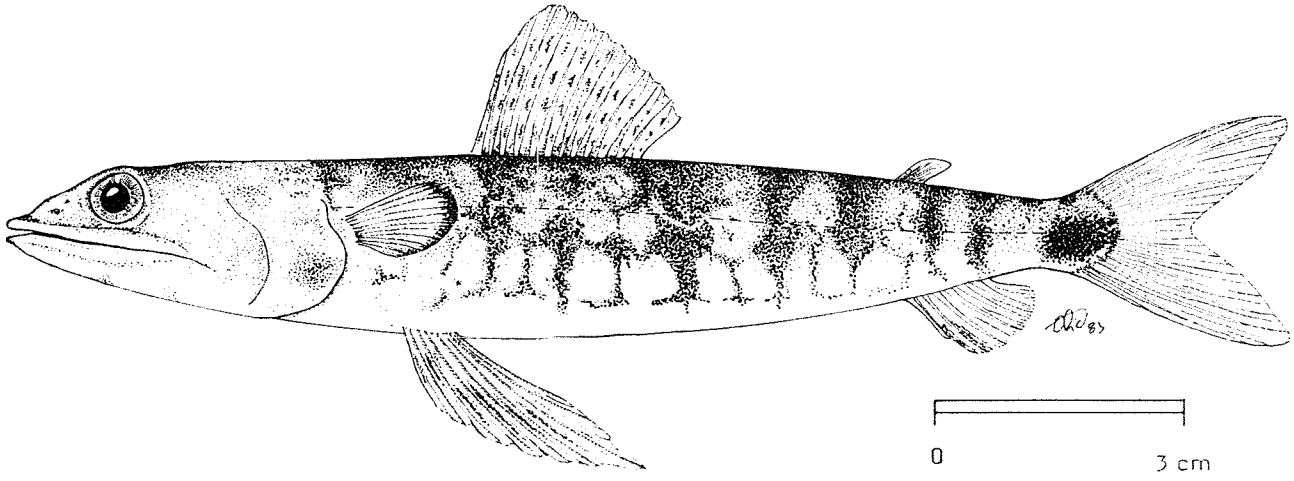
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Synodus jaculum Russell & Cressey, 1979

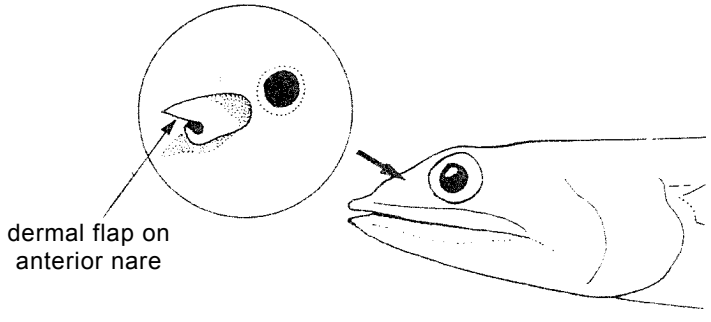
OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : to - Lighthouse lizardfish
Fr - Anoli phare
Sp - Lagarto faro

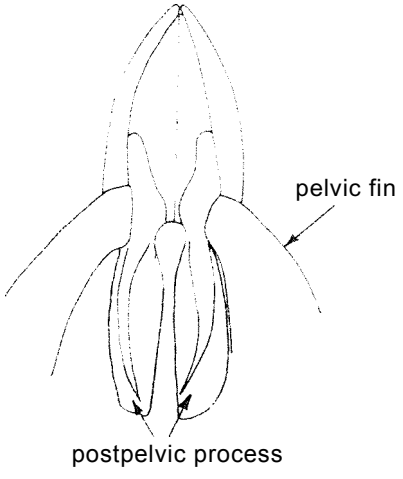
NATIONAL:



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 nare short tubular. Dorsal fin rays 11 to 13 (average 12.4); anal fin rays 8 to 10 (average 9.2); procurrent caudal rays 28 to 33 (average 30.3). 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 60.9).

Colour: background tan; a series of 8 or 9 dark brown, saddle-like bars, widest dorsally. A conspicuous dark pigment area on caudal peduncle. Peritoneum pale; peritoneal spots 11 to 13 (average 11).



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

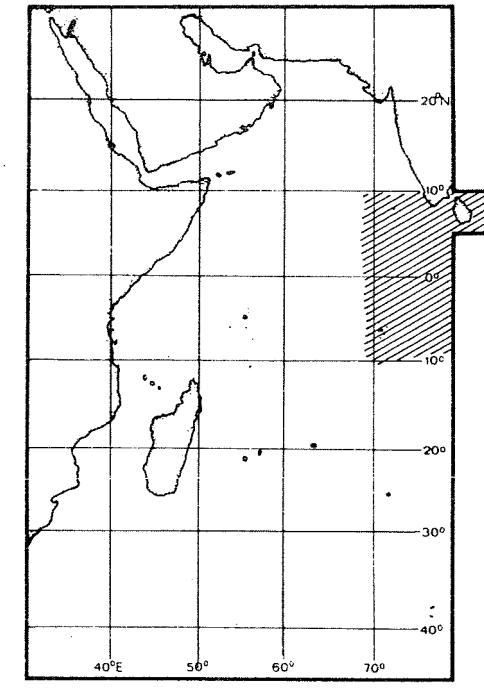
Synodus englemani: peritoneal spots 7 to 10 (11 to 13 in S. jaculum). No conspicuous pigment on caudal peduncle.

S. variegatus: peritoneal spots 10 to 12; no conspicuous pigment on caudal peduncle; dermal flap on anterior nares with flagellum extending well beyond border of nares when depressed anteriorly.

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

SIZE:

Maximum: 14 cm; common to 10 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

North Central Indian Ocean to Western Pacific.

Recorded in shallow waters, down to 88 m depth. Frequently caught with S. variegatus and S. englemani.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow shelf waters.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with artisanal gear and trawls.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.

SYNOD Synod 8

1983

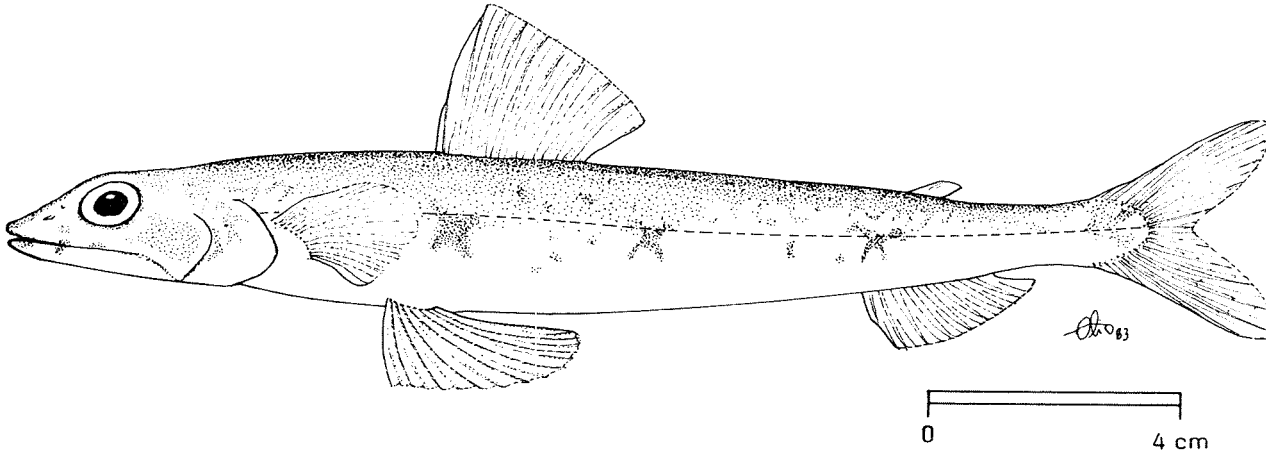
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Synodus macrops Tanaka, 1917

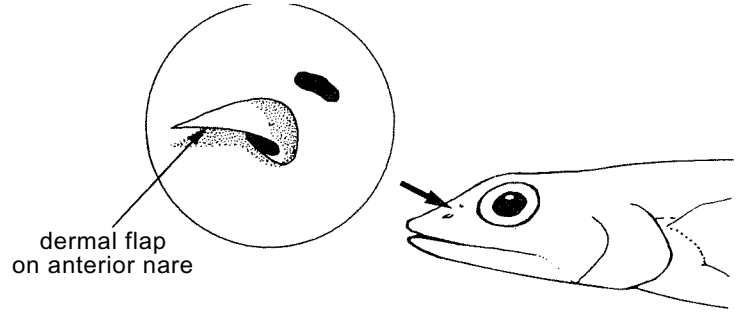
OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Triplecross lizardfish
Fr - Anoli croix
Sp - Lagarto de cruces

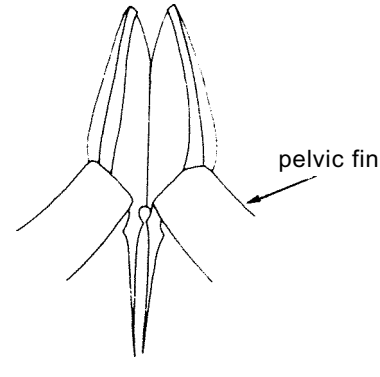
NATIONAL:



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, extending well beyond nares when depressed anteriorly. Dorsal fin rays 11 or 12 average 11.8; anal fin rays 10 or 11 (average 10.4); procurrent caudal rays 20 to 27 (average 23.1). Posterior pelvic process narrow. Large cycloid scales on body extending onto cheeks and operculum; scales above lateral line 3.5. Total vertebrae 50 to 55 (average 53.4).

Colour: body tan, darker on back than on belly; 3 X-shaped pigmented areas on sides. Peritoneum grey to black; peritoneal spots 5 or 6, average 5.7 (difficult to see in specimens with a very dark peritoneum).

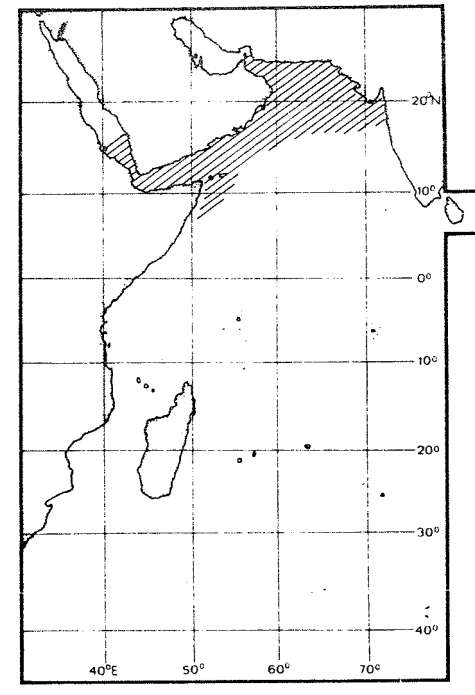


DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA :

This species can be distinguished from all other known species of Synodus in the area, by the narrow posterior pelvic process, the dark peritoneum and the 3 X-shaped pigmented areas on sides of body.

SIZE:

Maximum: 18 cm; common to 10 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, known from the Northern Indian Ocean (including the Red Sea). Elsewhere, in the Western Pacific (not recorded east of 165°E).

This species seems to prefer deeper waters, from 35 to 150 m (more than half depth of capture records over 75 m).

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Deeper 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.

SYNOD Synod 9

1983

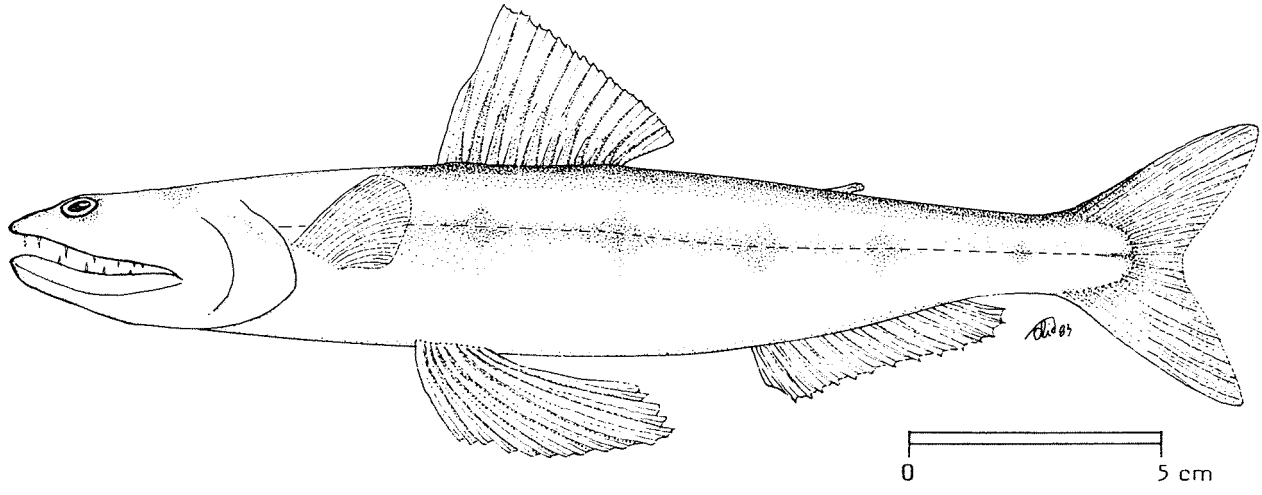
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Synodus sageneus Waite, 1905

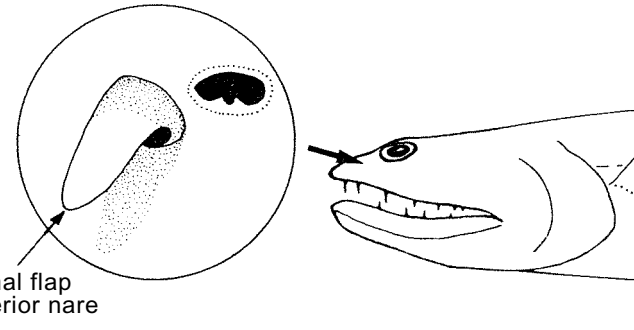
OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Xystodus banfieldi Ogilby, 1910



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Speartoothed grinner
Fr - Anoli poignard
Sp - Lagarto espadachín

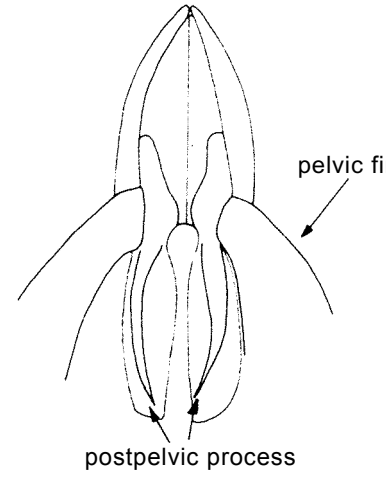
NATIONAL:



DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body tubular, head somewhat depressed, caudal region a little compressed. Anterior palatine teeth not long and not forming a discrete group; dermal flap on anterior nares long, broad, extending well beyond margin of nares when depressed anteriorly. Dorsal fin rays 12 or 13 (average 12.5); anal fin rays 14 or 15 (average 14.5); anal fin base toner than dorsal fin base; procurrent caudal rays 25 to 27 average 25.6). Posterior pelvic process wide. Large cycloid scales on body extending onto cheeks and operculum; scales above lateral line 4.5. Total vertebrae 50 to 54 (average 53.1).

Colour: dorsal surface darker than ventral; Holotype described as "yellow above and silvery beneath"; faint diamond-shaped pigment areas laterally. Peritoneum pale; peritoneal spots 5 or 6 (average 5.3).

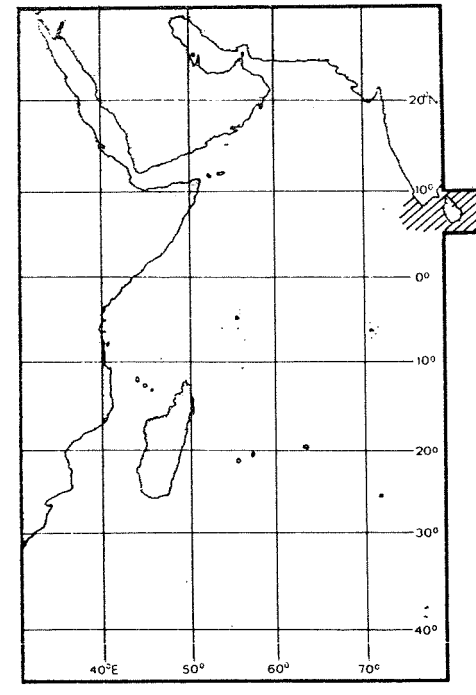


DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

This species can be easily distinguished from all other Synodus species occurring in the area for having the anal fin base longer than the dorsal fin base.

SIZE:

Maximum: 24 cm; common to 14 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

An uncommon species, known only from Sri Lanka, Australia and New Guinea.

Depth of capture records indicate it to be in relatively shallow waters, down to about 30 m depth.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow shelf waters.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with artisanal gear.

Marketed fresh or dried salted.

SYNOD Synod 10

1983

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

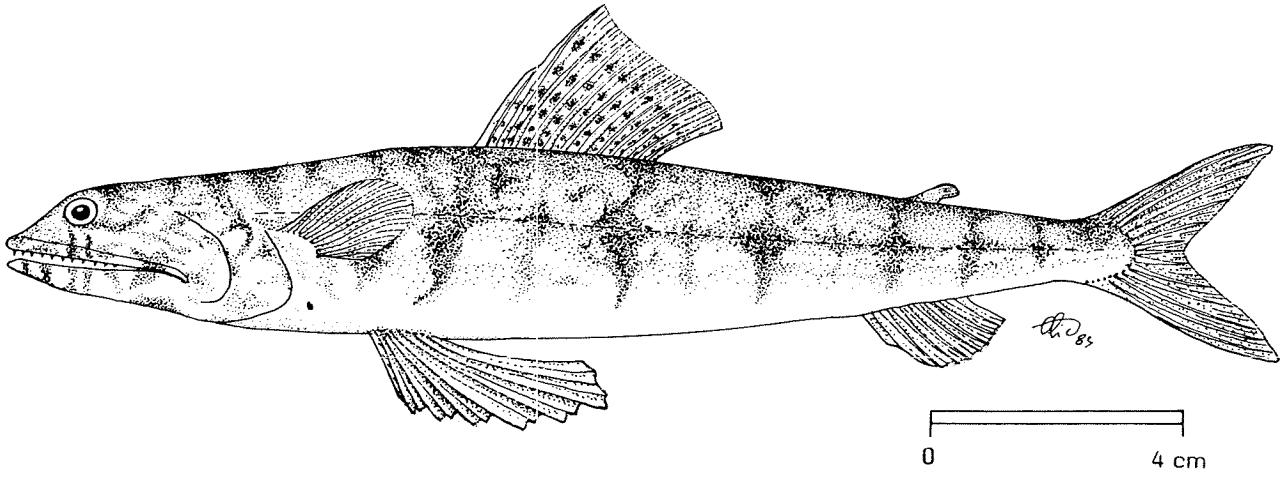
FAMILY: SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Synodus variegatus (Lacepède,1803)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

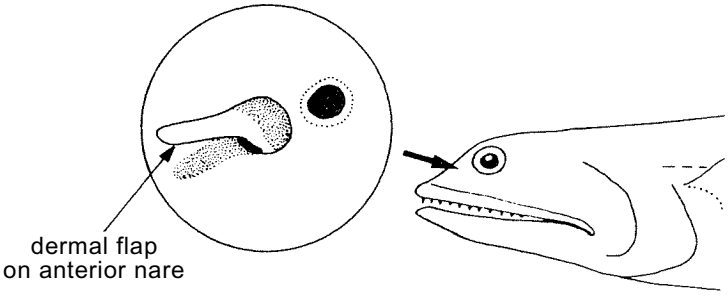
Synodus varius Steindacher, 1901
Synodus dermatogenys Fowler, 1912
Synodus houlti McCulloch, 1921



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Variegated lizardfish
Fr - Anolie bigarré
Sp - Lagarto jaspeado

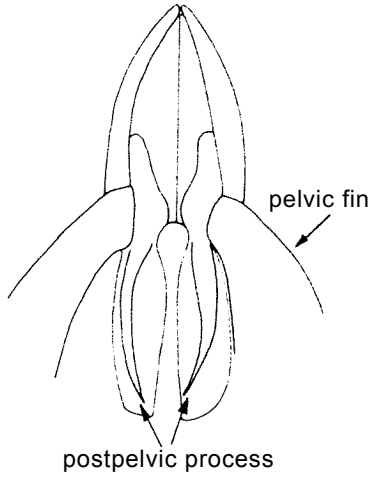
NATIONAL:



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 with long flagellum extending well beyond edge of nares when depressed anteriorly. Dorsal fin rays 10 to 13 (average 11.6); anal fin rays 8 to 10 (average 8.4); procurrent caudal rays 26 to 34 (average 29.7); posterior pelvic process wide. Peritoneal spots 10 to 12 (average 11.1). Large cycloid scales on body extending onto cheeks and operculum; scales above lateral line 5.5. Total vertebrae 55 to 60 (average 57.9, no Indian Ocean specimens over 59).

Colour: background tan; a series of 8 or 9 dark brown, saddle-like bars, widest dorsally. Peritoneum pale; peritoneal spots 10 to 11, average 11.1 (externally visible in larvae, persist anteriorly in adult).

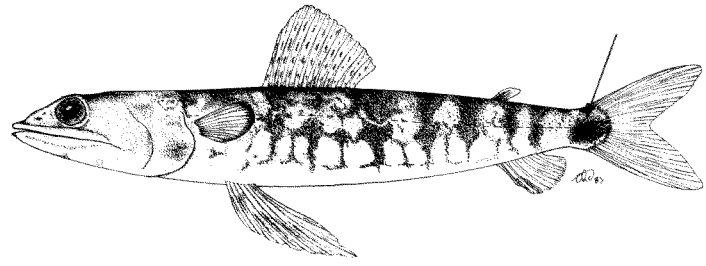


DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Synodus englemani: flap of anterior nares short, tubular; peritoneal spots 7 to 10 (10 to 12 in S. variegatus).

S. jaculum: flap of anterior nares short, tubular, peritoneal spots 11 to 13; a conspicuous dark pigment area on caudal peduncle.

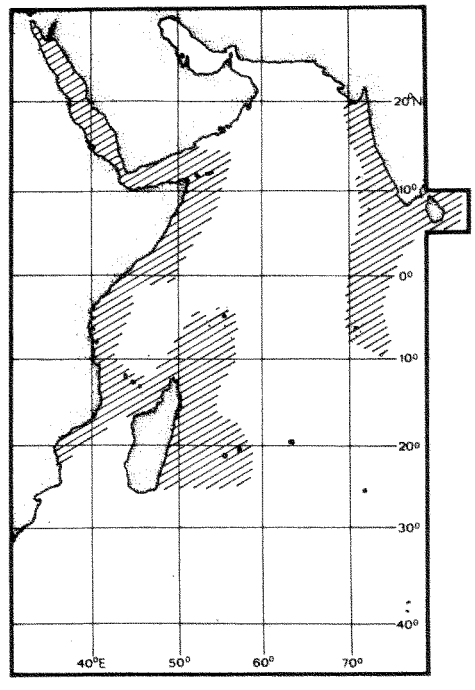
All other Synodus species occurring in the area have less than 5.5 scales above lateral line.



S. jaculum

SIZE:

Maximum: 20 cm; common to 14 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widespread in the area, but not recorded from the "Gulf", Pakistan and southwest Madagascar. Elsewhere, in the Eastern Indian Ocean and Western Pacific to Hawaii.

Usually found in very shallow waters to 5 m depth, never deeper than 20 m.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Very 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.

SYNOD Trach 1

1983

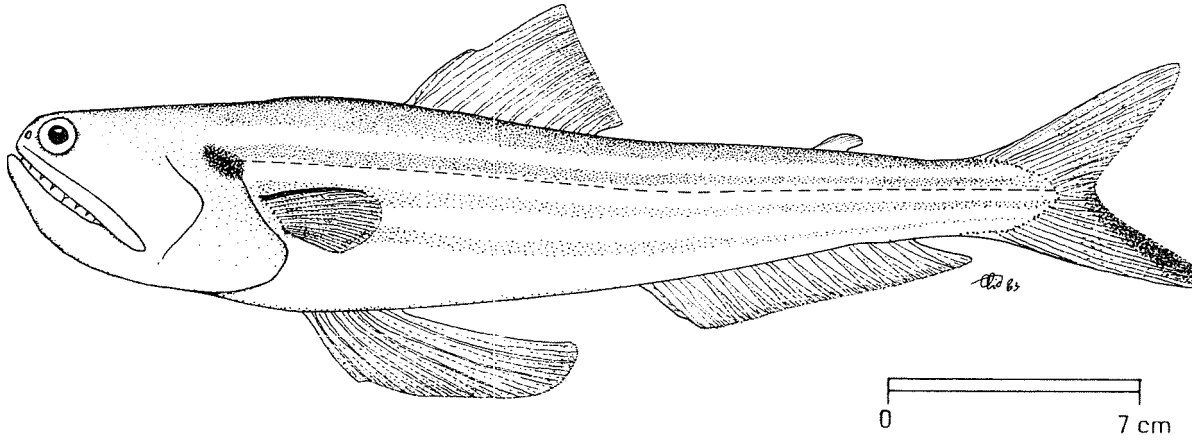
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SYNODONTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Trachinocephalus myops (Forster, 1801)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Trachinocephalus hypozona (Ogilby, 1897)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Bluntnose lizardfish
Fr - Anoli serpent
Sp - Lagarto nato

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and tubular. Mouth very oblique; snout short; eyes small and set far forward near tip of upper jaw; a single row of teeth on upper jaw visible even when mouth is closed; band of teeth on palatine (roof of mouth). Anal fin rays 14 or 15; anal fin base much longer than dorsal fin base; pelvic fin rays 8, inner rays much longer than outer rays.

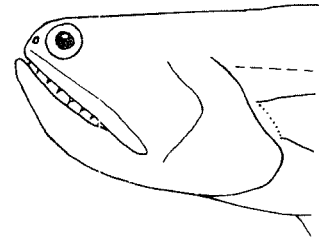
Colour: a series of longitudinal stripes, alternating blue and yellow, cover back and sides; belly pale yellow or gold. A large, dark, oblique spot at upper corner of gill cover. Distal parts of dorsal and caudal fins dusky; other fins pale yellowish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Synodus species: all Western Indian Ocean Synodus species have eyes about midway along length of upper jaw and have a much less oblique mouth. All Synodus species, except S. sageneus, have the anal fin base shorter than the dorsal fin base and have 11 or fewer anal fin rays (14 or 15 in T. myops).

Saurida species: several rows of teeth visible in both jaws even when mouth is closed (a single band visible in T. myops); 2 bands of teeth on palate (a single band in T. myops); pelvic fin rays 8, subequal in length.

Synodus Saurida



Trachinocephalus

SIZE:

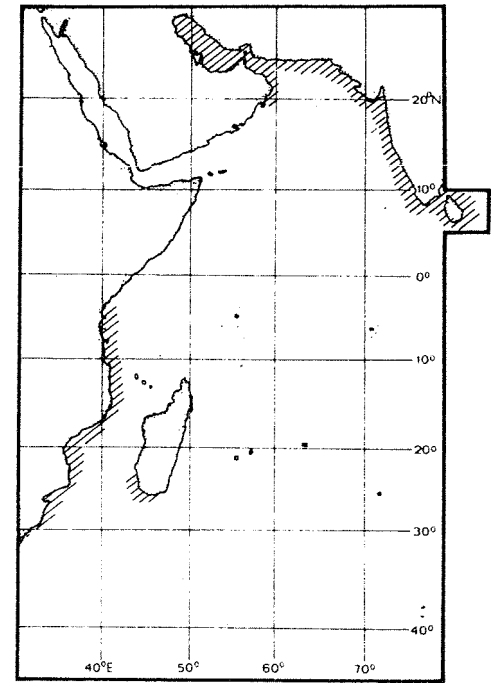
Maximum: reported to reach 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, found from southern Mozambique to Tanzania, southeast Madagascar, in the "Gulf", Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. Worldwide in tropical and warm temperate waters, with the exception of the Eastern Pacific.

Found on sandy bottoms from the littoral zone to at least 100 rn.

Carnivorous, presumably mainly piscivorous.



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.

click for next page