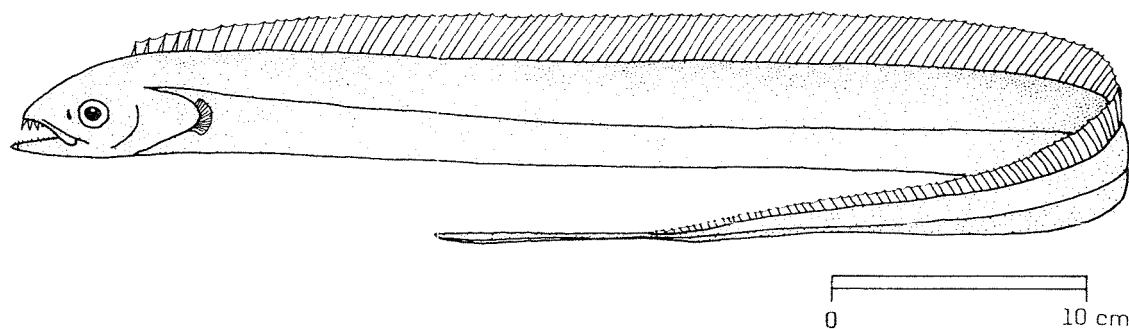


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TRICHIURIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Tentoriceps cristatus (Klunzinger, 1884)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Trichiurus muticus (non Grav): Kamahara 1940; Iwai & Hotta, 1950 (misidentification)Pseudoxymetopon sinensis Chu & Wu, 1962

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En Crested hairtail
Fr Poisson sabre manchot
Sp - Pez sable cuchilla

NATIONAL :

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

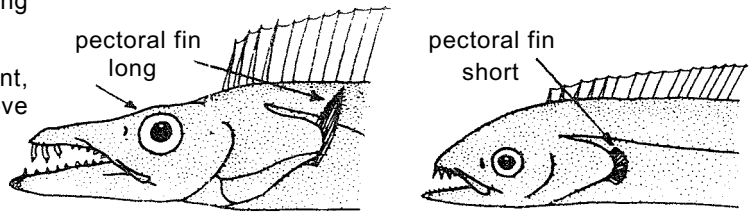
Body extremely elongate and strongly compressed, ribbon-like, tapering to a point. Dorsal profile of head evenly convex; mouth large with a dermal flap at tip of each jaw; 2 or 5 fangs in upper and 2 fangs in lower jaw, a single series of sharp compressed lateral teeth in both jaws; eye very large situated laterally, its diameter contained 5 or 6 times in head length; lower hind margin of gill cover convex. A single, long-based, dorsal fin with 5 spines and 126 to 144 soft rays; pectoral fins short, not reaching to lateral line, with 1 spine and 10 soft rays; pelvic fins present but reduced to scale-like processes; anal fin represented by a minute first spine and a scale-like second spine, situated beneath 47th to 50th dorsal fin ray, reduced to minute spinules buried in skin thereafter; caudal fin absent. Lateral line running almost straight along midbody.

Colour: in fresh specimens, body silvery white becoming silvery grey with dark cloud-like patches after death; each jaw and dorsal and anal fin bases sooty.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other species of Trichiurinae: dorsal profile of head not evenly convex, pectoral fin tip reaching to above lateral line.

Species of Lepidopinae: caudal fin present, small and forked, pectoral fin tip reaching to above lateral line.



SIZE :

Maximum: 90 cm standard length; common to 70 cm standard length.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, known to occur in the Red Sea, the Mozambique Channel and the Seychelles. Elsewhere, in the Andaman Sea, South China Sea, the Philippines, East China Sea, southern Japan and New South Wales.

Benthopelagic or pelagic, living in rather coastal waters down to about 90 m depth; not found in waters of low salinity.

Feeds mainly on small fishes and crustaceans.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

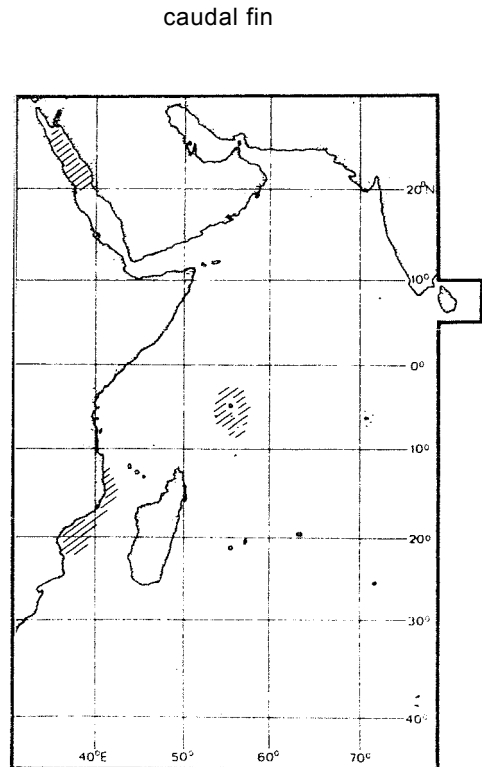
No special fishing grounds; offshore trawling grounds between 50 m and 90 m depth in the Andaman Sea, the Philippines and South China Sea.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls and sometimes with bagnets.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.



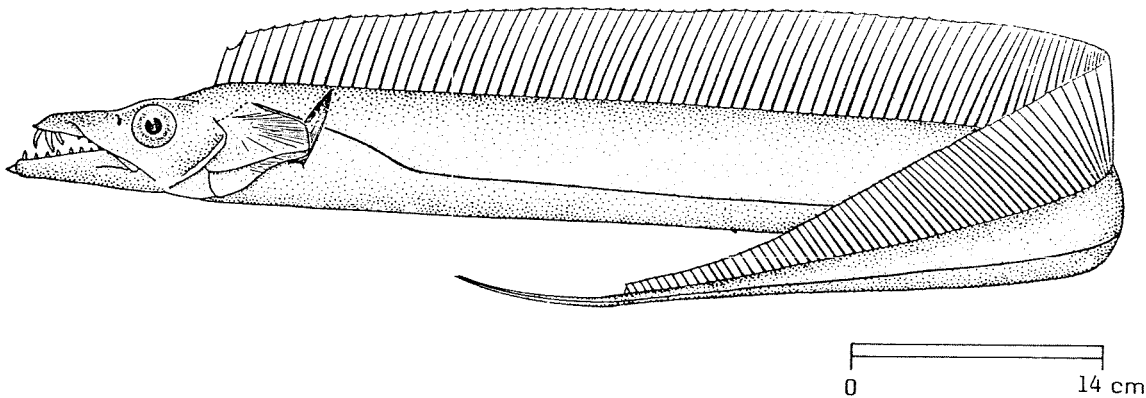
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TRICHIURIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<u>Trichiurus lepturus</u> Linnaeus, 1758

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Trichiurus haumela (Forsskål, 1775)Trichiurus lepturus japonicus Temminck & Schlegel, 1844Trichiurus japonicus Bleeker, 1857Trichiurus coxii Ramsay & Ogilby, 18B7

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Largehead hairtail
Fr - Poisson sabre commun
Sp - Pez sable

NATIONAL :

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body extremely elongate and strongly compressed, ribbon-like, tapering to a point (tip often broken). Mouth large, with a dermal flap at tip of each jaw; 2 or 3 pairs of enlarged fangs with barbs near tip of upper jaw and another pair near tip of lower jaw; a single series of sharp, compressed lateral teeth (often also fang-like in larger specimens) in both jaws; minute teeth on palatines (roof of mouth); eye large, its diameter contained 5 to 7 times in head length; lower hind margin of gill cover concave. Dorsal fin rather high and long-based, without a notch between the spinous and soft parts, with 3 spines and 130 to 135 soft rays; anal fin reduced to about 100 to 105 minute spinules (usually embedded in the skin or slightly breaking through), its origin below 39th to 41st dorsal fin ray; pectoral fins medium-sized, about as long as snout, with 1 spine and 11 to 13 soft rays; pelvic and caudal fins absent. Lateral line beginning at upper margin of gill cover, running oblique to behind tip of pectoral fin, then straight near to ventral profile. Body scaleless. Position of anus nearer to snout than to posterior tip of body (preanal length about 2/5th of standard length). Excess ossification of supraoccipital, interhaernal and interneural bones often seen in specimens from Indian waters.

Colour: fresh specimens are steel blue with silvery reflections, pectoral fins semi-transparent, other fins sometimes tinged with pale yellow; the colour becomes uniform silvery grey some time after death.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

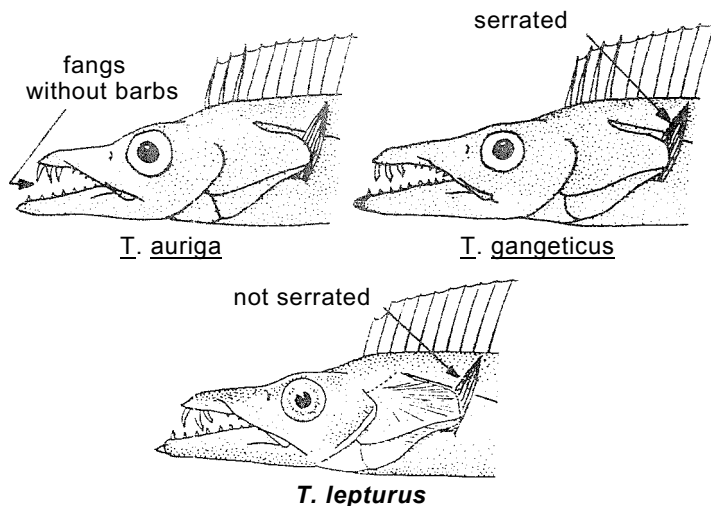
Trichiurus auriga: fangs in jaws without barbs; total dorsal fin rays less than 120 (133 to 138 in T. lepturus).

T. gangeticus: pectoral fin spine serrated; anal fin with about 85 minute reduced spinules (100 to 105 in T. Lepturus).

Lepturacanthus species: first anal fin spine large, half as large as eye; 2 small forward-directed canine teeth present in upper jaw and a small slit present on ventral side of lower jaw.

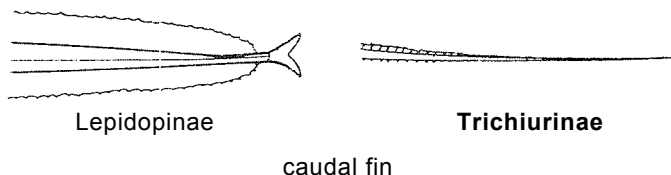
Other species of Trichiurinae: pelvic fins present as small, scale-like processes; lower hind margin of gill cover convex.

Species of Lepidopinae: caudal fin present, small and forked.



SIZE :

Maximum: 120 cm (standard length); common to 100 cm (standard length).



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Distributed throughout tropical and temperate waters of the world; in the area, known from the east coast of Africa, the Red Sea, the North Arabian Sea, India and Sri Lanka.

Benthopelagic, living in coastal waters usually to the depth of 100 m; often comes near to surface at night.

Feeds on wide varieties of small fishes and crustaceans; such as species of Dussumieria, Sardinella, Stelephorus, Excualosa, Hemiramphus, Mugil Leiognathus, Caranx, Sciaena and Trichiurus.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

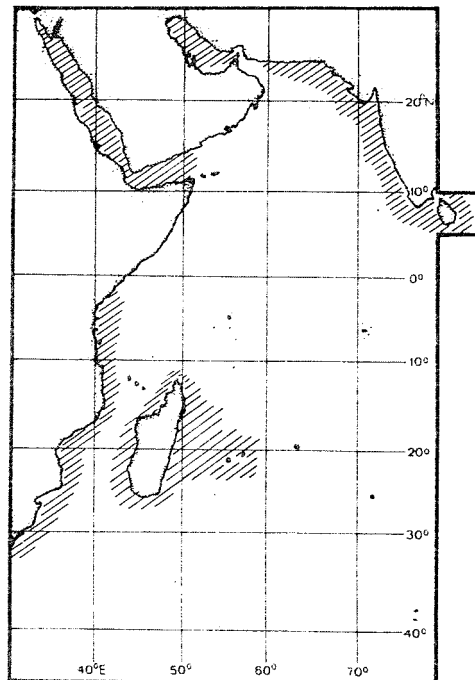
Exploited in coastal waters throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

The reported catches for this species from Fishing Area 5.1 totalled about 5 500 t in 1981 (mostly taken by Pakistan).

Caught mainly with bagnets in estuaries, with seines in inshore waters, and with trawls in offshore waters.

Marketed mostly fresh as well as dried salted. Taste excellent, but flesh scant.

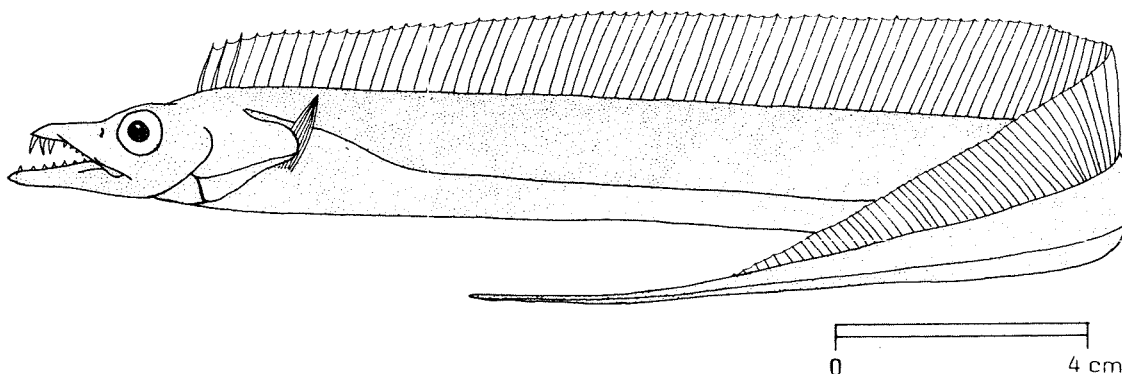


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TRICHIURIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Trichiurus auriga* Klunzinger, 1884

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

None. (This species has long been synonymized with *Trichiurus lepturus*. Silas and Rajagopalan (1974) recently validated and redescribed this species)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Pearly hairtail
Fr - Poisson sabre brochet
Sp - Pez sable perla

NATIONAL :

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body extremely elongate and strongly compressed, ribbon-like, tapering to a point. Mouth very large, with a small dermal flap at tip of each jaw; 2 or 3 pairs and one pair of fangs without barbs on upper and lower jaws, respectively; a single series of sharp, compressed lateral teeth in both jaws, minute teeth on palatines (roof of mouth); eye very large, its diameter contained 5.5 to 7 times in head length; lower hind margin of gill cover concave. Dorsal fin long-based and rather low, without a notch between the spinous and soft parts, with 3 spines and 106 to 113 soft rays; anal fin reduced to about 80 spinules slightly breaking skin, originating below 40th or 41st dorsal fin ray; pectoral fins about as long as snout, with 1 spine and 9 soft rays; pelvic and caudal fins absent. Lateral line originating at upper margin of gill cover, running obliquely to behind tip of pectoral fin, then straight near to ventral profile of body. Distance from snout to anus about 2/5 of standard length.

Colour: fresh specimens are pearl white with dorsal slightly dusky; margins of dorsal and anal fins dusky in formaline.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

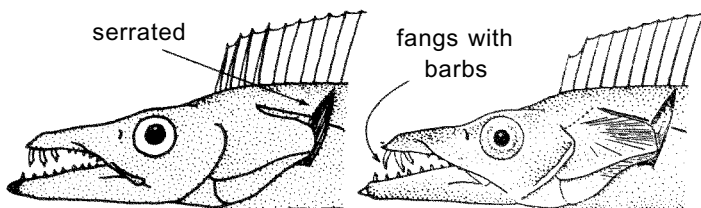
Trichiurus gangeticus: fangs in jaws with barbs; pectoral fin spine serrated; total dorsal fin rays more than 120 (109 to 116 in T. auriga).

T. lepturus: fangs in jaws with barbs; total dorsal fin rays more than 130.

Lepturacanthus species: first anal fin spine large, half as large as eye; 2 small forward-directed canine teeth present in upper Jaw; a small slit present on ventral side of lower jaw.

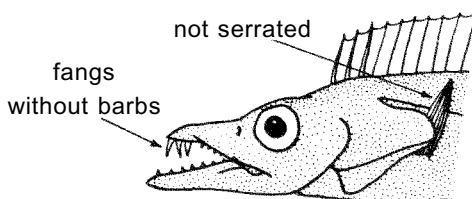
Other species of Trichiurinae: pelvic fins present as small, scale-like processes; lower hind margin of gill cover convex.

Species of Lepidopinae: caudal fin present, small and forked.



T. gangeticus

T. lepturus



T. auriga

SIZE :

Maximum: 35 cm (standard length); common to 30 cm (standard length).



Lepidopinae

Trichiurinae

caudal fin

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Distributed in deep waters of continental shelf edge and slope along the Kerala and Tamil Nadu coasts of India, the Red Sea and the Timor Sea.

Benthopelagic, living in deep waters ranging from 250 m to 360 m off Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Feeds on deep water shrimps and small fishes like myctophids.

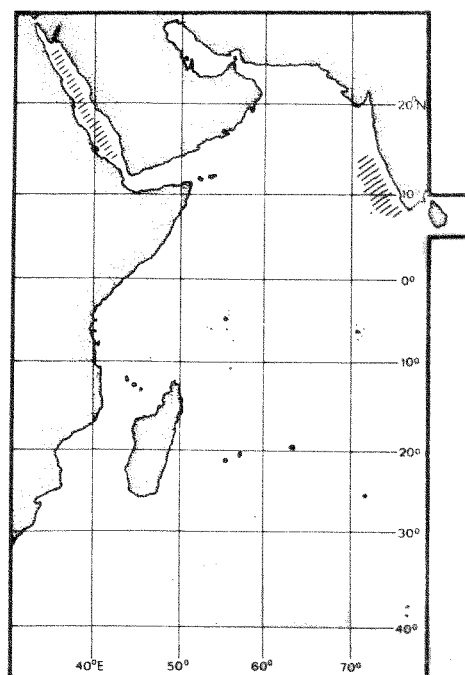
PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Not especially developed for this species.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with deep water trawls.



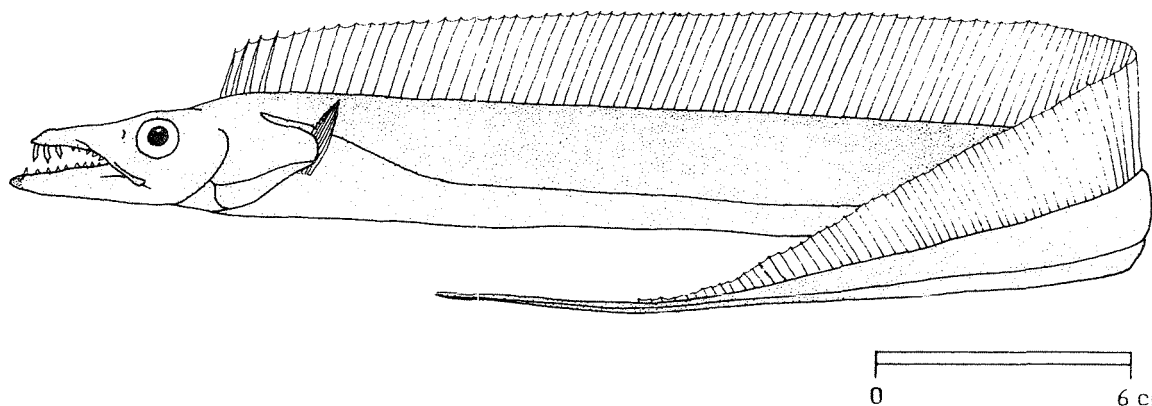
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TRICHIURIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Trichiurus gangeticus Gupta, 1966

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Lepturacanthus gangeticus (Gupta, 1966)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

- FAO: En. - Ganges hairtail
- Fr - Poisson sabre du Gange
- SP - Pez sable del Ganges

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body extremely elongate and strongly compressed, ribbon-like, tapering to a point. Mouth very large, with a dermal flap at tip of each jaw; 2 or 3 pairs and one pair of fangs with barbs near tip of upper and lower jaws, respectively; a single series of sharp, compressed lateral teeth in both jaws; eye very large, situated dorsally, its diameter contained 6 or 7 times in head length; lower hind margin of gill cover concave. A single long-based dorsal fin, with 4 spines and 116 to 129 soft rays; anal fin reduced to about 85 minute spinules, slightly breaking through skin, originating below about 36th dorsal fin ray; pectoral fins about as long as snout, with one serrated spine and 10 or 11 soft rays; pelvic and caudal fins absent. Lateral line nearer to ventral profile than to dorsal profile of body, rising toward dorsal profile only anteriorly.

Colour: fresh specimens are bright silvery white with semi transparent dorsal and anal fin membranes; body becomes darker in formalin.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

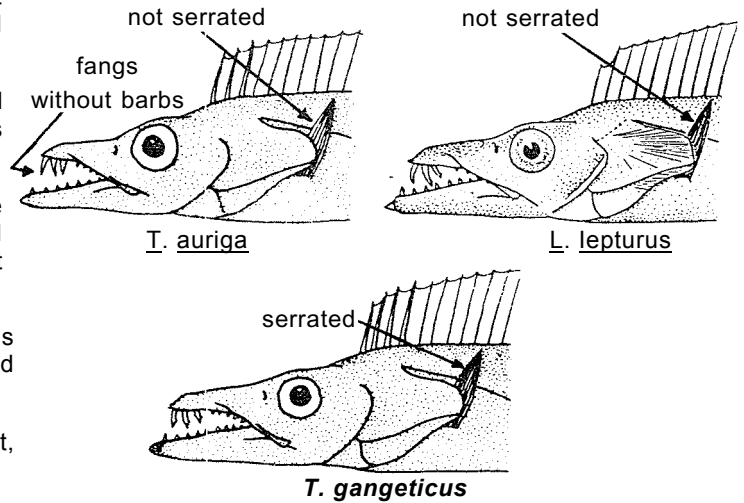
Trichiurus auriga: fangs in jaws without barbs; pectoral fin spine not serrated; total dorsal fin rays less than 120 (120 to 133 in T. gangeticus).

T. lepturus: pectoral spine not serrated; anal fin with about 100 to 105 minute reduced spinules (85 in T. gangeticus).

Lepturacanthus species: first anal fin spine large, half as large as eye; 2 small forward-directed canine teeth present in upper jaw; a small slit present on ventral side of lower jaw.

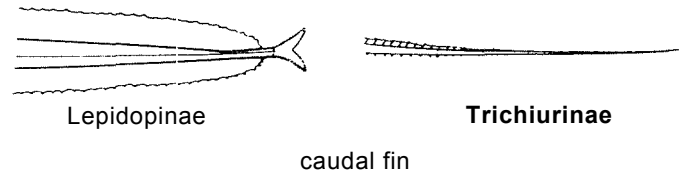
Other species of Trichiurinae: pelvic fins present as small, scale-like processes; lower hind margin of gill cover convex.

Species of Lepidopinae: caudal fin present, small and forked.



SIZE :

Maximum: 50 cm (standard length); common to 40 cm (standard length).



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, found only In the Gulf of Miannar (southeast India). Elsewhere, northward extending to the Hooghly estuary (Calcutta).

Pelagic and benthopelagic; often comes near surface at night.

Feeds on a wide variety of small fishes and crustaceans.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters and estuaries of the east coast of India.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with shore seines, bagnets and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh as well as dried salted, mixed with other trichiurids.

