

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

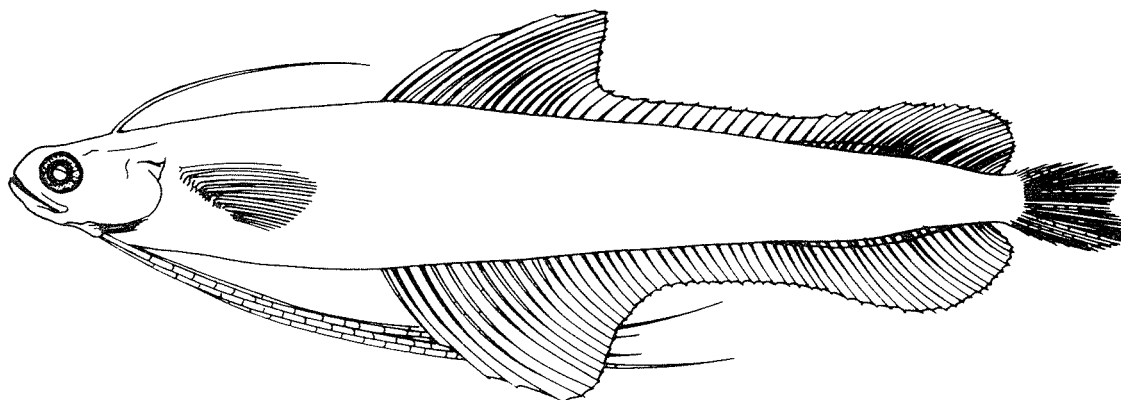
BREGMACEROTIDAE

Codlets, codlings

Body moderately elongate and with a relatively short head. Two dorsal fins, the first a single long ray on top of rear part of head, the second with a long base, middle rays much shorter; one long-based anal fin with middle rays much shorter; pelvic fins inserted under rear part of head, with long, thick rays that extend far beyond the beginning of the anal fin.

Colour: variable, ranging from overall dark to pale or silvery.

Small fishes, rarer exceeding 10 cm length, pelagic in coastal and oceanic waters, mostly restricted to the upper 300 m of the water column. Of little or no commercial importance at present, but taken as bycatch in other fisheries.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

None.

KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Bregmaceros only.

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA*:

Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included

Bregmaceros arabicus D'Ancona & Cavinato, 1965

Bregmaceros atlanticus Goode & Bean, 1865

Bregmaceros maclellandi Thompson, 1840

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Bregmaceros nectabanus Whitley, 1941

Bregmaceros rarisquamosus Munro, 1950

Prepared by D.M. Cohen, Natural History Museum, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California, USA

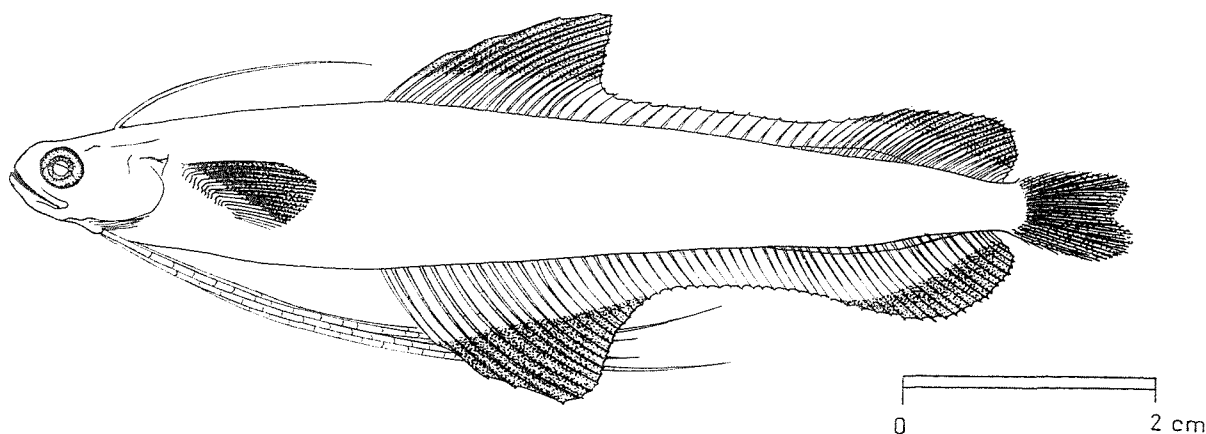
*Tentative due to poor knowledge of taxonomy of these fishes

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: BREGMACEROTIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Bregmaceros maclellandi Thompson, 1840

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Possibly one or more; however, taxonomy is confused.



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Spotted codlet
 Fr - Varlet de l'Océan Indien
 Sp - Bregmacero manchado

NATIONAL :

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Head relatively short, 6 or more times in total length. Two dorsal fins, the first a single long ray on top of rear part of head, the second with a long base and the middle rays much shorter; pelvic fins inserted under rear part of head, with long, thick rays that extend far beyond the beginning of the anal fin.

Colour: back and upper part of sides light brown, mid and lower sides and belly pale to silvery; upper part of pectoral fin black or rather dark; dark pigment. usually present on caudal fin, anterior and posterior lobes of second dorsal fin, and posterior lobe of anal.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other Bregmaceros species: lack the distinctive dark pigmentation on pectoral fin.

SIZE:

Maximum: about 10 cm; common to 7 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Most probably found throughout tropical parts of the area; possibly circumtropical.

Neritic, taken in estuaries as well. Possibly also oceanic.

Feeds mainly on planktonic crustacea.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal areas of Maharashtra.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught in bagnets and trawls.

Marketed fresh.

