

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

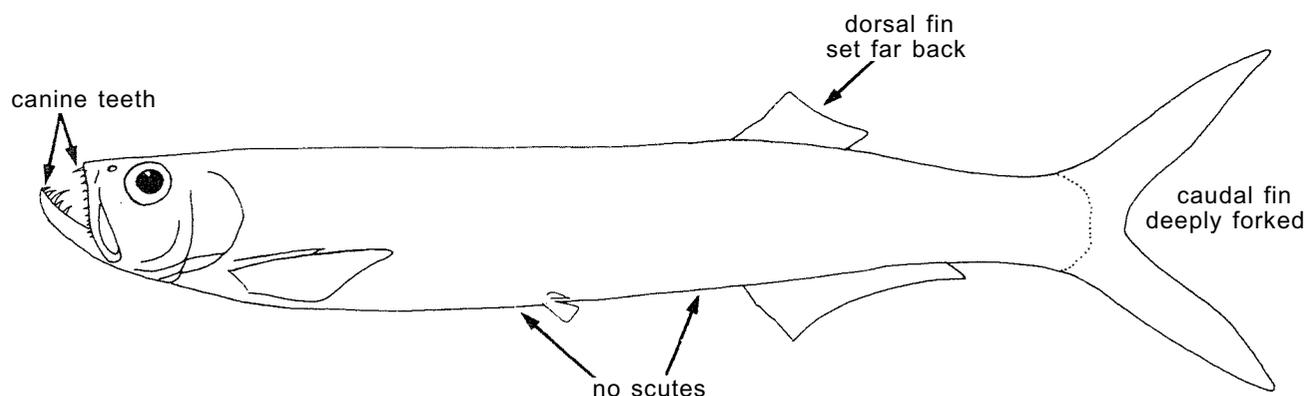
FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

CHIROCENTRIDAE

Wolf-herrings

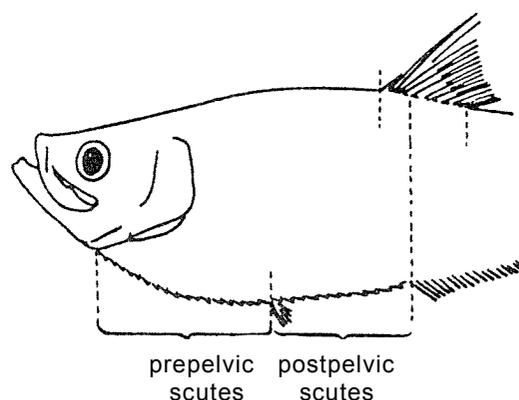
Very elongate, highly compressed fishes resembling the Clupeidae (herrings, sardines) but without scutes along belly. Large canine teeth in both jaws. No spiny rays in fins; a single dorsal fin set well behind midpoint of body; pectoral fins set low on body; pelvic fins about equidistant between pectoral base and anal origin; anal fin origin below anterior dorsal fin base; caudal fin deeply forked.

Colour: blue/green on back, sides silvery.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other fishes of similar appearance usually lack canine teeth in jaws; also, some have scutes along belly (Clupeidae), or the dorsal fin more advanced (Engraulidae), or two dorsal fins and body rounded (Sphyraenidae).



GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chirocentrus only.

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

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

Chirocentrus dorab (Forsskål, 1775)

CHIROC Chiroc 1

Chirocentrus nudus Swainson, 1839

CHIROC Chiroc 2

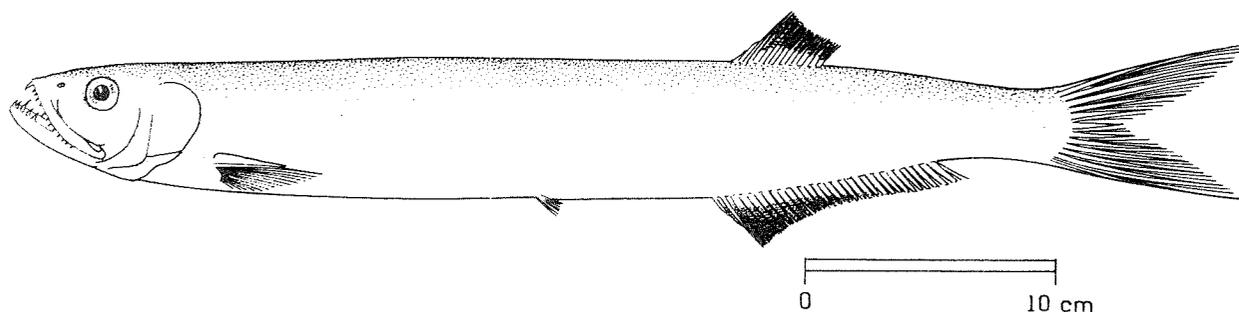
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: CHIROCENTRIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Chirocentrus dorab (Forsskål, 1775)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Dorab wolf-herring
 Fr - Chirocentre dorab
 Sp - Arencón dorab

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body very elongate, strongly compressed, belly sharp but without scutes. Head strongly compressed; 2 fanglike canines pointing forward in upper jaw, a series of canine teeth in lower jaw. Dorsal fin set far back on body; pectoral fin short, its length about equal to distance between eye centre and hind border of gill cover; anal fin origin below about dorsal fin origin.

Colour: back bright blue (fading to grey, flanks silver. Upper part of dorsal black (but frequently damaged); inner face of pectoral fin black at base; some black on anterior part of anal fin.

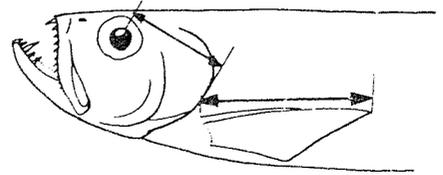
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chirocentrus nudus: pectoral fin longer, its length greater than distance between eye centre and hind border of gill cover; also, no black on dorsal and anal fins.

Species of Clupeidae: scutes present along belly.

SIZE:

Maximum: 100 cm; common from 40 to 60 cm.



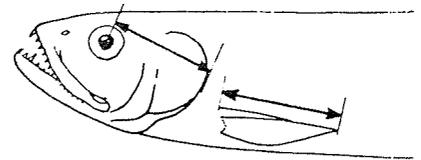
Chirocentrus nudus

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout the area. Elsewhere, eastward to the Western Pacific and northward to Japan.

Pelagic in coastal waters, from the shore to about 120 m depth.

A predator, probably feeding on small fishes and crustaceans.



Chirocentrus dorab

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

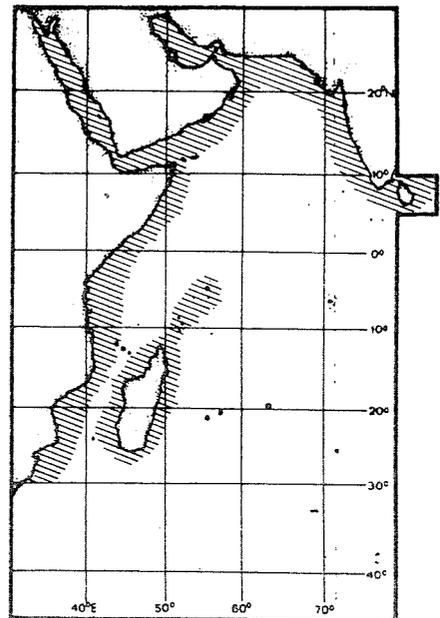
Caught throughout its range, but no special fishery. Common, but not abundant.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Within the area, separate statistics for this species are only reported by Pakistan (7 500 tons in 1980). In addition, India reports statistics for the combined catch of C. dorab and C. nudus (10 300 tons in 1980).

Caught with fish traps, gillnets, seines and shallow trawls.

Marketed fresh or frozen.



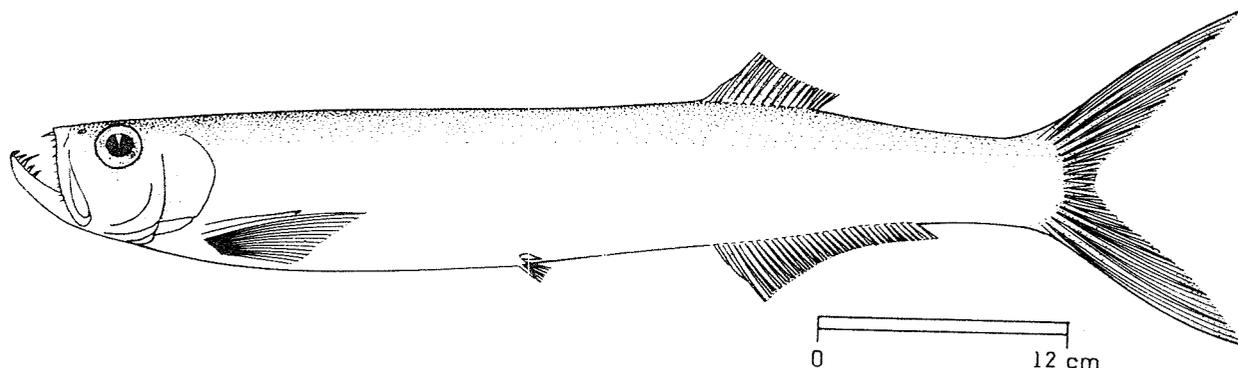
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: CHIROCENTRIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Chirocentrus nudus Swainson, 1839

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Chirocentrus dorab* (misidentification)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

- FAO : En - Whitefin wolf-herring
 Fr - Chirocentre sabre
 Sp - Arencón de aleta blanca

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body very elongate, strongly compressed, belly sharp but without scutes. Head strongly compressed; 2 fanglike canines pointing forward in upper jaw, a series of canine teeth in lower jaw. Dorsal fin set far back on body; pectoral fin long, its length greater than distance between eye centre and hind border of gill cover; anal fin origin usually a little behind dorsal fin origin.

Colour: back bright blue (fading to grey), flanks silver. Dorsal fin clear (but frequently damaged); inner face of pectoral fin black at base; no black on anterior part of anal fin.

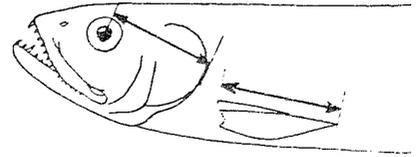
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chirocentrus dorab: pectoral fin shorter, its length about equal to distance between eye centre and hind border of gill cover; also, black on upper part of dorsal and anterior part of anal fins.

Species of Clupeidae: scutes present along belly.

SIZE :

Maximum: 100 cm; common to 60



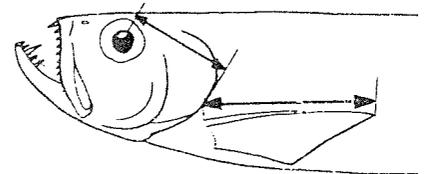
Chirocentrus dorab

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout the area, but usually confused with C. dorab. Elsewhere, eastward to Western Pacific.

Pelagic in coastal waters, from the shore to about 150 m depth.

A predator, probably feeding on small fishes and crustaceans.



Chirocentrus nudus

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught throughout its range, but no special fishery. Common, but not everywhere abundant.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. Chirocentrus nudus is usually included with C. dorab as a single statistical category. The total recorded catch of wolf-herring in 1980 was 10 300 tons (India only).

Caught with fish traps, gillnets, seines and shallow trawls.

Marketed fresh or frozen.

