

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

**FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)**

MONOCENTRIDAE

Pineapplefishes, pineconefishes, knightfishes

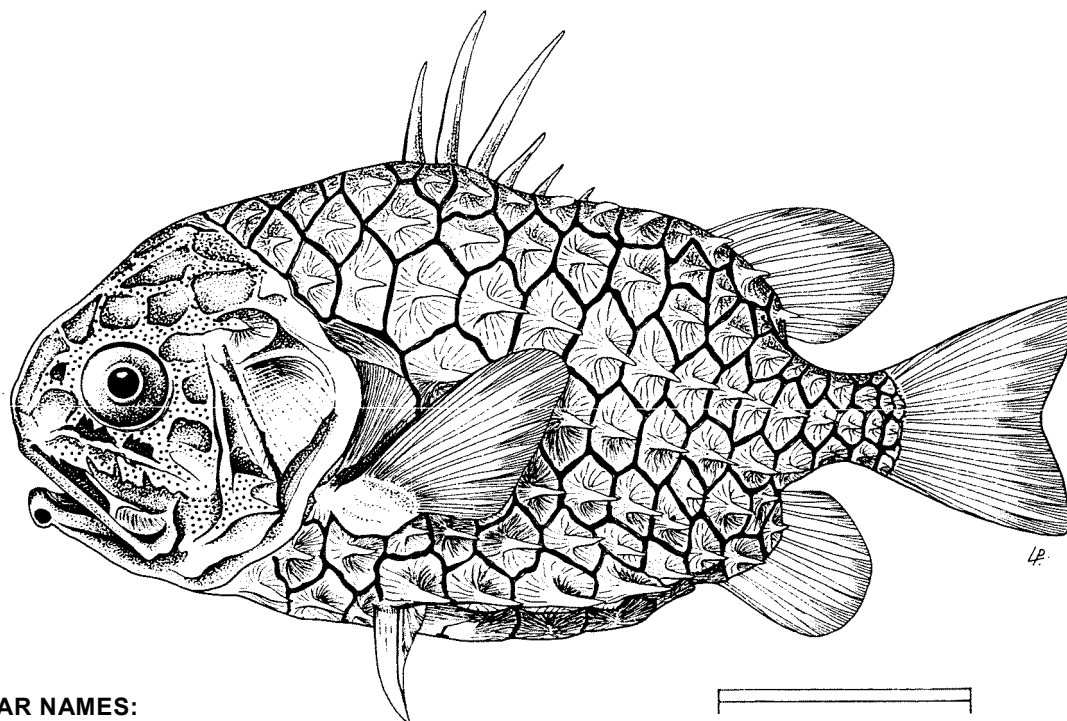
A single species in the area - see species sheet for:
Monocentris japonicus (Hottuyn) MONOC Monoc 1

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MONOCENTRIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Monocentris japonicus* (Houttuyn, 1782)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Pineapple fish
Fr - Poisson ananas
Sp - Piñero

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body moderately deep and compressed, covered with enlarged scales rigidly united to form rough armour. Eye large. Dorsal fin with 5 or 6 isolated, heteracanth spines followed by a soft dorsal fin of moderate extent; pelvic fins with 1 spine (larger than dorsal spines) and 2 or 3 very small rays. Light organ present at ventral tip of lower jaw.

Colour: yellowish, with dark scale edges; light organ covered with black pigment.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Berycidae, Holocentridae and Trachichthyidae: dorsal spines connected by a membrane; body scales not thickened and rigidly united. No light organ at tip of lower jaw.

SIZE:

Maximum: 17 cm; common to 14 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Recorded in the area from South Africa, Mauritius and Sri Lanka; also occurring in the Gulf of Aqaba. Extends east and north discontinuously to Australia and Japan.

Benthic species, with adults found between 20 and 200 m; juveniles occasionally found in shallow water. The light organ on the lower jaw contains symbiotic luminous bacteria.

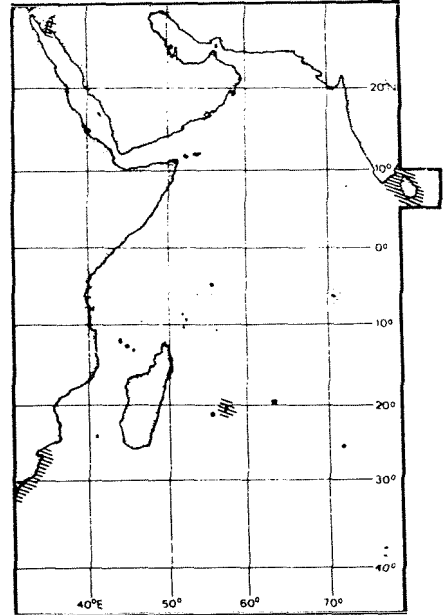
PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught incidently throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken infrequently in trawls.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

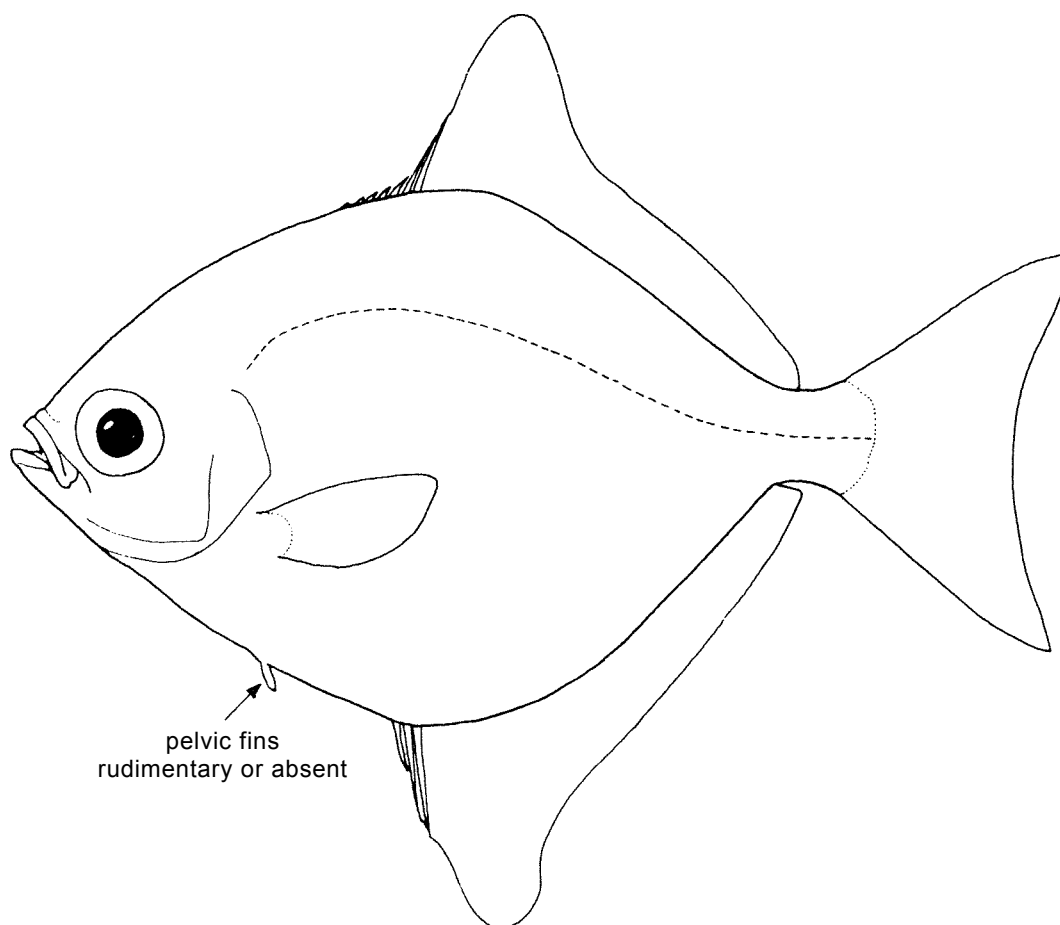
FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

MONODACTYLIDAE

Moonies

Body oval strongly compressed, covered with small deciduous scales extending onto median fins and head. Mouth small; jaws with bands of tiny conical teeth; granular teeth on vomer, palatines and endopterygoids roof of mouth) and tongue; maxilla exposed; upper jaw slightly protrusible. Gill membranes separate, free from isthmus; branchiostegal rays 6. Pelvic fins present in juveniles, rudimentary (very small) or absent in adults; dorsal fin with 7 or 8 spines and 25 to 30 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 25 to 30 soft rays; dorsal and anal fin spines small and inconspicuous.

Median-sized fishes occurring in large shoals in estuaries and over shallow reefs; they are equally at home in fresh or salt water. Moonies are of minor commercial importance but often sold in local markets.



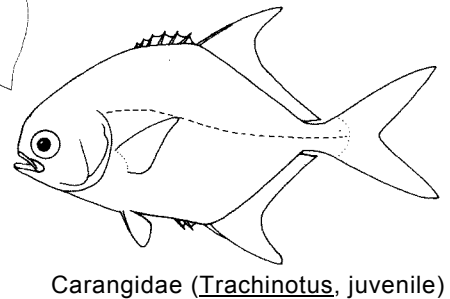
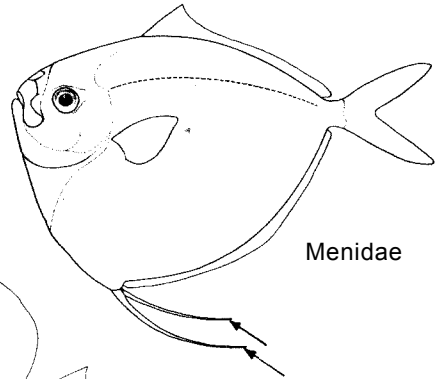
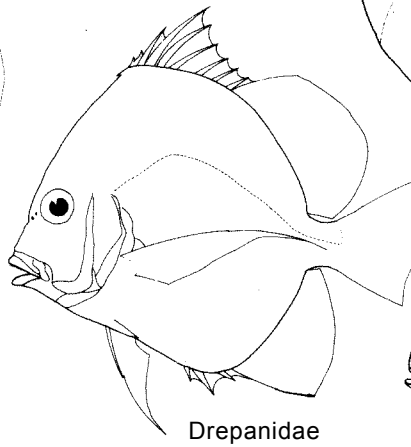
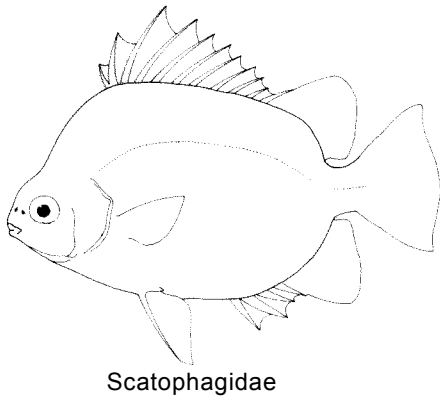
SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Scatophagidae and Chaetodontidae: dorsal fin with 10 to 17 spines well separated from soft rayed part of fin; pelvic fins well developed, with a spine and 5 rays.

Drepanidae, Platacidae and Ehippidae: gill membranes attached to isthmus; pelvic fins well developed, with one spine and 5 soft rays.

Menidae: body apparently scaleless; dorsal fin spines absent in adults; first 2 pelvic fin rays greatly elongated.

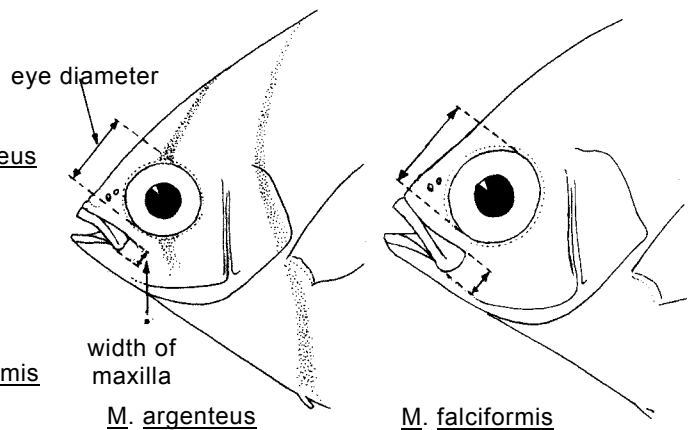
Carangidae: 2 anal fin spines; caudal fin forked.



KEY TO SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

1a. Body depth contained 1.2 to 1.6 times in standard length; gillrakers 18 to 22 on lower limb of first arch; greatest width of maxilla contained 3.4 to 5.0 times in eye diameter; juveniles with only 2 dark vertical stripes M. argenteus

1b. Body depth contained 1.5 to 2.0 times in standard length; gillrakers 22 to 24 on lower limb of first arch; greatest width of maxilla contained 2.7 to 3.7 times in eye diameter; juveniles with 11 or 12 dark vertical stripes M. falciformis



LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA

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

Monodactylus argenteus (Linnaeus, 1758)
Monodactylus falciformis Lacepède, 1801

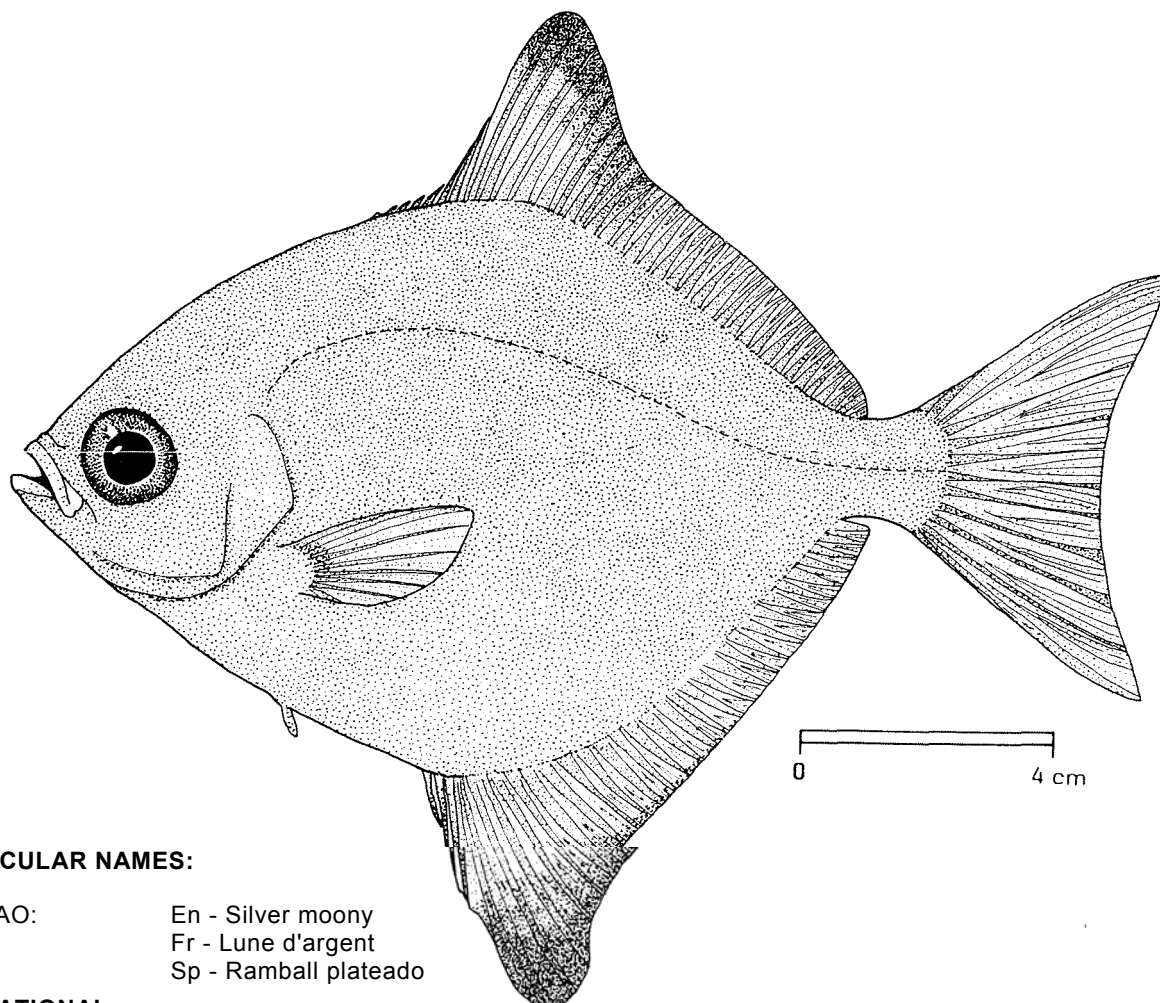
MONOD Monod 1
 MONOD Monod 2

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MONODACTYLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Monodactylus argenteus (Linnaeus 1758)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Silver moony
Fr - Lune d'argent
Sp - Ramball plateado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oval, strongly compressed, covered with small deciduous (easily shed) scales extending onto median fins and head; body depth contained 1.2 to 1.6 times in standard length. Mouth small; jaws with band of tiny conical teeth; patches of granular teeth on palate and tongue. Pelvic fins very small or absent in adults; dorsal fin with 7 or 8 spines and 26 to 30 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 26 to 30 soft rays; dorsal and anal fin spines small and inconspicuous; pectoral fin rays 16. Lower gillrakers 18 to 22.

Colour: adults silvery; tips of dorsal and anal fin lobes dusky; juveniles dusky silver with 2 curved dark stripes across head.

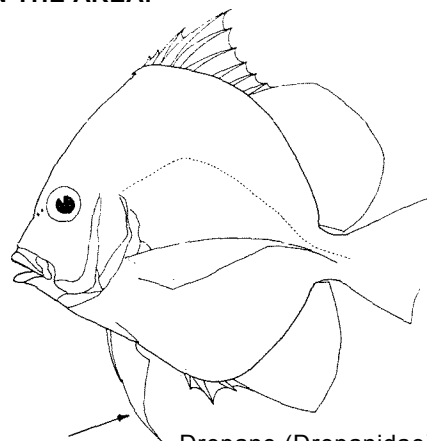
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Monodactylus falciformis: body depth contained 1.5 to 2.0 times in standard length (contained 1.2 to 1.6 in M. argenteus); gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 22 to 24 (18 to 22 in M. argenteus).

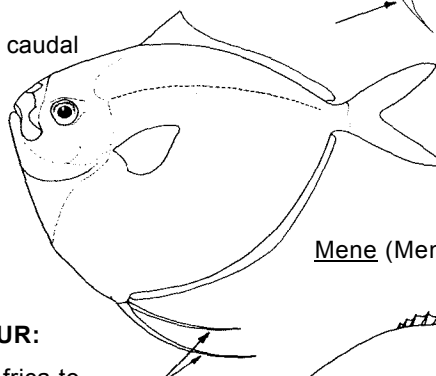
Drepane (Drepanidae), Scatophagus (Scatophagidae) and Chaetodontidae: pelvic fins well developed; dorsal fin spines well developed, distinctly separated from soft rayed part of fin.

Mene (Menidae): body apparently scaleless; first 2 pelvic fin rays greatly elongated.

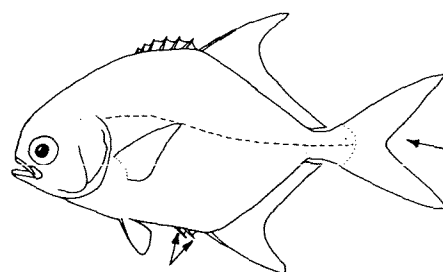
Trachinotus (Carangidae): 2 anal fin spines; caudal fin forked.



Drepane (Drepanidae)



Mene (Menidae)



Trachinotus (Carangidae)

SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Indo-West Pacific and Red Sea from South Africa to Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles. Elsewhere off China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia and New Guinea.

Commonly found in freshwater, estuaries and harbours; feeds on plankton and detritus.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

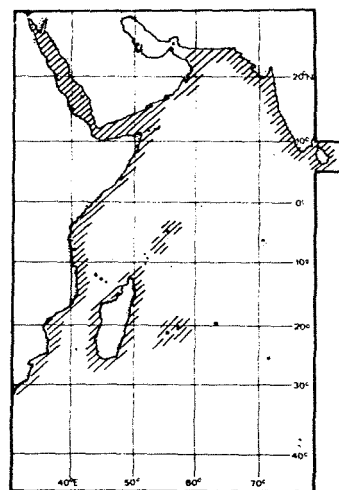
Estuaries and shallow coastal waters.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with beach seines and throw nets.

Sold fresh in local markets.

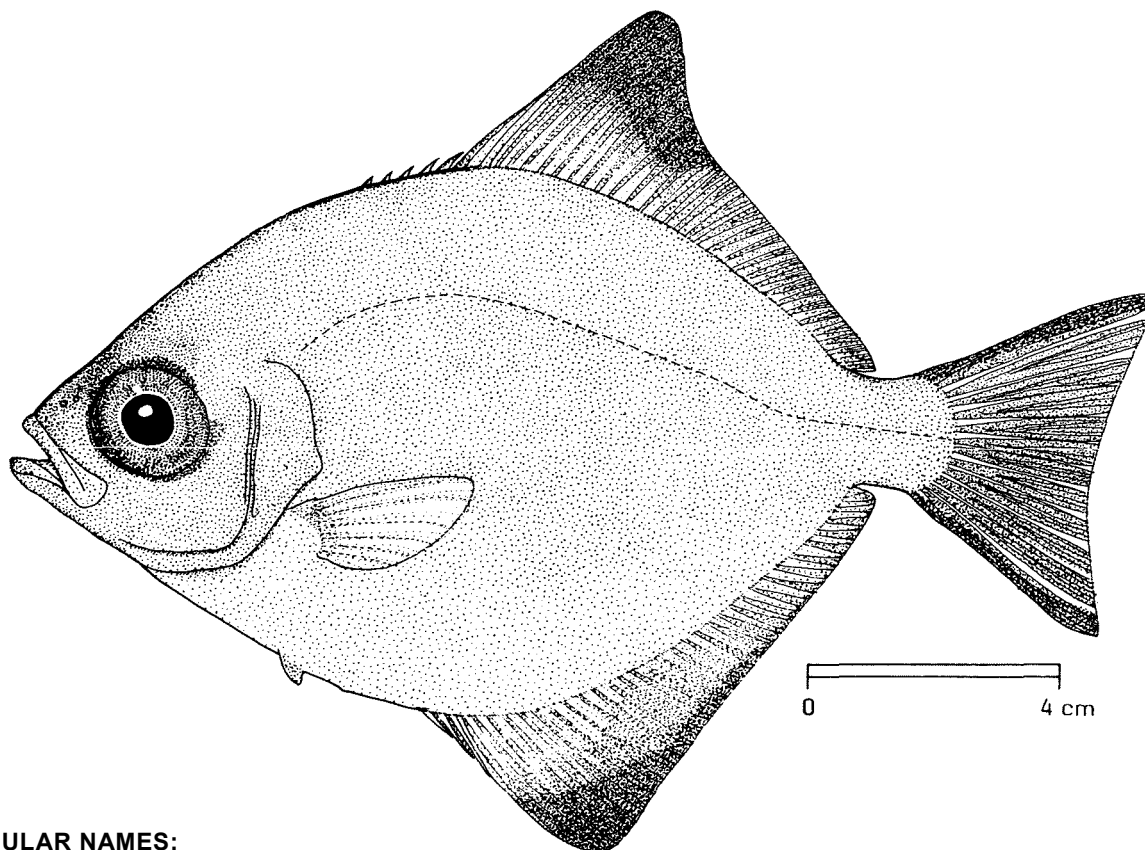


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: MONODACTYLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Monodactylus falciformis* Lacepède, 1801

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Full moony
 Fr - Lune pleine
 Sp - Ramball luna

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oval, strongly compressed, covered with small deciduous (easily shed) scales extending onto median fins and head; body depth contained 1.5 to 2.0 times in standard length. Mouth small; jaws with band of tiny conical teeth; patches of granular teeth on palate and tongue. Pelvic fins very small or absent in adults; dorsal fin with 7 or 8 spines and 25 to 30 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 25 to 29 soft rays; dorsal and anal fin spines small and inconspicuous; pectoral fin rays 17 or 18. Gillrakers 22 to 24 on lower limb of first arch.

Colour: adults silvery; tips of dorsal and anal fin lobes dusky; juveniles dusky silver with 11 or 12 dark vertical bars.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Monodactylus argenteus: body depth contained 1.2 to 1.6 times in standard length (contained 1.5 to 2.0 in M. falciformis); gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 18 to 22 (22 to 24 in M. falciformis).

Drepane (Drepanidae), Scatophagus (Scatophagidae) and Chaetodontidae: pelvic fins well developed; dorsal fin spines well developed, distinctly separated from soft rayed part of fin.

Mene (Menidae): body apparently scaleless; first 2 pelvic fin rays greatly elongated.

Trachinotus (Carangidae): 2 anal fin spines; caudal fin forked.

SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm (total length).

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, found from South Africa to the Red Sea and Sri Lanka (Madagascar ?). Common in freshwater, estuaries and harbours; a shoaling species feeding on plankton and detritus.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

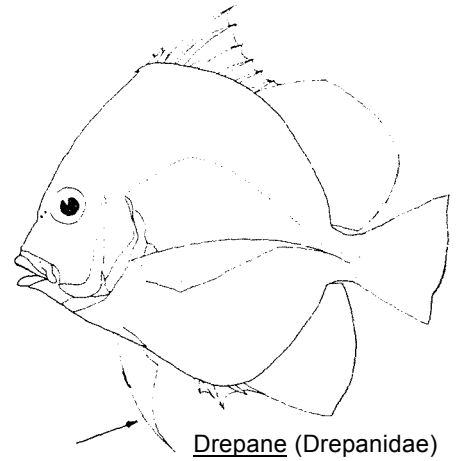
Estuaries and shallow coastal waters.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

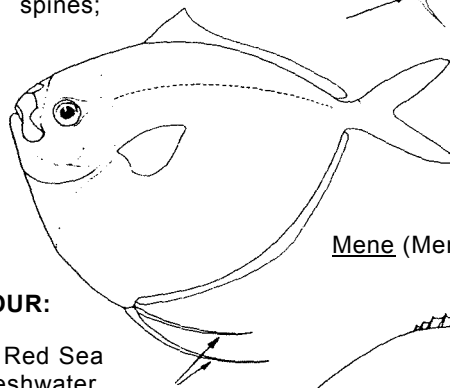
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with beach seines and throw nets.

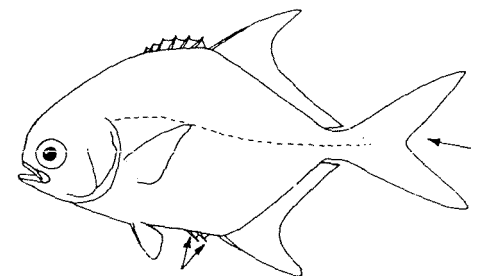
Sold fresh in local markets.



Drepane (Drepanidae)



Mene (Menidae)



Trachinotus (Carangidae)

