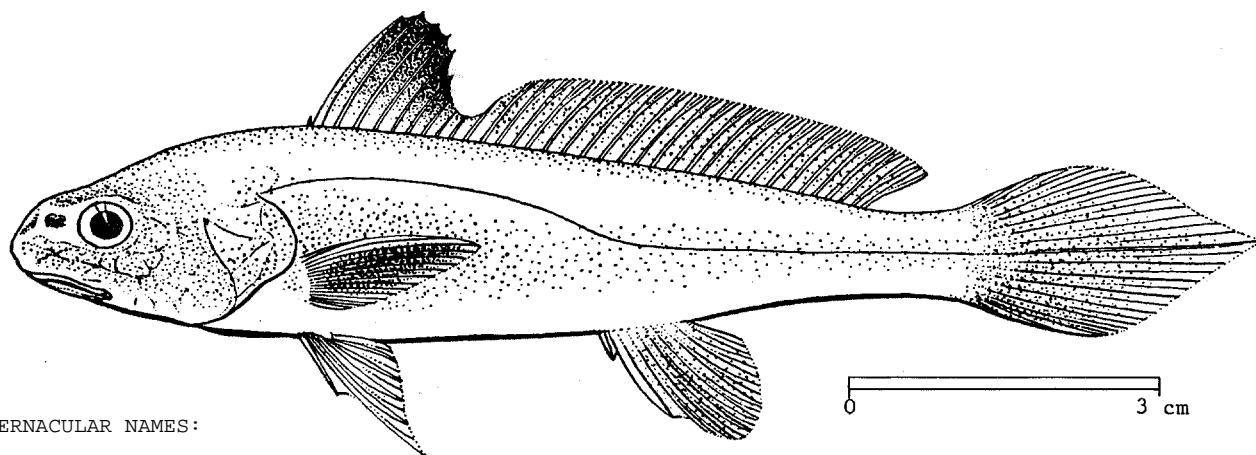


FAD SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Johnius trachycephalus* (Bleeker, 1850)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Johnius osseus* (but not of Day): Fowler, 1933, 1937
Otolithoides siamensis Fowler, 1934

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Leaf-tail croaker
Fr -
Sp -

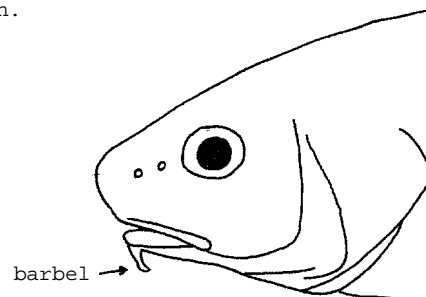
NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A small species with a prominent, swollen snout projecting beyond the upper jaw; mouth inferior; upper jaw reaching to below hind part of eye; no barbel on chin. Teeth differentiated into large and small in upper jaw, not, or but little, in lower jaw, the large forming outer series in upper jaw; no canine teeth. Lower gill rakers 12 to 13, the first two or three often mere stumps, those near joint of arch long and slender. Swimbladder hammer-shaped, with about 11 pairs of much branched arborescent appendages, the first entering the head and sending a palmate branch to the front of the pectoral arch. Dorsal fin with 8 to 9 spines, followed by a notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 24 to 27 soft rays; pectoral fin moderate, about 3/4 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 6 to 7 soft rays, the 2nd spine strong and about 1/3 of head length; caudal fin rhomboid. Scales on head and body cycloid (smooth); lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

Colour: back grey, flanks lighter-, belly silver; fins yellowish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

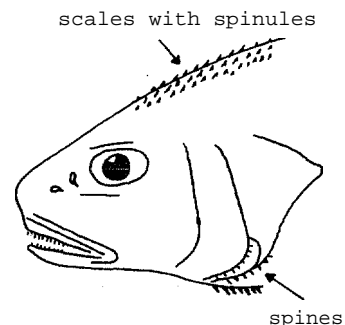
Johnius dussumieri: barbel present on chin.*Johnius coitor*: ctenoid (rough to touch) scales present on body, and 2nd anal spine longer and stronger.*J. dussumieri*

Johnius belangerii, *J. carutta*: fewer lower gill rakers (8 to 10; 12 to 13 in *J. trachycephalus*) and a blunt or short snout; also, *J. carutta* has a yellow or white lateral streak along flanks, and *J. belangerii* has strongly ctenoid scales on body (very rough to touch).

Johnius hypostomus: more soft dorsal fin rays (32 to 34; 24 to 27 in *J. trachycephalus*).

Johnieops species: teeth enlarged in lower as well as in upper jaw.

Aspericorvina jubata: scales extremely rough and denticulate on head, back and belly; also, gill cover bones with denticulations.



A. jubata

SIZE:

Maximum: 13 cm; common: about 10 cm.

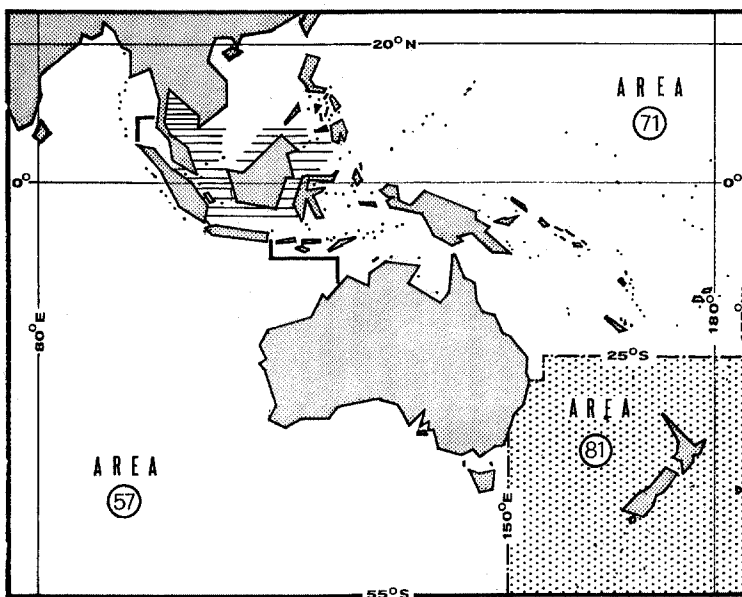
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Sumatra, Borneo, Singapore, Thailand.

Inhabits coastal waters, entering rivers.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 41 900 tons (India only)
 area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 21 400 tons (Philippines: 16 900 tons;
 Malaysia: 4 500 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls, gill nets and handlines.

Marketed fresh; also dried-salted; swimbladder dried.

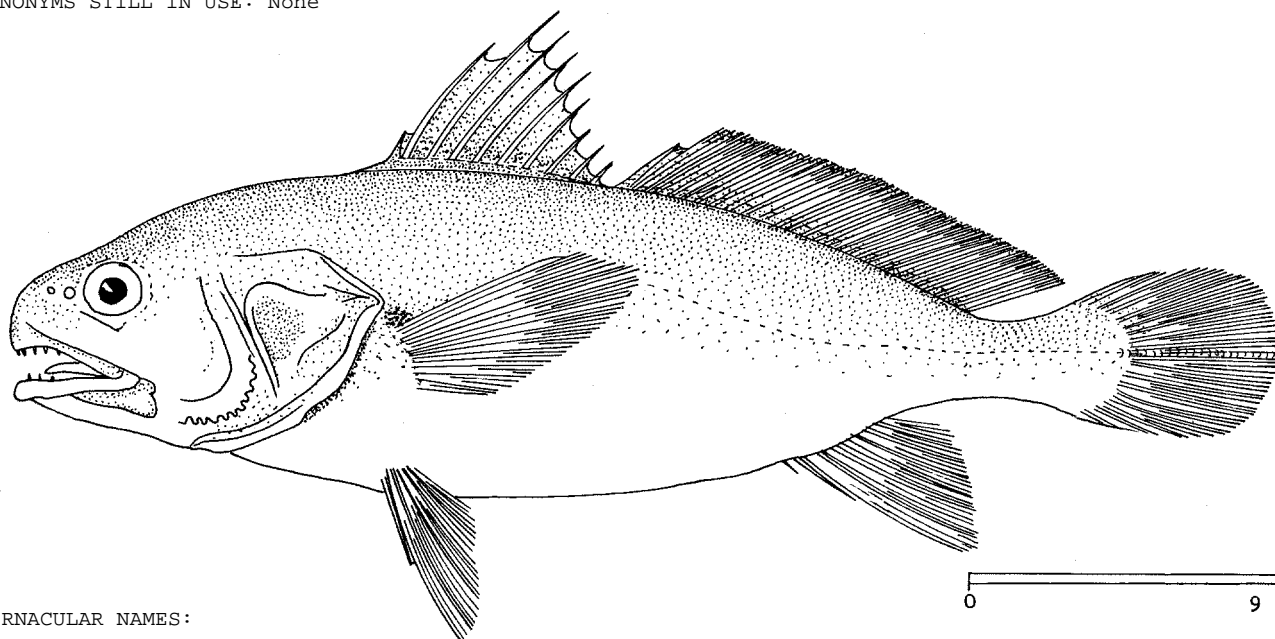
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

Johnieops dussumieri (Cuvier, 1830)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

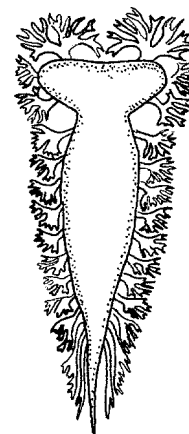
- FAO: En - Dussumier's croaker
- Fr -
- Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A fairly small species, with a blunt snout projecting a little beyond upper jaw; mouth small and a little inferior; upper jaw short, reaching to below eye centre, lower jaw less than 1/2 of head length. Teeth in narrow bands, moderately differentiated into large and small; the large forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower; no canine teeth. Lower gill rakers 12 to 16, short, curved and coarsely toothed. Swimbladder hammer-shaped, with several pairs of arborescent appendages, the first branching in head and sending a palmate branch to the front of pectoral arch. Dorsal fin with 9 to 10 spines, followed by a deep notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 28 to 30 soft rays; pectoral fin moderate, about 3/4 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 to 8 soft rays, the 2nd spine moderate; caudal fin rhomboid. Scales cycloid (smooth) on lower part of head, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

Colour: dusky brown on back, lighter below; outer part of dorsal fin black and a black spot at base of pectoral fin.



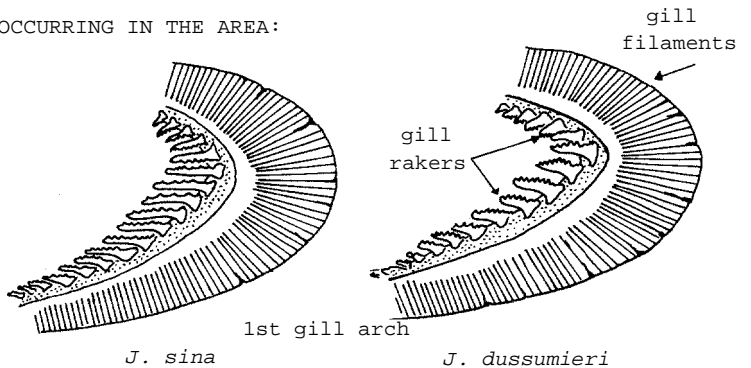
swimbladder
Johnieops dussumieri

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Johnieops sina: gill rakers longer, thinner and straighter; also; teeth rather less enlarged.

Johnieops vogleri: fewer lower gill rakers (9 to 12; 12 to 16 in *J. dussumieri*) and enlarged teeth longer.

Johnius species: lack enlarged teeth in lower jaw.



SIZE:

Maximum: 80 cm; common: 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

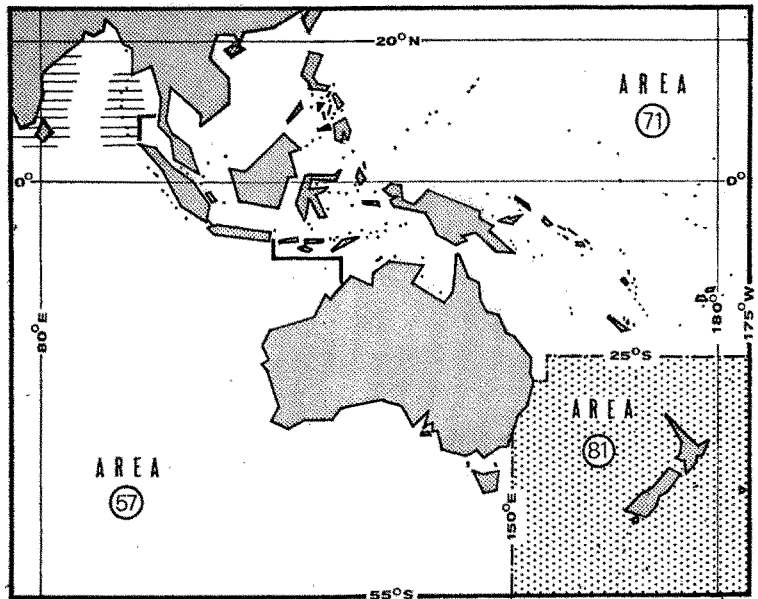
Eastern coast of India and Andaman Sea (other records doubtful).

Found in inshore and coastal waters, down to 40 m.

Feeds on invertebrates and small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 41 90b tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 21 400 tons (Philippines: 16 900 tons;
Malaysia: 4 500 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls, gill nets and handlines.

Marketed fresh; also dried-salted; swimbladder dried.

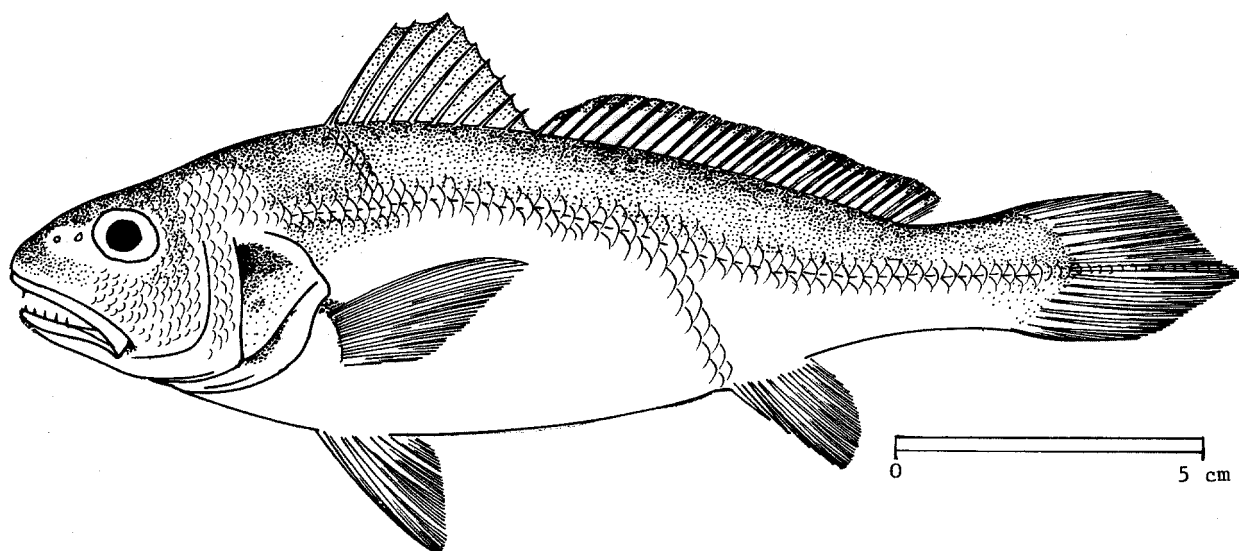
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

Johnieops sina (Cuvier, 1830)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Wak sing*: Chu, Lo & Wu, 1963



VERNACULAR NAMES

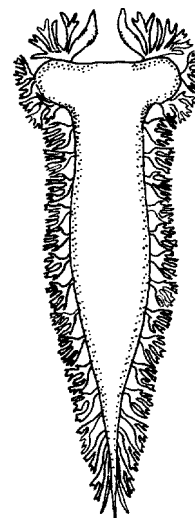
FAO: En - Sin croaker
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A fairly small species with the snout rounded but not projecting, not greatly swollen; mouth large, a little inferior; upper jaw extending to below hind margin of pupil and about 2/5 of head length, lower jaw not quite 1/2 of head length. Teeth in very narrow bands moderately differentiated into large and small; the large forming outer series in upper jaw, inner posterior series in lower jaw; no canine teeth. Lower gill rakers 13 to 15, slender and finely toothed. Swimbladder hammer-shaped, with 12 to 17 pairs of arborescent appendages, the first branching in head and sending a palmate branch to the front of pectoral arch. Dorsal fin with 9 to 10 spines, followed by a deep notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 27 to 29 soft rays; pectoral fin moderate, about 3/4 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 soft rays, the 2nd spine moderate, about 1/3 of head length; caudal fin rhomboid. Scales cycloid (smooth) on head, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

Colour: no distinctive colouration.



swimbladder
ventral view

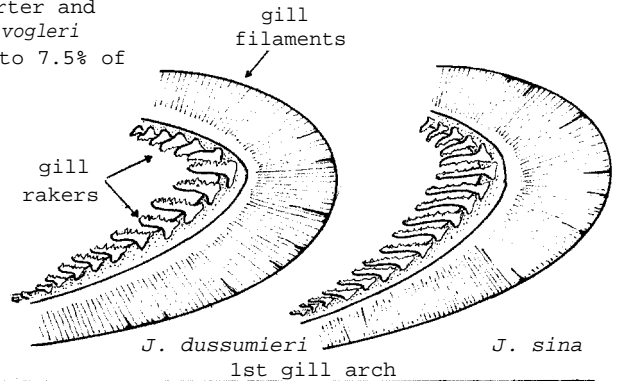
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Johnieops dussumieri and *J. vogleri*: gill rakers shorter and stouter; also, teeth more enlarged; gill rakers fewer in *J. vogleri* (9 to 12; 13 in *J. sina*) and 2nd anal spine shorter (6 to 7.5% of standard length; 9.5 to 127 in *J. sina*).

Johnius species: lack enlarged teeth in lower jaw.

SIZE:

Maximum: 20 cm; common: 15 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

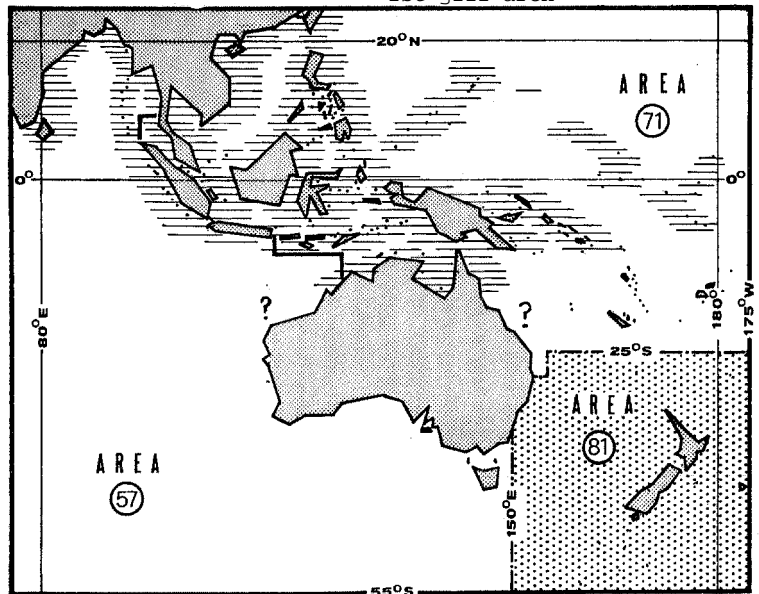
Throughout northern part of area, perhaps to northern coasts of Australia.

Found in inshore waters, down to 40 m; lives off sea-bed.

Feeds on small crustaceans.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not recorded for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

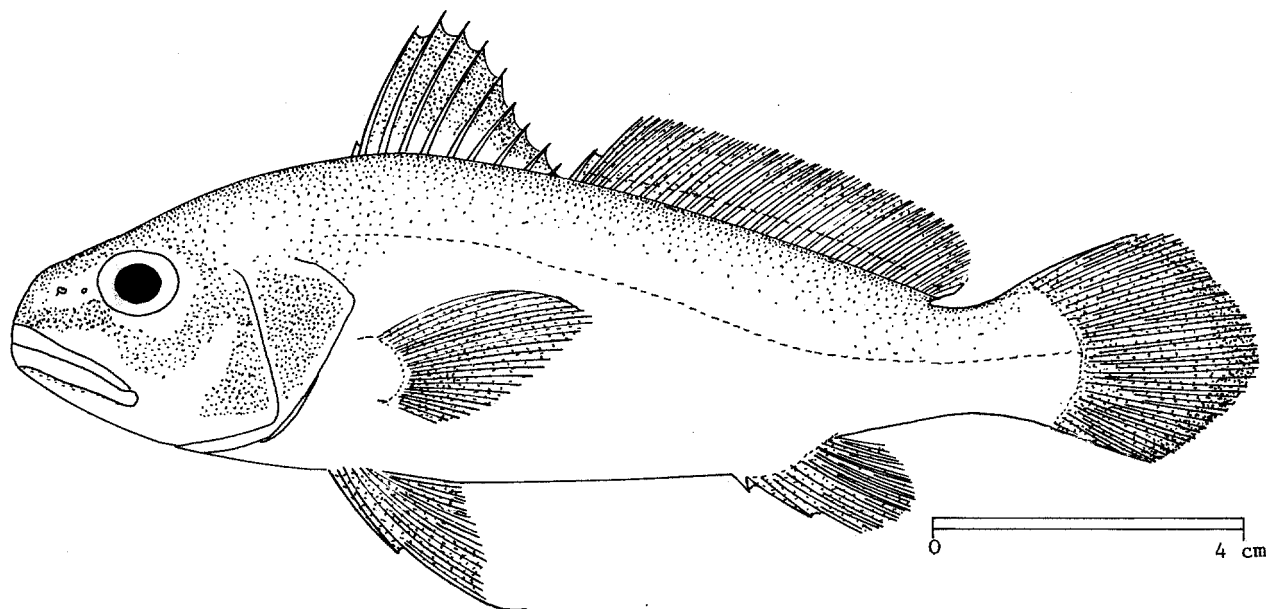
area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 41 900 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 21 400 tons (Philippines: 16 900 tons;
Malaysia: 4 500 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls, traps and handlines.

Marketed fresh and dried-salted; swimbladder dried.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Johnieops vogteri* (Bleeker, 1853)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Sciaena sina*: Day, 1876 (in part)
? *Sciaena siamensis* Hora, 1924
? *Wak tingi* Tang, 1937

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Sharp-toothed hammer croaker
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A fairly small species with snout rounded but not projecting, not greatly swollen; eye large; mouth large, a little inferior, with upper jaw long, extending to below hind margin of pupil and almost 1/2 of head length, lower jaw about 1/2 of head length. Teeth in narrow bands, well differentiated into large and small; the large forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower; no canine teeth. Lower gill rakers 9 to 12, short, curved and coarsely toothed in adult. Swim-bladder hammer-shaped, with 14 to 16 pairs of arborescent appendages, the first entering head and sending a palmate branch to front of pectoral arch. Dorsal fin with 10 spines, followed by a deep notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 27 to 30 soft rays; pectoral fin moderate, about 3/4 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 soft rays, the 2nd spine short; caudal fin rhomboid, scales cycloid (smooth) on head, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); scales covering lower parts of both dorsal and anal fins; lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

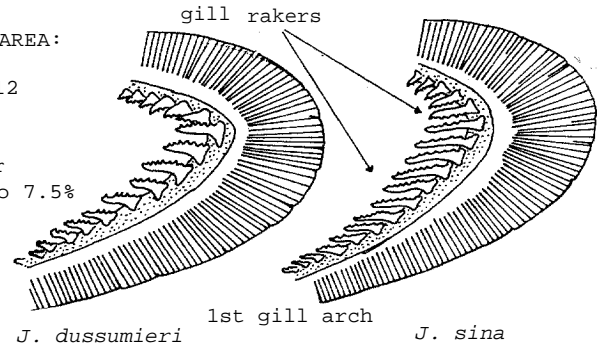
Colour: no distinctive colouration.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Johnieops dussumieri: more gill rakers (12 to 16; 9 to 12 in *J. vogleri*).

Johnieops sina: gill rakers longer, thinner and straighter and 2nd anal spine longer (9.5 to 12% of standard length; 6 to 7.5% in *J. vogleri*); also, jaw teeth less enlarged.

Johnius species: lack enlarged teeth in lower jaw.



SIZE:

Maximum: 22 cm; common: 15 to 20 cm

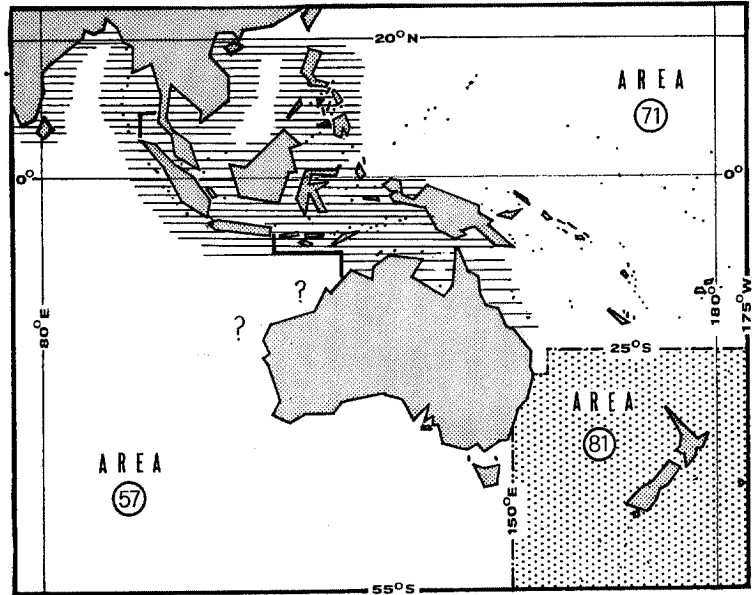
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout most of northern part of area and perhaps to northern coasts of Australia; replaced in Chinese waters by the very similar *Johnieops tingi*.

Inhabits shallow coastal waters.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not recorded for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean):	41 900 tons (India only)	
area 71 (Western Central Pacific):	21 400 tons	(Philippines: 16 900 tons; Malaysia: 4 500 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls, gill nets and handlines.

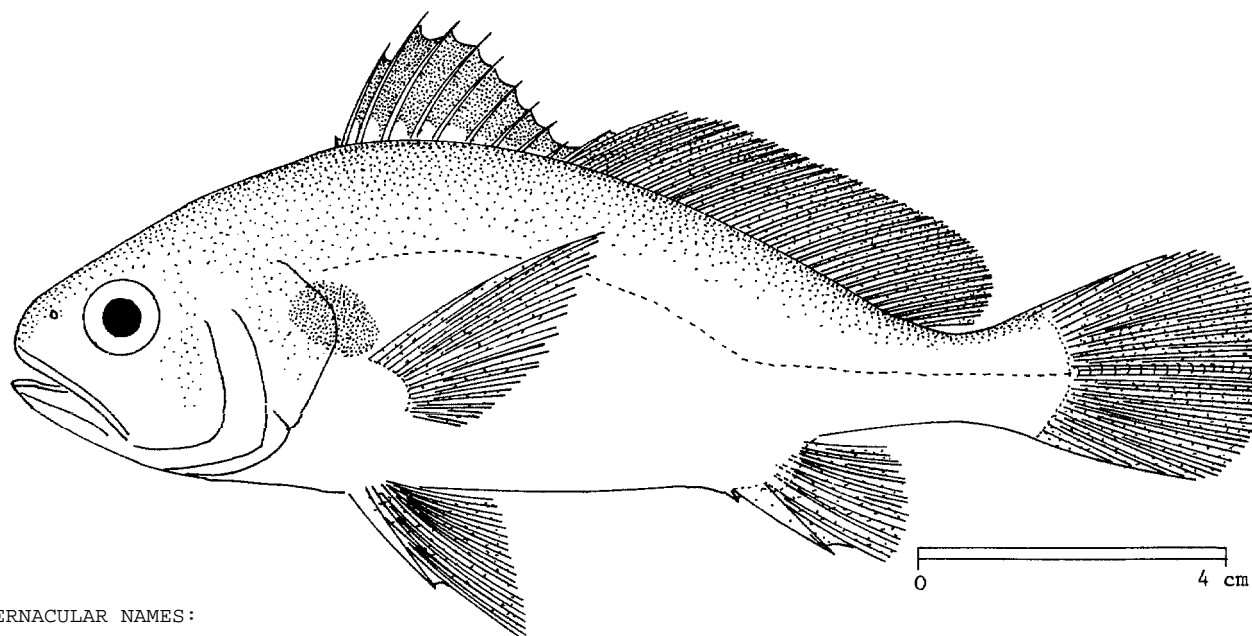
Marketed fresh; also dried-salted; swimbladder dried.

FAD SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Kathala axillaris* (Cuvier, 1830)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Corvina axillaris* Cuvier, 1830
Sciaena axillaris: Day, 1876
Pseudosciaena axillaris: Weber & de Beaufort, 1936
Wak axillaris: Chu, Lo & Wu, 1963
Dhoma axillaris: Talwar & Joglekar, 1970



VERNACULAR NAMES:

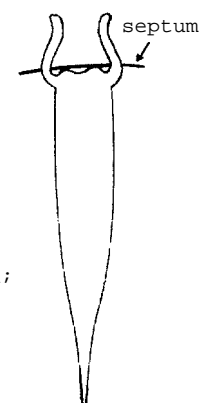
FAO: En - Kathala croaker
 Fr -
 Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A medium-sized species with a fairly deep body, its depth about 3 times in standard length; snout rounded, mouth terminal and oblique. Teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws; the large forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower; no canine teeth. Lower gill rakers 20 to 23, slender and finely denticulate. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with only one pair of appendages (simple, short, curved tubes) arising from the broad anterior end and passing through the transverse septum into the head. Dorsal fin with 9 to 10 spines, followed by a deep notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 26 to 29 soft rays; pectoral fin moderate, about 3/4 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 soft rays; caudal fin bluntly truncate. Scales cycloid (smooth) on head and nape, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); scales present on anterior half of soft part of dorsal fin; lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

Colour: grey/green on back, flanks yellow/silver; a black mark at pectoral fin axil; spinous part of dorsal fin black.



swimbladder

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other Indo-Pacific croakers have fewer gill rakers (20 to 23 in *K. axillaris*) and a dissimilar form of swimbladder; also, many have a rhomboid and not a roundly truncate caudal fin.

SIZE:

Maximum: 27 cm; common: 20 cm.

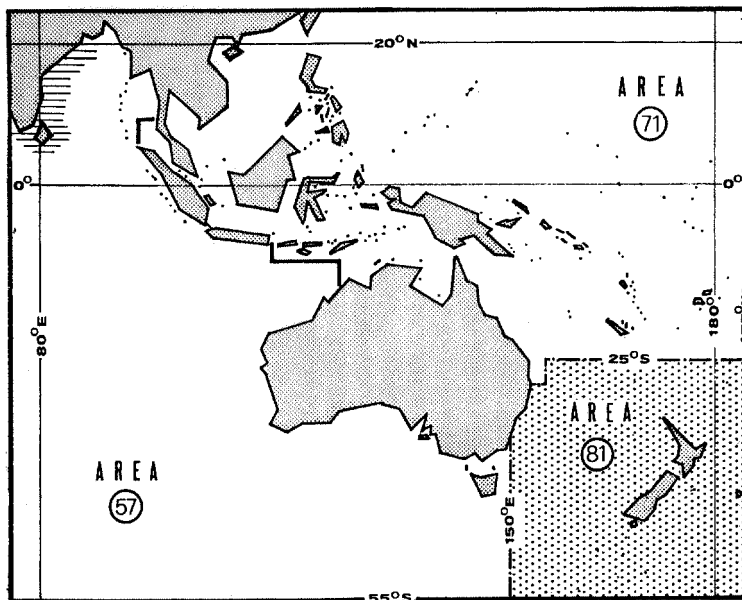
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Coasts of India.

Inhabits shallow coastal waters.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not recorded for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

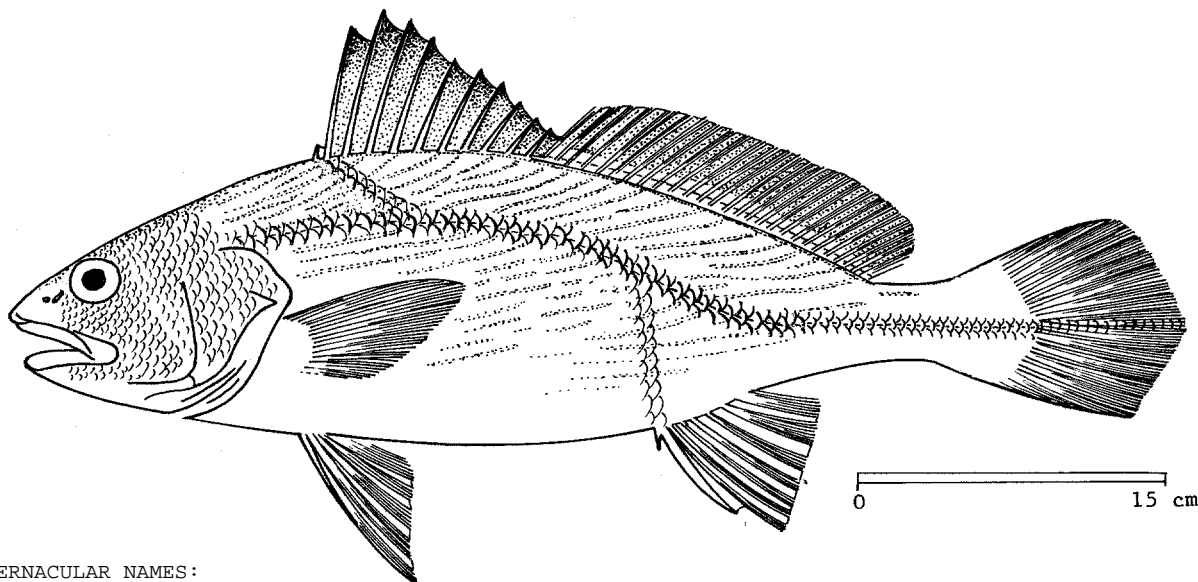
area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 41 900 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 21 400 tons (Philippines: 16 900 tons)
Malaysia: 4 500 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls, gill nets and handlines.

Marketed fresh; also dried-salted; swimbladder dried.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Nibea albiflora* (Richardson, 1846)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Corvina fauvelii* Sauvage, 1881
Corvina semiluctuosa (not of Cuvier): Peters, 1881

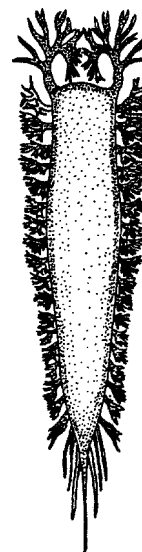
VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - White flower croaker
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A fairly large species, with an acute snout projecting somewhat beyond the upper jaw; mouth slightly inferior, upper jaw reaching to below hind part of eye. Teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws; the large forming outer series in upper jaw, intermixed with smaller in lower; a group of teeth but no knob at tip of lower jaw, no canine teeth. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 23 to 26 pairs of appendages, the first and longest entering head and branching under occipital region, the last 1 to 3 simple tubes parallel to tubular end of main bladder, the rest arborescent with no dorsal limb. Dorsal fin with 10 to 11 spines, followed by a notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 27 to 31 soft rays; pectoral fins short, less than 3/4 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 to 8 soft rays, the 2nd spine long and strong, more than 1/3 of head length; caudal fin rhomboid. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and under eye, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

swimbladder
ventral view

Colour: whole body tinged orange/yellow, brightest on belly and on pectoral, pelvic, anal and caudal fins; soft part of dorsal fin dusky yellow with a translucent line along its base, and a series of dark spots at the bases of the rays. Dark oblique streaks (spots or lines) running upward and backward on flanks. Spinous part of dorsal fin and lining of gill cover dark.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Nibea mitsukurii: more lower gill rakers (12 to 16; 8 to 10 in *N. albiflora*); also, only overlaps *N. albiflora* in north of the latter's range.

Nibea semifasciata: oblique stripes on flanks covering a smaller area and pectoral fin longer (23 to 257 of head; 18 to 227 in *N. albiflora*).

All other *Nibea* species: fewer swimbladder appendages (less than 23).

SIZE:

Maximum: 90 cm; common: 40 to 60 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

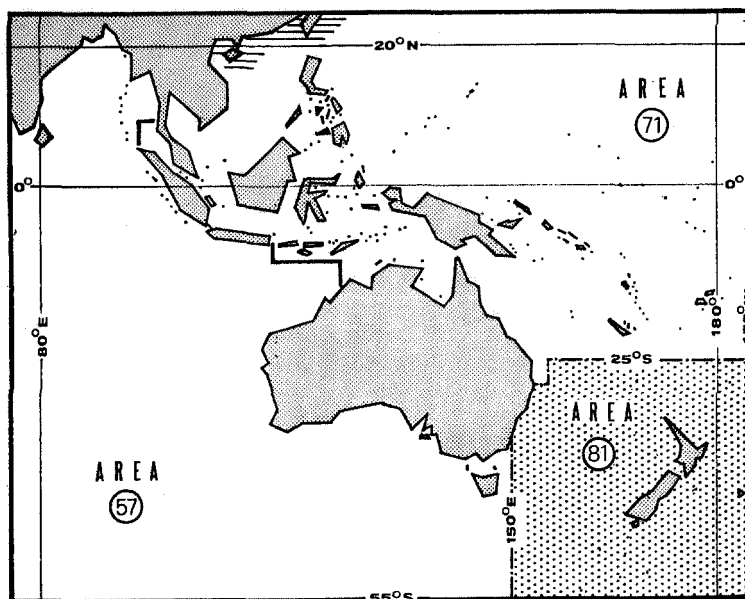
Chinese, Japanese and Korean coastal waters, down to 40 m.

A seasonal migratory species, spawning in May-June.

Feeds on bottom crustaceans living just above sea-bed.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not recorded for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 41 900 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 21 400 tons (Philippines: 16 900 tons;
Malaysia: 4 500 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls, handlines, longlines and gill nets.

Marketed fresh; also dried-salted; swimbladder dried.

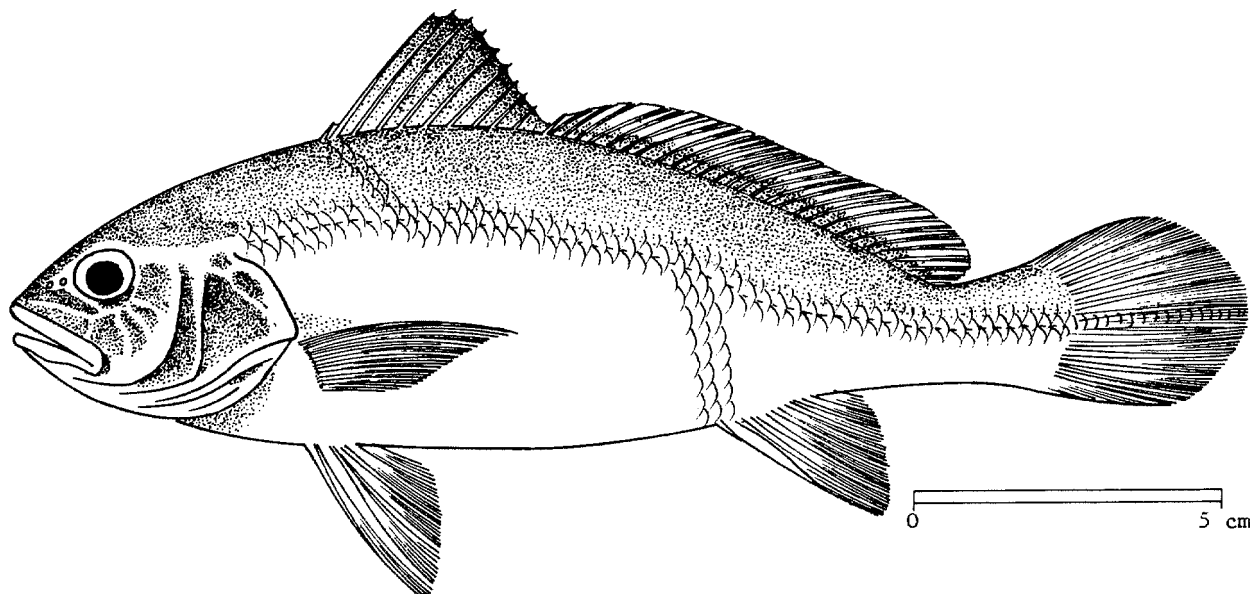
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

Nibea chui Trewavas, 1971

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Nibea coibor* (not of Ham. Buch.): Chu, Lo & Wu, 1963



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Chu's croaker
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A medium-sized species with an evenly rounded head profile (or slightly concave above the eyes); snout not projecting beyond tip of upper jaw; mouth terminal, lower jaw about equal to 1/2 of head length. Teeth well differentiated into large and small in both jaws, surrounded by dense papillae. Lower gill rakers 9 to 10. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 17 to 22 pairs of appendages, the first long, entering head and branching under the occipital region of the skull, the last simple, parallel to tubular end of bladder, the rest arborescent, without dorsal limbs. Dorsal fin with 10 spines, followed by a deep notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 24 to 25 soft rays; pectoral fin moderate, about 3/4 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 soft rays, the 2nd spine long and strong, at least 1/2 of head length; caudal fin bluntly rhomboid. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and on lower part of head, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

Colour: no distinctive colouration.



swimbladder
ventral view

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Nibea macutata: head longer and a distinctive colour pattern of 5 dark oblique bars from back to lower part of flank and a blotch on caudal peduncle.

Most other *Nibea* species: head longer (more than 32% of standard length) and more soft dorsal fin rays (only 24 to 25 in *N. chui*).

SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm; common: 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

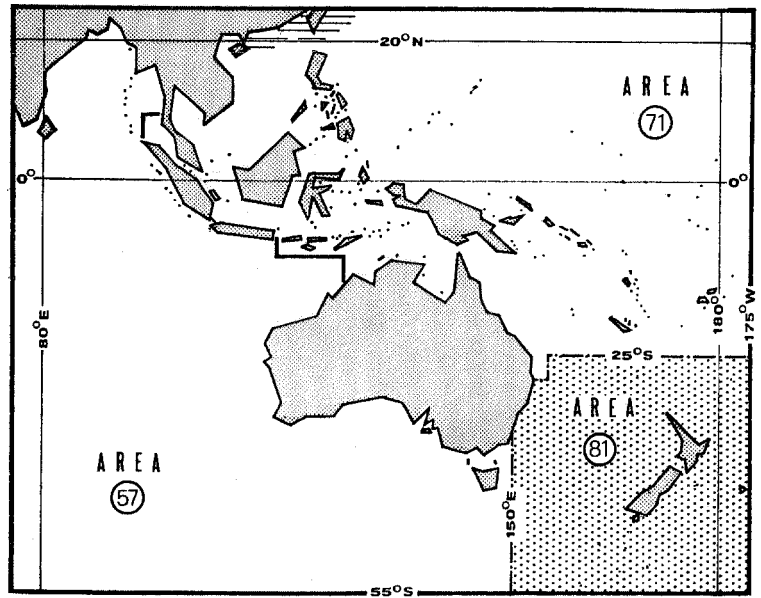
Confined to Chinese, Korean and Japanese waters.

Found in coastal waters, down to 40 m; a schooling, seasonal, migratory species, living off sea-bed.

Feeds mainly on invertebrates.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not recorded for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 41 900 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 21 400 tons (Philippines; 16 900 tons;
Malaysia: 4 500 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls and longlines.

Marketed fresh; also dried-salted; swimbladder dried.

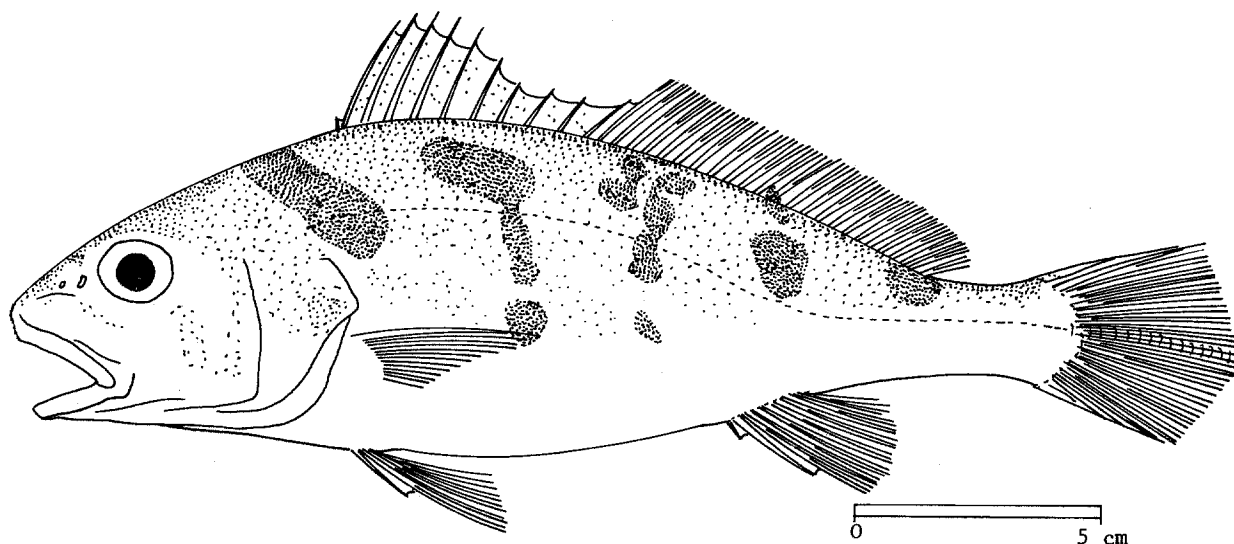
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

Nibea maculata (Schneider, 1801)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Johnius maculatus*: Fowler, 1933; Weber & de Beaufort, 1936



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Blotched croaker
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A medium-sized species with an acute snout projecting beyond upper jaw; mouth inferior. Teeth differentiated into large and small in upper jaw, the large forming outer series; some large teeth in lower jaw, both in front and in a posterior row; the largest in front; no canine teeth. Lower gill rakers 4 to 9, with toothed plates below. Swimbladder carrot-shaped with about 18 pairs of appendages, the first longer, extending into head and branching there, the 2 posterior simple, parallel to the tubular end of the bladder, the others arborescent. Dorsal fin with 10 spines, followed by a notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 24 to 25 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 soft rays, the 2nd spine strong; caudal fin with slightly convex hind margin, often angular above and rounded below. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and below and behind eye, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

Colour: a distinctive colour pattern of 5 dark bars extending obliquely from back to lower part of flanks, and a sixth dark blotch on top of caudal peduncle; first bar broadest, from nape obliquely backward, lower parts of bars narrower and often discontinuous. Spinous part of dorsal fin black except along base, soft part of dorsal fin with black margin; lower fins pale.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Protonibea diacanthus: no dark blotch on caudal peduncle and usually smaller black spots on back and on dorsal and caudal fins; lower fins always dark.

All other *Nibea* species: lack this distinctive colour pattern and, except in *N. chuff*, have more soft dorsal fin rays (only 24 to 25 in *N. maculata*).

SIZE:

Maximum: 28 cm; common: 25 cm.

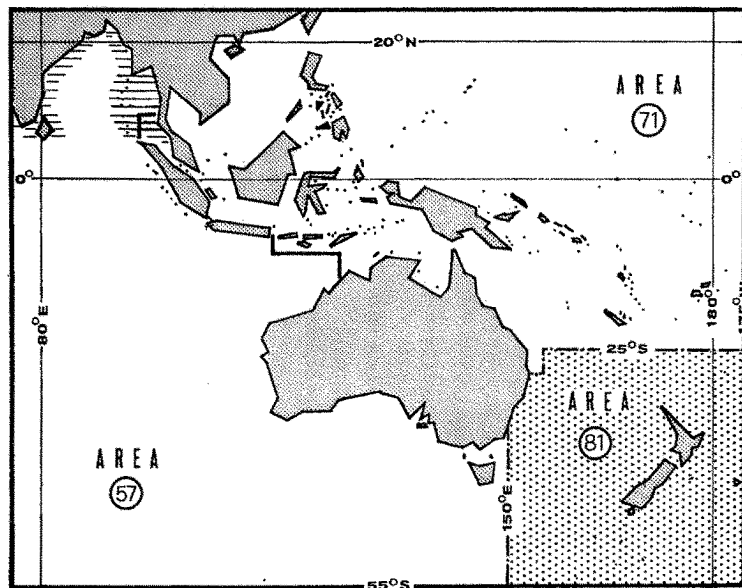
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Indian Ocean; no firm records eastward or southward.

Inhabits coastal waters.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not recorded for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 41 900 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 21 400 tons (Philippines: 16 900 tons;
Malaysia: 4 500 tons)

Caught with bottom trawls, gill nets and handlines.

Marketed fresh; also dried-salted; swimbladder dried.

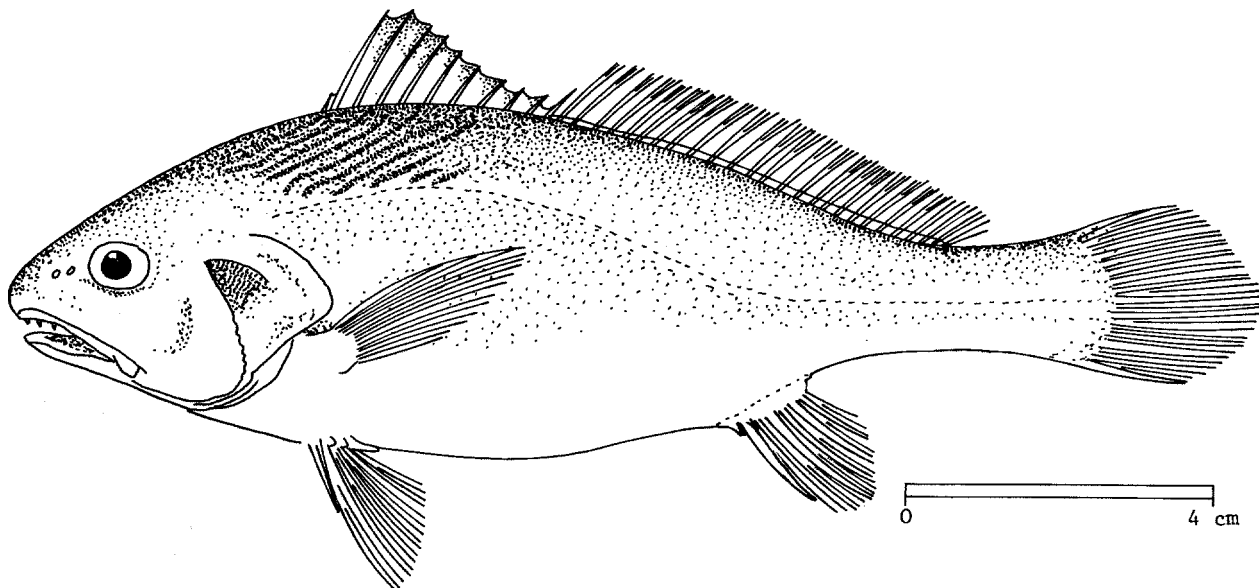
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SCIAENIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

Nibea semifasciata Chu, Lo & Wu, 1963

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Sharpnose croaker
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

A medium-sized, fairly deep-bodied species with snout slightly projecting; mouth a little inferior. Teeth well differentiated into large and small in both jaws. Lower gill rakers 9 to 10. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 19 to 20 pairs of appendages, the first longest, entering head and branching under occipital region, the others (except the last) all arborescent, without dorsal limbs. Dorsal fin with 10 spines, followed by a notch, second part of the fin with 1 spine and 26 to 29 soft rays; pectoral fin moderate, 2/3 of head length; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 soft rays, the 2nd spine strong and more than 1/3 of head length; caudal fin rhomboid; scales cycloid (smooth) on head, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

Colour: brownish grey with the tip of the spinous part of dorsal fin darker; dark wavy oblique lines confined to anterior part of back.



swimbladder, ventral view

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Nibea albiflora: oblique stripes on flank cover a greater area and the pectoral fin shorter (18 in 257 of standard length; 23 to 267 in *N. semifasciata*); also, more swimbladder appendages (23 to 25; 19 to 20 in *N. semifasciata*).

Nibea maculata, *N. chui*: soft dorsal fin rays fewer (24 to 25; 27 to 31 in *N. semifasciata*).

SIZE:

Maximum: at least 24 cm;
common: about 20 cm.

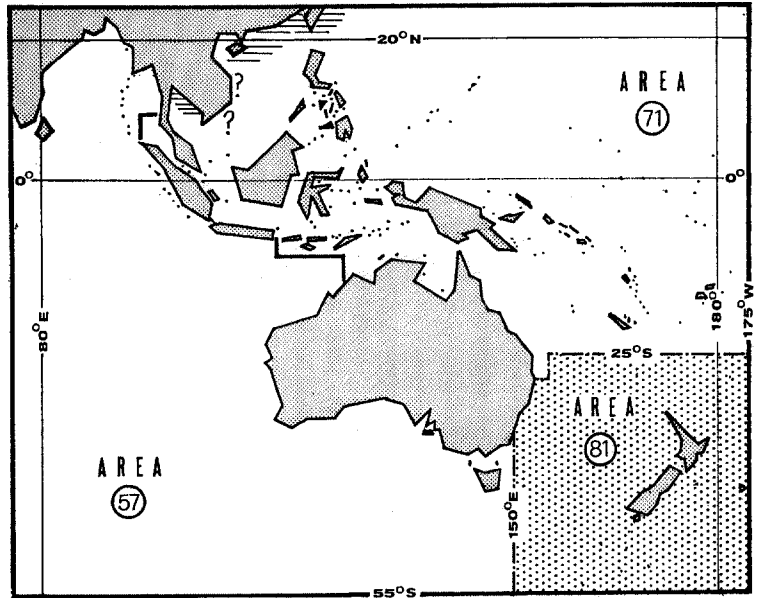
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Reported from southern coasts of China and from Bangkok; also, northward to Hong Kong and eastern coasts of China.

Inhabits coastal waters of the continental shelf.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species within the area. The total reported catch of unclassified croakers and drums in 1972 was:

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Marketed fresh; also dried-salted; swimbladder dried.