

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

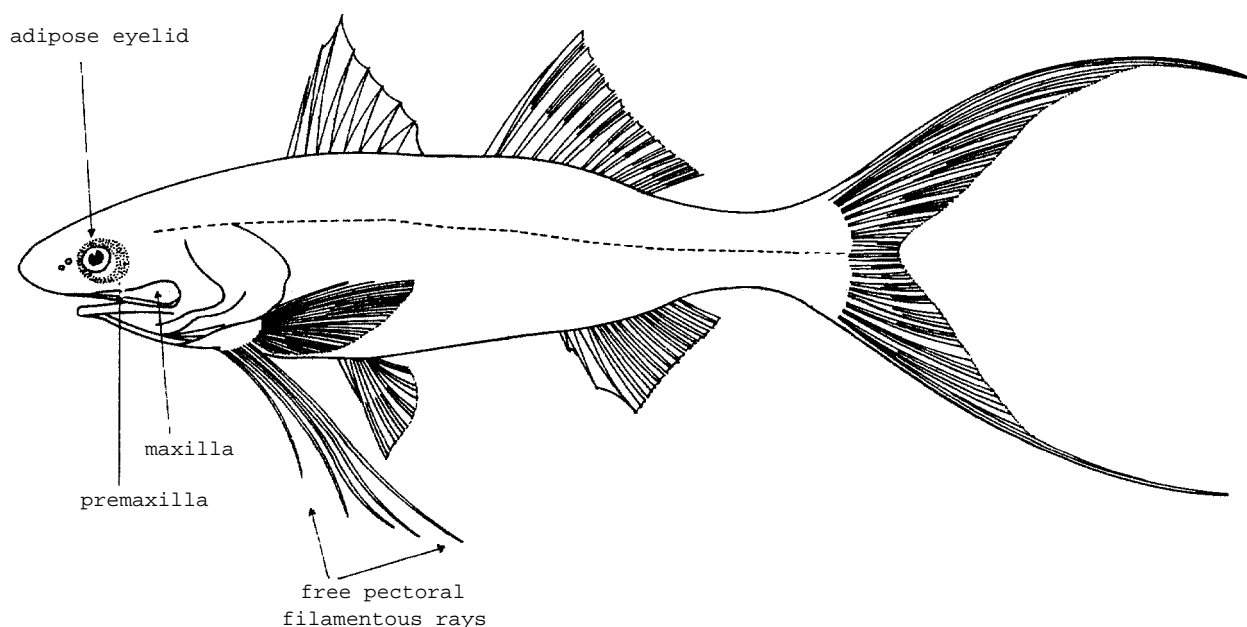
FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)

## POLYNEMIDAE

## Threadfins, tasselfishes

Medium-sized fishes with an oblong or more or less elongate and compressed body. Head scaly, with *conical snout projecting beyond large mouth*; maxilla expanded posteriorly, reaching to well behind eye; mouth bordered by slightly protractile pre-maxillae; only small villiform teeth in jaws and palatines, sometimes on vomer. Eyes with adipose tissue. 2 widely separated dorsal fins, the 1st with 7 to 8 feeble spines; *pectoral fins in two parts, the upper normal, the lower with 3 or more free filamentous rays*; pelvic fins abdominal, lying a little behind bases of pectoral fins. anal fin with 2 to 3 spines followed by branched rays, lying below base of 2nd dorsal fin; caudal fin forked. Body curved with weakly ctenoid (rough) scales; *lateral line continued onto caudal fin*.

Colour: silvery, golden or light brown, sometimes with darkish blotch at the shoulder or dark longitudinal lines on body; fins yellowish or more or less dusky.



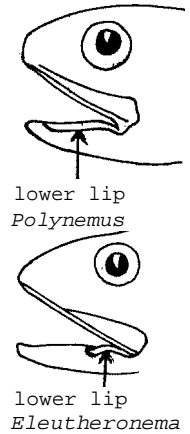
SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Peristediidae (sea robins), Dactylopteridae (flying gurnards): also have some. free. pectoral fin rays, but head with strong bony armour; also, pectoral fins enormous in Dactylopteridae.

Other bony fishes with 2 dorsal fins: have normal pectoral fins without free rays in lower part of fin.

Key to Genera

- 1 a. Lower lip fully developed; no external teeth;  
5 or more free pectoral filaments ..... *Polynemus*
- 1 b. Lower lip restricted to corner of mouth; teeth  
extending to outer edges of jaws; 3 or 4 free  
pectoral filaments ..... *Eleutheronema*



List of Species occurring in the Area  
(Code numbers are given for those species  
for which Identification Sheets are included)

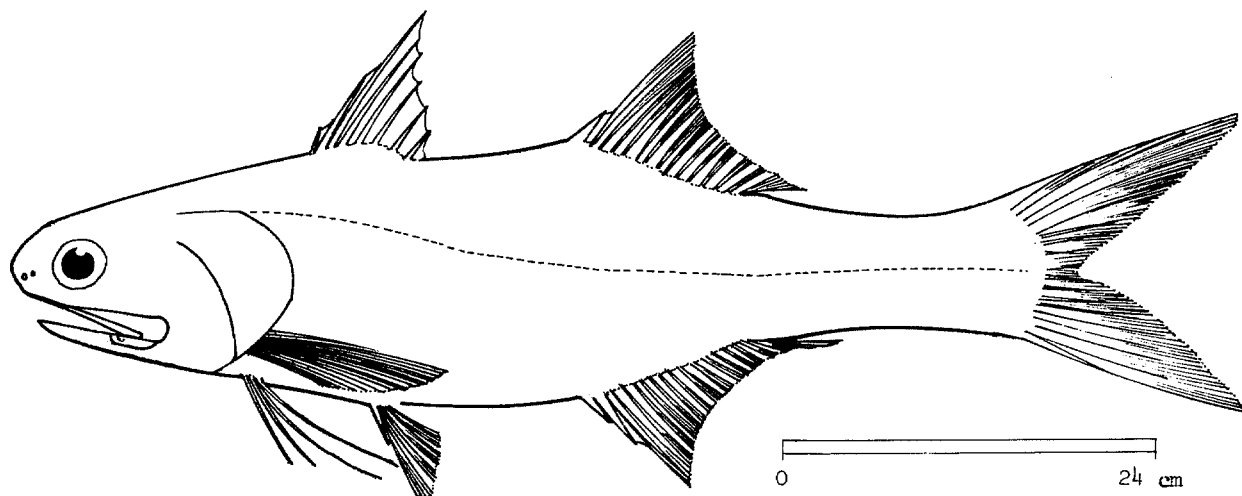
<i>Eleutheronema tetradactylum</i>	POLYN Eleu 1	<i>Polynemus microstoma</i>	
<i>Eleutheronema tridactylum</i>		<i>Polynemus nigripinnis</i>	
		<i>Polynemus paradiseus</i>	POLYN Poly 5
<i>Polynemus borneensis</i>		<i>Polynemus pfeifferi</i>	
<i>Polynemus dubius</i>		<i>Polynemus plebeius</i>	POLYN Poly 2
<i>Polynemus heptadactylus</i>	POLYN Poly 4	<i>Polynemus sealei</i>	
<i>Polynemus hexanemus</i>		<i>Polynemus sexfilis</i>	
<i>Polynemus indicus</i>	POLYN Poly 1	<i>Polynemus sextarius</i>	POLYN Poly 3
<i>Polynemus intermedius</i>		<i>Polynemus sextarius mullani</i>	
<i>Polynemus kuru</i>		<i>Polynemus sheridani</i>	
<i>Polynemus macrochir</i>		<i>Polynemus specularis</i>	
<i>Polynemus macrophthaumus</i>		<i>Polynemus verekeri</i> (= <i>P. intermedius</i> )	
<i>Polynemus melanochir</i>		<i>Polynemus xanthonemus</i>	

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Eleutheronema tetradactylum* (Shaw, 1804)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En Fourfinger threadfin  
Fr  
Sp

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

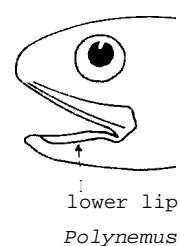
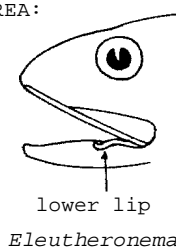
The largest of the threadfins. Body more or less elongate and compressed. Snout projecting, mouth very large, with small teeth. *Lips absent except for lower lip near corner of mouth. Eyes large* (eye diameter 4.5 to 5 times in head length). Pectoral fin in two parts, upper part with all rays unbranched, lower with 4 free filamentous rays of which the upper filament is the longest, reaching to pelvic fin base; caudal fin forked with lobes equal. Scales small, ctenoid (rough to touch).

Colour: body silvery green above, cream below; dorsal and caudal fins grey, dusky at edges, pelvic and anal fins orange, pectoral filamentous rays white.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Eleutheronema tridaetylum*: only 3 free pectoral filamentous rays.

All other polynemid species: lower lip well developed.



SIZE:

Maximum: 200 cm;  
common: 45 to 50 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

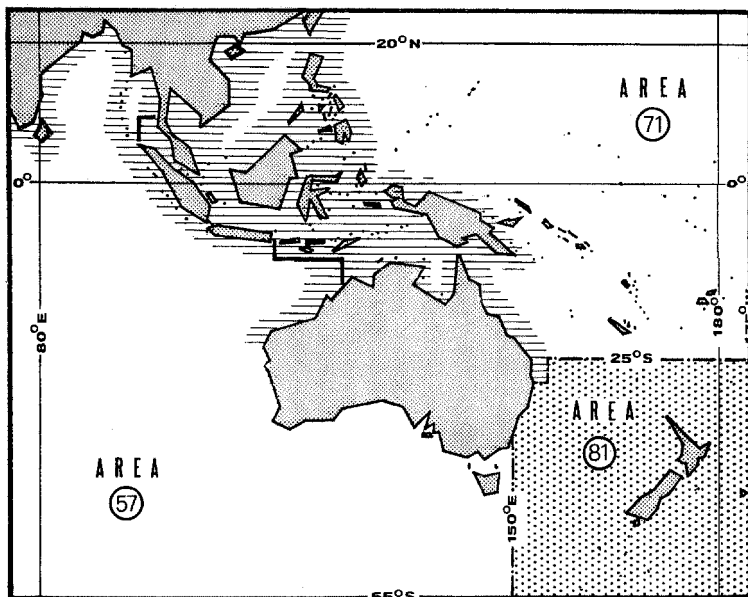
Throughout northern part of area and southward to Queensland (Australia); also, western coasts of India.

Lives mainly over shallow muddy bottoms in coastal waters; also enters rivers.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans and fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught in shallow coastal waters and lower reaches of larger rivers.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Polynemidae in 1972 was:

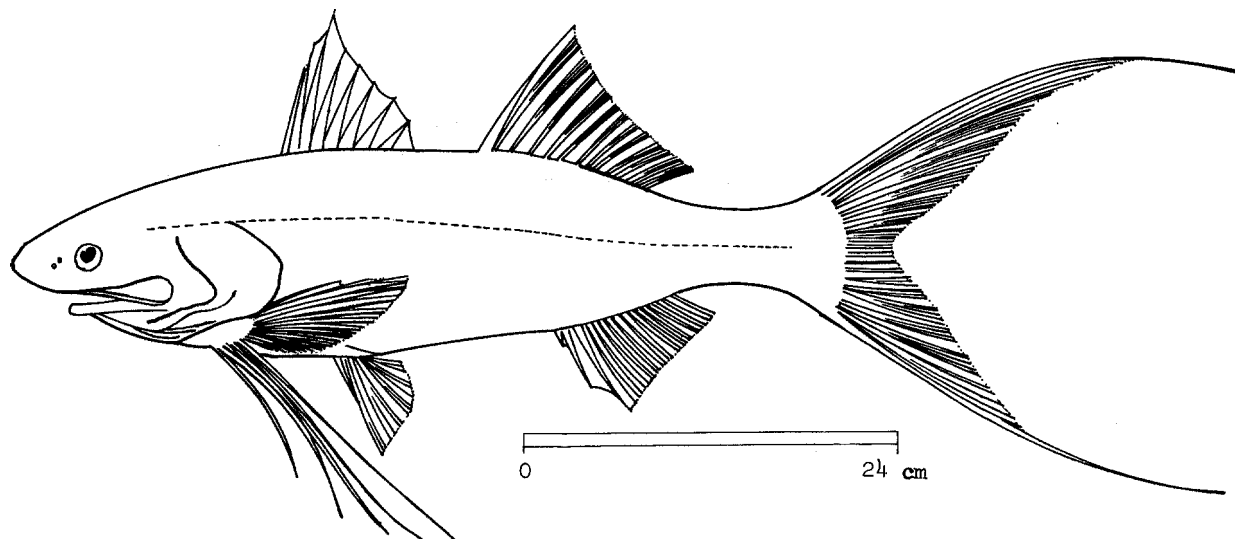
area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): negligible quantities (Australia only)  
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 1 700 tons (Australia: 200 tons;  
Malaysia: 1 000 tons;  
Singapore: 500 tons)

Caught mainly with beach seines, longlines, traps and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, frozen and dried-salted.

## FAD SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Polynemus indicus* Shaw, 1804SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Polydactylus indicus* (Shaw, 1804)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

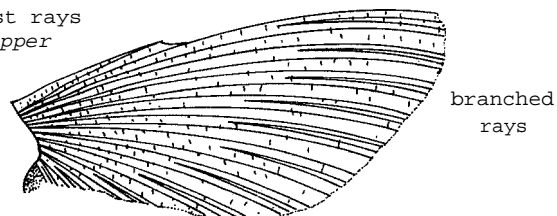
FAO: En - Indian threadfin  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth large, with small teeth; upper lip absent, lower lip well developed. Eyes very small (eye diameter 7 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fin in two parts, upper part with most rays branched, lower with 5 free filamentous rays, of which the upper is the longest, reaching nearly to anal fin origin; caudal fin deeply lunate, with pointed lobes ending in filaments. Scales small, ctenoid (rough to touch).

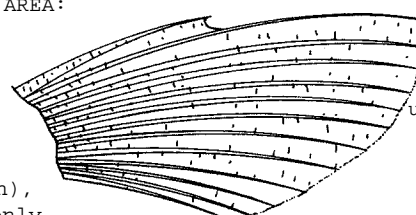
Colour: body purple/black, with faint dusky stripes; all fins yellow.

branched  
rays*P. indicus*

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Polynemus sheridani*: 5 free pectoral filamentous rays, but all upper pectoral fin rays unbranched.

*Polynemus plebeius*: 5 free pectoral filamentous rays, but all upper pectoral fin rays unbranched; also, a deeper body, larger eyes (eye diameter 3.8 to 4.0 times in head length), shorter free pectoral filamentous rays, the longest reaching only to end of pelvic fin, and caudal fin lobes not prolonged into filaments.

unbranched  
rays*P. plebeius*  
*P. sheridani*

*Polynemus microstoma*: 5 free pectoral filamentous rays, but a distinctive black blotch at beginning of lateral line, above pectoral fin origin.

All other polynemid species: 3 to 4, or 6 to 8 free pectoral filamentous rays (5 in *P. indicus*).

SIZE:

Maximum: 142 cm;  
common: 70 to 80 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

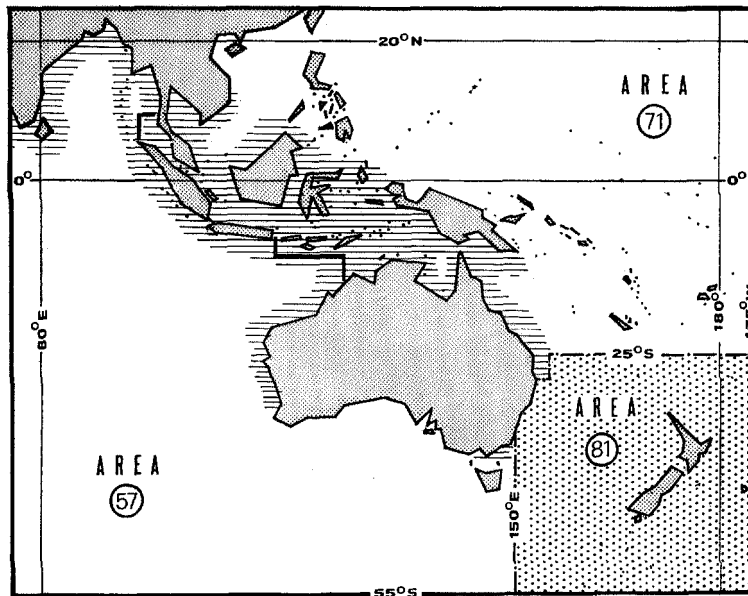
Throughout northern part of area and southward to New South Wales (Australia); also, westward to East Africa.

Lives mainly over shallow muddy and sandy bottoms of the continental shelf, occasionally entering rivers, rare beyond depths of 60 m.

Feeds mainly on small bottom-living crustaceans, especially prawns and crabs, and small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow muddy and sandy parts of the continental shelf, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Polynemidae in 1972 was:

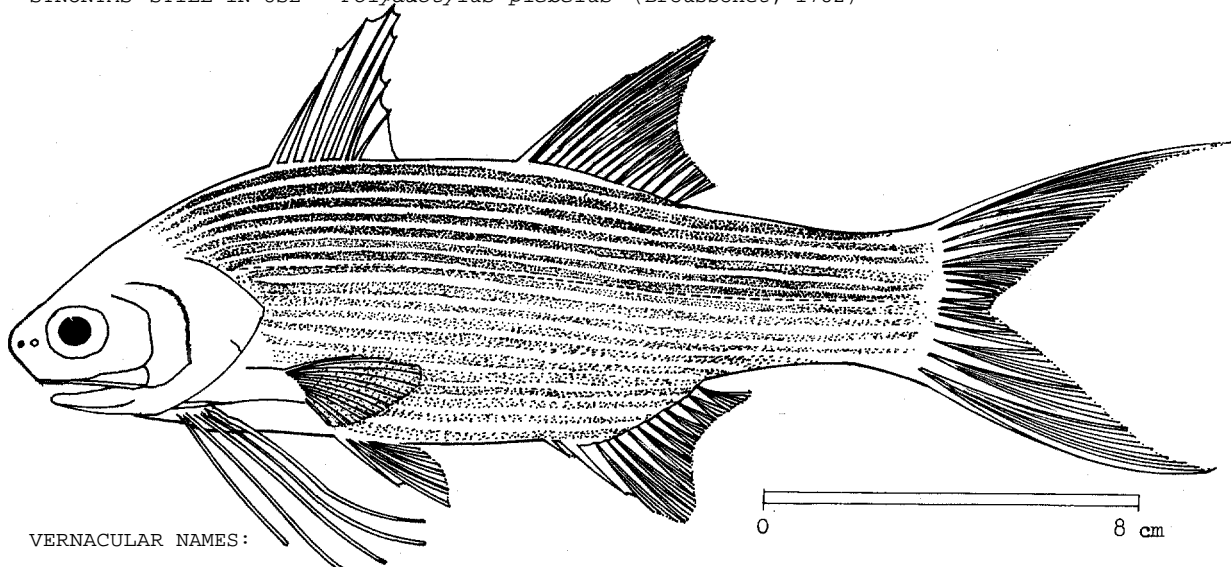
area 57 (Eastern Indian ocean): negligible quantities (Australia only)  
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 1 700 tons (Australia: 200 tons;  
Malaysia: 1 000 tons;  
Singapore: 500 tons

Caught mainly with beach seines, bottom drift nets, traps, longlines and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, frozen and dried-salted.

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Polyneumus plebeius* Broussonet, 1782SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Polydactylus plebeius* (Broussonet, 1782)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

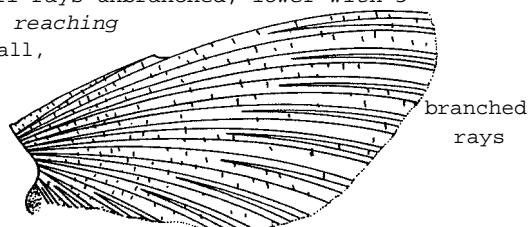
FAO: En - Common threadfin  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

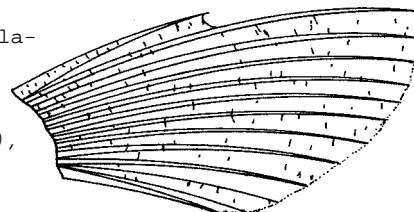
## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth large, with small teeth; upper lip absent, lower lip well developed. Eyes large (eye diameter 3.8 to 4.0 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fin in two parts, upper part with all rays unbranched, lower with 5 free filamentous rays, of which the upper 2 are the longest, reaching to end of pelvic fin; caudal fin with lobes equal. Scales small, ctenoid (rough to touch).

Colour: body golden olive, with narrow dusky stripes; pectoral fins black, inner side of pelvic fins white, outer side grey, dorsal and caudal fins grey-edged.

branched  
raysDISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA: *P. indicus*, *P. microstoma*

*Polyneumus indicus* and *P. microstoma*: 5 free pectoral filamentous rays but most of the upper pectoral fin rays branched; also, longer free pectoral filamentous rays reaching to anal fin origin (*P. indicus*), and a black blotch at the beginning of lateral line, above origin of pectoral fins (*P. microstoma*),

unbranched  
rays

*Polyneumus sheridani*: 5 free pectoral filamentous rays and upper pectoral rays simple, but the free pectoral filamentous rays reach the anal fin origin.

*P. plebeius*, *P. sheridani*

All other polynemid species: 3 to 4, or 6 to 8 free pectoral filamentous rays.

SIZE:

Maximum: 45 cm; common: 25 to 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

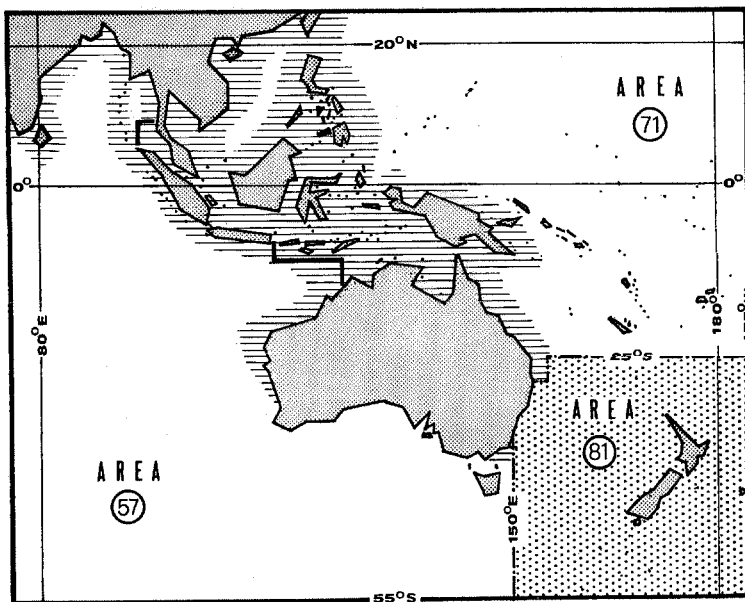
Throughout northern part of area and southward to New South Wales (Australia); also, westward to East Africa.

Lives mainly over shallow muddy bottoms on the continental shelf.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans (especially shrimps and tiny crabs), fishes and other bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught over shallow muddy bottoms of the continental shelf, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Polynemidae in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): negligible quantities (Australia only)  
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 1 700 tons (Australia: 200 tons;  
Malaysia: 1 000 tons;  
Singapore: 500 tons)

Caught mainly with beach seines and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, frozen and dried-salted.



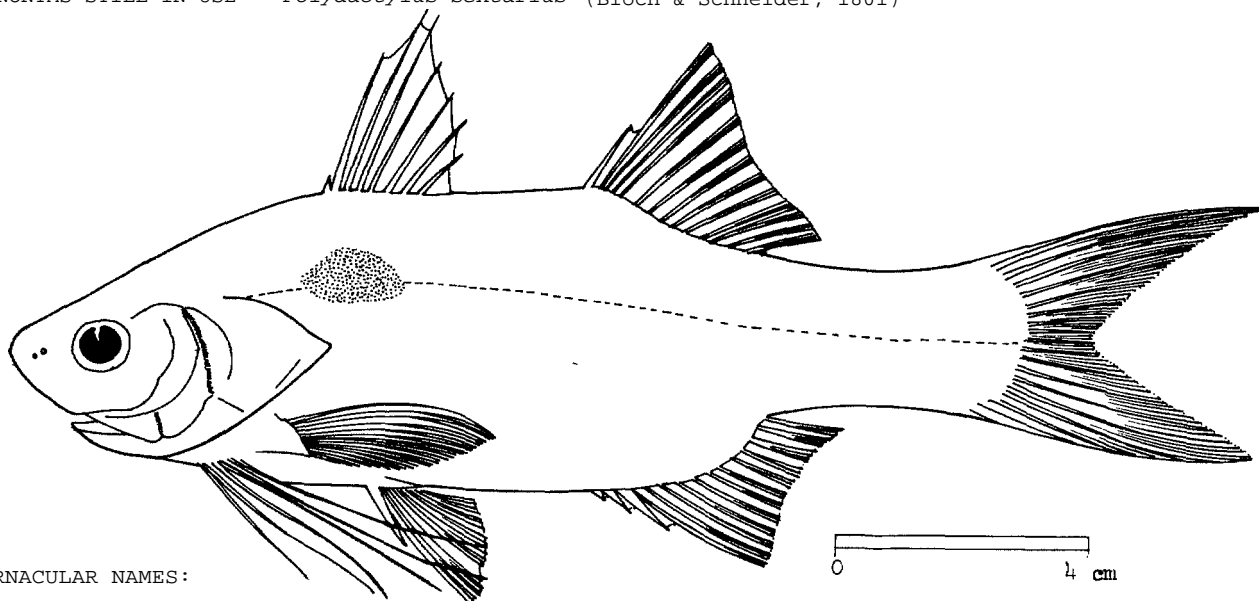
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71

(E Ind. Ocean)

(W Cent. Pacific)

*Polynemus sextarius* Bloch & Schneider, 1801SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Polydactylus sextarius* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Blackspot threadfin  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth moderately large, with small teeth; upper lip absent, lower well developed. Eyes large (eye diameter 3.0 to 3.8 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fin in two parts, upper part with almost all rays branched, lower with 6 free filamentous rays, of which the upper two are longest, reaching to tip of pelvic fin; caudal fin forked with lobes equal. Scales small, ctenoid (rough to touch).

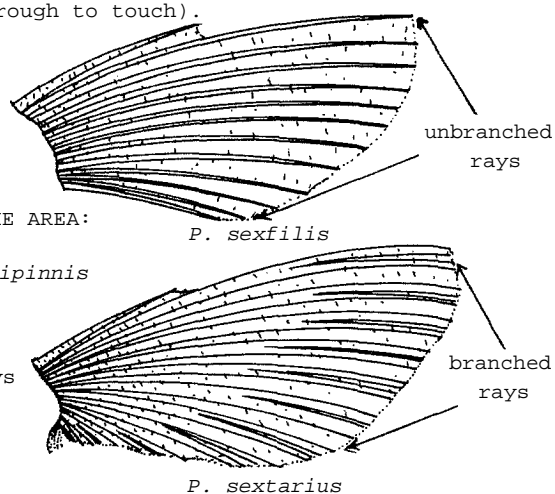
Colour: golden olive above, silvery below; fins yellowish with black spots; inner side of operculum pigmented with black; a large black blotch at beginning of lateral line.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Polynemus sexfilis*, *P. hexanemus*, *P. pfeifferi*, *P. nigripinnis* and *P. kuru*: 6 free pectoral filamentous rays but the upper pectoral fin rays unbranched.

*Polynemus xanthonemus*: 6 free pectoral filamentous rays and branched upper pectoral fin rays, but lacks the black blotch at the beginning of the lateral line.

*Polynemus sextarius multani*: an unequal number of free pectoral fin rays with an additional 7th ray in the left fin or the right; 7 free pectoral fin rays in both fins are not uncommon, in which case it can be distinguished from *P. heptadactylus* by having branched rays in the upper part of the pectoral fin.



All other polynemid species: either 3 to 5, or 7 to 8 free pectoral filamentous rays.

SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common: 15 to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

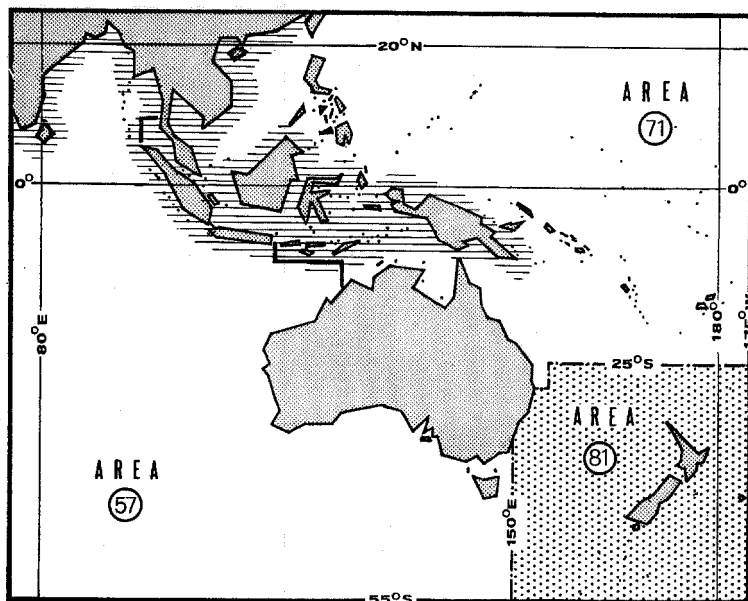
Throughout northern part of area, but not southward to Australian coasts; also, westward to Pakistan.

Lives over shallow sandy shores and in estuaries.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans (especially shrimps), fishes and bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught over shallow sandy bottoms of the continental shelf, throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with beach seines and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, frozen and dried-salted.

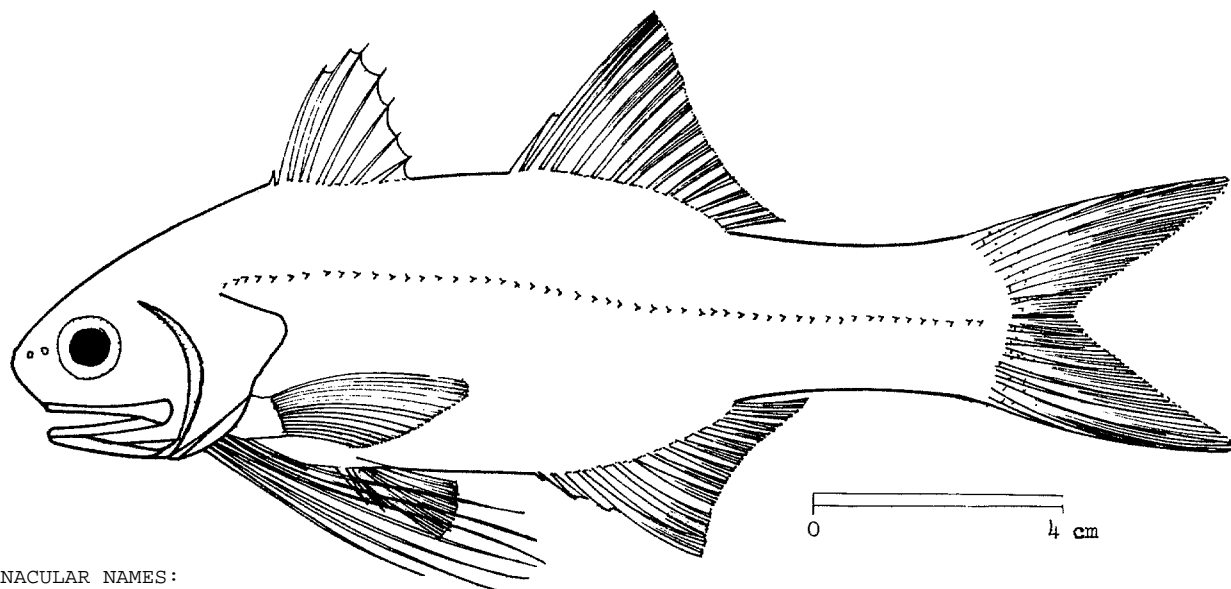
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

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

*Polynemus heptadactylus* Cuvier, 1829

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Polydactylus heptadactylus* (Cuvier, 1829)  
*Polydactylus multiradiatus* (Günther, 1860)



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Sevenfinger threadfin  
Fr -  
SP -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth large, with small teeth; upper lip absent, lower lip well developed. Eyes large (eye diameter 3.5 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fin in two parts, upper part with all rays unbranched, lower with 7 free filamentous rays, of which the 3rd, 4th and 5th are the longest, reaching to anal fin origin; caudal fin forked with lobes equal. Scales large, ctenoid (rough to touch).

Colour: back brown, flanks golden; pectoral fins black, as also margins of other fins.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Polynemus intermedius*, *P. verekeri*, *P. paradiseus*, *P. borneensis*, *P. dubius*, *P. macrophthalmus* and *P. melanochir*: 7 free pectoral filamentous rays, but the longest rays reaching or extending beyond tip of caudal fin.

*P. specularis*: the longest free pectoral filamentous rays reaching only to pelvic fin base.

All other polynemid species: 3 to 6 or 8 free pectoral filamentous rays.

SIZE:

Maximum: 27 cm; common: 12 to 15 cm

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

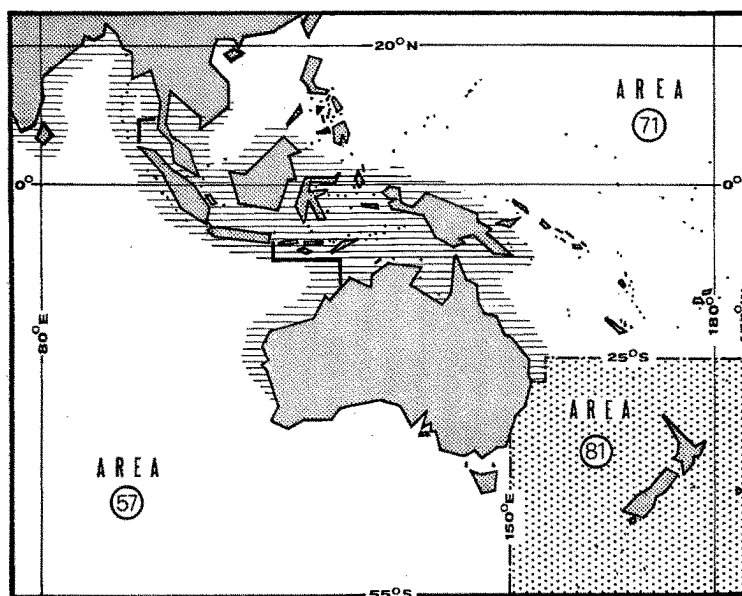
Northwestern part of area (but not South China Sea); southward to northern coasts of Australia; also, westward to Pakistan.

Lives mainly over shallow muddy bottoms of the continental shelf; also in brackish waters.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans (especially shrimps), fishes and bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught in the shallow waters of the continental shelf and in large brackish lakes.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Polynemidae in 1972 was:

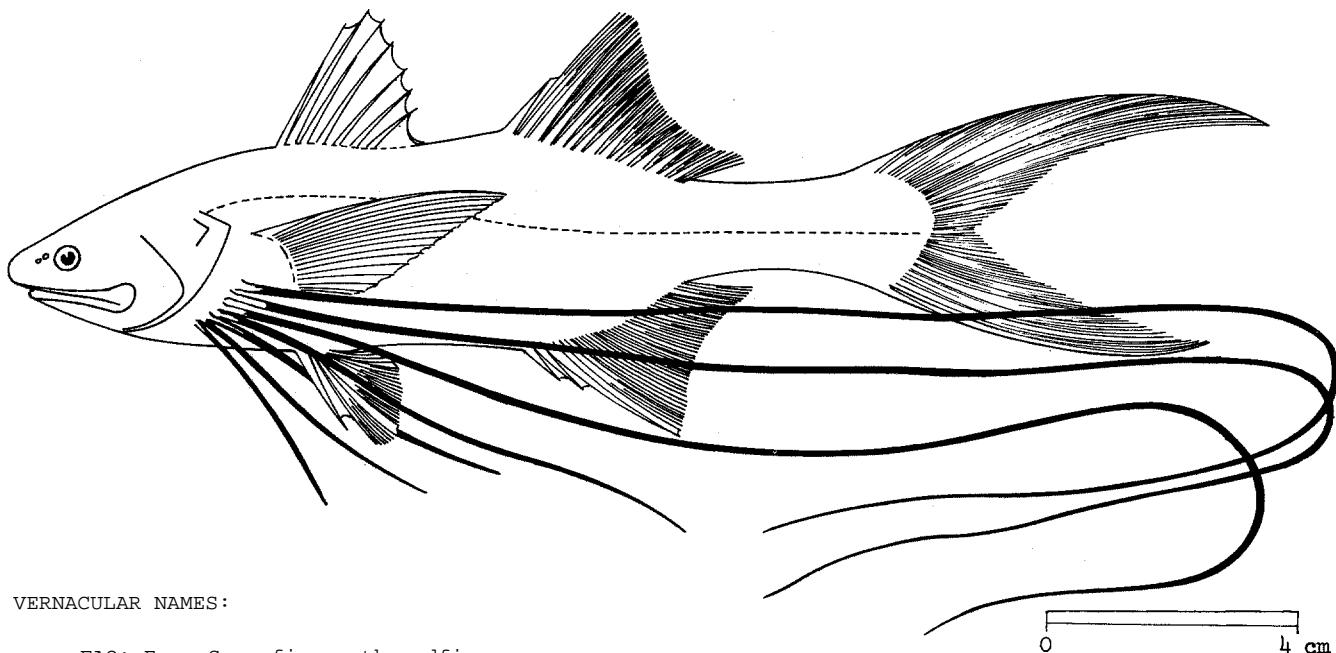
area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): negligible quantities (Australia only)  
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 1 700 tons (Australia: 200 tons;  
Malaysia: 1 000 tons;  
Singapore: 500 tons)

Caught mainly with beach seines, set gill nets, traps and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, frozen and dried-salted.

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Polynemus paradiseus* Linnaeus, 1758SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Polynemus hilleri* (Fowler, 1905)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Sevenfinger threadfin  
Fr -  
SP -

## NATIONAL

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth large, with small teeth. *Upper lip absent, lower lip well developed. Eyes small (eye diameter about 8 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fin in two parts, upper part with all rays unbranched, lower with 7 free filamentous rays, of which the three upper ones are the longest - about twice the length of fish. Caudal fin deeply forked, with upper lobe longer than lower. Scales moderately large, ctenoid (rough to touch).*

Colour: body generally golden with a shade of grey along back; all fins greyish.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Polynemus longipectoralis*: 2 upper pectoral filamentous rays extending beyond caudal fin tip by about the length of the head, and body, but the 3rd filament reaching only to tip of caudal fin, the others shorter; a freshwater species, common in the streams of Malaysia and Thailand.

All other polynemid species: longest pectoral filamentous rays shorter, much less than twice the length of fish.

SIZE:

Maximum: 23 cm; common: 12 to 17 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

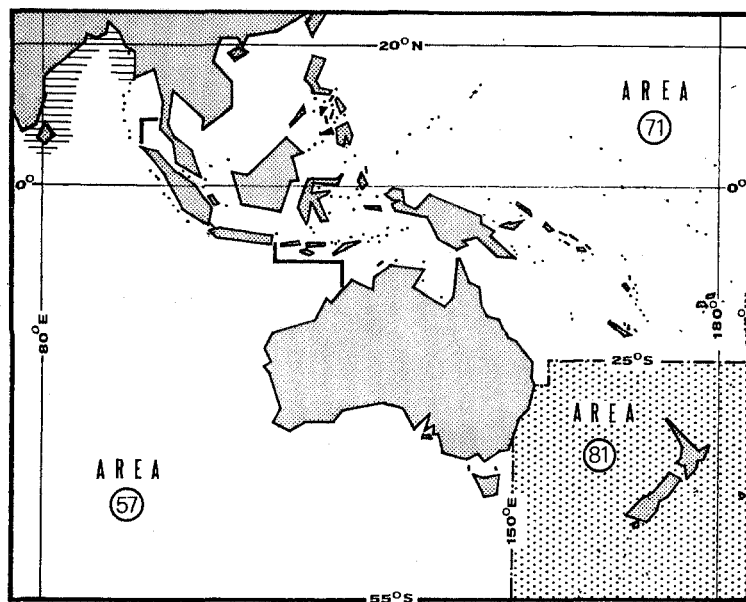
Bay of Bengal; also, westward to Pakistan.

Lives over shallow sandy bottoms, regularly entering freshwaters during breeding season.

Feeds mainly on crustaceans (especially shrimps), small fishes, and bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught in shallow waters of the continental shelf and lower reaches of rivers.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with fine-meshed beach seines, set gill nets and bottom trawls.

Marketed mostly fresh.

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

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

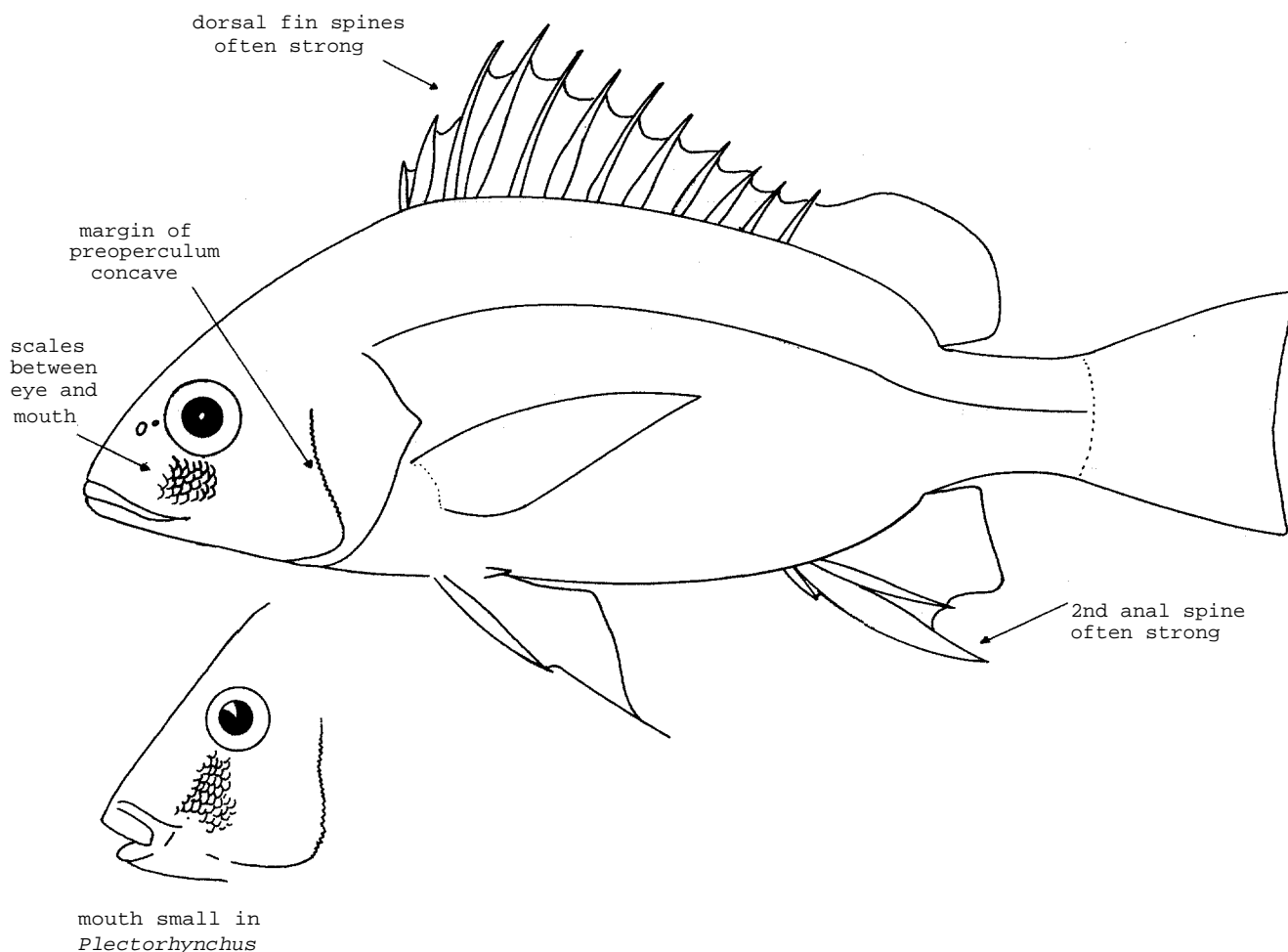
## POMADASYIDAE

## Grunts, Sweetlips

(Some authors place *Plectorhynchus* in a separate family, the Plectorhynchidae)

Oblong, compressed, perch-like fishes. Head profile strongly convex; scales present on entire head (except front of snout, lips and chin). Mouth small or moderate, lips thick, tip of upper jaw hidden when mouth closed. Chin with 2 pores anteriorly and a median groove, or 6 pores and no groove in *Plectorhynchus*. Teeth conical, in a narrow band in each jaw, the outer series enlarged but no canines; palate toothless. Hind margin of suborbital not exposed. Preoperculum with hind margin slightly concave and serrated; operculum with 1 indistinct spine. Dorsal fin single, with 9 to 15 strong spines and 12 to 26 soft rays; pectoral fins long, 1st ray sometimes forming a short filament; pelvic fins below base of pectoral fins, with 1 spine and 5 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines, the 2nd often very strong, and 7 to 9 soft rays; caudal fin truncate or emarginate (rounded in juveniles). Scales ctenoid (rough to touch), small or moderate.

Colour: highly variable, ranging from uniformly coloured to banded, blotched and spotted.

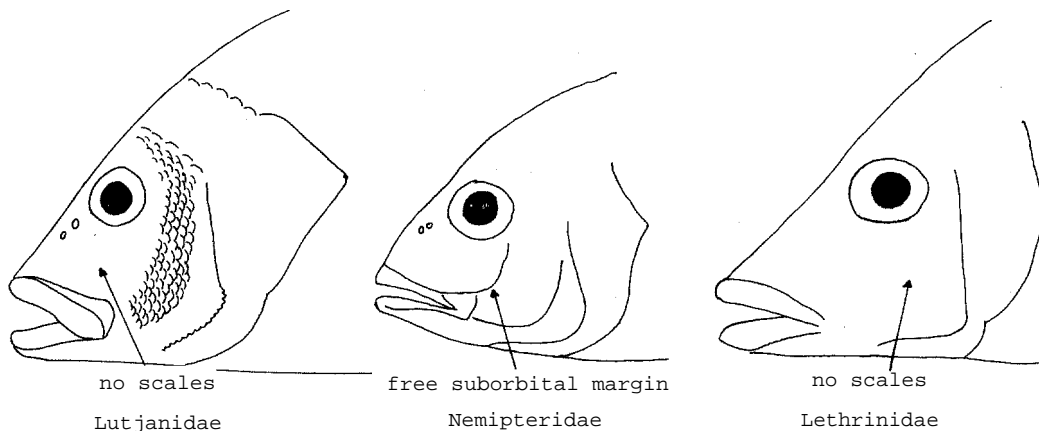


SINIILAR FANIILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Lutjanidae: hind tip of upper jaw still exposed when mouth closed, teeth usually present in palate, no scales between eye and mouth, and spines of dorsal and anal fins weaker.

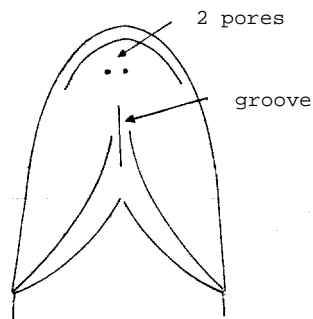
Lethrinidae: no scales on preoperculum, and its hind edge not serrated; also, only 8 to 9 soft dorsal fin rays.

Nemipteridae: no pores on chin and hind margin of suborbital exposed; also, 8 to 11 soft dorsal fin rays (12 to 26 in Pomadasysidae).



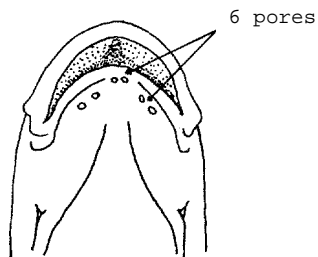
Key to Genera

- 1 a. Chin with 2 pores and a longitudinal groove (Fig. 1); fin spines strong, 2nd anal fin spine often enlarged.
  - 2 a. At most, faint grey longitudinal stripes along flanks ..... Pomadasys
  - 2 b. Very distinct dark longitudinal stripes along flanks ..... Rhoniscus
- 1 b. Chin with 6 pores and no groove (Fig.2); fin spines often weak .... Plectorhynchus



Pomadasys

Fig. 1



Plectorhynchus

Fig. 2



FAO Sheets

POMADASYIDAE

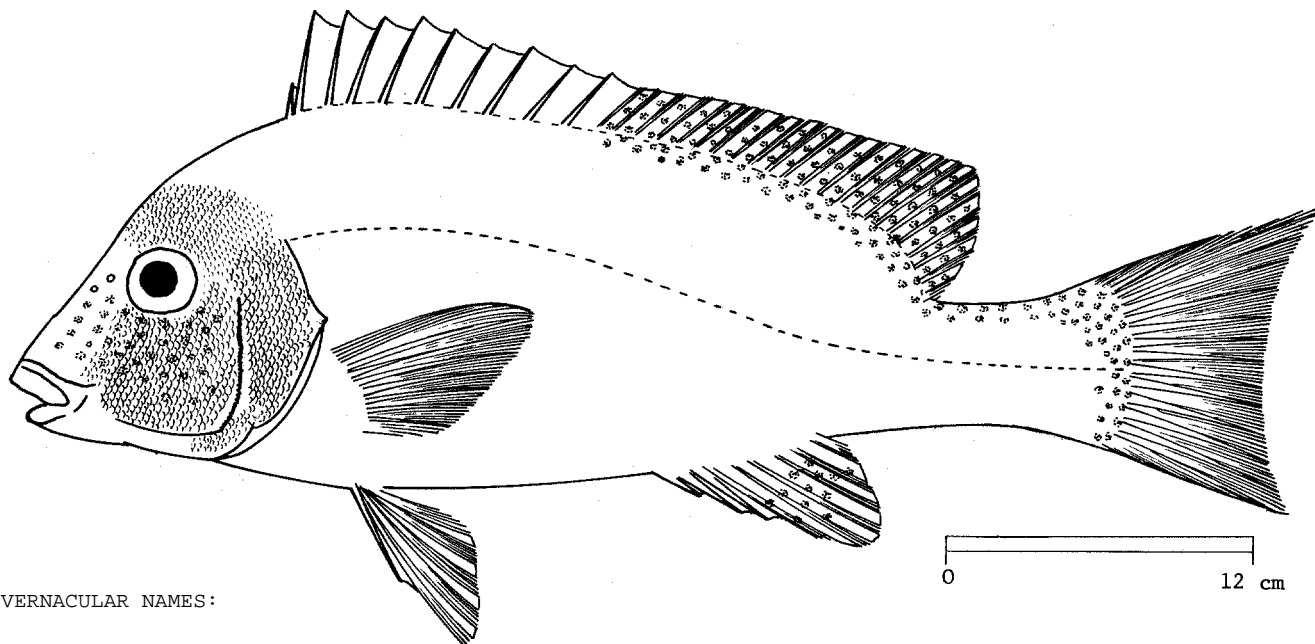
Fishing Areas 57, 71

List of Species occurring in the Area  
(Code numbers are given for those species  
for which Identification Sheets are included)

<i>Plectorhynchus cinctus</i>		<i>Pomadasys argenteus</i>	
<i>Plectorhynchus diagrammus</i>		<i>Pomadasys argyreus</i>	
<i>Plectorhynchus goldmanni</i>		<i>Pomadasys auritus</i>	
<i>Plectorhynchus lineatus</i>		<i>Pomadasys furcatus</i>	
<i>Plectorhynchus nigrus</i>		<i>Pomadasys guoraca</i> (? = <i>P. argyreus</i> )	
<i>Plectorhynchus orientalis</i>		<i>Pomadasys hasta</i>	POMAD Pomad 1
<i>Plectorhynchus pictus</i>	POMAD Plect 1	<i>Pomadasys maculatus</i>	POMAD Pomad 2
<i>Plectorhynchus schotaf</i>		<i>Pomadasys olivaceum</i>	
		<i>Pomadasys opercularis</i>	
		 <i>Rhoniscus furcatus</i>	

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POMADASYIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Plectorhynchus pictus* (Thunberg, 1792)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Spilotichthys pictus*: Munro, 1955

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Painted sweetlip  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

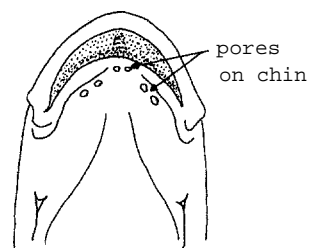
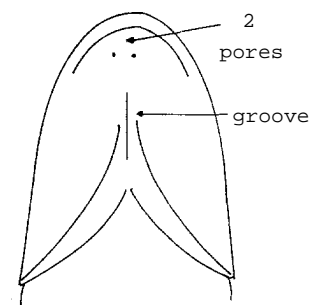
Body oblong, compressed; head covered with scales to in front of eyes; scales covering preoperculum to its edge, which is serrated. Mouth small, lips thick; 6 pores on chin behind lower lip, but no longitudinal groove; small teeth in jaws in a band of 4 to 5 rows, with an outer row of enlarged teeth, but no canines; roof of mouth without teeth on vomer and palatine bones. Dorsal fin with 9 to 10 spines, the second one much longer than the first, and 23 to 26 rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 6 to 8 soft rays. Scales small, ctenoid (rough to touch), 82 to 117 in lateral series.

Colour: longitudinal black bands in juveniles, spots in adults; in large individuals the spots may become small or indistinct; sometimes faint yellow spots on head.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other *Plectorhynchus* species: 12 to 14 spines in dorsal fin (9 to 10 in *P. pictus*); also, other species usually have distinctive bars or stripes.

*Pomadasys* species: only 2 pores on chin and a longitudinal groove; also, second dorsal spine only a little longer than first spine, and 11 to 15 dorsal spines.

*Plectorhynchus pictus**Pomadasys*

*Lethrinus* species: no scales on pre-operculum and a more pointed snout.

*Lutjanus* species: no scales between eye and mouth, teeth often present on palate and canines often present in jaws.

SIZE:

Maximum: 60 cm; common: 45 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout northern part of area and southward to tropical coasts of Australia; also, westward to East Africa.

Shallow coastal areas and coral reefs, and down to 80 m.

Feeds on bottom invertebrates and fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

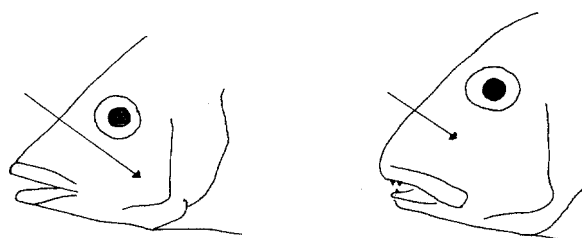
Throughout its range.

CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

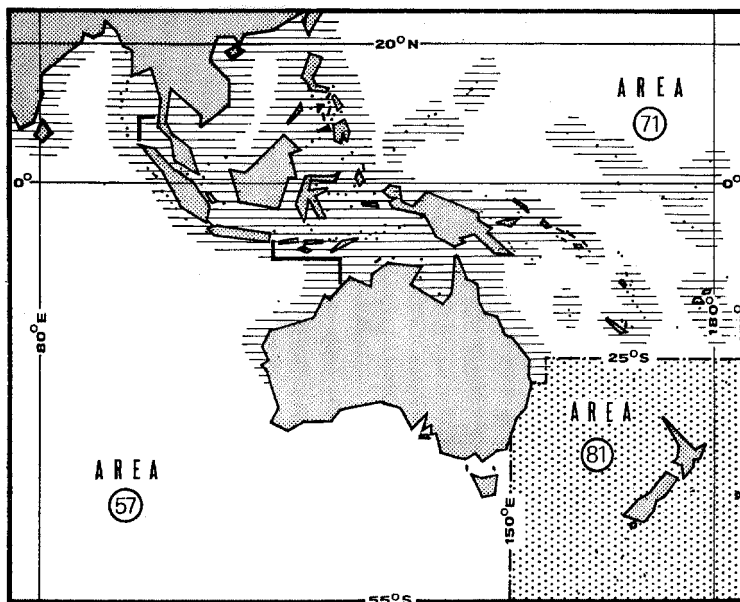
Caught with handlines, traps, bottom longlines and trawls.

Marketed mainly fresh.



*Lethrinus*

*Lutjanus*



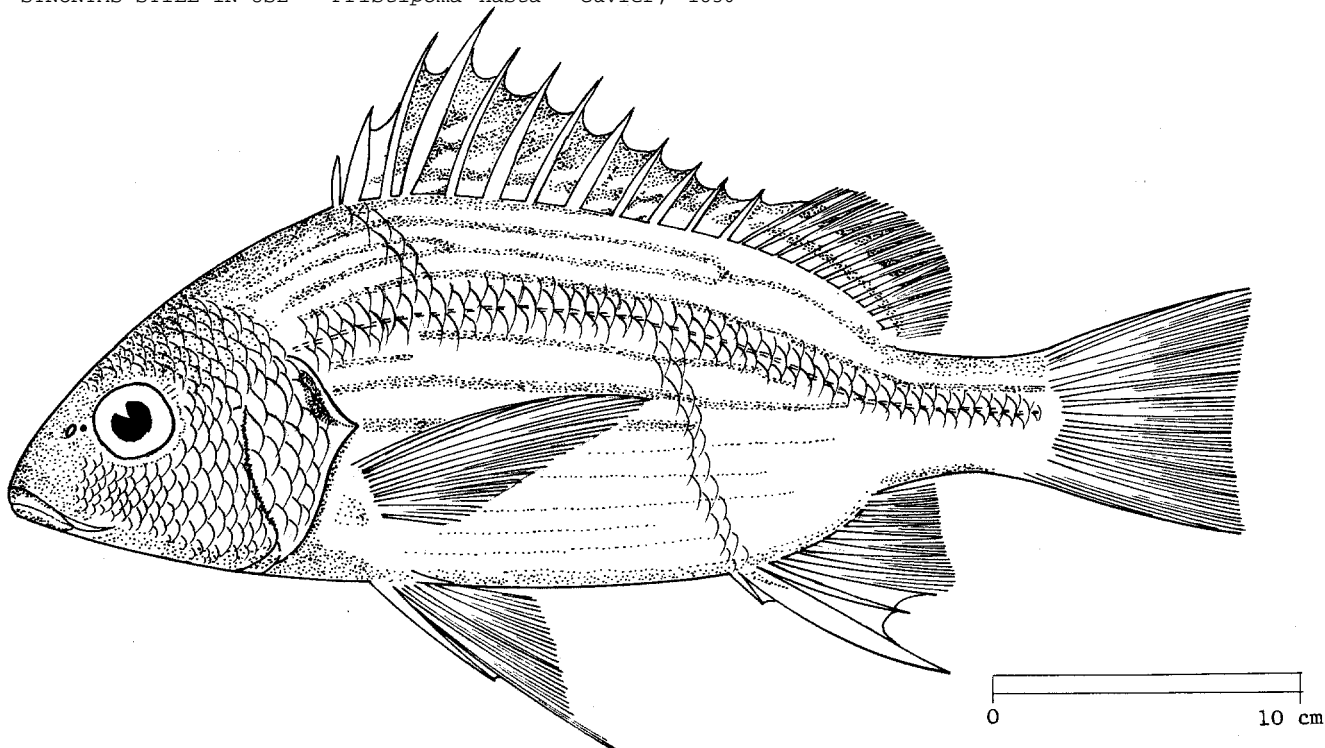
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POMADASYIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71

(E Ind. Ocean)

(W Cent. Pacific)

*Pomadasys hasta* (Bloch, 1790)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Pristipoma hasta*: Cuvier, 1830

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Lined silver grunt

Fr -

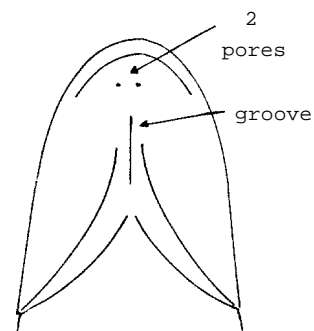
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and compressed, its depth 2.5 to 2.8 times in standard length; head blunt, its upper profile convex; mouth small, lips moderately thick; upper jaw reaching to below front border of eye; teeth small, pointed, in narrow bands, outer series enlarged. Two pores on chin and a central longitudinal groove behind chin. Dorsal fin with 12 spines and 13 to 15 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 to 8 soft rays. Scales moderate, ctenoid (rough to touch from tail to head), also present on head (excluding snout). Lateral line slightly arched.

Colour: body silvery grey, with 4 to 5 interrupted and faint longitudinal dark grey lines along flanks, 3 to 4 of these above lateral line; dorsal fin with 2 to 3 rows of brown spots, other fins yellowish.



underside of head

*Pomadasys*

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Pomadasys maculatus*: black blotches present on nape and back, and a large blotch on spinous portion of dorsal fin.

*Pomadasys argyreus*, *Pomadasys olivaceum*: dorsal fin without spots, body silvery.

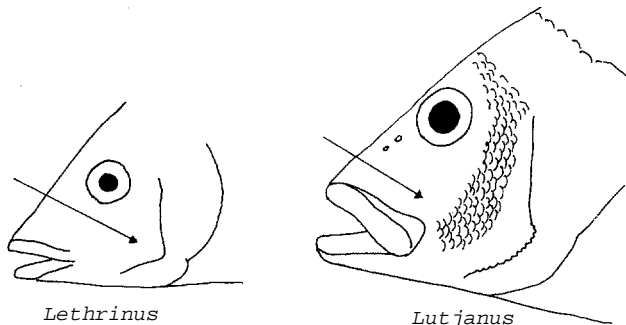
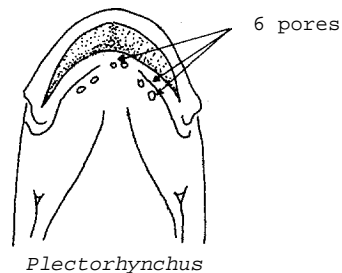
*Rhoniscus* species: very distinct longitudinal stripes on body.

*Plectorhynchus* species: 6 pores on chin, but no longitudinal groove behind chin.

*Lethrinus* species: no scales on preoperculum.

*Nemipterus* and *Scolopsis* species: only 10 spines in dorsal fin (11 to 15 in *Pomadasys*).

*Lutjanus* species: no scales between eye and mouth; dorsal and anal spines weaker.



SIZE:

Maximum: 80 cm; common: 40 to 50 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

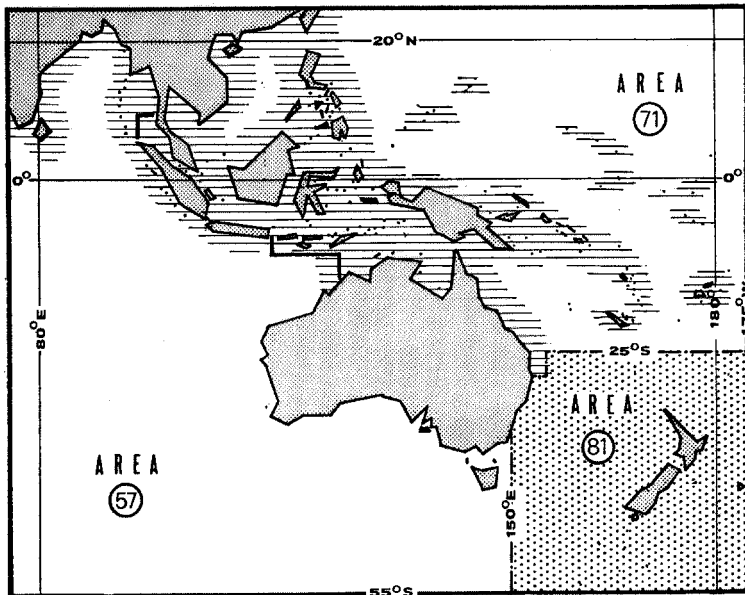
Throughout northern part of area and southward to Queensland; also, westward to East Africa and northward to Taiwan.

Inhabits coastal waters, to depths of 60 m.

Feeds on crustaceans and fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls, bottom longlines, gillnets and traps.

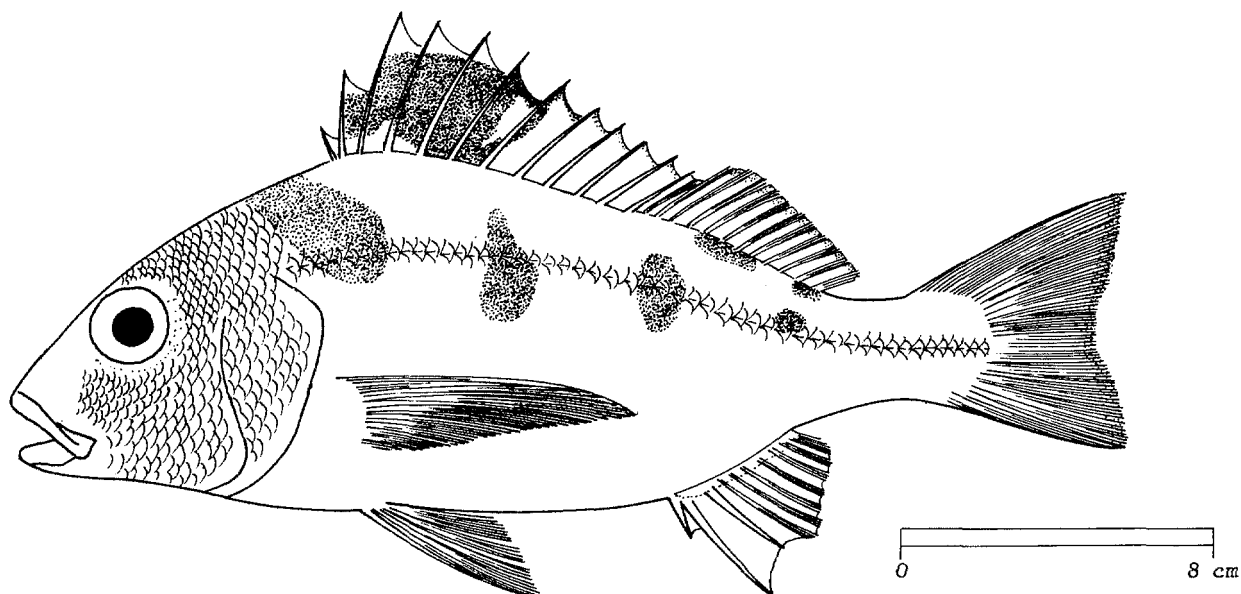
Marketed fresh; also salted.

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POMADASYIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71  
(E Ind. Ocean)  
(W Cent. Pacific)*Pomadasys maculatus* (Bloch, 1797)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Blotched grunt  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and compressed, its depth 2.7 to 2.9 times in standard length; head blunt, its upper profile convex; mouth small, lips moderately thick; upper jaw reaching to below front border of eye; teeth small, pointed, in narrow bands, outer series enlarged. Two pores on chin and a central longitudinal groove behind chin. Dorsal fin with 12 spines and 14 to 15 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 to 8 soft rays. Scales moderate, ctenoid (rough to touch from tail to head), also present on head (excluding snout). Lateral line slightly arched.

Colour: body silvery grey, head purplish, nape and back with a series of incomplete cross-bars (one on nape the most conspicuous); spinous part of dorsal fin with a large black blotch; dorsal and caudal fins edged with black, other fins yellowish.

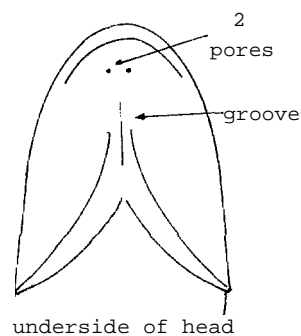
## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

*Pomadasys hasta*: dorsal fin spotted, longitudinal rows of spots or transverse bands on flanks.

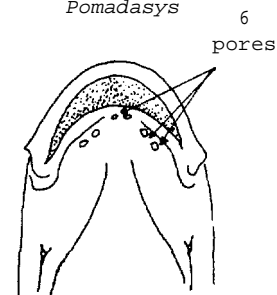
*Pomadasys argyreus*, *Pomadasys olivaceum*: no black blotches on flanks.

*Rhoniseus* species: very distinct longitudinal stripes on body.

*Pleotorhynchus* species: 6 pores on chin, but no longitudinal groove behind chin.



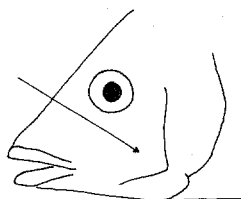
underside of head

*Pomadasys**Pleotorhynchus*

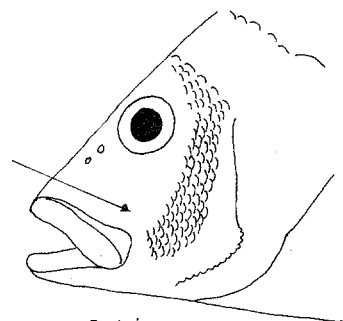
*Lethrinus* species: no scales on preoperculum.

*Nemipterus* and *Scolopsis* species: only 10 spines in dorsal fin (11 to 15 in *Pomadasys*).

*Lutjanus* species: no scales between eye and mouth; dorsal and anal spines weaker.



*Lethrinus*



*Lutjanus*

SIZE:

Maximum: 50 cm; common: 15 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

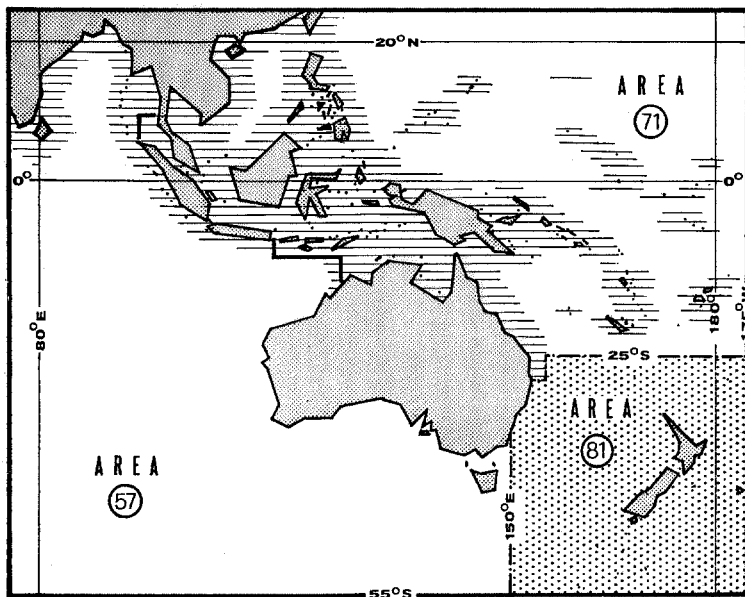
Throughout northern part of area and southward to Queensland; also, westward to East Africa and northward to Taiwan.

Inhabits coastal waters, to depths of 40 m.

Feeds on crustaceans and fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Throughout its range.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls, handlines and traps.

Marketed fresh.

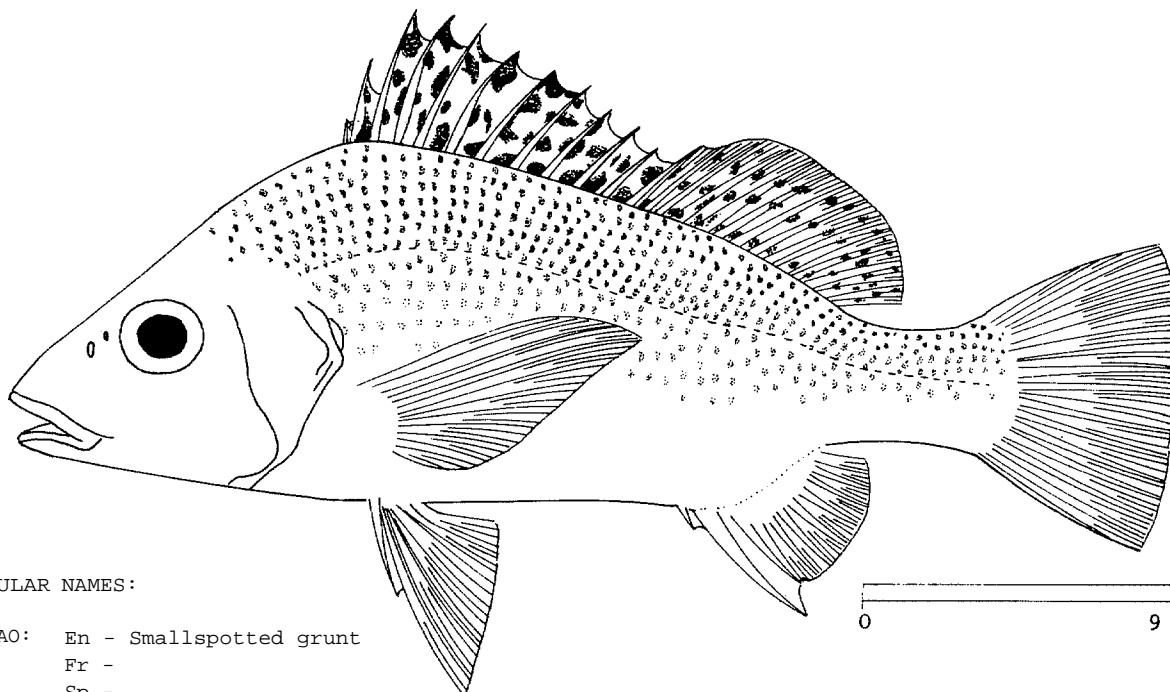
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY POMADASYIDAE

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

*Pomadasys opercularis* (Playfair, 1866)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Pristipoma operculare*: Day, 1878  
*Pomadasys operculare*: Smith, 1949



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Smallspotted grunt  
Fr -  
Sp -

## NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and compressed, its depth about 3 times in standard length; head blunt, its upper profile straight or concave (large adults); mouth small, lips fairly thick; maxilla reaching to nostrils; teeth small, pointed, in narrow bands, outer series enlarged. Two pores on chin and a central longitudinal groove behind chin. Dorsal fin with 12 spines and 13 to 16 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 to 10 soft rays. Scales moderate, ctenoid (rough to touch), also present on head (excluding snout). Lateral line slightly arched.

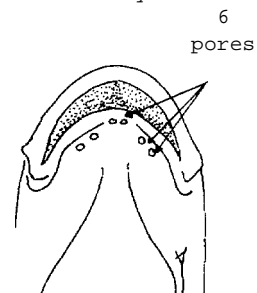
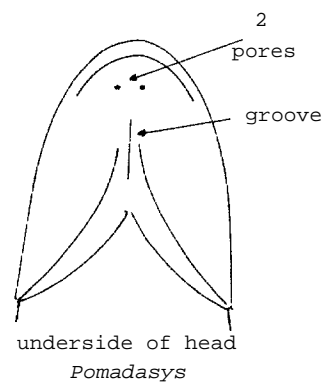
Colour: back grey/green shading to silvery white on belly; back and flanks with numerous small dark brown spots that extend also onto dorsal fin; pelvic and anal fins dark.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other *Pomadasys* species: at most rather faint spots on body (in *P. hasta* forming definite longitudinal lines) or large blotches (*P. maculatus*).

*Rhoniscus* species: very distinct longitudinal stripes on body.

*Plectorhynchus* species: 6 pores on chin, but no longitudinal groove behind chin.

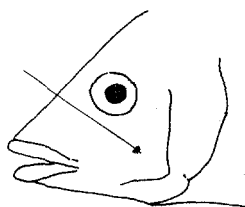




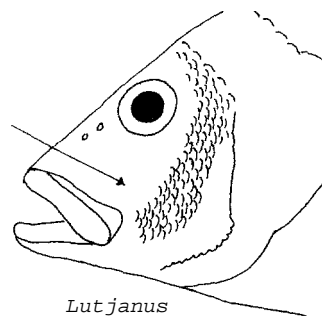
*Lethrinus* species: no scales on preoperculum.

*Nemipterus* species: only 10 spines in dorsal fin (11 to 15 in *Pomadasys*).

*Lutjanus* species: no scales between eye and mouth; dorsal and anal spines weaker.



*Lethrinus*



*Lutjanus*

#### SIZE:

Maximum: about 50 cm; common: 25 cm.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

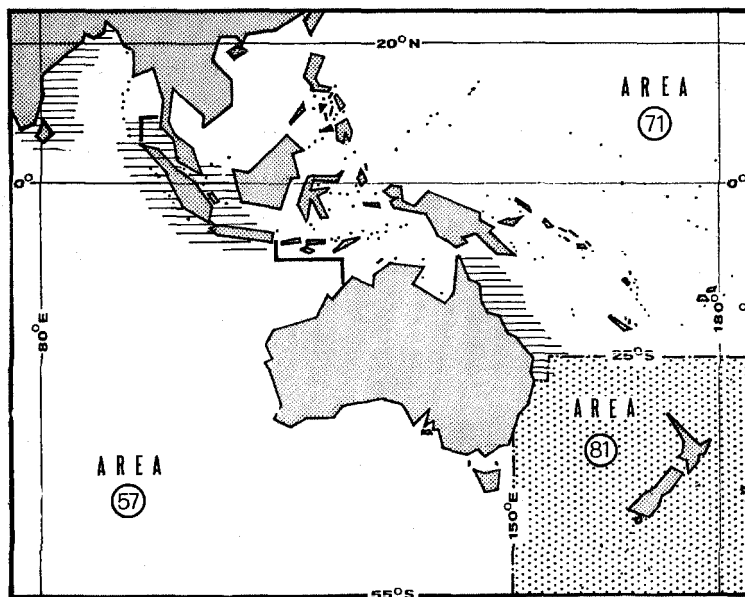
India, Philippines and Queensland, but perhaps elsewhere in area; also, westward to South Africa.

Inhabits coastal waters, sheltered estuaries and tidal creeks.

Feeds on crustaceans and fishes.

#### PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Throughout its range but especially in South Africa and Queensland (Australia).



#### CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls, bottom longlines, gillnets and traps.

Marketed fresh, also salted; flesh excellent, tasty, improved by bleeding the fish.