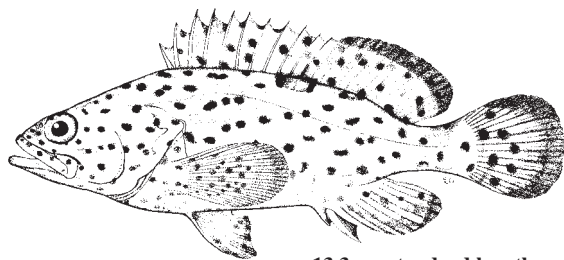
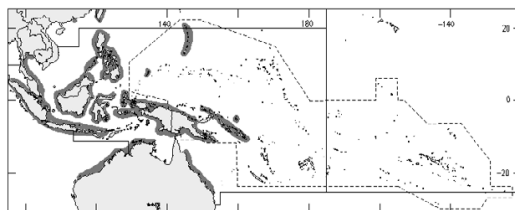


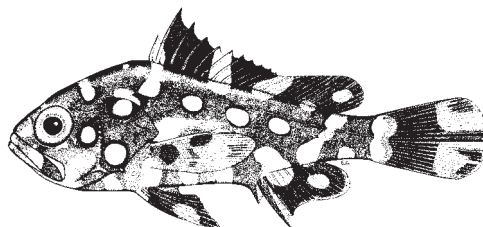
Epinephelus corallicola (Valenciennes, 1828)

En - Coral grouper; **Fr** - Mérrou corail; **Sp** - Mero de coral.

Maximum total length at least 49 cm total length. Shallow silty reefs and estuarine areas. Ovary well developed in a specimen of 30 cm standard length. Apparently too rare to be of commercial importance. Western Pacific from Thailand, Hong Kong, and Taiwan Province of China to Australia and eastward to the Solomon and Mariana islands, including Indonesia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Palau.



13.3 cm standard length

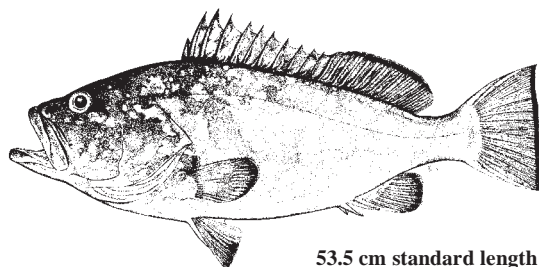
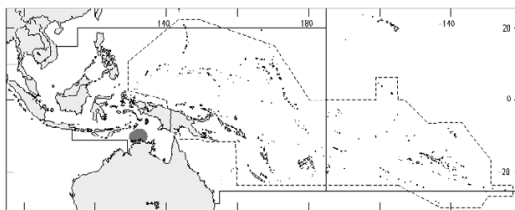


juvenile 16.2 cm standard length

Epinephelus darwinensis Randall and Heemstra, 1991

En - Darwin grouper; **Fr** - Mérrou Darwin; **Sp** - Mero de Darwin.

Maximum total length at least 62 cm. Depth of capture 107 m. Biology and interest to fisheries unknown. Apparently rare; a single specimen caught off Darwin, Australia.

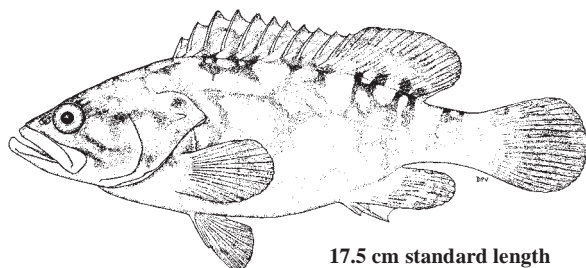
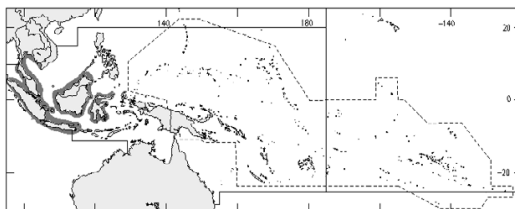


53.5 cm standard length

Epinephelus erythrurus (Valenciennes, 1828)

En - Cloudy grouper; **Fr** - Mérrou nébuleux; **Sp** - Mero nublado.

Maximum total length about 43 cm. In harbours and estuaries with muddy or silty-sand bottoms. Nothing has been published on the biology of this species; females mature at 15 cm. This species is of minor commercial importance. Caught with trawls, hook-and-line, and traps. Known from Pakistan, India, Laccadive (Lakshadweep) Islands, Sri Lanka, Gulf of Thailand, Indonesia, and Singapore.

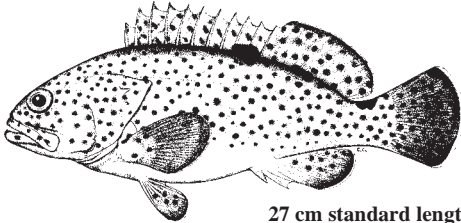


17.5 cm standard length

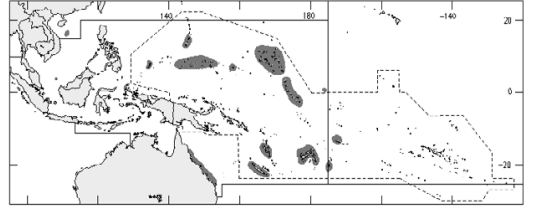
Epinephelus howlandi (Günther, 1873)

En - Blacksaddle grouper; **Fr** - Mérou selle noir; **Sp** - Mero montura negra.

Maximum total length at least 44 cm. Usually found in rocky areas or on coral reefs at depths of 1 to 37 m. Biology unknown. Appears to be rare and is thus of little commercial importance. Tropical western Central Pacific from Ryukyu Islands to New Guinea, the Great Barrier Reef, Lord Howe Island, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Caroline Islands, Palau, Marshall and Mariana islands, Howland Island, and Samoa.

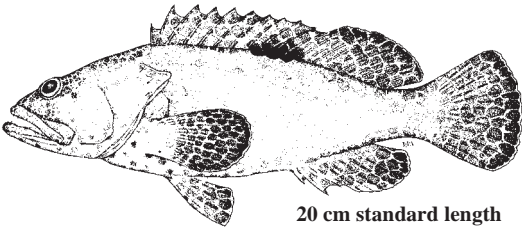


27 cm standard length

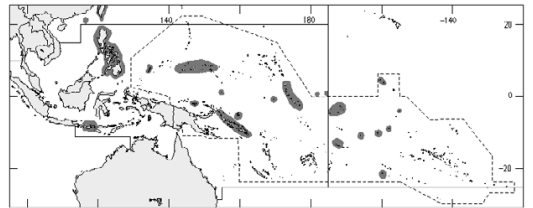
***Epinephelus melanostigma*** Schultz, 1953

En - Oneblotch grouper; **Fr** - Mérou dossard; **Sp** - Mero espaldaron.

Maximum total length at least 33 cm. Shallow coral reefs, also taken over soft bottom. Because of its small size and apparent rarity, *Epinephelus melanostigma* is of little or no commercial importance; caught with handlines, traps, and trawls. Indo-West Pacific from South Africa to Central Pacific, including Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan Province of China, Okinawa, Papua New Guinea (Bougainville), Solomon Islands, Palau, Caroline Islands, Gilbert Islands, Samoa, Phoenix Islands, Baker, Howland, Cook Islands, and Line Islands. Reports from Australia have not been verified.

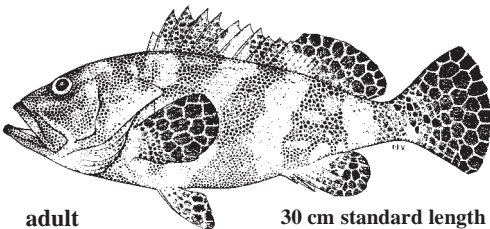


20 cm standard length

***Epinephelus miliaris*** (Valenciennes, 1830)

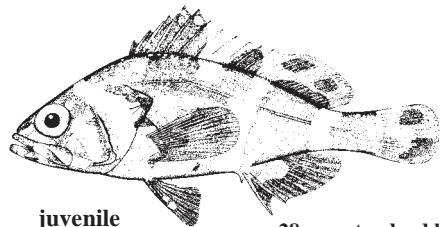
En - Netfin grouper; **Fr** - Mérou abeille; **Sp** - Mero colmenar.

Maximum total length 53 cm. Juveniles (10 to 25 cm standard length) over mud bottom, in seagrass beds, mangrove swamps and on coral reefs in depths of 1 to 16 m; adults on coral reefs in depths of 18 to 180 m. Females mature at 25 cm standard length. Apparently rare, hence of minor importance in local fisheries. Western Indian Ocean to the Gilbert Islands and Samoa. An insular species reported from East Burma Sea, Andaman Islands, Indonesia (Sulawesi [Celebes] only), South China Sea, Ryukyu Islands, New Guinea, New Ireland, New Georgia, Solomon and Santa Cruz islands, Palau, Caroline Islands, and Fiji.



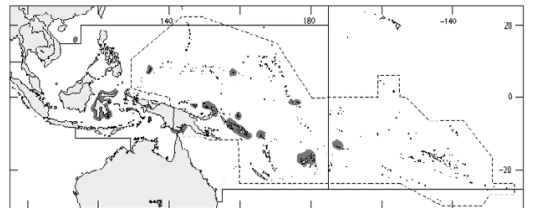
adult

30 cm standard length



juvenile

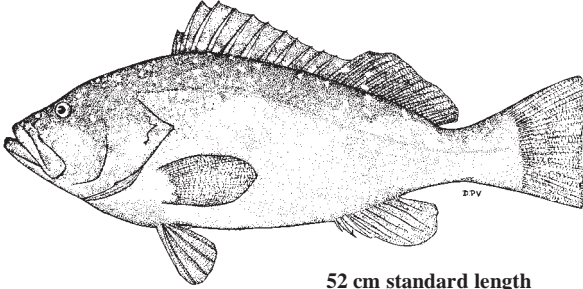
28 mm standard length



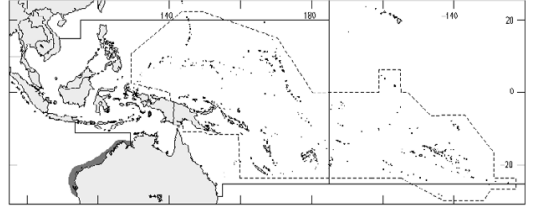
Epinephelus multinotatus (Peters, 1876)

En - Whiteblotched grouper; **Fr** - Vielle plate grise; **Sp** - Mero de lunares.

Maximum total length 100 cm. Juveniles on inshore coral reefs, and adults to depths of 90 m. Females mature at 46 cm standard length. Feeds on fishes and crabs. Probably of some commercial importance in local fisheries. Caught with hook-and-line and traps. Known only from Indian Ocean (but not Red Sea) including Western Australia (from Monte Bello Islands to Shark Bay).

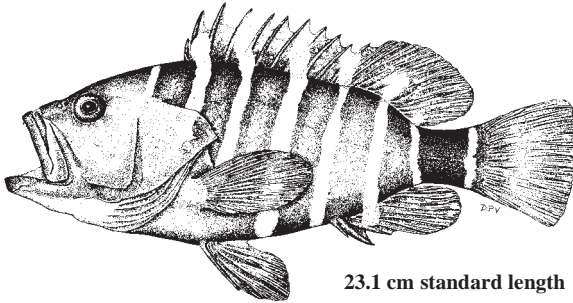


52 cm standard length

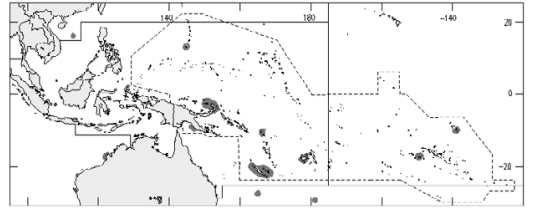
***Epinephelus octofasciatus*** Griffin, 1926

En - Eightbar grouper; **Fr** - Mérou huit raies; **Sp** - Mero de ocho bandas.

Maximum total length at least 130 cm; maximum weight about 80 kg. Occurs in depths of 150 to 350 m. The apparent rarity of this species may be due to its deep-water habitat. Caught with vertical longlines. Indo-West Pacific from South Africa to Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

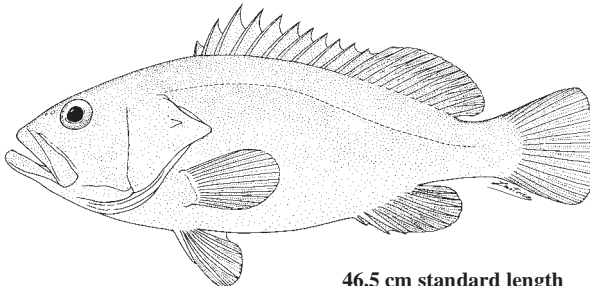


23.1 cm standard length

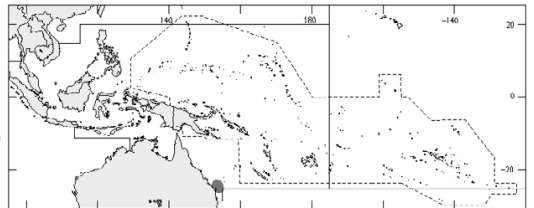
***Epinephelus perplexus*** Randall, Last, and Hoese, 1991

En - Puzzling grouper; **Fr** - Mérou curieux; **Sp** - Mero acertijo.

Maximum total length at least 55 cm. Known from a single specimen caught in a depth between 129 and 137 m off southern Queensland, Australia.



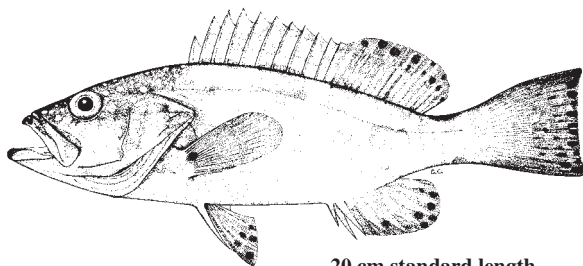
46.5 cm standard length



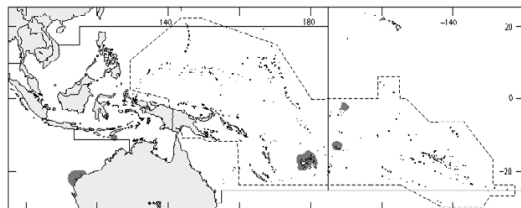
Epinephelus timorensis Randall and Allen, 1987

En - Yellowspotted grouper; **Fr** - Mérou taches jaunes; **Sp** - Mero de pintas amarillas.

Maximum total length at least 32 cm. Known from depths of 73 to 210 m off coral reefs. Nothing published on biology or fishery of this rare species. Western Australia, American Samoa (Tutuila), and Phoenix Islands (Canton Island).



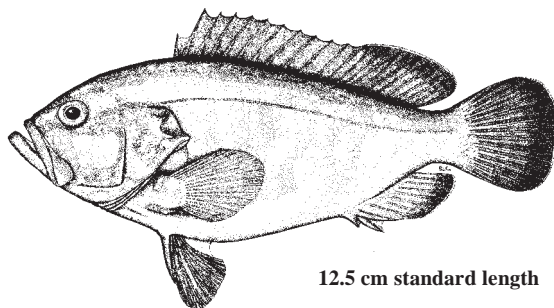
20 cm standard length



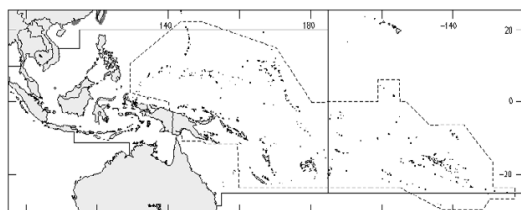
Epinephelus trophis Randall and Allen, 1987

En - Plump grouper; **Fr** - Mérou rondelet; **Sp** - Mero rollizo.

Maximum total length unknown. Only 2 specimens known, from the base of drilling rig at a depth of 130 m on Dillon Shoals in the Timor Sea off Western Australia.



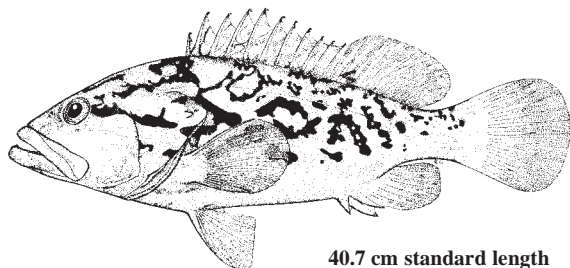
12.5 cm standard length



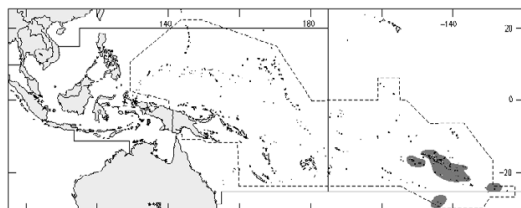
Epinephelus tuamotuensis Fourmanoir, 1971

En - Reticulate grouper; **Fr** - Mérou réseau; **Sp** - Mero reticular.

Maximum total length at least 76 cm. Outer slope of coral reefs in depths of 120 to 250 m. Feeds on fishes. Probably of some importance in artisanal fisheries, but not commonly caught because of its preference for deep water. Tuamotu Islands, Society Islands, Pitcairn Group, and Rapa.



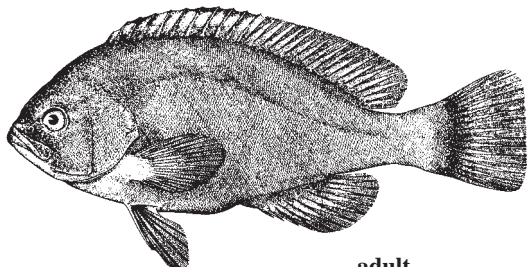
40.7 cm standard length



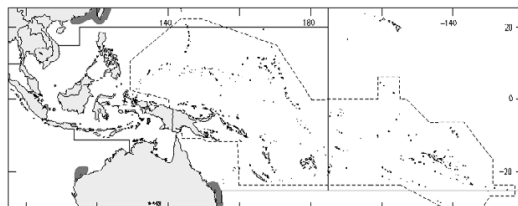
Triso dermopterus (Temminck and Schlegel, 1842)

En - Oval grouper; **Fr** - Mérrou ovale; **Sp** - Mero ovalado.

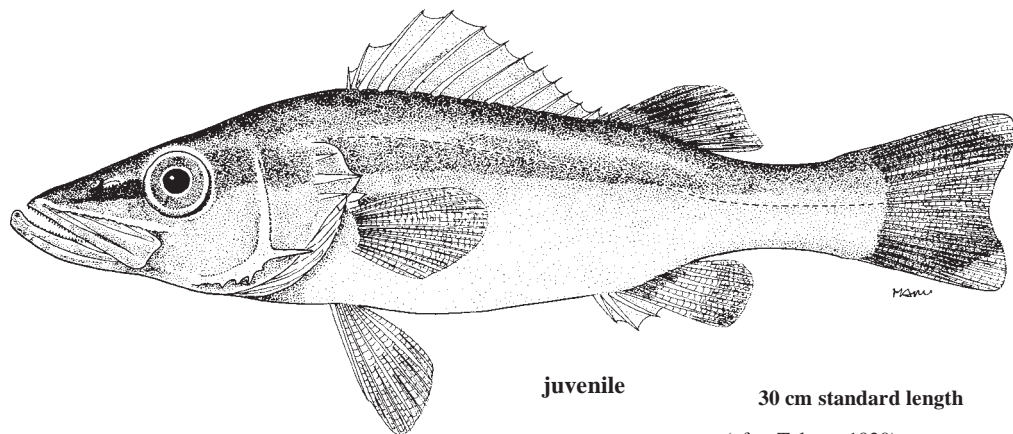
Maximum total length at least 68 cm. Found on rocky or soft (silty sand or mud) bottoms at depths of 22 to 103 m. Juveniles feed in the water column on zooplankton. Feeding by adults has not been observed. Of minor importance in the commercial fishery of Japan and Hong Kong. No data are available on the landings of this species. Caught with hook-and-line and trawls. Anti-tropical in the eastern Indian Ocean and western Pacific; known from Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Fujian and Taiwan provinces of China, off the coast of Western Australia (north of 19°30'S) and off eastern Australia between 25° and 32°S.



adult



Tribe NIPHONINI

Niphon spinosus Cuvier, 1828**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Rough grouper; Fr - M rou rugueux; Sp - Mero aspero.

juvenile

30 cm standard length

(after Takara, 1930)

Diagnostic characters: Body elongate, compressed, its depth 2.9 to 4.2 times in standard length; head large, 2.5 to 2.8 times in standard length; dorsal head profile straight; interorbital area slightly convex, its width 4.9 to 6.8 times in head length; preorbital serrate; opercle with 3 strong spines; upper edge of operculum convex; **preopercle angular, the rear edge serrate, with a large posteriorly-directed spine at angle and a few smaller spines on lower edge; suborbital depth less than eye diameter**, 11 times in head length. Rear nostril an elongate slit, close to anterior nostril. Mouth large, lower jaw projecting; band of villiform teeth on jaws, vomer, and palatines; no teeth on tongue. No supramaxilla. Gill rakers long and slender, 7 to 9 on upper limb, 13 to 16 on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with XIII spines and 10 or 11 soft rays, the fin divided to base before last spine**, which is much longer than twelfth spine; fourth spine longest, longer than longest dorsal-fin ray and 2 to 2.6 times in head length; anal fin with III spines and 6 to 8 soft rays; **caudal fin emarginate, with rounded corners**, 8 branched rays in upper lobe and 7 in lower lobe; pectoral-fin rays 15 to 17, the fin length about equal to pelvic fin, 1.8 to 2.4 times in head length. Scales small and rough; lateral-line scales 84 to 93; lateral scale series 140 to 163. **Colour:** Head and body brownish grey, the fins darker; juveniles silvery with dark lateral band from snout through eye to upper part of caudal peduncle and another, median, dark band from snout along top of head, dorsal part of body, and continued over front half of soft-dorsal fin; upper and lower thirds of caudal fin dusky, the corners and middle part of fin white.

Size: Maximum total length 100 cm.**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Rocky bottom in depths of 50 to 100 m. Nothing published on the biology or fisheries of this species. Of some importance as a food fish in Japan. Caught with trawls and longlines.**Distribution:** Japan, Korea, Taiwan Province of China, and the Philippines (Sulu Sea).