

***Xiphias gladius* Linnaeus, 1758**

**SWO XIPHIIDAE**

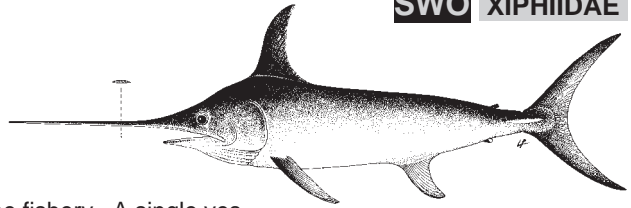
**FAO names:** En - Swordfish; Fr - Espadon; Sp - Pez espada.

**Local names:** Swaardvis (Ak); Schwertfisch (Gr).

**Size:** Maximum: 445 cm (total length) and 540 kg.

**Fisheries:** Caught as bycatch in the tuna longline fishery. A single vessel targeting this species in the mid-1990's on an experimental basis.

**Habitat and biology:** Mainly oceanic. Feeds on surface or near-surface fishes (for example flyingfish, tunas, oilfishes, dolphinfishes, and mackerel), but also on bottom organisms (for example hakes and trichiurids) when in waters less than 800 m deep. It is likely that this species uses its sword to kill some of its prey, particularly squids and cuttlefishes, as shown by the slashes on the bodies found in swordfish stomachs.



***Istiophorus platypterus* (Shaw and Nodder, 1791)**

**ISTIOPHORIDAE**

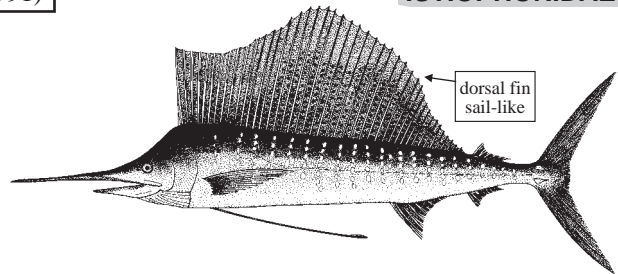
**FAO names:** En - Sailfish; Fr - Voilier; Sp - Pez vela.

**Local names:** Seilvis (Ak); Indopazifischer Segelfisch, Pazifischer Facherfisch, Pazifischer Segelfisch (Gr)

**Size:** To 3 m (total length).

**Fisheries:** Rare in Namibia.

**Habitat and biology:** A primarily oceanic species, usually above the thermocline, but more coastal than other billfishes. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods. Growth is rapid, at the age of 3 years fish are mature and have already reached 1.5 m.



***Makaira nigricans* Lacepède, 1802**

height of front dorsal-fin lobe shorter than body depth

**BUM ISTIOPHORIDAE**

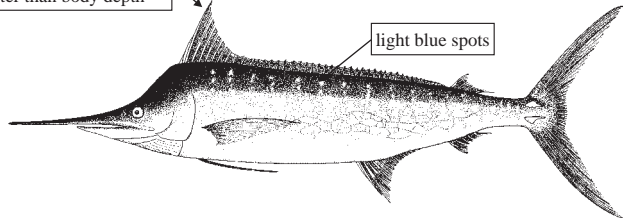
**FAO names:** En - Blue marlin; Fr - Makaire bleu; Sp - Aguja azul.

**Local names:** Blou marlyn (Ak); Blauer Marlin (Gr).

**Size:** To 4 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught mainly with longlines and by trolling. Rarely caught by the swordfish fishery.

**Habitat and biology:** Oceanic, highly migratory, usually found above the thermocline. Feeds on a wide variety of fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods; feeding takes place during daytime. Maturity is reached at about 80 cm in males (about 40 kg) and at 50 cm in females (about 55 kg).



***Tetrapterus albidus* Poey, 1860**

front dorsal-fin lobe higher than body depth

**ISTIOPHORIDAE**

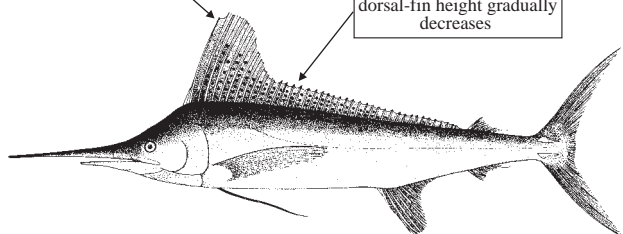
**FAO names:** En - White marlin; Fr - Makaire blanc; Sp - Aguja blanca.

**Local names:** Wit marlyn (Ak); Weißer Marlin (Gr).

**Size:** Maximum 3 m, common to 2 m.

**Fisheries:** Caught on surface longlines, trolling.

**Habitat and biology:** Pelagic, above the thermocline.



***Tetrapturus pfluegeri*** Robins and de Sylva, 1963

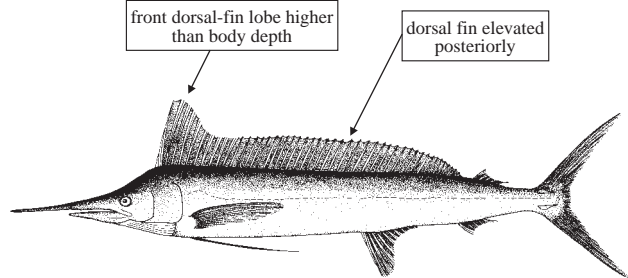
**FAO names:** En - Longbill spearfish; Fr - Makaïre bécune; Sp - Aguja picuda.

**Local names:** Langbek-speervis (Ak); Langschnauziger Speerfisch (Gr).

**Size:** To 2 m (standard length) and 30 kg body weight.

**Fisheries:** Caught with longlines as bycatch of tuna longline fisheries.

**Habitat and biology:** Epipelagic and oceanic, usually found above the thermocline. Feeds on bony fishes, crustaceans, and cephalopods.

***Centrolophus niger*** (Gmelin, 1789)

(plate VIII, 58 and 59)

**CENTROLOPHIDAE**

**FAO names:** En - Black fish; Fr - Centrolophe noir; Sp - Romerillo.

**Local names:** Black ruff; Swartroef (Ak); Schwarzfisch (Gr).

**Size:** To 1.2 m.

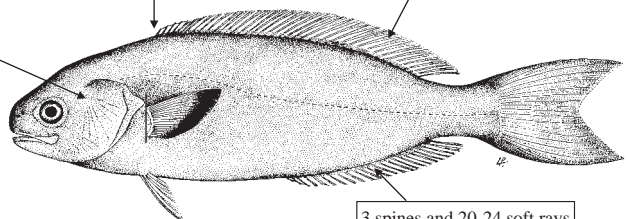
**Fisheries:** Taken occasionally as bycatch in trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Occurs on the upper continental slope to depths of about 250 to 650 m.

head naked, with prominent pores

origin of dorsal fin behind pectoral-fin base (over insertion in small specimens)

37-41 total rays



colour dark brown to black; juveniles with 2-4 dark bars

***Hyperoglyphe moselii*** (Cunningham, 1910)

**Synonyms:** *Hyperoglyphe matthewsi* (Smith, 1960).

**FAO names:** En - African barrellfish; Fr - Rouffe africain; Sp - Rufo africano.

**Local names:** Black butterflyfish; Swart bottervis (Ak).

**Size:** To 100 cm.

**Fisheries:** Occasionally caught in bottom trawls.

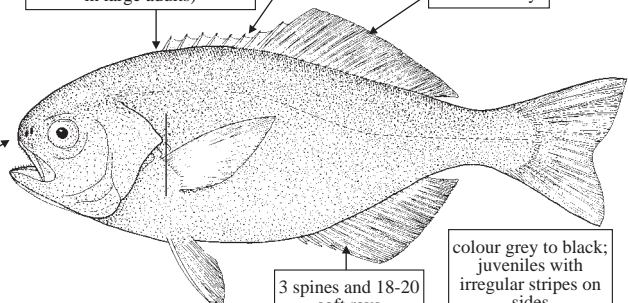
**Habitat and biology:** Found on the upper continental slope, from depths of 200 to 500 m.

origin of dorsal fin in front of pectoral-fin base (over base in large adults)

8 spines

**CENTROLOPHIDAE**

23-26 soft rays



snout rounded

3 spines and 18-20 soft rays

colour grey to black; juveniles with irregular stripes on sides

*Schedophilus huttoni* (Waite, 1910)

(plate VIII, 60)

origin of dorsal fin in front of pectoral-fin base (over base in large adults)

CENTROLOPHIDAE

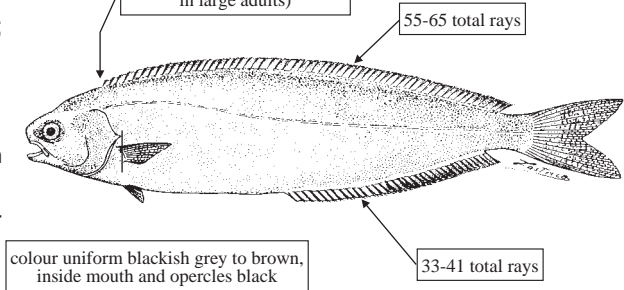
**FAO names:** En - Rag ruff; Fr - Rouffe chiffon; Sp - Rufino pelado.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 90 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught in bottom trawls. A bycatch of the deep-water fishery.

**Habitat and biology:** Found on the upper continental slope, from depths of 270 to 500 m.



*Schedophilus velani* Sauvage, 1879

origin of dorsal fin in front of pectoral-fin base (over base in large adults)

CENTROLOPHIDAE

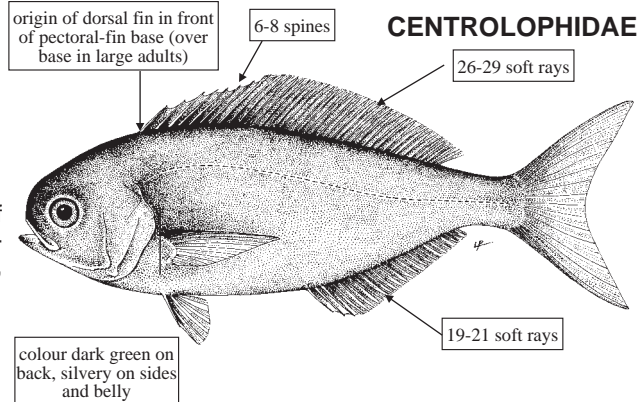
**FAO names:** En - Southern imperial blackfish.

**Local names:** Oval driftfish; Ovale dryfvis (Ak).

**Size:** To 100 cm.

**Fisheries:** Rarely caught in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Found along the edge of continental shelves commonly in depths between 80 and 240 m; the young are epipelagic, associated with medusae and siphonophores.



*Schedophilus pamarco* (Poll, 1959)

origin of dorsal fin in front of pectoral-fin base (over base in large adults)

CENTROLOPHIDAE

**FAO names:** En - Pamarco blackfish; Fr - Rouffe rayé; Sp - Rufo pamarco.

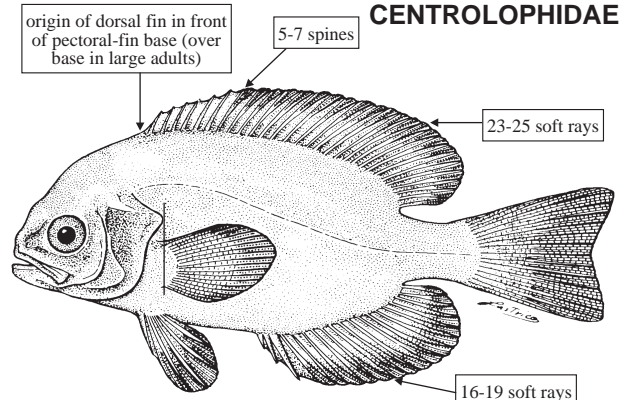
**Local names:**

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** Found on the deeper continental shelf and upper slope, from depths of 100 to 500 m.

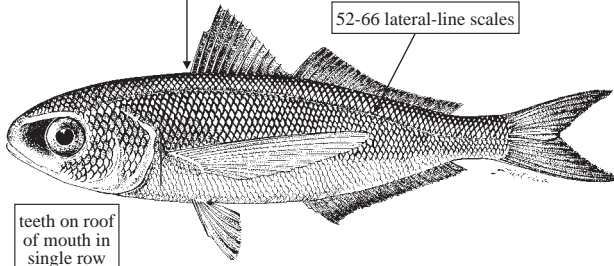
colour dark grey-blue to brownish; juveniles with irregular stripes on sides



All species of **NOMEIDAE** reported from Namibia

**NOMEIDAE**

origin of dorsal fin behind pectoral-fin base (above in small specimens)

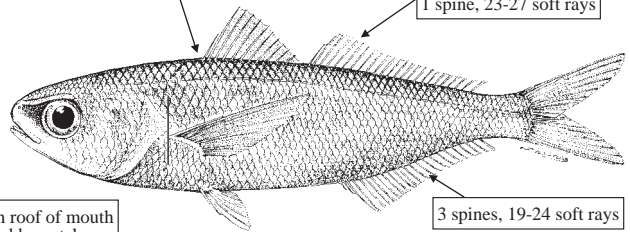


52-66 lateral-line scales

teeth on roof of mouth in single row

*Cubiceps baxteri* McCulloch, 1923  
To over 100 cm.

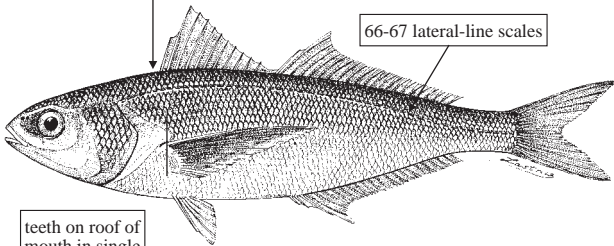
origin of dorsal fin behind pectoral-fin base (above in small specimens)



1 spine, 23-27 soft rays

*Cubiceps caeruleus* Regan, 1914  
To 25 cm.

origin of dorsal fin behind pectoral-fin base (above in small specimens)



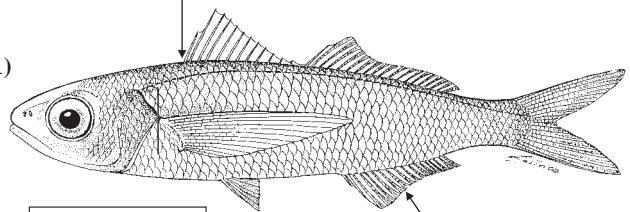
teeth on roof of mouth in knobby patches

66-67 lateral-line scales

teeth on roof of mouth in single row

*Cubiceps capensis* (Smith, 1849) (plate VIII, 61)  
To 90 cm.

origin of dorsal fin behind pectoral-fin base (above in small specimens)

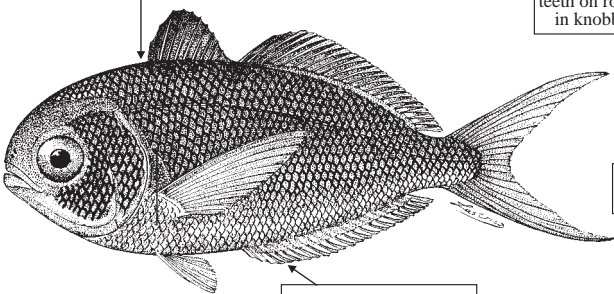


teeth on roof of mouth in knobby patches

2 spines, 14-16 soft rays

*Cubiceps pauciradiatus* Günther, 1872  
To 20 cm.

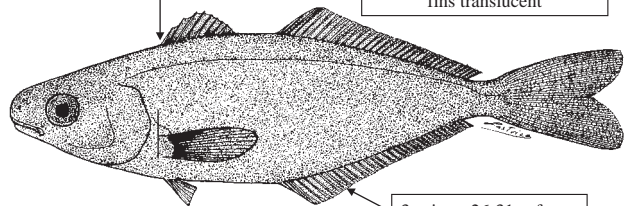
origin of dorsal fin before pectoral-fin base (above in large specimens)



3 spines, 21-23 soft rays

*Psenes arafurensis* Günther, 1889  
To 25 cm.

origin of dorsal fin before pectoral-fin base (above in large specimens)



body very soft, bases of median fins translucent

3 spines, 26-31 soft rays

*Psenes pellucidus* Lütken, 1880  
To 80 cm.

***Stromateus fiatola* Linnaeus, 1758**

**FAO names:** En - Butterfish; Fr - Fiatole; Sp - Palometa fiátola.

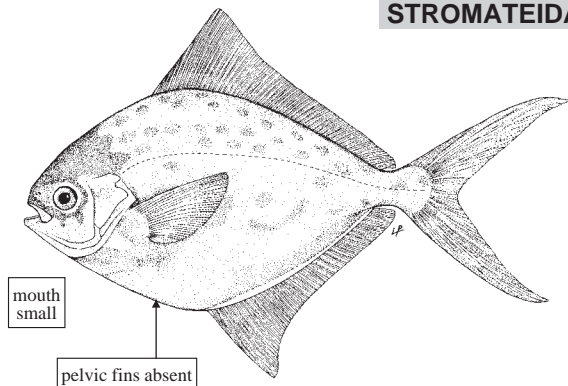
**Local names:** Blue butterfish; Blou bottervis (Ak); Deckfisch, Gemeine Pampel, Pampelfisch (Gr); Pompano (Sp).

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught rarely with trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic species, forming large shoals from depths of 10 to 70 m. Feeds on zooplankton and small fishes. Mainly off northern Namibia.

**STROMATEIDAE**



***Tetragonurus atlanticus* Lowe, 1839**

**FAO names:** En - Bigeye squaretail; Fr - Tétra-gonure atlantique; Sp - Escolar-de-natura atlántico.

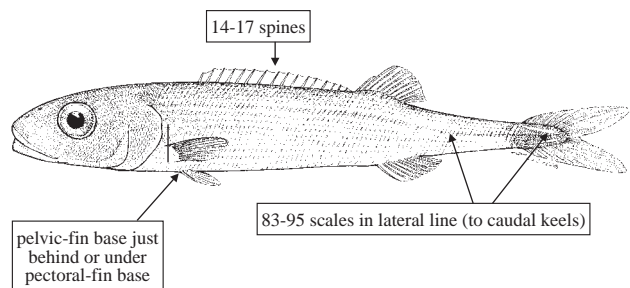
**Local names:** Grootoog-stompstert (Ak).

**Size:** To 50 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught rarely in trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A pelagic species. Feeds on soft-bodied invertebrates. The flesh may be poisonous. It is preyed upon by tunas and other large predators.

**TETRAGONURIDAE**



***Tetragonurus cuvieri* Risso, 1810**

**FAO names:** En - Smalleye squaretail; Fr - Tétra-gonure de Cuvier; Sp - Pez lima.

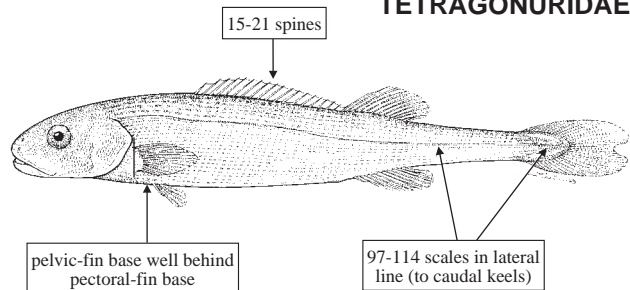
**Local names:** Kleinoog-stompstert (Ak).

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** An epi- and mesopelagic species, sometimes abundant offshore. May be poisonous. Feeds on soft-bodied invertebrates and it is preyed upon by tunas and other large predators.

**TETRAGONURIDAE**



***Arnoglossus capensis* Boulenger, 1898**

**FAO names:** En - Cape scaldfish; Fr - Arnoglosse du Cap; Sp - Peludilla del Cabo.

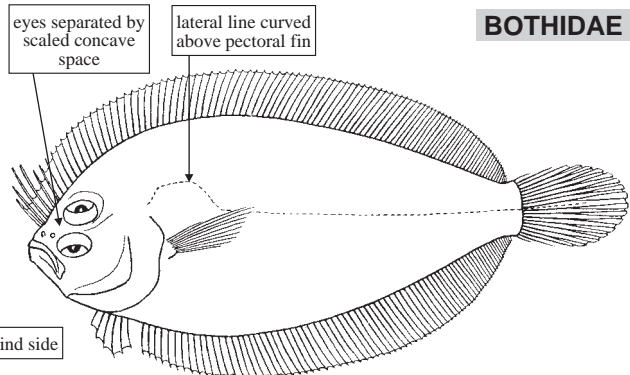
**Local names:** Cape flounder; Kaapse botvis (Ak).

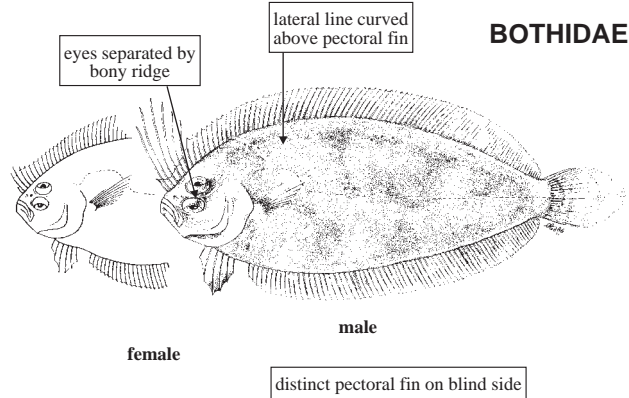
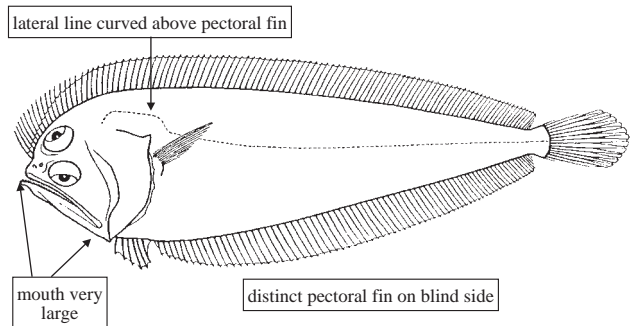
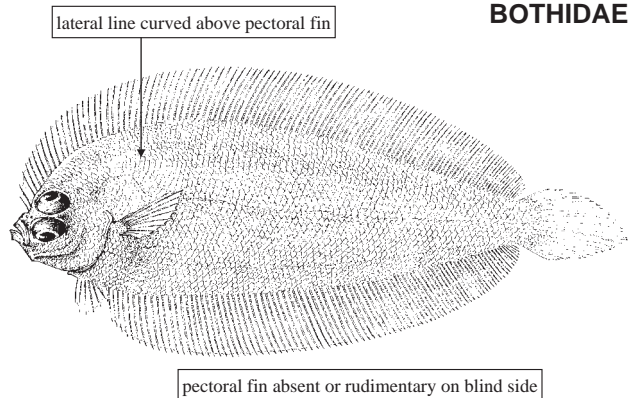
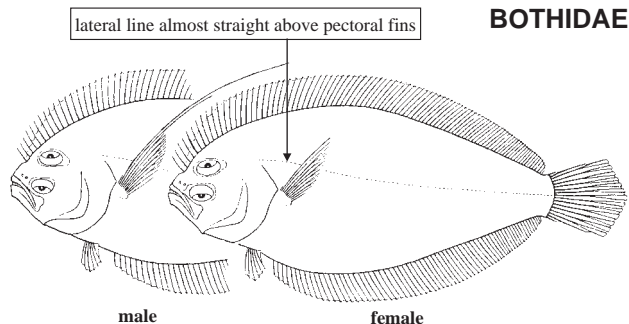
**Size:** To 18 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** From shallow inshore waters to depths over 100 m; mainly on sand and shell bottoms.

**BOTHIDAE**



***Arnoglossus imperialis* (Rafinesque, 1810)****Synonyms:** *Arnoglossus blachei* Stauch, 1965.**FAO names:** **En** - Imperial scaldfish; **Fr** - Arnoglosse impériale; **Sp** - Serrandel imperial.**Local names:****Size:** To 25 cm.**Fisheries:** None at present.**Habitat and biology:** Found on mud, sand, shell, and corals, in depths between 40 and 200 m.**BOTHIDAE*****Chascanopsetta lugubris* Alcock, 1894****FAO names:** **En** - Pelican flounder; **Fr** - Perpeire pélican; **Sp** - Lenguado pelicano.**Local names:** Pelikaan-botvis (AK).**Size:** To 38 cm.**Fisheries:** None at present.**Habitat and biology:** Demersal, from the deeper continental shelf to depths of almost 1 000 m, on sand, mud, and clay bottoms.**BOTHIDAE*****Monolene microstoma* (Cadenat, 1937)****FAO names:** **En** - Small mouth moonflounder; **Fr** - Monolène à petite bouche; **Sp** - Monolena bocachica.**Local names:****Size:** To 20 cm.**Fisheries:** None at present.**Habitat and biology:** Found on muddy bottoms from depths between 25 and 400 m.**BOTHIDAE*****Syacium micrurum* Ranzani, 1840****FAO names:** **En** - Channel flounder; **Fr** - Fausse limande paté; **Sp** - Lenguado paté.**Local names:****Size:** To 40 cm.**Fisheries:** None at present.**Habitat and biology:** On mud, sand, and gravel bottoms, from depths of 15 to 200 m.**BOTHIDAE**

***Austroglossus microlepis*** (Bleeker, 1863)

(plate VIII, 62)

**SOW SOLEIDAE**

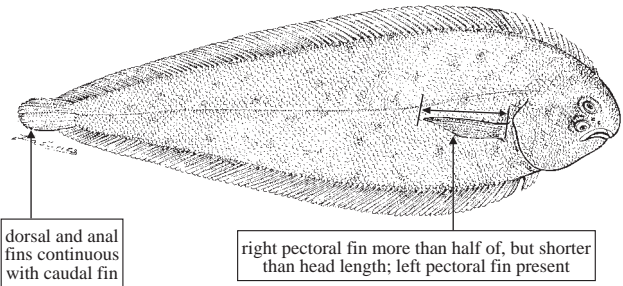
**FAO names:** **En** - West coast sole; **Fr** - Sole australe occidentale; **Sp** - Lenguado del sur.

**Local names:** Weskus-tongvis (Ak); Westküsten-Seezunge (Gr).

**Size:** To 75 cm (4 kg).

**Fisheries:** Caught with bottom trawls. Was important commercially, but was heavily overfished and catches now only amount to a few hundred tonnes per year. The only flatfish important commercially.

**Habitat and biology:** Found at depths of 100 to 300 m; larvae are pelagic while adults live close to the sea bed. Adults prey on worms, crustaceans, molluscs, and fish (gobies and ladder dragonets).



***Austroglossus pectoralis*** (Kaup, 1858)

**SOLEIDAE**

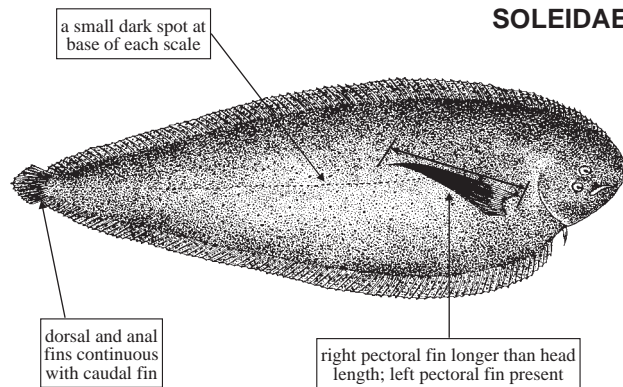
**FAO names:** **En** - Mud sole; **Fr** - Sole de vase; **Sp** - Lenguado de aleta.

**Local names:** East coast sole; Ooskus-tongvis (Ak); Ostküsten-Seezunge (Gr).

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** Found on mud bottoms, between depths of 10 and 100 m. Feeds on small benthic invertebrates and small fish. There is some doubt if this species occurs in Namibia



***Dicologlossa cuneata*** (de la Pylaie in Moreau, 1881)

**SOLEIDAE**

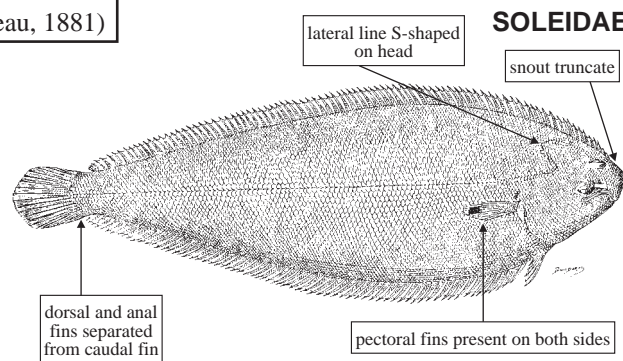
**FAO names:** **En** - Wedge sole; **Fr** - Céteau; **Sp** - Acedia.

**Local names:** Keil-tongvis (Ak).

**Size:** To 30 cm.

**Fisheries:** Occasionally taken in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Inhabits sand or muddy sand bottoms, from depths of 10 to about 450 m. Feeds mainly on crustaceans, worms, and snails.



***Heteromycteris capensis* Kaup, 1858**

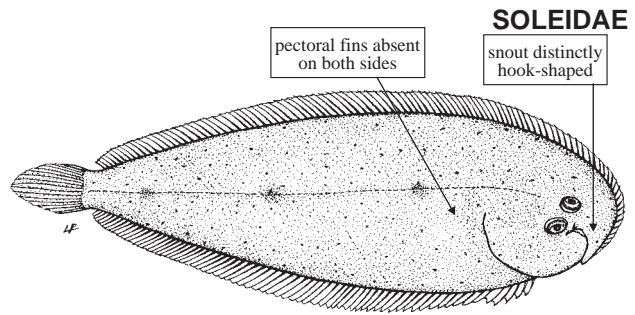
**FAO names:** **En** - Cape sole; **Fr** - Sole du Cap; **Sp** - Lenguado del Cabo.

**Local names:** Kaapse-tongvis (Ak).

**Size:** To 15 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** Shallow waters from depths of 1 to 25 m.

***Heteromycteris proboscideus* (Chabanaud, 1926)**

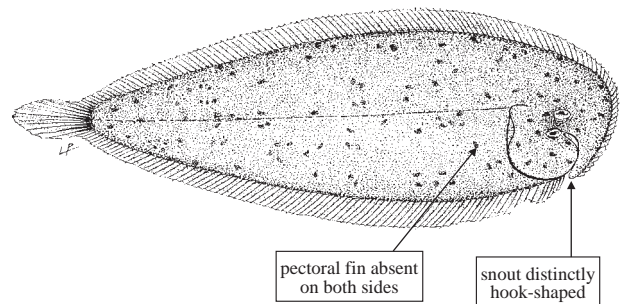
**FAO names:** **En** - True sole; **Fr** - Céteau trompue; **Sp** - Acedia trompuda.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** A littoral species, also found in brackish waters.

***Monochirus luteus* (Risso, 1810)**

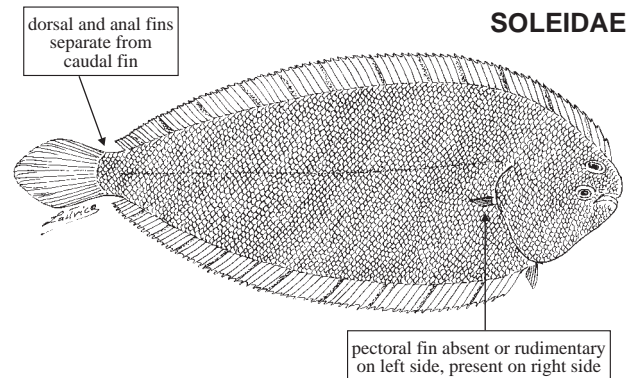
**FAO names:** **En** - Yellow sole; **Fr** - Sole jaune; **Sp** - Lenguado amarillo.

**Local names:** Geel tongvis (Ak).

**Size:** To 10 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** Demersal in depths between 10 and 80 m.

***Cynoglossus capensis* (Kaup, 1858)**

(plate VIII, 63)

**CYNOGLOSSIDAE**

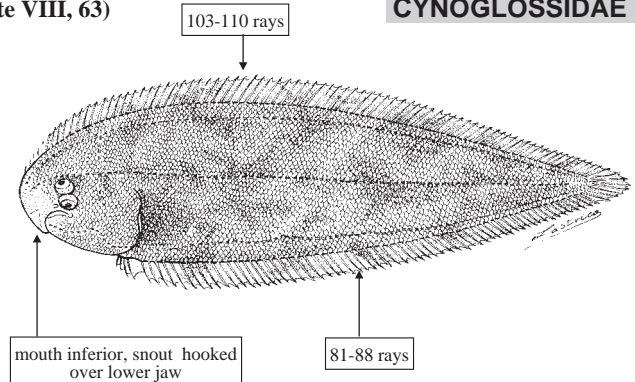
**FAO names:** **En** - Sand tonguefish; **Fr** - Sole-langue du Cap; **Sp** - Lengua de perro.

**Local names:** Sand-tongvis (Ak).

**Size:** 31 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught occasionally as bycatch in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A shallow-water species usually found at depths less than about 100 m but also recorded on the continental slope, between 350 and 450 m.



***Cynoglossus zanzibariensis* Norman, 1939**

(plate VIII, 64)

**CYNOGLOSSIDAE**

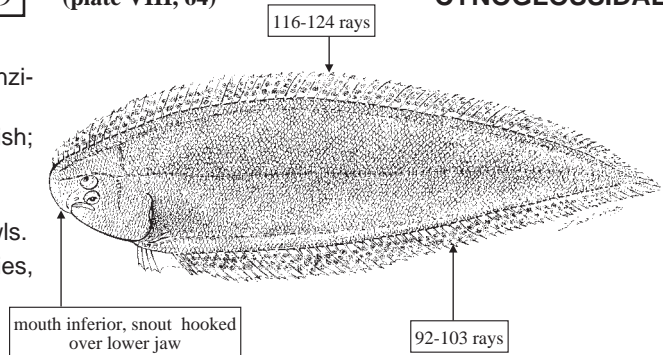
**FAO names:** **En** - Zanzibar tonguesole; **Fr** - Langue de Zanzibar; **Sp** - Lengua de Zanzibar.

**Local names:** Redspotted tonguefish; Rooigespikkelde tongvis (Ak).

**Size:** To 32 cm.

**Fisheries:** Caught incidentally in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A shallow-water species, mainly on sandy bottoms.

***Symphurus normani* Chabanaud, 1950****CYNOGLOSSIDAE**

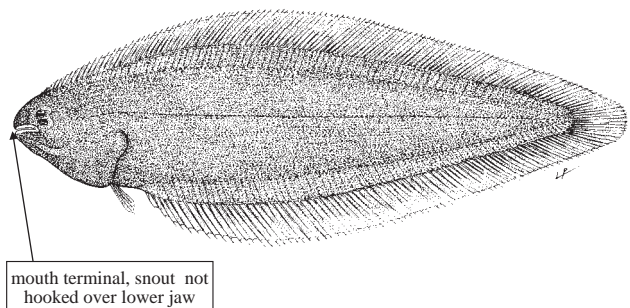
**FAO names:** **En** - Norman's tonguesole; **Fr** - Plagusie de Norman; **Sp** - Pelada de Norman.

**Local names:**

**Size:** To 70 cm.

**Fisheries:** None at present.

**Habitat and biology:** Found on mud and sand bottoms from depths of 50 to 100 m. Mainly in the northern part of the area.

***Lagocephalus laevigatus* Linnaeus, 1766****TETRAODONTIDAE**

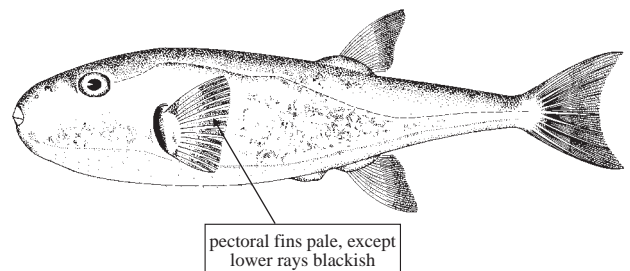
**FAO names:** **En** - Smooth puffer; **Fr** - Compère lisse; **Sp** - Tamboril mondeque.

**Local names:** Blaasop (Ak).

**Size:** To 100 cm.

**Fisheries:** Poisonous, should not be eaten. Caught incidentally in bottom trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** Found mainly in coastal waters, to a depth of 180 m.

***Lagocephalus lagocephalus* (Linnaeus, 1758)****TETRAODONTIDAE**

**FAO names:** **En** - Rabbit puffer; **Fr** - Compère lièvre; **Sp** - Tamboril liebre.

**Local names:** Oceanic blaasop; Opesee-blaasop (Ak).

**Size:** To 60 cm.

**Fisheries:** Poisonous, should not be eaten. Caught incidentally in trawls.

**Habitat and biology:** A primarily pelagic species, occasionally entering estuaries.

