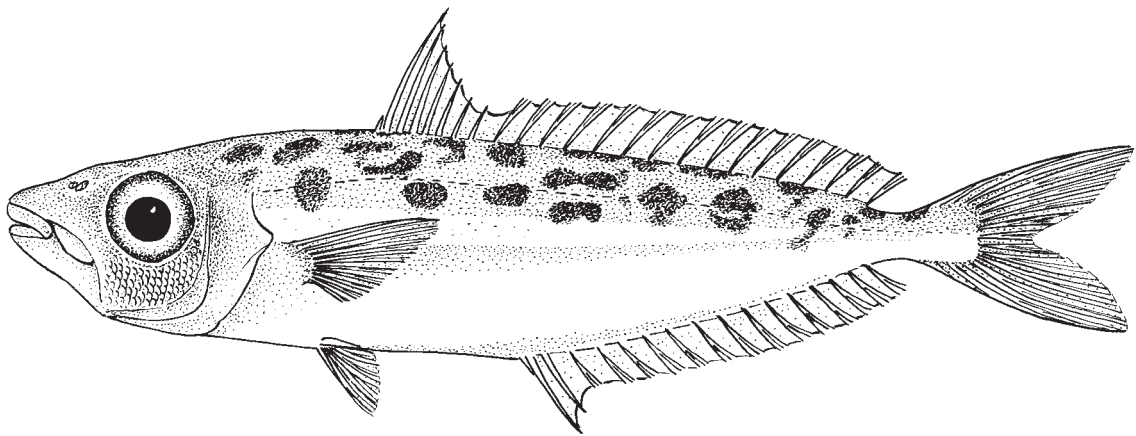


Leiognathus elongatus (Günther, 1874)

(Plate II, 10)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Elongate ponyfish.

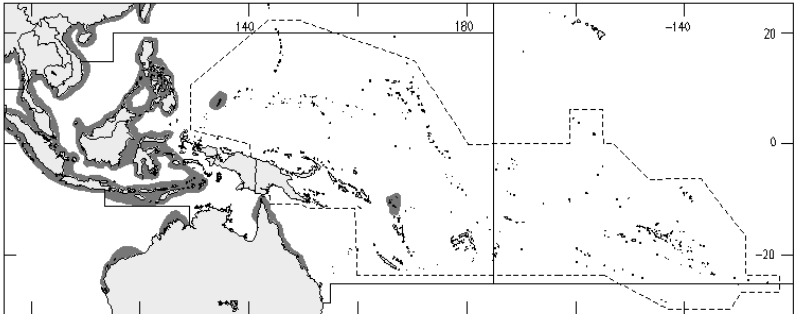


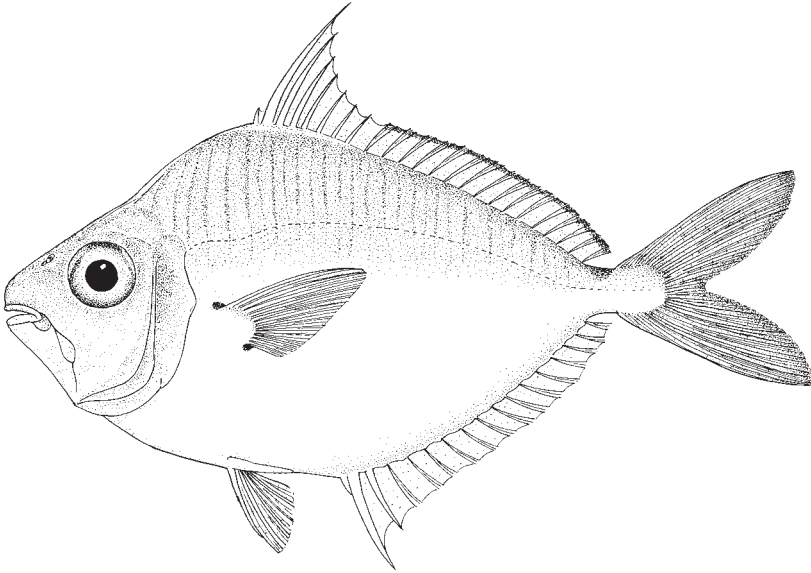
Diagnostic characters: Body moderately compressed, **elongate, very slender, not deeper than head length, its depth more than 3.3 times in standard length; ventral profile more convex than dorsal profile.** Mouth pointing downward when protracted. Supraorbital spine in front of eye narrow, terminating in a single point. **Cheek and breast covered with small scales,** but cheek scales very easily lost, leaving no trace of scale pockets. Tubed scales in lateral line 42 or 43. **Colour:** body silvery, **back with irregular green and dark marbling;** horizontal yellow band at midheight of spinous part of dorsal fin, **most of margin of soft part orange; underside of pectoral-fin base with minute, dark dots;** anal fin between second and third spines yellow, as also margin of anterior part of fin; males with bluish longitudinal stripe along side of belly.

Size: Maximum total length 12 cm, commonly to 8 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal inshore waters at depths of 30 to 130 m. Schools near the bottom; sparsely distributed. Feeds on small crustaceans, polychaetes, and algae. Caught mainly with bottom trawls. Marketed mostly dried-salted, but usually treated as a trash fish, being converted to fishmeal, used to feed ducks, or discarded.

Distribution: From the Red Sea along the east coast of Africa to about 10°S and off southwest India. Outside this area, it occurs in the Andaman Sea region, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and South China, extending northward to southern Japan and south to northern Australia and possible the Santa Cruz Islands.



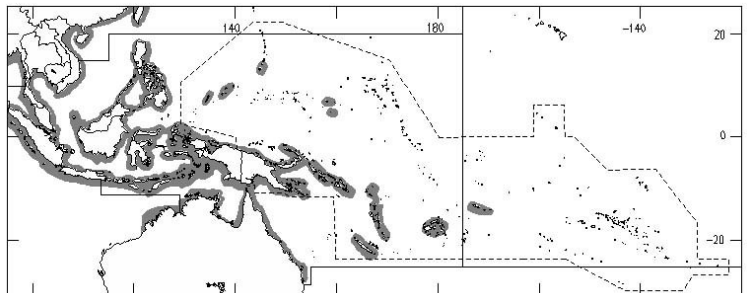
Leiognathus equulus* (Forsskål, 1775)*(Plate II, 11)****Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** **En** - Common ponyfish; **Fr** - Sapsap commun; **Sp** - Motambo común.

Diagnostic characters: Body very deep, compressed, with a strongly humped back; body depth 1.7 to 1.9 times in standard length. Mouth pointing downward when protracted. Gill rakers short and fleshy, less than 1/2 length of corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 18 to 22. Head and **breast scaleless**. Tubed scales on lateral line 61 to 66. **Colour:** in adults, back greyish, belly silvery and many parallel **close-set faint bars on back**; usually a dark brown saddle on caudal peduncle; axil of pectoral fins grey to black; margin of soft dorsal fin black; both caudal-fin lobes with broad dusky margins; pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins colourless to yellowish. **In juveniles (5 to 7 cm total length), thin, closely arranged, grey vertical lines descending from back to about midheight**; membrane between anal-fin spines conspicuously yellow; posterior margin of caudal-fin lobes pale yellow and dusky; other fins hyaline; snout dotted black.

Size: Maximum total length 24 cm, commonly to 18 cm.

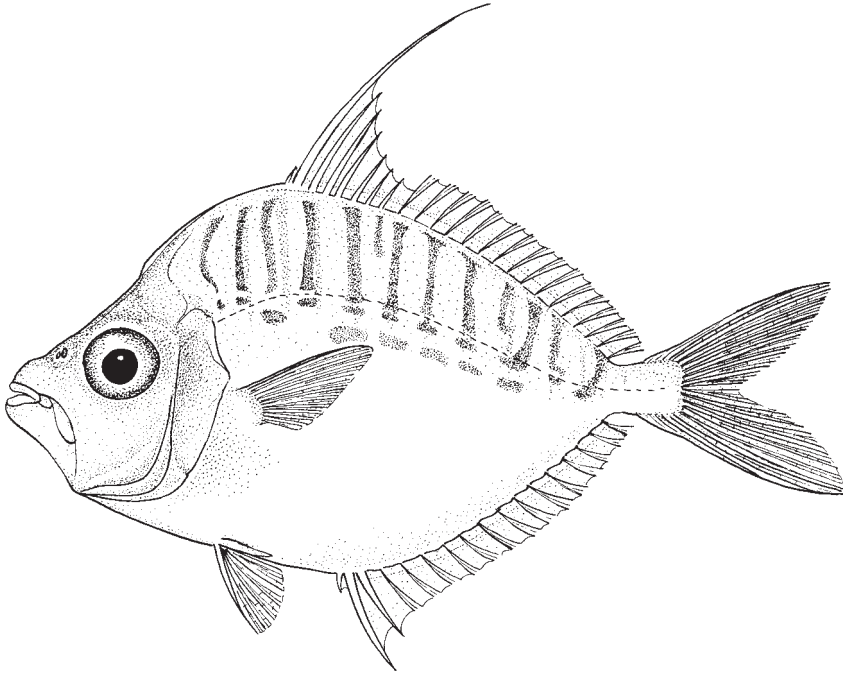
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal inshore waters over muddy bottoms to depths of 70 m; juveniles around mangrove areas at depths of 1 to 10 m; enters estuaries. Feeds chiefly on polychaetes, small crustaceans, and small fishes. Schooling. Caught near the bottom with bottom trawls, set nets, push nets, dip nets, and beach seines. In Indian waters, schools near the surface during April-May when caught with drift gill nets. Larger specimens sorted for human consumption and marketed fresh or dried-salted, but surplus fish used to feed ducks, converted to fishmeal, or discarded.

Distribution: Widely distributed in the Indian Ocean from the east coast of Africa to the Red Sea, including oceanic islands such as Réunion and Comoros; then along the coasts of India and the Indo-Malayan Archipelago to the West Pacific, as far east as Samoa, as far north as the Ryu Kyu Islands, and south to southern Queensland.



Leiognathus fasciatus (Lacepède, 1803)

(Plate II, 12)

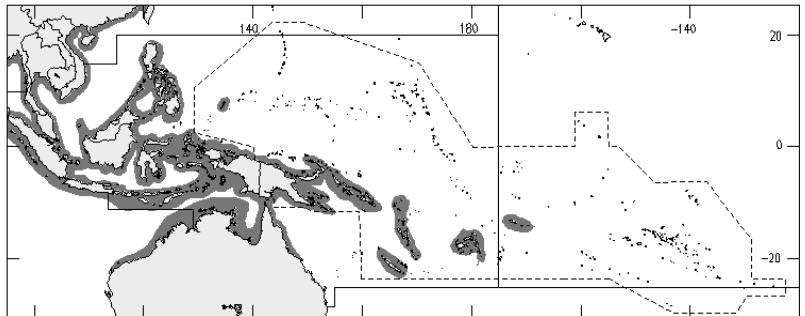
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** En - Striped ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap rayé; Sp - Motambo rayado.

Diagnostic characters: Body deep and compressed, the back more strongly arched than anterior part of belly; body depth 1.7 to 2 times in standard length. Mouth pointing downward when protracted. Gill rakers short and fleshy, less than 1/2 length of corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 18 to 22. **Second dorsal-fin spine distinctly elongate.** Head and **breast scaleless.** Tubed scales on lateral line 60 to 66. **Colour:** body silvery, back less so than belly; **about 11 widely spaced, dark vertical lines on back superimposed by a few yellow blotches, lines fading gradually toward lower sides;** margin of soft dorsal fin grey; anal fin hyaline with a yellow margin; posterior margin of caudal-fin lobes black; pectoral and pelvic fins hyaline; **pectoral-fin axil yellow, base dotted black.**

Size: Maximum total length 21 cm, commonly to 17 cm.

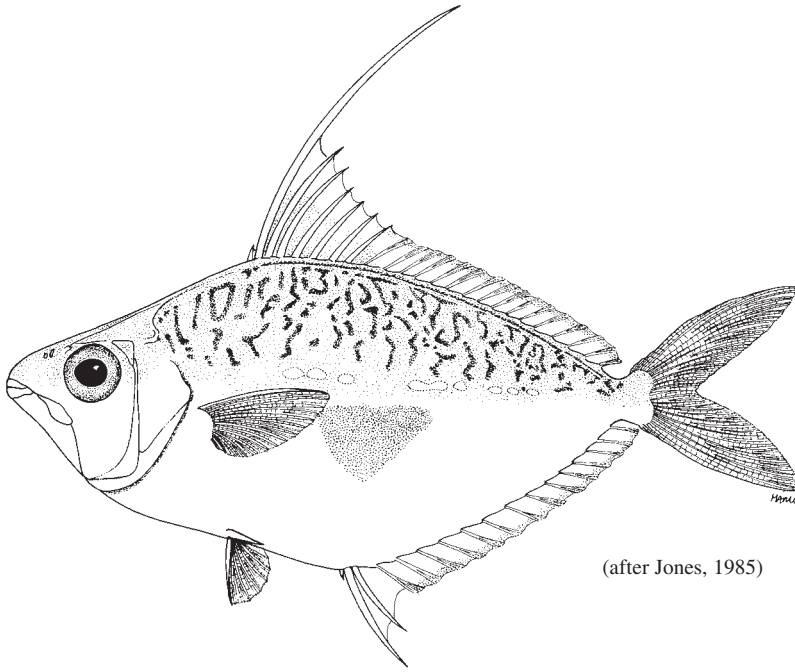
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal inshore waters over muddy bottoms to depths of 120 m. Feeds chiefly on polychaetes, small crustaceans, and small fishes. Schooling. Caught mainly with bottom trawls, but also with various kinds of set nets and beach seines. Larger fish sorted for human consumption and marketed fresh or dried-salted; surplus fish used to feed ducks, converted to fishmeal, or discarded.

Distribution: Widely distributed in the Indian Ocean from the east coast of Africa and the Red Sea, including oceanic islands such as Mauritius and the Seychelles, to the Indo-Malayan Archipelago and the West Pacific, as far east as Samoa, north to Okinawa, and south to northern Australia to around 20°S.



Leiognathus leuciscus (Günther, 1860)

(Plate II, 13)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Equulites novaehollandiae* Munro, 1967 / None.**FAO names:** En - Whipfin ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap fil; Sp - Motambo de hebra.

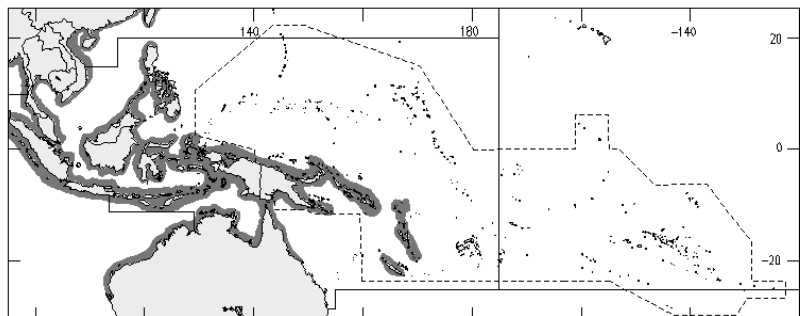
(after Jones, 1985)

Diagnostic characters: Body only moderately deep, compressed, its depth 2 to 3 times in standard length; dorsal and ventral profiles almost equally convex. Mouth pointing downward when protracted. Gill rakers approximately 1/2 length of corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 16 to 19. **Second dorsal-fin spine elongate, and second anal-fin spine slightly elongate.** Head scaleless; **scales present on breast.** Tubed scales on lateral line 48 to 51. **Colour:** belly silvery; **back with irregular, partly semicircular, greyish green vermiculations; a row of oval yellow blotches below lateral line in larger fish;** membrane between dorsal-fin spines yellow at midheight, edge of soft part of dorsal fin also yellow, superimposed with light grey; anal fin of similar colour to dorsal fin; posterior margin of caudal fin yellowish; males usually with a triangular bluish patch on side of belly.

Size: Maximum total length 15 cm, commonly to 10 cm.

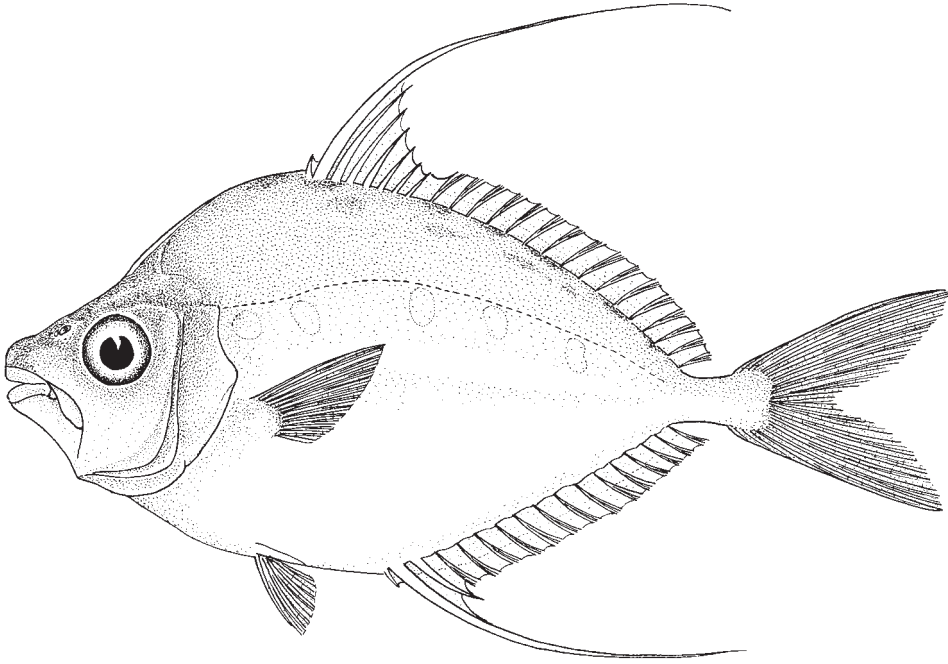
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal inshore waters over bottoms of muddy sand at depths of 10 to 50 m. Feeds mainly on polychaetes, small shrimps, and other crustaceans. Schooling. Caught mainly with bottom trawls, but also in set nets and traps, push nets, and beach seines. Marketed fresh or dried-salted for human consumption; but surplus fish used to feed ducks, converted to fishmeal, or discarded.

Distribution: In the Indian Ocean reported from Madagascar and the Seychelles eastward along the coasts of India and Sri Lanka, to Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, New Guinea, and northern Australia south to Shark Bay on the Western Australia coast.



Leiognathus longispinis (Valenciennes, 1835)

(Plate II, 14)

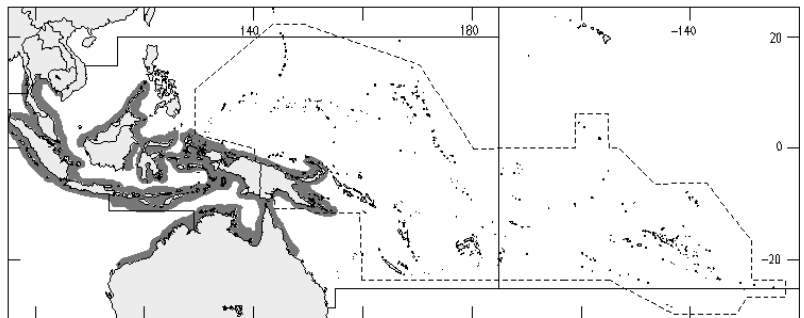
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Leiognathus smithursti* (Ramsay and Ogilby, 1886) / None.**FAO names:** En - Smithhurst's ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap panache; Sp - Motambo de penacho.

Diagnostic characters: Body oval, compressed and deep, its depth 1.7 to 2 times in standard length; anterior part of dorsal profile more strongly arched than anterior part of ventral profile. Mouth pointing downward when protracted. Gill rakers short and fleshy, less than 1/2 length of corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 18 to 21. **Second dorsal- and anal-fin spines greatly elongate** (sometimes reaching to caudal fin). Head and **breast scaleless**. Tubed scales on lateral line 64 to 70. **Colour:** belly more silvery than **back which shows a few faint, unevenly spaced, and horizontally elongate blotches**; a few yellow blotches below lateral line; dorsal and anal fins with yellow colouring, particularly on margins; caudal fin faint yellow with a more intense yellow blotch on lower lobe; **underside of pectoral-fin base with minute black dots**.

Size: Maximum total length 20 cm, commonly to 13 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal inshore waters at depths of 15 to 80 m. Feeds chiefly on small crustaceans and nematodes. Schooling. Caught mainly with bottom trawls. Larger fish sorted for human consumption and marketed fresh or dried-salted; surplus fish used to feed ducks, converted to fishmeal, or discarded.

Distribution: From southern India to the Indo-Malayan region and northern Australia to about 20°S, northward to Philippines; reputed to occur in Fiji.

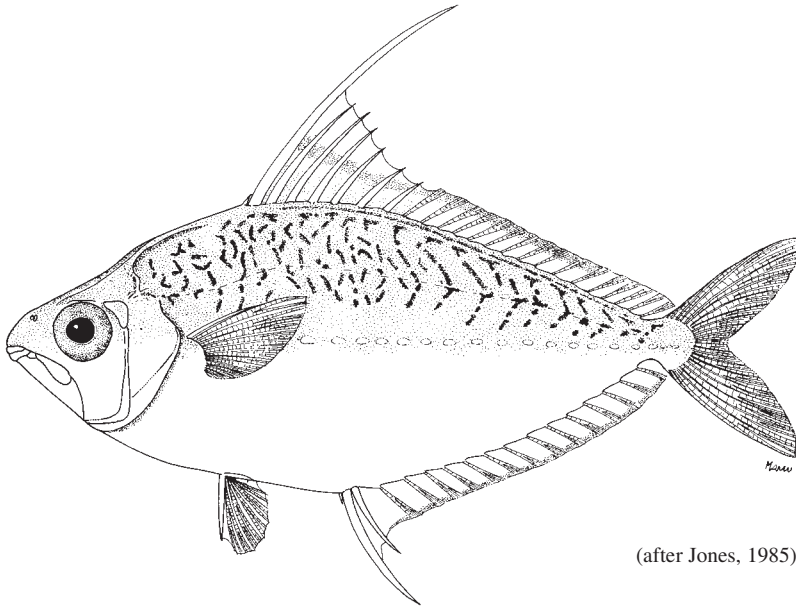


***Leiognathus moretoniensis* Ogilby, 1912**

(Plate III, 15)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Equulites hastatus* (Ogilby, 1912) / None.

FAO names: En - Zig-zag-ponyfish.



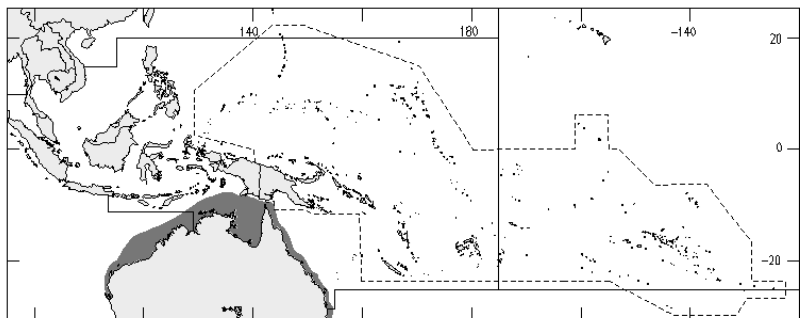
(after Jones, 1985)

Diagnostic characters: Body moderately elongate and compressed, its depth variable from elongate to moderately deep, **2 to 3 times in standard length; dorsal and ventral profiles about equally convex, but a more or less distinct notch where head meets nape.** Mouth projecting downward when protracted. Gill rakers approximately 1/2 length of corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 15 to 17. **Fin spines weak; second dorsal-fin spine varying from not elongate in populations south of the area to substantially elongate in the tropics, 1.8 to 3.7 times in body depth, those with the long spine occurring in the northern part of its range** (southern form may prove to be a different species). **Cheeks scaly below eye; breast scaly.** **Colour:** silvery, **upper half with grey brown markings, broken into short irregular lines immediately below base of dorsal fin, changing to broken chevrons or zig-zag lines across lateral line;** row of small opalescent spots extending back from pectoral fins, and sometimes an additional row of yellow spots above this; dorsal fin sometimes with a yellow streak anteriorly at midheight and continuing along margin of soft rays; soft-rayed portion of anal fin with narrow yellow margin; other fins colourless.

Size: Maximum total length 15 cm, commonly to 10 cm.

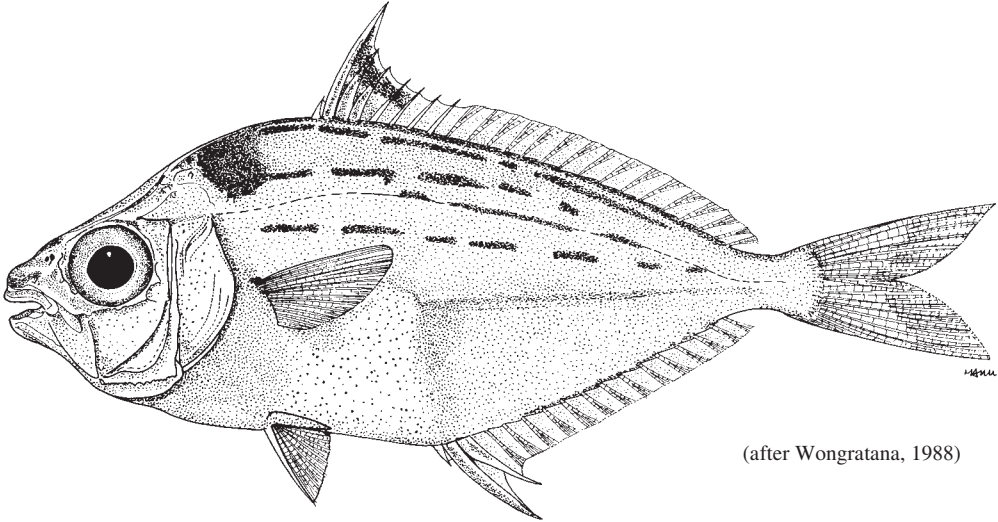
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Widely distributed across continental shelf waters of northern Australia, living near the bottom in schools. Caught by bottom trawls, but discarded as bycatch.

Distribution: Across northern Australia, from Shark Bay on the Western Australia coast out across the northwestern shelf into the Arafura Sea, down the east coast as far south as Sydney.



Leiognathus pan Wongratana, 1988

(Plate III, 16)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** En - Shining ponyfish.

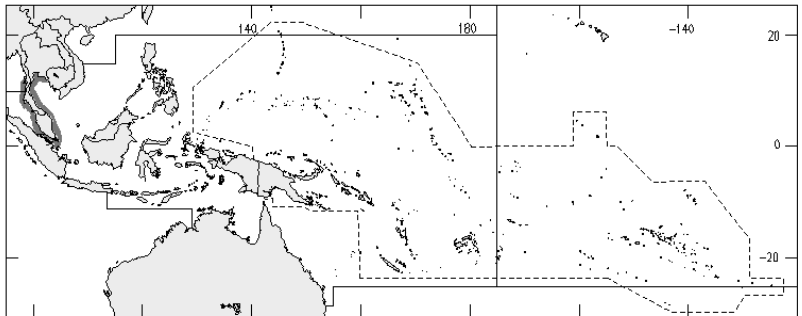
(after Wongratana, 1988)

Diagnostic characters: Body moderately elongate and compressed, its depth 2.3 to 2.9 times in standard length; dorsal and ventral profiles about equally convex, but slightly concave where nape joins top of head. **Mouth pointing downward when protracted.** Longest gill rakers $1/2$ or little more than $1/2$ length of corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 20 to 22. Dorsal-fin spines slender, second not markedly elongate, noticeably shorter than $1/2$ body depth; second anal-fin spine about 0.9 times in length of second dorsal-fin spine. Head scaleless; **breast scaly.** Tubed scales on lateral line 48 to 54. **Colour:** belly silvery; back iridescent blue-green, laterally washed with very pale orange; **4 longitudinal rows of greatly elongate, greenish blue spots along upper side; dark blotch astride nape;** spinous part of dorsal fin with large black blotch on upper half from second to sixth spines; caudal fin washed with pale orange on trailing edge of fin; otherwise fins hyaline.

Size: Maximum recorded total length 8 cm, commonly to 7 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal inshore waters over bottoms of muddy sand at depths of 10 to 50 m. Caught mainly by bottom trawls. May be marketed dried-salted, but mostly treated as trash fish and used to feed ducks, converted to fishmeal, or discarded.

Distribution: Thailand, both Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand coasts (presumably then also on coasts of the Malay Peninsula, and perhaps further afield).

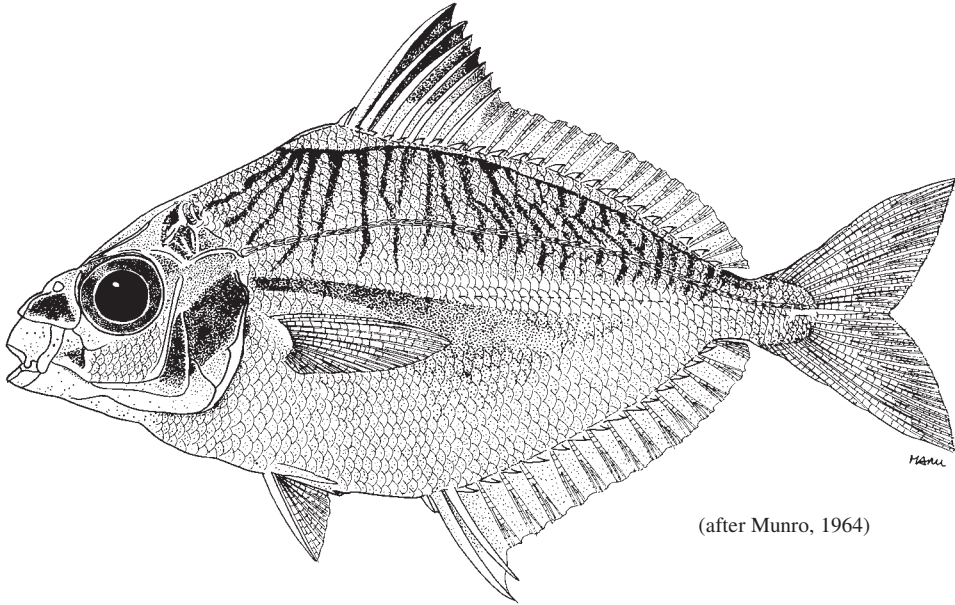


Leiognathus rapsoni Munro, 1964

(Plate III, 17)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Papuan ponyfish.



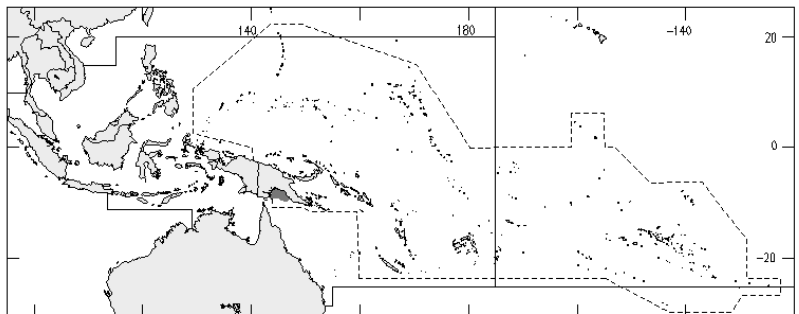
(after Munro, 1964)

Diagnostic characters: Body oval and compressed, slightly more convex above than below, its depth 1.9 to 2.1 times in standard length; head profile slightly concave between eye and nape. Chin slightly concave. Mouth pointing downward when protracted. **A single row of fine teeth in both jaws.** Total gill rakers on first gill arch 24 to 28. Second spines of dorsal and anal fins longer than the others, 2.1 to 2.4 and 2.7 to 2.9 times, respectively, in body depth. **Cheeks scaly below eye**, breast scaly. Lateral line continued to base of the caudal fin; tubed scales on lateral line 51 to 55. **Colour:** generally silvery, but **upper half darker with about 20 narrow, wavy, dark vertical bars**; dark areas present on snout, operculum, and along middle of sides; a dark line along base of dorsal fin; **outer half of spinous dorsal fin black, other fins colourless.**

Size: Maximum recorded total length 11 cm, commonly to 10 cm.

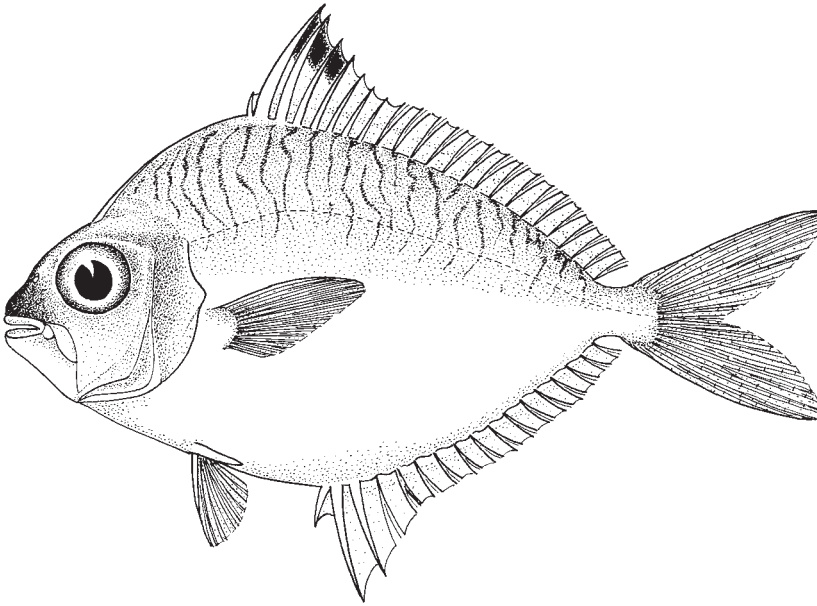
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Has been trawled in a depth of about 10 to 15 m around river mouths in the Gulf of Papua. No commercial fishery.

Distribution: Known only from Papua New Guinea.



Leiognathus splendens (Cuvier, 1829)

(Plate III, 18)

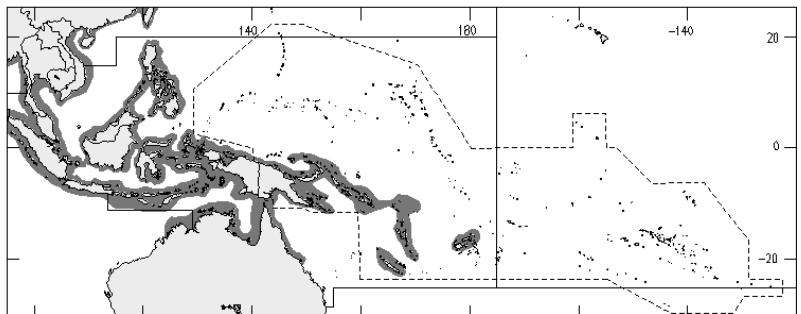
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** En - Splendid ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap soleil; Sp - Motambo esplendor.

Diagnostic characters: Body very deep and compressed, its depth 1.8 to 2.4 times in standard length; anterior part of dorsal profile more strongly arched than anterior part of ventral profile, with prominent “brow” jutting out over eyes. Snout short (shorter than eye diameter) and blunt; mouth pointing slightly downward when protracted. Gill rakers approximately equal in length to corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 23 to 28. Second dorsal and anal fins especially stout but not elongate. Head scaleless, but prominent scales present on breast. Tubed scales on lateral line 49 to 56. **Colour:** belly silvery; back greyish silvery, with faint, grey, wavy, vertical lines above lateral line in adults (in juveniles, a few blotches instead of wavy lines). Scales of lateral line, bases of rays of pectoral fins, margins of dorsal and anal fins bright yellow, as is whole membrane of anal fin from second spine to first soft ray and the tip of the lower lobe of the caudal fin; usually a dark dusky area on outer third of anterior part of spinous portion of dorsal fin.

Size: Maximum total length about 15 cm, commonly to 10 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal inshore waters over bottoms of muddy sand to depths of 65 m; juveniles found in mangrove-lined creeks to depths of about 10 m. Feeds on plant detritus, copepods, cyprids, and small molluscs. Schooling. In tropical Australia known to spawn in October but recruits present in most months of the year. Caught mainly by bottom trawls (commonly, along with *Leiognathus bindus* and *L. decorus*), but also in set nets, bamboo-stake traps, beach seines, and push and dip nets. Larger fish sorted for human consumption and marketed fresh or dried-salted; surplus fish used to feed ducks, converted to fishmeal, or dumped at sea.

Distribution: Recorded from Mauritius, Madagascar, Red Sea, and the coasts of India to the islands of the western Central Pacific as far east as Fiji, north to Okinawa, south to northern parts of Australia to 20°S. Probably occurs throughout Micronesia.

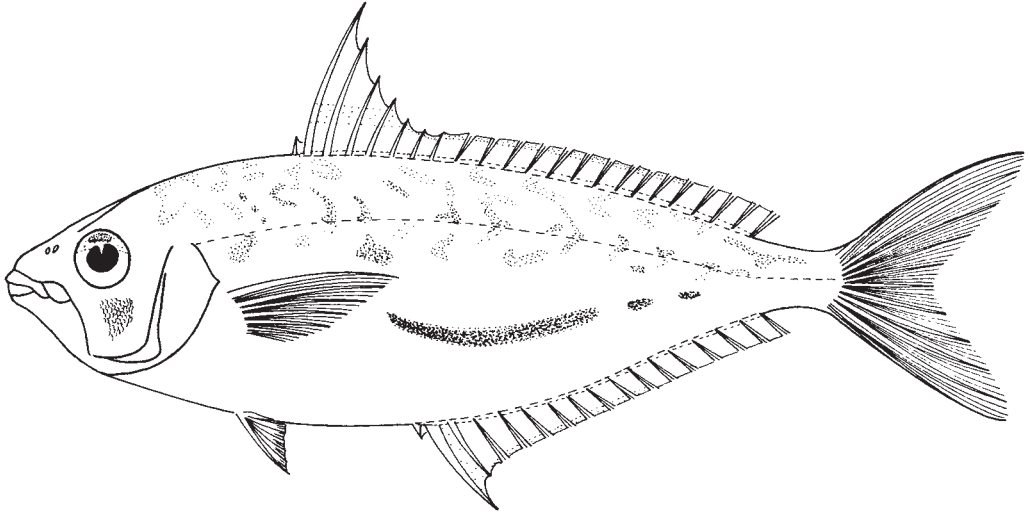


Leiognathus stercorarius Evermann and Seale, 1907

(Plate III, 19)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Leiognathus elongatus* Smith and Pope, 1906.

FAO names: En - Slender ponyfish.

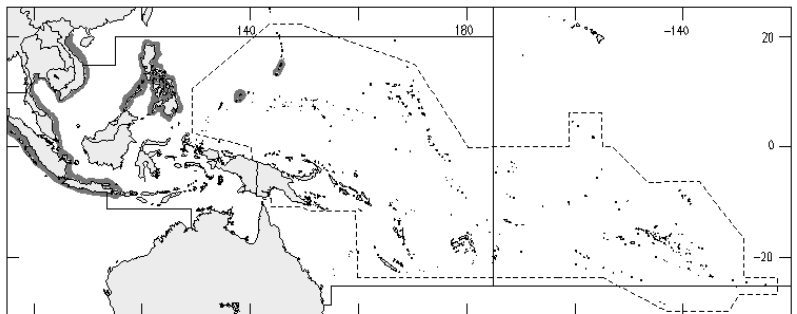


Diagnostic characters: Body elongate and moderately compressed, its depth 2.8 to 3.6 times in standard length; dorsal and ventral profiles smoothly convex, slender but deeper than head length. Mouth pointing downwards when protracted. Supraorbital spine in front of eye broad, terminating in 2 points. Cheeks scaly below eye (scales deciduous but their pockets visible); breast scaly. Tubed scales in lateral line 55 to 57. **Colour:** body silvery; back with irregular green and dark marbling; front of dorsal fin with a horizontal yellow band, most of margin of hind part orange; axil of pectoral fin with minute dark dots or dusky (covered by fin); anal fin between second and third spines yellow, as also margin of anterior part of fin; males with a bluish longitudinal stripe along sides just below midline.

Size: Maximum total length 12 cm, commonly between 6 and 10 cm.

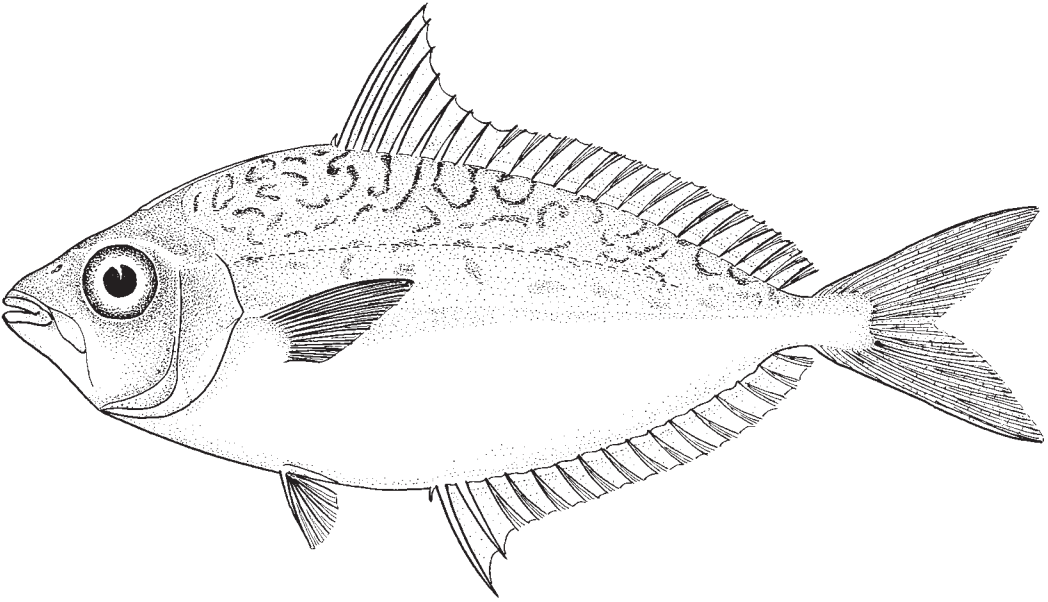
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal inshore waters over muddy bottoms especially around mangrove areas to depths of 50 m; juveniles at depths of 1 to 10 m. Feeds on polychaetes and a variety of small benthic animals. Schooling. May be caught in bottom trawls or with a variety of set nets and traps, beach seines, lift and push nets. A small species that may be marketed dried-salted for human consumption, or treated as trash fish and used to feed ducks, or converted to fishmeal.

Distribution: Southeast Asia and Marianas: Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand (including Andaman Sea coast), Yap, Guam, and Saipan.



***Leiognathus* sp. 1**

(Plate III, 20)

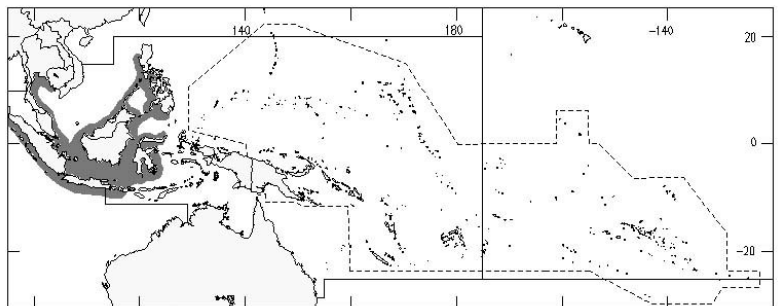
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / ? *Leiognathus lineolatus* (Valenciennes, 1835).**FAO names:** En - Ornate ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap écriture; Sp - Motambo ornado.

Diagnostic characters: Body moderately elongate and compressed, its depth 2.4 to 3 times in standard length; dorsal and ventral profiles about equally convex; nape without a distinct notch. Mouth pointing downward when protracted. Gill rakers approximately 1/2 length of corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 17 or 18. Dorsal-fin spines slender, the second about 1/2 body depth; second anal-fin spine slender, about same length as pectoral fins. Head scaleless; anterior part of breast below head scaleless but **conspicuous scales present elsewhere on breast**. Tubed scales on lateral line 51 to 54. **Colour:** belly silvery, **back greenish with relatively sparse, irregular, grey vermiculations extending down to a little below lateral line, the lowest marks in the form of blotches in a row**; snout and underside of pectoral-fin base dotted black; dorsal, pectoral, and pelvic fins colourless except for some yellow on spinous parts and along margins of dorsal and anal fins; margin of caudal fin yellow.

Size: Maximum total length 15 cm, commonly to 10 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits inshore coastal waters over muddy bottoms, especially around mangroves; juveniles in shallows, 1 to 10 m, adults in deeper water to at least 40 m. Feeds on small crustaceans, chaetognaths, nematodes, bivalves, and gastropods. Schooling. Caught mainly with bottom trawls but also in beach seines. Larger fish sometimes sorted for human consumption and marketed fresh or dried-salted; surplus fish used to feed ducks, converted to fishmeal, or discarded.

Distribution: Madagascar, Red Sea, the Gulf of Arabia, and the coasts of India and Sri Lanka, eastward to Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines; no positive records for New Guinea or Australia.

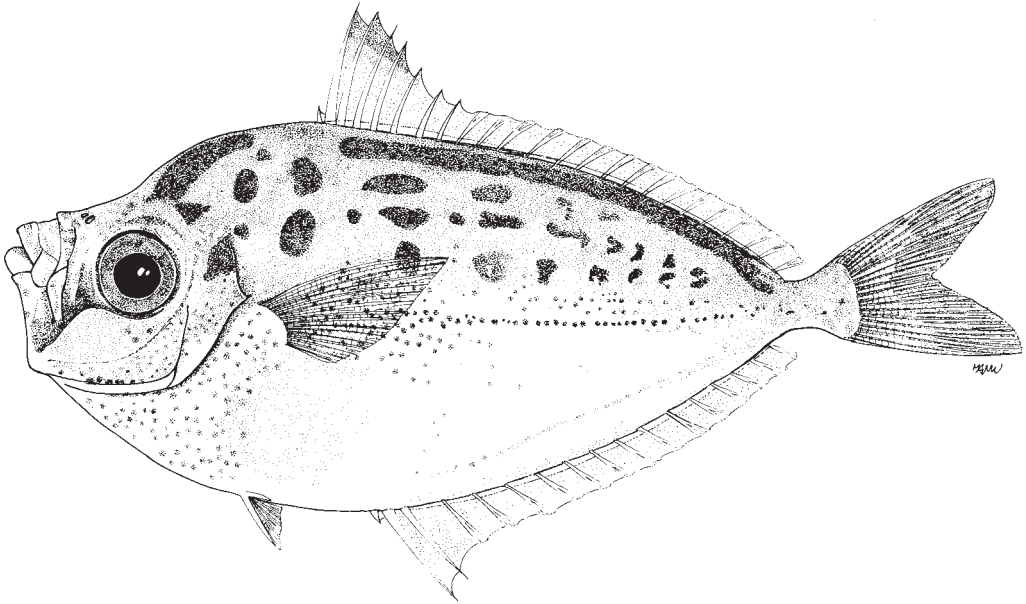


Secutor hanedai Mochizuki and Hayashi, 1989

(Plate IV, 22)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Secutor insidiator* (Bloch, 1787).

FAO names: En - Haneda's ponyfish.

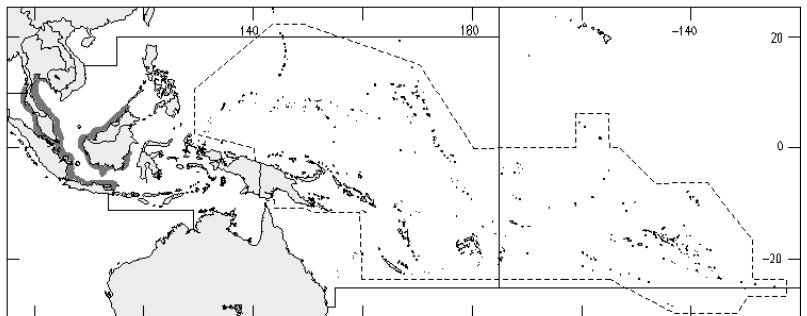


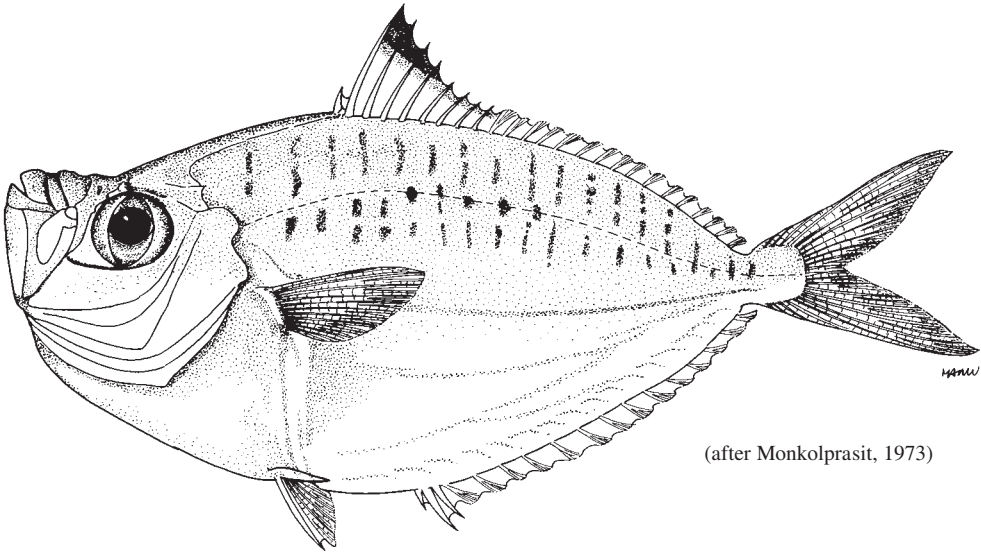
Diagnostic characters: Body oval, deep and compressed, its depth 1.9 to 2.2 times in standard length. Head strongly concave above eye. **Mouth pointing upward when protracted.** Body scales small, 33 to 42 rows between bases of pectoral and pelvic fins. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 22 to 26. **Cheeks scaleless;** breast without scales ventrally, including isthmus. **Lateral line terminating below end of dorsal fin, but if scale-row count were continued to end of caudal peduncle total count would be 60 to 70 scale rows.** **Colour:** belly silvery, back greenish to brownish, with a series of about 9 columns of dark blotches, spots, and horizontal bars extending to midline of sides; a black, curved band from lower margin of eye to posterior angle of lower jaw; dorsal-fin membrane black at tip of leading spines; other fins reported as hyaline but caudal fin, likely to be partly yellow.

Size: Maximum total length about 10 cm, commonly to 7 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal waters above bottoms of muddy sand to depths of 40 m; common near mangroves, enters estuaries, but also occurs up to at least 6 km offshore. Diet unknown, but probably copepods and mysids. Schooling. Caught mainly in bottom trawls. May be marketed dried-salted, but mostly treated as trash fish, and either discarded or used as food for domestic animals (e.g. ducks) or as food in fish farms.

Distribution: Southern parts of South China Sea and Straits of Malacca; probably more widely distributed in Indo-Malayan Archipelago.



Secutor indicus* Monkolprasit, 1973*(Plate IV, 23)****Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Secutor insidiator* (Bloch, 1787).**FAO names:** En - Dots-and-dashes ponyfish.

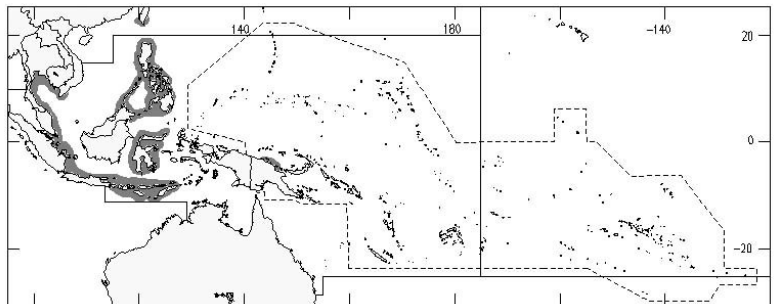
(after Monkolprasit, 1973)

Diagnostic characters: Body oval, deep and very compressed, its depth 2.2 to 2.6 times in standard length. Head strongly concave above eye. **Mouth pointing upward when protracted.** Gill rakers long and slender, approximately equal in length to corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 24 to 30. Body scales very small; cheeks scaleless; breast without scales ventrally, including isthmus. **Lateral line reported as terminating below middle to last third of dorsal fin; tubed scales on lateral line up to this point 80 to 92, but if scale-row count were continued to end of caudal peduncle total count would be 87 to 111 scale rows.** **Colour:** belly silvery, back light blue, with 17 to 22 dark, vertical markings on upper half, these terminating above lateral line and resuming below it, with row of dots along lateral line corresponding to points where vertical markings cross it, vertical markings as dashes or string of small dots; narrow black line from lower margin of eye to posterior angle of lower jaw; dorsal-fin membrane between second and fifth spines black at upper third reducing in width posteriorly with a narrow yellow band immediately below it; soft parts of dorsal and anal fins colourless; caudal fin pale yellow with a dusky trailing edge; underside of pectoral-fin base black, membrane pale yellow.

Size: Maximum total length 10 cm, commonly to almost 10 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal waters over bottoms of muddy sand at depths of 20 to 70 m; also enters estuaries. Feeds mostly on copepods, mysids, and plant detritus. Schooling. Caught mainly in bottom trawls. Marketed dried-salted or fresh; in Southeast Asia mostly treated as trash fish and used as food for domestic animals, e.g. ducks, or as food in fish farms.

Distribution: Coasts bordering on the South China Sea: Taiwan Province of China, Gulf of Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, and northern coast of Papua New Guinea. Records based on trawler catches landed at major fishing ports and trawl surveys, probably distributed throughout whole of Indo-Malayan region.

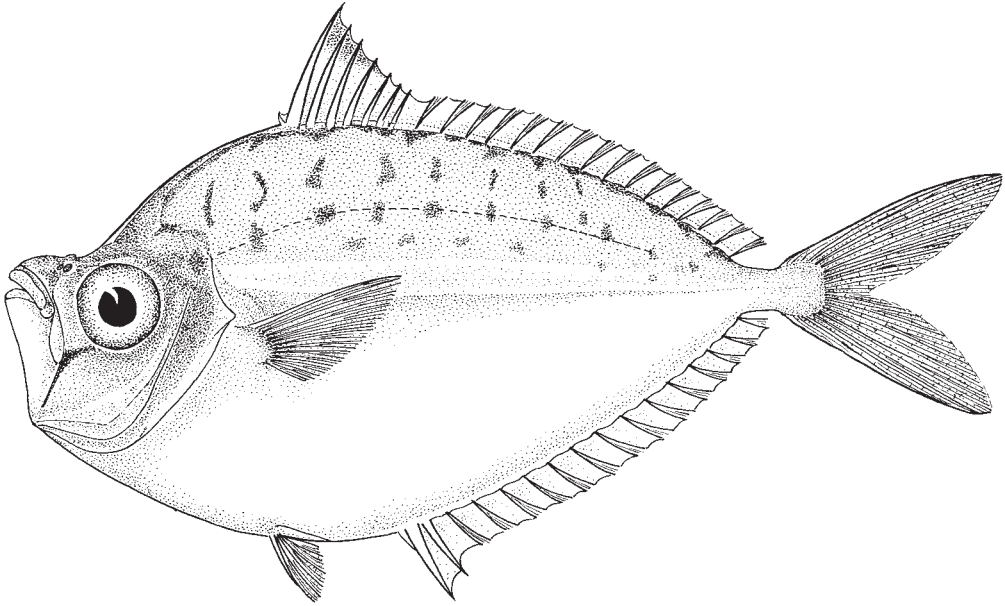


Secutor insidiator (Bloch, 1787)

(Plate IV, 24)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Leiognathus insidiator* (Bloch, 1787) / None.

FAO names: En - Pugnose ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap boxer; Sp - Motambo boxeador.

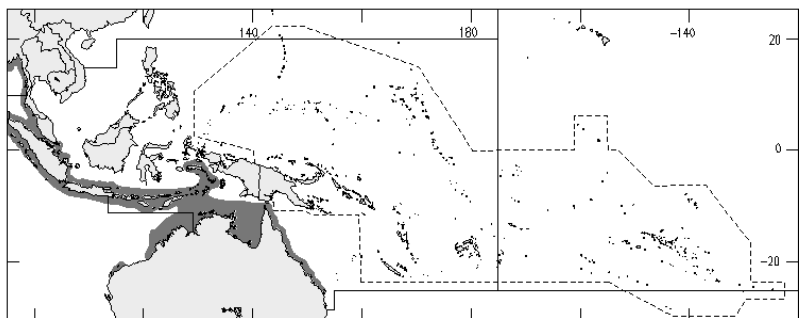


Diagnostic characters: Body oval, deep and compressed, its depth 1.6 to 2.5 times in standard length. Head strongly concave above eye. **Mouth pointing upward when protracted.** Gill rakers long and slender, approximately equal in length to corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 24 to 29. Body scales small, 22 to 28 rows between bases of pectoral and pelvic fins; **cheeks scaleless**; breast without scales ventrally, including isthmus. **Lateral line terminating below end of dorsal fin, but if scale-row count were continued to end of caudal peduncle total count would be 84 to 107 scale rows.** **Colour:** belly silvery, **back greenish to brownish, with a series of 11 to 15 columns of bars and spots extending to a little below lateral line;** a black curved band from lower margin of eye to posterior angle of lower jaw; dorsal-fin membrane between second and sixth spines black at upper third; soft part of dorsal and anal fin colourless; caudal fin partly yellow; underside of pectoral-fin base dotted black.

Size: Maximum total length 10.5 cm, commonly to 8 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits inshore coastal waters over bottoms of muddy sand to depths of about 50 m; enters estuaries. Feeds on copepods, mysids, and plant detritus. Schooling. Caught mainly in bottom trawls. Marketed dried-salted or fresh; in Southeast Asia mostly treated as trash fish and used as food for domestic animals, e.g. ducks, or as food in fish farms. In Australia discarded as bycatch.

Distribution: From the coasts of East Africa and the Red Sea eastward along the coasts of India to the Indo-Malayan Archipelago, southward to around 25°S in northern Australia.

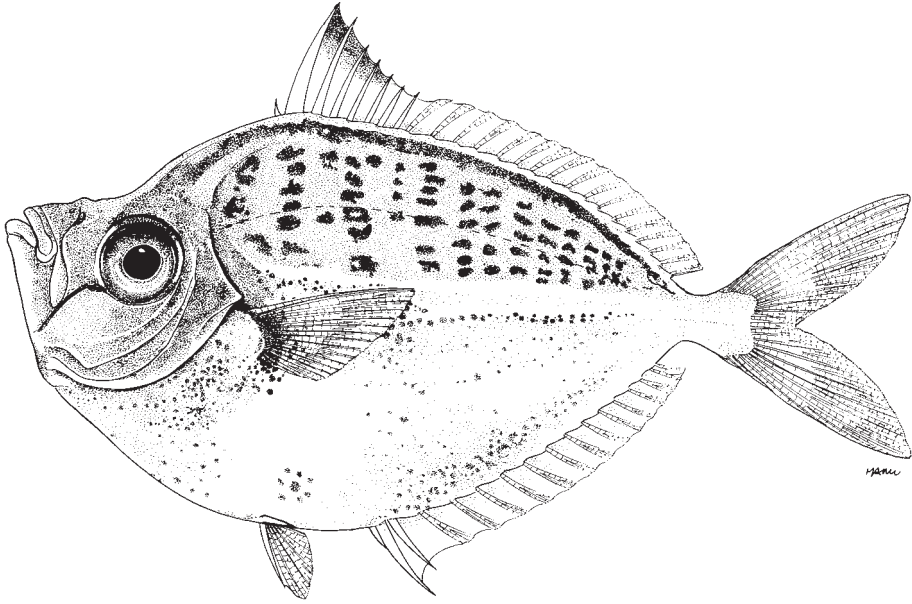


Secutor megalolepis Mochizuki and Hayashi, 1989

(Plate IV, 25)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Secutor ruconius* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822).

FAO names: En - Bigscaled ponyfish.

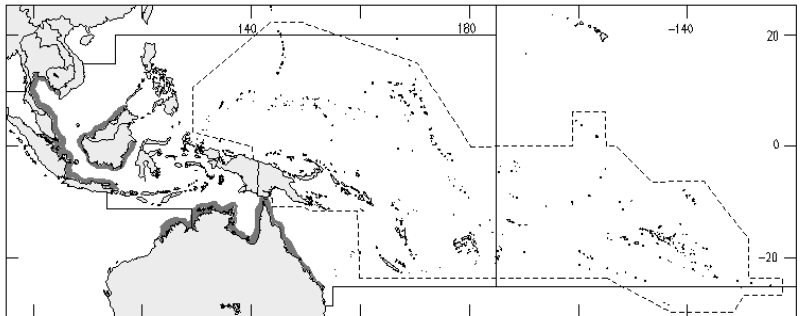


Diagnostic characters: Body oval, very deep and compressed, its depth 1.6 to 1.8 times in standard length. Head strongly concave above eye. Mouth pointing upward when protracted. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 21 to 25. Body scales comparatively much larger than in other species in the genus, 9 to 11 rows between bases of pectoral fins and pelvic fins; scales on cheek; breast fully scaly, including isthmus. Lateral line terminating below last few rays of soft dorsal fin, but if scale-row count were continued to end of caudal peduncle total count would be 43 to 49 scale rows. **Colour:** silvery, with dark markings forming about 10 irregular “bars” on upper half sides, anteriorly the “bars” made up of columns of short bars and spots; a prominent curved black band running from lower margin of eye to posterior angle of lower jaw; dorsal-fin membrane black at tip of leading spines; other fins reported as hyaline but caudal fin, likely to be partly yellow.

Size: Maximum total length about 7 cm, commonly to 5 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits inshore coastal waters over bottoms of muddy sand at depths of less than 50 m; enters estuaries, inhabiting brackish to fresh waters. Feeds on copepods, mysids, and plant detritus. Caught mainly in bottoms trawls, but also in stake traps, dip nets, and beach seines. In Southeast Asia, marketed dried-salted or fresh; but mostly treated as trash fish and used as food for ducks or for farmed fish, or converted to fishmeal. In Australia discarded as bycatch.

Distribution: Recorded from the coasts of Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia which border the South China Sea, but also from northern Australia; presumably present in intermediate areas such as New Guinea, eastern Indonesia, and the Philippines.

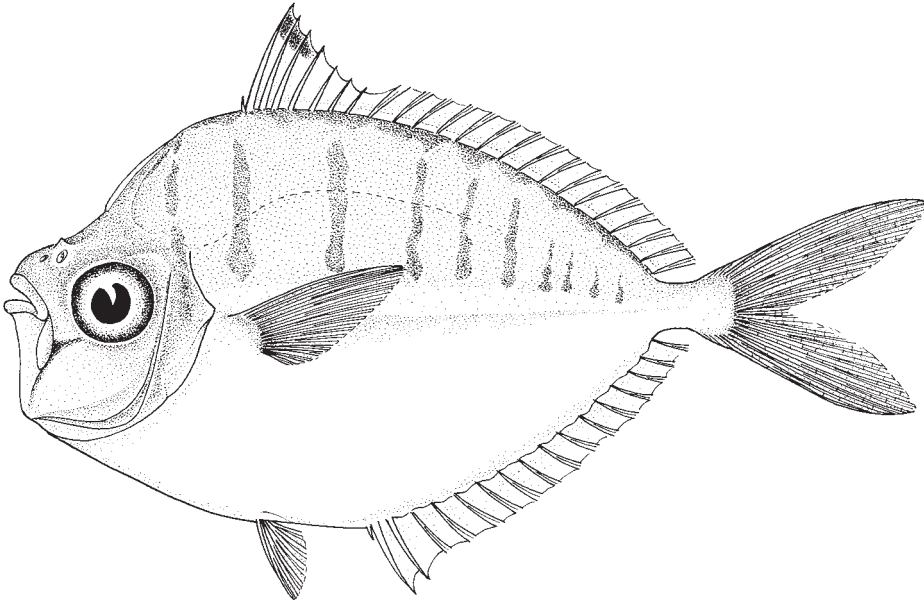


Secutor ruconius (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

(Plate IV, 26)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Secutor interruptus* (Valenciennes, 1835) / None.

FAO names: En - Deep pugnose ponyfish; Fr - Sapsap bouledogue; Sp - Motambo bulldog.

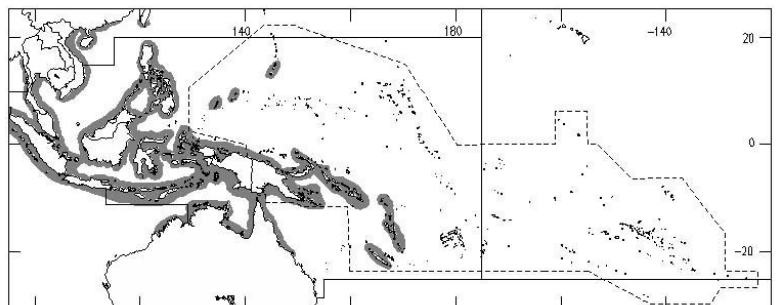


Diagnostic characters: Body oval, compressed and very deep, its depth 1.4 to 1.7 times in standard length. Head strongly concave above eye. **Mouth pointing upward when protracted.** Gill rakers long and slender, approximately equal in length to corresponding gill lamellae, total gill rakers on first gill arch 18 to 28. **Body scales comparatively large, 10 to 16 rows between bases of pectoral and pelvic fins; scales on cheek; breast fully scaly, including isthmus. Lateral line terminating below about middle of soft portion of dorsal fin; tubed scales on lateral line up to this point 28 to 32, but if scale-row count were continued to end of caudal peduncle total count would be 54 to 60 scale rows.** **Colour:** silvery, with about 10 bluish vertical bars on back extending to a little below lateral line; a prominent curved black band running from lower margin of eye to beyond posterior angle of lower jaw; membrane between second and fifth dorsal-fin spines black on upper third portion; soft part of dorsal and anal fins colourless; caudal fin partly yellow; underside of pectoral-fin base black.

Size: Maximum total length almost 10 cm, commonly to 6 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits inshore coastal waters over bottoms of muddy sand to depths of 60 m; both young and adults enter estuaries. Feeds on copepods, mysids, and plant detritus. Found to spawn in March in northern Australia, but spawning may be serial. Caught mainly in bottom trawls, but also in beach seines. In Southeast Asia, marketed fresh or dried-salted, but mostly treated as trash fish and converted to fishmeal or used as food for ducks or for farmed fish. In Australia, discarded as bycatch.

Distribution: From the coast of East Africa and the oceanic islands of Seychelles, Réunion, and Mauritius, to the Red Sea, coasts of India to Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, northward to Taiwan Province of China, and southward to around 20°S in northern Australia.



***Leiognathus* sp. 2**

(Plate IV, 21)

En - Vermiculated ponyfish.

Maximum total length 15 cm. Demersal at depths of 15 to 170 m on the continental shelf of northern Australia from Exmouth Gulf to Cairns; range must extend at least into adjacent continental shelf area of New Guinea. Of minor importance to fisheries; discarded as trashfish by trawlers operating in Australian waters.

