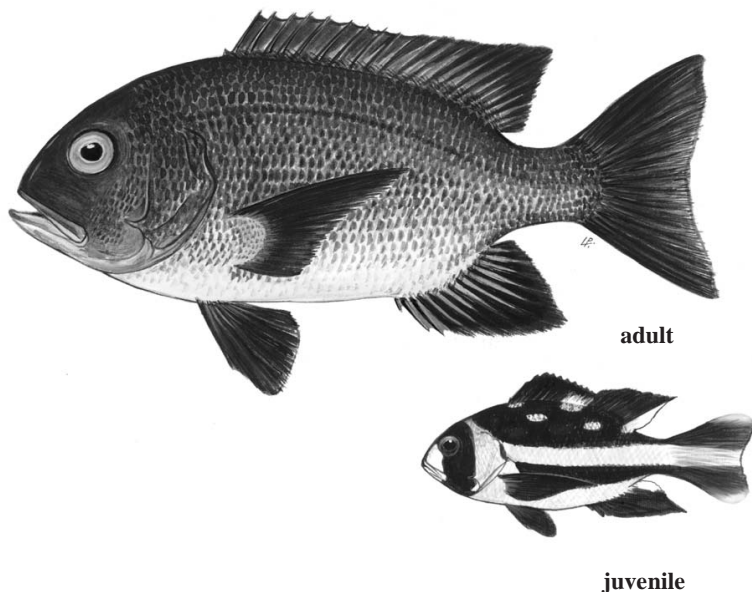


***Macolor niger*** (Forsskål, 1775)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Macolor macolor* (Lesson, 1827); *M. typus* Bleeker, 1860 / *Macolor macularis* Fowler, 1931.

**FAO names:** **En** - Black-and-white snapper; **Fr** - Vivaneau plate; **Sp** - Pargo blanco y negro.

**Diagnostic characters:** Body relatively deep, laterally compressed. **Dorsal profile of head convex in adults, in oblique straight line in young.** Lacrimal (suborbital region) relatively broad. Nostrils on each side of snout not very close together. Mouth large and terminal, lower jaw protruding slightly when mouth closed. Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla reaching vertical slightly anterior to middle of eye. Row of conical teeth in each jaw, enlarged anteriorly, and inner bands of villiform teeth on sides of upper jaw and front of lower jaw; vomerine tooth patch broadly V-shaped. **Maxilla without scales or longitudinal ridges.** Preopercle with deep notch (or gash) receiving elongate interopercular spine which is absent in specimens less than about 16 cm standard length. First gill arch with 26 to 38 gill rakers on upper

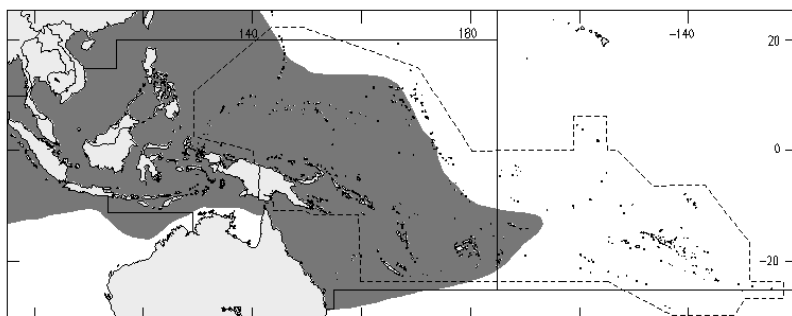


limb, 60 to 71 on lower limb (total 89 to 107). Dorsal fin continuous, but spinous portion distinctly notched in young, notch shallower in large specimens. **Dorsal and anal fins distinctly pointed posteriorly. Last soft ray of both dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray.** Caudal fin rounded and with central rays elongated in small juveniles, slightly notched at intermediate sizes, and emarginate in adults. Pectoral fins fairly long; in specimens more than about 95 mm standard length, pectoral fins 90 to 110% head length. **Pelvic fins short and rounded at all sizes. Dorsal fin with X spines and 13 to 15 (usually 14) soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 10 or (usually) 11 soft rays.** Pectoral-fin rays 16 to 18 (usually 17). **Soft dorsal and anal fins with scales basally. Tubed lateral-line scales 49 to 58. Colour:** adults mostly brownish black to black; individuals less than about 24 cm standard length have black-and-white bands on body, about 5 (4 to 7) white spots on upper side, and white at tips of caudal-fin lobes and in middle of fin.

**Size:** Maximum standard length about 48 cm, commonly to 30 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits coastal waters in depths between about 2 and 90 m; in the Ryukyu Islands, adults reported to occur in large schools in depths usually less than 30 m. Feeds largely on fishes and crustaceans. Caught with handlines, gill nets, and traps; also speared by divers. Frequently seen in markets, mainly fresh.

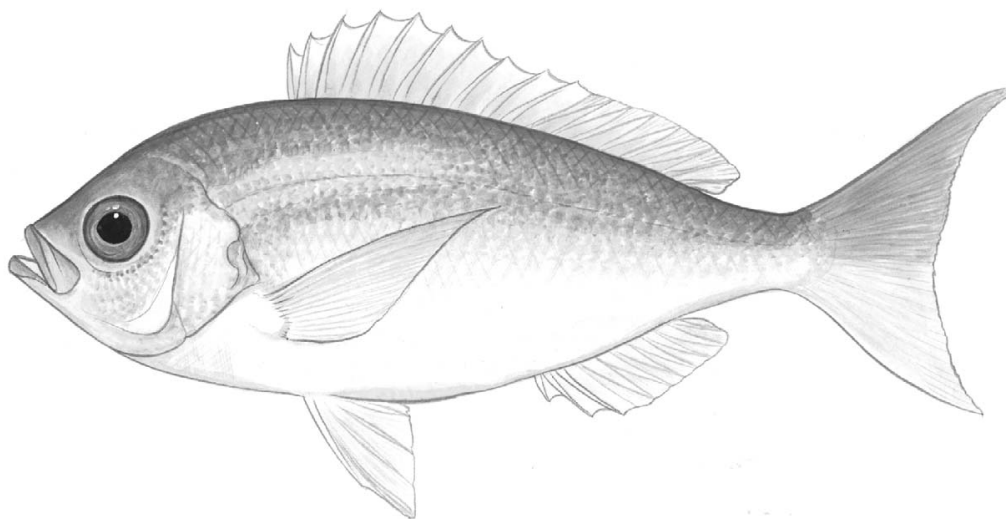
**Distribution:** Widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific from Samoa to East Africa and from central Japan southward to Australia.



***Paracaesio gonzalesi*** Fourmanoir and Rivaton, 1979

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Vanuatu snapper; Fr - Vivanette vanuatu; Sp - Panchote vanuatú.



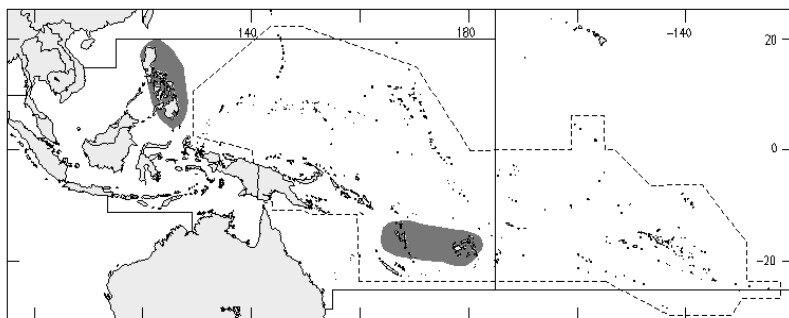
**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, laterally compressed. Nostrils on each side of snout close together. **Lower jaw protruding slightly when mouth closed. Anterior end of upper lip without a thick fleshy protrusion.** Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla reaching vertical through anterior part of eye. Both upper and lower jaws with an outer row of small conical teeth, larger anteriorly, and with an inner band of small villiform teeth; vomer and palatines with very small, essentially villiform teeth, those on vomer in chevron-shaped patch; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla with scales, but without longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region rather strongly convex. First gill arch with 11 gill rakers on upper limb and 20 on lower limb (total 31).** Dorsal fin continuous, not deeply incised near junction of spinous and soft portions. **Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray. Caudal fin lunate to emarginate.** Pectoral fins long, longer than head. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 10 soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 16. Membranes of dorsal and anal fins without scales. Tubed lateral-line scales 48 or 49. Colour:** back and upper sides light brown; silvery white on lower sides and belly; **yellow band running from origin of lateral line obliquely to about middle of dorsal fin;** in life sometimes with 8 broad dark vertical bars on side; upper lobe of caudal fin violet grey, lower lobe bright yellow.

**Size:** Maximum standard length about 42 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs over rocky bottoms at depths between about 140 and 250 m. Caught mainly with handlines. A good food fish. Marketed fresh.

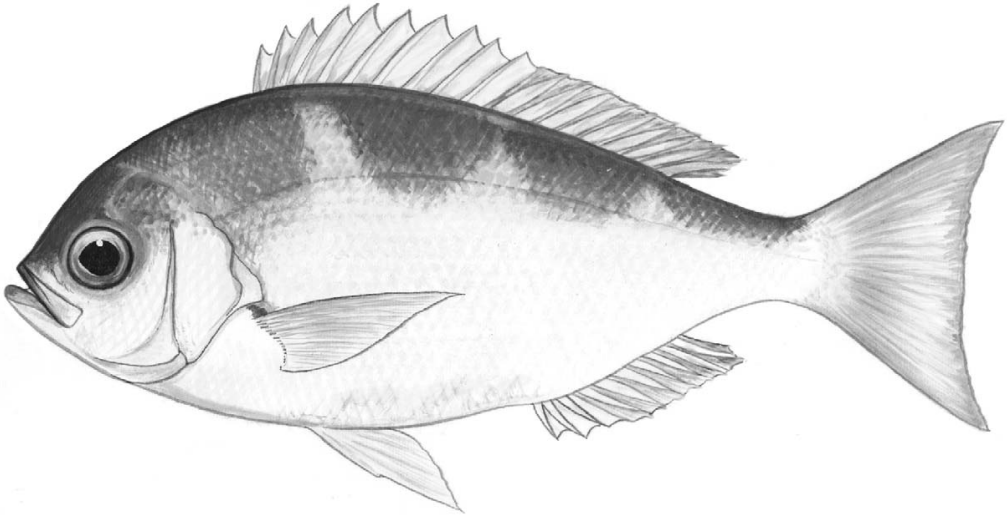
**Distribution:** Tropical western Pacific. Known only from the Fiji Islands, Vanuatu, and the Philippines, but probably more widespread.

**Remarks:** According to some of the literature, this species lacks maxillary squamation, but the holotype, at least, has scaly maxillae. Maxillary squamation may be a plastic character in *Paracaesio gonzalesi*, as it is in *P. xanthura*.



*Paracaesio kusakarii* Abe, 1960

(Plate IX, 60)

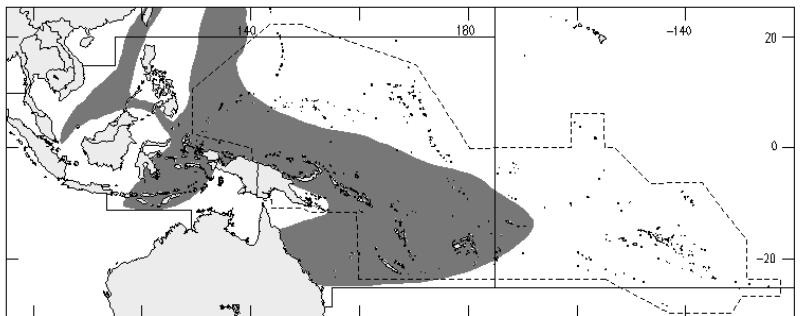
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Saddleback snapper; Fr - Vivanette sellée; Sp - Panchote sillevo.

**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, laterally compressed. Nostrils on each side of snout close together. **Lower jaw protruding slightly when mouth closed. Anterior end of upper lip without a thick fleshy protrusion.** Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla reaching vertical through anterior part of eye. Both upper and lower jaws with an outer row of conical teeth (some of these enlarged into small canines anteriorly) and with an inner band of small villiform teeth; vomer and palatines with villiform teeth, those on vomer in chevron-shaped patch; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla with scales, but without longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region rather strongly convex. Large individuals with pronounced hump on nape as a result of higher supraoccipital crest. First gill arch with 7 to 12 gill rakers on upper limb, 19 or 20 on lower limb (total 26 to 32).** Dorsal fin continuous, not deeply incised near junction of spinous and soft portions. **Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray. Caudal fin lunate to emarginate; middle of distal margin of caudal fin becoming rounded with age.** Pectoral fins long, longer than head. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 10 soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 16. Membranes of dorsal and anal fins without scales. Tubed lateral-line scales 48 to 50. Colour:** back and upper side of body light brown; remainder of body silvery white; **4 broad dark vertical bars on upper side of body;** fins greyish, whitish, or yellowish.

**Size:** Maximum standard length at least 60 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs over rocky bottoms at depths between about 100 and 310 m. Caught mainly with handlines. Marketed fresh.

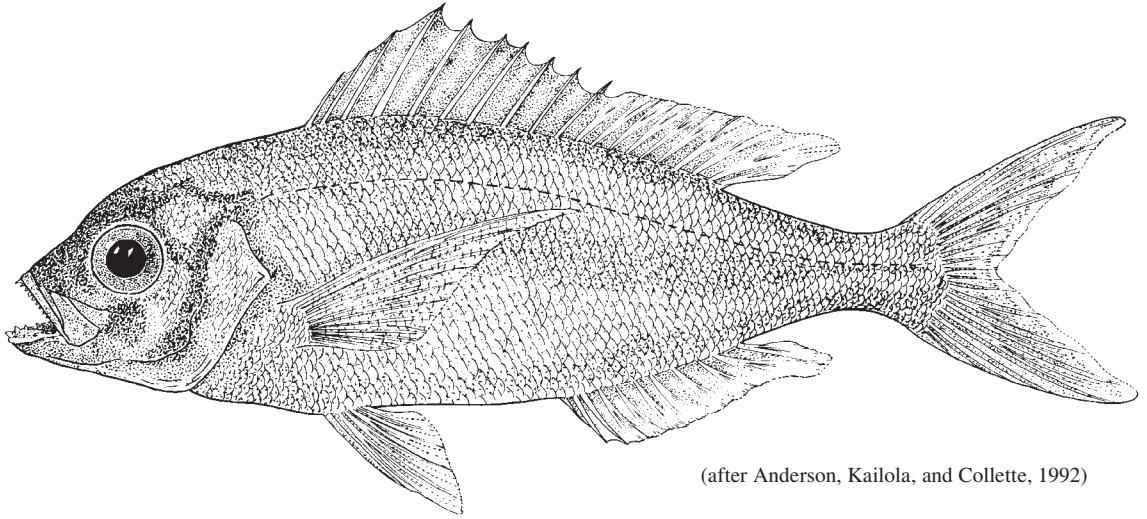
**Distribution:** Western Pacific from Samoa to Taiwan Province of China and Singapore and from the Ryukyu and Ogasawara islands southward to New Caledonia and northeastern Australia.



***Paracaesio paragrapsimodon* Anderson and Kailola, 1992**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Toothy.



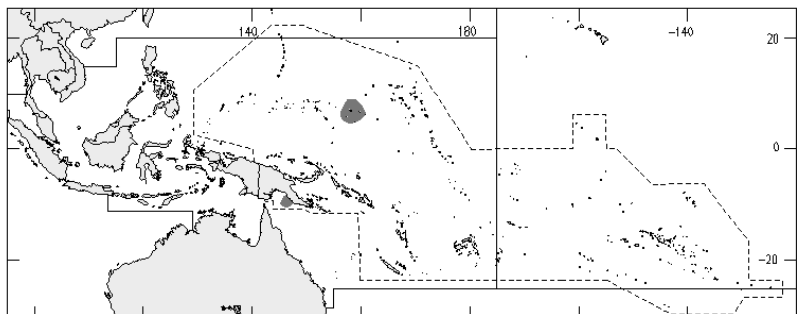
(after Anderson, Kailola, and Collette, 1992)

**Diagnostic characters:** Body relatively elongate (depth of body 33 to 35% standard length), laterally compressed. Nostrils on each side of snout close together. **Mouth terminal, jaws about equal. Anterior end of upper lip without a thick fleshy protrusion.** Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla reaching posteriorly to a vertical well past anterior border of eye. **Upper jaw with an outer row of caniniform teeth, some very well-developed exerted canines anteriorly, and an inner band of very small teeth; lower jaw with outer row of conical teeth, some very well-developed strongly exerted canines anteriorly, and an inner band of smaller conical teeth; vomer and palatines with small teeth, those on vomer in roughly triangular patch; no teeth on tongue. Maxilla without scales or longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region rather strongly convex. First gill arch with 9 gill rakers on upper limb, 20 or 21 on lower limb (total 29 or 30).** Dorsal fin continuous, not incised near junction of spinous and soft portions. **Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray. Caudal fin deeply forked.** Pectoral fins long, longer than head. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 10 soft rays.** Anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 17. **Membranes of dorsal and anal fins without scales. Tubed lateral-line scales 69 or 70. Colour: body deep metallic blue;** proximal halves of soft dorsal and soft anal fins pale yellow, with yellow extending onto dorsalmost part of back and dorsal part of caudal peduncle; yellow along middle of each caudal-fin lobe and at posterior margin of caudal fin.

**Size:** Maximum standard length unknown, but reaches at least 28 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Depth of capture 200 m, available for only 1 collection. No other information available.

**Distribution:** Western Pacific; known from only 2 specimens, one collected off the Caroline Islands, the other off southern Papua New Guinea.

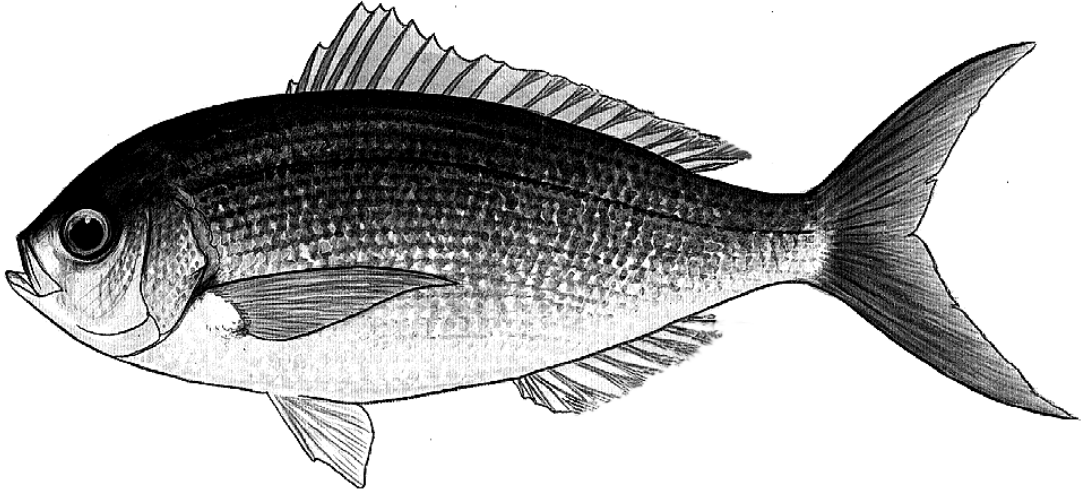


*Paracaesio sordida* Abe and Shinohara, 1962

(Plate IX, 61)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Dirty ordure snapper.



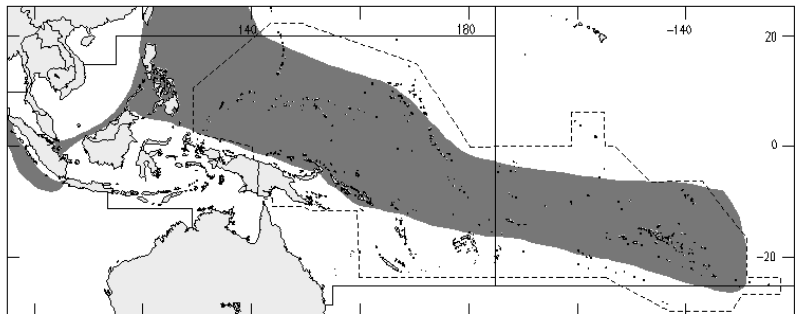
**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, laterally compressed. Nostrils on each side of snout close together. **Mouth terminal, jaws about equal. Anterior end of upper lip without a thick fleshy protrusion.** Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla reaching vertical through anterior part of eye. Both upper and lower jaws with an outer row of conical teeth (some of these enlarged into caniniform teeth anteriorly) and with an inner band of very small teeth; vomer and palatines with very small teeth, those on vomer in a triangular or chevron-shaped patch; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla without scales or longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region convex. First gill arch with 9 to 11 gill rakers on upper limb, 19 to 24 on lower limb (total 28 to 34).** Dorsal fin continuous, not deeply incised near junction of spinous and soft portions. **Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray. Caudal fin deeply forked.** Pectoral fins long, usually longer than head. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 10 soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 8 or 9 (usually 8) soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 16 or (usually) 17. Membranes of dorsal and anal fins without scales. Tubed lateral-line scales 69 to 72. Preopercle with 1 to 3 rows of scales peripheral to and usually distinctly separated from main group of cheek scales.** **Colour:** overall dark grey, dark purplish brown, dark violet, or bluish; lower sides and belly about as dark as overall coloration, silvery, or whitish; fins variable: dark grey, reddish brown, or dorsal and caudal fins brownish to slightly yellow with other fins mostly whitish to translucent.

**Size:** Maximum standard length about 40 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs over rocky bottoms at depths between about 10 and 200 m. Caught mainly with handlines, but in relatively low numbers. An important food fish in some areas. Usually marketed fresh.

**Distribution:** Widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific from the Marquesas Islands and Pitcairn Island in the east to the Gulf of Aqaba and East Africa in the west and ranging northward to the Ryukyu Islands.

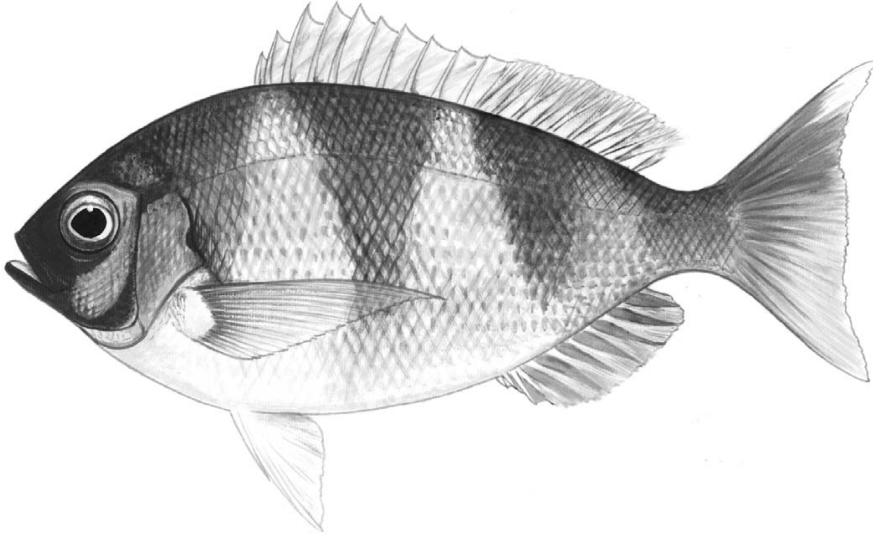
**Remarks:** *Paracaesio* is a feminine noun; therefore, adjectival specific names for species of *Paracaesio* (such as *sordida*) correctly terminate in "a".



***Paracaesio stonei*** Raj and Seeto, 1983

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Cocoa snapper; Fr - Vivanette cacao; Sp - Panchote cacao.

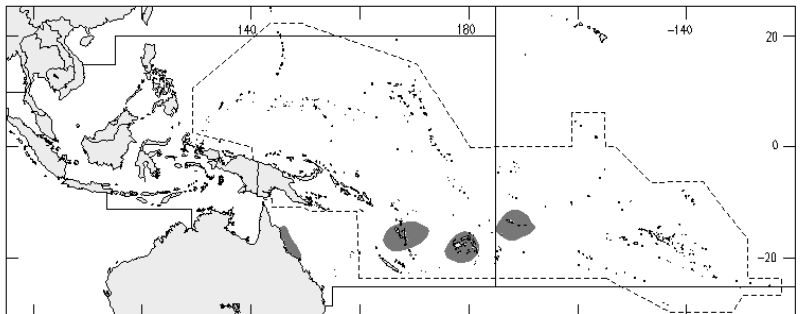


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, laterally compressed. Nostrils on each side of snout close together. **Lower jaw protruding slightly when mouth closed. Anterior end of upper lip without a thick fleshy protrusion.** Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla reaching vertical through about middle of eye. Both upper and lower jaws with an outer row of conical teeth (teeth larger anteriorly) and with an inner band of much smaller teeth; vomer and palatines with villiform teeth, those on vomer in triangular patch; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla without scales or longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region convex. First gill arch with 10 or 11 gill rakers on upper limb, 17 or 18 on lower limb (total 27 to 29).** Dorsal fin continuous, not deeply incised near junction of spinous and soft portions. **Spines of dorsal and anal fins robust, at least on large individuals. Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray. Caudal fin emarginate.** Pectoral fins long, longer than head. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 10 soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 16. Membranes of dorsal and anal fins without scales. Tubed lateral-line scales 48 to 50.** **Colour:** general body coloration light brown dorsally and silver ventrally with **4 or 5 broad brown to dark grey vertical bars on body extending from dorsal surface to midline or below midline laterally;** fins grey to whitish except dorsal and caudal fins with variable amounts of yellow.

**Size:** Maximum standard length at least 50 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Known from depths ranging from 200 to 320 m. Caught with deep handlines.

**Distribution:** Known from off the Ryukyu Islands, north-eastern Australia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa; also reported from off Papua New Guinea; probably more widely distributed.

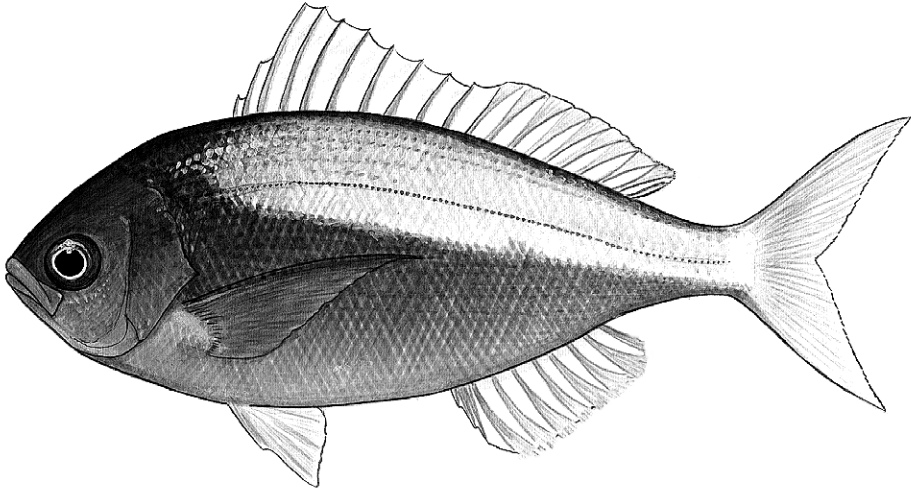


*Paracaesio xanthura* (Bleeker, 1869)

(Plate IX, 62)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** ? *Paracaesio pedleyi* McCulloch and Waite, 1916; *P. tumida* (Tanaka, 1917); *P. cantharoides* (Barnard, 1937) / Other species of *Paracaesio*.

**FAO names:** En - Yellowtail blue snapper; Fr - Vivannette queue jaune; Sp - Panchote rabo amarillo.



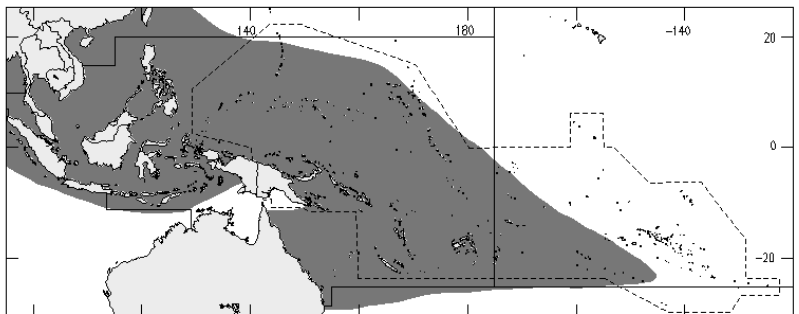
**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, laterally compressed. Nostrils on each side of snout close together. **Mouth terminal, jaws about equal. Anterior end of upper lip without a thick fleshy protrusion.** Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla reaching vertical through anterior part of eye. Both upper and lower jaws with an outer row of conical teeth (some of these enlarged into caniniform teeth anteriorly) and with an inner band of very small teeth; vomer and palatines with very small teeth, those on vomer in a chevron-shaped or triangular patch; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla with or without scales and without longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region convex. First gill arch with 7 to 12 gill rakers on upper limb, 20 to 23 on lower limb (total 28 to 35).** Dorsal fin continuous, not deeply incised near junction of spinous and soft portions. **Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray. Caudal fin deeply forked.** Pectoral fins long, usually longer than head in specimens greater than 12 cm standard length. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 10 soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 8 or (rarely) 9 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 16 to 18 (usually 17). Membranes of dorsal and anal fins without scales. Tubed lateral-line scales 68 to 72. Preopercle almost always without scales peripheral to main group of cheek scales. Colour:** mainly bluish; **broad yellow band on upper side beginning near anterior end of dorsal fin, continuing over most of caudal peduncle and out onto both lobes of caudal fin;** dorsal fin grey to yellowish, other fins greyish or whitish.

**Size:** Maximum standard length about 40 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs over rocky bottoms at depths between about 5 and 150 m; sometimes forming large schools. Feeds largely on zooplankton. Caught mainly with handlines and bottom longlines. A food fish in some areas. Marketed fresh or frozen.

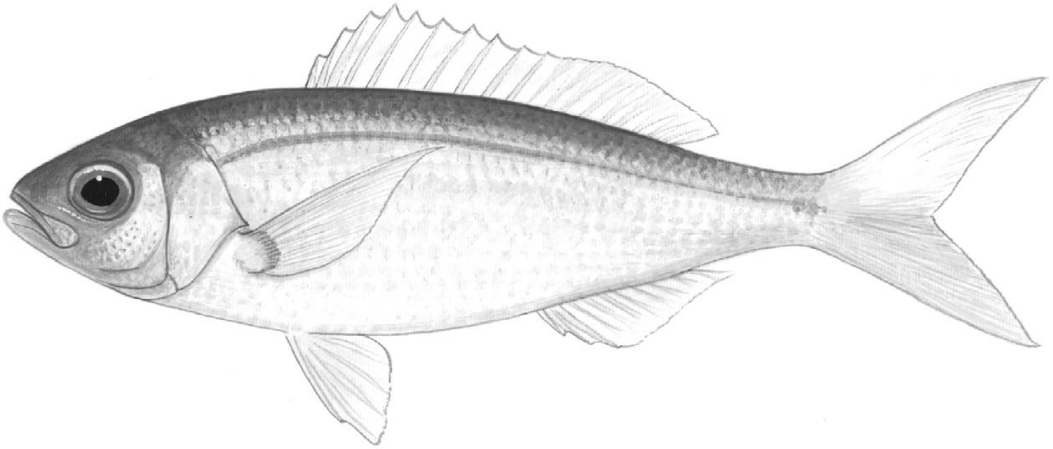
**Distribution:** Widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific from the Austral Islands to East Africa and from southern Japan southward to southeastern Australia.

**Remarks:** *Paracaesio xanthura*, a complex of variable populations, may compose a single species or 2 (or more) species. *Paracaesio pedleyi*, from Lord Howe Island, Middleton Reef, and eastern Australian waters, is included here with some reservation. *Paracaesio* is a feminine noun; therefore, adjectival specific names for species of *Paracaesio* (such as *xanthura*) correctly terminate in "a".

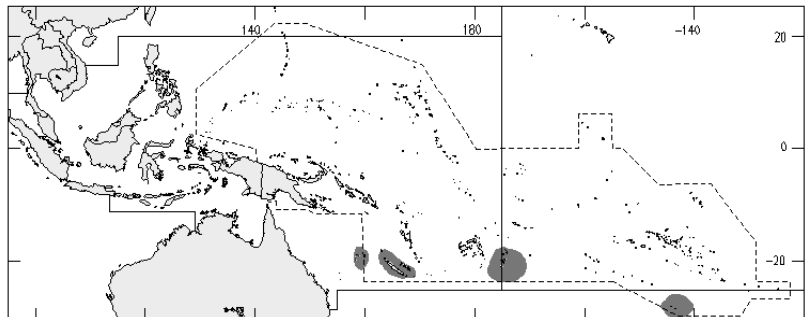


***Parapristipomoides squamimaxillaris* (Kami, 1973)**

(Plate IX, 63)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Scalemouth jobfish; Fr - Colas écailleuse; Sp - Panchito escamudo.

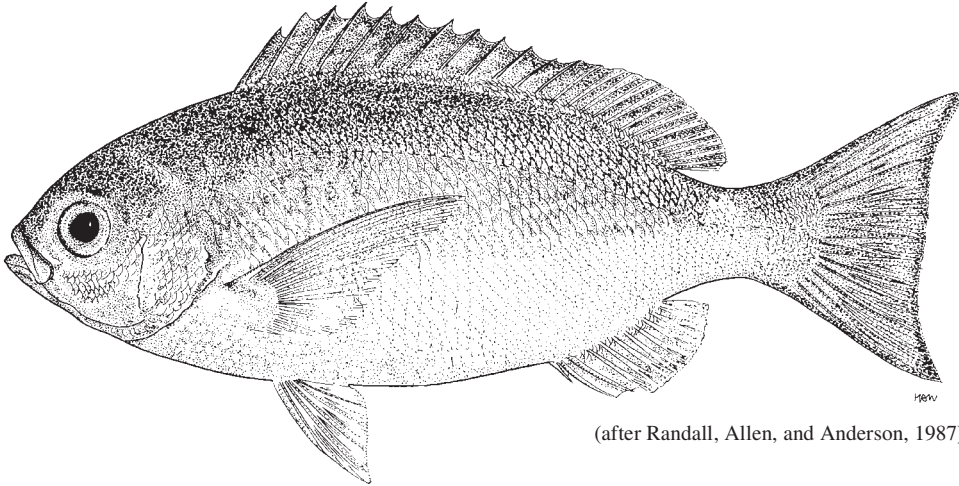
**Diagnostic characters:** Body elongate, its depth 28 to 33% standard length, laterally compressed. Nostrils on each side of snout close together. **Lower jaw protruding slightly when mouth closed. Anterior end of upper lip without a thick fleshy protrusion.** Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla reaching vertical through anterior part of eye. **Jaw teeth poorly developed, no canines present;** both upper and lower jaws with an outer row of small conical teeth and an inner band of villiform teeth that is best developed anteriorly; vomer and palatines with teeth, those on vomer in roughly an oval-shaped patch; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla with scales, but without longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region very slightly convex. First gill arch with 10 to 12 gill rakers on upper limb, 22 to 24 on lower limb (total 32 to 36).** Dorsal fin continuous, not deeply incised near junction of spinous and soft portions. **Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins about equal to or slightly longer than next to last soft ray. Caudal fin well forked.** Pectoral fins fairly long, about as long as head. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 10 soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 16. Membranes of dorsal and anal fins without scales except for a few scales that may occur at bases of posteriormost soft ray of each fin. Tubed lateral-line scales 53 to 55. Colour:** silvery pink, darker pink on back and upper sides; spinous part of dorsal fin with faint mottling of light yellow; **upper lobe of caudal fin bright yellow, lower lobe pink;** pectoral-fin rays edged with pink, with a little yellow in upper rays; other fins mainly whitish.

**Size:** Maximum standard length about 40 cm.**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs over rocky bottoms at depths from about 130 to at least 460 m. Caught by deep handlining. Marketed fresh.**Distribution:** Known from off Easter Island, Rapa, Tonga, New Caledonia, and from the Chesterfield Islands region of the Coral Sea.

*Pinjalo lewisi* Randall, Allen, and Anderson, 1987 (Plate IX, 64)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** ? *Pinjalo microphthalmus* Lee, 1987 / *Pinjalo pinjalo* (Bleeker, 1850).

**FAO names:** En - Red pinjalo.



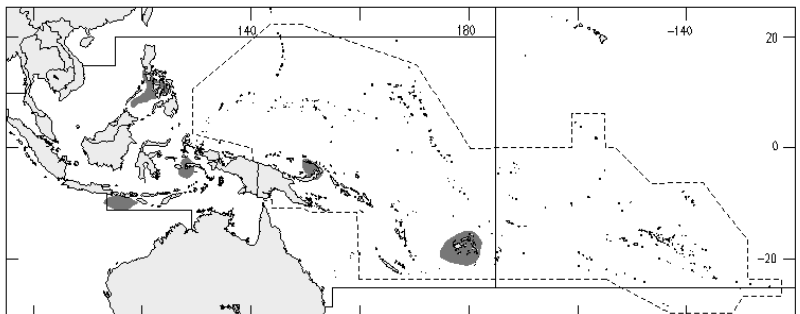
(after Randall, Allen, and Anderson, 1987)

**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, laterally compressed. **Dorsal profile of head convex.** Nostrils on each side of snout not very close together. Mouth small and oblique, forming an angle of about 45° with the horizontal; lower jaw protruding slightly when mouth closed. Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla falling short of, reaching, or extending slightly beyond vertical through anterior edge of orbit. No caniniform teeth; an outer row of small fixed incurved conical teeth in each jaw; an inner band of depressible villiform teeth in upper jaw and front of lower jaw; minute teeth in a triangular or chevron-shaped patch on vomer and in a narrow band on palatines; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla without scales or longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region strongly convex. First gill arch with 7 or 8 gill rakers on upper limb, 16 or 17 on lower limb.** Dorsal fin continuous, without a notch between spinous and soft portions. Dorsal- and anal-fin spines rather slender. **Last soft ray of both dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray.** Caudal fin slightly emarginate, the caudal concavity 3.55 to 5.45 times in head length. Pectoral fins relatively long, 2.5 to 3.05 times in standard length. Pelvic fins relatively short, 1.65 to 1.8 times in head length. Dorsal fin with XII spines and 13 soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 8 or 9 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 17 or 18. Dorsal and anal fins with scales basally. Tubed lateral-line scales 48 to 50. **Colour:** dorsal half of body red, shading ventrally to pinkish white, no diagonal dark lines on nape and body; head red except areas covered with scales are pinkish white; a curved pale pink spot dorsally on caudal peduncle, broadest on top of peduncle (spot about as wide as diameter of pupil), this spot extending diagonally downward and forward to within a scale row of lateral line (spot may not be evident in all individuals); fins red, anal and paired fins lighter than dorsal and caudal fins; margin of dorsal fin and to a lesser extent soft portion of anal fin blackish; posterior margin of caudal fin blackish, and upper and lower margins narrowly dark.

**Size:** Maximum standard length at least 36 cm.

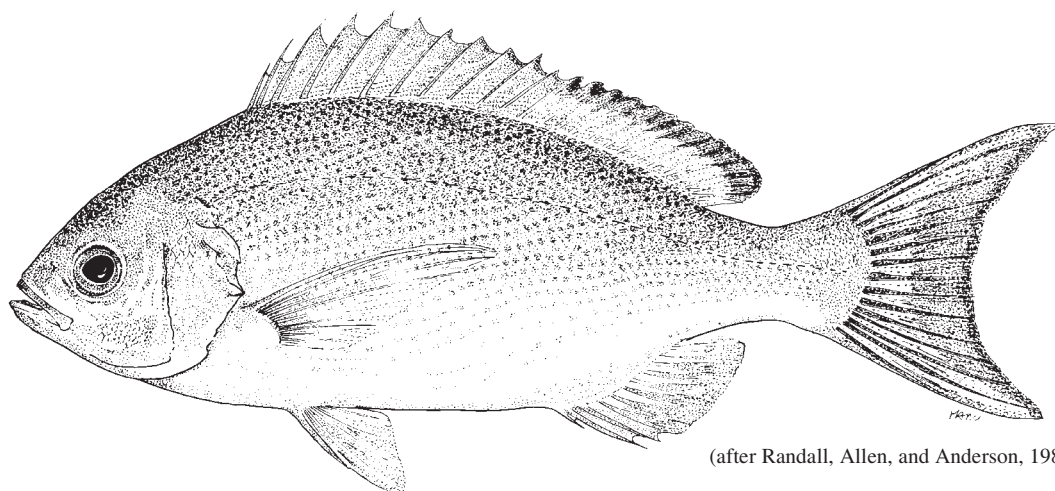
**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits reefs and rocky bottoms in depths between about 40 and 150 m. Feeds on benthic and planktonic invertebrates and possibly small fishes. Mainly taken with handlines, traps, and bottom trawls. Marketed fresh or dried-salted.

**Distribution:** Widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from Fiji to the Laccadive Islands and northward from southern Indonesia to the Ryukyu Islands.



***Pinjalo pinjalo*** (Bleeker, 1850)

(Plate IX, 65)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** ? *Pinjalo microphthalmus* Lee, 1987 / None.**FAO names:** En - Pinjalo; Fr - Pinjalo; Sp - Pinjalo.

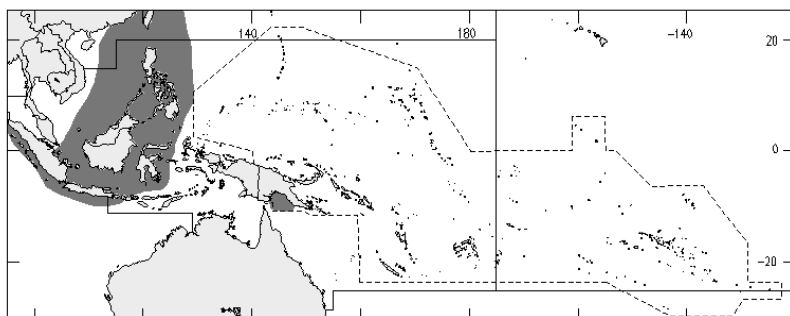
(after Randall, Allen, and Anderson, 1987)

**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, laterally compressed. **Dorsal profile of head convex.** Nostrils on each side of snout not very close together. Mouth small and oblique, forming an angle of about  $45^\circ$  with the horizontal; lower jaw protruding slightly when mouth closed. Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla falling short of, reaching, or extending slightly beyond vertical through anterior edge of orbit. No caniniform teeth; an outer row of small fixed incurved conical teeth in each jaw; an inner band of depressible villiform teeth in upper jaw and front of lower jaw; minute teeth in a triangular or chevron-shaped patch on vomer and in a narrow band on palatines; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla without scales or longitudinal ridges.** **Interorbital region strongly convex.** **First gill arch with 6 to 8 gill rakers on upper limb, 16 to 18 on lower limb.** Dorsal fin continuous, without a notch between spinous and soft portions. Dorsal- and anal-fin spines rather slender. **Last soft ray of both dorsal and anal fins not produced, shorter than next to last ray.** **Caudal fin deeply emarginate, the caudal concavity 2.1 to 3.6 times in head length.** Pectoral fins relatively short, 3.05 to 3.9 times in standard length. Pelvic fins relatively long, 1.4 to 1.65 times in head length. Dorsal fin with XI spines and 14 or 15 soft rays. Anal fin with III spines and 9 or (usually) 10 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 17 to 19. Dorsal and anal fins with scales basally. Tubed lateral-line scales 48 to 51. **Colour:** body pink to silvery lavender dorsally, shading to pale pink or silvery white ventrally, with diagonal yellowish brown to brownish red lines following scale rows on nape and dorsal one-half to two-thirds of body; head purplish pink to brownish red dorsally, pink to silvery white ventrally; pale spot sometimes present dorsally on caudal peduncle of small individuals; dorsal and caudal fins reddish, usually suffused with yellow, the outer margin blackish; anal and pelvic fins light red to yellow; pectoral fins light red.

**Size:** Maximum standard length at least 46 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits reefs and rocky bottoms to depths of about 60 m. Feeds on benthic and planktonic invertebrates and possibly small fishes. Caught mainly with handlines, traps, and bottom trawls. Marketed fresh or dried-salted.

**Distribution:** Widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from the Gulf of Papua (Papua New Guinea) to the Persian Gulf and northward from southern Indonesia to Taiwan Province of China.

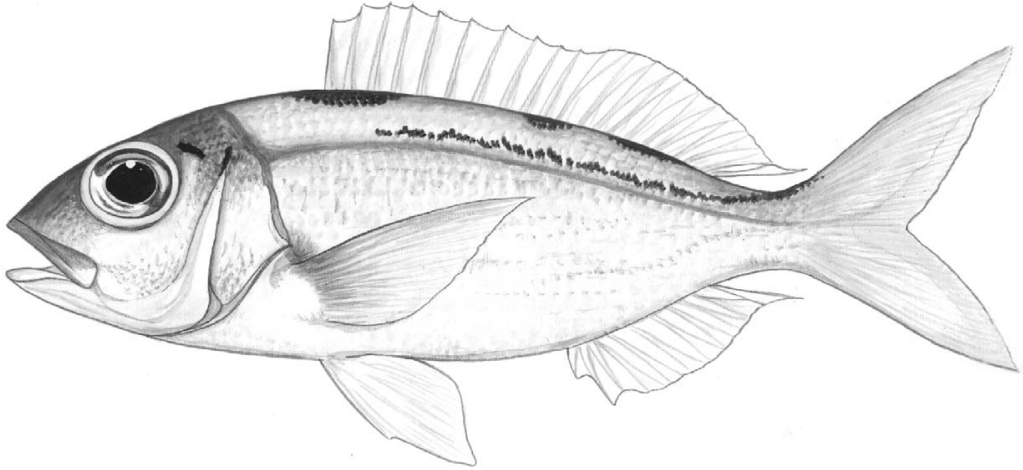


*Pristipomoides argyrogrammicus* (Valenciennes, 1832)

(Plate IX, 66)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Pristipomoides amoenus* (Snyder, 1911) / None.

**FAO names:** En - Ornate jobfish; Fr - Colas orné; Sp - Panchito adornado.



**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, laterally compressed. Nostrils on each side of snout close together. Jaws about equal or upper jaw protruding slightly. Premaxillae protrusible. Maxilla extending to vertical through anterior one-third of eye or slightly beyond. Jaws with bands of fine teeth, the outer ones slightly enlarged, but not as prominent canines; vomer and palatines with teeth, those on vomer more or less in chevron-shaped patch; no teeth on tongue. **Maxilla without scales or longitudinal ridges. Interorbital region flattened to slightly convex. First gill arch with 5 or 6 gill rakers on upper limb, 12 to 15 on lower limb (total 17 to 21).** Dorsal fin continuous, not deeply incised near junction of spinous and soft portions. **Last soft ray of both dorsal and anal fins well produced, longer than next to last ray. Caudal fin forked.** Pectoral fins fairly long, about 90% of head length. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 11 soft rays.** Anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays. Pectoral-fin rays 15 or 16. **Membranes of dorsal and anal fins without scales. Tubed lateral-line scales 58 to 62.** **Colour:** upper part of head reddish; back mainly yellow; sides and belly silvery, sometimes pinkish; body with many bright blue spots and vermiculations; **zigzag line running at about level of lateral line anteriorly and then onto dorsolateral part of caudal peduncle posteriorly;** dorsal and caudal fins yellowish.

**Size:** Maximum standard length approaching 40 cm, commonly to 25 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs over rocky bottoms at depths between about 70 and 350 m. Feeds on small fishes, crustaceans, and squids. Caught mainly with handlines. A good food fish sometimes seen in markets where it is sold fresh.

**Distribution:** Widespread in the Indo-Pacific from the Society Islands to East Africa and from New Caledonia northward to southern Japan.

