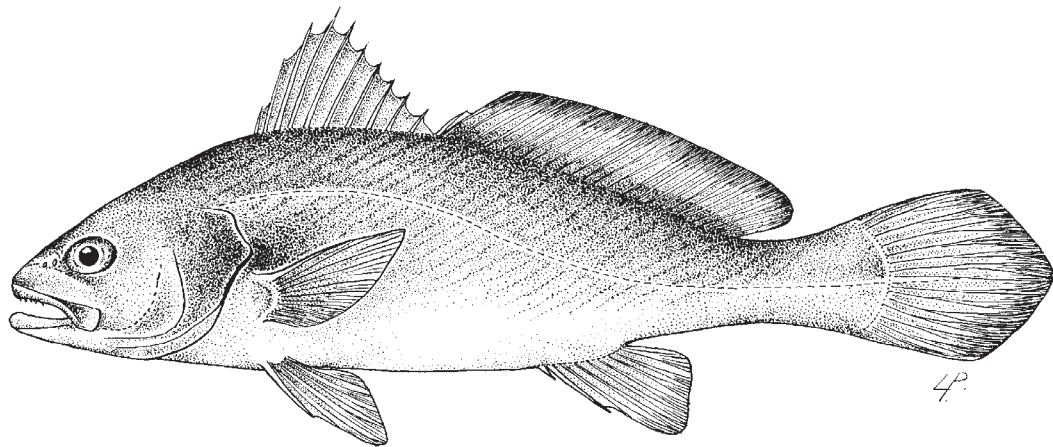


Argyrosomus amoyensis (Bleeker, 1863)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Nibea miichthyoides* Chu, Lo, and Wu, 1963 / None.

FAO names: En - Amoy croaker.

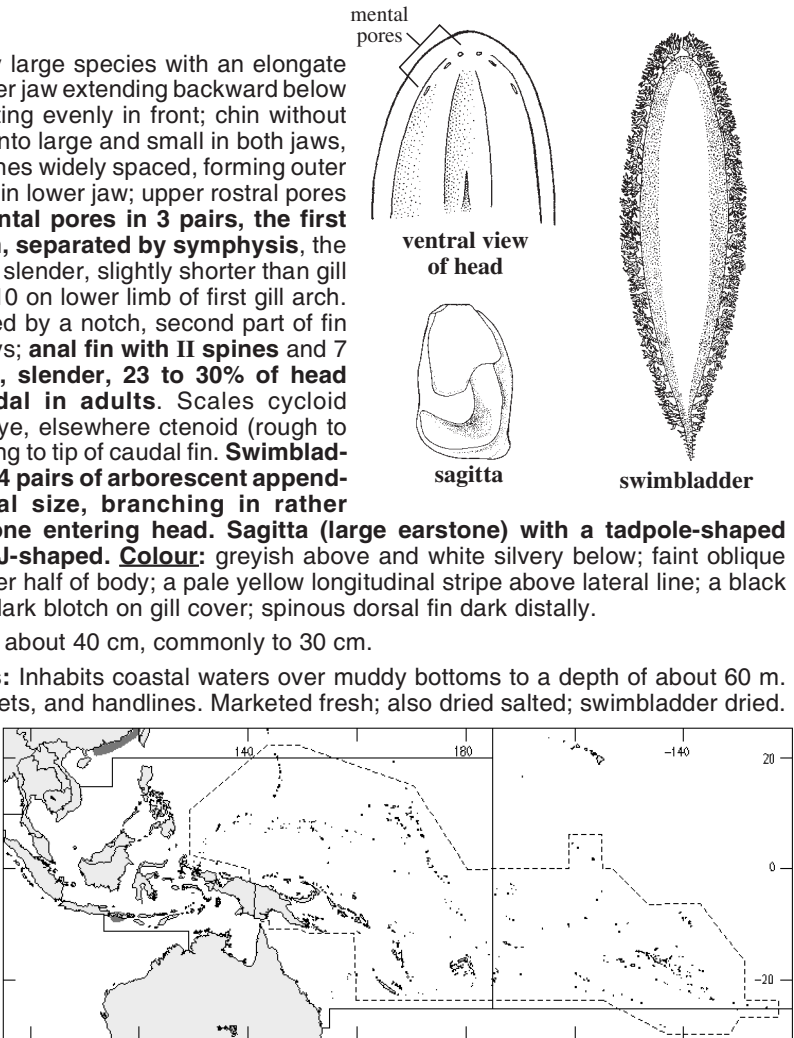


Diagnostic characters: A fairly large species with an elongate body. Mouth large, terminal; upper jaw extending backward below posterior half of eye; jaws meeting evenly in front; chin without barbel; teeth well differentiated into large and small in both jaws, but none canine-like; the large ones widely spaced, forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower jaw; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, rounded at front of chin, separated by symphysis**, the others small, slit-like. Gill rakers slender, slightly shorter than gill filaments at angle of arch, 8 to 10 on lower limb of first gill arch. Dorsal fin with X spines, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and 25 to 27 soft rays; **anal fin with II spines** and 7 soft rays, **second spine short, slender, 23 to 30% of head length; caudal fin rhomboidal in adults**. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and below eye, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin. **Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 22 to 34 pairs of arborescent appendages of approximately equal size, branching in rather ragged-looking fan-shape, none entering head. Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which J-shaped.** **Colour:** greyish above and white silvery below; faint oblique stripes along scale rows on upper half of body; a pale yellow longitudinal stripe above lateral line; a black spot at pectoral-fin base and a dark blotch on gill cover; spinous dorsal fin dark distally.

Size: Maximum standard length about 40 cm, commonly to 30 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal waters over muddy bottoms to a depth of about 60 m. Caught with bottom trawls, gill nets, and handlines. Marketed fresh; also dried salted; swimbladder dried.

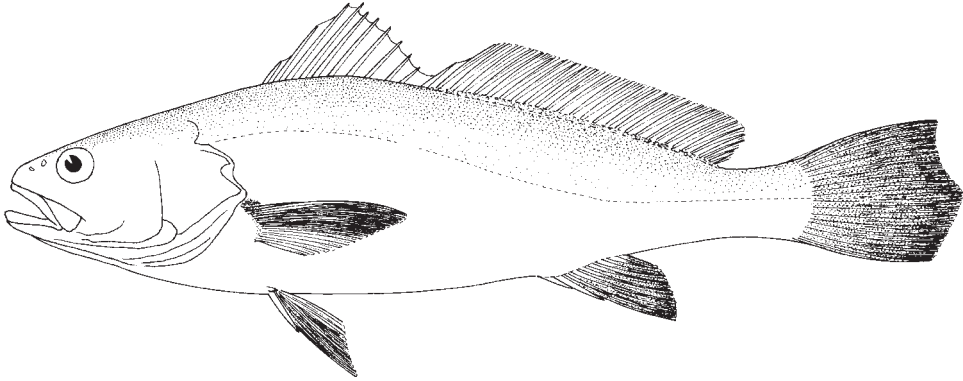
Distribution: South China Sea and off Java, Indonesia; also in the Arabian Sea from Oman to western coast of India.



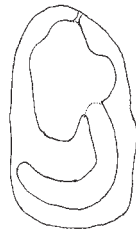
***Argyrosomus japonicus* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1843)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Sciaena antarctica* Castelnau, 1872 / *Argyrosomus hololepidotus* (Lacepède, 1802).

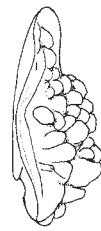
FAO names: En - Japanese meagre.



Diagnostic characters: A large species with elongate body. Mouth large, terminal; upper jaw extending backward below posterior half of eye; jaws meeting evenly in front or lower jaw slightly projecting; teeth in both jaws well differentiated into large and small, but none canine-like; the large ones widely spaced, forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower jaw; upper rostral pores 3, the outer pair minute or obsolete in larger specimens; marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, rounded at front of chin, separated by symphysis**, the others slit-like. Gill rakers slender, about 2/3 length of gill filaments at angle of arch, 8 to 11 on lower limb of first gill arch. Dorsal fin with X spines, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and 25 to 30 soft rays; **anal fin with II spines and 7 soft rays, second spine short, slender, 26 to 34% of head length; caudal fin S-shaped or almost truncate**. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and below eyes, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral-line scales reaching to hind margin of caudal fin. **Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 21 to 31 pairs of arborescent appendages, branching in a rather ragged-looking fan-shape, none entering head. Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which J-shaped.** **Colour:** silvery blue or grey on back shading to whitish on flanks and belly; a series of pearly spots along lateral line; fins grey or brown; pectoral-fin axil with black spot; edges of jaws and inside of gill cover yellow.



sagitta

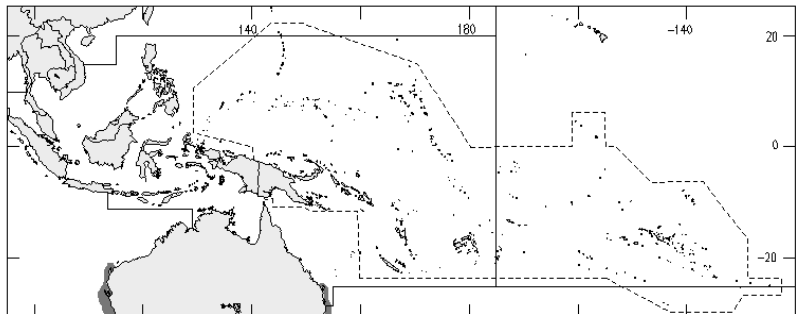


swimbladder
(half)

Size: Maximum standard length 200 cm, commonly to 100 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits lower reaches of rivers, estuaries, rocky reefs, ocean beaches, and continental shelves down to 150 m. Feeds on fishes, crabs, prawns, and worms. Matures at about 6 years of age and when about 75 cm total length. Annual catches in Australia were about 300 t in 1989-90. Caught by bottom set gill nets, haul nets, beach seines, and handlines. Common in markets as fresh, gutted fish in Australia.

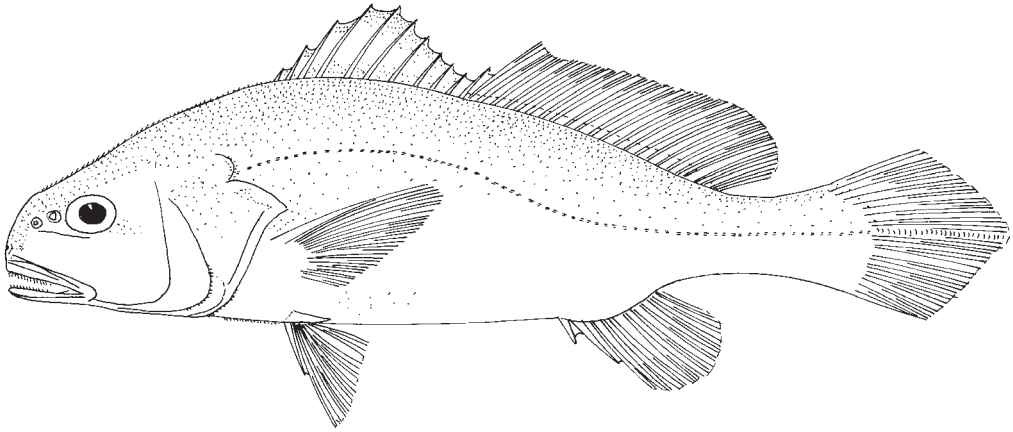
Distribution: Central and southern, mainland Australian waters. Also found off South Africa, southern Mozambique, and off Oman to east coasts of India. In the northern West Pacific, it occurs from Hong Kong to southern Korea and Japan.



Aspericorvina jubata (Bleeker, 1855)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Johnius melanobranchium* Fowler, 1934 / None.

FAO names: En - Prickly croaker.

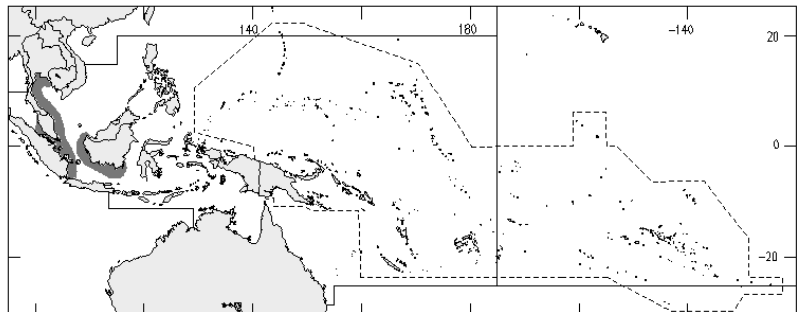
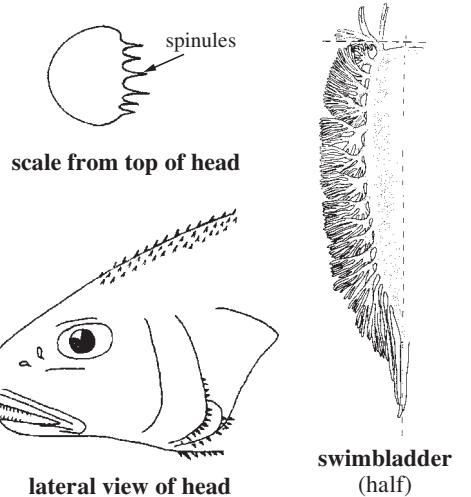


Diagnostic characters: A small species with a moderately deep body. Snout bluntly rounded, slightly projecting in front of upper jaw; mouth small, horizontal; upper jaw extending backward below middle to hind margin of pupil; upper rostral pores 5, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, close together, united by a crescent-shaped groove just behind symphysis; teeth differentiated into large and small in upper jaw only, none canine-like; the large ones forming outer series, closely spaced, largest at front of jaw; lower jaw with a band of villiform teeth.** Gill rakers short, blunt, about 1/3 length of gill filaments at angle of arch, 6 to 9 on lower limb of first gill arch. **Dorsal fin with X spines, followed by a notch, second part of the fin with I spine and 22 to 25 soft rays; anal fin with II spines and 7 to 9 soft rays, second spine short, 20 to 28% of head length; caudal fin rhomboidal. Scales on head, back (to end of spinous part of dorsal fin), throat and belly ctenoid (rough to touch), with 5 or 6 strong projecting spinules on hind margin; elsewhere, scales cycloid (smooth); lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin. Swimbladder carrot-shaped with about 16 pairs of appendages along its sides, the first pair entering head beyond transverse septum. Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which sharply curved at about an angle of 90° and ending close to the ventral edge. Colour:** body silvery, darker on back; opercle with dark spot.

Size: Maximum standard length 16 cm, commonly from 10 to 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits shallow coastal waters, estuaries, and rivers.

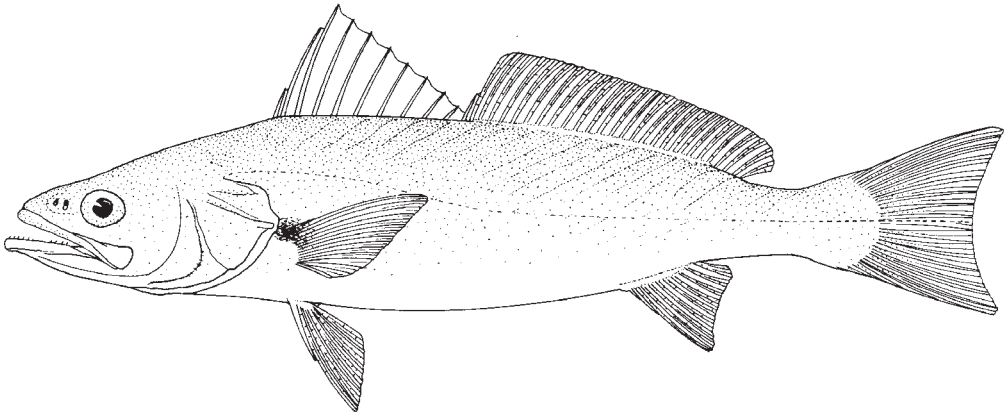
Distribution: Gulf of Thailand, Sumatra, and Borneo.



***Atractoscion aequidens* (Cuvier, 1830)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Argyrosomus hololepidotus* (Lacepède, 1802).

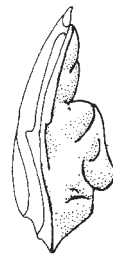
FAO names: En - Geelbeck croaker; Fr - Téraqlin; Sp - Corvinata prieta.



Diagnostic characters: A large species with a slender, elongate body. Snout acutely pointed; mouth large, strongly oblique; upper jaw extending backward below hind margin of eye or a little behind; lower jaw projecting in front of upper jaw; upper and marginal rostral pores and anterior pair of mental pores absent, second and third pair represented by minute pores in the skin; **all teeth depressible, those in upper jaw differentiated into large and small, those in lower jaw about equal size; none of teeth canine-like.** Gill rakers short, dentate, about 1/4 length of gill filaments at angle of arch, 6 to 9 on lower limb of first gill arch. Dorsal fin with IX to X spines, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and 25 to 32 (28 to 32 in Australia) soft rays; **anal fin with II spines and 9 or 10 soft rays, second spine very short, slender, 11 to 18% of head length; caudal fin emarginate to lunate.** Scales cycloid (smooth) on head, ctenoid (rough) on body; **lateral-line scales very small, about 70, reaching to hind margin of caudal fin.** **Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with a single pair of horn-like appendages curved between transverse septum and anterior end of bladder, not entering head.** **Sagitta (large earstone)** with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which J-shaped. **Colour:** body iridescent blue and purple, often with faint oblique lines on back and sides; pectoral-fin axil with a black blotch; **edges of jaws and inside of gill cover bright yellow.**



sagitta

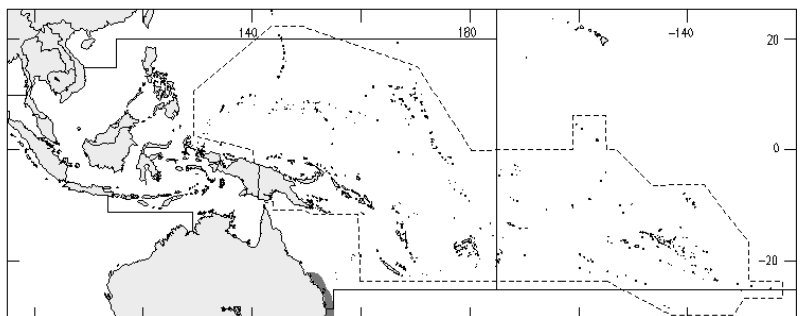


swimbladder

Size: Maximum standard length 120 cm, commonly to 90 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal waters down to 200 m; juveniles enter estuaries. Stays close to bottom during the day and rises to midwater or the surface to feed pelagic fishes during the night. Caught by handlines and occasionally by traps; also a target fish in recreation fisheries. Annual catches in Australia were 35 t in 1989-90. Marketed fresh; flesh highly esteemed.

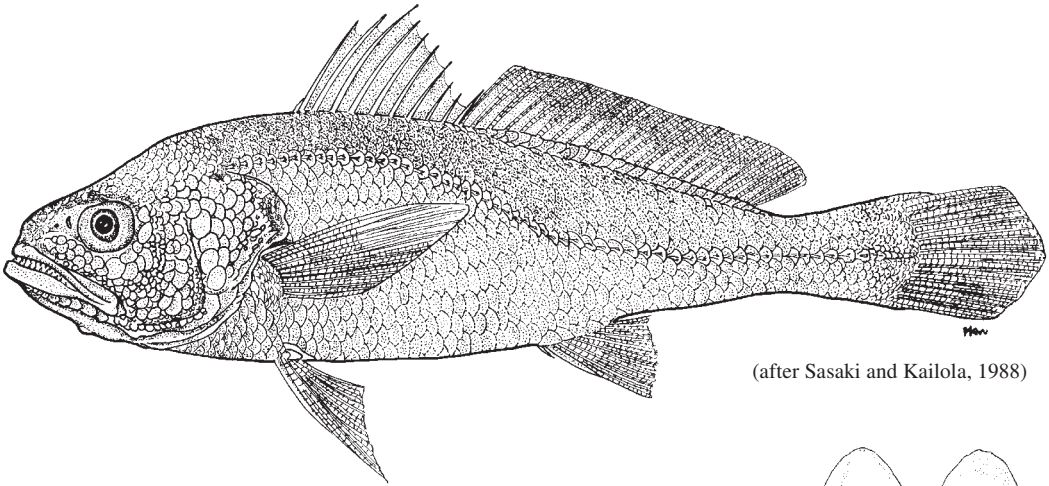
Distribution: Along eastern coasts of Australia. Elsewhere, off southern Mozambique, South Africa, and southeastern Atlantic north to Mauritania.



Atrobucca adusta Sasaki and Kailola, 1988

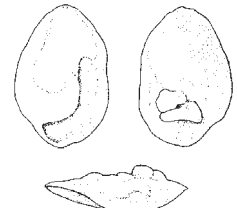
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Scorched croaker.

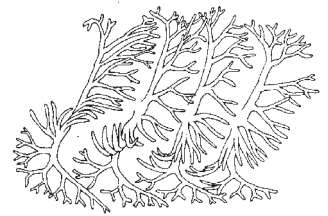


(after Sasaki and Kailola, 1988)

Diagnostic characters: A fairly large species, with a long, slender caudal peduncle (27 to 30% of standard length). Mouth large, oblique; upper jaw extending backward below middle to hind margin of eye; chin angular, without barbel; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, at front of chin, separated by symphysis**; teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws, but none canine-like; the large one forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower jaw. Gill rakers slender, slightly longer than gill filaments at angle of arch, 9 or 10 on lower limb of first gill arch. **Dorsal fin with X spines**, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and **23 or 24 soft rays**; anal fin with II spines and 7 soft rays, second spine short, slender, 19 to 24% of head length; caudal fin rhomboidal. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout, gill cover, and throat, but ctenoid (rough) on other parts of head and body; lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin; **pectoral fins long, 24 to 27% of standard length**. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with about 30 pairs of branched appendages enveloping the bladder, **each with a well-developed dorsal and ventral limb, regularly arranged so that terminal branches of dorsal limb point backward, those near tip of ventral limb forward**; no appendages entering head. **Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which only slightly curved**. **Colour:** body silvery when alive, becoming chocolate brown immediately after death; in preservative, scales of belly dark margined, particularly on flanks; posterior mouth lining, gill chamber, and body cavity black.



sagitta

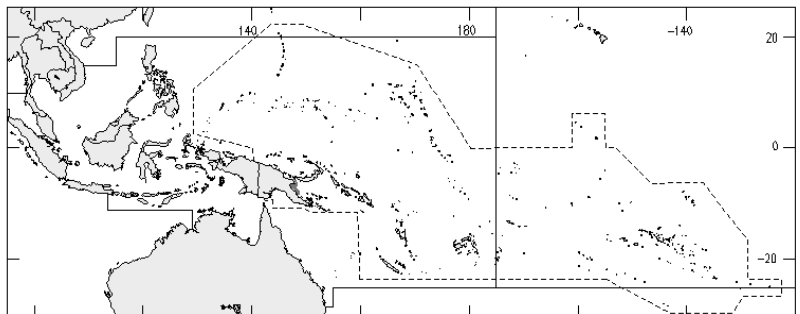


swimbladder appendages

Size: Known only from 2 species at 41 and 46 cm standard length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits shallow coastal waters and estuaries.

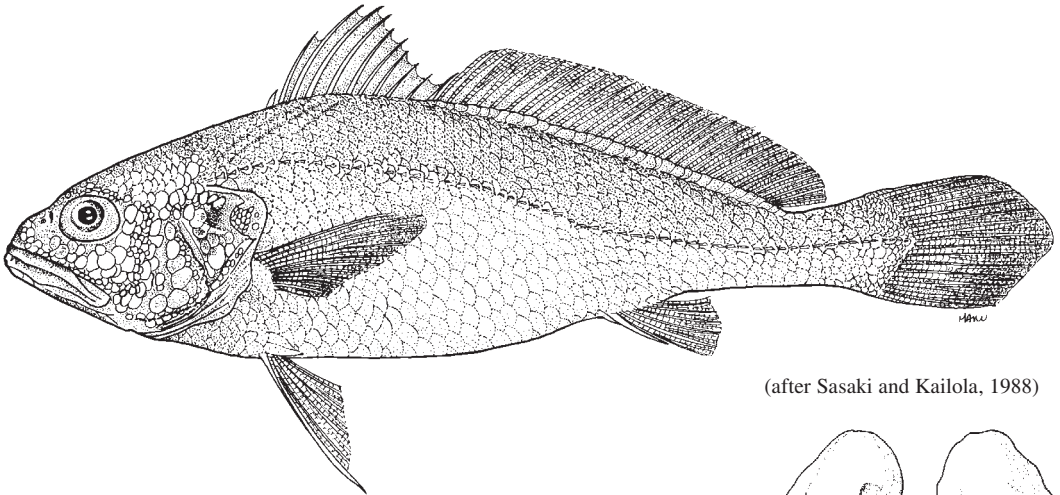
Distribution: Known from near Lae, Papua New Guinea.



***Atrobucca brevis* Sasaki and Kailola, 1988**

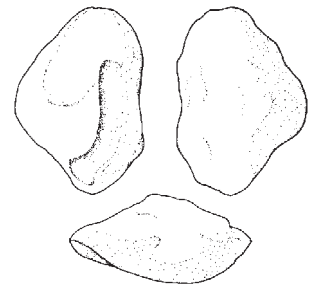
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Argyrosomus hololepidotus* (Lacepède, 1802).

FAO names: En - Orange croaker.

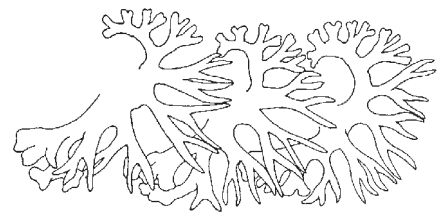


(after Sasaki and Kailola, 1988)

Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized species, with a moderately long caudal peduncle (22 to 27% of standard length). Mouth large, slightly oblique; upper jaw extending backward below hind margin of eye; chin rounded, without barbel; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, at front of chin, separated by symphysis**; teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws, but none canine-like; the large ones forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower jaw. Gill rakers slender, as long as gill filaments at angle of arch, 10 or 11 on lower limb of first gill arch. **Dorsal fin with X spines**, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and **29 to 32 soft rays**; anal fin with II spines and 7 soft rays, second spine short, slender, 21 to 28% of head length; caudal fin rhomboidal; **pectoral fins short, 20 to 24% of standard length**. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout, gill cover, and throat, but ctenoid (rough) on other parts of head and body; lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 27 to 30 pairs of branched appendages, **each with a well-developed dorsal and ventral limb, regularly arranged so that terminal branches of dorsal limb point backward, those near tip of ventral limb downward**; no appendages entering head. **Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which only slightly curved**. **Colour:** brown or copper-coloured above, **pale orange or white below**; mouth lining pale except grey speckled palate; gill chamber and body cavity dark brown.



sagitta

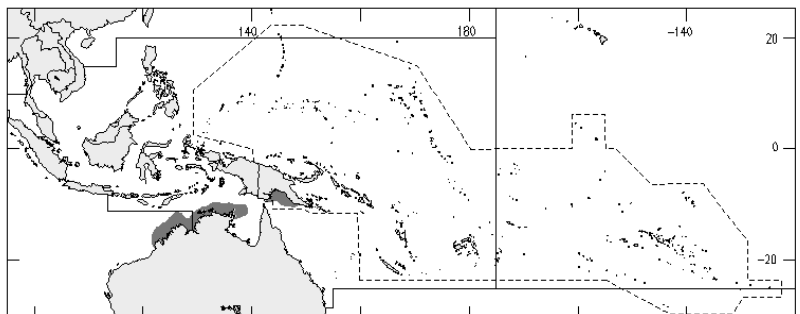


swimbladder appendages

Size: Maximum standard length 26 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits continental shelves down to 110 m.

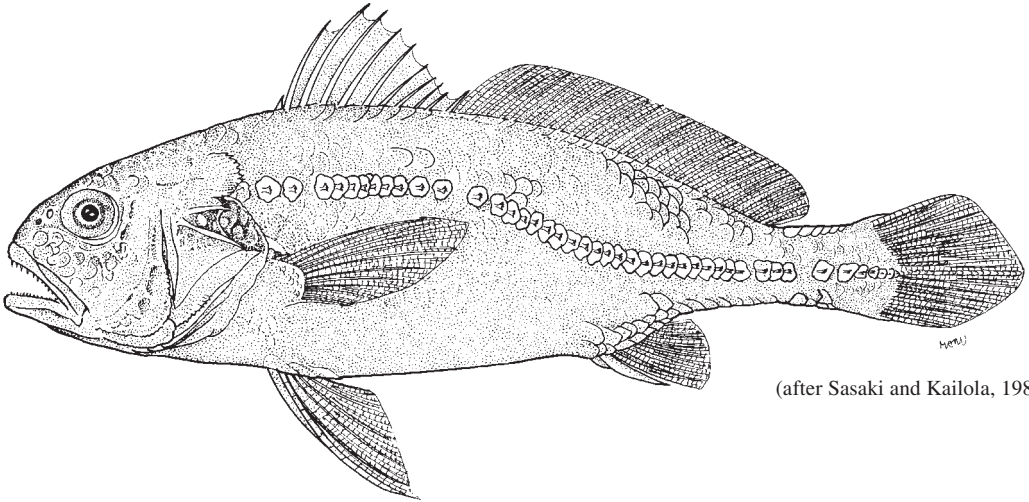
Distribution: Along north-western and northern coast of Australia and southern Papua New Guinea.



Atrobucca kyushini Sasaki and Kailola, 1988

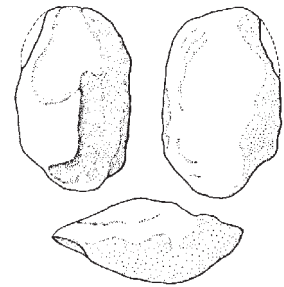
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Blackspot croaker.



(after Sasaki and Kailola, 1988)

Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized species, with a moderately long caudal peduncle (24 to 28% of standard length). Mouth large, oblique; upper jaw extending backward below middle of eye; chin rounded, without barbel; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, at front of chin, separated by symphysis**; teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws, but none canine-like; the large ones forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower jaw. Gill rakers stiff, equal to or slightly shorter than gill filaments at angle of arch, 9 to 12 on lower limb of first gill arch. **Dorsal fin with X spines**, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and **30 to 32 soft rays**; anal fin with II spines and 7 soft rays, second spine stiff, 30 to 33% of head length; caudal fin rhomboidal; **pectoral fins long, 23 to 27% of standard length**. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout, below eye, and throat, but ctenoid (rough) on other parts of head and body; lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 25 to 28 pairs of branched appendages, **each with a well-developed dorsal and ventral limb, terminal branches of dorsal and ventral limbs point upward to backward, those near tip of ventral limb forward**; no appendages entering head. **Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which slightly curved**. **Colour:** silvery grey above, silvery white below; **membrane of gill cover with a distinct black blotch; mouth lining pale**; pectoral and pelvic fins tinged orange.



sagitta

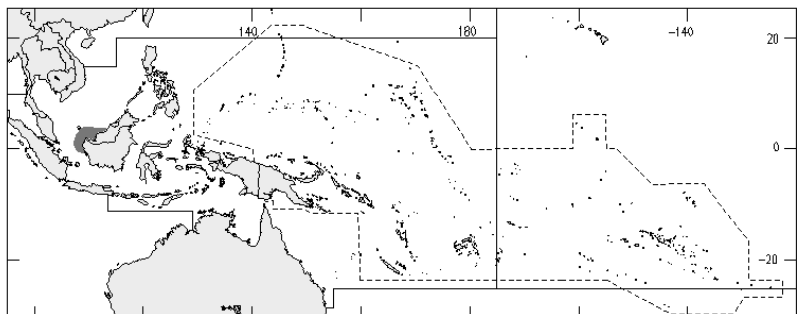


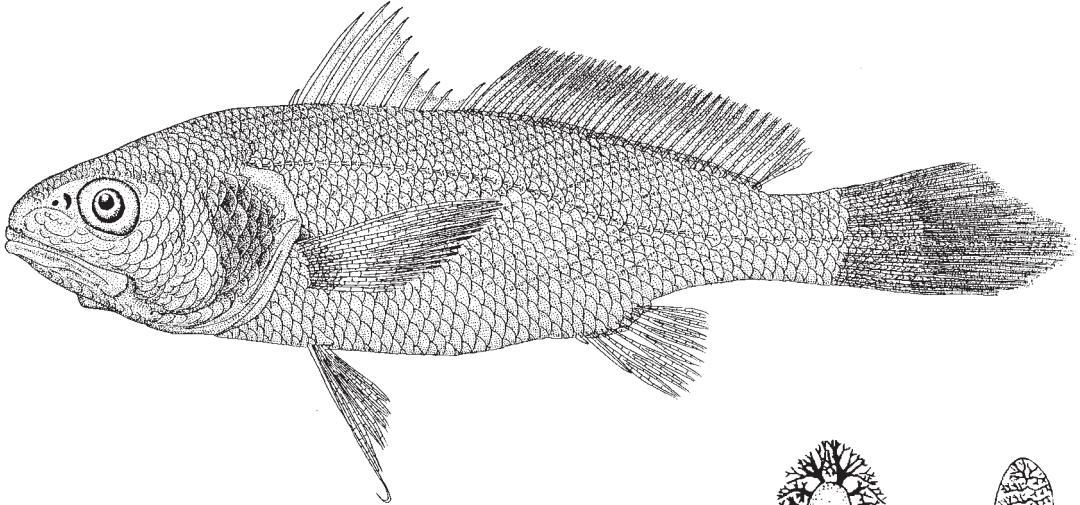
swimbladder appendages

Size: Maximum standard length 25 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits continental shelves down to 100 m.

Distribution: Off Borneo, South China Sea.



Atrobucca nibe* (Jordan and Thompson, 1911)*Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Blackmouth croaker.

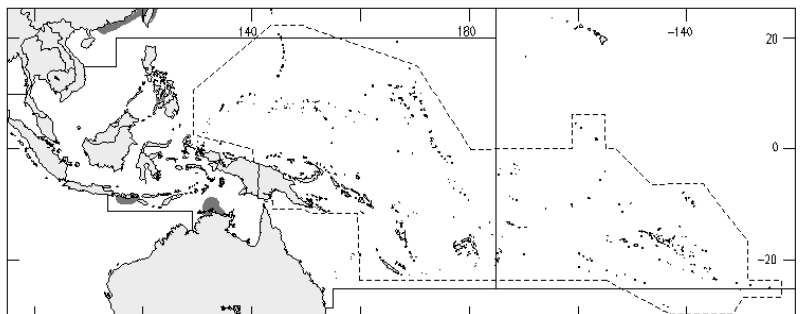
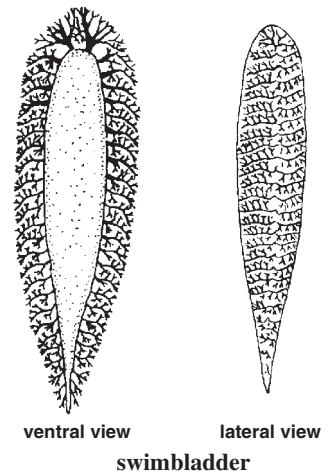
Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized species with a **moderately long caudal peduncle (24 to 27% of standard length)**. Mouth large, oblique; upper jaw extending backward below hind margin of eye; chin angular, without barbel; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; mental pores in 3 pairs, **the first small, at front of chin, separated by symphysis**; teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws, but none canine-like; the large ones forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower jaw. Gill rakers slender, as long as gill filaments at angle of arch, 9 to 12 on lower limb of first gill arch. **Dorsal fin with X spines**, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and **27 to 33 soft rays**; anal fin with II spines and 7 soft rays, second spine short, slender, 26 to 31% of head length; caudal fin rhomboidal; **pectoral fins long, 26 to 31% of standard length**. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout, cheek, gill cover, and throat, but ctenoid (rough) on other parts of head and body; lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin.

Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 24 to 30 pairs of branched appendages, **each with a developed dorsal and ventral limb, regularly arranged so that terminal branches of dorsal limb point backward, those near tip of ventral limb forward**; no appendages entering head. **Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which only slightly curved**. **Colour:** body silvery, whitish below; lining of mouth, gill chamber, and body cavity black.

Size: Maximum standard length 45 cm, commonly to 25 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Usually inhabits continental shelves down to 200 m, but also occurs in deeper water. In the East China Sea, 50% mature at 24 or 25 cm total length (3 years), 100% mature at 28 to 30 cm total length (4 years).

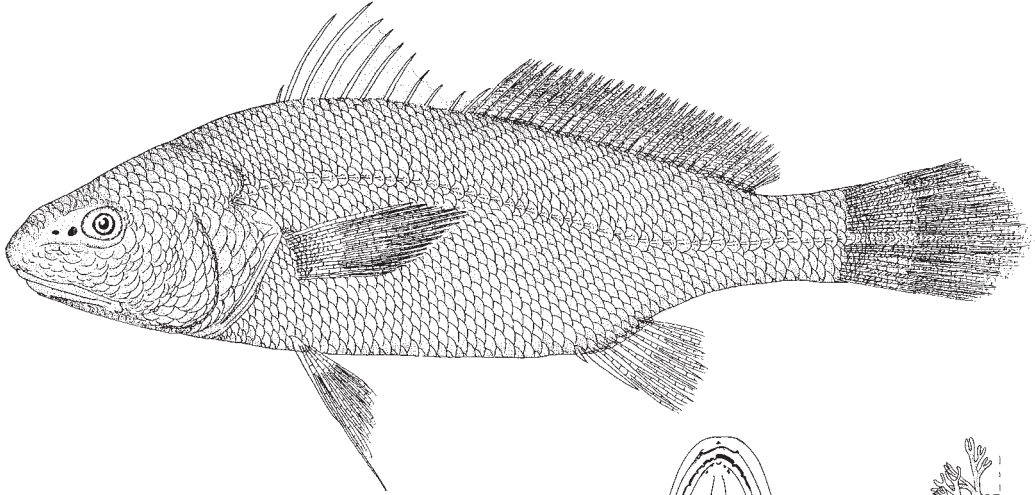
Distribution: Philippines, Indonesia, and off northern Australia; also Chinese and Japanese waters and disjunctively off South Africa. Records from the Bay of Bengal are based on misidentification of *Atrobucca antonbruun* Sasaki, 1995.



Austronibea oedogenys Trewavas, 1977

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

FAO names: En - Yellowtailed croaker.

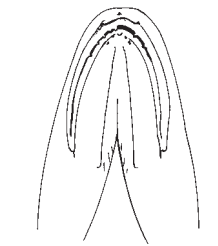


Diagnostic characters: A small species with a slender body. **Snout pointed, swollen, projecting well in front of upper jaw**; mouth inferior; upper jaw extending backward below hind margin of eye, and extending anteriorly beyond lower jaw; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, close together, united by a crescent-shaped groove just behind symphysis**; teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws, but none canine-like; the large ones forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower jaw. Gill rakers stiff, about 2/3 length of gill filaments at angle of arch, 7 to 12 on lower limb of first gill arch. Dorsal fin with IX to X (most frequently X) spines, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and 27 to 30 soft rays; **anal fin with II spines** and 7 soft rays, **second spine short, slender, 23 to 41% of head length**; caudal fin rhomboidal. Scales cycloid (smooth) on head and throat, ctenoid (rough) on other parts of body; small scales present on soft parts of dorsal fin; lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with about 20 pairs of fan-like appendages along its sides, **the first pair entering head, spread beyond transverse septum. Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which sharply curved at about an angle of 90° and ending close to the ventral edge.** **Colour:** body dusky mauve, silvery white below; scales on flanks with orange margins; bluish green blotch on gill cover; caudal fin yellow with fine brown stippling.

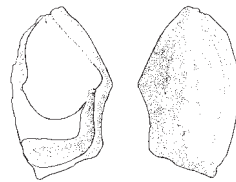
Size: Maximum standard length 20 cm, commonly to 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits shallow coastal waters and estuaries.

Distribution: Northern and northwestern Australia and southern New Guinea.



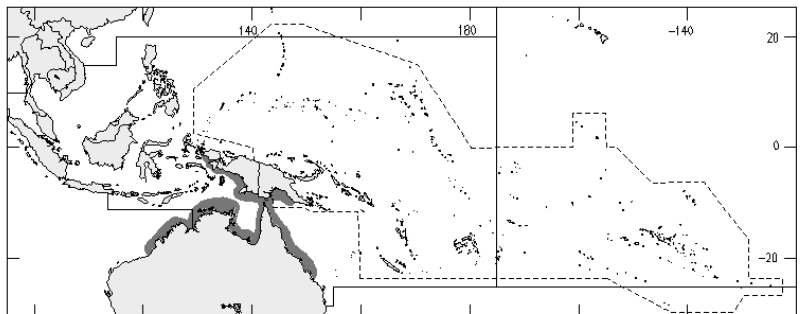
ventral view of head

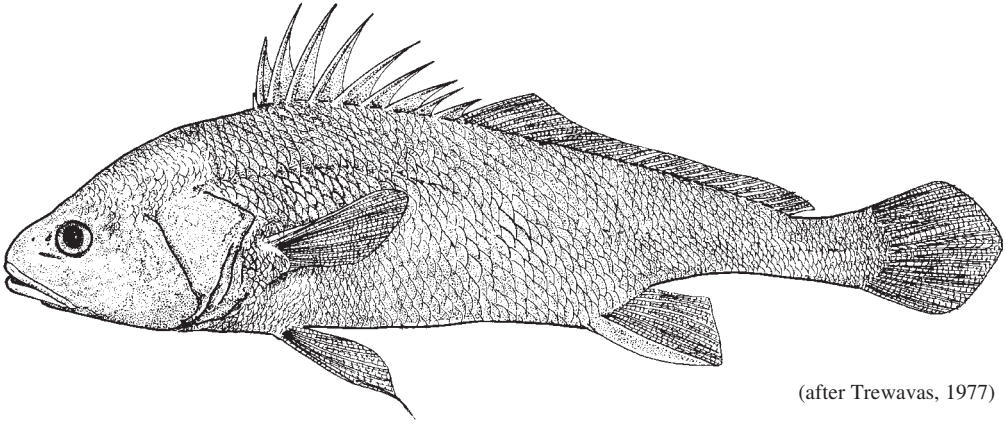


sagitta



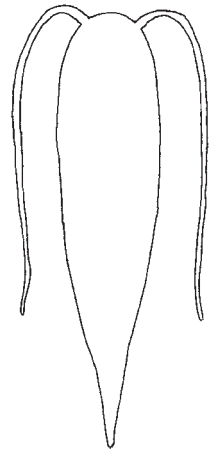
swimbladder (half)



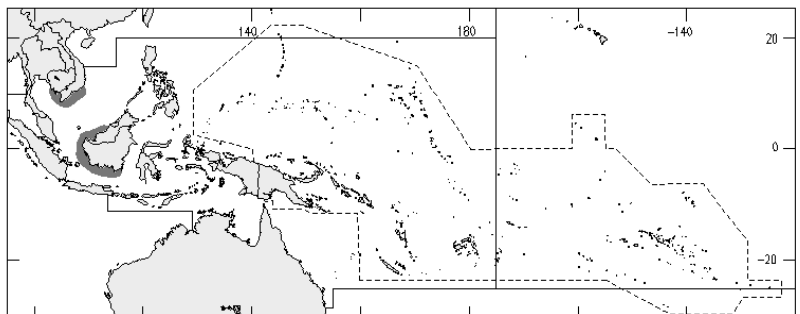
Bahaba polykladiskos* (Bleeker, 1852)*Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Nibea* spp.**FAO names:** En - Spine bahaba.

(after Trewavas, 1977)

Diagnostic characters: A fairly large species with a **slender caudal peduncle (26 to 28% of standard length)**. Mouth large, terminal; upper jaw extending backward below middle to hind margin of eye; lower jaw slightly projecting; upper rostral pores 5, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, at front of chin, separated by symphysis**; teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws, but none canine-like; the large ones forming outer series in upper jaw, inner series in lower jaw. Gill rakers stiff, less than 1/2 length of gill filaments at angle of arch, 7 or 8 on lower limb of first gill arch. Dorsal fin with X spines, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and 27 to 30 soft rays; **anal fin with II spines** and 7 soft rays, **second spine long, massive, 55 to 63% of head length**; caudal fin rhomboidal. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and cheek, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin; **caudal fin thickly covered with small scales**. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, **with only 1 pair of appendages arising at anterior end and extending, embedded in muscle of abdominal wall, to level of pelvic-fin tips**. Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which sharply curved at about an angle of 90°. **Colour:** body brown, paler to whitish below.



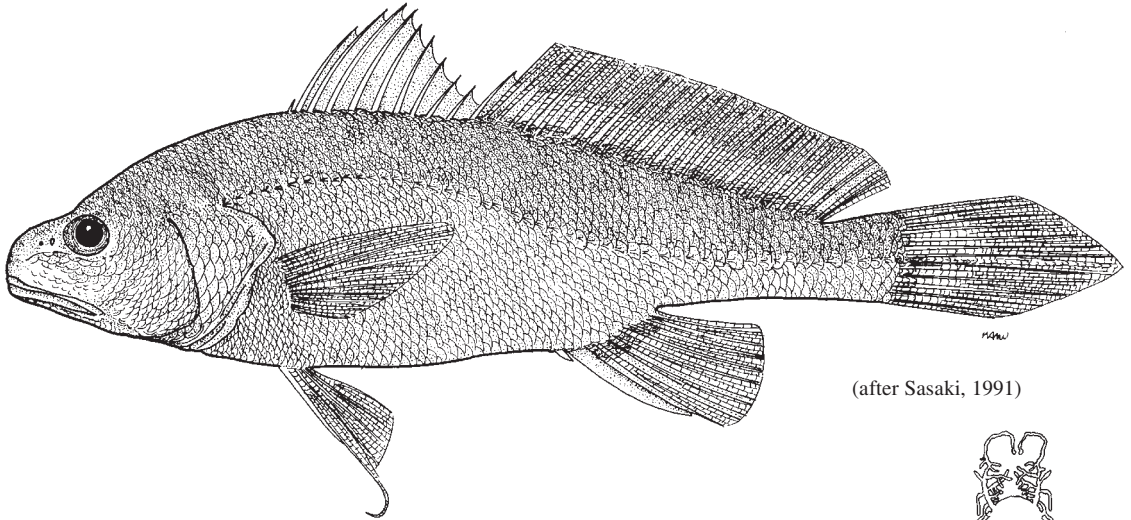
swimbladder

Size: Maximum standard length to 40 cm, commonly to 30 cm.**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits shallow coastal waters and estuaries.**Distribution:** Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Borneo.

***Boesemania microlepis* (Bleeker, 1858)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Nibea soldado* (Lacepède, 1802).

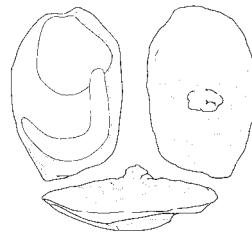
FAO names: En - Boeseman croaker.



(after Sasaki, 1991)

Diagnostic characters: A large species with a slender caudal peduncle (26 to 28% of standard length).

Mouth terminal, slightly oblique; upper jaw extending backward below hind margin of eye; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first small, rounded, at front of chin, separated by symphysis**; teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws, but none canine-like; the large ones in upper jaw forming outer series, inner series in lower jaw. Gill rakers stiff, 2/3 length of gill filaments at angle of arch, 7 to 12 on lower limb of first gill arch. Dorsal fin with IX to X (most frequently X) spines, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and 27 to 34 (27 to 30 in Mekong River Basin, 31 to 34 in Me Nam River Basin) soft rays; **anal fin with II spines** and 7 soft rays, **second spine long, massive, 44 to 53% of head length**; caudal fin pointed. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and cheek, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin; caudal fin thickly covered with small scales. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, **with a pair of forward-directed appendages and 5 or 6 pairs of backward-directed appendages, both tube-like and arising at anterior portion of bladder; former entering head beyond transverse septum, and latter extending 3/5 length of bladder.** **Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which sharply curved at about an angle of 90°.** **Colour:** greyish brown dorsally, paler below; faint dark oblique lines on back; fins yellow, dorsal and caudal fin lightly mottled dusky.



sagitta

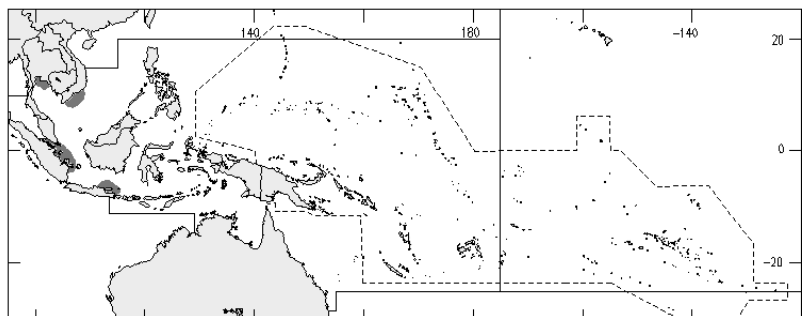


swimbladder

Size: Maximum standard length about 100 cm, commonly to 50 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Known only from rivers and estuaries.

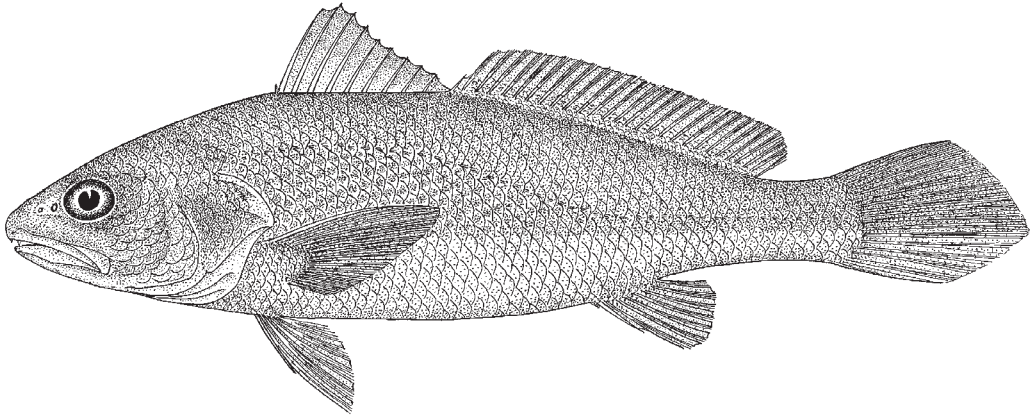
Distribution: Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Sumatra.



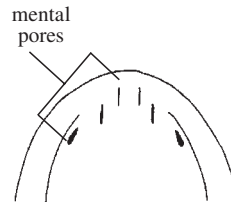
Chrysochir aureus (Richardson, 1846)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Nibea acuta* (Tang, 1937) / None.

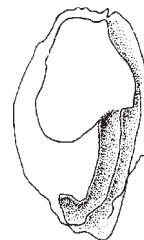
FAO names: **En** - Reeve's croaker; **Fr** - Courbine dorée; **Sp** - Corvina dorado.



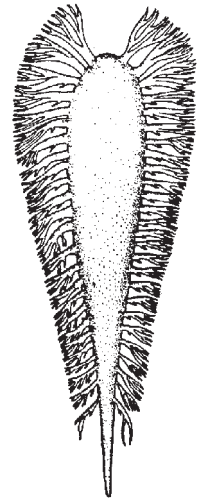
Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized species with a slender body. **Snout acutely pointed, projecting in front of upper jaw**; mouth large, nearly horizontal; upper jaw extending backward below hind margin of eye, and extending anteriorly beyond lower jaw; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; **mental pores in 3 pairs, the first slit-like on either side of symphysis**; teeth differentiated into large and small in both jaws; large teeth forming outer series in upper jaw, and including **1 or 2 pairs of canines** more than twice as long as the other enlarged teeth at tip of jaw; large teeth in lower jaw forming inner series, but not including any canines. Gill rakers short, slender, about 1/2 length of gill filaments at angle of gill arch, 8 or 9 on lower limb of first gill arch. Dorsal fin with X spines, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and 25 to 28 soft rays; **anal fin with II spines** and 6 or 7 (most frequently 7) soft rays, **second spine short, slender, 17 to 31% of head length**; caudal fin rhomboidal. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and below eye, elsewhere finely ctenoid (slightly rough to touch); lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin. Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with 27 to 30 pairs of fan-like appendages along its sides, none entering head.



ventral view
of head



sagitta



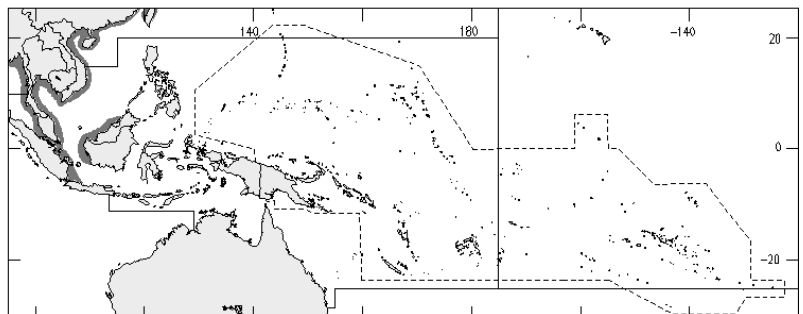
swimbladder

Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impression, the tail of which only slightly curved, ending in a disc at the posterior end of sagitta. **Colour:** metallic blue above, shading to silvery below; oblique streaks along scale rows on back; pectoral fins yellow, other fins grey suffused with orange.

Size: Maximum standard length about 30 cm, commonly to 25 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits shallow coastal waters.

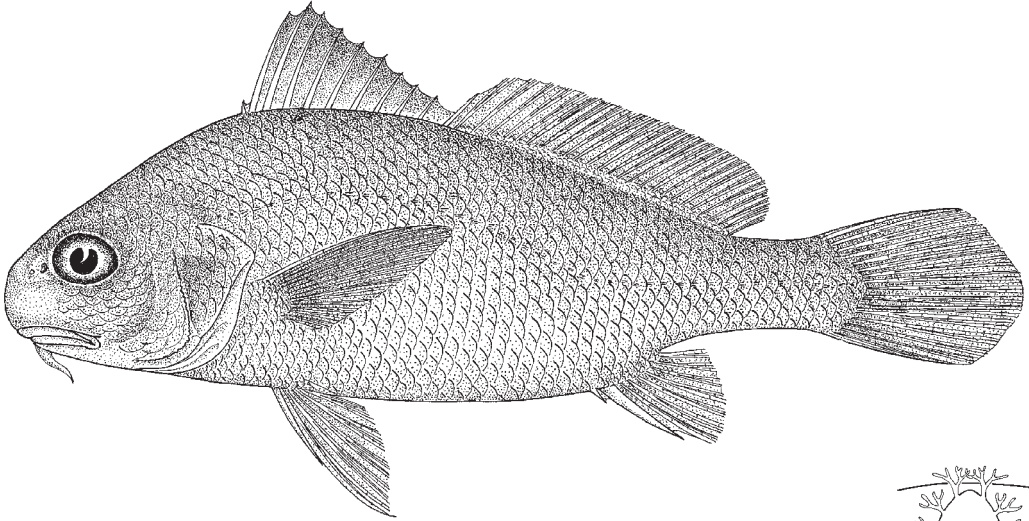
Distribution: Indo-West Pacific, west to the Bay of Bengal, east to southern China and Indonesia.



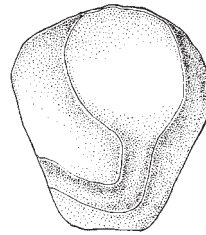
***Dendrophysa russelli* (Cuvier, 1830)**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Sciaena russelli* (Cuvier, 1829) / *Johnius amblycephalus* (Bleeker, 1855).

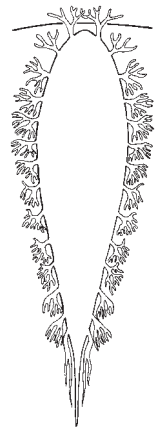
FAO names: **En** - Goatee croaker; **Fr** - Bourrugue chèvre; **Sp** - Lambe chivato.



Diagnostic characters: A fairly small species with an oblong body. Snout steeply rounded, projecting slightly in front of upper jaw; mouth inferior, upper jaw extending backward below posterior half of eye; **a single, pointed barbel on chin**; upper rostral pores 3, marginal rostral pores 5; mental pores in 3 pairs, the first close together, opening in a common pit at base of barbel; teeth weakly differentiated into large and small in upper jaw, large ones not widely spaced, forming outer series; lower jaw teeth uniformly small. Gill rakers stiff, less than 1/2 length of gill filaments at angle of arch, 8 to 10 on lower limb of first gill arch. Dorsal fin with X spines, followed by a notch, second part of fin with I spine and 25 to 28 soft rays; **anal fin with II spines and 7 soft rays, second spine long, stiff, its length 38 to 47% of head length**; caudal fin rhomboidal. Scales cycloid (smooth) on snout and below eye, elsewhere ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral-line scales reaching to tip of caudal fin. **Swimbladder carrot-shaped, with about 14 to 17 pairs of fan-like appendages along its sides, the first pair entering head beyond transverse septum.** Sagitta (large earstone) with a tadpole-shaped impressions, the tail of which bent at a sharp angle and terminally cutting into the ventral edge. **Colour:** back grey, shading to white on belly; **a dark brown broad band on nape**; opercle with a deep blue blotch; upper edge of spiny part of dorsal fin dark.



sagitta



swimbladder

Size: Maximum standard length 25 cm, commonly to 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal waters and estuaries.

Distribution: Bay of Bengal to southern China, Philippines, and Indonesia.

