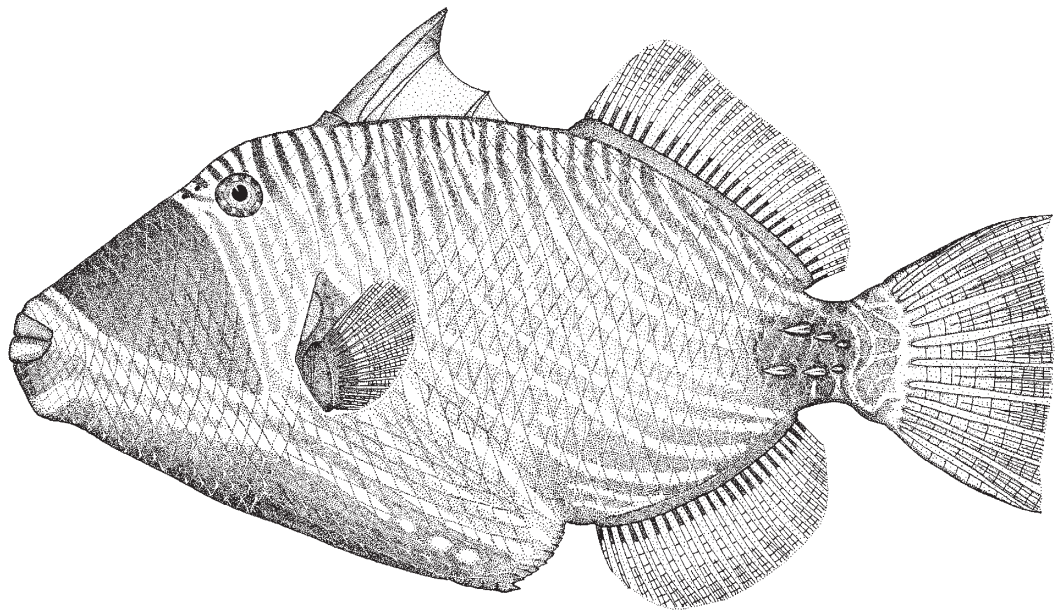


Balistapus undulatus (Park, 1797)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Orangestriped triggerfish.

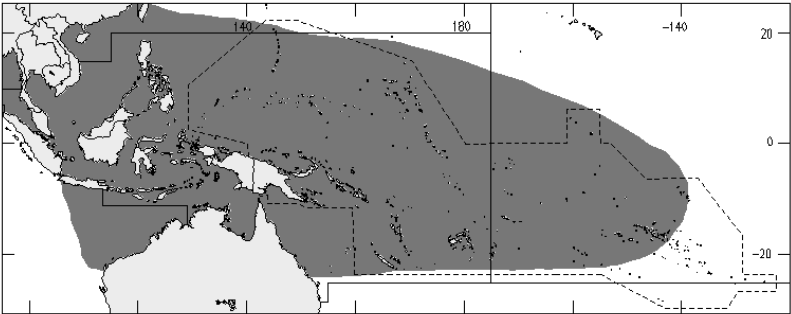


Diagnostic characters: Body deep, compressed. Large scale plates forming regular rows; and scales of cheek in an even, relatively complete covering. **Scales enlarged above pectoral-fin base and just behind gill opening to form a flexible tympanum; scales of caudal peduncle with 2 longitudinal rows of large anteriorly projecting spines. No groove in front of eye. Mouth terminal; teeth pointed, the central pair in each jaw largest.** First dorsal fin with III prominent spines, the first capable of being locked in an erected position by the second, the third short but distinct; dorsal-fin rays 24 to 27 (usually 25 or 26); anal-fin rays 20 to 24; caudal fin slightly rounded; pectoral-fin rays 13 to 15 (usually 14). **Caudal peduncle compressed.** **Colour:** dark green to dark brown with **oblique curved orange lines on posterior head and body;** an oblique band of narrow blue and orange stripes from around mouth to below pectoral fins; a **large round black blotch around peduncular spines;** rays of soft dorsal, anal, and pectoral fins orange; caudal fin orange.

Size: Maximum total length 30 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs in coral reefs at depths to 30 m. Feeds on various organisms, including live coral, algae, sea urchins, crabs and other crustaceans, molluscs, tunicates, and fishes. Marketed fresh and dried-salted.

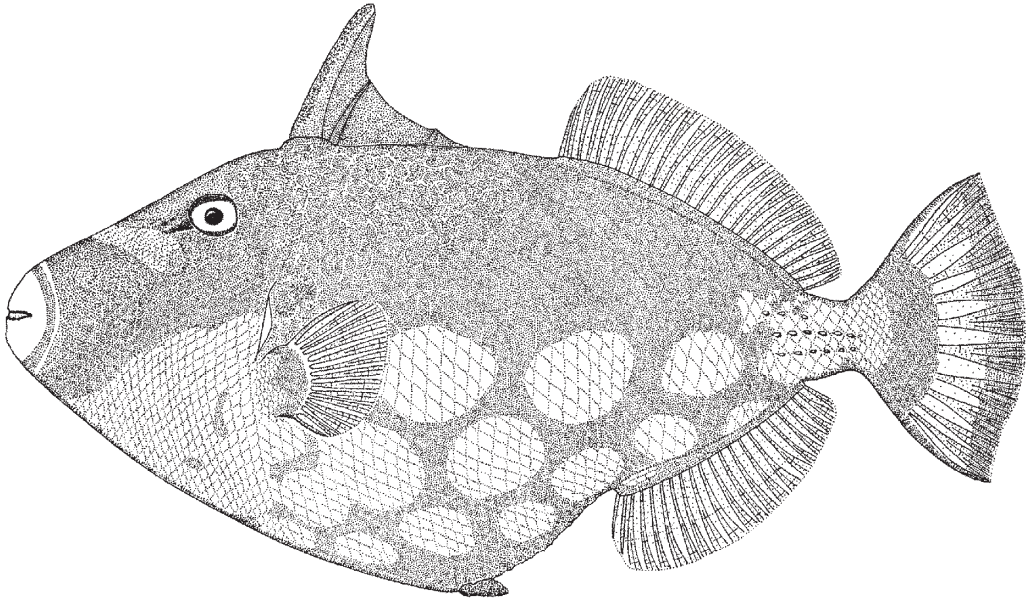
Distribution: Widespread in the tropical Indo-West Pacific, from East Africa, including the Red Sea, through Indonesia to the Tuamotu Islands; north to southern Japan, south to New Caledonia.



Balistoides conspicillum (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Clown triggerfish.

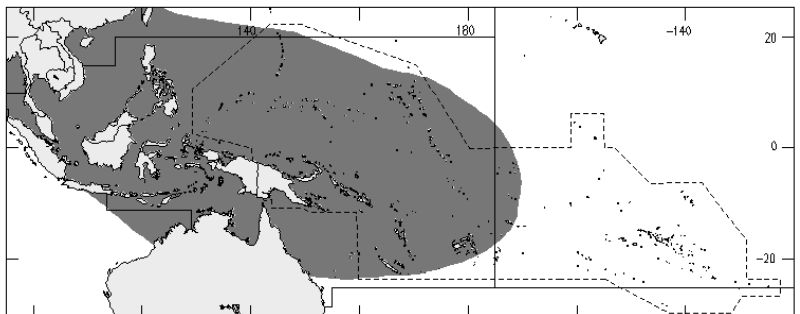


Diagnostic characters: Body deep, compressed. Large scale plates forming regular rows; and scales of cheek in an even, relatively complete covering. **Scales enlarged above pectoral-fin base and just behind gill opening to form a flexible tympanum; 3 or 4 rows of small anteriorly projecting spines on caudal peduncle. A prominent groove extending anteriorly from front of eye for a distance of about 1 eye diameter. Mouth terminal;** teeth pointed, the central pair in each jaw largest. First dorsal fin with III prominent spines, the first capable of being locked in an erected position by the second, the third short but distinct; dorsal-fin rays 25 to 27; anal-fin rays 21 to 23; caudal fin slightly rounded; pectoral-fin rays 14 or 15. **Caudal peduncle compressed. Colour: black with large round white blotches on ventral half of body, a yellow network on back;** a white or yellowish band across snout in front of eye; lips and the area around mouth orange-yellow; a broad vertical white, slightly yellowish band on caudal fin.

Size: Maximum total length 30 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs usually in outer reef areas adjacent to steep drop-offs at depths to 75 m. Feeds on sea urchins, crabs and other crustaceans, molluscs, and tunicates. Caught by traps, gill nets, and drive-in nets. Marketed fresh, but of minor importance to fisheries. Popular aquarium fish.

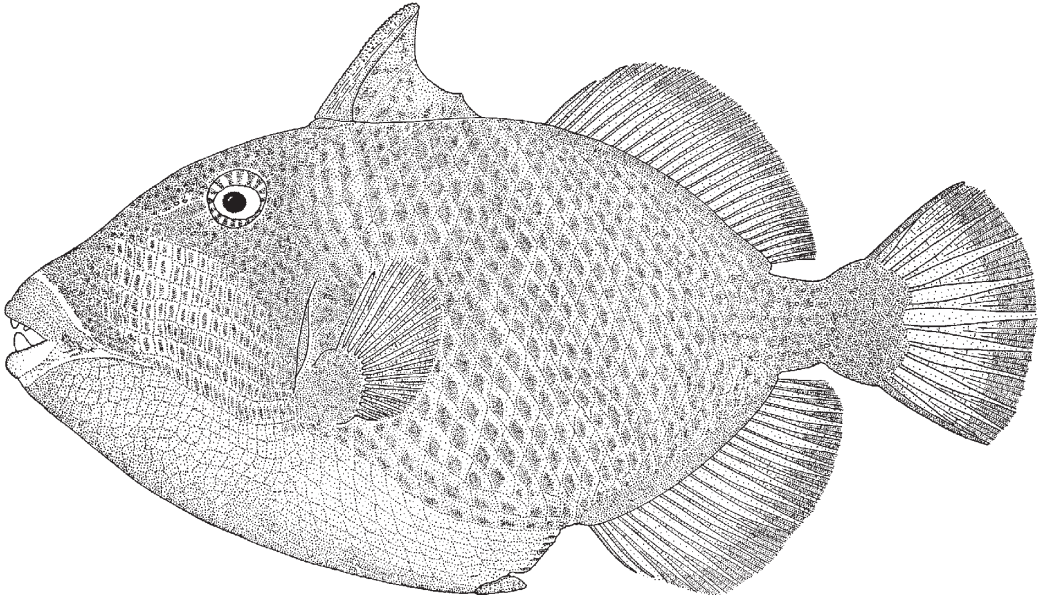
Distribution: Widespread in the tropical Indo-West Pacific, from East Africa through Indonesia to Samoa; north to southern Japan, south to New Caledonia.



Balistoides viridescens (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Dotty triggerfish.

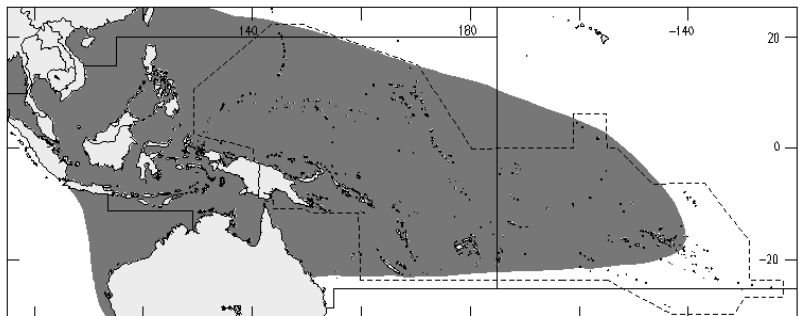


Diagnostic characters: Body deep, compressed. Large scale plates forming regular rows; cheek covered with scales but scaleless area around lips, continuing and narrowing posterior to corner of mouth. **Scales enlarged above pectoral-fin base and just behind gill opening to form a flexible tympanum; small anteriorly projecting spines in 5 or 6 rows on side of, and a short distance anterior to, caudal peduncle. A prominent groove extending anteriorly from front of eye for a distance of about 1 eye diameter. Mouth terminal; teeth pointed, the central pair in each jaw largest. First dorsal fin with III prominent spines, the first capable of being locked in an erected position by the second, the third short but distinct; dorsal-fin rays 25 or 26; anal-fin rays 22 to 24; caudal fin slightly rounded; pectoral-fin rays 14 or 15. Caudal peduncle compressed. Colour:** yellowish grey to brown, the **centres of scales broadly dark brown or greenish**; the area around anteriorly projecting spines pale; a broad blackish zone containing yellow spots extending from dorsal part of head to pectoral-fin base (enclosing eye); a broad blackish band containing a pale line from above mouth to half-way across cheek; **soft dorsal, anal, and caudal fins with broad blackish borders.**

Size: Maximum total length 80 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs in coral reefs at depths to 50 m. Feeds on sea urchins, crabs and other crustaceans, molluscs, and tube worms. Nest-guarding females very aggressive. Caught by drive-in nets, gill nets, traps, and handlines. Marketed fresh and dried-salted.

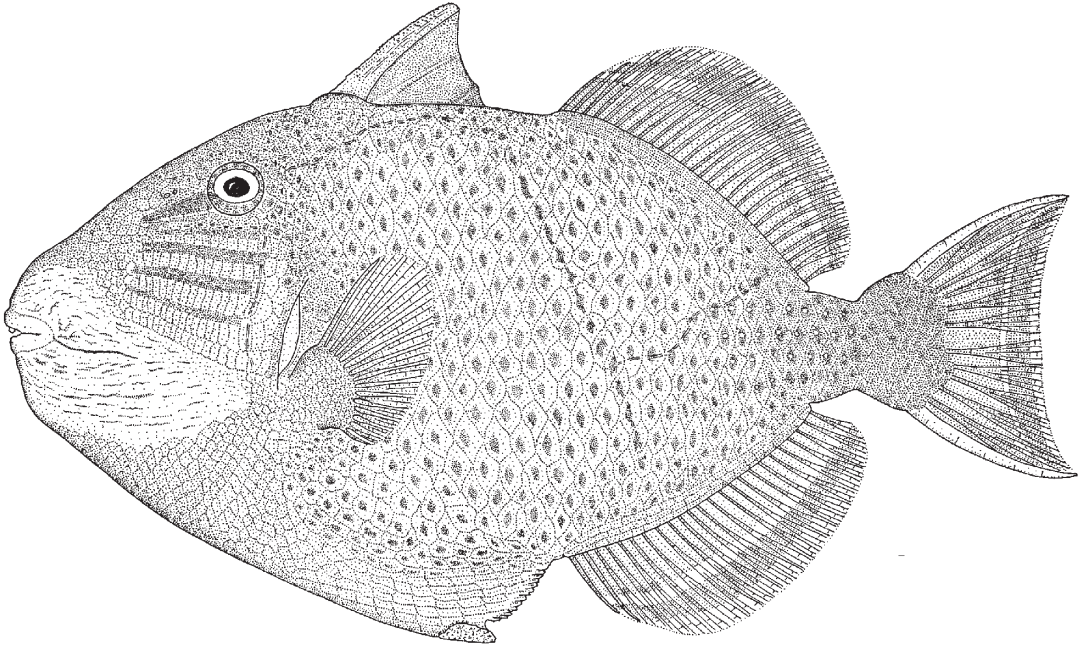
Distribution: Widespread in the tropical Indo-West Pacific, from the Red Sea through Indonesia to the Tuamotu Islands; north to southern Japan, south to New Caledonia.



Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus (Rüppell, 1828)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Yellowface triggerfish.

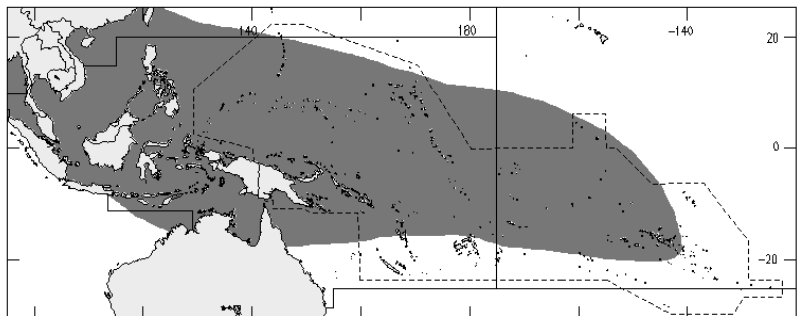


Diagnostic characters: Body deep, ovoid, compressed. Large scale plates forming regular rows; anterior part of cheek largely naked. **Scales enlarged above pectoral-fin base and just behind gill opening to form a flexible tympanum; small spines in 5 or 6 rows on side of, and a short distance anterior to, caudal peduncle. A prominent groove extending anteriorly from front of eye for a distance of about 1 eye diameter. Mouth terminal;** teeth pointed, the central pair in each jaw largest. First dorsal fin with III prominent spines, the first capable of being locked in an erected position by the second, the third short but distinct; dorsal-fin rays 24 to 27; anal-fin rays 23 to 25; caudal fin emarginate; pectoral-fin rays 15 or 16. Caudal peduncle compressed. **Colour:** light greyish yellow, the scale centres darker yellowish grey; anterior and ventral part of head orange-yellow; **margins of soft dorsal, anal, and caudal fins orange-yellow.**

Size: Maximum total length 60 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs solitary in coral reefs at depths to 50 m. Feeds on sea urchins, crabs and other crustaceans, molluscs, and tunicates. Nest-guarding females aggressive. Marketed fresh and dried-salted. Caught by drive-in nets, gill nets, traps, and handlines.

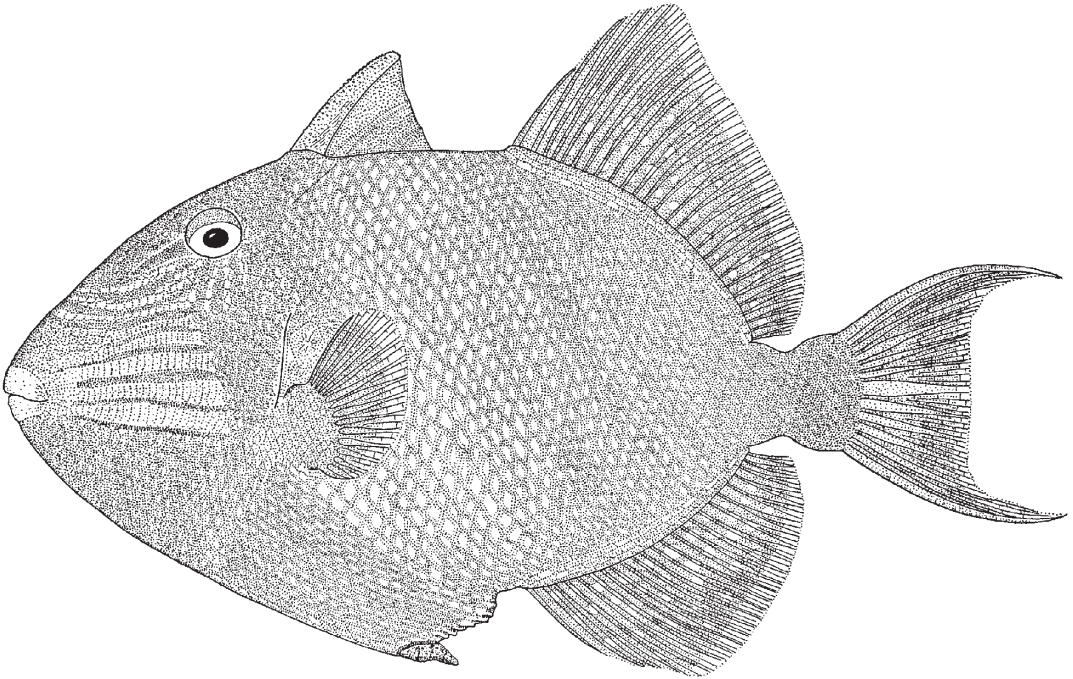
Distribution: Widespread in the tropical Indo-West Pacific, from the Red Sea, through Indonesia to the Tuamotu Islands, north to southern Japan, south to Samoa.



Pseudobalistes fuscus (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Rippled triggerfish.

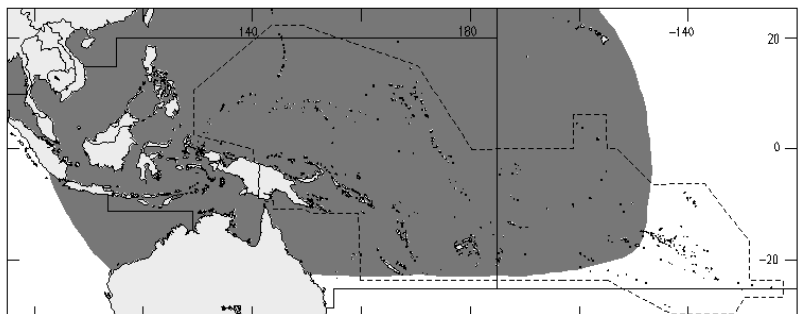


Diagnostic characters: Body deep, ovoid, compressed. Large scale plates forming regular rows; lower cheek with shallow horizontal grooves, broad region around mouth without scales. **Scales enlarged above pectoral-fin base and just behind the gill opening to form a flexible tympanum; no spines on caudal peduncle. A prominent groove extending anteriorly from front of eye for a distance of about 1 eye diameter. Mouth terminal;** teeth pointed, the central pair in each jaw largest. Second dorsal fin with III prominent spines, the first capable of being locked in an erected position by the second, the third short but distinct; dorsal-fin rays 25 to 27; anal-fin rays 19 to 24; soft dorsal and anal fins elevated anteriorly; caudal fin emarginate, the upper and lower rays produced in large adults; pectoral-fin rays 14 to 16. **Caudal peduncle compressed. Colour: deep blue to greyish blue with small yellow spots, these often forming irregular network;** margins of soft dorsal, anal, and caudal fins light blue.

Size: Maximum total length 55 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs solitary in coral reefs at depths to 50 m. Feeds on sea urchins, crabs and other crustaceans, molluscs, and tunicates. Nest-guarding females aggressive. Marketed fresh and dried-salted. Caught by drive-in nets, gill nets, traps, and handlines.

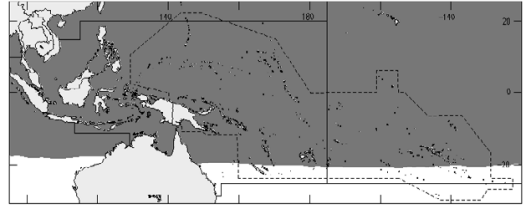
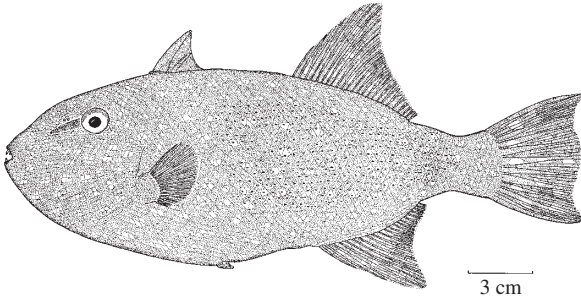
Distribution: Widespread in the tropical Indo-West Pacific, from the Red Sea, through Indonesia to the Society Islands, north to southern Japan, south to New Caledonia.



Canthidermis maculatus (Bloch, 1786)

En - Rough triggerfish; **Fr** - Baliste rude; **Sp** - Calafate áspero.

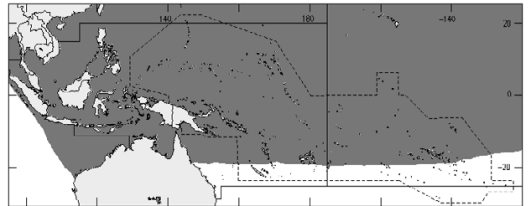
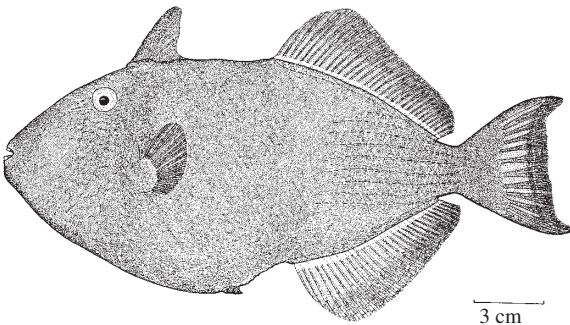
Maximum total length 50 cm. Epipelagic, often associated with drifting objects. Taken by longlines; marketed fresh. Circumglobal, temperate and tropical seas north to Hokkaido in Japan, southward to French Polynesia.



Melichthys niger (Bloch, 1786)

En - Black triggerfish; **Fr** - Baliste noir; **Sp** - Calafete negro.

Maximum total length 35 cm. Occurs in coral reefs to depths of 75 m. Taken by drive-in nets, gill nets, and handlines. Marketed fresh, but of minor importance to fisheries. Circumtropical, north to the Ryukyus in Japan, south to the Tuamotus.



Melichthys vidua (Solander, 1844)

En - Pinktail triggerfish.

Maximum total length 35 cm. Occurs in coral reefs to depths of 60 m. Taken by drive-in nets, gill nets, and handlines. Marketed fresh, but of minor importance to fisheries. Tropical Indo-West Pacific, from East Africa through Indonesia to the Tuamotu Islands, north to southern Japan, south to the southern Great Barrier Reef.

