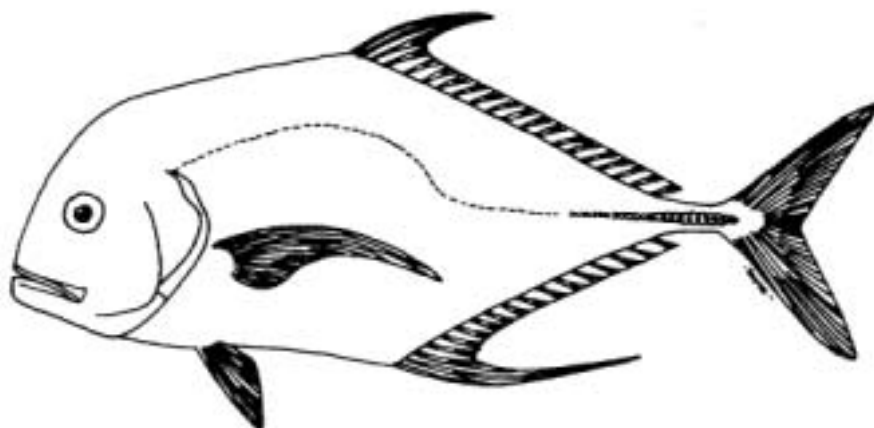


Alectis ciliaris (Bloch, 1787)



English Name: African pompano

Local Name: Naruvaa handhi

Size: Max. 1.3 m

Family: CARANGIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0501/97

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 7 short spines (invisible in larger ones) followed by 1 spine and 18-22 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines (embedded in larger ones) followed by 1 spine and 18-20 rays. Gill rakers lower limb first gill arch 12-17, excluding rudiments. Anterior rays long and filamentous in juveniles. Body deep and compressed. Forehead rounded.

Colour: Silvery, with touch of metallic blue dorsally. Juveniles with 5 dark bars on body.

Habitat and Biology: Adults solitary in coastal waters to depths of 100 m. Young usually pelagic and drifting. Feeds mainly on sedentary crustaceans.

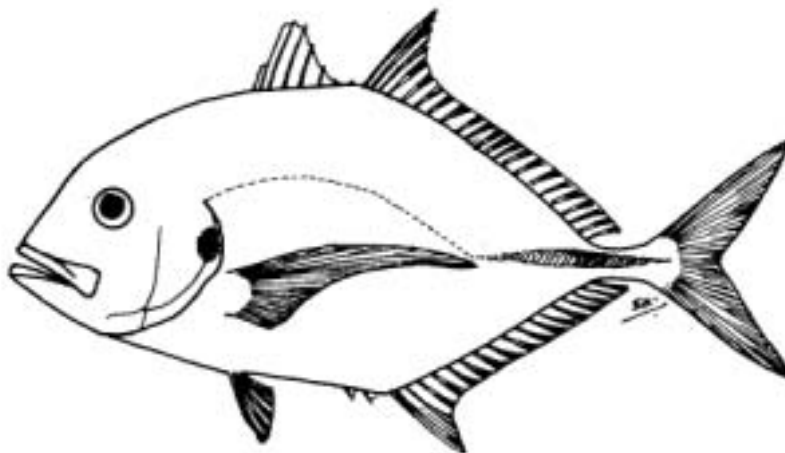
Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: The similar *A. indicus* also occurs in the Indian Ocean. Unlike *Alectis ciliaris*, *A. indicus* has an angular forehead, more gill rakers on lower limb of first gill arch (21-26 excluding rudiment), and is coloured silver with a green tinge dorsally.

سُرْمُوْرَسَرِی

[illegible][illegible]

Carangoides caeruleopinnatus (Ruppell, 1830)



English Name: Coastal trevally
Local Name: Vabboa handhi
Size: Max. 40 cm

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P0146/87

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 20-23 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines followed by 1 spine and 16-20 rays. Gill rakers on first gill arch including the rudiments, 2 1-25. Naked area of breast extends well beyond pelvic fins. Soft dorsal lobe filamentous in young, but shorter than the head length in adults.

Colour: Silvery, somewhat darker above than below. Many small yellow spots on sides. Small black blotch on opercular margin. Edges of second dorsal and anal fin dusky.

Habitat and Biology: Commonly found over deeper coastal reefs, but rarely close to shore.

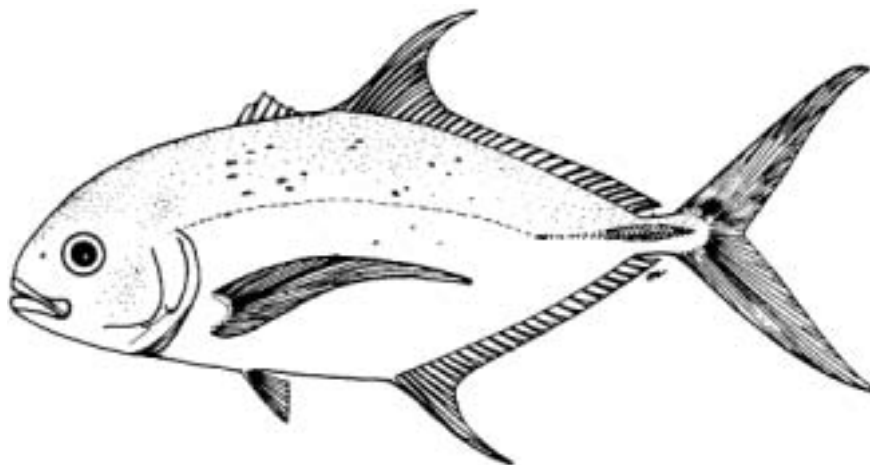
Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: While by no means common, *Carangoides caeruleopinnatus* appears to be the commonest of the noticeably deep-bodied *Carangoides* landed at Male fish market.

قَوْلُهُ رَسْمٌ

[illegible][illegible]

Carangoides ferdau (Forsskal, 1775)



English Name: Blue trevally
Local Name: Dhabaru handhi
Size: Max. 70 cm

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P0140/87

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 26-34 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines, followed by 1 spine and 21-26 rays. Gill rakers on first gill arch including the rudiments, 24-29. Snout bluntly rounded. Breast naked ventrally to origin of pelvic fins. Naked patch at the base of pectoral fin.

Colour: Silvery. Numerous inconspicuous golden spots present on sides mainly above level of pectoral fins. Adults often with 5-6 dusky bands on sides.

Habitat and Biology: Coastal waters; semi-deniersal, found at depths from 5 to 60 m. Occurs singly or in small aggregations. Feeds on crustaceans or small fish.

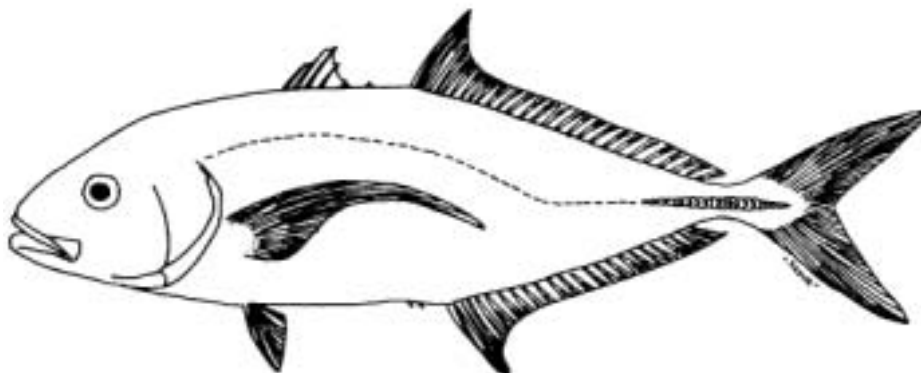
Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: The many golden spots on the sides of *Carangoides ferdau* give it its Dhivehi name 'Dhabaru handhi' (rusty trevally), even though there are a number of other species with more conspicuous orange markings.

قرآن مجید

[illegible]

Carangoides fulvoguttatus (Forsskal, 1775)



English Name: Yellow-spotted trevally
Local Name: Dhon thiki handhi
Size: Max. 1 m

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0502/97

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 25-30 rays.. Anal fin with 2 detached spines, followed by 1 spine and 21-26 rays. Total gill rakers (including rudiments) on first gill arch 22-27. Profile of head and nape slightly angular becoming more steep with age. Adults' mouth cleft distinctly below eye level.

Colour: Blue green above, silvery white below, usually with many small yellow spots on sides. Large adults with 3 black blotches in a mid-lateral row on flanks.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in schools on rocky and coral reefs, but is occasionally found over offshore banks to depth of 100 m. Feeds mainly on invertebrates and fish.

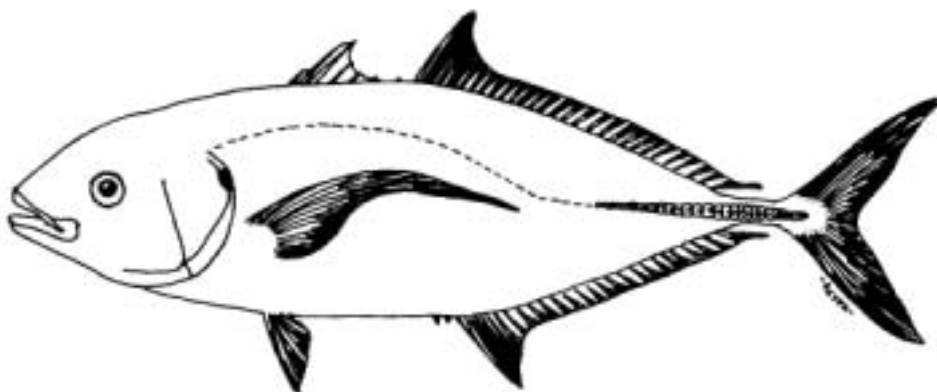
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Carangoidesfulvoguttatus* is often observed patrolling the edge of reefs in its continuous search for food. This species appears not so abundant in the Maldives. However, individuals do occasionally appear in Male fish market.

قرن سیم و شصت و شش

[illegible]

Carangoides gymnostethus (Cuvier, 1833)



English Name: Bludger trevally
Local Name: Mushimas handhi
Size: Max. 90 cm

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRSIPO468/97

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 28-32 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines, followed by 1 spine and 24-26 rays. Breast naked to behind pelvic origin and laterally to pectoral origin. Adults with mouth cleft at level of lower margin of eye.

Colour: Olive green above, silvery white below; a few brown or golden spots sometimes present midlaterally; opercular spot dusky and usually inconspicuous.

Habitat and Biology: Semi-demersal, generally at depths over 20 m. Large individuals usually solitary, juveniles form small schools. Feeds on crustaceans, cephalopods and fish.

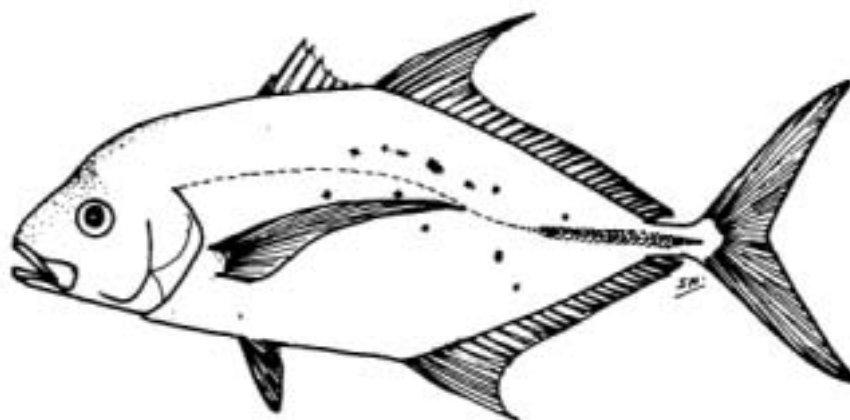
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Carangoides gymnostethus* is not a common species in the Maldives. This report constitutes the first published record of its occurrence in the Maldives. It is occasionally caught by deep hand-line and bottom long lines. This species was previously known as *C. gymnostethoides*.

خبر و شور و سرور

[illegible]

PLATE 4c

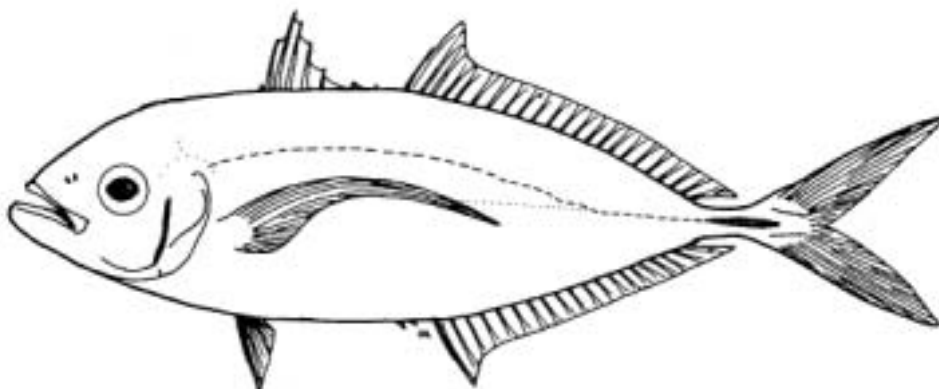


Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P0157/87

Remarks: *Carangoides orthogrammus* has a nearly ubiquitous occurrence at oceanic islands and is virtually absent from inshore, neritic areas.

[illegible]

Carangoides plagiotaenia (Bleeker, 1851)



English Name: Barcheek trevally
Local Name: Thimara handhi
Size: Max. 42cm

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/PU 130/87

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 22-24 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines, followed by 1 spine and 18-20 rays. Gill rakers on first gill arch including the rudiments, 27-40. Breast completely scaled. Adults with lower jaw somewhat enlarged and projecting beyond upper jaw. Posterior part of lateral line with 11-18 relatively small scutes.

Colour: Silvery; greyish above, paler below. Posterior margin of preopercle black in adults. Leading edge of pelvic fin and distal margin of anal fin with a narrow white border.

Habitat and Biology: Prefers outer reef areas.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

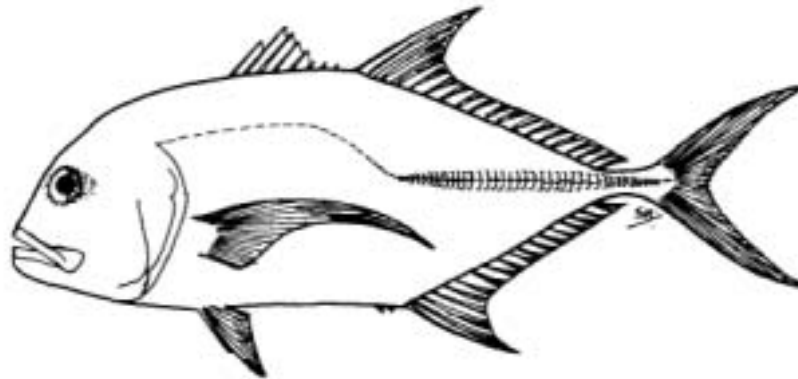
Remarks: Many of the trevallies or jacks are rather difficult to tell apart, but *Carangoides plagioraenia* is quite distinctive with its rather elongate shape and the black cheek bar.

می و بحر بحر

[illegible]

Caranx ignobilis (Forsskal, 1775)

PLATE 4d



English Name: Giant trevally

Family: CARANGIDAE

Local Name: Muda handhi

Order: Perciformes

Size: Common to 80cm; max. 1.7 m

Specimen: MRS/P0149/87

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 18-21 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines, followed by 1 spine and 15-17 rays. Gill rakers on first gill arch including the rudiments, 20-24. Body depth 2.7-3.8 in fork length. Strong scutes, breast naked ventrally, typically with a small patch of pelvic scales.

Colour: Adults mainly silvery grey to black above, usually paler below. No dark spot at upper end of opercle. Fins usually uniformly pigmented grey to black.

Habitat and Biology: Abundant in all marine habitats to a depth of 80 m. Ubiquitous, but prefers hard bottoms. Forms loose schools. Feeds mainly on fish, but also on cuttle fish, squids and crustaceans.

Distribution: Widespread in Indo-West Pacific.

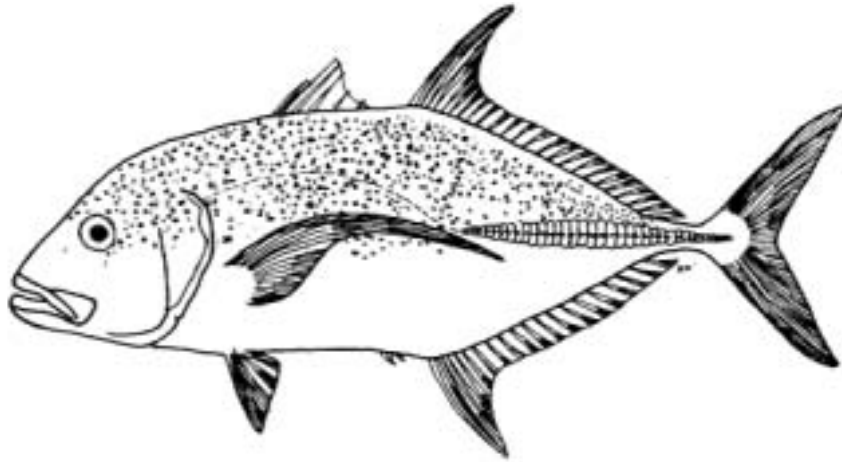
Remarks: *Caranx ignobilis* is the largest of the trevallies or jacks and although small specimens may be confused with other species (e.g. *C. lugubris*), large specimens are unmistakable.

جیگنٹ ٹریوالی

جیگنٹ ٹریوالی (Caranx ignobilis) ایک بڑا مچھلی ہے جو بحر الکاہل میں پائی جاتی ہے۔ اس کی لمبائی 80 سینٹی میٹر تک ہوتی ہے۔ اس کی جسم کی گہرائی 2.7 تا 3.8 فک لمبائی کے برابر ہوتی ہے۔ اس کی پہلی دھڑلی پٹری 8 کھوپڑیاں رکھتی ہے، دوسری دھڑلی پٹری 1 کھوپڑی اور 18 تا 21 رے رکھتی ہے۔ اناں پٹری 2 الگ کھوپڑیاں، پھر 1 کھوپڑی اور 15 تا 17 رے رکھتی ہے۔ اس کی گیل راکرز پہلی گیل آرک پر شامل ہیں، 20 تا 24۔ جسم کی گہرائی 2.7 تا 3.8 فک لمبائی کے برابر ہوتی ہے۔ مضبوط کھوپڑیاں، پیٹھ کے ذریعے بالکل ننگی، عموماً پیٹھ کے ذریعے ایک چھوٹا سا کھوپڑیوں کا پتہ ہوتا ہے۔

جیگنٹ ٹریوالی (Caranx ignobilis) ایک بڑا مچھلی ہے جو بحر الکاہل میں پائی جاتی ہے۔ اس کی لمبائی 80 سینٹی میٹر تک ہوتی ہے۔ اس کی جسم کی گہرائی 2.7 تا 3.8 فک لمبائی کے برابر ہوتی ہے۔ اس کی پہلی دھڑلی پٹری 8 کھوپڑیاں رکھتی ہے، دوسری دھڑلی پٹری 1 کھوپڑی اور 18 تا 21 رے رکھتی ہے۔ اناں پٹری 2 الگ کھوپڑیاں، پھر 1 کھوپڑی اور 15 تا 17 رے رکھتی ہے۔ اس کی گیل راکرز پہلی گیل آرک پر شامل ہیں، 20 تا 24۔ جسم کی گہرائی 2.7 تا 3.8 فک لمبائی کے برابر ہوتی ہے۔ مضبوط کھوپڑیاں، پیٹھ کے ذریعے بالکل ننگی، عموماً پیٹھ کے ذریعے ایک چھوٹا سا کھوپڑیوں کا پتہ ہوتا ہے۔

Caranx melampygus Cuvier, 1833



English Name: Bluefin trevally
Local Name: Fani handhi
Size: Max. 1 m

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0049/86

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 21-24 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines, followed by 1 spine and 17-20 rays. Total gill rakers (including rudiments on first arch) 25-29. Dorsal profile of head and ventral profile nearly straight. Anterior rays of dorsal, pectoral and anal fin falcate. Breast fully scaled. Entire straight part of the lateral line with scutes.

Colour: Body greenish blue above, silvery below. Irregularly scattered black spots on head and body. Fins blue. Fins of juveniles and young adults pale to dusky, except pectorals yellow.

Habitat and Biology: A reef-associated species most common in offshore areas in depths from 3-40 m. Solitary or forms small schools around coral reefs. Feeds mainly on fish and crustaceans.

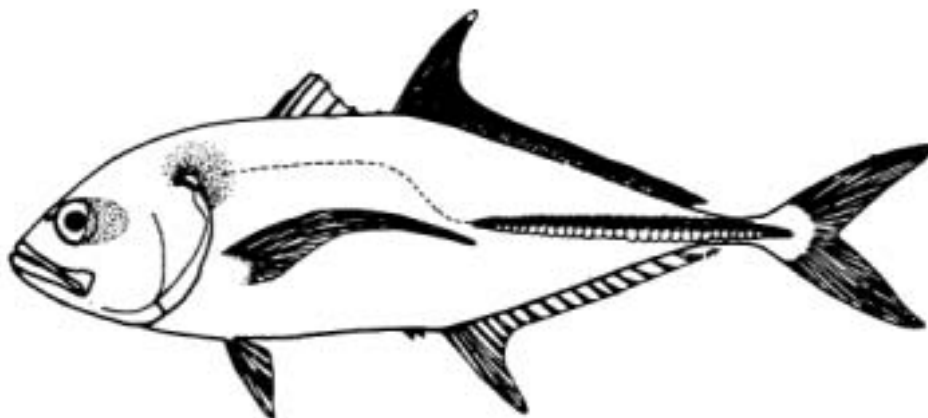
Distribution: Indo-Pacific and Eastern Pacific.

Remarks: *Caranx melampygus* is the most common jack on Maldivian reefs. This species is most active during early morning and late afternoon, but it also hunts at night. A colourful trevally not shy of divers.

وَرَسْرَسْرَه

[illegible][illegible]

Caranx sexfasciatus Quoy and Gaimard, 1825



English Name: Bigeye trevally

Local Name: Haluyimas

Size: Common to 60cm; max. 85 cm

Family: CARANGIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0013/86

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 19-22 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines, followed by 1 spine and 14-17 rays. Oblong and moderately compressed body. Dorsal profile more convex than the ventral. Breast fully scaled except of small area just anterior to pelvic fin base. Adipose eyelid well developed.

Colour: Greenish brown above, silvery white below. A blackish spot on upper edge of gill cover, smaller than the eye diameter. Soft dorsal and caudal fin yellowish grey. Anal and lower lobe of caudal fin yellowish. In adults dorsal fin lobes with white tip. Young with six broad blackish bars.

Habitat and Biology: A common reef-associated species, semi-demersal to a depth of 50 m. Nocturnal in behavior and forms milling schools by day. Feeds on crustaceans, squids, cuttlefish and small fish.

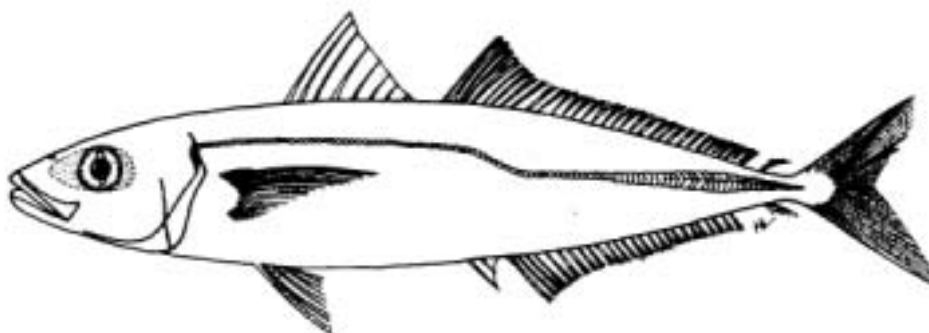
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Caranx sevfasciatus* is mainly caught by night handline and is common on artificial reefs and wrecks. Can easily be approached by divers and even snorklers.

مَحْمُودٌ

[illegible]

Decapterus macarellus (Cuvier, 1833)



English Name: Mackeral scad

Local Name: Rimmas

Size: Max. 32 cm

Family: CARANGIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0070/86

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 31-37 rays (including finlets). Anal fin with **2 detached spines, followed** by 1 spine and 27-31 rays (including finlets). Body very elongate and round. Rear end of upper jaw moderately rounded and slanted anteroventrally. Straight part of lateral line with scales followed by scutes at back.

Colour: Bluish green above, silvery below. A black opercular blotch distinct. Caudal fin yellowish green. Anal and pelvic fins whitish.

Habitat and Biology: A schooling species, occurring mostly in open water and common in insular habitats. Sometimes at surface, but usually in 40-200 m. Feeds on small planktonic invertebrates.

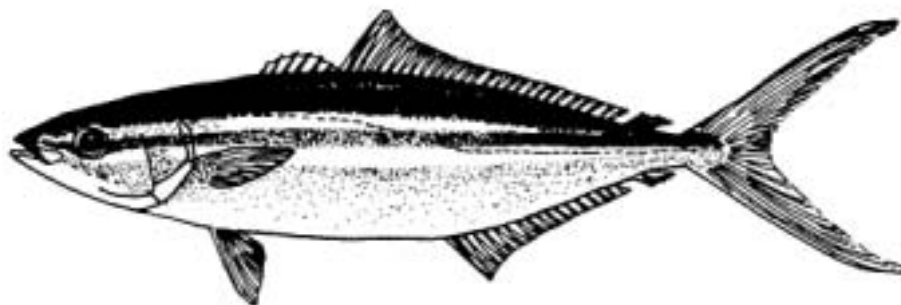
Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: There are some 5-6 species of *Decapterus* known from the Indian Ocean, but so far only one, i.e. *Decapterus macarellus* is recorded from the Maldives.

مرموزو

[illegible][illegible]

PLATE 4f



Family: CARANGIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0009/86

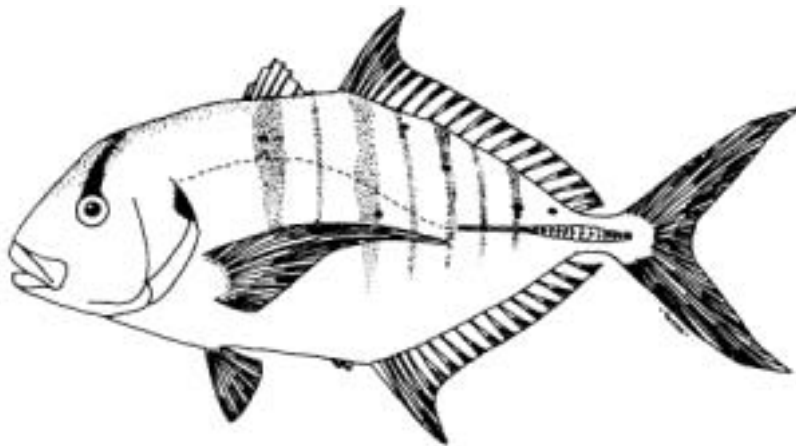
Colour: Body deepblue above, light pink to white below. Three broad longitudinal olive to yellowish bands on body, middle one running from snout through eye to caudal peduncle.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

دُسر مَرَدُوْسُ

[illegible]

Gnathodon speciosus (Forsskal. 1775)



English Name: Golden trevally
Local Name: Libaas handhi
Size: Max. 1.1 m

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P0333/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 7 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 18-20 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines followed by 1 spine and 15-17 rays. Breast completely scaled. Lips noticeably papillose and upperjaw strongly protractile.

Colour: Young and small adults bright yellow to silvery with 7-11 black bands, usually alternating broad and narrow. All tins yellow, with caudal tips black. Adults with a few black blotches on sides.

Habitat and Biology: Found inshore, including rocky reefs, deep lagoons and seaward reefs. A bottom feeder that preys on crustaceans, molluscs and small fish.

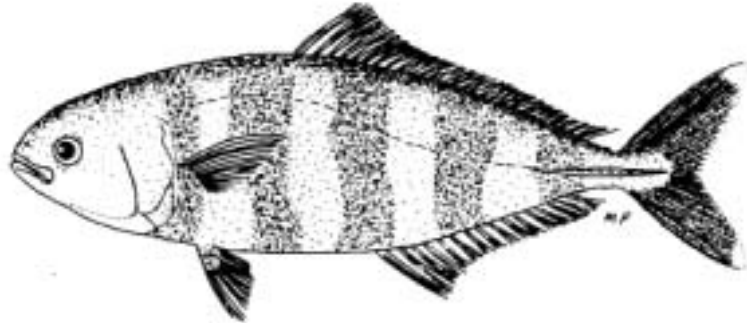
Distribution: Tropical Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Gnathodon speciosus* is caught occasionally by fishermen using hand lines near reefs. Juveniles swim with sharks and other big fish and in this context are found long distances offshore.

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو سَرِيرٍ

[illegible][illegible]

Naucrates ductor (Linnaeus, 1758)



English Name:	Pilot fish	Family:	CARANGIDAE
Local Name:	Kafihi mas	Order:	Perciformes
Size:	Common to 35 cm; max. 70cm	Specimen:	MRS/P0183/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 4-5 separate spines, second dorsal with 1 spine and 25-29 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines followed by 1 spine and 15-17 rays. Body elongate, shallow and barely compressed. Caudal peduncle without scutes but with a long fleshy keel on each side.

Colour: Silver-grey with 6-7 blue black bars. White tips to caudal lobes, and also on soft dorsal and anal lobes, most of fins dusky to dark.

Habitat and Biology: Primarily pelagic in oceanic waters. Occurs solitary, in pairs or in groups. Juveniles drift with seaweed and jellyfish. Shows pilot behaviour.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: *Naucrates ductor* has a semi-obligate commensal relationship with large sharks, rays and other fishes, turtles and also ships and drift wood.

ناویر داکٹر

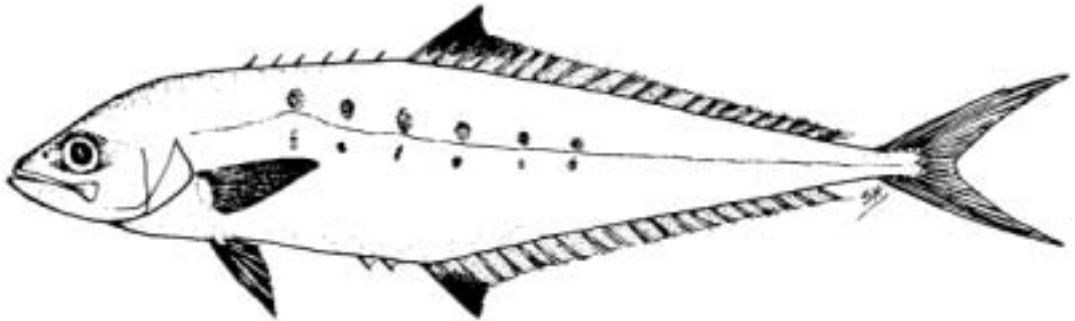
ناویر داکٹر دھرتی پر سب سے پہلے درج کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ ایک چھوٹا سا مچھلی ہے جس کا جسم گول اور پیٹھ پر 4-5 الگ الگ دھاریاں ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کے پیٹھ پر 1 دھاریاں اور 25-29 رے ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کے منہ پر 2 الگ الگ دھاریاں اور 1 دھاریاں اور 15-17 رے ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کا جسم پھیلا ہوا ہے اور بالکل پھیلا ہوا ہے۔ اس کا دم کا پتلا دونوں طرف سے لمبا اور گوشتی ہوتا ہے۔

ناویر داکٹر کا رنگ چاندی-سبز ہے جس پر 6-7 نیلے سیاہ پٹی ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کے دم کے لوہوں اور نرم دھاریوں اور منہ کے دھاریوں پر سفید پتے ہوتے ہیں۔ اس کے دھاریوں پر سفید پتے ہوتے ہیں۔

ناویر داکٹر کی عمر 70 سال تک پہنچ سکتی ہے۔ یہ ایک چھوٹا سا مچھلی ہے جس کا جسم گول اور پیٹھ پر 4-5 الگ الگ دھاریاں ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کے پیٹھ پر 1 دھاریاں اور 25-29 رے ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کے منہ پر 2 الگ الگ دھاریاں اور 1 دھاریاں اور 15-17 رے ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کا جسم پھیلا ہوا ہے اور بالکل پھیلا ہوا ہے۔ اس کا دم کا پتلا دونوں طرف سے لمبا اور گوشتی ہوتا ہے۔

ناویر داکٹر کی عمر 70 سال تک پہنچ سکتی ہے۔ یہ ایک چھوٹا سا مچھلی ہے جس کا جسم گول اور پیٹھ پر 4-5 الگ الگ دھاریاں ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کے پیٹھ پر 1 دھاریاں اور 25-29 رے ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کے منہ پر 2 الگ الگ دھاریاں اور 1 دھاریاں اور 15-17 رے ہوتی ہیں۔ اس کا جسم پھیلا ہوا ہے اور بالکل پھیلا ہوا ہے۔ اس کا دم کا پتلا دونوں طرف سے لمبا اور گوشتی ہوتا ہے۔

Scomberoides lysan (Forsskal, 1775)



English Name: Doublespotted queenfish

Local Name: Kashi vaali, Hondeli fahaa vaali, Eka vaali

Size: Max. 70 **cm**

Family: CARANGIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/P0123/87

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 6-7 spines, second dorsal with 1 spine and 19-21 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines followed by 1 spine and 17-19 rays. Maxilla extends to or slightly beyond rear margin of eye. No scutes: scales on midbody lanceolate in adults.

Colour: Silvery grey. Adults with a double series of 6-8 dusky blotches above and below lateral line, occasionally connected by a narrow band. Top half of dorsal fin lobe dark. Pelvics yellow.

Habitat and Biology: Inhabits inshore waters from shallow lagoons to offshore areas from the surface to depths of 100 m. Feeds on other fishes and small crustaceans.

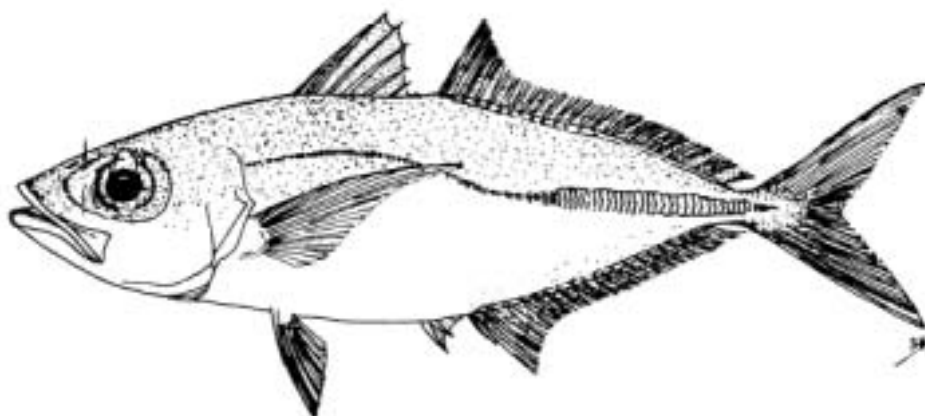
Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: Although by no means common, *Scomberoides lysan* is caught fairly regularly by Maldivian fishermen using hand-lines near reefs. It has a number of local names: 'vaali' refers to this type of fish; 'kashi' (spine) refers to the row of dorsal spines; 'hondelifahaa' means sprat-chasing; and 'eka' (one) presumably refers to the fact that it is normally caught singly.

عَبْدُ اللَّهِ

[illegible]

Sekir crumenophthalmus (Bloch, 1793)



English Name: Bigeye scad

Local Name: Mushimas

Size: Max. 30 cm

Family: CARANGIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/001 1/86

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 8 spines, second dorsal with 1 spine and 24-27 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines followed by 1 spine and 21-23 rays. Body elongate and moderately compressed. Dorsal and anal fins without a detached terminal finlet. Eye very large, shorter than snout. Adipose eyelid covering eye, except for broad oval slit central on pupil. Pectoral fin shorter than head.

Colour: Metallic blue to bluish green above, shading to white below; yellow stripe sometimes present from opercle margin to upper part of caudal peduncle. A black opercular spot distinct.

Habitat and Biology: Forms small to large schools in inshore waters and shallow reefs to depths of 170 m. Feeds on plankton, benthic invertebrates and small fish.

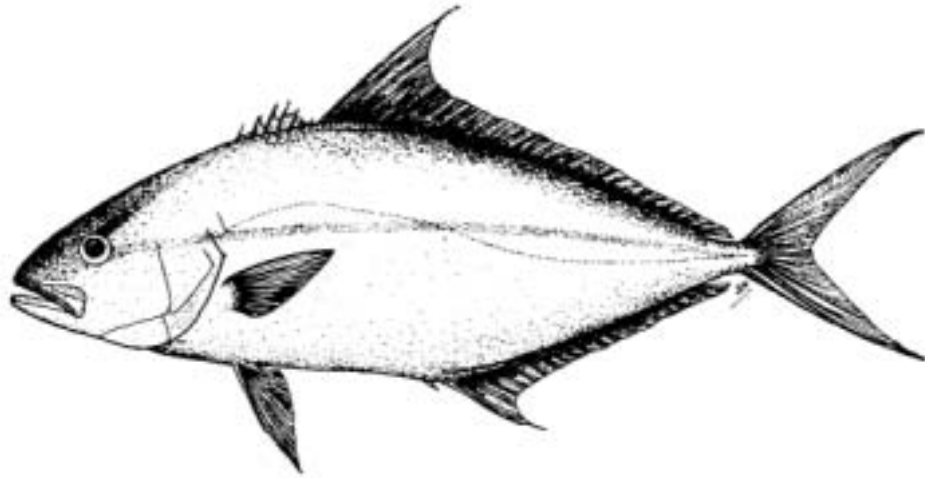
Distribution: World-wide in tropical and sub-tropical waters.

Remarks: *Selar cruienophthalmus* is a wide-spread species in shallow lagoons of the reefs and islands. In the Maldives it is mainly caught during day time using pole and line. A popular food fish.

تۇرۇش

[illegible]

Seriola rivoliana Valenciennes, 1833



English Name: Almaco jack
Local Name: Andhun mas
Size: Common to 70 cm; max. 1.1 m

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P01 19/87

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 7 spines, second dorsal with 1 spine and 27-33 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines followed by 1 spine and 18-22 rays. Gill rakers (excluding rudiments) on the first arch 22-26. Body elongate, moderately deep and slightly compressed. Upper jaw broad at end, extending to below posterior midpoint of pupil. No scutes on lateral line. Grooves present on caudal peduncle.

Colour: Pale brown. Dark bar extending from eye to dorsal spine (most marked in juveniles). Fins mostly dark; pelvics may be white ventrally; anal fin usually with white lobe; caudal with pale margin.

Habitat and Biology: Oceanic and semi-demersal at depths of 30-160 m. Rarely found in inshore waters. Small juveniles are found offshore, under floating plants and debris. Feeds on fish.

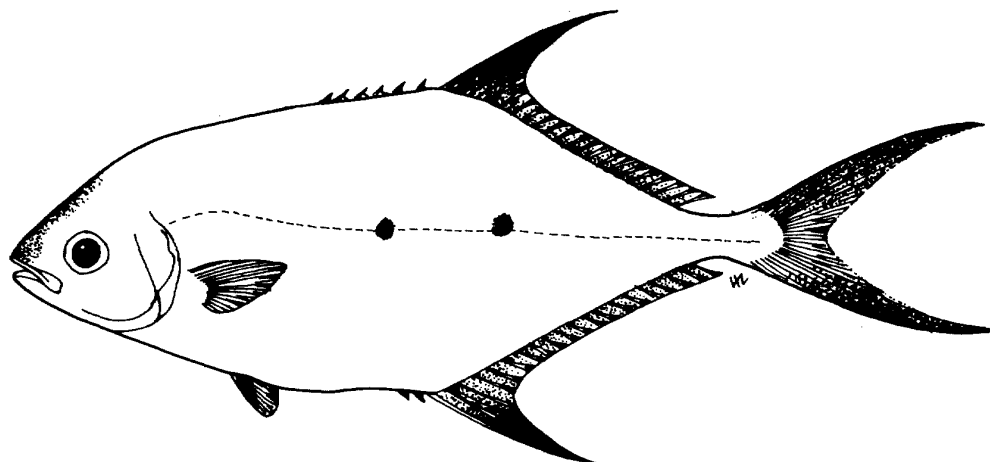
Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: The distinctive dark eye bar of *Seriola rivoliana* gives this species its local name, *andhun* being the Dhivehi word for kohl.

اسرار شریعت

[illegible]

Trachinotus baillonii (Lacepède, 1801)



English Name: Smallspotted dart

Local Name: Goru vaali

Size: Max. 54 cm

Family: CARANGIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/P01 22/87

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 6 spines, second dorsal with 1 spine and 20-24 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines followed by 1 spine and 20-24 rays. Gill rakers on lower limb of first gill arch (including rudiments) 15-19. Body elongate to oval and strongly compressed. Dorsal fin lobe consistently shorter than anal fin lobe in larger specimens.

Colour: Adults silvery blue to grey above, silvery white below. Sides with 1-5 small black spots in a longitudinal row on or near lateral line (usually equal or smaller than eye). Spots absent in juveniles. Second dorsal, anal and caudal fins grey to black, lobes usually darkest.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in surge zone along sandy beaches, often in very shallow waters. Usually seen in small schools. Feeds on small fishes.

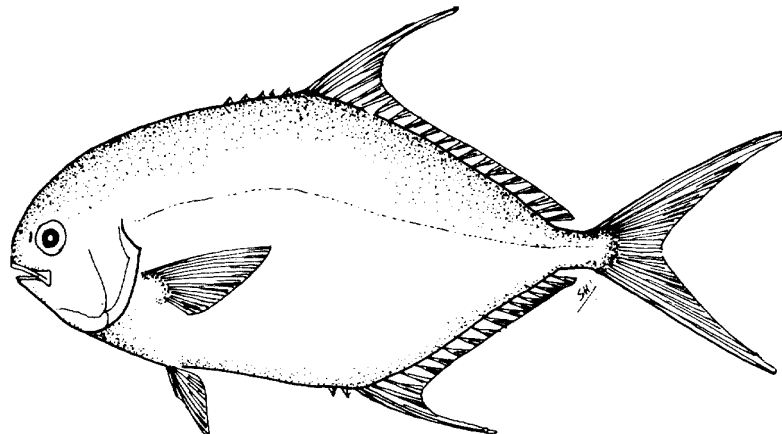
Distribution: Widely distributed in Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: *Trachinotus baillonii* is commonly found in small groups in lagoons and besides shallow reefs. On sunny days its silver colouration makes it almost invisible as it swims above the white sand.

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Trachinotus baillonii (Lacepède, 1801)
 Smallspotted dart
 Goru vaali
 Max. 54 cm
 CARANGIDAE
 Perciformes
 MRS/P01 22/87
 First dorsal fin with 6 spines, second dorsal with 1 spine and 20-24 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines followed by 1 spine and 20-24 rays. Gill rakers on lower limb of first gill arch (including rudiments) 15-19. Body elongate to oval and strongly compressed. Dorsal fin lobe consistently shorter than anal fin lobe in larger specimens.
 Adults silvery blue to grey above, silvery white below. Sides with 1-5 small black spots in a longitudinal row on or near lateral line (usually equal or smaller than eye). Spots absent in juveniles. Second dorsal, anal and caudal fins grey to black, lobes usually darkest.
 Occurs in surge zone along sandy beaches, often in very shallow waters. Usually seen in small schools. Feeds on small fishes.
 Widely distributed in Indo-West Pacific.
Trachinotus baillonii is commonly found in small groups in lagoons and besides shallow reefs. On sunny days its silver colouration makes it almost invisible as it swims above the white sand.

Trachinotus blochii (Lacepède, 1801)



English Name: Snuhnose pompano
Local Name: Rindhā vaali
Size: Max. 80 cm

Family: CARANGIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P01 11/87

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 6 spines, second dorsal with 1 spine and 18-20 rays. Anal fin with 2 detached spines followed by 1 spine and 16-18 rays. Body oval shape and compressed. Tongue toothless. Predorsal bone oval-shaped. Profile of snout broadly rounded. No scutes.

Colour: Silver, but often washed with golden-orange, especially in larger individuals. Anal fin dusky orange, and lobe with a brownish anterior margin.

Habitat and Biology: Inhabits coral and rocky reef areas and shallow coastal waters at depths of 2-20 m. Feeds mainly on molluscs and hermit crabs which it crushes with its strong pharyngeal plates.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: *Trachinotus blochii* is not very common, but it is occasionally caught by hand line, and is sometimes seen by divers, in small groups along the outer reefs. The Dhivehi word '*riidha*' means mussel, and refers to the oval shaped bone to be found just under the skin at the nape of 'neck'.

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