

See Plate X, 38

Diagnostic Features : An elongate, robust fish with rounded body (in cross section). Preopercular edge smooth or sometimes denticulate in juveniles; a distinct horizontal groove in front of eye; teeth in both jaws in bands, with 2 strong canines anteriorly; vomerine tooth patch crescent-shaped. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; gill rakers on lower limb (including rudiments) 14 or 15. Pectoral fins short, rounded, about equal to snout length with 17 rays; caudal fin deeply forked, with pointed lobes; dorsal and anal fins scaleless. Scales moderate-sized, about 48 to 50 in lateral line; scale rows on back parallel with lateral line. Colour: dark green to bluish or blue-grey.

Geographical Distribution : Widely distributed in the tropical Indo-Pacific Ocean from Hawaii to East Africa and southern Japan southward to Australia.

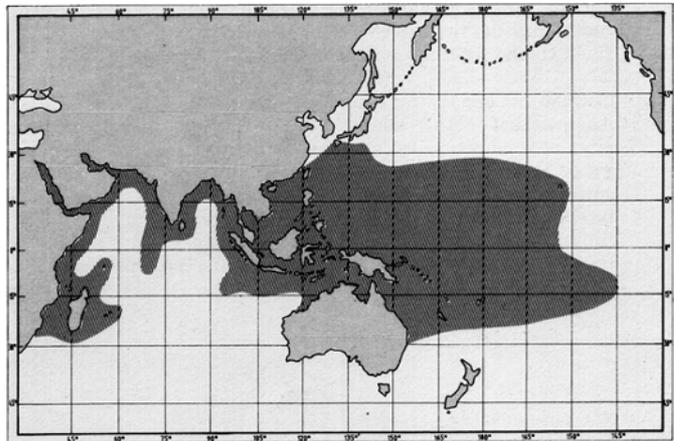
Habitat and Biology : Inhabits inshore reef areas, from the surface down to 100 m depth. Usually seen solitarily. Feeds mainly on fishes, but also on shrimps, crabs, cephalopods and planktonic organisms. Spawning has been recorded in January and November off East Africa.

Size : Maximum total length about 100 cm; common to about 60 cm.

Interest to Fisheries : Important in certain subsistence fisheries and frequently seen in markets. It is one of the principal species in the Hawaiian offshore handline fishery (about 72 metric tons, and a revenue of US\$ 362 500 in 1984. Caught mainly with trolled lures, handlines, bottom longlines, and bottom trawls. Marketed mostly fresh; also dried and salted. Excellent eating.

Local Names : AUSTRALIA: Green job-fish; ELLICE ISLANDS: Te utu; GILBERT ISLANDS: Te awai; GUAM: Uku; HAWAII: Uku; JAPAN: Aochibiki; NEW CALEDONIA: Aprion verdâtre; PALAU: Udel; SAMOA: Asoama; SOUTH AFRICA: Kaakap, Green jobfish; SRI LANKA: Dhialava (S), Dhiula (T); TAHITI: Utu; TANZANIA: Changu-fimbo, Fimbo, Kifimbo; THE PHILIPPINES: Guntol.

Literature : Fowler (1931); Kyushin *et al.* (1977); Fischer & Bianchi (eds) (1984); Masuda *et al.* (1984).



Apsilus Valenciennes, 1830

LUT Apsi

Genus : *Apsilus* Valenciennes (*in C. & V.*), 1830:548. Type-species *Apsilus fuscus* Valenciennes (*in C. & V.*), 1830, by monotypy.

Synonyms : None.

Diagnostic Features : Medium-sized snappers, with moderately deep to slender, robust, fusiform bodies. Teeth of jaws relatively small, villiform or conical, arranged in bands, outer row sometimes enlarged; vomerine patch V-shaped without medial posterior extension; interorbital space broad and convex. Dorsal fin continuous, not incised near junction of spinous and soft portions, with 10 spines and 9 or 10 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral fin rays 15; dorsal and anal fins scaleless; caudal fin forked or emarginate. Scales medium-sized to relatively small, about 58 to 68 in lateral line. Colour: overall dark brown or violet, lighter on lower sides and belly.

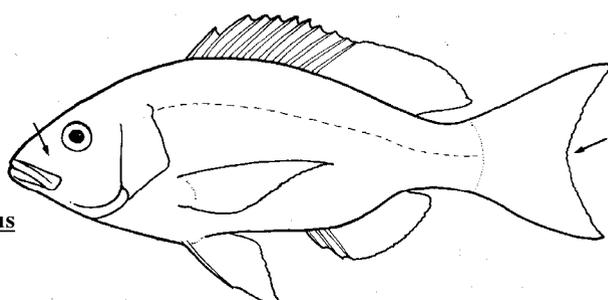
Biology, Habitat and Distribution : A dweller of moderately deep water (about 30 to 300 m depth), usually over rocky bottoms. Found mostly solitary or in small groups. The diet consists of small fishes, squids, benthic crustaceans, and also larger zooplankton.

Geographical Distribution : Primarily the tropical Atlantic Ocean with a few records from the western Indian Ocean, mainly from East Africa.

Interest to Fisheries : Separate statistics are not reported for these fishes. They do not appear to be caught in significant numbers, although the flesh is good eating. Cuba seems to be the only locality where they are regularly seen in markets, usually offered fresh. They are caught mainly with handlines (both single and multiple); also with setnets and trawls.

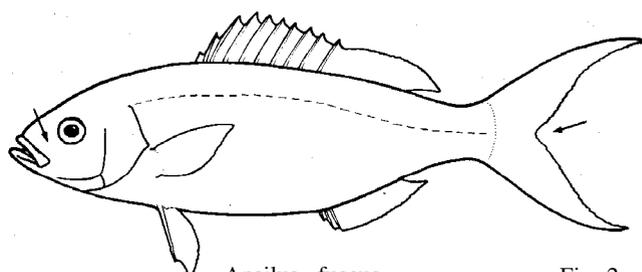
Key to the species of Apsilus :

- 1a. Caudal fin emarginate; body relatively deep; its greatest depth about 2.6 to 2.8 in standard length (Fig. 1); pectoral rays 15 or 16; preorbital depth about equal to eye diameter; scales in lateral line 58 to 63; gill rakers on lower limb (excluding rudiments of first arch 15 or 16; confined to the western Atlantic **A. dentatus**
- 1b. Caudal fin deeply forked; body slender, its greatest depth about 3.2 to 3.6 in standard length (Fig. 2); pectoral rays 17 or 18; preorbital depth significantly smaller than eye diameter; scales in lateral line 62 to 68; gill rakers on lower limb of first arch 20 to 23; confined to the eastern Atlantic **A. fuscus**



Apsilus dentatus

Fig. 1



Apsilus fuscus

Fig. 2

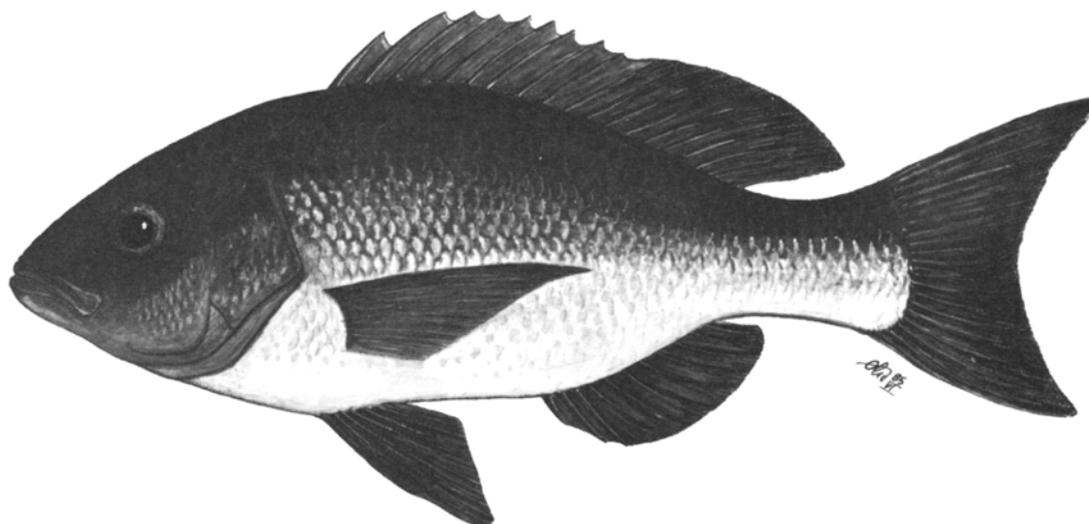
Apsilus dentatus Guichenot, 1853

LUT Apsi 1

Apsilus dentatus Guichenot (in Ramon de la Sagra, 1853), Hist.Cuba Poiss., 29 (Havana, Cuba).

Synonyms : Mesoprion arnillo Poey (1860).

FAO Names : En - Black snapper; Fr - Vivaneau noir; Sp - Pargo mulato.



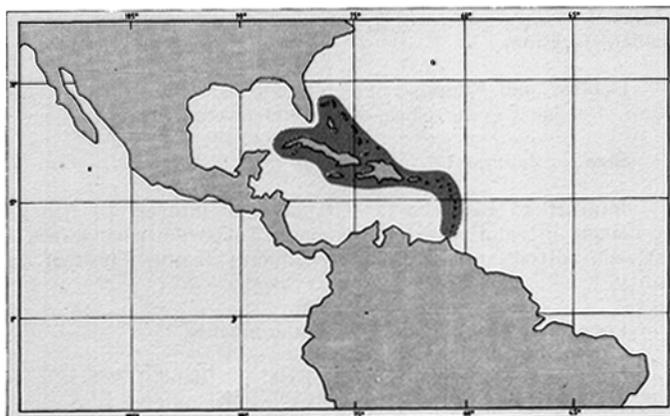
See Plate I, 1

Diagnostic Features : Body oblong, relatively deep. Head relatively small, interorbital space convex; snout relatively short and pointed; both jaws with an inner band of villiform teeth and an outer band of larger teeth; anterior teeth in upper jaw enlarged, canine-like; vomerine tooth patch V-shaped, without a medial posterior extension; gill rakers on lower limb of first arch (including rudiments) 15 or 16. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 9 or 10 soft rays, anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; dorsal and anal fin bases scaleless; pectoral fins long, reaching level of anus, with 15 or 16 rays; caudal fin forked. Scales in lateral line 58 to 63; scale rows on back parallel to lateral line. Colour: back and upper sides violet or dark brown, more intense on head; lower sides and belly paler. Juveniles are mainly blue.

Geographical Distribution : Tropical western Atlantic Ocean. Restricted to the Antilles and Bahamas.

Habitat and Biology : Inhabits mainly rocky bottoms between about 120 and 180 m depth. Young sometimes found near the surface. Feeds on fishes and bottom-dwelling animals, including cephalopods and tunicates. Spawning occurs during most of the year, with peak activity during February, April, September/October and November at Jamaica.

Size : Maximum total length about 65 cm; common to 40 cm. Matures at about 40 to 50 cm.



Interest to Fisheries : Limited interest at present, but has potential for future fishery. Caught mainly with single and multiple handlines. Marketed mainly fresh, sometimes frozen. Flesh of good quality.

Local Names : CUBA: Amillo, Pargo mulato ; PUERTO RICO: Chopá negra.

Literature : Jordan & Evermann (1896); Anderson (1967).

Apsilus fuscus Valenciennes, 1830

LUT Apsi 2

Apsillus fuscus Valenciennes (in C. & V., 1830), Hist.Nat.Poiss., 6:413 (Porto Praya, Cape Verde Islands)

Synonyms : None.