

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

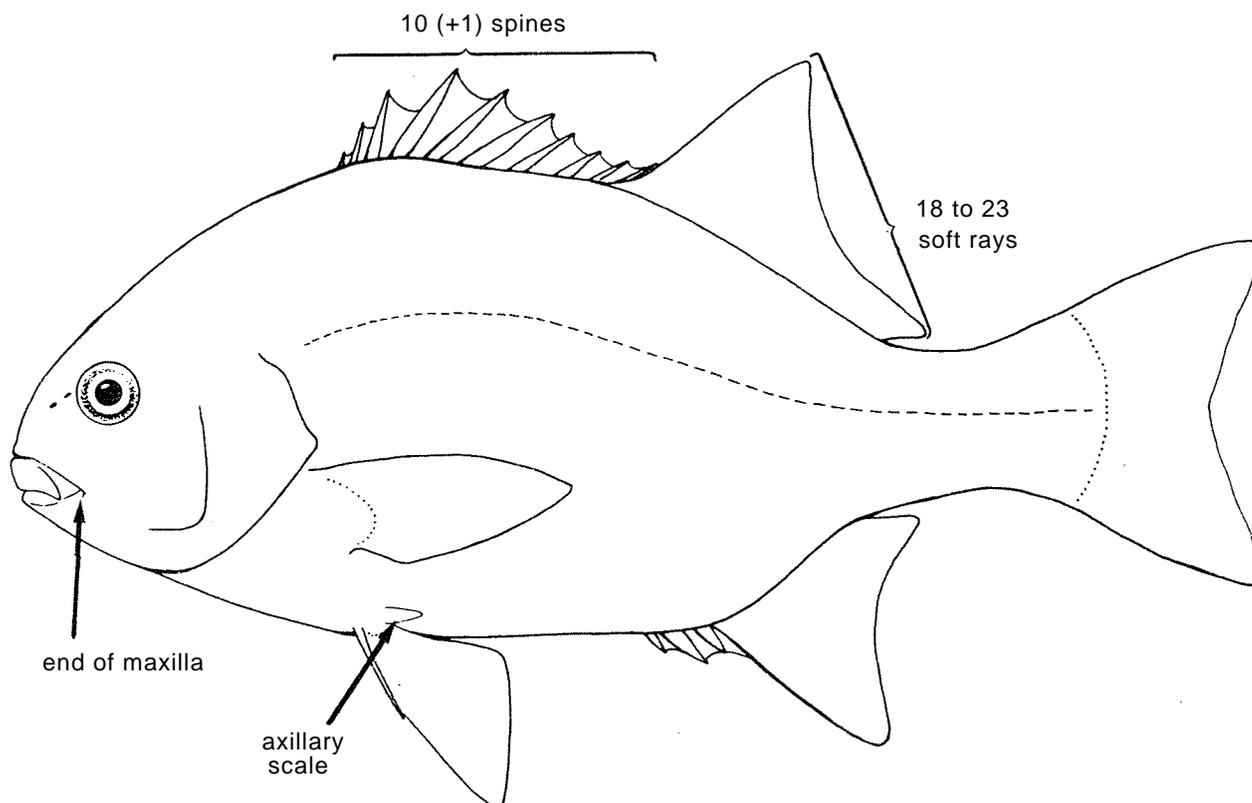
CORACINIDAE

Galjoens

Body oblong, rather deep and compressed. Head deeper than long; eye small; mouth small, moderately protrusible; premaxilla not overlapping the posterior widened part of maxilla, the latter reaching (or nearly so) to below front margin of eye and slipping beneath edge of preorbital bone; in both jaws, an outer row of long, strong and incisor-like teeth and 0 to 3 inner rows of small, gently curved, sharp teeth, more or less hidden in the skin; gillrakers rather long and slender. A single dorsal fin with 10 spines (preceded by one forward-directed spine hidden under the skin) and 18 to 23 soft rays; anal fin falcate, the first ray much higher than last spine; caudal fin slightly forked. Scales small, ctenoid rough to touch firmly adherent, covering body, fins and head except snout; a well-developed axillary scale present at pelvic fin bases.

Colour: ranging from black to bright silver, sometimes mottled or with dark cross bars.

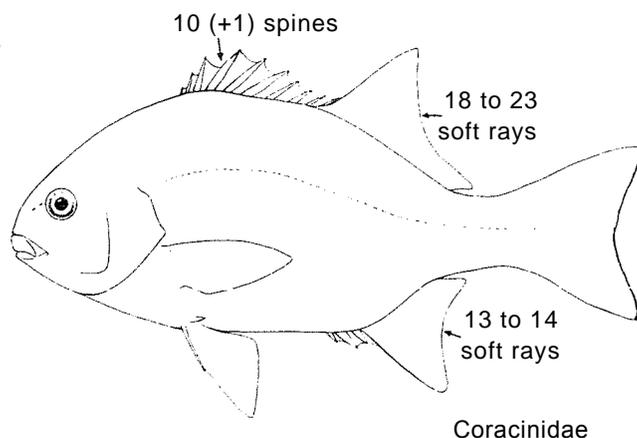
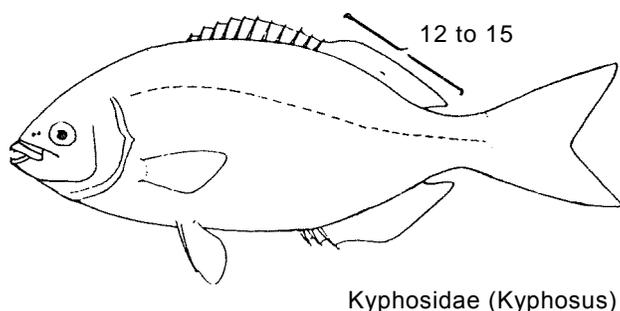
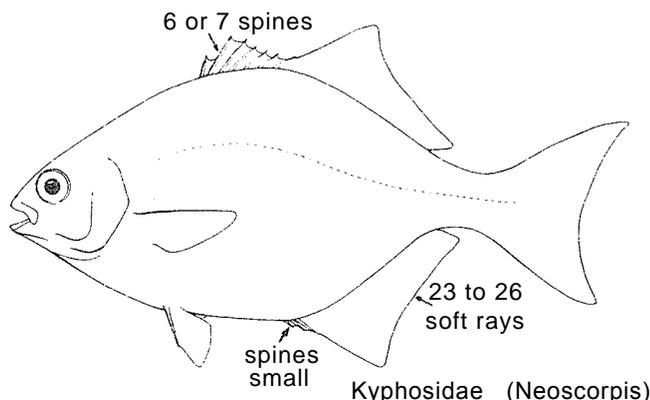
Medium-sized fishes (to 75 cm total length) inhabiting shallow waters along rocky and sandy shores. Taken mainly on hook and line by anglers operating from the shore. Used for food, but not of great commercial value.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Kyphosidae (Neoscorpis): dorsal and especially anal fin spines small; dorsal fin spines 6 or 7 (10 in Coracinidae), anal fin with 23 to 26 soft rays (13 or 14 in Coracinidae). (Kyphosus): shape different and much larger scales; only 12 to 15 dorsal soft rays (18 to 23 in Coracinidae).

Other similar families: fins naked or scaled only at bases, scales not firmly adherent.



GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Coracinus only.

KEY TO SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

- 1a. Dorsal soft rays 18 to 20 Coracinus capensis
- 1b. Dorsal soft rays 21 to 23 Coracinus multifasciatus

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included

- Coracinus capensis (Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1831) CORAC Cor 1
- Coracinus multifasciatus (Pellegrin, 1914) CORAC Cor 2

Prepared by M.L. Bauchot, Ichthyologie générale et appliquée, Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France, and M.M. Smith, J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Grahamstown, South Africa

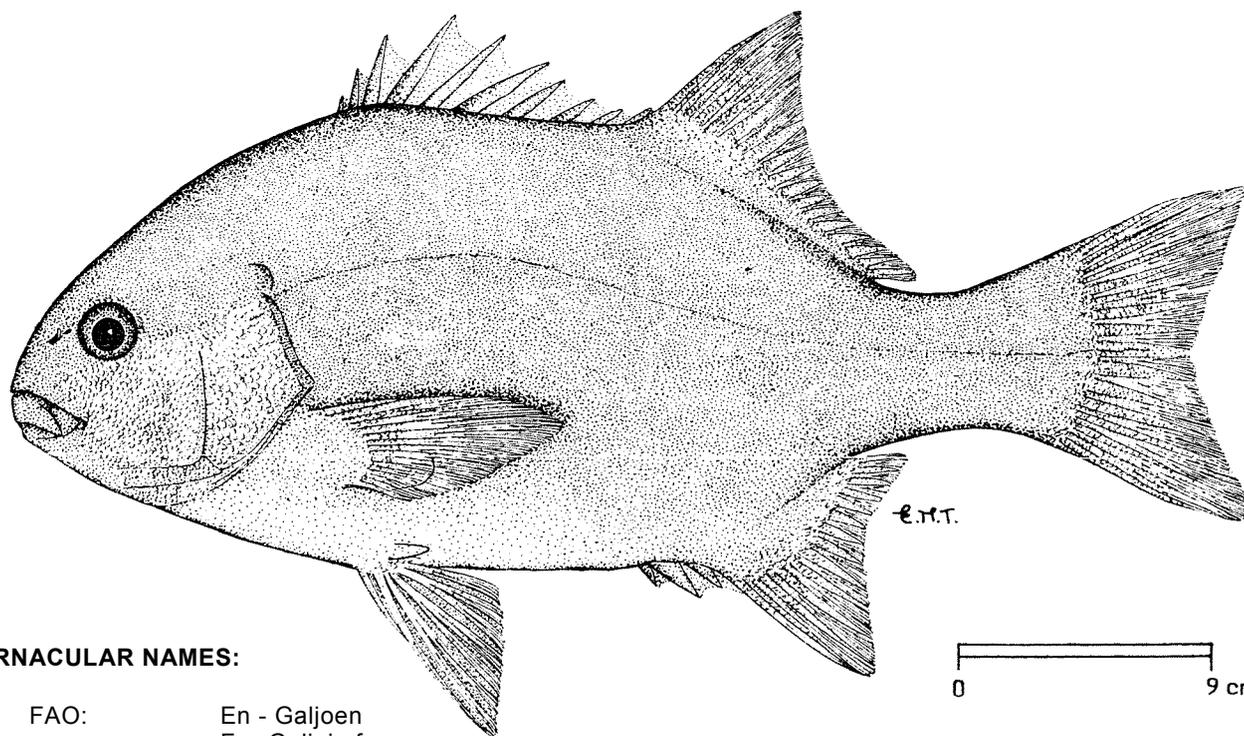
Species drawings prepared by E.M. Tarp, J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Grahamstown 6140, South Africa

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: CORACINIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Coracinus capensis* (Cuvier in Cuv. Val., 1831)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Galjoen
Fr - Galjoin franc
Sp - Damba

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong, rather deep (its depth contained 2 to 2.25 times in standard length); head profile steep from upper lip to level of lower eye margin, thence strongly curved to dorsal fin origin where profile is horizontal; eye contained 4 to 5 times in head length; interorbital space wider than eye diameter; edge of preopercle finely serrated; mouth small, the maxilla reaching to about front eye margin; lower jaw slightly shorter than upper; lips well developed; both jaws with strong curved incisors and smaller teeth within; also molariform pharyngeal teeth (throat teeth) used for crushing shellfish; gillrakers 12 or 13 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 10 well visible spines (the 4th and 5th longest) and 18 to 20 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines well developed and 13 or 14 soft rays; second anal spine equal to, or slightly shorter than, third; soft portion of dorsal and anal fins falcate, their anterior rays 5 to 7 times longer than last spine; pectoral fins short, not or nearly reaching anus; caudal fin slightly forked. Scales ctenoid (rough to touch), small, adnate, covering body, fins and head except snout; a well-developed axillary scale present at pelvic fin base; scales in lateral line 60 to 70.

Colour: generally uniform in colour, changing from black to silver in a second as it swims from dark rocks to sand; when caught, it is generally dark brownish, but becomes silvery where it is touched by other objects, including other fish and even its own mucus; sometimes it is mottled and at other times it shows 7 to 9 wide dark crossbars of uniform width; chest and belly always lighter; caudal, pectoral, pelvic, soft dorsal and anal fins blackish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Coracinus multifasciatus: silvery background with 17 to 19 alternately wide and narrow, dark, permanent crossbars between eye to origin of caudal fin; dorsal fin with 21 to 23 soft rays (18 to 20 in C. capensis); body deeper, its depth 1.75 to 1.80 times in standard length (2 to 2.25 in C. capensis).

Dinoperca petersii (Serranidae): somewhat the shape of a galjoen but easily distinguished by the large mouth, big eye and larger scales.

Oplegnathus (Oplegnathidae) species: a bony, bird-like beak instead of teeth.

Neoscorpis lithophilus (Kyphosidae): upper profile curving regularly from snout to beginning of soft portion of dorsal fin; dorsal fin with 6 to 8 short spines and 20 to 22 soft rays (10 visible spines and 18 to 20 soft rays in C. capensis); anal fin with 3 small, almost invisible spines and 23 to 26 soft rays (3 well visible spines and 13 or 14 soft rays in C. capensis); no incisor-like teeth.

Kyphosus species (Kyphosidae): different body shape, more slender, dorsal fin rays only 12 to 15; posterior end of maxilla scaled; scales much larger.

SIZE:

Maximum: 75 cm; common to 50 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Endemic to South Africa where it is considered the national fish emblem. Within Fishing Area 51, present only in South Africa and southern Mozambique, but extending around the Cape to Walfish Bay.

Found among rocks, over sand and even in the surf area (seldom entering estuaries) but breeding in deeper waters.

Feeds chiefly on mussels, crustaceans, other invertebrates and seaweeds.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

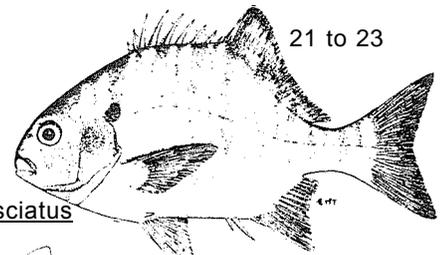
Sandy beaches and rocky outcrops throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

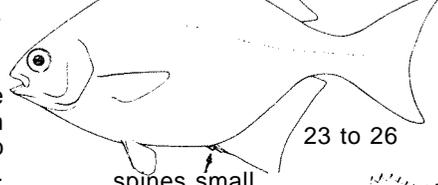
Caught chiefly on hook and line from the shore.

Marketed whole, fresh. Flesh almost translucent (delicate white when cooked) with black thread-like streaks; highly favoured as a foodfish, especially by people used to eating it, who prefer it to any other fish.

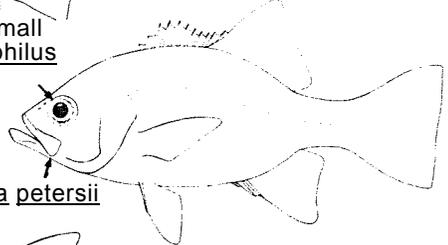


C. multifasciatus

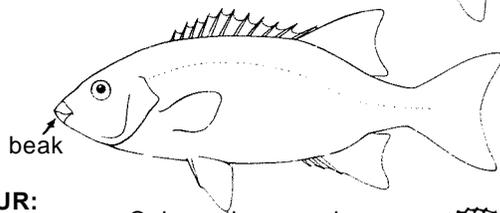
6 to 8 20 to 22



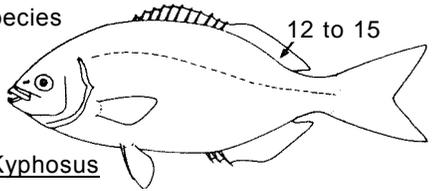
spines small
Neoscorpis lithophilus



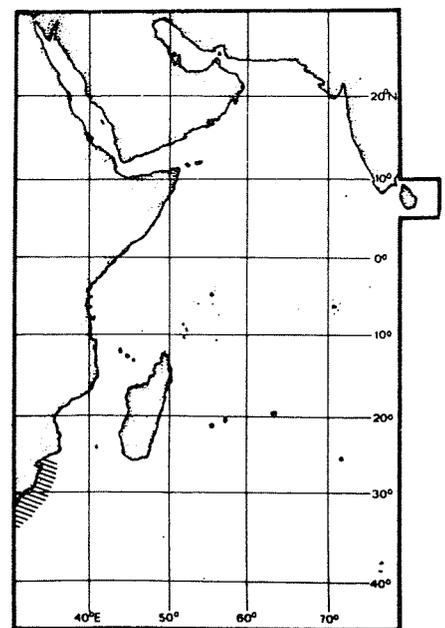
Dinoperca petersii



Oplegnathus species



Kyphosus

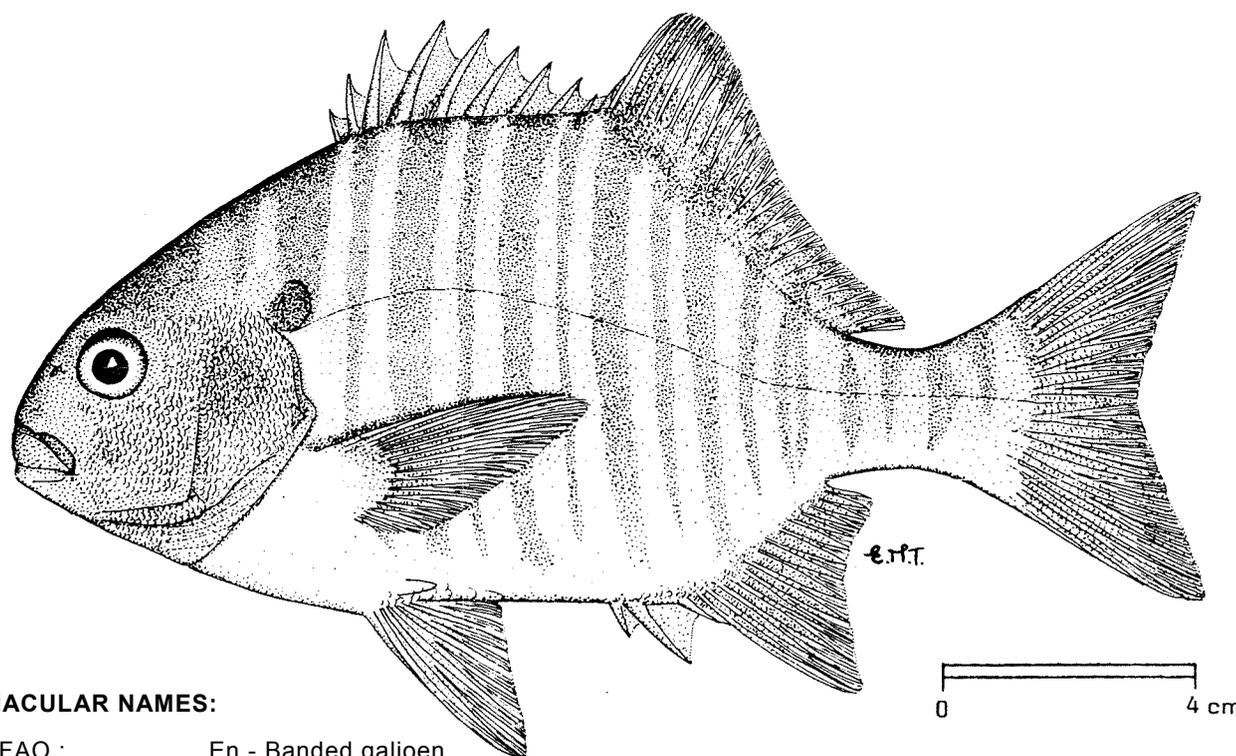


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: CORACINIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Coracinus multifasciatus (Pellegrin, 1914)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Banded galjoen
 Fr - Galjoin rayé
 Sp - Damba rayada

NATIONAL:

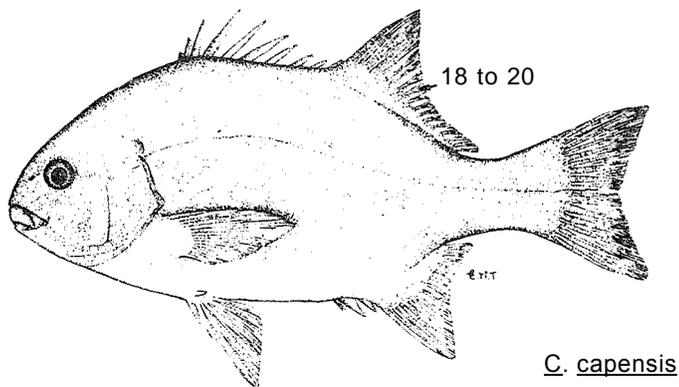
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong, deep (its depth contained 1.75 to 1.80 times in standard length); head profile steep from upper lip to level of eye, thence regularly curved to dorsal fin; eye contained about 4 times in head length; interorbital space wider than eye diameter, edge of preopercle finely serrated; mouth small, the maxilla reaching to front margin of eye; lips well developed; both jaws with strong, curved incisor-like teeth, and smaller teeth within, also molar-like teeth present on pharyngeals (throat bones) used to crush shellfish; gillrakers 14 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 10 visible spines (the 4th longest) and 21 to 23 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 13 or 14 soft rays, second anal spine longer and stronger than the third; soft portion of dorsal and anal fins falcate; pectoral fins reaching anus; caudal fin slightly forked. Scales ctenoid (rough to touch), small, covering body, fins and head, except snout; a well-developed axillary scale present at pelvic fin bases; scales in lateral line about 70.

Colour: body generally light with 17 to 19 alternating narrow and wide dark brown crossbars, from nape to origin of caudal fin, not reaching the ventral profile; head and fins golden brown, breast white.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Coracinus capensis: generally uniform in colour, occasionally with 7 to 9 wide dark bars across body; dorsal fin with 18 to 20 soft rays (21 to 23 in C. multifasciatus); body less deep, its depth 2 to 2.25 times in standard length (1.75 to 1.80 times in C. multifasciatus).



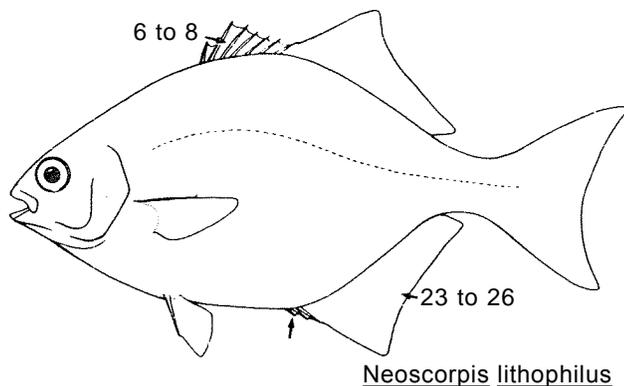
Neoscorpis lithophilus (Kyphosidae): upper profile curving regularly from snout to beginning of soft portion of dorsal fin; dorsal fin with 6 to 8 short spines (10 visible spines in C. multifasciatus); anal fin with 3 small, almost invisible spines and 23 to 26 soft rays (3 well visible spines and 13 or 14 soft rays in C. multifasciatus); no incisor-like teeth.

Kyphosus species (Kyphosidae); posterior end of maxilla scaled; scales much larger.

Fishes of other similar families: fins unscaled or scaled only at bases.

SIZE:

Maximum: 35 cm; common to 20 cm.

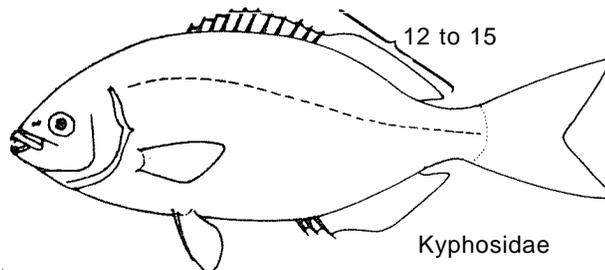


GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR :

Within the area, restricted to South Africa, Mozambique and the west coast of Madagascar, southward extending to the Taitsikama coast.

Found in shallow waters among rocks.

Feeds on most invertebrates, including mussels, crustaceans and worms; also on seaweeds.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Surf areas along rocky coasts and islands, but not of commercial importance.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught chiefly on hook and line from the shore (light tackle and small hooks). Too small for being of interest to spear fishermen.

Locally consumed; flesh of excellent quality.

