

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

ELOPIDAE

Ladyfishes, tenpounders

A single species in the area; see species sheet for:

Elops machnata (Forsskål, 1775) ELOP Elop 1

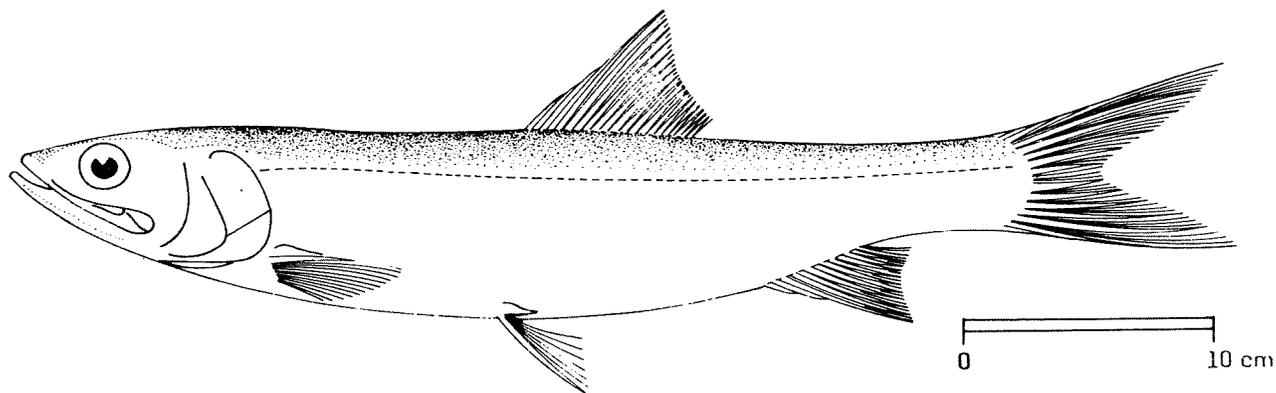
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ELOPIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Elops machnata (Forsskål, 1775)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Elops saurus (misidentification)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

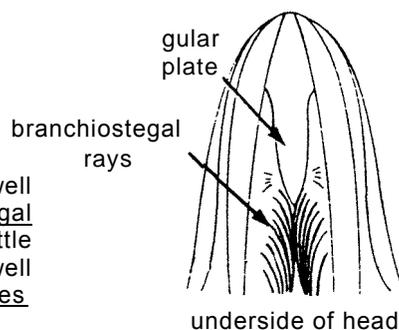
FAO: En - Tenpounder
 Fr - Guinée saumon
 Sp - Malacho salmón

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

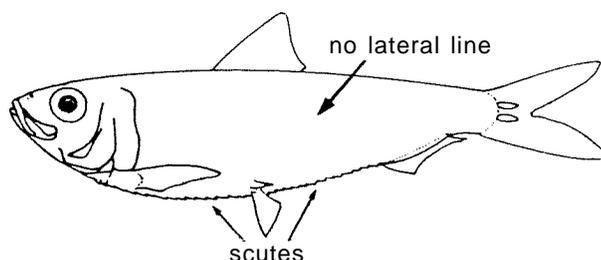
Body elongate, fusiform. Mouth terminal, the upper jaw reaching well behind eye; a gular plate present between arms of lower jaw; branchiostegal rays very numerous (23 to 25). No spines in fins; dorsal fin origin a little behind mid-point of body; anal fin short, with 14 to 17 rays, its origin well behind dorsal fin base; pelvic fins a little in front of dorsal fin origin. Scales very small, about 100 on lateral line.

Colour: back blue/grey, sides silvery with a yellow tinge; fins faint yellow.



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Species of Clupeidae: scutes present along belly; no lateral line or gular plate.



Clupeidae

Megalops cyprinoides: scales large, 30 to 40 in lateral line; last dorsal fin ray filamentous.

Chanos chanos: a small sub-terminal mouth and no gular plate.

Albula species: snout projecting beyond mouth.

SIZE :

Maximum: 90 cm; common to 50 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout the area. Elsewhere, eastward to Western Pacific, possibly to Hawaii (as E. hawaiiensis).

Pelagic in coastal waters, entering lagoons and estuaries. Spawning probably occurs in the sea, the transparent larvae (leptocephali) migrating to inshore nursery areas.

Feeds on small fishes and crustaceans.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

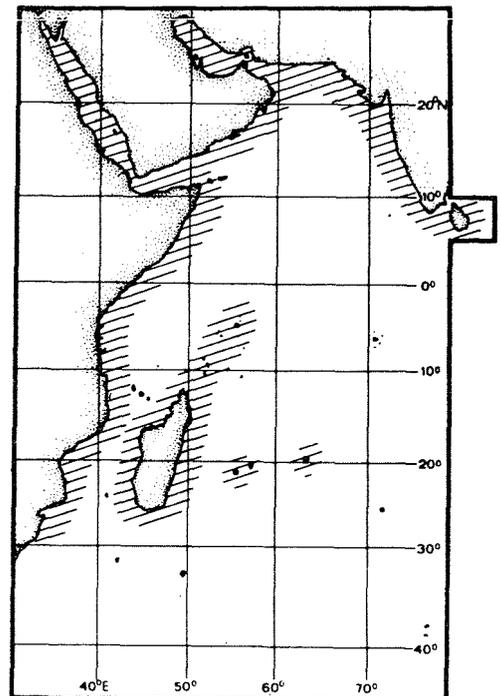
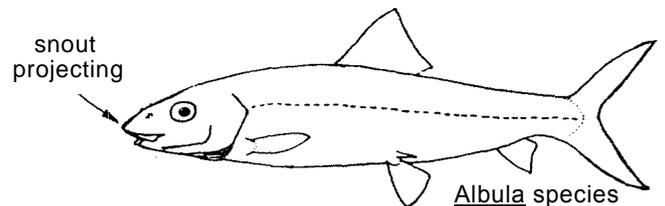
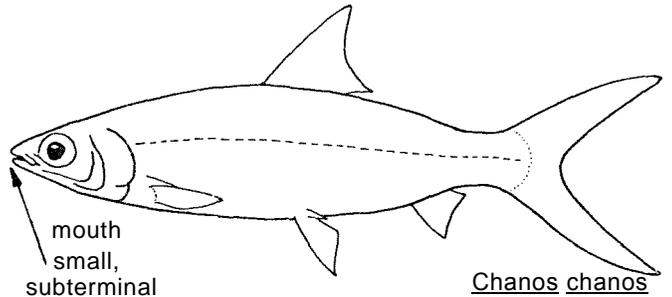
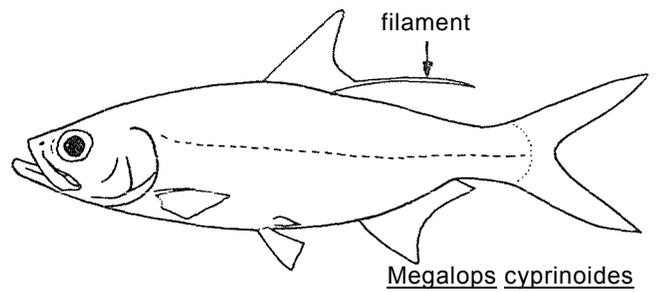
Caught throughout the area, but no special fishery; commonly taken in sport fishing.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with seines, gillnets and handlines.

Marketed fresh or frozen.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

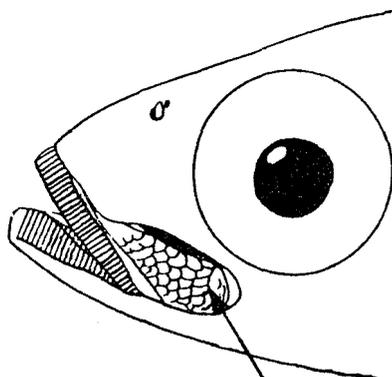
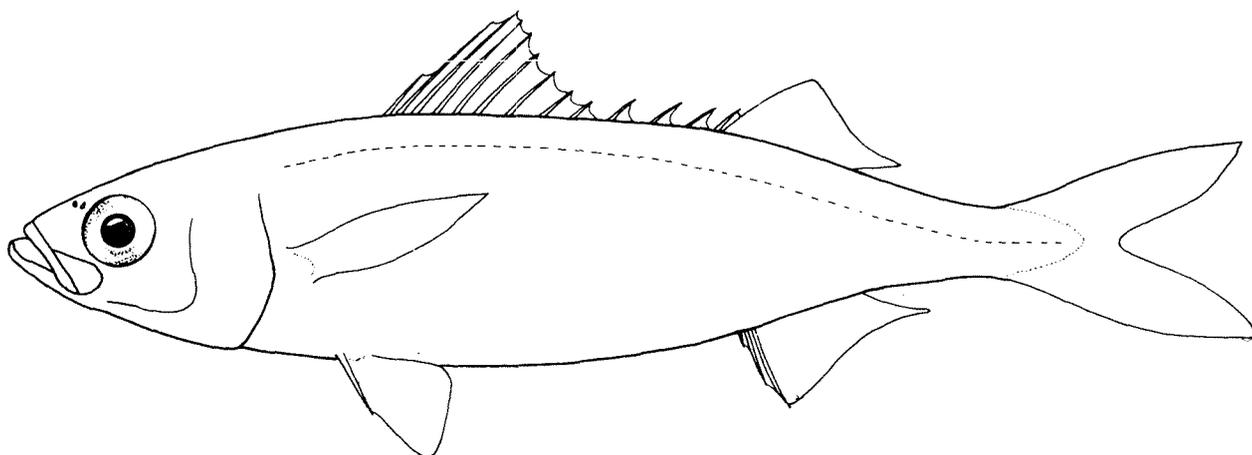
FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

EMMELICHTHYIDAE

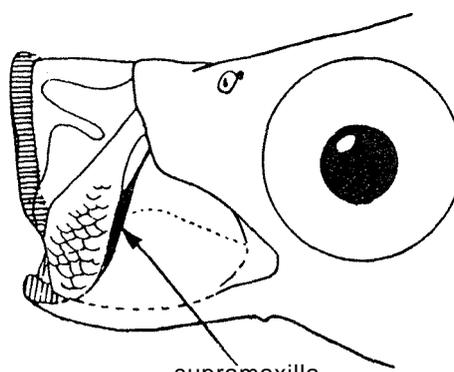
Bonnetmouths, rubyfishes, redbaits and rovers

Body elongate, subcylindrical or oblong and somewhat compressed. Maxilla broadly expanded, scaly, and not covered by the preorbital bone when mouth is closed; supramaxillary bone large; upper jaw very protrusile; jaws toothless or with a series of minute teeth; 2 flat opercular spines; preopercle edge thin, broadly rounded, smooth or crenulate with weak serrae; gill membranes separate, free from isthmus; branchiostegal rays 7; gillrakers long and numerous; 9 to 12 on upper, and 24 to 31 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin continuous or divided, with 11 to 14 spines and 9 to 12 segmented rays, the spinous part of fin higher than the soft-rayed part; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 or 10 rays; soft dorsal and anal fins with a scaly sheath at base that is best developed posteriorly; pelvic fins with 1 spine and 5 rays, a large axillary process of fused scales, and another mid-ventral scaly process between the fins; caudal fin forked, heavily scaled at base with about 15 branched rays. Lateral line single, continuous, slightly curved. Body and head covered with finely ctenoid, (rough) firm scales. Vertebrae 10 precaudal and 14 caudal. Gas bladder elongate, fusiform, not bifurcate at either end.

Colour: reddish pink or greyish-blue dorsally and silvery pink below.



scaled maxilla
fully exposed



supramaxilla
mouth protruded

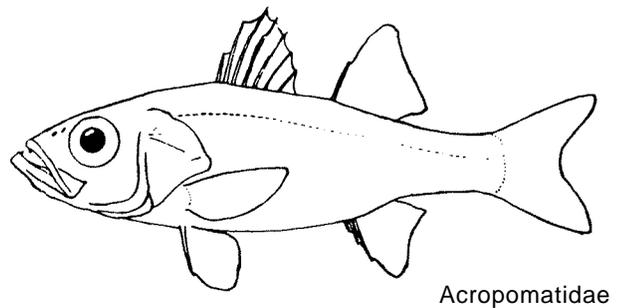
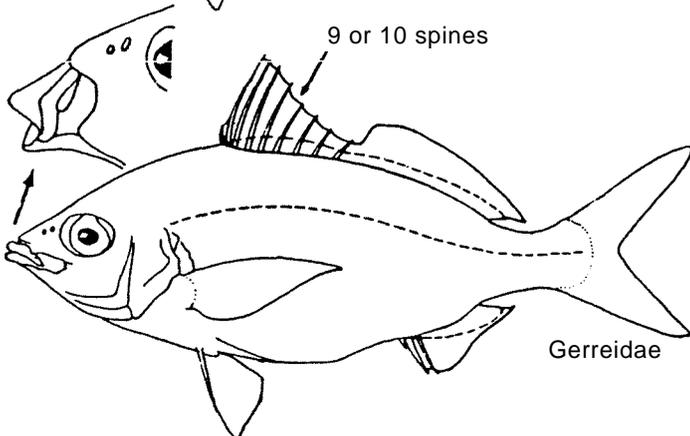
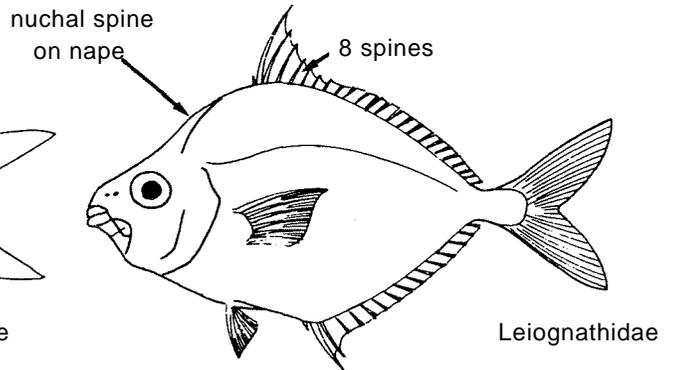
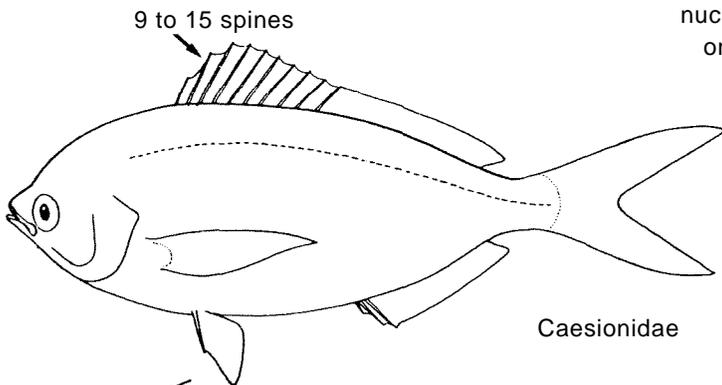
SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA :

Caesionidae: dorsal fin usually longer, always continuous, with 9 to 15 slender spines and 9 to 22 soft rays (11 to 14 spines and 9 to 12 soft rays in Emmelichthyidae); maxilla scaleless, more or less covered by the preorbital bone when mouth is closed; no supramaxilla.

Leiognathidae: more deep-bodied; only 8 dorsal fin spines; a characteristic nuchal spine on head; maxilla scaleless.

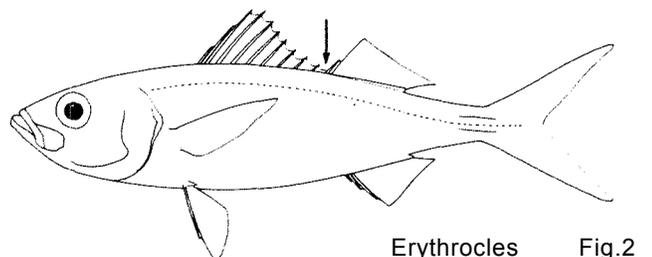
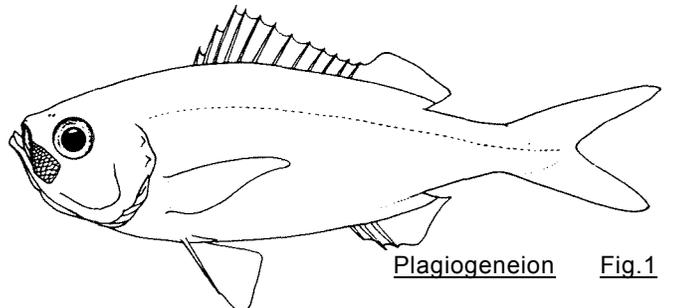
Gerreidae: usually more deep-bodied; only 9 or 10 dorsal fin spines; maxilla scaleless; mouth pointing downwards when protracted.

Other superficially similar percoid fishes (Anthiidae, Pomatomidae, Acropomatidae, Priacanthidae): mouth not greatly protrusible, maxilla scaleless; no scaly axillary process at base of pelvic fins.

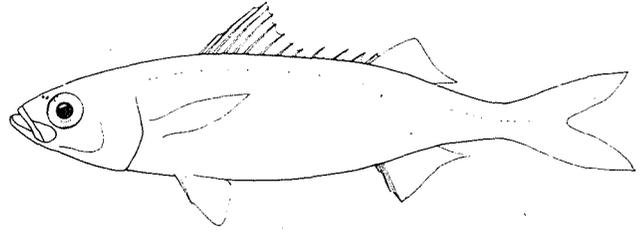


KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

- 1a. Dorsal fin not (or only slightly) notched between spinous and soft-rayed parts (Fig.1) Plagiogeneion
- 1b. Dorsal fin divided to the base, or spinous part separated by a distinct gap from soft-rayed fin
- 2a. Dorsal fin divided to the base before last spine, but without a distinct gap between the two parts (Fig.2) Erythrocles



- 2b. Spinous dorsal fin separated from soft dorsal by a wide gap containing several short, isolated or buried spines (Fig.3)..... Emmelichthys



Emmelichthys Fig. 3

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

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

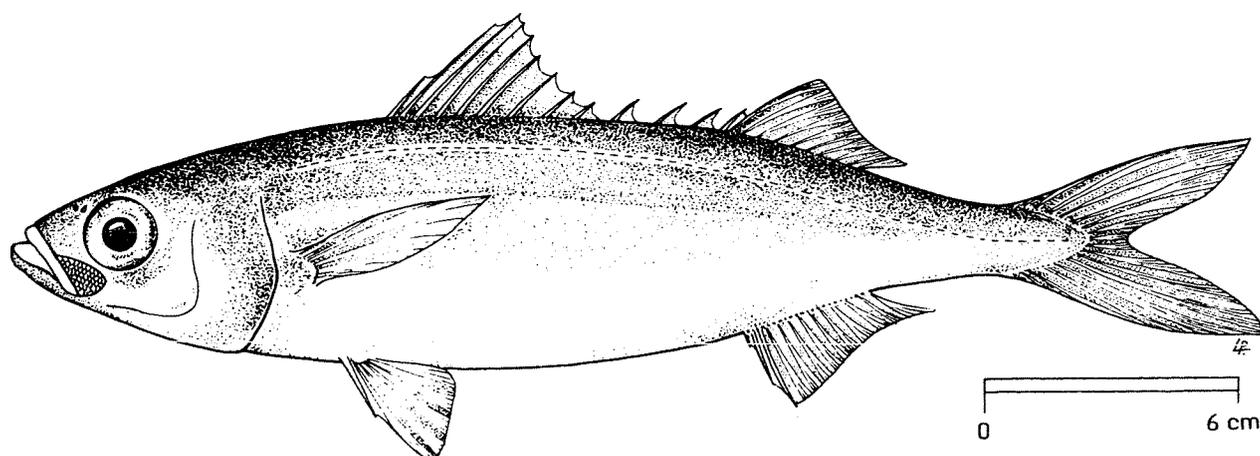
<u>Emmelichthys nitidus</u> Richardson, 1845	EMMEL Emmel 2
<u>Erythrocles schlegelii</u> (Richardson, 1846)	
<u>Erythrocles acarina</u> Kotthaus, 1974	
<u>Plagiogeneion rubiginosus</u> (Hutton, 1875)	EMMEL Plagio 1

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: EMMELICHTHYIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Emmelichthys nitidus Richardson, 1845

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Bonnetmouth
Fr - Andorrève du Cap
Sp - Andorrero del Cabo

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

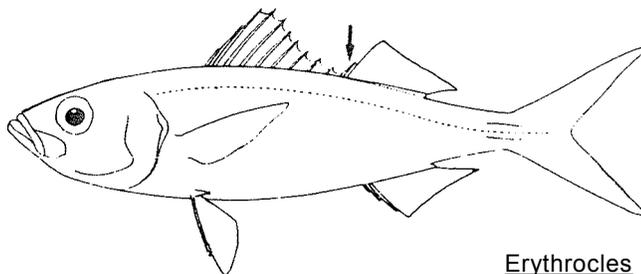
Body elongate, fusiform, body depth 4.1 to 5.5 times in standard length, distinctly less than head length. Maxilla broad and scaly, not covered by the preorbital bone when mouth is closed; upper jaw very protrusile; jaws toothless or with a few minute teeth at front; palate toothless; gillrakers 10 to 12 on upper, and 27 to 31 on lower limb of first gill arch. First dorsal fin lying in a groove, with 9 or 10 spines, followed by 2 to 4 short, isolated spines, then a short spine attached to first soft ray of 2nd dorsal fin; 2nd dorsal fin with 9 to 11 segmented rays; anal fin with 3 slender spines and 10 segmented rays.

Colour: bluish-grey dorsally; silvery below, with a reddish cast.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Plagiogeneion and Erythrocles species: no gap between spiny and soft rayed portion of dorsal fin; body deeper, especially in Plagiogeneion, its depth 3.1 to 4.2 times in standard length 4.1 to 5.5 times in E. nitidus.

Dipterygonotus (Caesionidae): maxilla scaleless, supramaxillary bone absent.



Erythrocles

SIZE:

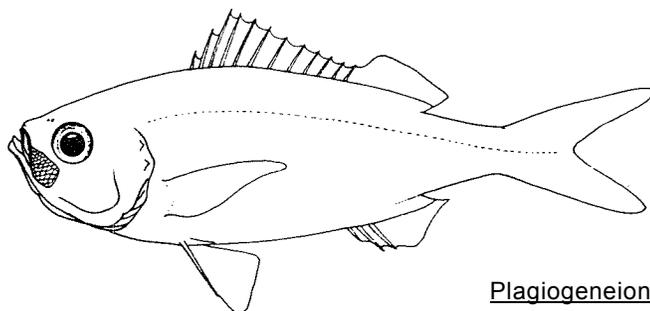
Maximum: 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, so far only reported from South Africa (Cape Town to Natal). Elsewhere, known from New Zealand, the southern coast of Australia and St. Paul and Amsterdam Islands.

The young occur near the surface, often with schools of clupeids. Adults are found near the bottom in deeper water (100 to 200 m). Larval stages unknown.

Feeds on larger zooplankton organisms (euphausiids, tunicates, etc.).



Plagiogeneion

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

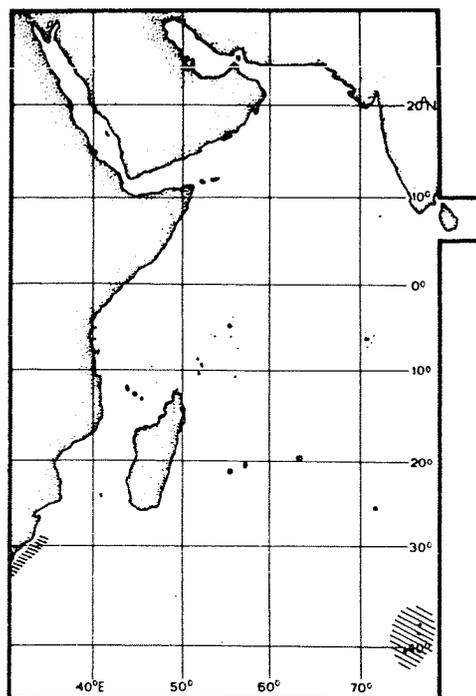
Trawlable bottoms in depths of 100 to 200 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.

An excellent food fish; marketed fresh or frozen.

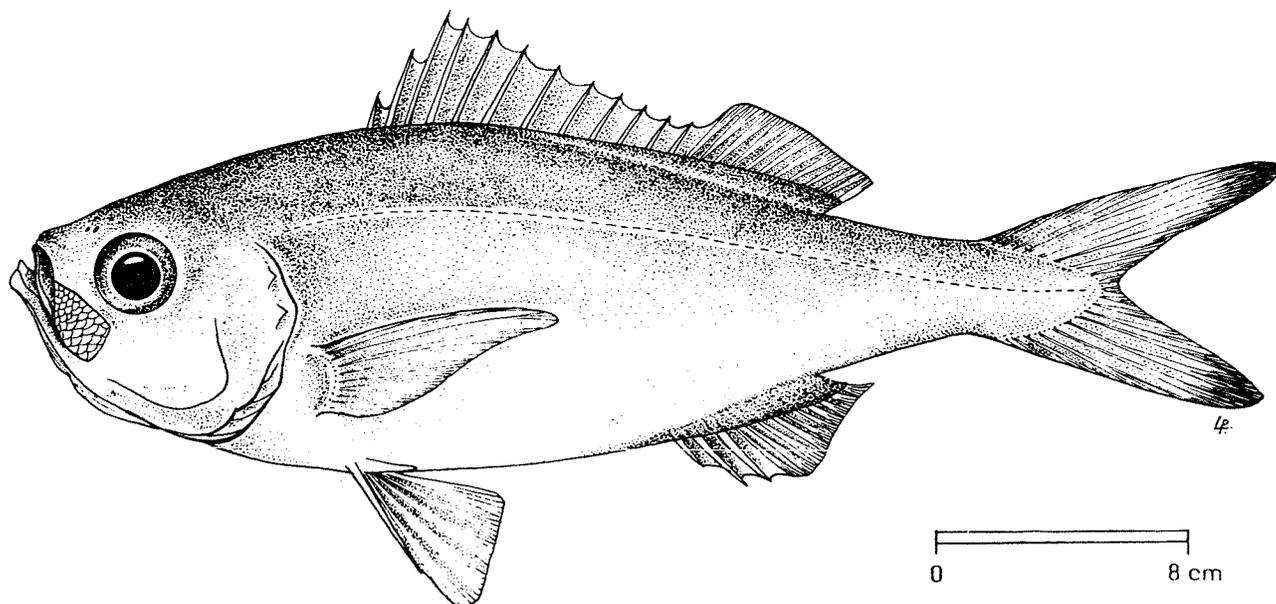


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : EMMELICHTHYIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Plagiogeneion rubiginosus* (Hutton, 1875)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Indian Ocean rubyfish
Fr - Poisson rubis saumon
Sp - Pez rubi salmón

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong, somewhat compressed, its depth 2.8 to 3.2 times in standard length. Maxilla broad and scaly, not covered by the preorbital bone when mouth is closed; upper jaw very protrusile; jaws toothless or with a few tiny teeth at the front; palate toothless; gillrakers 10 to 12 on upper limb and 26 to 31 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin with 12 spines and 10 to 12 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 10 soft rays. Lateral line scales 67 to 74 (to base of caudal fin).

Colour: rosy pink; brownish dorsally; silvery ventrally; tips of caudal fin blackish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Erythrocles and Emmelichthys species: dorsal fin divided by a deep notch or a gap into separate spiny and soft-rayed parts; body more slender, especially in Emmelichthys species.

Caesio and Paracaesio species: maxilla scaleless, supramaxilla absent; 10 dorsal fin spines (12 in P. rubiginosus).

SIZE:

Maximum: 50 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Within the area, only reported from South Africa (Cape Town to Natal) and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, known from New Zealand, the southern coast of Australia, and St. Paul and Amsterdam Islands.

Adults occur near the bottom in rather deep water (50 to 600 m). Larval stages unknown.

Feeds on larger zooplankton organisms (euphausiids, tunicates, etc.).

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

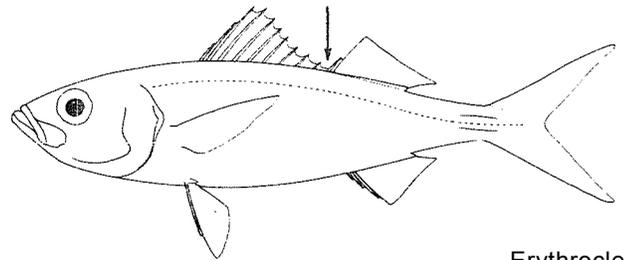
Trawlable bottoms in depths of 50 to 550 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

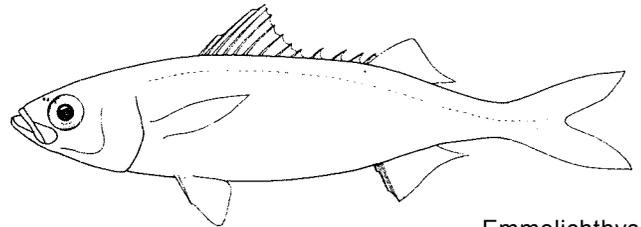
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.

An excellent food fish; marketed fresh or frozen.



Erythrocles



Emmelichthys

