

## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

## LEIOGNATHIDAE

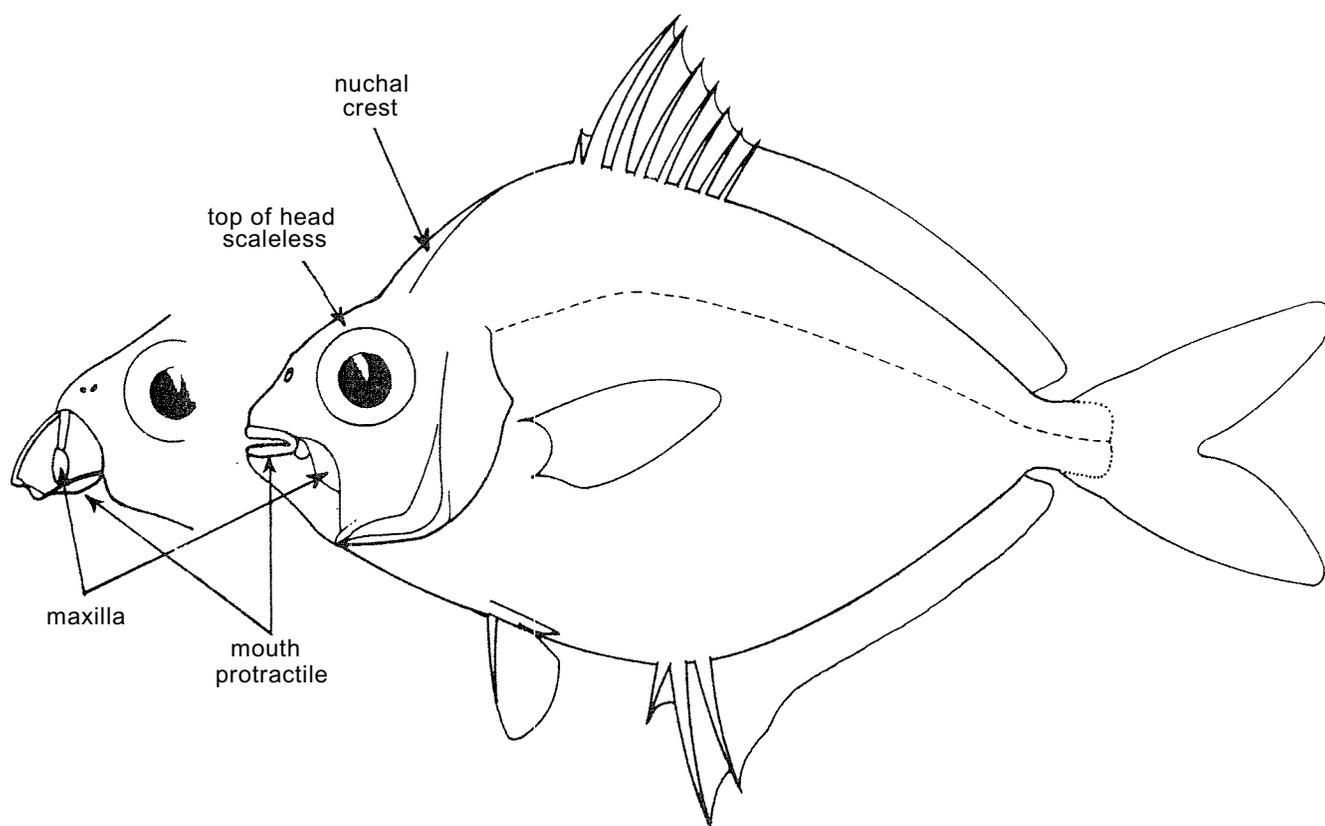
Ponyfishes, slipmouths, toothponies

Small to medium-sized fishes with oblong or round bodies, moderately to strongly compressed. Top of head with bony ridges and a well developed nuchal crest or spine; mouth strongly protrusible. A single dorsal fin with 8 (rarely 7 or 9) spines and 16 or 17 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 14 soft rays; second dorsal and anal fin spines always the longest; caudal fin deeply emarginate to forked. Body covered with small, cycloid (smooth) scales but top of head scaleless.

Colour: silvery, often with characteristic markings on body and fins, which are usually very helpful in field identification of fresh specimens.

Bottom-living fishes in shallow coastal waters, with several species entering brackish waters, especially river estuaries. They are commonly caught with bottom trawls, as well as with beach seines, gillnets and other artisanal gear. Some are found in dense schools and may constitute a major component of the catch, especially along the coasts of India and Sri Lanka.

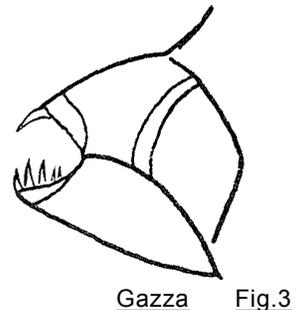
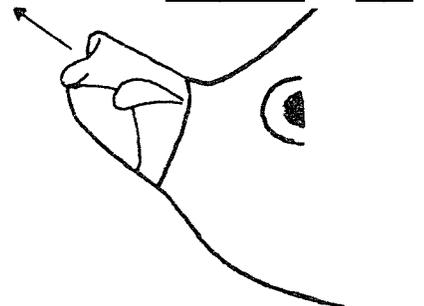
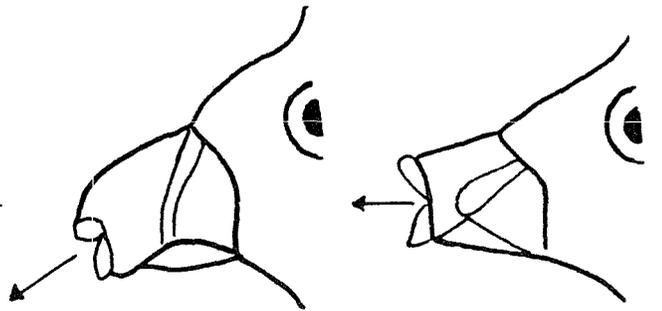
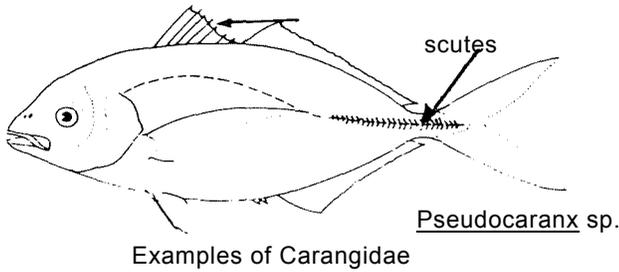
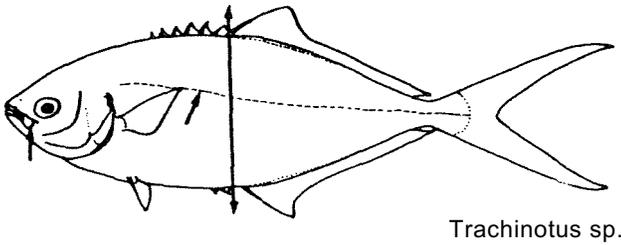
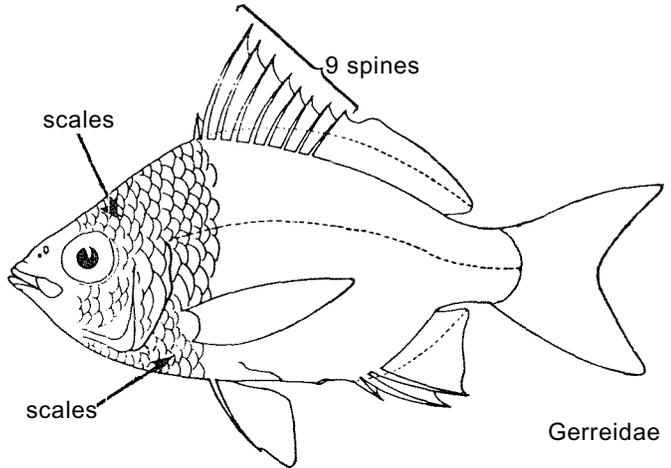
Usually no separate statistics by species are collected for this family. The total catch of ponyfishes reported from Fishing Area 51 exceeded 7 500 tons in 1980, but the actual landings are doubtless considerably higher. These fishes are most commonly marketed dried salted. In some areas, they are also used for fishmeal.



**SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Gerreidae: body shape similar and mouth also strongly protrusible, but nuchal crest absent; scales much larger, and clearly visible, covering also top of head and breast; dorsal fin spines 9 or 10 (8, rarely 7 or 9, in Leiognathidae).

Carangidae: mouth not strongly protrusible; two dorsal fins, or dorsal fin deeply notched; first two anal fin spines somewhat detached from third spine, sometimes deeply embedded in skin; many spines with scutes along lateral line.



**KEY TO SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

- 1a. Caniniform teeth absent
  - 2a. Mouth horizontal, pointing forward or downward when protracted (Fig.1) ..... Leiognathus
  - 2b. Mouth oblique, pointing upward when protracted (Fig.2) ..... Secutor
- 1b. Caniniform teeth present; mouth pointing forward when protracted (Fig.3) ..... Gazza

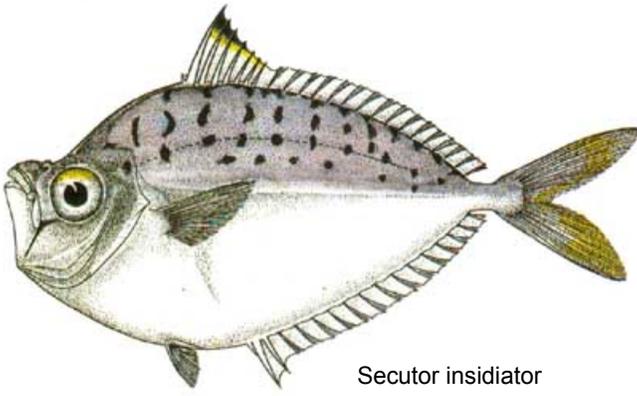
**LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

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

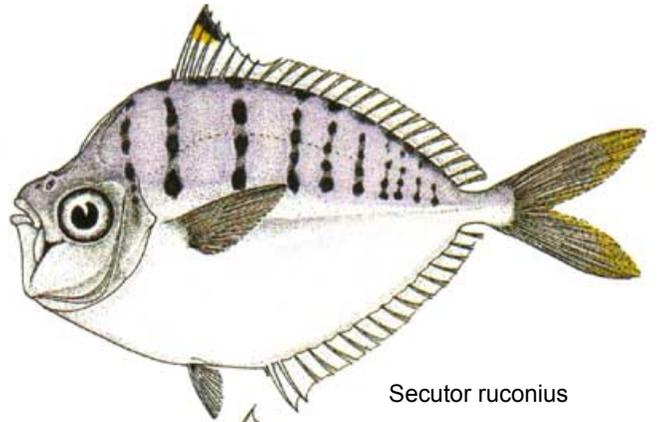
<u>Gazza achlamys</u> Jordan & Starks, 1917	LEIOG Gaz 2
<u>Gazza minuta</u> (Bloch, 1797)	LEIOG Gaz 1
<u>Leiognathus berbis</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	LEIOG Leiog 13
<u>Leiognathus bindus</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	LEIOG Leiog 1
<u>Leiognathus blochi</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	LEIOG Leiog 12
<u>Leiognathus brevirostris</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	LEIOG Leiog 2
<u>Leiognathus daura</u> (Cuvier, 1829)	LEIOG Leiog 3
<u>Leiognathus dussumieri</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	LEIOG Leiog 11
<u>Leiognathus elongatus</u> Günther, 1874	LEIOG Leiog 4
<u>Leiognathus equulus</u> (Forsskål, 1775)	LEIOG Leiog 5
<u>Leiognathus fasciatus</u> (Lacepède, 1803)	LEIOG Leiog 6
<u>Leiognathus jonesi</u> James, 1971	
<u>Leiognathus leuciscus</u> (Günther, 1860)	LEIOG Leiog 8
<u>Leiognathus lineolatus</u> (Valenciennes, 1835)	LEIOG Leiog 14
<u>Leiognathus smithursti</u> (Ramsay & Ogilby, 1886)	LEIOG Leiog 9
<u>Leiognathus splendens</u> (Cuvier, 1829)	LEIOG Leiog 10
<u>Secutor insidiator</u> (Bloch, 1787)	LEIOG Sec 1
<u>Secutor ruconius</u> (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)	LEIOG Sec 2

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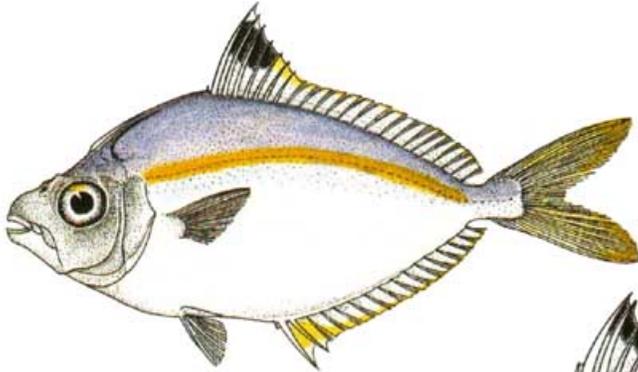
\* Species recognized by the present author but there is no general consensus about its validity. Many authors, in fact, consider it a synonym of L. splendens



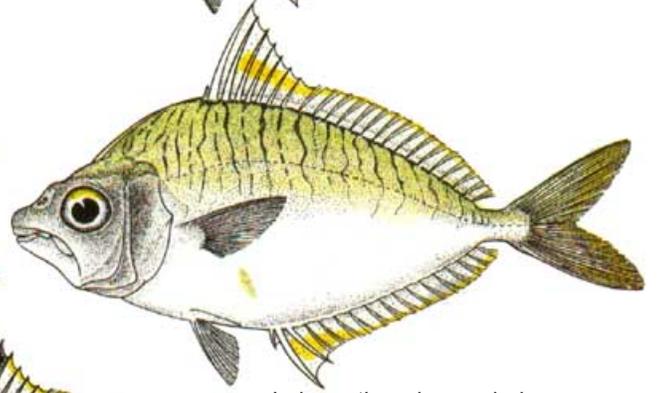
*Secutor insidiator*



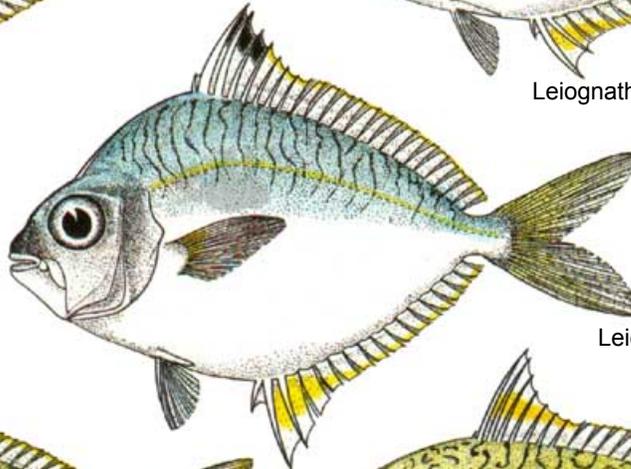
*Secutor ruconius*



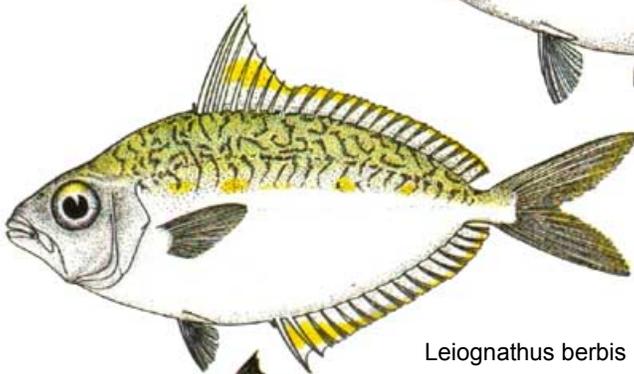
*Leiognathus daura*



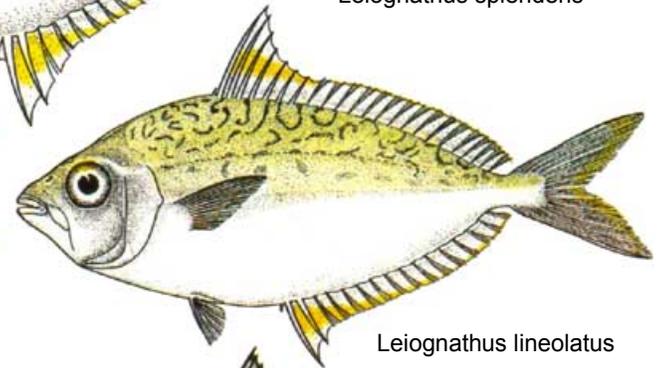
*Leiognathus dussumieri*



*Leiognathus splendens*



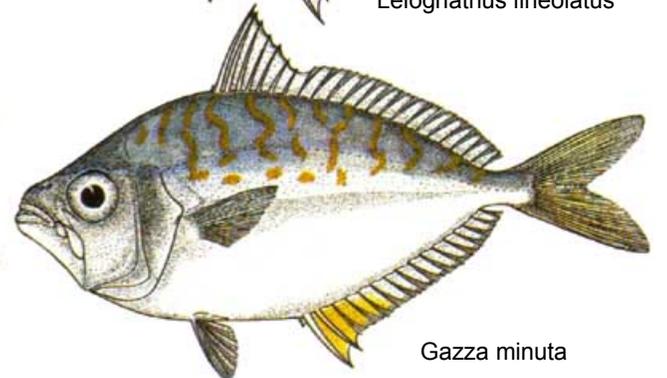
*Leiognathus berbis*



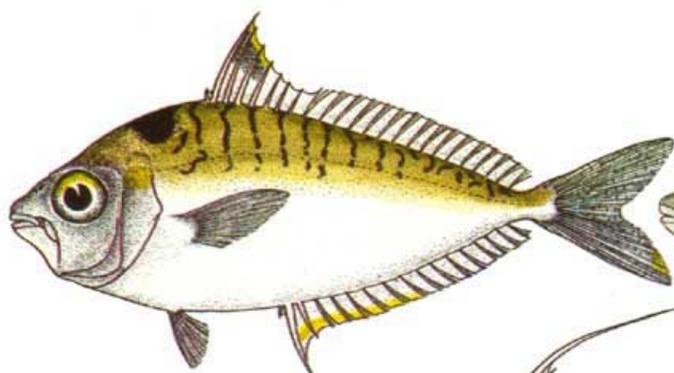
*Leiognathus lineolatus*



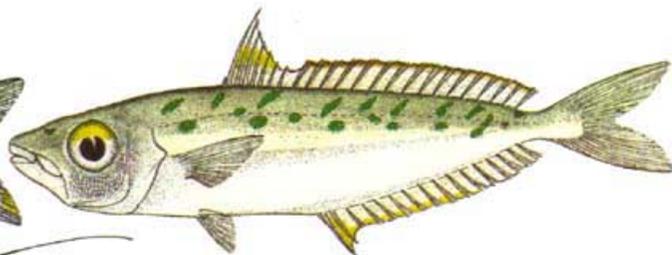
*Gazza achlamys*



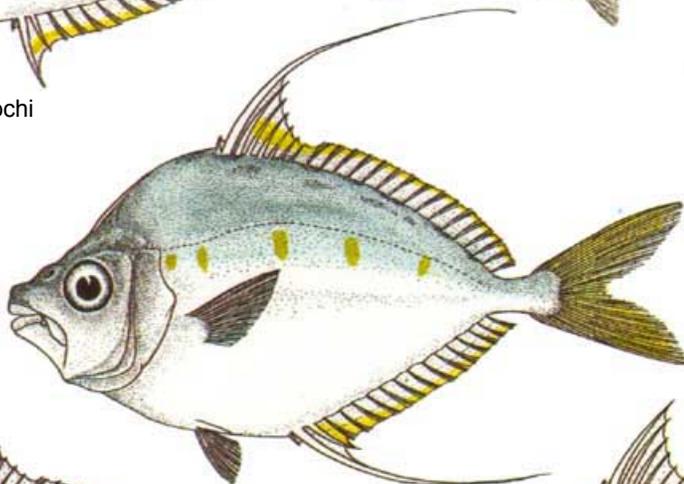
*Gazza minuta*



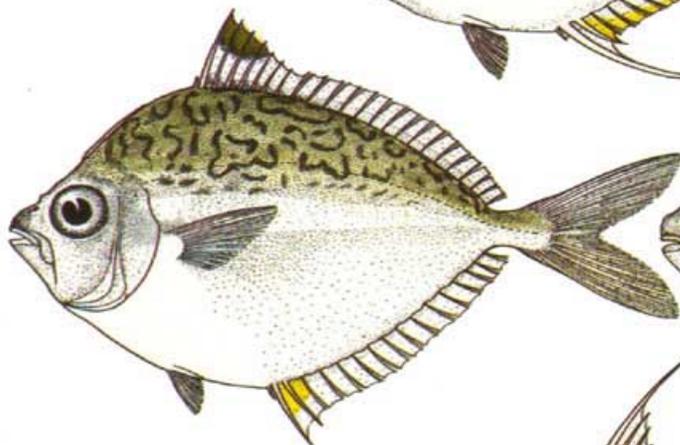
*Leiognathus blochi*



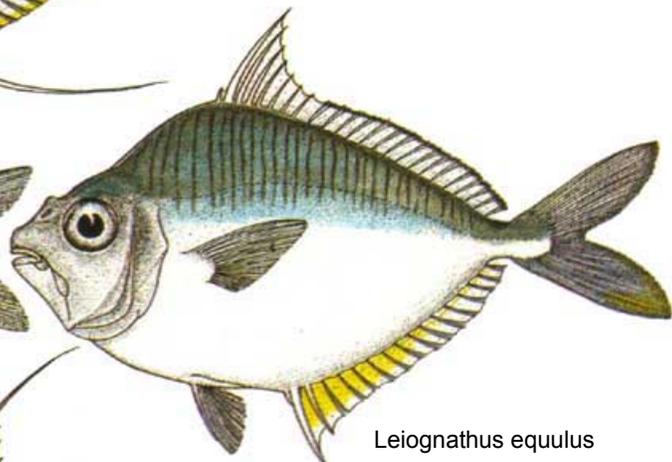
*Leiognathus elongatus*



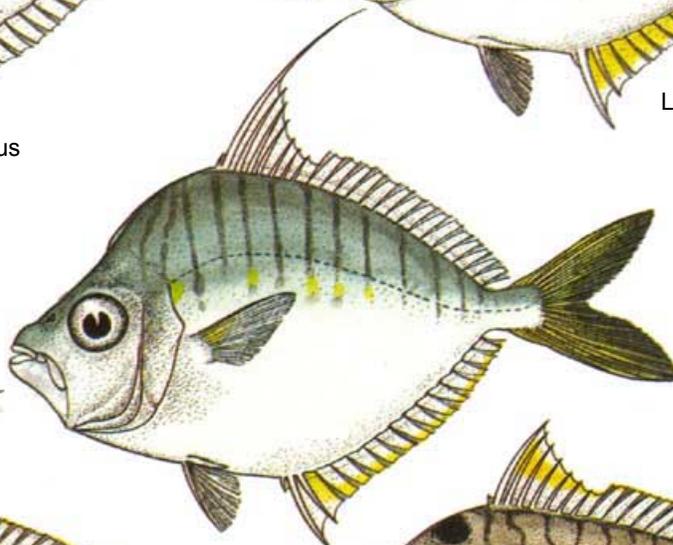
*Leiognathus smithursti*



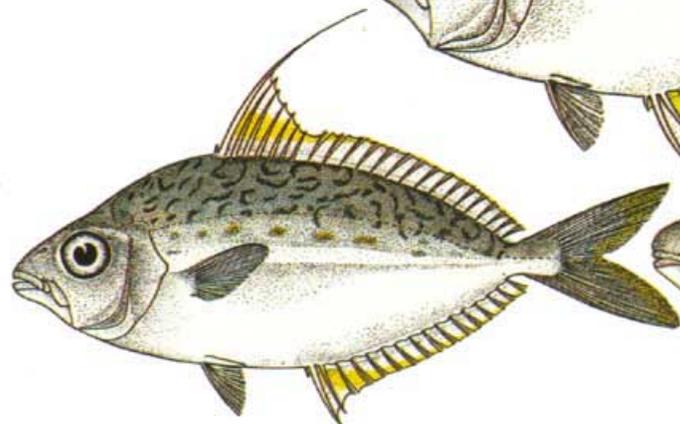
*Leiognathus bindus*



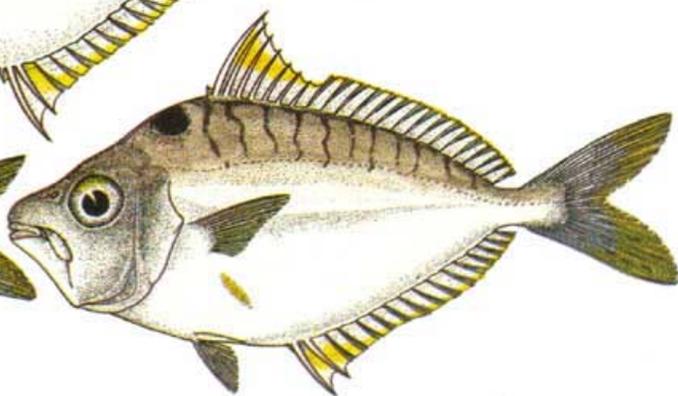
*Leiognathus equulus*



*Leiognathus fasciatus*



*Leiognathus leuciscus*



*Leiognathus brevirostris*