

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

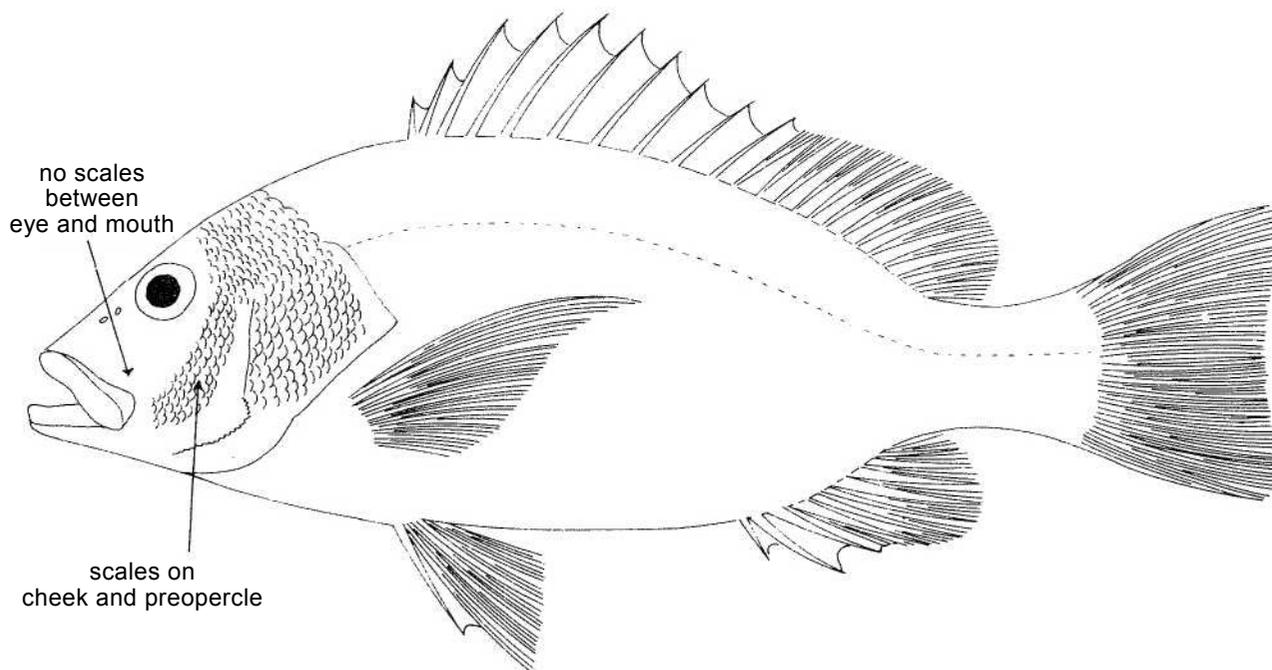
LUTJANIDAE

Snappers, jobfishes

Typical perch-like fishes, moderately elongate to deep-bodied, fairly compressed. Mouth terminal, moderate to large extending somewhat when opened (protrusible); maxilla broadest posteriorly, sliding (at least partly) under the suborbital bone (lachrymal) for the greater part of its edge; jaw teeth usually in a few rows, conical and sharp, often developed as more or less distinct canines but no canines in *Aphareus*); molariform teeth present only in one genus (*Hoplopagris*) which is not found in Fishing Area 51; teeth often present on vomer and palatines (roof of mouth); preopercle usually serrate, often finely. Dorsal fin continuous, with 10 to 12 spines and 10 to 17 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 to 11 soft rays; pelvic fins with 1 spine and 5 soft rays, set further back than the pectoral fin bases. Lateral line complete, straight or gently curved. Body covered with moderate to small, ctenoid (rough to touch) scales. Anterior part of head (snout and preorbital area) without scales; some rows of scales on cheek, preopercle and on gill cover.

Colour: highly variable, mainly from yellow through red to blue, often with blotches, lines or other patterns.

Small to large fishes (to over 1 m in total length), mostly demersal, common in tropical, less common in subtropical-temperate areas, ranging from shallow coastal waters to considerable depths (continental slope). Many species are found in coral reef areas and brackish estuaries. A few species may even enter rivers, especially in their juvenile phase; others on soft bottoms, in mangrove areas or in hypersaline lagoons. Many species may form aggregations. All snappers are predators, usually active at night, feeding mainly on demersal organisms, including crustaceans and fishes, sometimes also cuttlefish and worms. They are of high commercial value and often represent a sizeable part of the catches; taken mainly with bottom trawls, handlines, longlines and traps. Their flesh is of delicate taste and therefore highly esteemed, although some species have occasionally been reported to cause poisoning (ciguatera). The catch of snappers and jobfishes reported from Fishing Area 51 totalled about 5,000 t in 1979. Separate statistics by species are not reported in the region.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA

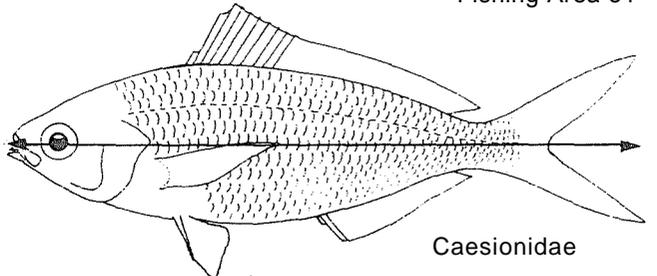
Caesionidae: horizontal axis from tip of snout to middle of caudal fin passing through centre of pupil (below centre of pupil in all lutjanids except Pinjalo pinjalo from which all Caesionids are easily distinguished by having a more slender body and horizontal scale rows above and below lateral line (oblique in Pinjalo).

Lethrinidae: palate always toothless. Furthermore, some species (Monotaxis grandoculis and several Lethrinus) with molar-like teeth at sides of jaws; all species of Lethrinus with cheek and preopercular flange scaleless.

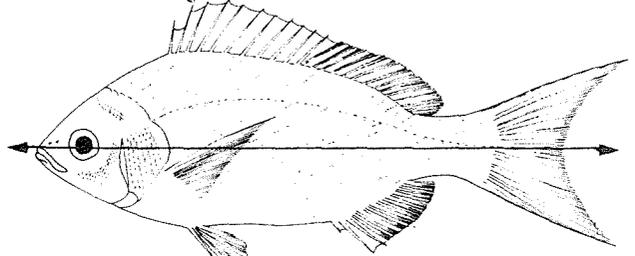
Nemipteridae: palate toothless; 9 dorsal fin rays, except in Pentapodus (10 to 17 in Lutjanidae); 6 or 7 anal fin rays, except in Pentapodus (7 to 11 in Lutjanidae). Furthermore, dorsal and/or caudal fin often filamentous in Nemipterus; a characteristic preorbital spine in Scolopsis, Pentapodus and Parascolopsis (missing in Lutjanidae).

Sparidae: palate toothless; preopercle never serrate; usually dorsal fin spines stronger; incisor-like and/or molar-like teeth present in many species.

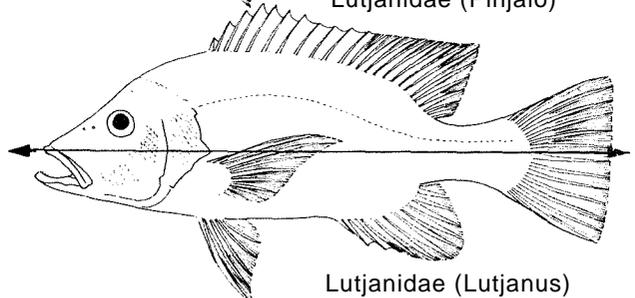
Haemulidae : palate toothless (including Plectrohynchidae of authors); scales always present between eye and mouth; 2 or more pores present on chin; second anal fin often very strong.



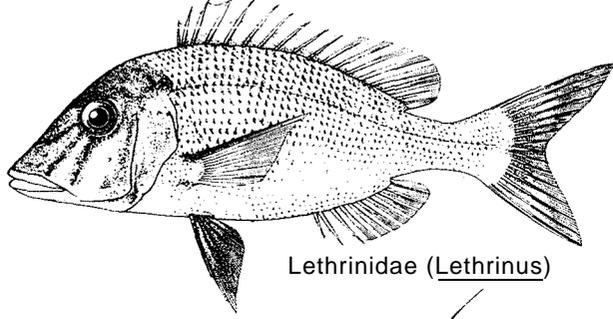
Caesionidae



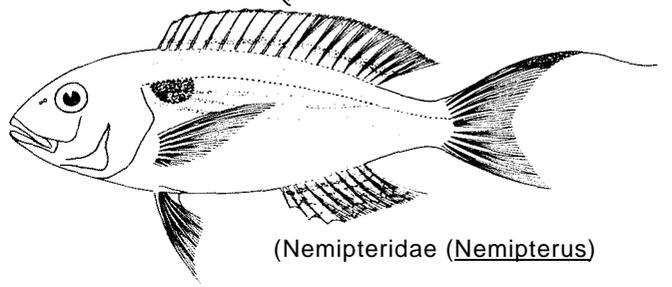
Lutjanidae (Pinjalo)



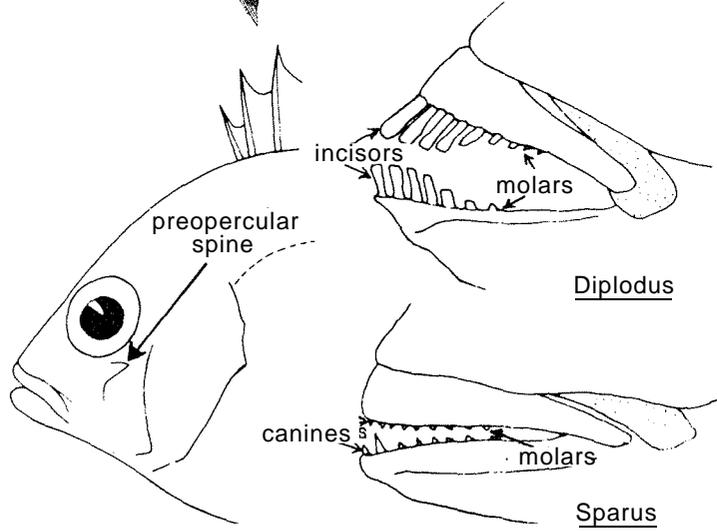
Lutjanidae (Lutjanus)



Lethrinidae (Lethrinus)



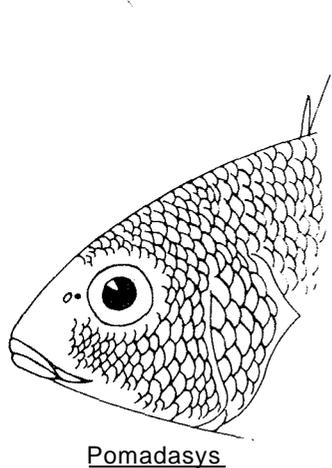
(Nemipteridae (Nemipterus))



Diplodus

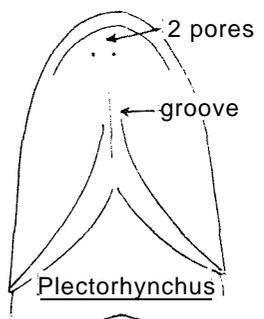
Sparus

Sparidae examples of teeth

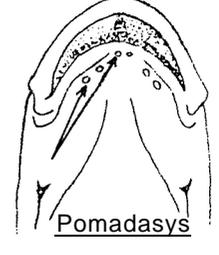


Pomadasys

Haemulidae



Plectorhynchus



Pomadasys

ventral view of head

Scolopsis

KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA

1a. Soft parts of dorsal and anal fins scaleless; pectoral fins with 16 or 17 soft rays; caudal fin deeply forked or with extended lobes (Figs.1 to 6)

2a. Interorbital space flat (Fig.1a)

3a. Dorsal fin deeply notched at last spines, which are markedly shortened (Fig.2) Etelis

3b. Dorsal fin not deeply notched between spinous and soft parts, so that posterior spines are not distinctly shortened

4a. Pectoral fins short, about equal to length of snout; a deep groove in front of eye (Fig.3) Aprion
(A. virescens only)

4b. Pectoral fins long, considerably longer than length of snout; no groove in front of eye (Figs. 3 to 5)

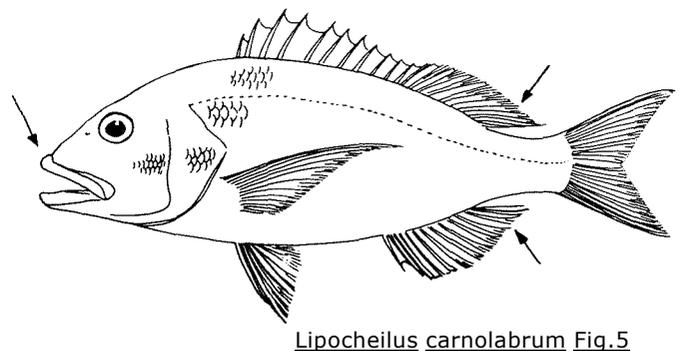
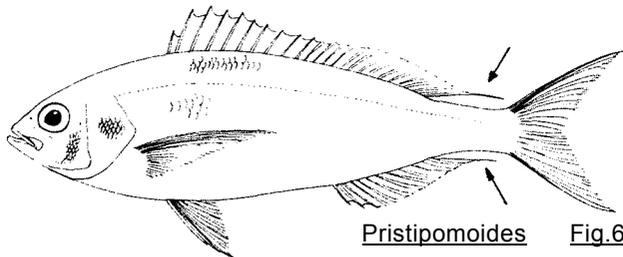
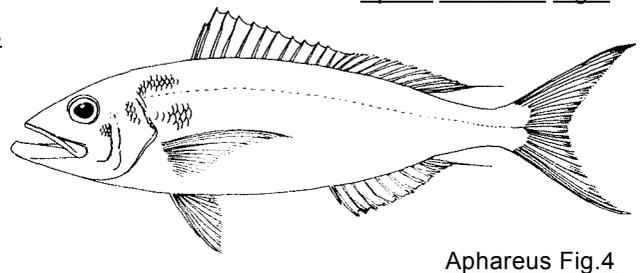
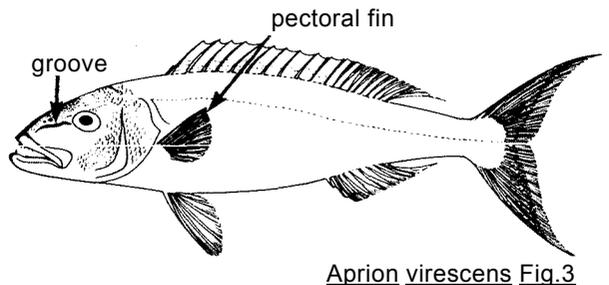
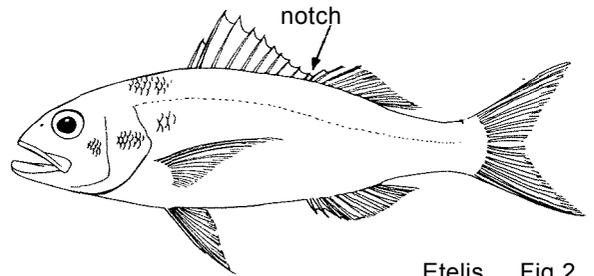
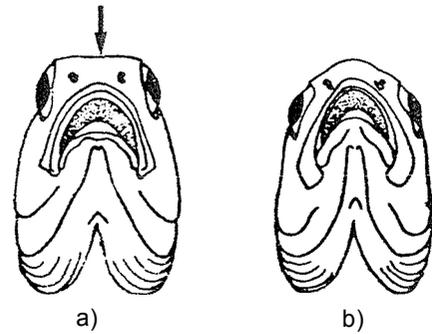
5a. Roof of mouth toothless; teeth in jaws small, disappearing with age (Fig.4) Aphareus

5b. Roof of mouth toothed; teeth in jaws always present

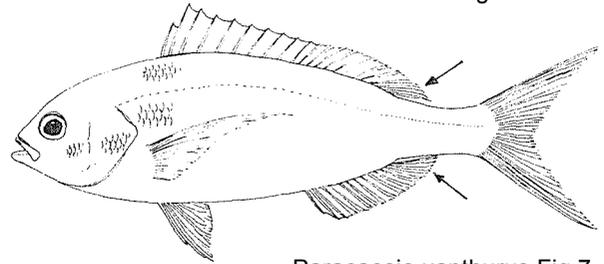
6a. Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins shorter than preceding rays, so that posterior profile of fins is rounded; tip of upper jaw with a tickened fleshy knob (Fig.5) Lipocheilus
(L. carnolabrum only)

6b. Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins extended, conspicuously longer than preceding rays; tip of upper jaw normal (Fig.6)..... Pristipomoides

2b. Interorbital space convex, not flat (Fig.1b)



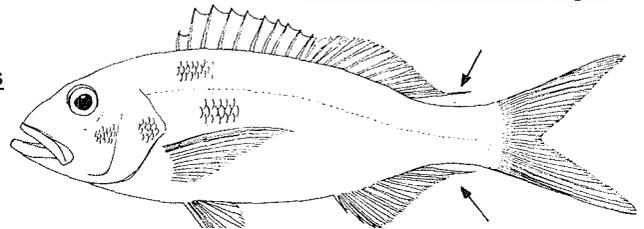
7a. Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins shorter than preceding rays, so that posterior profile of fins is blunt (Fig.7) Paracaesio
(P. xanthurus only)



Paracaesio xanthurus Fig.7

7b. Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins either distinctly extended or distinctly longer than preceding rays

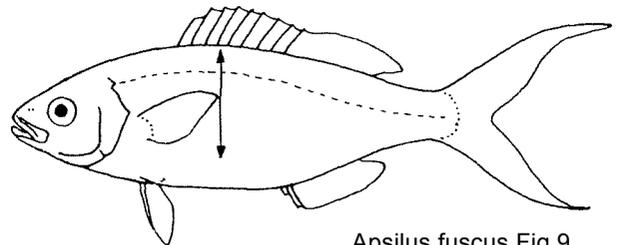
8a. Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins extended forming a short filament; pectoral fins long, pointed, extending to below posterior spines of dorsal fin (Fig.8) Tropidinius
(T. zonatus only)



Tropidinius zonatus Fig.8

8b. Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins not extended, only forming an angulate posterior profile; pectoral fins short, not pointed at their tips, extending to below 4th to 5th spines of the dorsal fin (Fig.9)..... Apsilus
(Apsilus fuscus only)

1b. Soft parts of dorsal and anal fins scaled, or with a low scaly sheath (Fig.10)



Apsilus fuscus Fig.9

9a. Caudal fin only slightly forked, often truncate, emarginate or lunate (Fig.11); pectoral fins with 15 to 17 soft rays

10a. Soft parts of dorsal and anal fins with scales on their bases

11a. Caudal fin slightly forked, with shallow, but broadly rounded lobes; soft parts of dorsal and anal fins forming long, pointed lobes; colour very dark brown to blackish (Fig.12) Macolor
(M. niger only)

scales

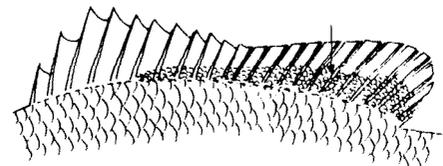
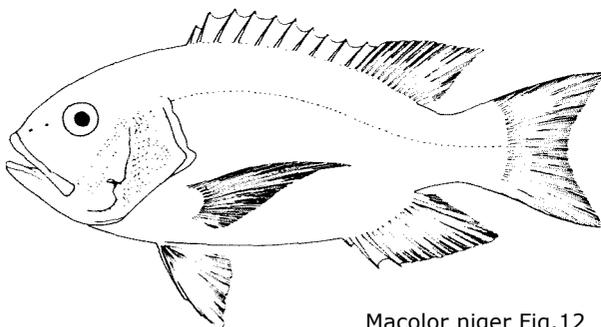
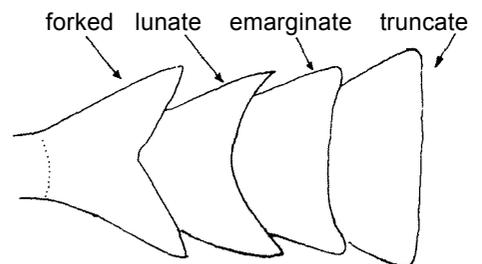


Fig.10



Macolor niger Fig.12

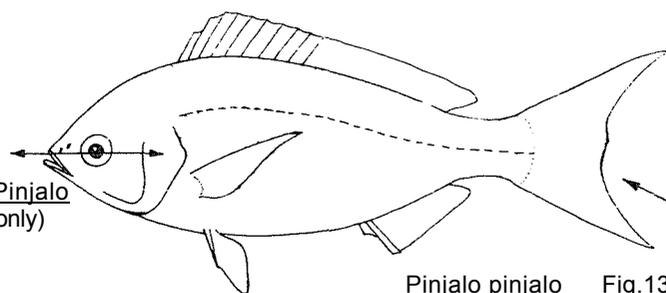


caudal fin

Fig.11

11b. Caudal fin truncate, emarginate or lunate; soft parts of dorsal and anal fins not forming long, pointed lobes; colour reddish, brownish or yellow

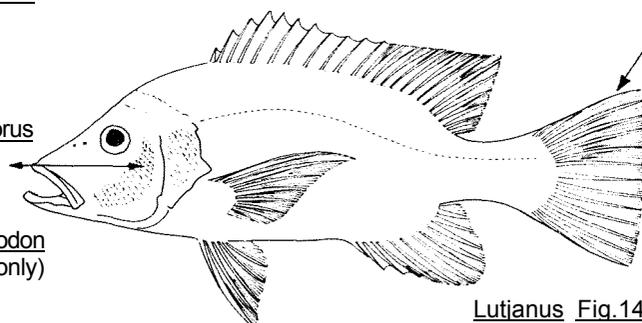
12a. Caudal fin lunate; eye at mid-level of head behind tip of snout (Fig.13) Pinjalo
(P. pinjalo only)



Pinjalo pinjalo Fig.13

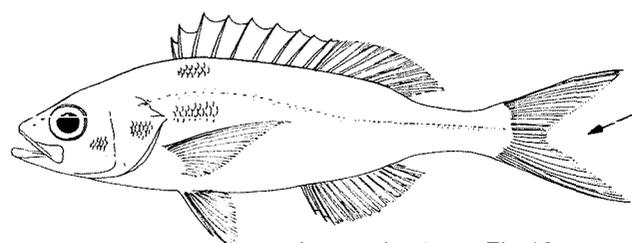
12b. Caudal fin truncate, emarginate or slightly forked, but not broadly lunate; eye not at mid-level of head behind tip of snout (Fig.14) Lutjanus

10b. Soft parts of dorsal and anal fins with only a low scaly sheath not attached to fins; spinous part conspicuously lower than soft part of dorsal fin (Fig.15) Symphorus
(S. nematophorus only)

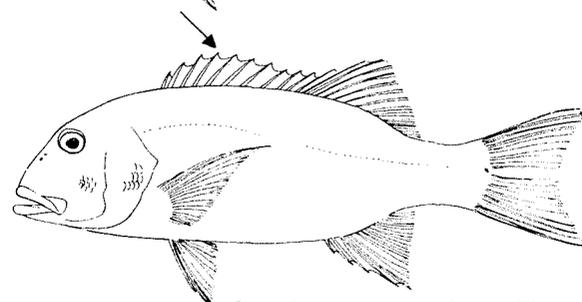


Lutjanus Fig.14

9b. Caudal fin strongly forked, the lobes usually slender (Fig.16) Symphysanodon
(S. typus only)



symphysanodon typus Fig.16



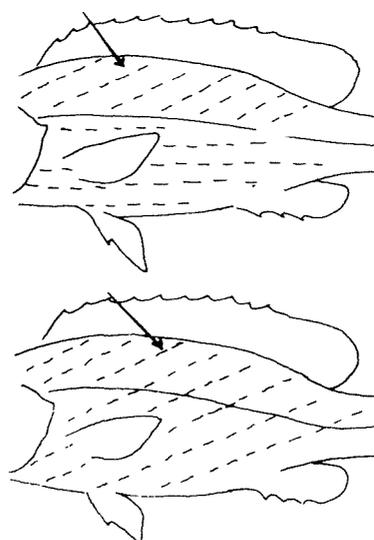
Symphorus nematophorus Fig.15

KEY TO SPECIES OF Lutjanus:

1a. Dorsal fin spines 10

2a. Longitudinal scale rows above lateral line rising obliquely (Fig.1)

3a. Ground colour pale (mainly yellow in life) with a series of 4 to 8 longitudinal stripes (blue in life, often brownish in preservative) on sides



examples of scale row pattern Fig.1