click for previous page

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

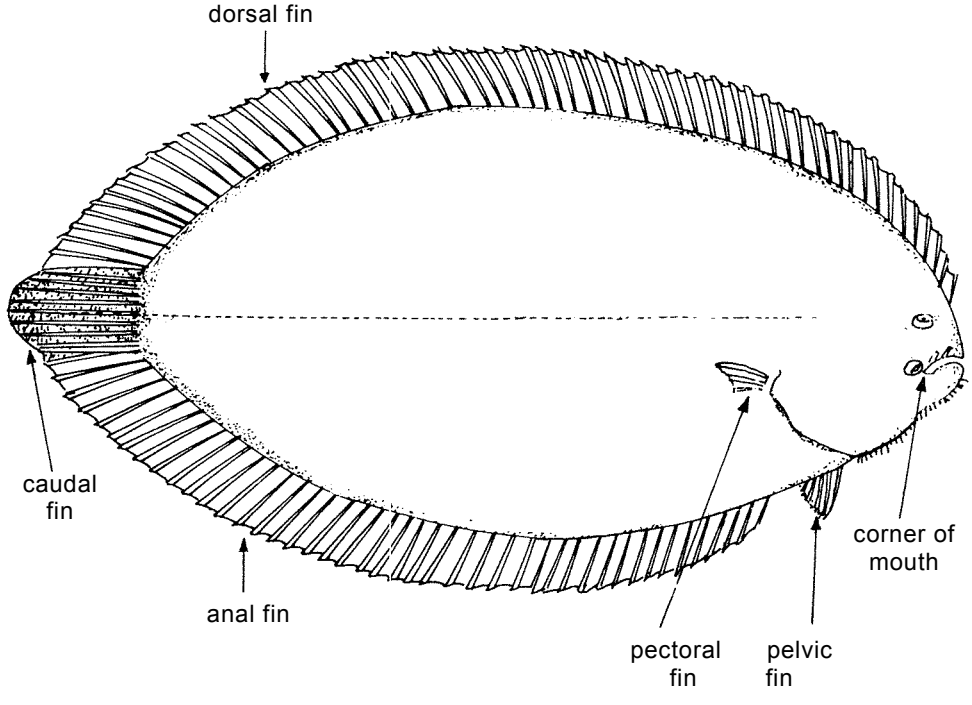
FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

SOLEIDAE

Soles

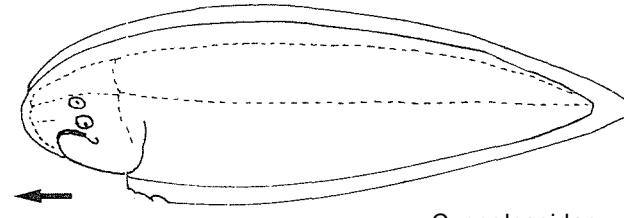
Oval or somewhat elongate and strongly compressed flat fishes with eyes on right side of body. Preopercle without a free margin, embedded in skin. Mouth small and asymmetrical, terminal or slightly inferior; snout sometimes hook-shaped; teeth small, villiform, better developed on blind side. No spines in fins; dorsal fin extending far forward on head; dorsal and anal fins completely separate from, adherent to, or fused with caudal fin; pectoral fins sometimes absent but when present, the right always longer than the left; pelvic fins sometimes asymmetrical, either free or joined to anal fin. Scales moderately large, cycloid (smooth) or ctenoid (rough), sometimes modified into skin flaps fringed with sensory filaments. Lateral line single and straight on body, but sometimes branched on head.

Colour: usually brown, sometimes with scattered black spots or blotches or dark crossbands on eyed side of body and vertical fins; blind side yellow/white. Colour highly variable according to substratum.



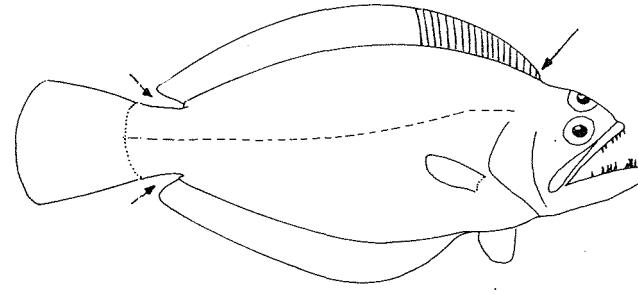
SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Cynoglossidae: also have dorsal fin origin far forward on head, and dorsal and anal fins always joined to caudal fin, but eyes on left side of body (eyes on right side in Soleidae).



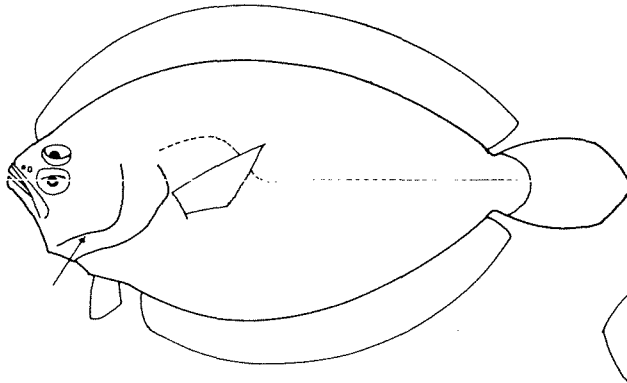
Cynoglossidae

Psettodidae: dorsal and anal fins always separated from caudal fin, dorsal fin not extending forward onto head, and spiny rays present on dorsal and pelvic fins (no spiny rays in Soleidae).

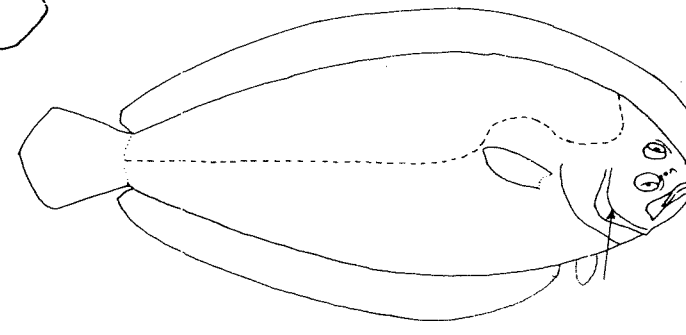


Psettodidae

Pleuronectidae, Bothidae: margin of preopercle free and distinct (no pre-opercular margin, preopercle hidden beneath skin in Soleidae).



Bothidae

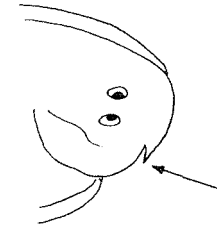


Pleuronectidae

KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

1a. Snout forming a distinct hook (Fig.1) ..... Heteromycteris

1b. Snout not forming a distinct hook



Heteromycteris Fig.1

2a. Caudal fin separate from dorsal and anal fins (Fig.2a)

3a. Pectoral fins absent

4a. Pelvic fins of eyed side short-based, separate from genital papilla and anal fin; dorsal and anal rays without basal pores

5a. One lateral line on each side; pelvic fins short-based, symmetrical..... Aseraggodes

5b. One lateral line on each side, besides a second one on blind side along upper profile of neck; base of pelvic fin on eyed side longer than base of pelvic fin on blind side ..... Liachirus

4a. Pelvic fin of eyed side long-based, joined to genital papilla or anal fin; dorsal and anal rays with open basal pores ..... Pardachirus

3b. Pectoral fins well developed

6a. Pectoral fins about equal ..... Solea

6b. Pectoral fin on blind side smaller than that on eyed side, or absent ..... Monochirus

2b. Caudal fin joined to dorsal and anal fins (Fig.2b)

7a. Opercular membrane not joined to pectoral fin (Fig.3)

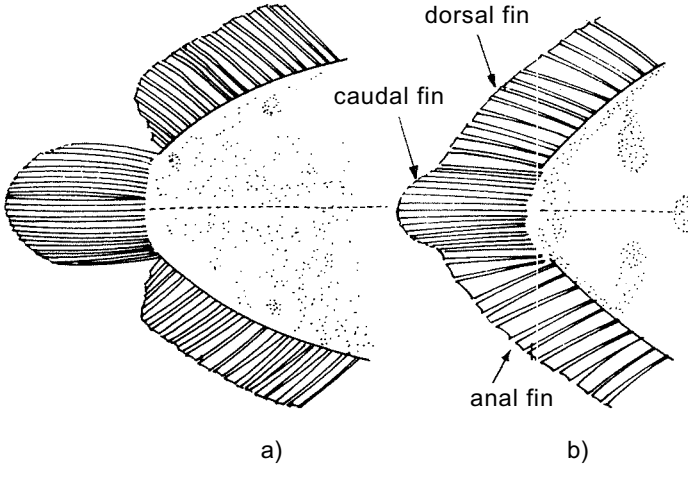
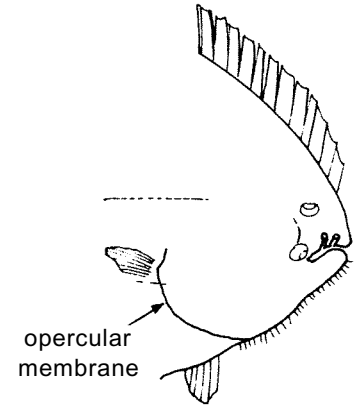


Fig.2



Euryglossa Fig.3

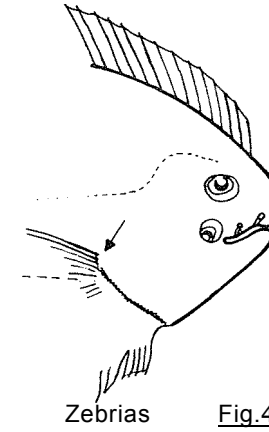
8a. Body elongate

9a. Pectoral fin on eyed side longer than head ..... Austroglossus

9b. Pectoral fin on eyed side shorter than head ..... Synaptura

8b. Body oval ..... Euryglossa

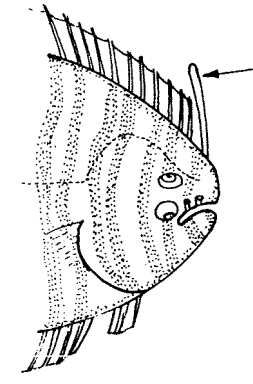
7b. Opercular membrane of both sides of body joined to upper rays of pectoral fin (Fig.4)



Zebrias Fig.4

10a. First ray of dorsal fin not modified ..... Zebrias

10b. First ray of dorsal fin enlarged and free (Fig.5) ..... Aesopia



Aesopia Fig.5

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

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

Aesopia cornuta Kaup, 1858	
Aseraggodes cyaneus (Alcock, 1890) ,	
Aseraggodes morrowi Chabanaud, 1931	
Aseraggodes sinus-arabici Chabanaud, 1931	
Austroglossus pectoralis (Kaup, 1858)	SOL Austro 1
Euryglossa orientales (Schneider, 1801)	SOL Eury 1
Heteromycteris capensis (Kaup, 1858)	
Heteromycteris oculus (Alcock, 1889)	
Liachirus melanospilus (Bleeker, 1854)	
Monochirus quadriocellatus Bonde, 1922	
Pardachirus marmoratus (Lacepède, 1802)	SOL Par 2
Solea bleekeri Boulenger, 1863	
Solea fulvomarginata Gilchrist, 1904	
Soles elongata Day, 1877	SOL Sol 4
Solea ovata Richardson, 1849	
Synaptura commersoniana (Lacepède, 1802)	SOL Syn 1
Synaptura marginata Boulenger, 1900	SOL Syn 4
Zebrias quagga (Kaup, 1858)	SOL Zeb 2
Zebrias regani (Gilchrist, 1902)	
Zebrias synapturoides (Jenkins, 1910)	SOL Zeb 3

Prepared by A.G.K. Menon, Zoological Survey of India, Madras, India

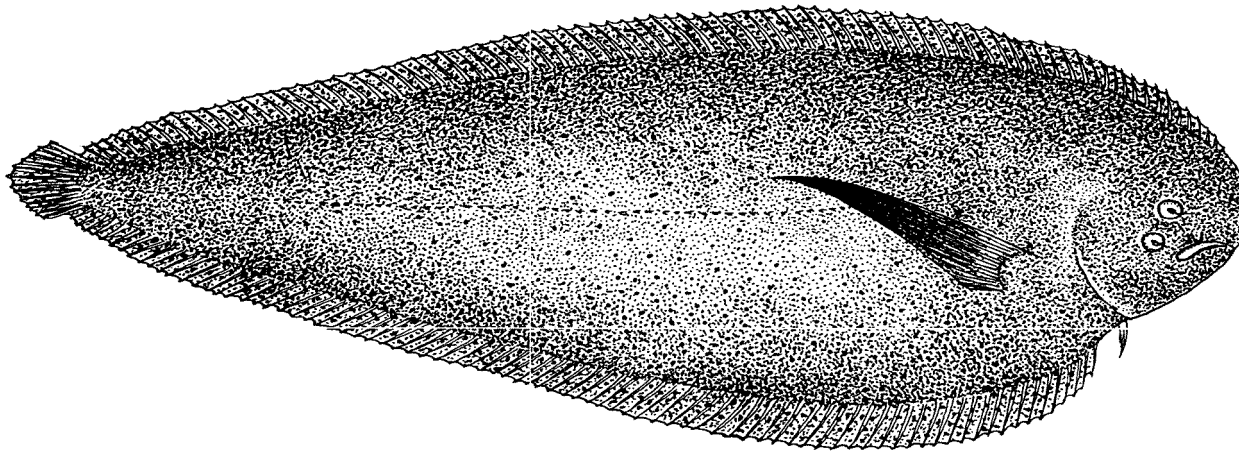
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

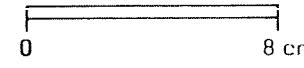
FAMILY: SOLEIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Austroglossus pectoralis (Kaup, 1858)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : Synaptura pectoralis Kaup, 1858





VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Mud sole
Fr - Sole de vase
Sp - Lenguado de fango

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and flat, broad anteriorly and tapering posteriorly. Eyes on right side, upper only slightly in advance or at vertical through lower, their diameter equal to the space between them; mouth small, curved, cleft reaching below middle of upper eye. Dorsal and anal fins joined to caudal fin; pectoral fins well developed; pectoral fin on eyed side longer than head, 1.25 to 2 times length of head and about 3 times length of pectoral fin on blind side. Scales on eyed side small, ctenoid (rough to touch), those on blind side feebly ctenoid.

Colour: brown, more or less speckled with darker; dorsal and anal fins spotted and speckled with dark brown or black, pectoral fin on eyed side black.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA :

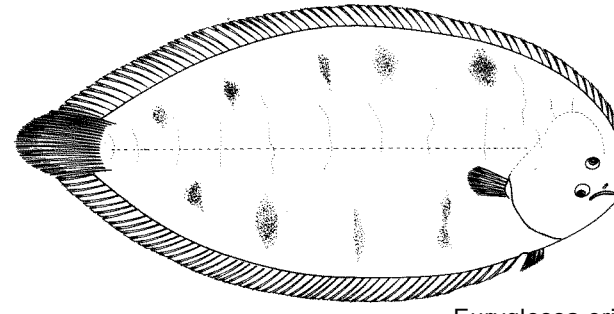
Synaptura species: pectoral fin on eyed side shorter than head length.

Euryglossa orientalis: body oval.

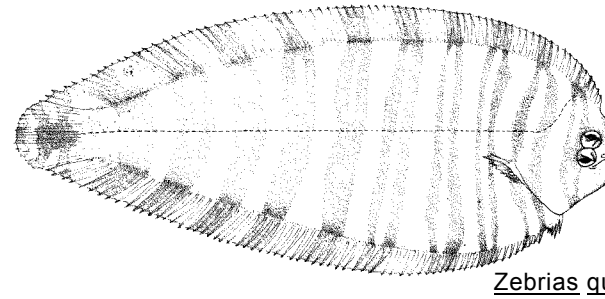
Zebrias and Aesopia species: opercular membrane joined to upper pectoral fin rays and dark crossbars on body.

Species of Aseraggodes, Liachirus, Pardachirus, Solea and Monochirus: have dorsal and anal fins separate from caudal fin.

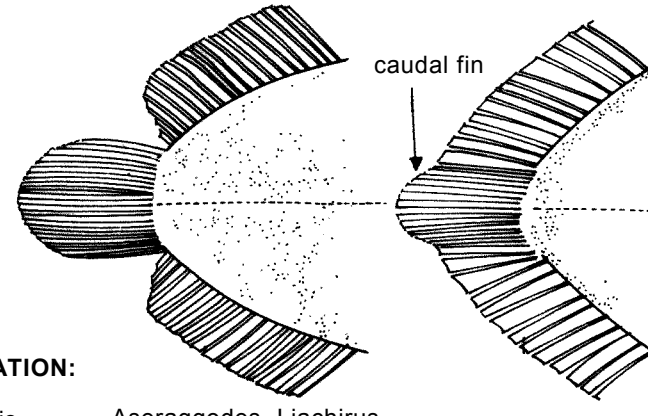
Heteromycteris species: snout forming a long hook.



Euryglossa orientalis



Zebrias quagga



Aseraggodes, Liachirus, Pardachirus, Solea and Monochirus

Austroglossus

SIZE:

Maximum: 60 cm; common to 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Found from Natal (South Africa) to Mozambique.

Inhabits shallow coastal waters.

Carnivorous, feeds on bottom living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

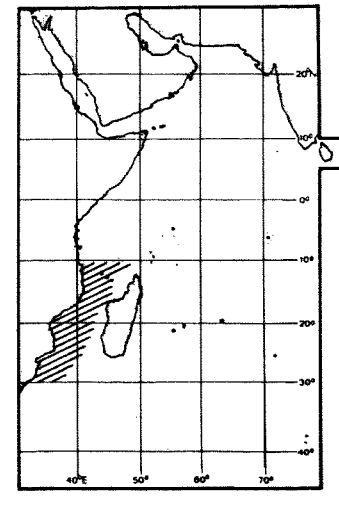
Coastal waters of Natal.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

Usually marketed fresh.



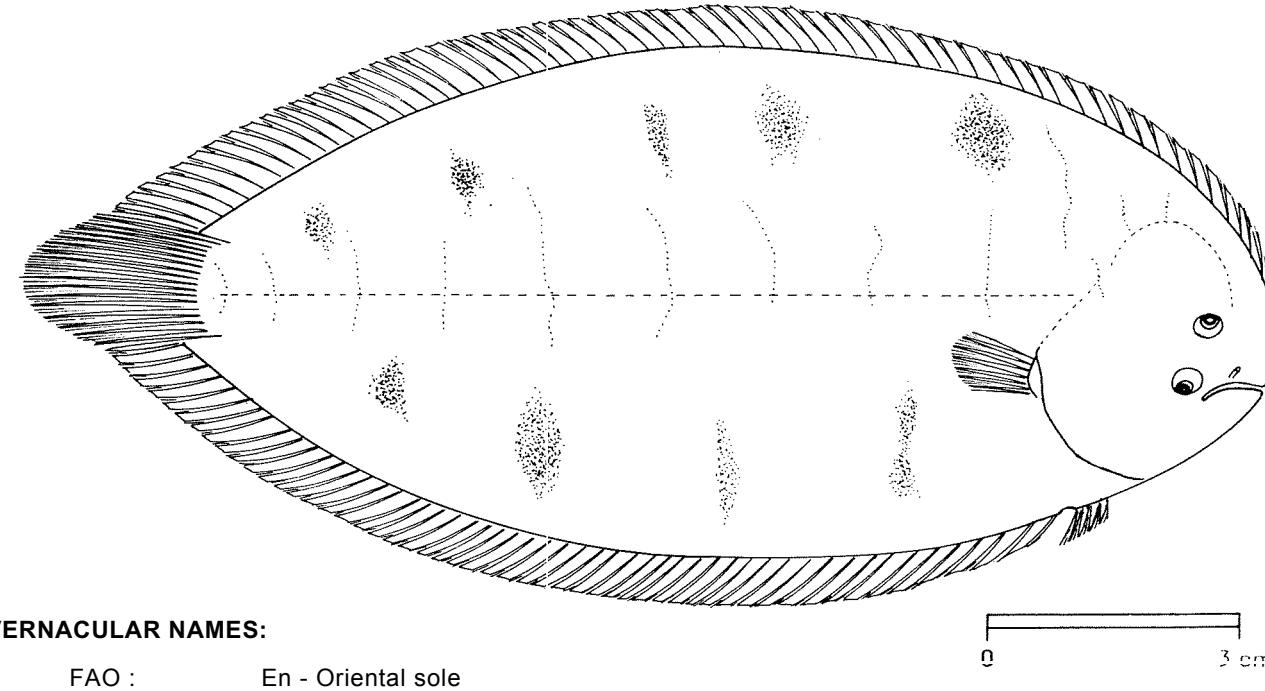
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SOLEIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Euryglossa orientalis (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Brachirus orientalis (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
Synaptura orientalis (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Oriental sole
Fr - Sole d'orient
Sp - Lenguado oriental

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oval and flat, both contours equally arched. Eyes on right side, separated by a scaly space; mouth small, curved, cleft reaching to below middle of lower eye. Dorsal and anal fins joined to caudal fin; pectoral fins well developed, that on blind side somewhat shorter than that on eyed side; pelvic fins moderately symmetrical, united basally. Scales on both sides ctenoid (rough), head scales of blind side modified into cutaneous sensory processes.

Colour: grey or brown with cloudy indistinct patches on eyed side, tinged yellow on blind side; pectoral fin on eyed side darker.

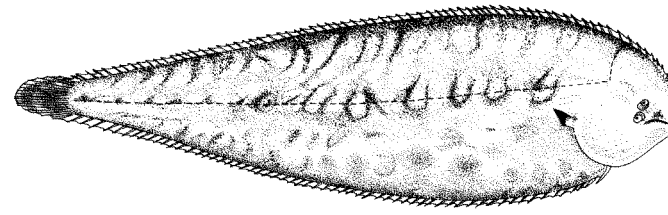
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Synaptura and Austroglossus species: body elongate; furthermore, a bony process on snout in Synaptura species and pectoral fin on eyed side longer than head length in Austroglossus species.

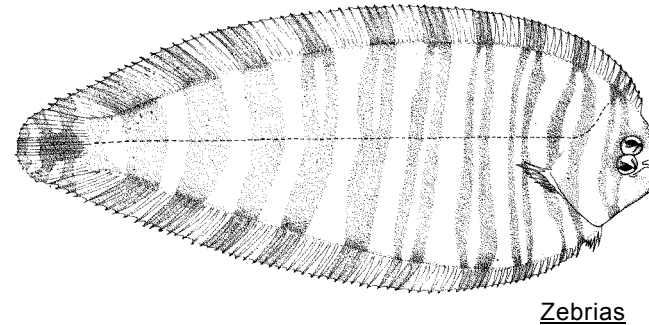
Zebrias and Aesopia species: opercular membrane joined to upper pectoral fin rays and a number of dark crossbars on body.

Species of Solea, Pardachirus, Aseraggodes Liachirus and Monochirus: have dorsal and anal fins separate from caudal fin.

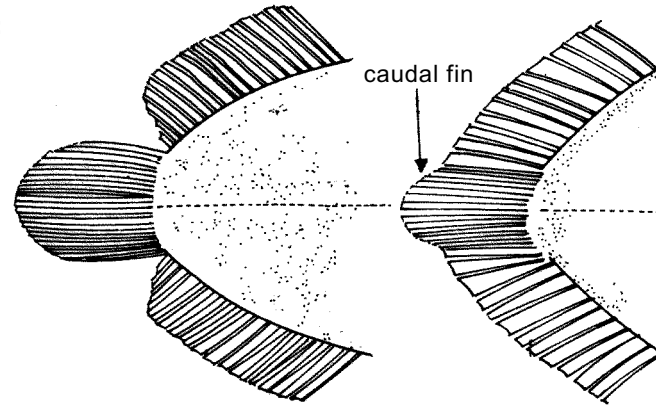
Heteromycteris species: snout forming a long hook.



Synaptura



Zebrias



Aseraggodes, Liachirus, Pardachirus, Solea and Monochirus

Euryglossa

SIZE:

Maximum: 24 cm; common to 12 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

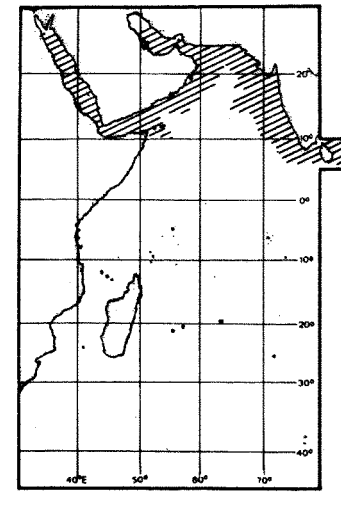
In the area, found in the Red Sea and the "Gulf", off the west coast of India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, eastward through the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago to China and east coast of Australia

Inhabits shallow sand/mud bottoms in coastal waters.

Feeds predominantly on bottom living invertebrates, especially small crustaceans.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow sand/mud grounds of the continental shelf.



CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, frozen and dried salted.

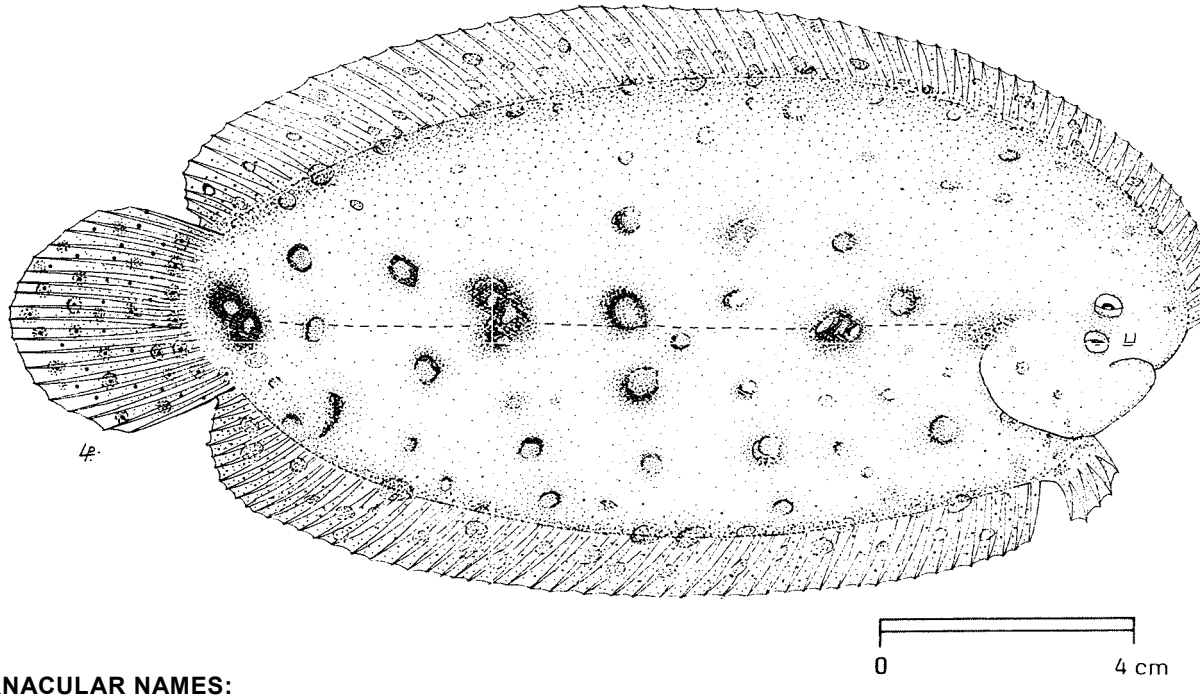
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SOLEIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Pardachirus marmoratus (Lacepède, 1802)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Finless sole
Fr - Sole de lait
Sp - Lenguado de leche

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and flat. Eyes on right side small, separated by a space, slightly smaller than eye diameter; mouth small, curved, cleft reaching opposite front border of lower eye; lips fleshy, entire. Dorsal and anal fins separated from caudal fin; pectoral fins absent; pelvic fins asymmetrical. Scales on eyed side feebly ctenoid (rough to touch), each scale on eyed side of head with a roughened patch posteriorly but without marginal spinules; blind side smooth.

Colour: olive green, with a number of indistinct rounded or irregular pale, dark edged areas, with or without a dark central spot; head, body and fins with numerous small dark spots in addition to markings.

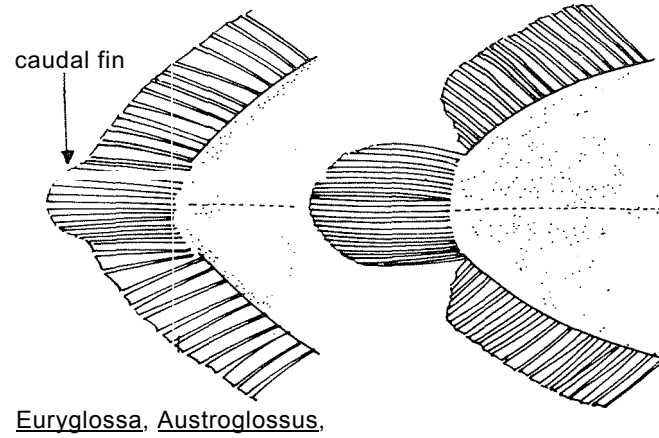
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Aseraggodes and Liachirus species: pelvic fins short-based and separate from genital papilla and anal fin.

Solea and Monochirus species: pectoral fins well developed.

Species of Euryglossa, Austroglossus, Synaptura, Zebrias and Aesopia: have dorsal and anal fins joined to caudal fin.

Heteromycteris species: snout forming a long hook.



Euryglossa, Austroglossus, Synaptura, Zebrias and Aesopia

Pardachirus

SIZE:

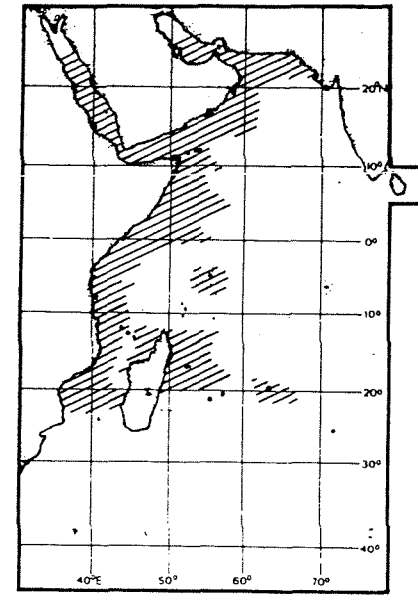
Maximum: 25 cm; common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Found along the east African coast from Mozambique to the Red Sea, eastward extending to the "Gulf" and Pakistan; also off Madagascar, Seychelles and Mauritius islands.

Inhabits shallow coastal waters.

Feeds mainly on bottom living invertebrates.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow mud/sand grounds of the continental shelf and creeks.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls, also in shore seines.

Marketed fresh.

click for next page