click for previous page

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

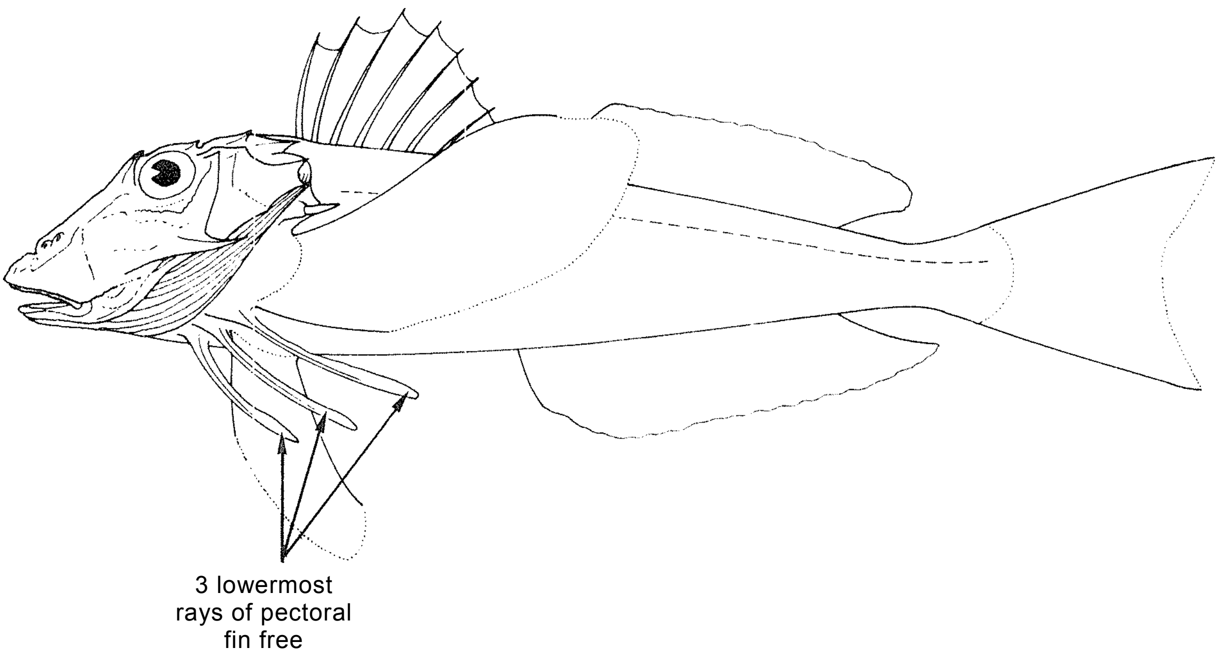
TRIGLIDAE *

Gurnards and searobins

Body elongate. Head large, bony, with many ridges and spines but without barbels; snout usually ending in a pair of projections (rostral process), often armed with one or more pairs of short to moderate spines; mouth terminal to slightly inferior; villiform teeth present in both jaws. Two separate dorsal fins, the first with 8 to 11 spines, the second with 11 to 18 segmented soft rays; anal fin with 10 to 17 soft rays; pectoral fins short to long, with 3 lowermost rays free detached from the remaining fin rays. Body with scales, but lacking bony scutes. Swimbladder bilobed in most species.

Colour: variable, silver or red to black or dusky, belly always pale; juveniles usually with dark saddles on body; first dorsal fin often with a black spot or blotch; pectoral fins usually with some bands, spots or blotches.

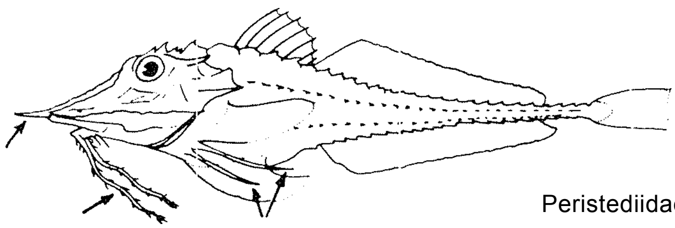
Searobins are medium-sized benthic fishes (to about 45 cm in total length) inhabiting the continental and insular shelves of tropical, and warm temperate seas to depths of about 200 m. They occur on sandy or muddy substrates, rubble or reef-type bottom, using the free rays of their pectoral fins for support and for search of food. Although most species are not the object of a special fishery, they often enter bottom-trawl catches. The majority of the species are considered as trashfish, but some of the larger ones are used as food. Their flesh is tasty and firm.



* Diagnosis applies to Western Indian Ocean species only

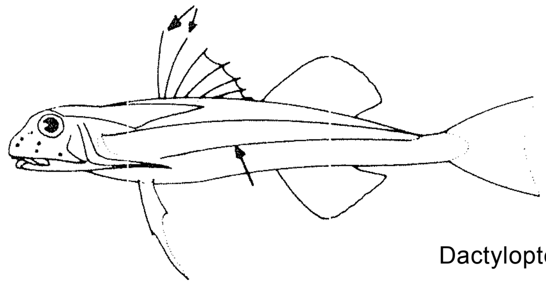
SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Peristediidae: snout flattened, flanked laterally by a pair of short or long projections; mouth inferior, teeth absent; mandibular, lip and chin barbels always present; only the 2 lowermost rays of pectoral fins free (the 3 lowermost rays free in Triglidae); body scaleless but enclosed by 4 rows of spinous scutes on each side.



Peristediidae

Dactylopteridae: anterior two dorsal fin spines separated from remainder of fin; pectoral fins without any free rays.

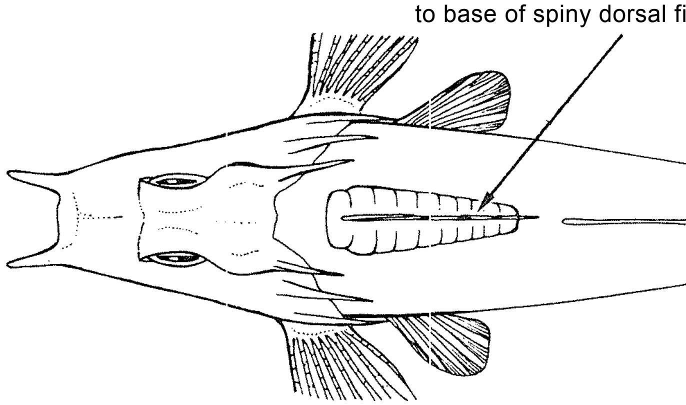


Dactylopteridae

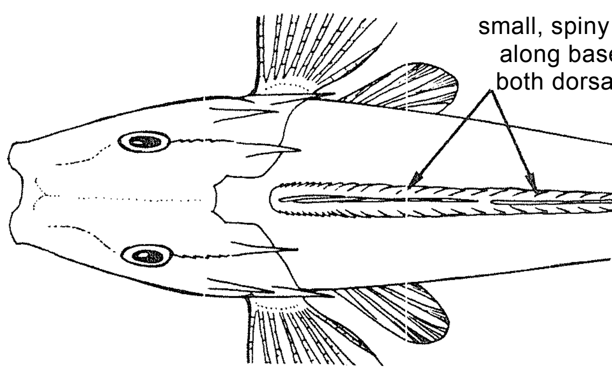
KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

1a. Bases of first dorsal fin spines expanded into broad, flattened, bony plates; no spines or plates along base of second dorsal fin (Fig.1) .... Pterygotrigla

1b. Bases of first and second dorsal fin spines with small plates bearing strong lateral spines (Fig.2)



Pterygotrigla Fig.1

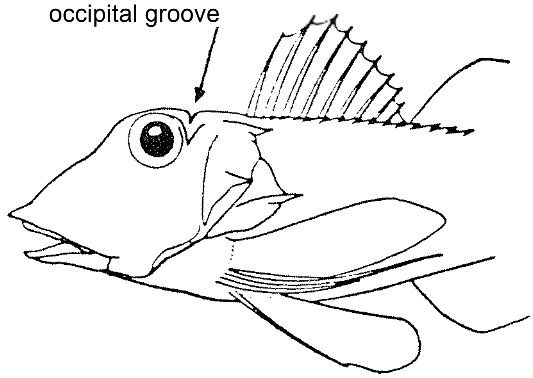


back of head and anterior part of body (strongly schematic, pectoral fins incomplete)

Lepidotrigla and Chelodinichthys Fig.2

2a. Head with a deep occipital groove (fissure across top of head behind eyes, Fig.3); body scales large, usually less than 60 along lateral line .... Lepidotrigla

2b. Head without deep occipital groove; body scales small, usually more than 60 along lateral line .... Chelidonichthys



Lepidotrigla Fig.3

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

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

Chelidonichthys capensis (Cuvier in Cuv. & Val., 1829)	TRIGL Chel 1
Chelidonichthys lastoviza (Bonnaterre, 1788)	TRIGL Chel 4
Chelidonichthys kumu (Lesson, 1830)	TRIGL Chel 7
Chelidonichthys gueketti Regan, 1904	TRIGL Chel 8
Lepidotrigla alcocki Regan, 1908	TRIGL Lepid 4
Lepidotrigla bentuviai Richards & Saksena, 1977	TRIGL Lepid 5
Lepidotrigla bispinosa Steindachner, 1898	TRIGL Lepid 6
Lepidotrigla faueri Gilchrist & Thompson, 1914	TRIGL Lepid 7
Lepidotrigla multispinosus Smith, 1934	TRIGL Lepid 8
Lepidotrigla omanensis Regan, 1905	TRIGL Lepid 9
Lepidotrigla riggsi Richards & Saksena, 1977	TRIGL Lepid 10
Lepidotrigla spiloptera Gunther, 1880	TRIGL Lepid 11
Pterygotrigla guezei Fourmanoir & Guézé, 1963	TRIGL Pter 1
Pterygotrigla hemisticta (Temminck & Schlegel, 1842)	TRIGL Pter 2

Prepared by W.J. Richards, NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami, Florida, USA

1983

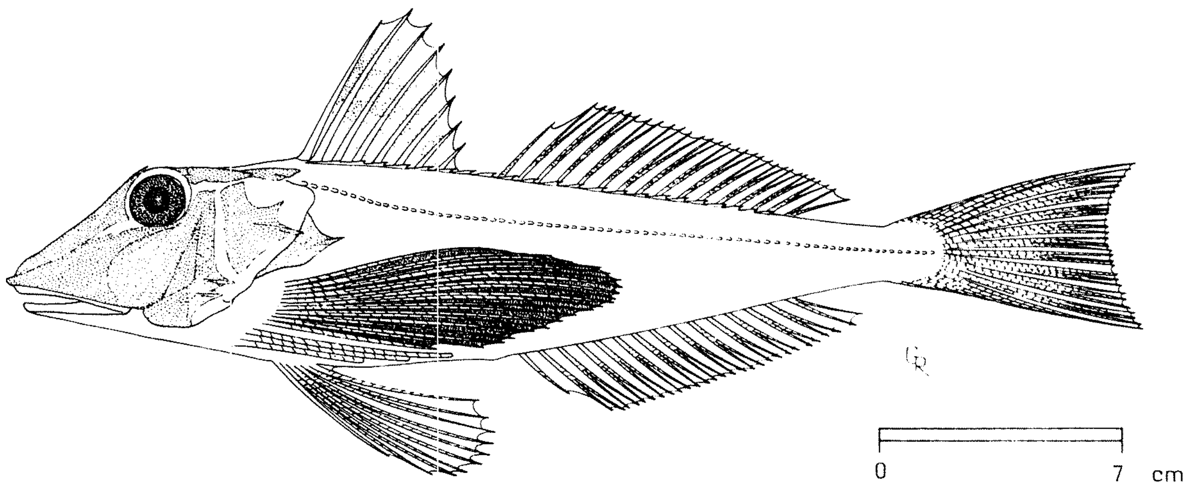
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TRIGLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51 (W. Indian Ocean)

Chelidonichthys capensis (Cuvier in Cuv. & Val., 1829)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Trigla capensis Cuvier in Cuv. & Val., 1829



VERNACULAR NAMES:

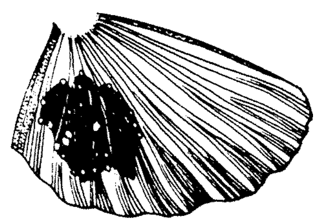
FAO : En - Cape gurnard
Fr - Grondin du Cap
Sp - Rubio del Cabo

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Head large, triangular, bony, with many ridges and spines, but without a fissure on top of head behind eyes (occipital groove); eye small, its diameter less than interorbital width; gillrakers on first arch 15 to 19. Soft dorsal fin rays 15 or 16; bases of first and second dorsal fins with small plates bearing strong lateral spines. Body scales small, 65 to 80 along lateral line; breast without scales.

Colour: reddish above, pale below, with a dark patch surrounded by white spots on the inner surface of dark green pectoral fin.

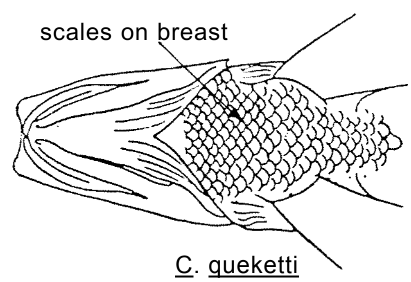


right pectoral fin bent forward showing inner surface

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chelidonichthys kumu: gillrakers on first arch 8 or 9 (15 to 19 in C. capensis); eye diameter greater than interorbital width.

Chelidonichthys queketti: scales present on breast.

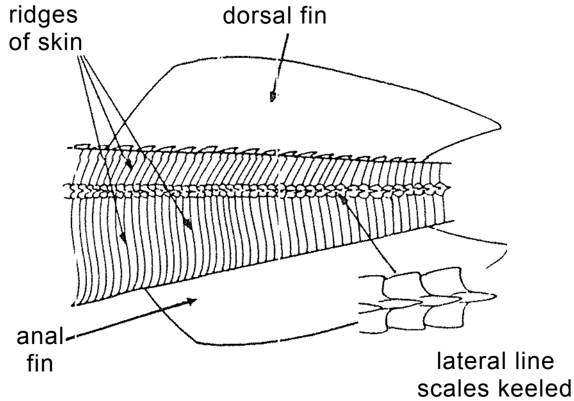


C. queketti
underside of head and breast

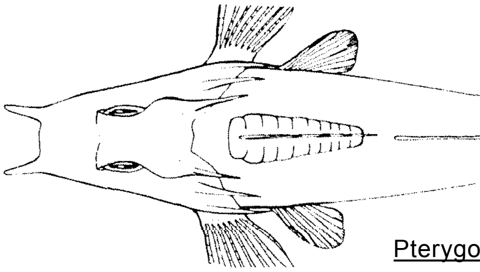
Chelidonichthys lastoviza: lateral line scales enlarged and keeled and body covered with distinct, transverse ridges of skin.

Lepidotrigla species: scales large, fewer than 60 in lateral line (70 to 80 in lateral line in C. capensis); a occipital groove present.

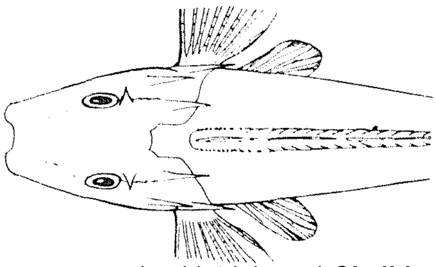
Pterygotrigla species: bases of first dorsal fin spines expanded into broad, flattened, bony plates; no spines or plates along base of second dorsal fin.



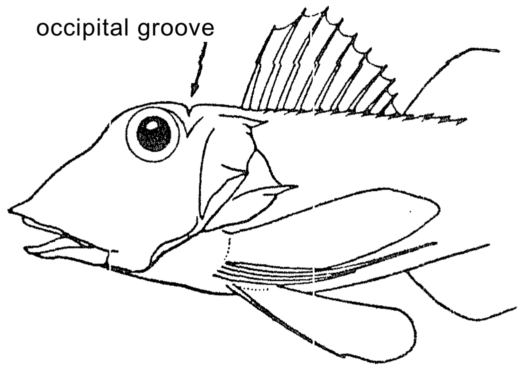
C. lastoviza



Pterygotrigla



Lepidotrigla and ***Chelidonichthys***
dorsal view (strongly schematic)



Lepidotrigla spp.

SIZE:

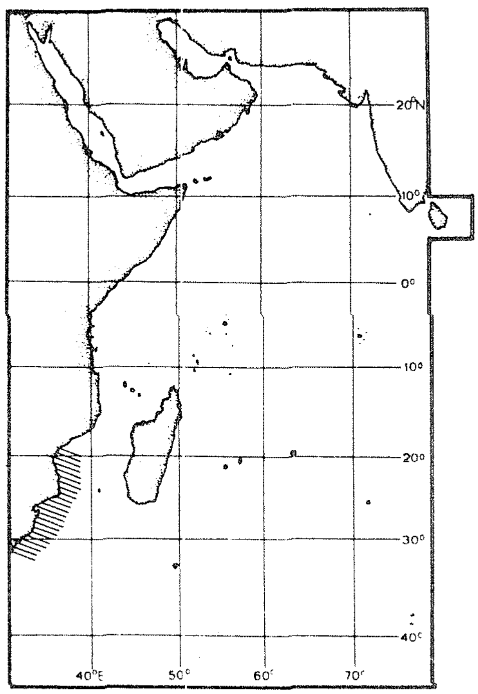
Maximum: about 75 cm; common to 35 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

A temperate sub-tropical species confined to the southern coast of Africa, from Walfish Bay (west coast of Africa) to the southern border of Mozambique.

Inhabits sand and mud

Feeds chieily on crustaceans, especially crabs.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Trawling grounds off southern Africa. Locally rather abundant.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken mainly in trawls.

Reported to be an excellent food fish. Utilized mostly fresh.

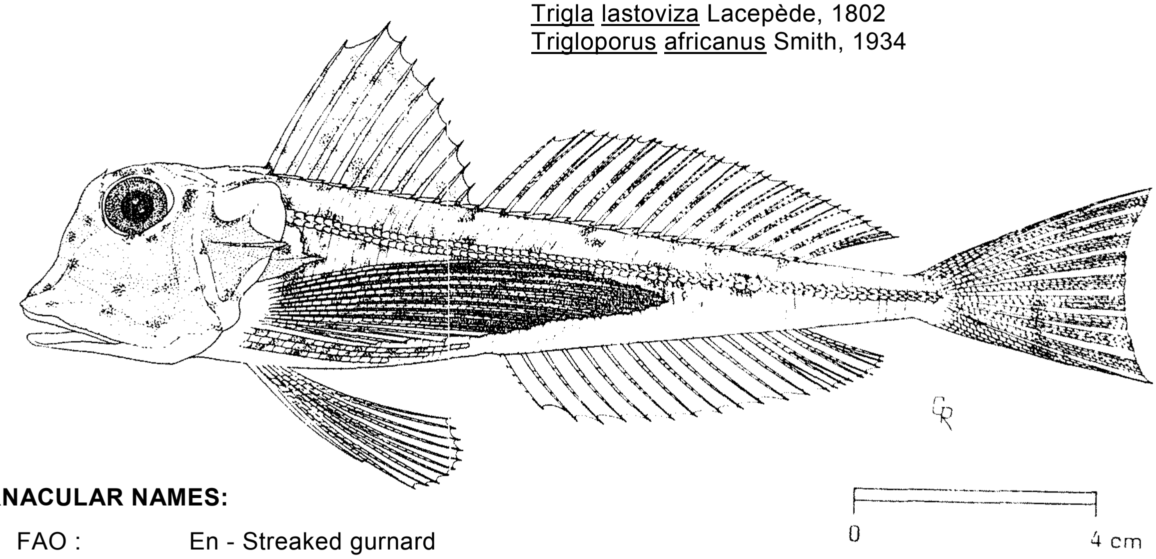
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TRIGLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51 (W. Indian Ocean)

Chelidonichthys (Trigloporus) lastoviza (Bonnaterre, 1788)*

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Trigloporus lastoviza (Bonnaterre, 1788)
Trigla lastoviza Bonnaterre, 1788
Trigla lineata Gmelin, 1789
Trigla adriatica Gmelin 1789
Trigla lastoviza Lacepède, 1802
Trigloporus africanus Smith, 1934



VERNACULAR NAMES:

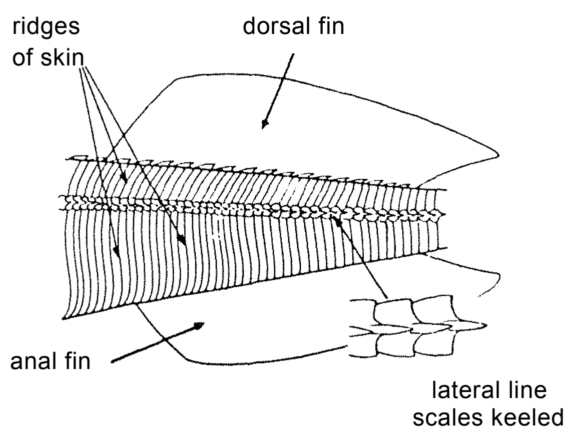
FAO : En - Streaked gurnard
Fr - Grondin camard (= Rouget camard, Area 37)
Sp - Rubio

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Head large, triangular, bony, with many ridges and spines, but without a deep occipital groove; gillrakers on first arch 4 to 8. Two separate dorsal fins, the first with 9 to 11 spines, the second with 15 to 17 segmented soft rays. Lateral-line scales enlarged and keeled, armed with small spines. Body covered with distinct, transverse ridges of skin originating at the lateral line. Breast variably naked to fully scaled, belly fully scaled.

Colour: red above, pale below with dark spots or blotches on head and back; pectoral fins greyish with large, dark blue spots.



Many current workers use Trigloporus africanus

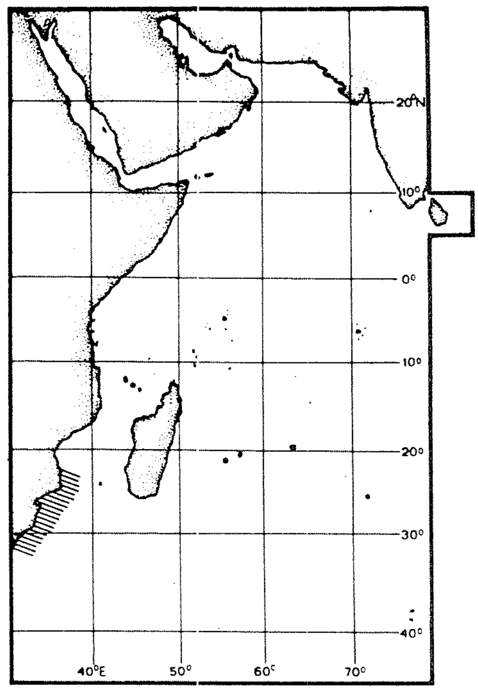
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other species of Triglidae: no transverse ridges or grooves on sides of body.

SIZE:

Maximum: about 40 cm; common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:



Found along the east African coast from southern Africa northward to Mozambique. This is the most widely dispersed gurnard of the Eastern Atlantic, ranging northward to Norway and into the Mediterranean and southward to the Cape of Good Hope.

Inhabits rocky or sandy bottoms near rolls, from the shoreline to about 150 m depth.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Continental shelf throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken in bottom trawls.

An excellent food fish; used mostly fresh and smoked; also reduced to fishmeal and oil by offshore fleets.

TRIGL Chel 7

1983

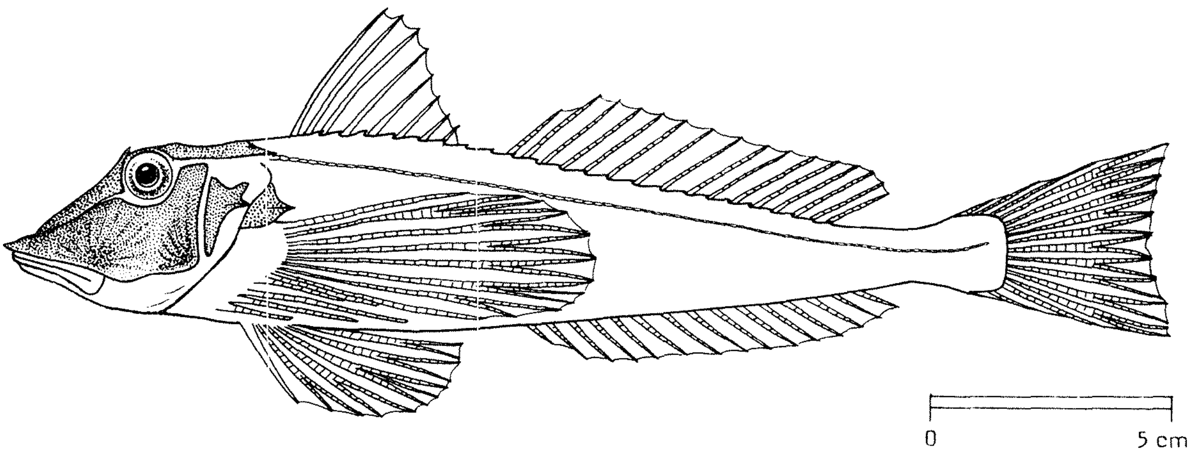
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: TRIGLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Chelidonichthys kumu (Lesson, 1830)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Trigla kumu* Lesson, 1830



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Bluefin gurnard
Fr - Grondin aile bleu:
Sp - Testolln de aleta azul

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

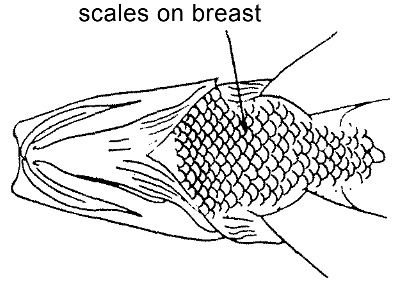
Head large, triangular, with many ridges and spines, but without a fissure on top of head behind eyes (occipital groove); eye diameter greater than ìnterorbital width; gillrakers on first arch 8 or 9. Soft dorsal and anal fin rays 15 or 16; bases of first and second dorsal fins with small plates bearing strong lateral spines. Body scales small, 70 to 80 along lateral line; breast without scales.

Colour: olive to red, silvery below.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chelidonichthys capensis: eye diameter smaller than interorbital width; gillrakers on first arch 15 to 19 (8 or 9 in *C. kumu*).

Chelidonichthys queketti: scales present on breast.

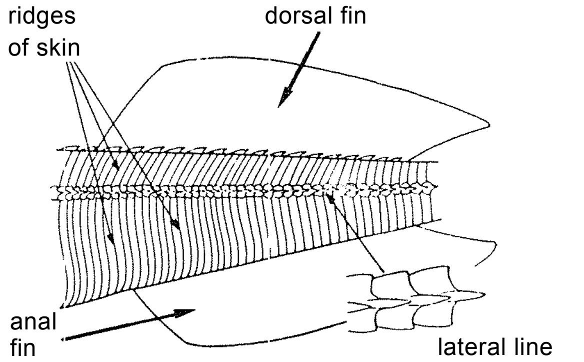


C. queketti
underside of head and breast

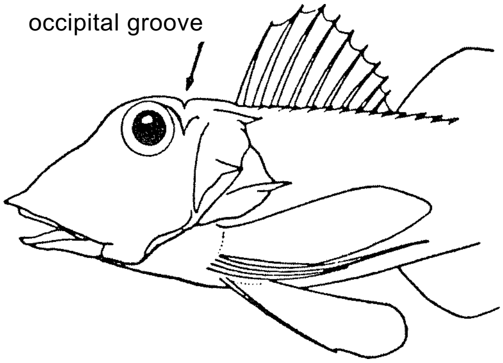
Chelidonichthys lastoviza: lateral line scales enlarged and keeled; body covered with distinct, transverse ridges of skin.

Lepidotrigla species: scales larger, fewer than 60 in lateral line (70 to 80 in C. kumu); and an occipital groove present.

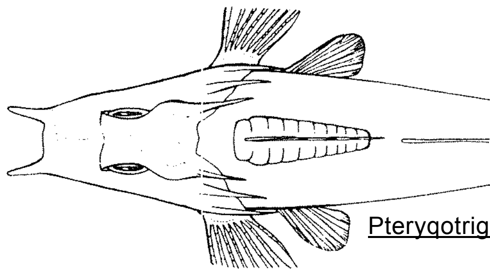
Pterygotrigla species: bases of first dorsal fin spines expanded into broad, flattened, bony plates; no spines or plates along base of second dorsal fin.



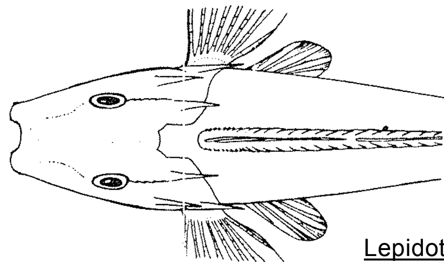
C. lastoviza



Legidotrigla spp.



Pterygotrigla



Lepidotrigla

Chedidonichthys

dorsal view (strongly schematic)

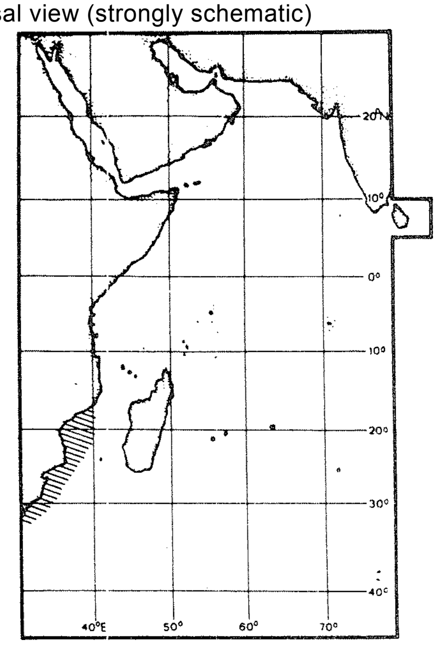
SIZE:

Maximum:40 cm; common to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

A tropical and subtropical species ranging from South Africa and southern Mozambique across the Indian and Pacific Oceans to Chile, the Hawaiian Islands and Japan. The subpopulations recognized so far may be different species.

Occurrence in this area based on museum specimens, from Cape of Good Hope to Maputo in 90 to 200 m.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Trawling grounds off southern Africa.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken mainly in trawls.

Reported to be an excellent food fish.

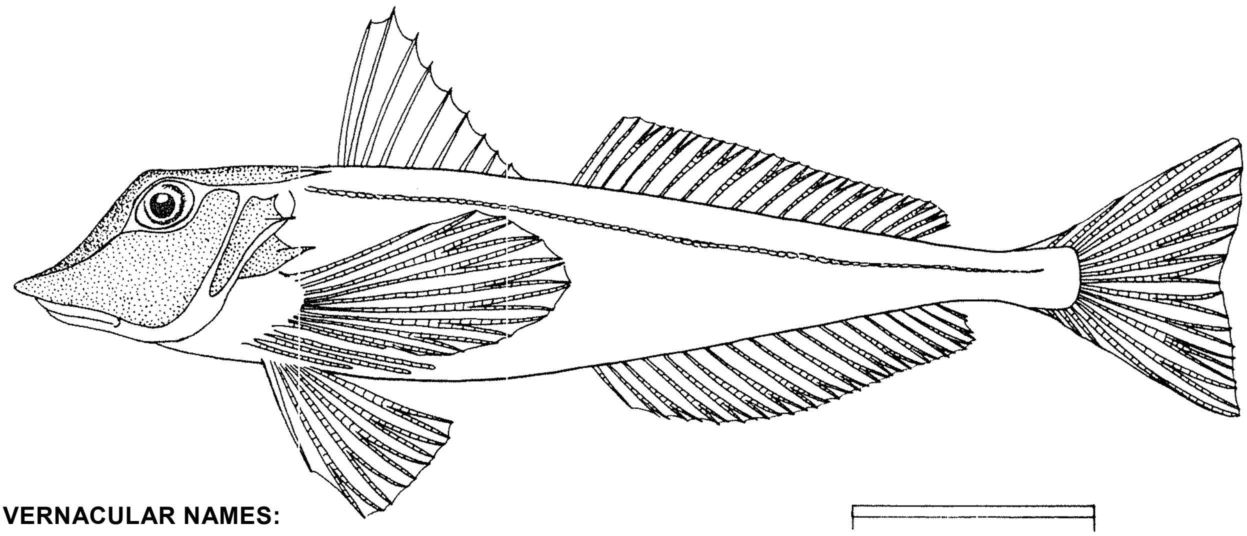
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

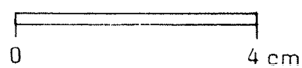
FAMILY: TRIGLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

Chelidonichthys queketti (Regan, 1904)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : Trigla queketti Regan, 1904





VERNACULAR NAMES:

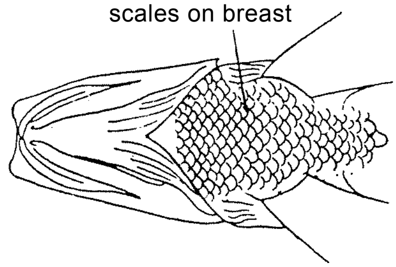
FAO : En - Lesser South African gurnard
Fr - Grondin du Natal
Sp - Testolin de Natal

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Head large, triangular, bony with man)' ridges and spines, but without a fissure on top of head behind eyes (occipital groove); gillrakers on first arch 10 or 11. Soft dorsal and anal fin rays 17 to 19; bases of first and second dorsal fins with small plates bearing strong lateral spines. Body scales small, 65 to 80 along lateral line; breast with scales,

Colour: back olive, first dorsal and anal fins red; second dorsal golden; sides and belly pink and yellow.

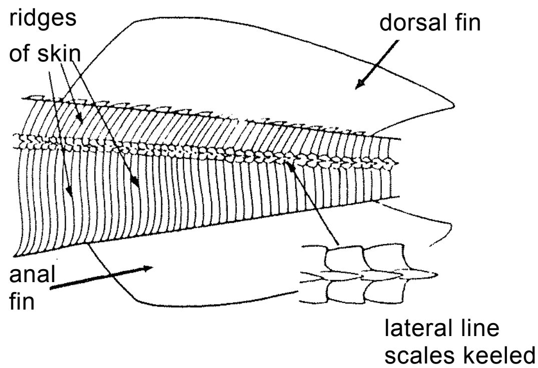


underside of head and breast

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chelidonichthys kumu and C. capensis; scales on breast absent.

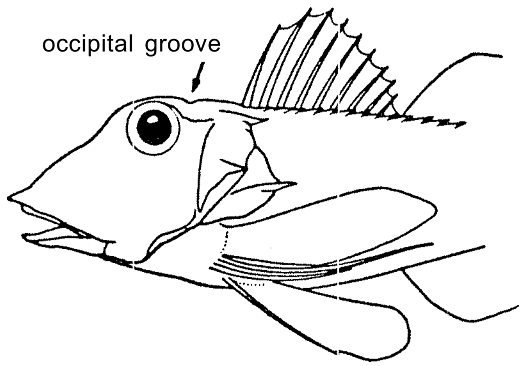
Chelidonichthys lastoviza: lateral line scales enlarged and keeled and body covered with distinct, transverse, ridges of skin.



C. lastoviza

Lepidotrigla species: scales large, fewer than 60 in lateral line (65 to 80 in C. queketti); an occipital groove present.

Pterygotrigla species: bases of first dorsal fin spines expanded into broad, flattened bony plates; no spines or plates along base of second dorsal fin.



Lepidotrigla spp.

SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

A temperate subtropical species confined to the coast of South Africa, northward to southern Mozambique.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

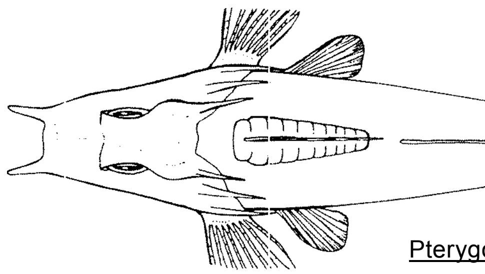
Trawling grounds off southern Africa; size not large enough to be of significant commercial importance.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

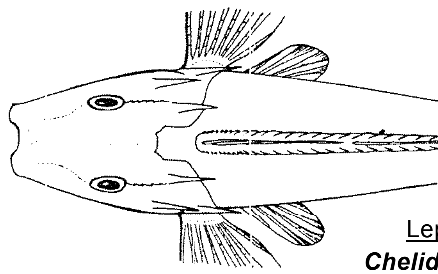
Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken mainly in trawls.

Reported to be an excellent food fish; utilized mostly fresh.

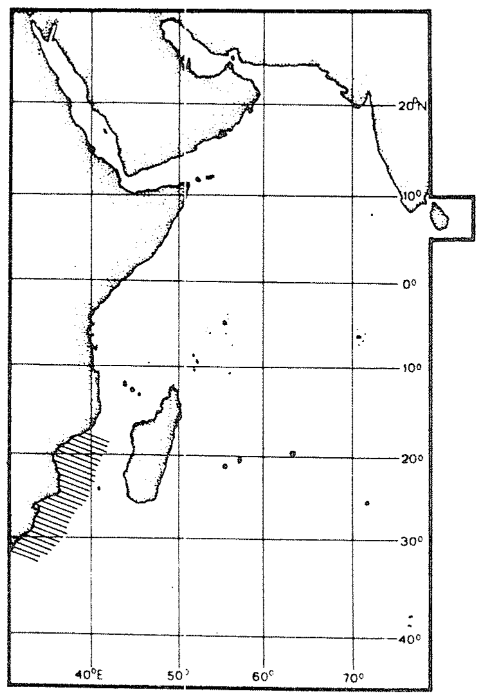


Pterygotrigla



Lepidotrigla
Chelidonichthys

dorsal view (strongly schematic)



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