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A

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FISHING AREAS 57,71
 (E Ind. Ocean)
 (W Cent. Pacific)

ARIIDAE

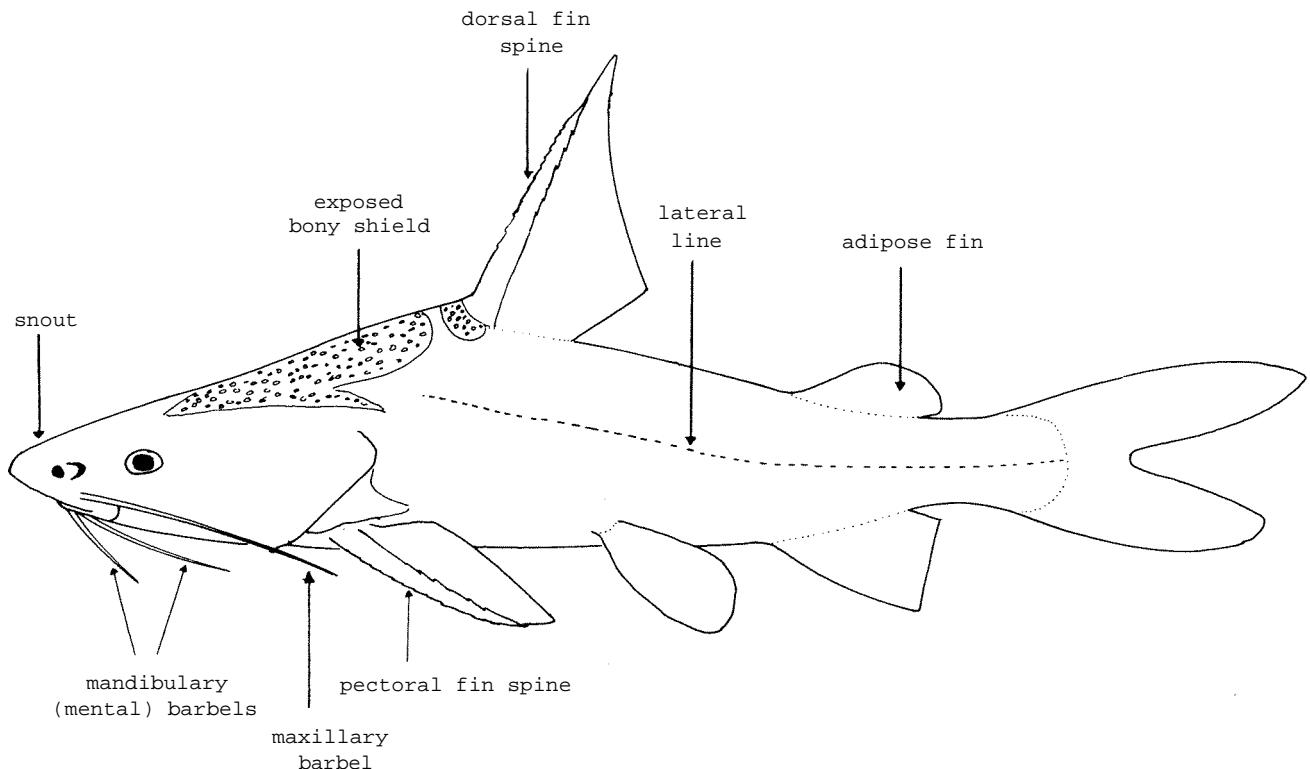
(often Tachysuridae in the literature)

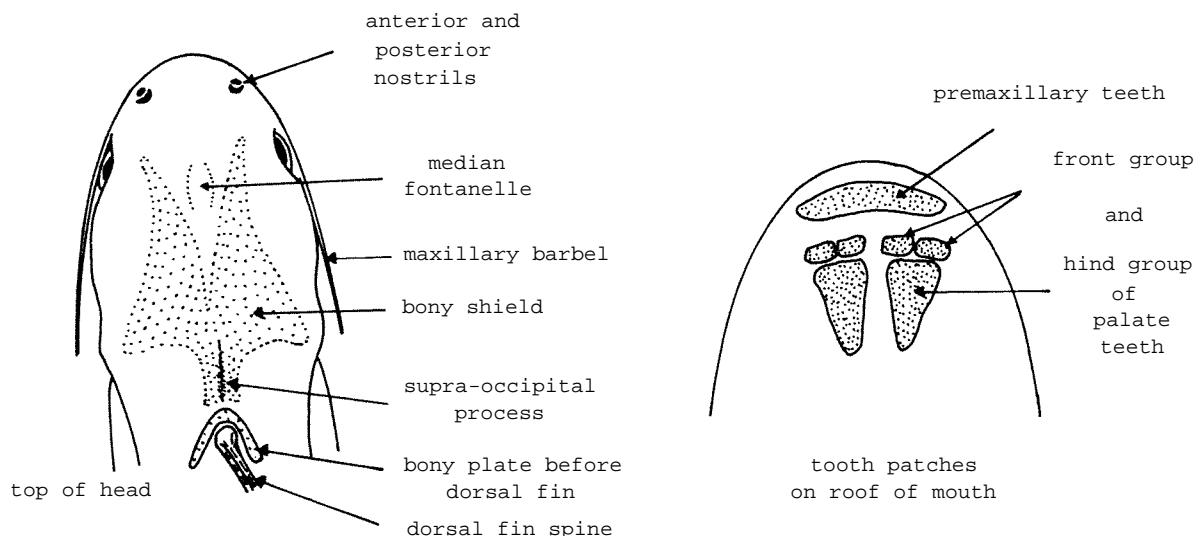
Sea catfishes

Medium- to large-sized fishes. Snout and head rounded to depressed, the mouth terminal to slightly inferior. Gill membranes free from isthmus to closely attached to isthmus. Teeth on palate and jaws fine, conical, granular, or molar-like and in bands or patches, or sometimes absent altogether. Paired maxillary and mandibular (or mental) barbels; usually both present, but in some cases one or the other type of barbel absent. Head covered by a strong bony shield which is usually more or less visible beneath a thin skin (seldom completely obscured by thick tissue). Scales absent; lateral line complete. Dorsal fin short, with a more or less serrated pungent spine followed by 7 soft rays; soft adipose fin present, opposite anal fin, the latter short, with only 16 to 30 soft rays; pectoral fins very low-set, close to ventral-profile, with a more or less serrated pungent spine; pelvic fins with 6 soft rays (in females of certain species the innermost ray greatly modified and enlarged at maturity); caudal fin forked.

Colour: usually grey/blue, dark grey or dark brown on back and sides, tinged with silvery sheen; paler to white below.

Ariidae are found in schools or singly in marine, brackish or fresh waters. There is reason to believe that in all species the male practises oral incubation of the eggs, which are rather large and few in number.





SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chacidae, Clariidae, Heteropneustidae and Plotosidae: adipose fin absent.

Siluridae: no spine in dorsal fin.

Schilbeidae: also have an adipose fin but the anterior and posterior nostrils are widely separated, the latter sometimes with a barbel (close together and without barbel in Ariidae).

Akysidae, Bagridae, Sisoridae (= Bagaridae): nasal barbels present (absent in Ariidae).

Amblycipitidae: gill membranes connected across, but free from the isthmus.

Key to Genera

1 a. Mandibular barbels present

2 a. One pair of maxillary and two pairs of mandibular barbels present

3 a. Teeth present on palate

4 a. Gill membranes free from isthmus and from each other; anal fin long, with 28 to 30 soft rays; anterior and posterior nostrils separated by a distance equal to width of posterior nostril *Doiichthys*

- 4 b. Gill membranes united to each other and to isthmus anteriorly; anal fin shorter, with 16 to 26 soft rays; anterior and posterior nostrils scarcely separated *Arius*
- 3 b. No teeth on palate
- 5 a. Mouth opening wide, extending behind eye; a single series of closely set incisor-like (cutting edged) teeth in each jaw *Ketengus*
- 5 b. Mouth opening small, ending before eye; conical, villiform, or molar-like, but no incisor-like teeth in jaws
- 6 a. A band of villiform teeth in each jaw; gill rakers short, few or moderate in number; gill membranes united, attached to isthmus with only a narrow free hind margin *Hemipimelodus*
- 6 b. A narrow patch of conical teeth; few in number, on each side of jaws; 8 short gill rakers; gill membranes united, attached to isthmus with only a narrow free hind margin *Tetranesodon*
- 6 c. Minute teeth in 1 or 2 series in jaws; more than 30 large gill rakers; gill membranes totally confluent with skin of isthmus, without free hind margin *Nedystoma*
- 2 b. Only one pair of very small mandibular barbels; no maxillary barbels *Batrachocephalus*
- 1 b. No mandibular barbels; only one pair of stiff bony maxillary barbels *Osteogeniosus*

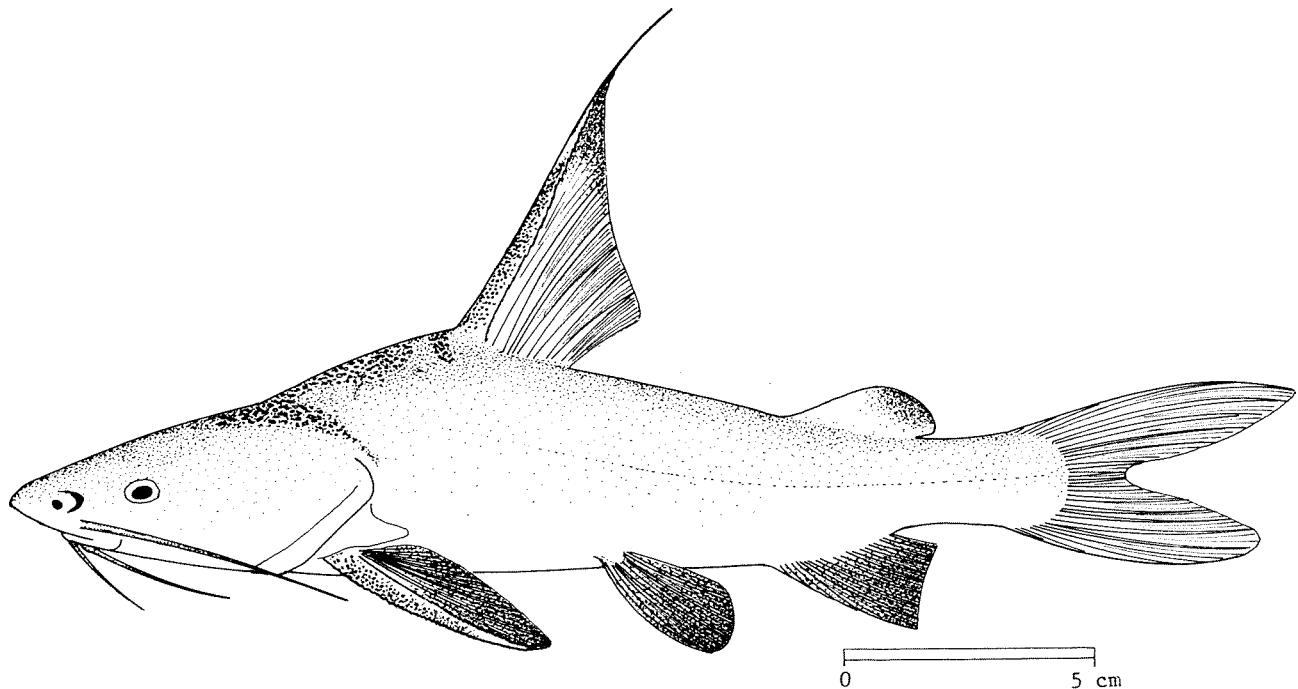
List of Species occurring in the Area
(Code numbers are given for those species
for which Identification Sheets are included)

<i>Arius acrocephalus</i>		<i>Arius platystomus</i>
<i>Arius acutirostris</i>		<i>Arius polystaphylodon</i>
<i>Arius argyropleuron</i>		<i>Arius proximus</i>
<i>Arius armiger</i>		<i>Arius sagor</i>
<i>Arius australis</i>		<i>Arius satparanu</i>
<i>Arius broadbenti</i>		<i>Arius sciurus</i>
<i>Arius burmanicus</i>		<i>Arius serratus</i>
<i>Arius caelatus</i>	ARIID Ari 1	<i>Arius solidus</i>
<i>Arius carinatus</i>		<i>Arius sona</i>
<i>Arius coleloughi</i>		<i>Arius spatula</i>
<i>Artius crossocheilus</i>		<i>Arius stirlingi</i>
<i>Arius danielsi</i>		<i>Arius stormi</i>
<i>Arius digulensis</i>		<i>Arius subrostratus</i>
<i>Arius dispar</i>		<i>Arius tenuispinis</i>
<i>Artius doriae</i>		<i>Arius thalassinus</i>
<i>Arius duSSumieri</i>		ARIID Ari 4
<i>Arius falcarius</i>		<i>Arius truncatus</i>
<i>Arius froggatti</i>		<i>Arius utik</i>
<i>Arius gagora</i>		<i>Arius venosus</i>
<i>Arius goniaspis</i>		ARIID Ari 5
<i>Artius harmandi</i>		<i>Batrachocephalus mino</i>
<i>Arius jatus</i>		<i>Doiichthys novaeguineae</i>
<i>Arius kanganamanensis</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus aaldereni</i>
<i>Arius latirostris</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus bernhardi</i>
<i>Artius leiotetocephalus</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus borneensis</i>
<i>Arius leptaspis</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus crassilabris</i>
<i>Artius leptonotacanthus</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus intermedius</i>
<i>Arius macracanthus</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus macrocephalus</i>
<i>Arius macrocephalus</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus macrorhynchus</i>
<i>Arius macronotacanthus</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus manillensis</i>
<i>Arius maculatus</i>	ARIID Ari 2	<i>Hemipimelodus papillifer</i>
<i>Arius magatensis</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus siamensis</i>
<i>Arius manillensis</i>		<i>Hemipimelodus velutinus</i>
<i>Arius mastersi</i>		<i>Ketengus typus</i>
<i>Artius metanochir</i>		<i>Nedystoma dayi</i>
<i>Arius macrocephalus</i>		<i>osteogeniosus militaris</i>
<i>Artius microstomus</i>		ARIID Ost 1
<i>Arius nella</i>		<i>Tetranchesodon conorrhynchus</i>
<i>Arius nenga</i>		
<i>Arius nox</i>		
<i>Artius nudidens</i>		
<i>Arius parvipinnis</i>		

Many of the *Arius* species listed here are doubtful, but a full revision of the family is urgently needed before this can be resolved.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ARIIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Arius caelatus* Valenciennes, 1840SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Tachysurus caelatus* (Valenciennes, 1840)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Engraved catfish
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body robust and elongate, head profile concave at nape, the supra-occipital process rising thereafter. Three pairs of barbels around mouth, the maxillary barbels extending to middle or to end of pectoral fin base. Head shield strongly rugose and granulated; supra-occipital process short, about as long as broad, with a median keel, its hind end concave. Teeth in jaws small and fine, those in upper jaw (premaxillary teeth) in a long and narrow band, 8 to 10 times longer than broad; palatal teeth in one patch on each side, small and fine, front margins of patches longest and convex, separated from each other and from jaw teeth by a space somewhat less than their width. Dorsal and pectoral fins with a very strong and thick, coarsely granulated spine; tip of dorsal spine produced into a long filament; adipose fin rather large.

Colour: dark blue on top of head and back, whitish below, the whole with a metallic blue lustre. Tip of dorsal fin blackish, its filament black; pectoral, pelvic and anal fins dusky; caudal fin paler; adipose fin either entirely black or bearing a large black blotch on upper half. All barbels with blackish margins.

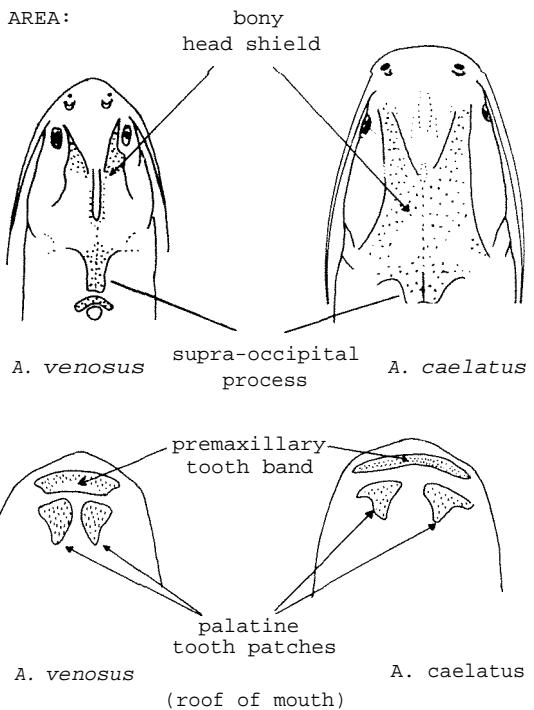
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

A. venosus: premaxillary band of teeth only 4 to 5 times longer than broad, dorsal fin spine weaker and its tip without a long filament; also, supra-occipital process slightly longer than broad and head shield rather smooth.

Other *Arius* species: either have granular to molar-like teeth on palate or a different arrangement of the tooth patches.

Osteogeniosus militaris: only maxillary barbels present, and these stiff, not flexible.

Other catfishes: either an adipose fin (Chacidae, Clariidae, Heteropneustidae, Plotosidae), lack a dorsal spine (Sisoridae), possess nasal barbels (Akysidae, Bagridae, Sisoridae), have anterior and posterior nostrils widely separated (Schilbeidae), or have the gill membranes free from isthmus (Amblycipitidae).



SIZE:

Maximum: 45 cm; common: 18 to 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

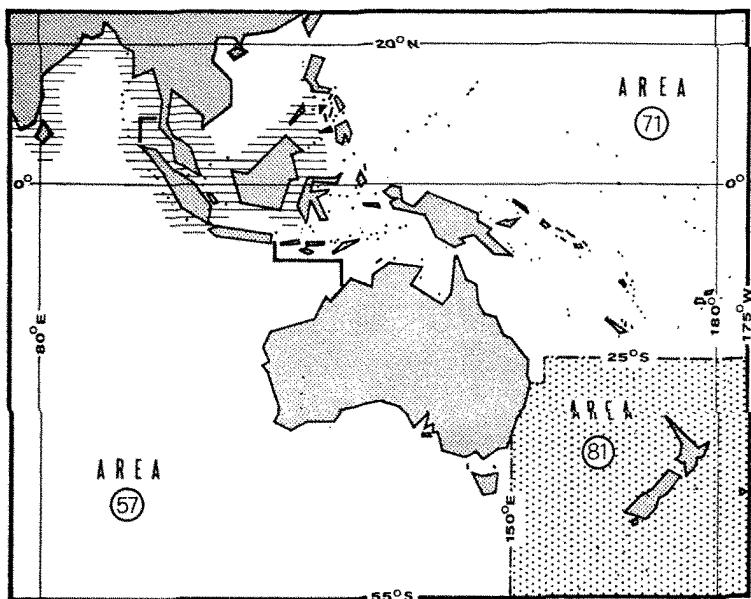
West coast of India to Indo-Australian archipelago, but not Philippines or Australia.

Found along all shores, throughout its range.

Feeds mainly on invertebrates and small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shore waters subjected to tidal influence around river mouths.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Ariidae in 1972 was:

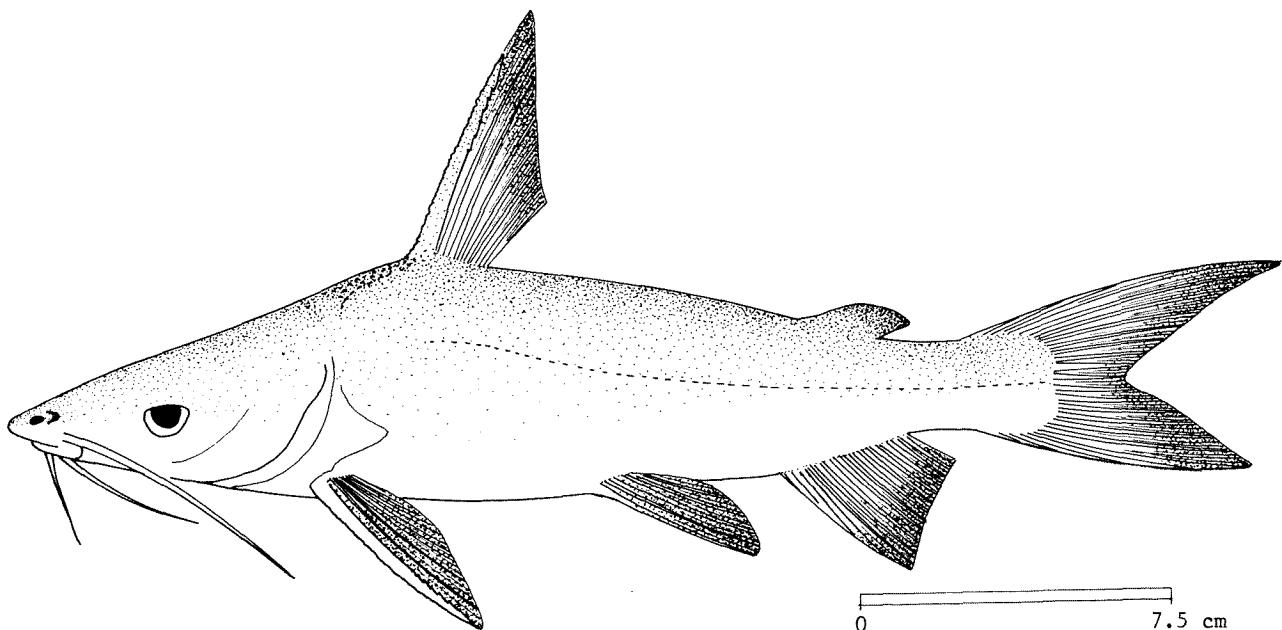
area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean):	8 400 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific):	1E) 100 tons (Philippines: 11 400 tons; Malaysia: 4 700 tons)

Caught mainly with bamboo stake traps, shore seines, set bag nets and hooks and lines.

Marketed mostly fresh; also dried-salted.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ARIIDAE

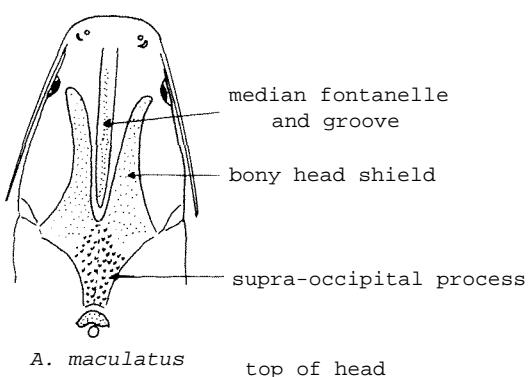
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Arius maculatus* (Thunberg, 1792)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Tachysurus maculatus* (Thunberg, 1792)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Spotted catfish
Fr -
Sp -

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, head pointed, its profile sloping upward in a straight line to dorsal fin origin. Three pairs of barbels around mouth, maxillary barbel slender, reaching to base of pectoral fin, but much shorter in older fishes. Head shield somewhat rugose; median fontanelle groove on top of head deep and long, running from a short distance behind tip of snout to supra-occipital process, which is striated and granulated and a little longer than broad, its side borders almost parallel and straight. Teeth on palate granular or molar-like, forming two semi-oval patches normally far behind premaxillary teeth (distance about 1 to 2 times the longest diameter of patch); size of patches may greatly vary with age; in smaller fishes the developed



granular teeth on the patches are few and scattered, the patches being very small and far behind the jaw. Dorsal and pectoral fins with a strong spine; adipose fin small

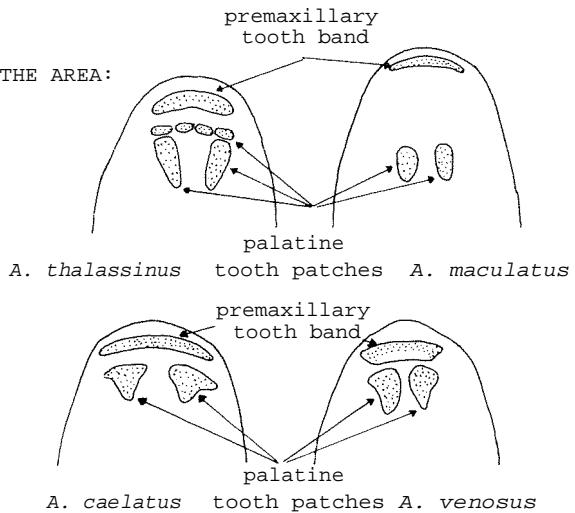
Colour: brown to blue above, sides grey and belly whitish with dusky spots, the whole with a silvery sheen. All fins black-tipped, pectoral and pelvic fins dusky above, adipose fin mainly blackish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other *Arius* species: usually have more than one tooth patch on each side of palate; if only a single patch (e.g. *A. venosus*, *A. caelatus*), then it lies close to premaxillary toothband.

Osteogeniosus militaris: only maxillary barbels present, and these stiff, not flexible.

Other catfishes: either lack an adipose fin (Chacidae, Clariidae, Heteropneustidae, Plotosidae), lack a dorsal spine (Sisoridae), possess nasal barbels (Akysidae, Bagridae, Sisoridae), have anterior and posterior nostrils widely separated (Schilbeidae), or have the gill membranes free from isthmus (Amblycipitidae).



SIZE:

Maximum: 50 cm; common: 20 to 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

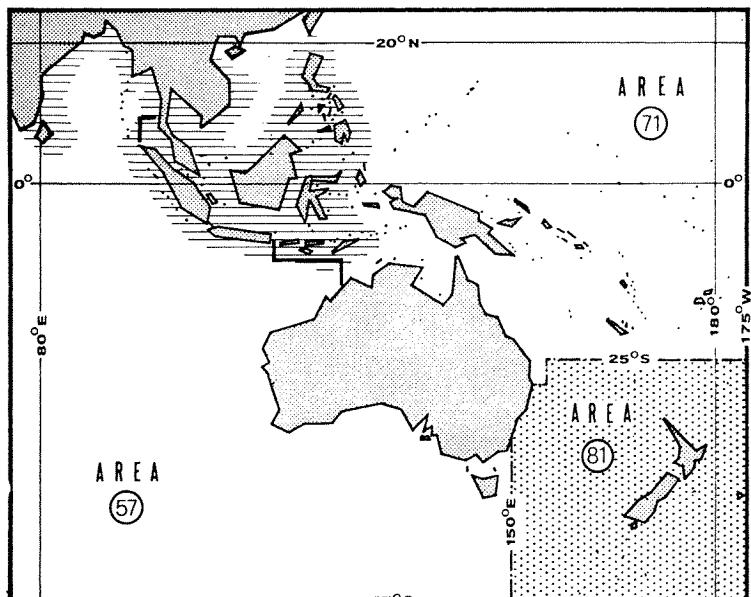
East coast of India to Indo-Australian archipelago, but not Philippines or Australia.

Found in shore waters.

Feeds on invertebrates and small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shore waters and lower parts of rivers subjected to tidal influence.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Ariidae in 1972 was:

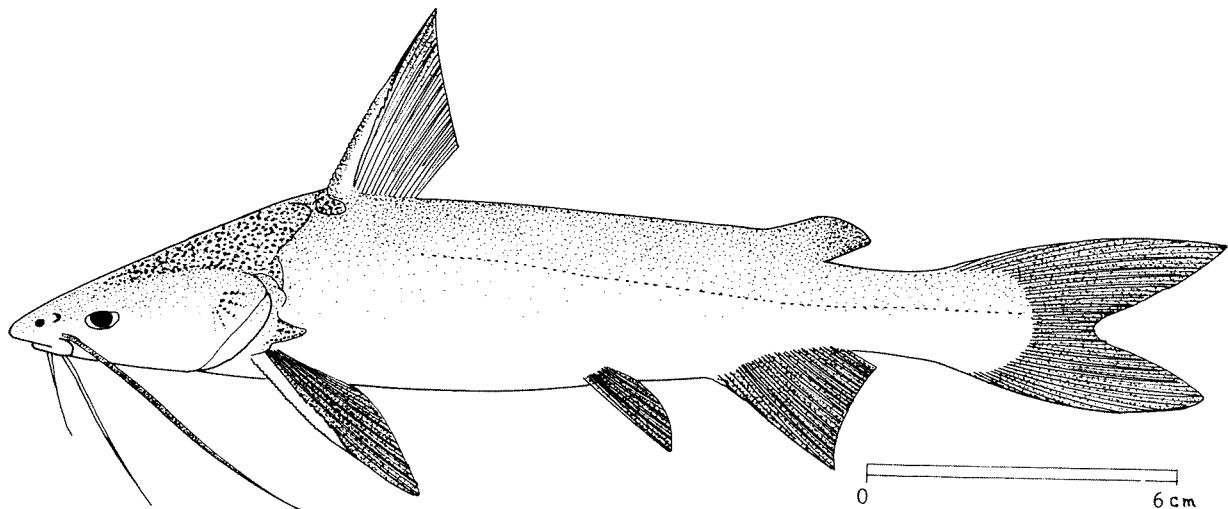
area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 8 400 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 16 100 tons (Philippines: 11 400 tons;
Malaysia: 4 700 tons)

Caught mainly with set bag nets, bamboo stake traps, also with hooks and lines.

Marketed mostly fresh.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ARTIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57, 71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Arius sagor* (Hamilton - Buchanan, 1822)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Tachysurus sagor* (Hamilton - Buchanan, 1822)

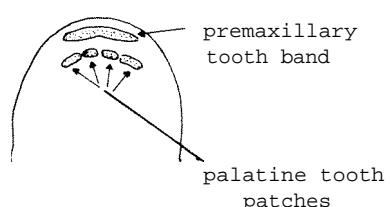
VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Sagor catfish
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, front half of body, particularly head, much depressed, its hind half compressed. Three pairs of barbels around mouth, maxillary barbels reaching at least to middle of pectoral fins. Upper profile of head somewhat convex just in front of dorsal fin, but then straight to the rather short and round snout. Median fontanelle broad and flat. Head shield rugose and very strongly granulated in both young and large adults; supraoccipital process large, subcircular posteriorly, broader than long; basal plate before dorsal spine distinctively large, butterfly-shaped. Teeth on palate small and cortical in a transverse series of patches arranged in one connected group on each side,



A. sagor

outer patches rounded and oval, longer than inner patches; inner patches separated by a very narrow space. Dorsal and pectoral fins each with a spine, tips of spines with a filamentous elongation; adipose fin of medium size.

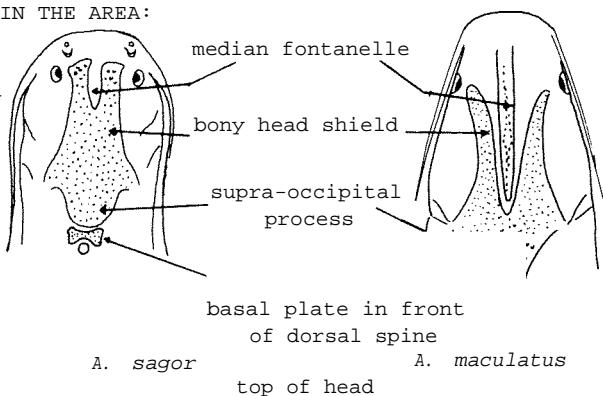
Colour: back and sides dark grey/blue, underside milky white; usually silvery white or blue/green cross-bands on back and sides. All fins dusky black, only soft part of dorsal fin lighter. Maxillary barbels wholly blackish; outer half or tip of other barbels blackish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other *Arius* species: supra-occipital process not broadly rounded, basal plate in front of dorsal fin not butterfly-shaped and teeth on the palate not conical.

Osteogeniosus militaris: only maxillary barbels present, and these stiff, not flexible.

Other catfishes: either lack an adipose fin (Chacidae, Clariidae, Heteropneustidae, Plotosidae), lack a dorsal spine (Sisoridae), possess nasal barbels (Akysidae, Bagridae, Sisoridae), have anterior and posterior nostrils widely separated (Schilbeidae), or have the gill membranes free from isthmus (Amblycipitidae).



SIZE:

Maximum: 45 cm; common: 20 to 40 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

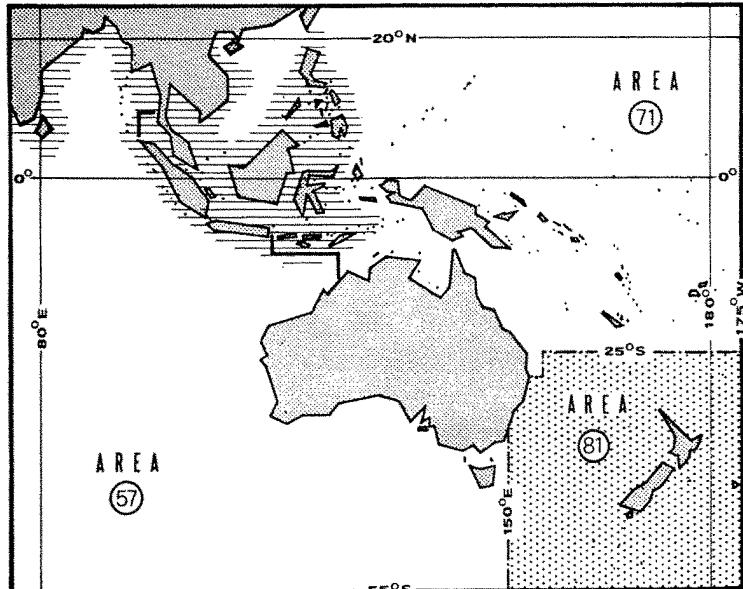
Coasts of India to Indo-Australian archipelago, but not New Guinea or Australia.

Found along the coastline, mainly around river estuaries.

Feeds mainly on invertebrates and small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shore waters around estuaries and river waters subjected to tidal influence.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Ariidae in 1972 was:

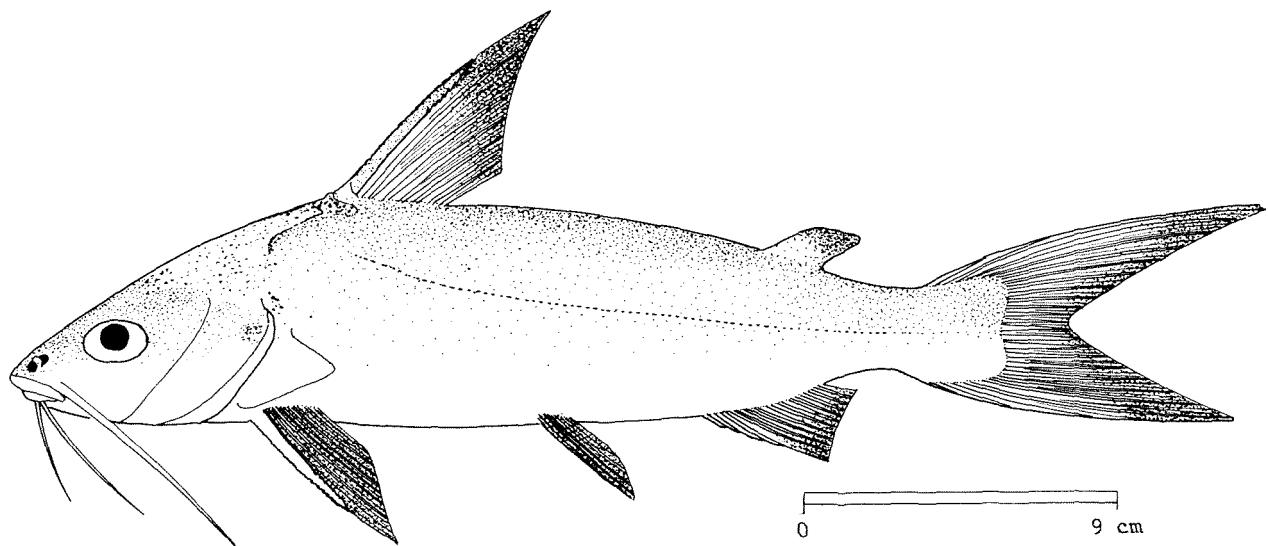
area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 8 400 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 16 100 tons (Philippines: 11 400 tons;
Malaysia: 4 700 tons)

Caught mainly with set bag nets, shore seines and hooks.

Marketed mostly fresh.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ARIIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Arius thalassinus* (Rüppell, 1837)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Tachysurus thalassinus* (Rüppell, 1837)
Netuma thalassinus (Rüppell, 1837)

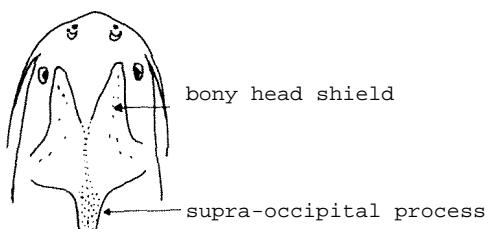
VERNACULAR CHARACTERS

FAO: ED - Giant catfish
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, robust; snout rather pointed projecting clearly beyond lower jaw. Dorsal profile before dorsal fin nearly straight and somewhat steep. Three pairs of barbels around mouth. Head shield weakly striated and granulated, its surface nearly smooth; supra-occipital process about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times longer than broad, its side borders almost parallel and straight. Teeth on palate fine, villiform, in three groups on each side, arranged in a large triangular patch, the base of which is formed by two small anterior groups, while the hind group is much larger, extending backward. Dorsal and pectoral fins short, with a spine at front; adipose fin small.



A. thalassinus
top of head

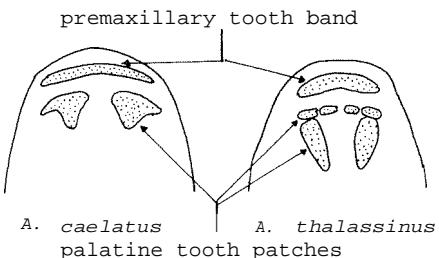
Colour: dark red/brown to blue/grey above, brown/white, densely pigmented below; the whole with a bronze or silvery lustre; numerous narrow, parallel, transverse iridescent cross-bands corresponding with lines of papillae. Dorsal, adipose, anal and caudal fins dark terminally, as also the upper surface of pectoral and pelvic fins.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other *Arius* species: palate teeth coarser, not forming a triangle of three rather close-set groups on each side.

Osteogeniosus militaris: only maxillary barbels present, and these stiff, not flexible.

Other catfishes: either lack an adipose fin (Chacidae, Clariidae, Heteropneustidae, Plotosidae), lack a dorsal spine (Sisoridae), possess nasal barbels (Akysidae, Bagridae, Sisoridae), have anterior and posterior nostrils widely separated (Schilbeidae), or have the gill membranes free from isthmus (Amblycipitidae).



SIZE:

Maximum: 150 cm; common: 25 to 70 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

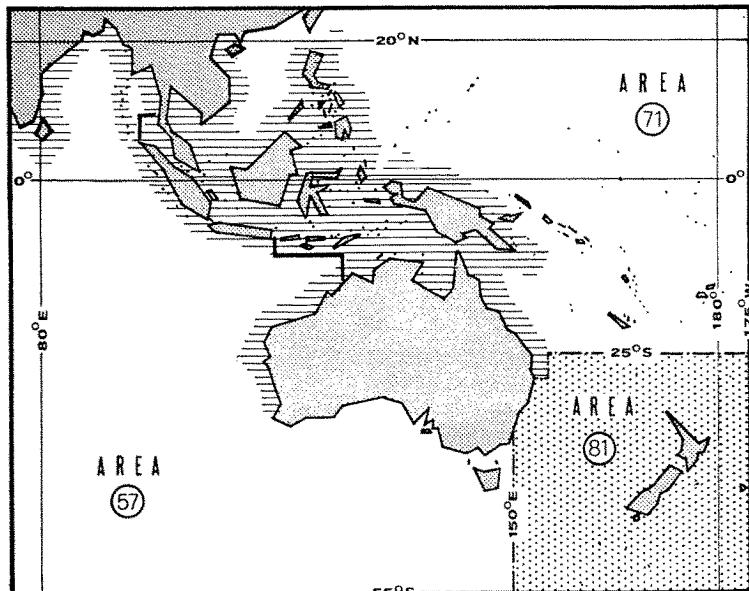
Throughout western part of area except southern coasts of Australia.

A marine species often found in and around estuaries, but apparently rarely entering streams or rivers.

Feeds mainly on crustaceans, molluscs, other invertebrates and small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters throughout the area down to depths of 100 m



CATCHES. MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORM OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Ariidae in 1972 was:

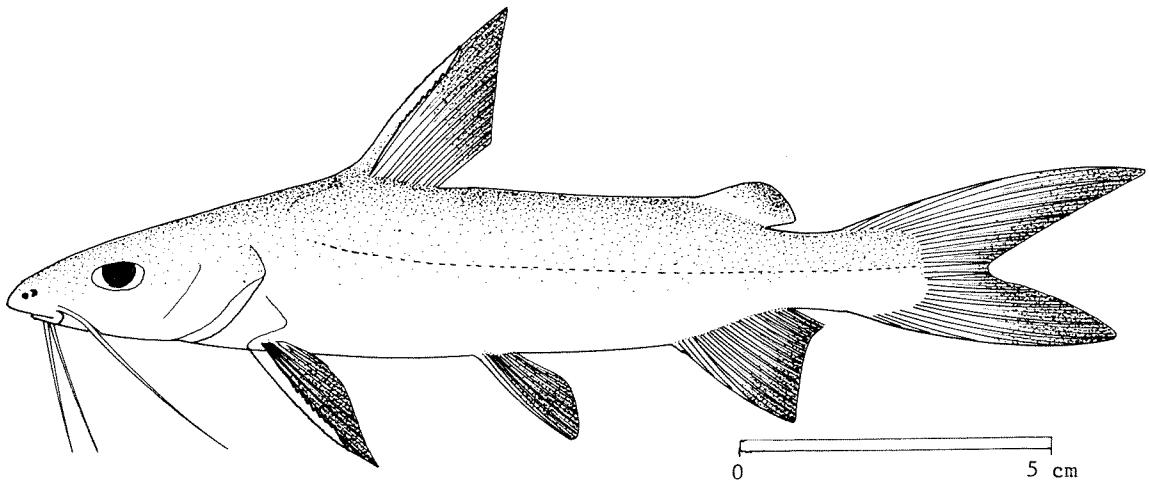
Caught mainly with bottom trawls, bamboo stake traps, hooks and longlines.

Marketed mostly fresh; also made into various kinds of dried products; air bladders are dried.

1974

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ARIIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Arius venosus* (Valenciennes, 1840)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Tachysurus venosus* (Valenciennes, 1840)

VERNACULAR NAMES

FAO: En - Veined catfish
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, dorsal profile sloping in a straight line to round snout. Three pairs of barbels around mouth, the maxillary barbels extending beyond base of pectoral fins or nearly so. Head shield almost smooth; median fontanelle narrow and short, reaching to median keel of supra-occipital process, which is slightly longer than broad, its side borders straight and slightly convergent. Premaxillary toothband rather broad and slightly arched, 4 to 5 times longer than broad; teeth on palate fine, only one large sub-triangular group on each side, greatest length of each group about equal to curved front base, outer edge concave, the inner convex; both groups separated from each other and from jaw teeth by a space about 1/3 the breadth of jaw band. Dorsal spine weak, its osseous part shorter than head length but higher than depth; adipose fin of medium size.

Colour: dark grey/blue above, white below, all fins generally hyaline, unpaired fins darker terminally, paired fins grey/black above, upper half of adipose fin spotted with black.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Arius caelatus: premaxillary toothband 8 to 10 times longer than broad, occipital process about as long as broad, head shield strongly rugose and granulated; also, a large black spot on adipose fin.

Other *Arius* species: either have granular to molar-like teeth on palate or a different arrangement of the tooth plates.

Osteogeniosus militaris: only maxillary barbels present, and these stiff, not flexible.

Other catfishes: either lack an adipose fin (Chacidae, Clariidae, Heteropneustidae, Plotosidae), lack a dorsal spine (Sisoridae), possess nasal barbels (Akysidae, Bagridae, Sisoridae), have anterior and posterior nostrils widely separated (Schilbeidae), or have the gill membranes free from isthmus (Amblycipitidae).

SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common: 15 to 23 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

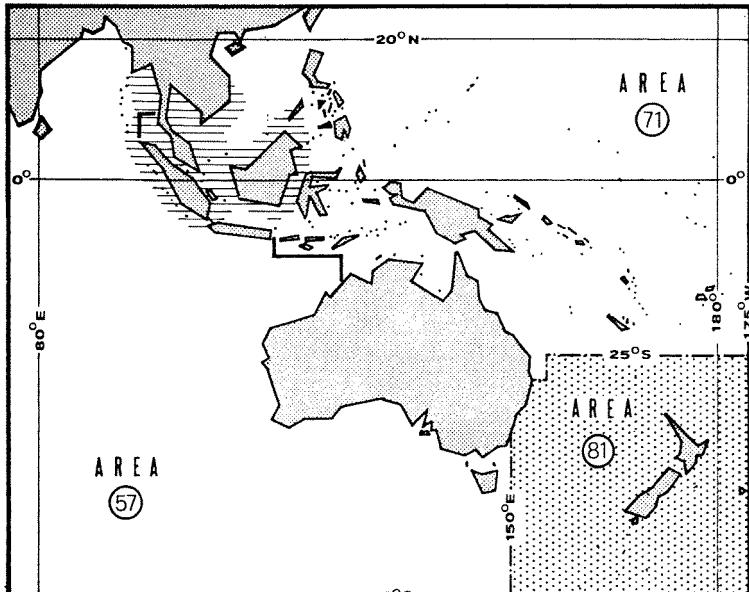
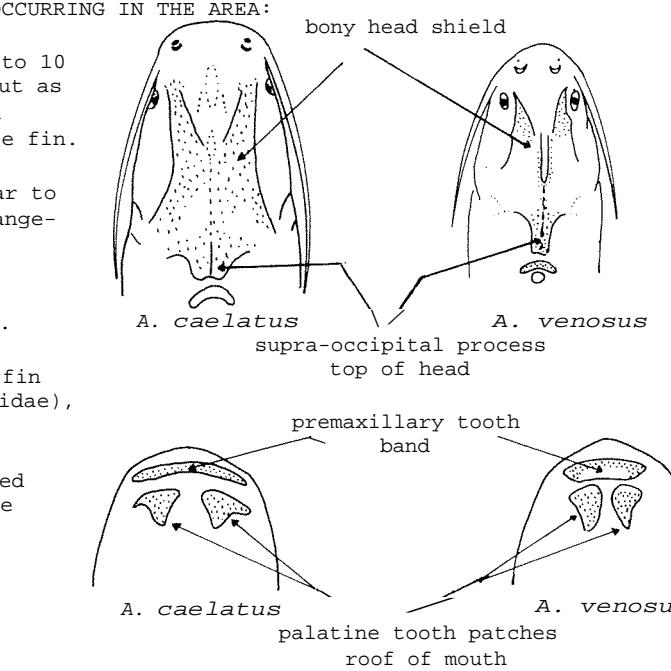
Indo-Australian archipelago, but not Philippines or Australia; not found off coasts of India.

Found in coastal waters throughout its range.

Feeds mainly on invertebrates and small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Along coastlines down to depths of about 10 m.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Ariidae in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 8 400 tons (India only)
 area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 16 100 (Philippines: 11 400 tons;
 Malaysia: 4 700 tons)

Mainly caught with bamboo stake traps and set bag nets.

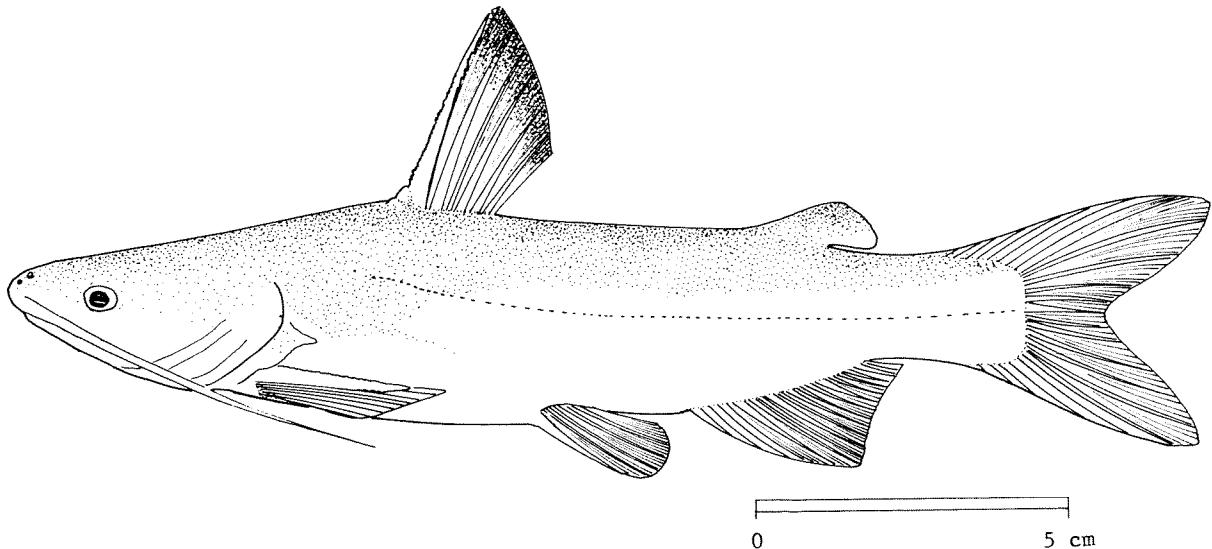
Marketed mostly fresh.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ARIIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57, 71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Osteogeniosus militaris* (Linnaeus, 1758)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Soldier catfish
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, head strongly depressed. Only one pair of very stiff and bony barbels on upper jaw (extensions of the maxillae), their tips reaching to or beyond base of pectoral fin. Head shield smooth, without granulations or rugose striae; median fontanelle broad, not reaching base of supra-occipital bone which is narrow, more than twice longer than broad. Teeth on palate obtusely conical, in a longitudinal semi-oval patch on each side. Dorsal and pectoral fins with a strong spine at front; adipose fin medium-sized.

Colour: top of head and back intense dark blue with silvery reflections, belly silvery white, sparingly dotted with black. Fins greyish white, minutely spotted with black, tips of dorsal and adipose fin dark blue.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Similar ariid species: barbels present on lower jaw, and all barbels soft and flexible.

Other catfishes: either lack an adipose fin (Chacidae, Clariidae, Heteropneustidae, Plotosidae), lack a dorsal spine (Sisoridae), possess nasal barbels (Akysidae, Bagridae, Sisoridae), have anterior and posterior nostrils widely separated (Schilbeidae), or have the gill membranes free from isthmus (Amblycipitidae).

SIZE:

Maximum: 35 cm; common: 20 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

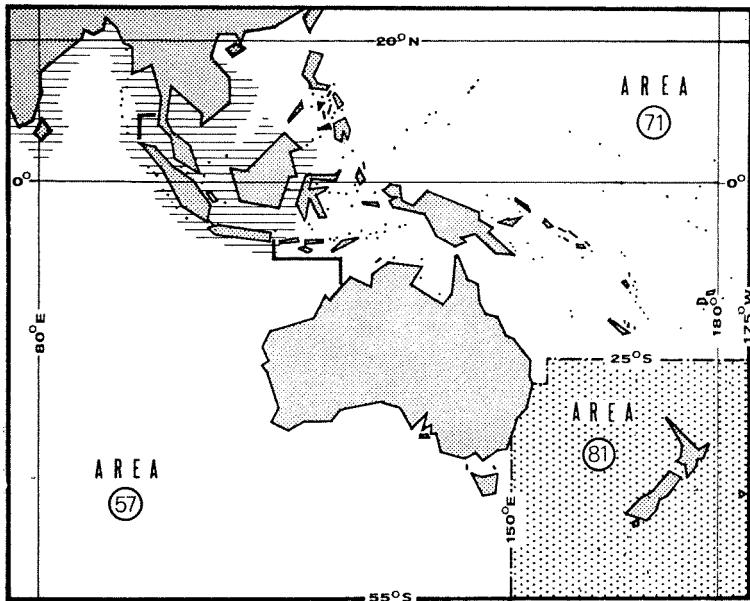
Northwestern part of area, but not to the Philippines, New Guinea or Australia.

Found in turbid waters of the shallower parts of the continental shelf.

Feeds mainly on bottom-living invertebrates and sometimes small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters over soft bottoms and in estuaries to depths of 45 m.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species. The total reported catch of Ariidae in 1972 was:

area 57 (Eastern Indian Ocean): 8 400 tons (India only)
area 71 (Western Central Pacific): 16 100 tons (Philippines: 11 400 tons;
Malaysia: 4 700 tons)

Caught mainly with bamboo stake traps, set bag nets, shore seines and bottom trawls.

Marketed mostly fresh.

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

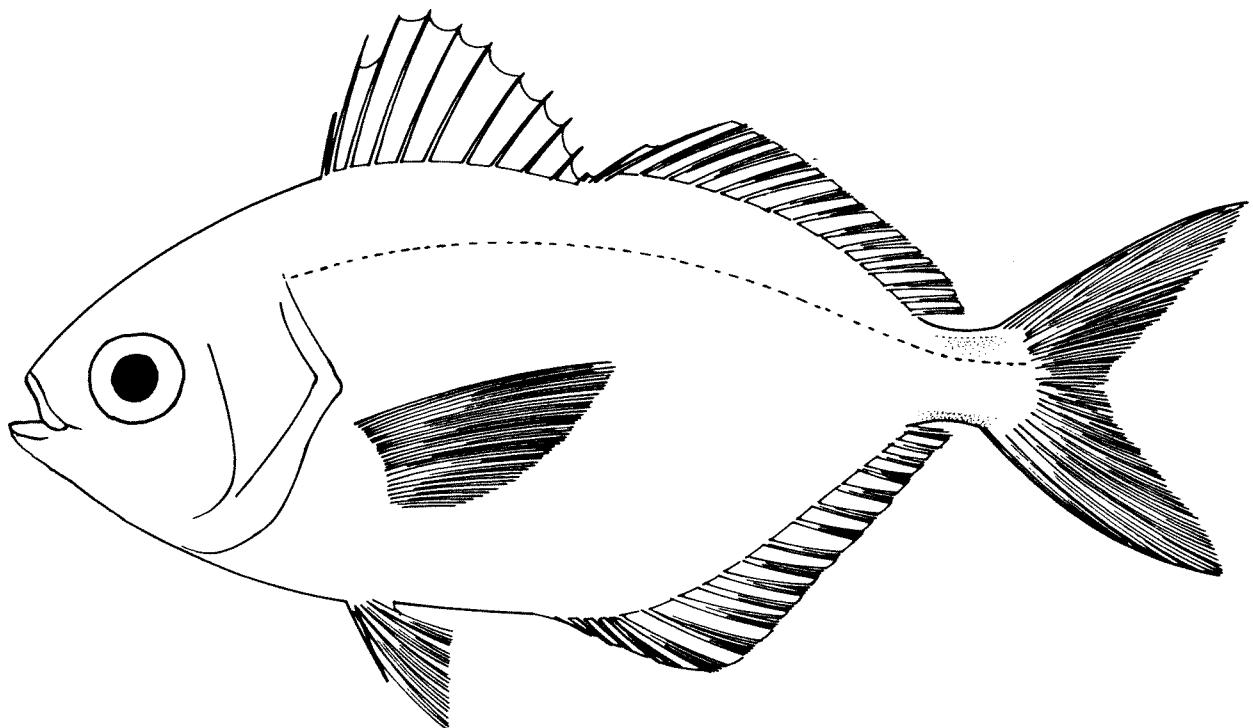
FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)

ARIOMMIDAE

Driftfishes

Body slender or moderately deep, rounded to compressed. Mouth small, jaw teeth minute; no teeth on roof or floor of mouth; toothed pharyngeal sacs present. 2 distinct though scarcely separated dorsal fins, the 1st with 11 to 12 long, slender spines, often folded into a groove; longest dorsal spine twice the length of the longest 2nd dorsal fin ray; 14 or 15 soft rays (rarely 13 or 16) in 2nd dorsal and anal fins. Pelvic fins thoracic, inserted below pectoral fins or behind. Caudal peduncle square in cross-section, its least depth less than 5% of standard length, with 2 low fleshy lateral keels on each side near caudal fin base. Scales cycloid (smooth), thin, easily detached.

Colour: silvery fishes, often with a purple tinge.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Nomeidae: caudal peduncle compressed, its least depth more than 5% of standard length and without lateral keels; usually more than 15 soft rays in 2nd dorsal and anal fins.

Amarsipidae: pelvic fins jugular (lying under throat).

Centrolophidae, Tetragonuridae: dorsal fin not, or hardly, divided into two parts, the anterior part with less than 10 short spines.

Key to Genera*Ariormna* only

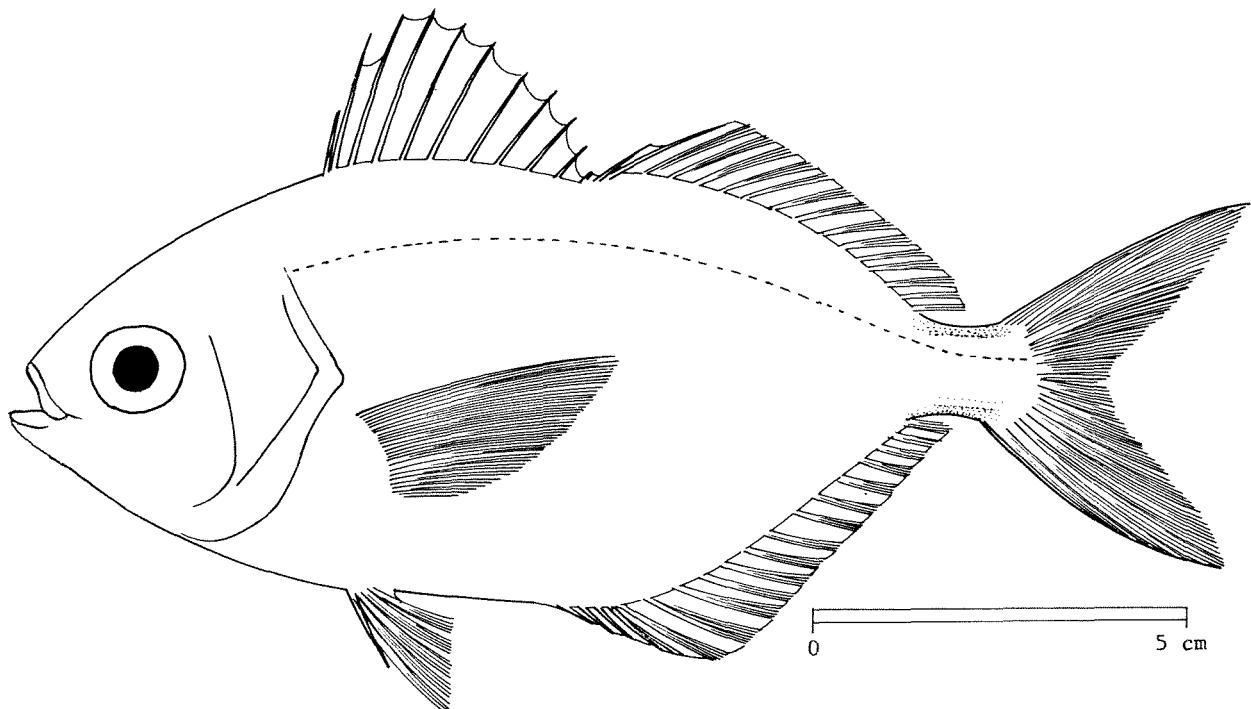
List of Species occurring in the Area
(Code numbers are given for those species
for which Identification Sheets are included)

Arioma indica ARIOM Ariom 1

1974

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ARIOMMIDAE

FISHING AREAS 57,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Ariomma indica* (Day, 1870)SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: *Psenes Indians* Day, 1870; Smith, 1949
Psenes extraneus Herre, 1948

VERNACULAR NAMES:

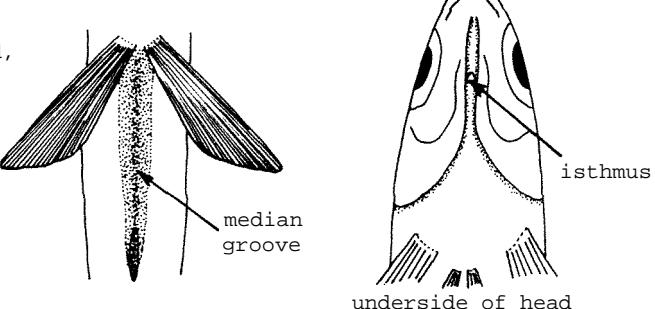
FAO: En - Indian driftfish
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oval, rather compressed. Top of head rounded, without scales, head covered by thick adipose tissue. Mouth small, teeth minute, their bases covered by a membrane. Gill membranes not united to isthmus. 2 dorsal fins, scarcely separated, the first with 11 to 12 long and slender spines; a median groove along belly for reception of folded pelvic fins. Caudal peduncle square in cross-section, with 2 low fleshy keels on each side. Scales cycloid (smooth), very thin and easily detached.

Colour: silvery with purple tinge; fins greyish.



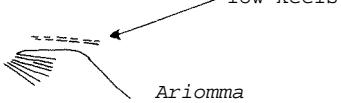
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Pampus argenteus, *P. chinensis*: much deeper bodied, dorsal fin single and no pelvic fins; dorsal and anal fins falcate anteriorly in *P. argenteus*.

Nomeid species: caudal peduncle compressed, not square in cross-section, and without fleshy keels; also, usually more than 15 soft rays in dorsal and anal fins.

SIZE:

Maximum: about 23 cm;
common: 12 to 17 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

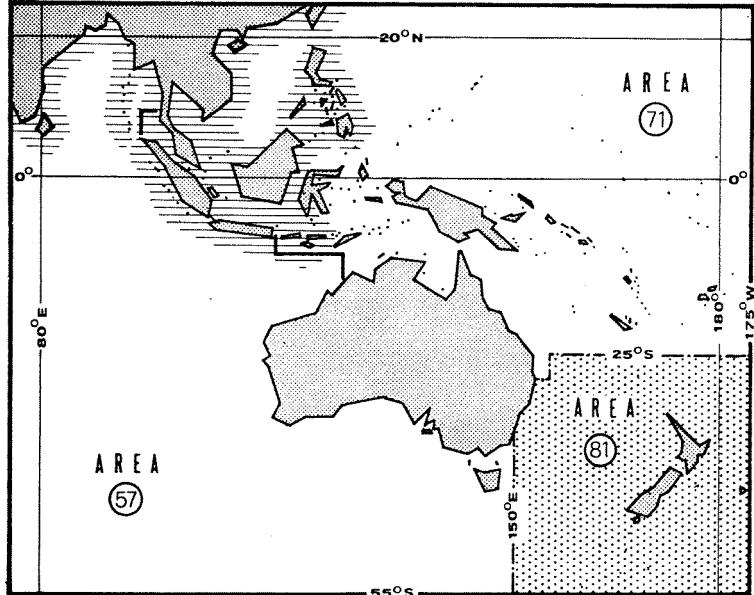
Coasts of India, Burma and Indonesia to Hong Kong, but not recorded from New Guinea or Australia; also, westward to South Africa and northward to Japan.

Inhabits waters over muddy bottoms of the continental shelf, down to about 100 m.

Feeds mainly on bottom-living animals.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Trawling grounds, down to 100 to 120 m.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with bottom trawls.

A highly esteemed food fish, marketed mainly fresh; also dried-salted.