

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

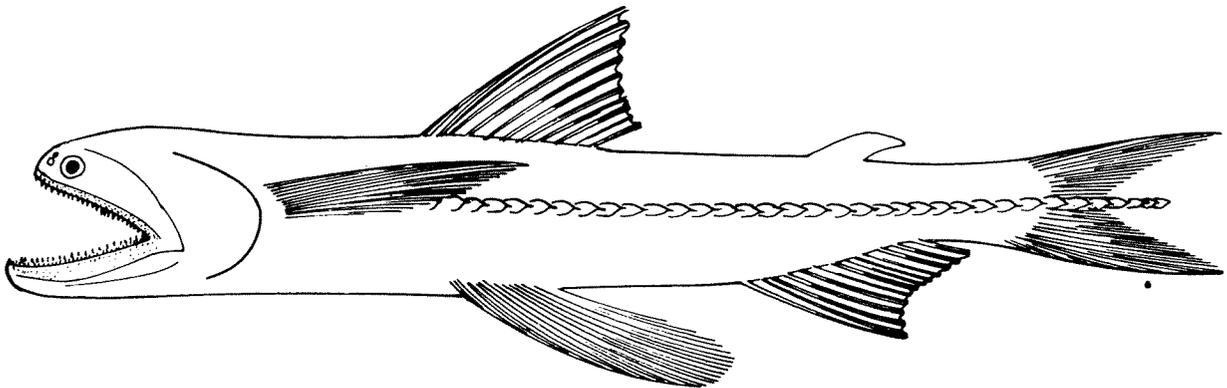
FISHING AREAS 57,71
 (E Ind. Ocean)
 (W Cent. Pacific)

HARPADONTIDAE

Bombay-ducks

Elongate, rather compressed fishes, usually with *adipose fin* (absent in *H. translucens*) and *trilobed caudal fin*. Head short, not depressed, with *very short, rounded snout*. Cleft of mouth very wide, bordered above by long, slender pre-maxillary; maxillary absent. Jaw teeth unequal and slightly curved, awl-shaped, and depressible; *inner teeth of lower jaw enlarged and conspicuously hastate* (like spear-head). Similar teeth in one or two rows on vomer, palatines and pterygoids, as also on tongue and on branchial arches. Pectoral fins longer than head. *Pelvic fins extremely long*. Gill openings very wide, covered by membranous opercles. Branchiostegal rays 17 to 29, extending beyond gill cover.

Colour: generally greyish.



SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Synodontidae: have a forked caudal fin (trilobed in Harpadontidae) and pigmented body (semitransparent in Harpadontidae).

Key to Genera

Harpadon only

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

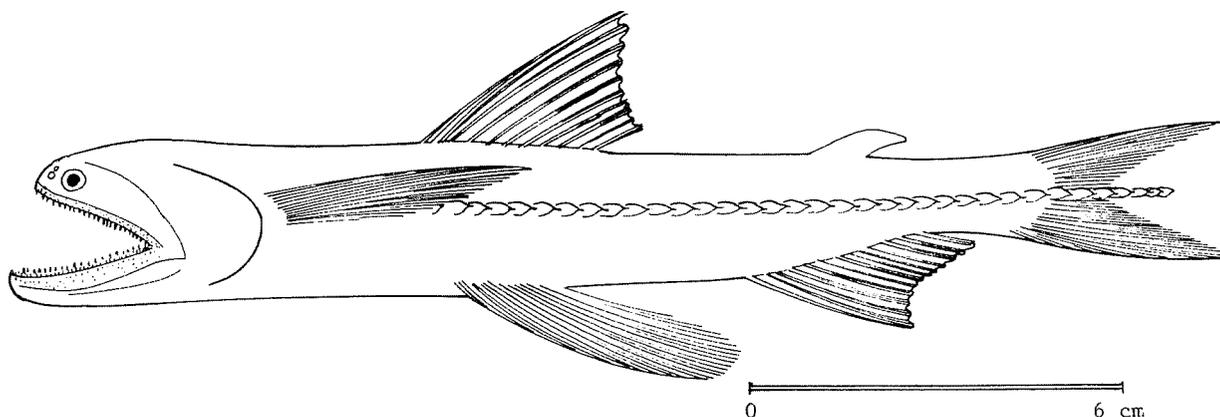
Harpadon microchir (deep water form)
Harpadon nehereus HARP Harp 1
Harpadon translucens (deep water form)

FAD SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: HARPADONTIDAE

FISHING AREAS 37,71
(E Ind. Ocean)
(W Cent. Pacific)*Harpadon nehereus* (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

SYNONYMS STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Bombay-duck
Fr -
Sp -

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and compressed, eyes small, snout very short. Mouth very wide, armed with slender, re-curved and depressible teeth of unequal size; palatine teeth also large and depressible; lower jaw longer than upper. Dorsal fin followed by a conspicuous adipose fin; pelvic fins very long. Lateral line extending onto pointed median lobe of caudal fin.

Colour: uniform light grey; semitransparent appearance.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Harpadon translucens: lacks an adipose fin.

Species of Synodontidae (lizard fishes): have the lateral line confined to the body and not extending as a median lobe of caudal fin.

SIZE:

Maximum: over 40 cm;
common: 10 to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

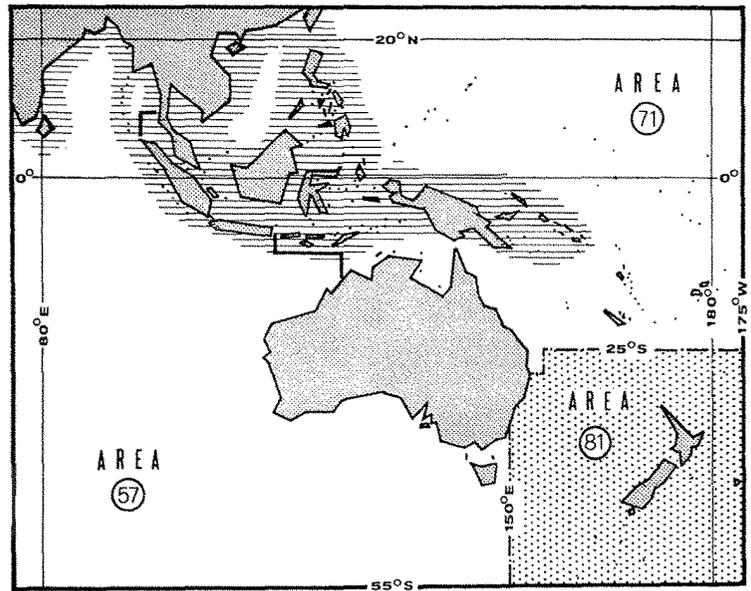
Throughout most of northern part of area; also, westward to East Africa.

Inhabits coastal waters and estuaries.

Feeds on small fishes.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Shallow grounds in inshore waters and estuaries, mainly on the west Indian coast.



CATCHES, MAIN FISHING GEAR AND PRINCIPAL FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not collected for this species.

Caught with bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, salted, dried or smoked; extensively used as a relish with curry.