

Cephalopholis taeniops (Valenciennes, 1828)

Fig. 109; Pl. VE

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Serranus taeniops Valenciennes in Cuv. and Val., 1828:307 (type locality: Cape Verde Islands).

Synonyms: None.

FAO Names: **En** - African hind (formerly: Bluespotted seabass); **Fr** - Mérou Africain (formerly: Mérou à points bleus); **Sp** - Cherna colorada.

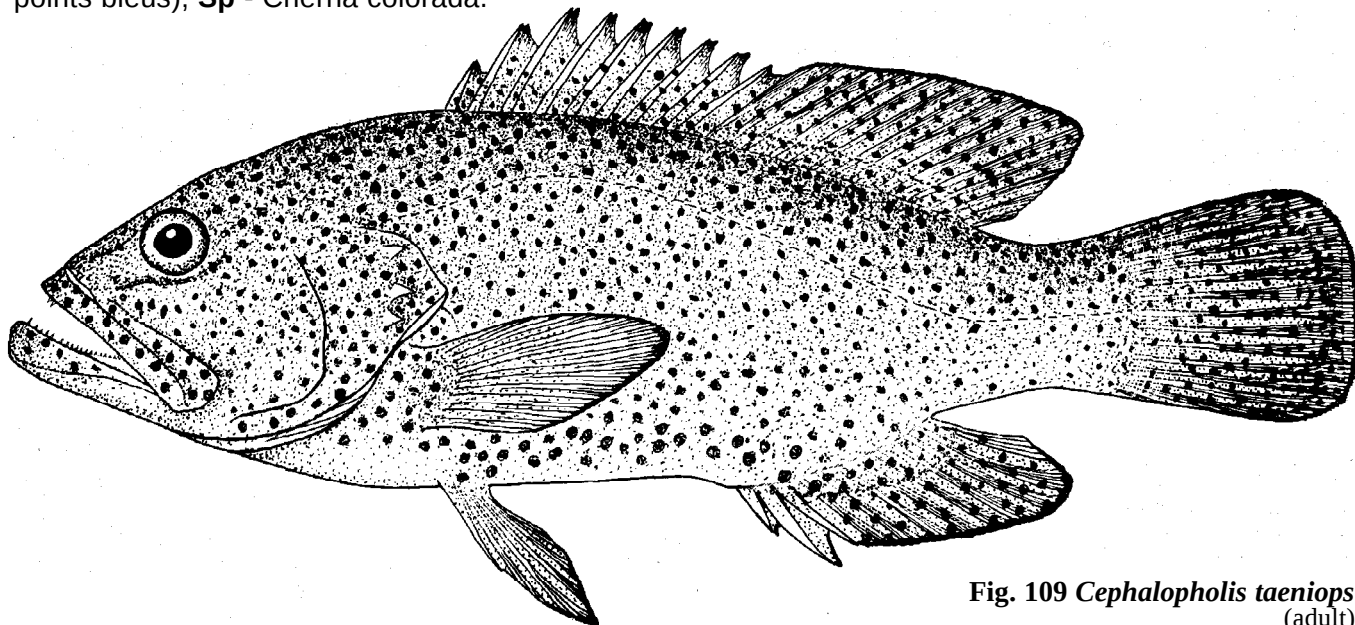


Fig. 109 *Cephalopholis taeniops* (adult)

Diagnostic Features: Body depth less than head length, depth contained 2.8 to 3.2 times in standard length (for fish 22 to 34 cm standard length). Head length contained 2.7 to 3.0 times in standard length; interorbital area convex; preopercle rounded, finely serrate, with a shallow notch, the lower edge fleshy; subopercle and interopercle with a few small serrae covered by skin; maxilla reaching vertical at rear edge of eye or beyond. Gill rakers 8 on upper limb, 15 or 16 on lower limb. Dorsal fin with IX spines and 15 or 16 rays, the fin membranes distinctly indented between the spines; anal fin with III spines and 9 or 10 rays; pectoral-fin rays 18 or 19; pectoral fins longer than pelvic fins, pectoral-fin length contained 1.5 to 1.7 times in head length; pelvic fins reaching or nearly reaching anus; caudal fin rounded. Lateral-body scales ctenoid, without auxiliary scales; lateral-line scales 68 to 72; lateral-scale series 114 to 122. **Colour:** Reddish orange, the head, body, and median fins covered with small blue spots; fins blackish distally, the soft dorsal, caudal, and anal fins with a narrow bluish margin; horizontal blue line just below eye. According to Séret (1981), there is a black variety that also has blue spots; it is much less common than the orange variety.

Geographical Distribution: Eastern Atlantic from West Sahara to Angola, including the Cape Verde Islands, Principe Island, and São Tome Island (Fig. 110).

Habitat and Biology: Sandy and rocky bottoms in depths of 20 to 200 m. It appears that nothing has been published on the biology of *C. taeniops*.

Size: Said to reach 70 cm total length, but this is unusually large for a species of *Cephalopholis*. According to Séret (1981), it attains 40 cm total length.

Interest to Fisheries: Probably of some commercial importance in local fisheries. Caught with hook-and-line and in trawls. *C. taeniops* is now imported from Senegal and marketed in France. It is also the subject of an important fishery at Dakar.

Local Names: ANGOLA: Garoupa-de-pintas, Garoupa encarnada, Donaquirá; SENEGAL: Dojh, Khonkhe, Kêlé; TOGO: Agnato.

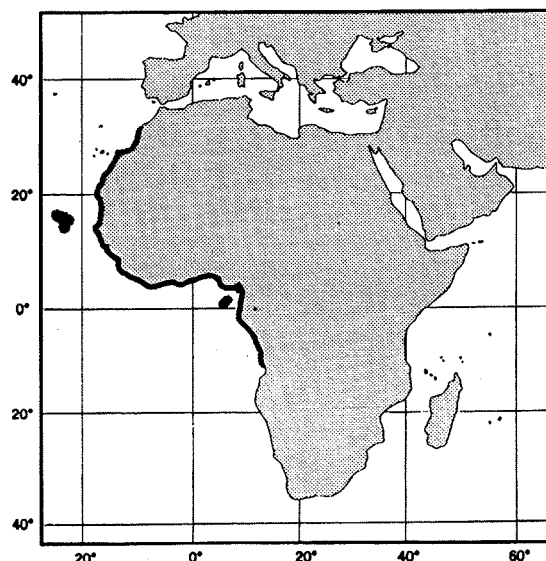


Fig. 110

Literature: Boulenger (1895); Fowler (1936); Cadenat (1951); Poll (1954); Bianchi (1986); Bellemans et al. (1988); Schneider (1990); Heemstra (1991).

Cephalopholis urodeta (Schneider, 1801)

Fig. 111; Pls VF, VIA

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Percam urodetam Schneider in Bloch and Schneider, 1801:333 (type locality: St. Christina, Marquesas Islands, Pacific Ocean; from Forster's manuscript).

Synonyms: *Serranus nigripinnis* Valenciennes in Cuv. and Val., 1828:339 (type locality unknown, from Commerson, hence probably Indian Ocean). *Serranus erythraeus* Valenciennes in Cuv. and Val., 1830:516 (type locality: Reunion). *Perca urodeta* Forster, 1844:221 (type locality: St. Christina, Marquesas). *Epinephelus Playfayri* Bleeker, 1879:2 (type locality: Mauritius). *Serranus mars* De Vis, 1884a:390 (type locality: Cardwell, Queensland). *Cephalopholis nigripinnis* for Indian Ocean specimens (e.g., Heemstra and Randall, 1984, 1986; Randall, 1987; Winterbottom et al., 1989)

FAO Names: **En** - Darkfin hind (formerly: Duskyfin hind); **Fr** - Vielle aile noire; **Sp** - Cherna alinegra.

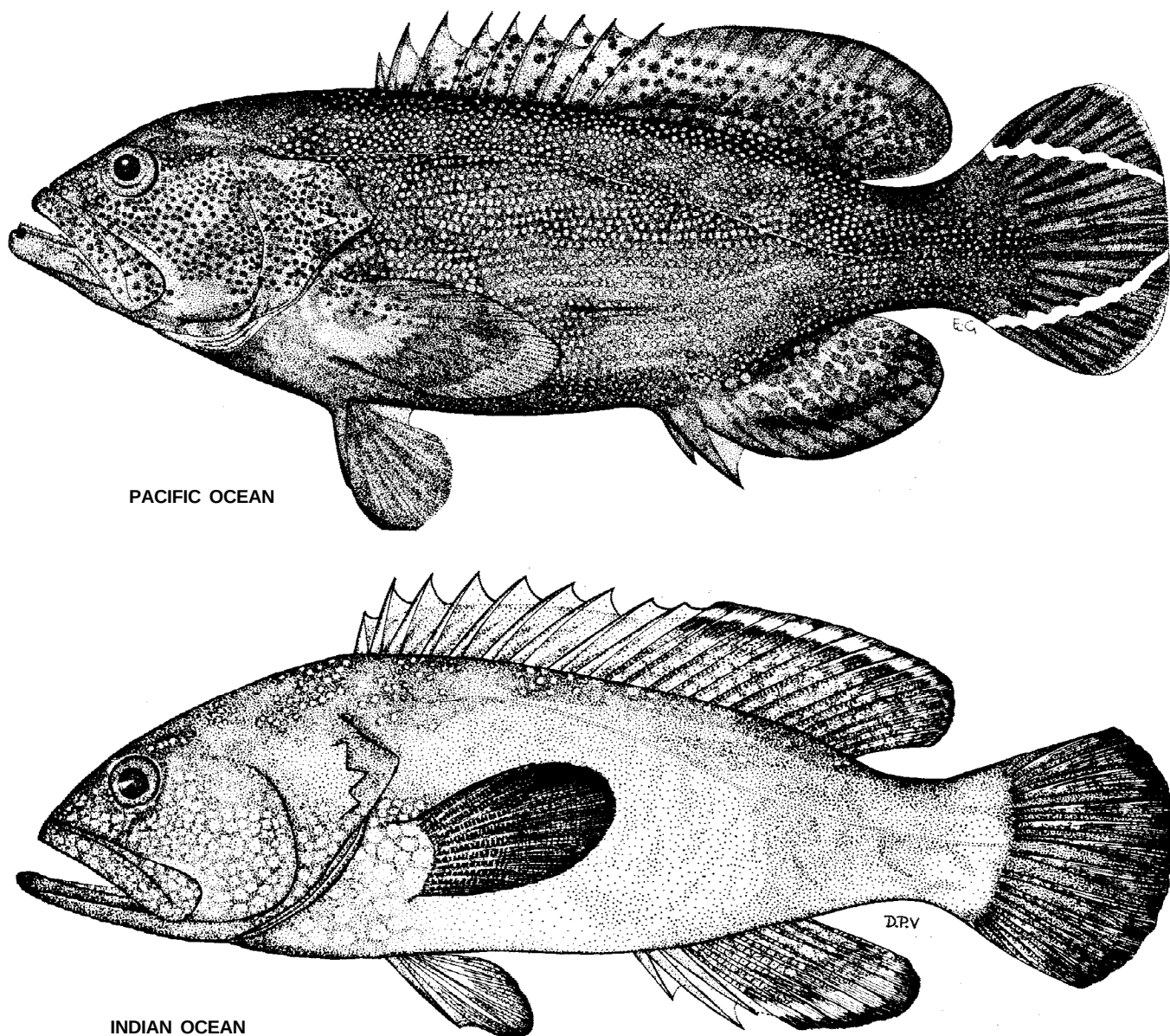


Fig. 111 *Cephalopholis urodeta*
(Pacific ocean form 180 mm standard length, Indian ocean form 180 mm standard length)

Diagnostic Features: Body depth less than head length, depth contained 2.7 to 3.3 times in standard length (for fish 9 to 21 cm standard length). Head length contained 2.4 to 2.7 times in standard length; interorbital area convex; preopercle rounded, finely serrate, the lower edge fleshy; subopercle and interopercle usually smooth; maxilla reaching well past eye. Gill rakers 7 to 9 on upper limb, 15 to 17 on lower limb. Dorsal fin with IX spines and 14 to 16 rays; anal fin with III spines and 9 (rarely 8) rays; pectoral-fin rays 17 to 19; pectoral fins distinctly longer than pelvic fins, pectoral-fin length contained 1.3 to 1.7 times in head length; pelvic fins usually not reaching anus, pelvic-fin length contained 1.8 to 2.3 times in head length; caudal fin rounded. Snout and maxilla with minute cycloid scales, lateral-body scales ctenoid, without

auxiliary scales; lateral-line scales 54 to 68; lateral-scale series 88 to 108. **Colour:** Reddish brown to brownish red, darker posteriorly; body sometimes with small pale spots and/or 4 faint, irregular, dark bars that bifurcate ventrally and another two dark bars on caudal peduncle; head with numerous, small, close-set orange-red spots (more evident on paler parts of head) and sometimes with irregular reddish brown blotches; dark spot between upper and middle opercular spines (more evident on juveniles); a pair of small dark spots on edge of lower lip in line with the pair of anterior canine teeth; soft dorsal and anal fins with small orange-red spots; outer triangular part of interspinous dorsal-fin membranes orange; pelvic fins orange-red, usually with a dark blue edge. Caudal fin of Indian Ocean fish dark reddish brown to almost black and covered with small pale spots; caudal fin of Pacific fish (larger than 4 cm standard length) with 2 white to bluish white bands that converge posteriorly, the area between the bands dark, often with pale spots, the outer corners of the fin red, with a whitish margin. Pectoral fins of Indian Ocean fish coloured like body basally, becoming dark brown to almost black distally; Pectoral fins of Pacific fish reddish brown basally, becoming yellow distally. Some fish from dark habitats in the Comoro Islands are uniformly black.

Geographical Distribution: Indian Ocean from the coast of Africa (Kenya to northern South Africa) to French Polynesia and the Pitcairn Islands; not known from the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf, or the coast of India. *C. urodeta* is a widespread and common species that probably occurs at all of the tropical islands and shallow banks of the Indian and west-central Pacific Oceans. It is also known from the northern coast of Australia. Although we have seen one specimen (USNM, 118 mm standard length) from Sri Lanka, and the species occurs at the nearby Maldive Islands, it appears to be absent from the entire Arabian/Asian coast of the Indian Ocean (Fig. 112). The specimens from Muscat (Oman) that Boulenger (1895:188 or 189) referred to "*Epinephelus nigripinnis*" are probably *C. hemistiktos*; they are certainly too large to be *C. urodeta*.

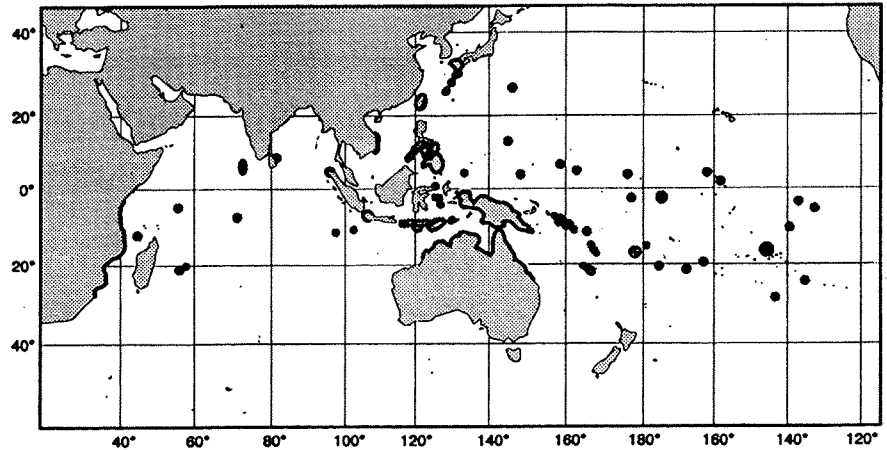


Fig. 112

Habitat and Biology: This is a common coral reef species that is usually seen in outer reef areas, but also found in lagoons, back-reef areas, and on the reef-top. It has been collected in depths of 1 to 60 m. Randall and Brock (1960) found that it feeds mainly on fishes (68%) and crustaceans.

Size: Maximum total length 28 cm.

Interest to Fisheries: Because of its small size, *C. urodeta* is not of much interest as a food fish (except perhaps to subsistence fisheries), but it does well in an aquarium and may find a market as an aquarium fish. Caught with hook-and-line and in traps.

Local Names: AUSTRALIA: Flag-tailed rockcod; HONG KONG: Banded-tail coral-cod, Pak-mei-paan; JAPAN: Nijihata; MICRONESIA: Flagtail grouper; PALAU: Ollos; PHILIPPINES: Flag-tailed grouper, Suno (Visayan); TAHITI: Rero.

Literature: Myers (1989); Winterbottom et al. (1989); Randall and Heemstra (1991).

Remarks: We have been unable to find any morphological character to separate the Pacific and Indian Ocean populations of this species. Although these two populations are mostly allopathic, there does seem to be some overlap in the western Indonesia area (we have seen specimens from Jakarta and the western end of Sumatera that lack the white bands on the tail). Intermediate specimens, with a series of pale spots in place of the white caudal bands, as well as typically white-banded fish, occur at Christmas Island in the eastern Indian Ocean (Allen and Steene, 1988).