Species Fact Sheets

*Saurida tumbil* (Bloch, 1795)

**Synonyms**
- *Salmo tumbil* Bloch, 1795: 112 (original description).
- *Saurus badi* Cuvier, 1829: 314.
- *Saurus badimottah* Rüppell, 1837: 77.
- *Laurida tumbel* Swainson, 1839: 288 (unnecessary name change or emendation, based on Bloch pl. 430, which is *tumbil* Bloch).
- *Saurida argyrophanes* , (non Jordan & Evermann) Richardson, 1846.
- *Saurida tombil* Valenciennes, 1850: 500.
- *Saurida australis* Castelnau, 1879: 393.
- *Saurida ferox* Ramsay, 1883: 177.

**FAO Names**
En - Greater lizardfish, Fr - Anoli tumbil, Sp - Lagarto tumbil.

3Alpha Code: LIG   Taxonomic Code: 1311606801

**Diagnostic Features**
Body elongate and tubular. Lateral line scales about 50 to 56; 4 to 5 scale rows above lateral line. Head and caudal peduncle somewhat depressed. Several rows of teeth visible in both jaws even when mouth is closed: 2 series of teeth on palate (roof of mouth), outer series in 3 or 4 rows anteriorly; a small patch of teeth present on vomer. Dorsal fin rays usually 12 (11 to 13), longest ray about 4 times as long as last ray. Pectoral fin rays 14 or 15, longest ray reaching to about pelvic insertion. Pelvics rays subequal in length. Pectoral axillary scale long and pointed. Colour back and sides brown, belly pale or silvery. Eight to 10 faint bars occasionally visible along lateral line. Distal parts of dorsal, pectoral and particularly caudal fins dusky; otherwise, no markings on fins.

**Geographical Distribution**
Western Indian Ocean, known from the east coast of Africa (excluding Kenya) Madagascar, Somalia, the Red Sea, the "Gulf", Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, in the Eastern Indian Ocean, Malay Archipelago, East Indies, Australia and China Sea; not known from the Central or Eastern Pacific.

**Habitat and Biology**
Commonly found on muddy bottoms between 20 and 60 m depth, but may enter shallower waters. Mainly piscivorous, but also feeds on crustaceans and squids.

**Size**
To at least 40 cm total length.

**Interest to Fisheries**
Caught primarily with bottom trawls. The total catch reported for this species to FAO for 1999 was 10 791 t. The countries with the largest catches were Japan (7 716 t) and Taiwan Province of China (3 075 t). Marketed fresh.
**Local Names**

**Arabic** : Hasoom, Poleen, Shijeeah.

**English** : Greater lizard-fish.

**Malay/Indonesian** : Bekut laut, Belungkor, Chonor, Hai la, Mengkarong, Mudin-mudin, Sonor, Ubi, Ubi-ubi.

**Portuguese** : Peixe-banana grande.

**Somalian** : Anishow.

**Bibliography**


