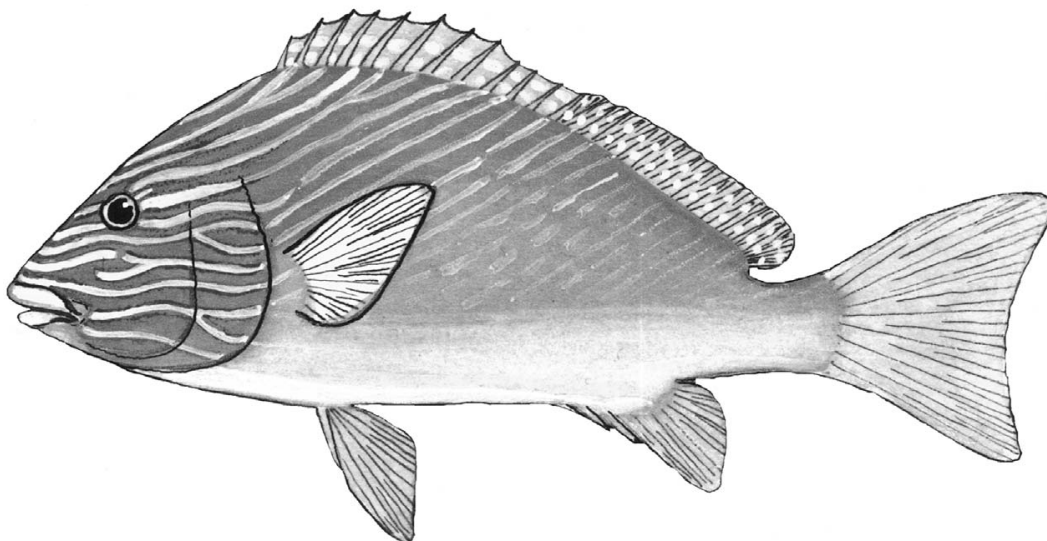


Plectorhinchus multivittatus (Macleay, 1878)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Plectorhinchus ordinalis* (Scott, 1962).

FAO names: En - Manybanded sweetlips.

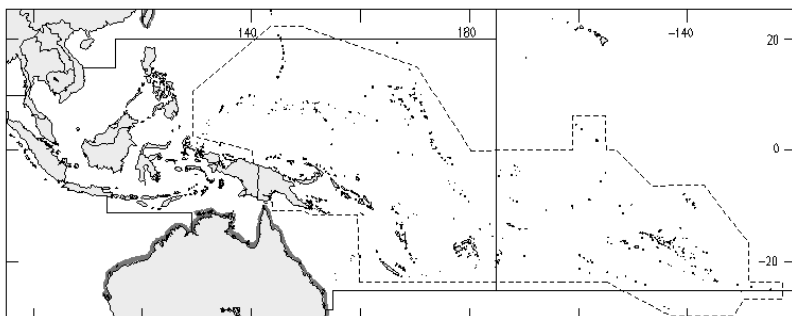


Diagnostic characters: Lips fleshy, moderately swollen with age. **Chin with 6 pores but no median pit. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 32 to 35 (12 to 15 on upper limb, 1 at corner, and 18 to 20 on lower limb). Dorsal fin with XII (rarely XI or XIII) spines and 18 to 21 soft rays.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch). Lateral line with about 56 to 58 tubed scales. **Colour:** blue-grey above, white below; 8 or 9 bright yellow or yellow-orange longitudinal bands on head, extending onto body and remaining distinct on lower half, but becoming broken into a series of dots and short bands on upper half of body; 2 distinct rows of similarly coloured spots along entire length of dorsal fin; all other fins transparent light yellow.

Size: Maximum total length about 50 cm, commonly to 40 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters near reefs. Taken by handline and spear. Marketed fresh. Uncommon.

Distribution: Northern Australia from Shark Bay to Torres Straits, and Taiwan Province of China.

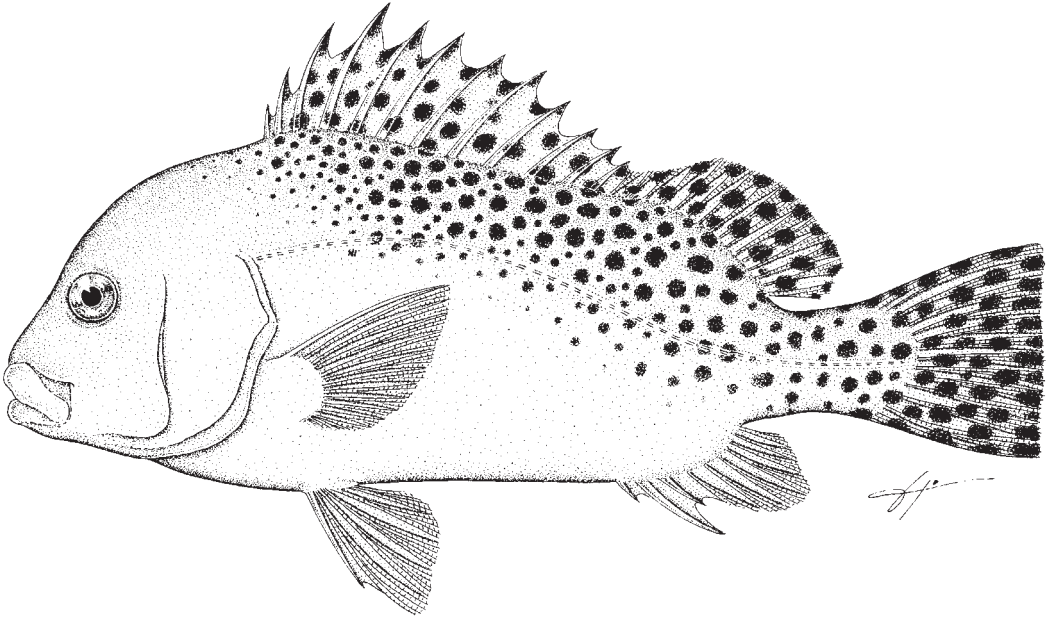


Plectorhinchus pictus (Tortonese, 1936)

(Plate XIV, 104)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Plectorhinchus fangi* (Whitley, 1951); *Plectorhynchus sinensis* Chu, Wu, and Jin, 1977 / *Plectorhinchus cinctus* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1843).

FAO names: En - Trout sweetlips; Fr - Diagramme truité; Sp - Burro trucha.

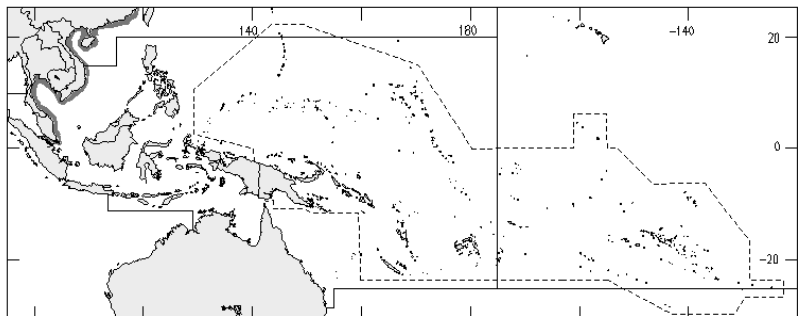


Diagnostic characters: Lips fleshy, moderately swollen with age. Chin with 6 pores but no median pit. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 20 to 23 (6 to 8 on upper limb, 1 at corner, and 11 to 14 on lower limb). Dorsal fin with XII spines and 15 to 17 (mostly 16) soft rays. Scales ctenoid (rough to touch). Lateral line with about 48 to 58 tubed scales. **Colour:** greyish brown, most of the body with rounded black spots about equal in size to interspaces, larger than interspaces in young; pectoral fins olive without spots, pelvic fins dusky anteriorly without spots or blackish, anal and caudal fins dark brown to blackish, the outer three-fifths of the caudal fin lighter in juveniles; juveniles have 3 longitudinal brownish bands which may be broken into blotches and with numerous dark spots about equal to eye diameter between the 2 uppermost bands.

Size: Maximum total length about 60 cm, commonly to 45 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters near reefs. Taken by handline and spear. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted.

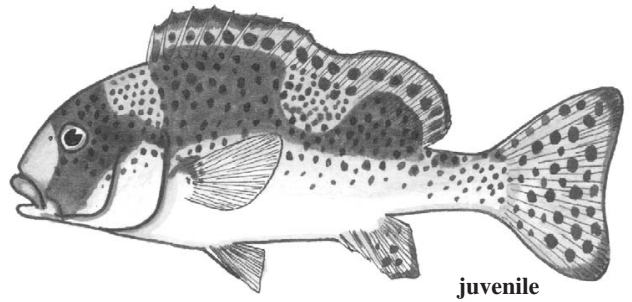
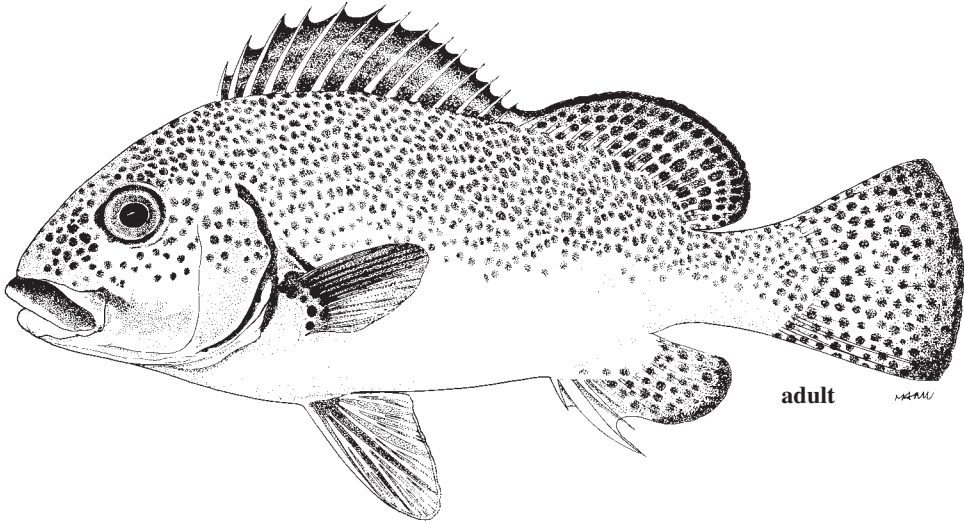
Distribution: Gulf of Oman eastwards along the Indian coast, Gulf of Manaar, Thailand and China.



Plectorhinchus picus (Cuvier in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1830) (Plate XIV, 105 and 106; Plate XV, 107)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Plectorhinchus punctatissimus* (Playfair, 1867) / None.

FAO names: En - Spotted sweetlips.

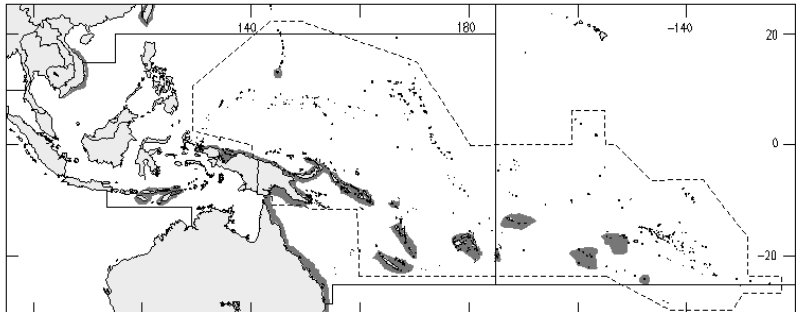


Diagnostic characters: Lips fleshy, greatly swollen with age. **Chin with 6 pores but no median pit. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 33 to 37 (8 to 13 on upper limb, 1 at corner, and 22 to 26 on lower limb). Dorsal fin with XII spines and 18 to 22 soft rays. Scales ctenoid (rough to touch). Lateral line with about 62 to 70 tubed scales. Colour:** juveniles are creamy white below, blackish above with white snout and a pair of white saddles and spots. Adults become covered with dark brown spots on head, back, sides, and fins; dorsal fin dark brown to blackish with a median horizontal grey stripe on membranes only and with a series of large black spots and sometimes with a narrow dark margin; pectoral and pelvic fins with the base and axil vermillion in some specimens; inside of mouth, hind edge of maxilla, gill-cover membrane and base of pectoral fins vermillion, scarlet, or red-brown; belly pale mauve grey.

Size: Maximum total length about 85 cm, commonly to 60 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal waters near reefs. Taken by handline and spear. Sometimes abundant. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific from East Africa, Great Barrier Reef to southern Japan and eastwards to the Society Islands and Rapa.

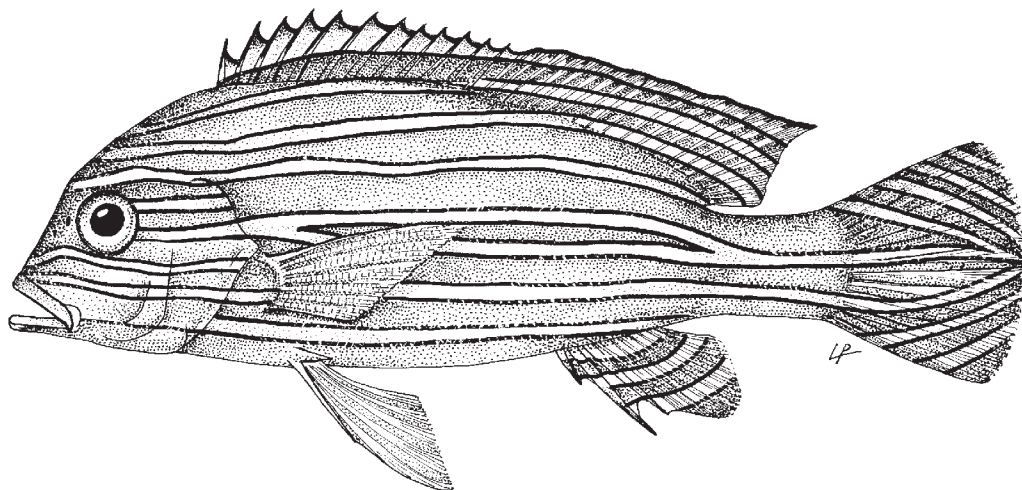


Plectorhinchus polytaenia (Bleeker, 1852)

(Plate XV, 108)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Ribboned sweetlips; Fr - Diagramme rubanne; Sp - Burro listado.

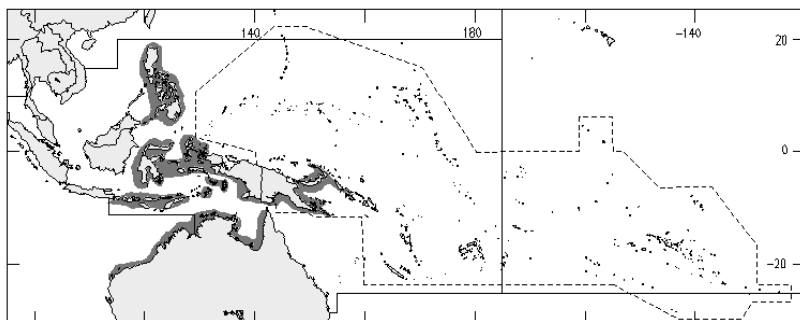


Diagnostic characters: Lips fleshy, moderately swollen with age. **Chin with 6 pores but no median pit. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 26 to 29 (7 to 9 on upper limb, 1 at corner, and 17 to 20 on lower limb). Dorsal fin with XII (rarely XIII) spines and 19 to 22 soft rays.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch). Lateral line with about 54 to 60 tubed scales. **Colour:** brown to yellowish grey with 5 to 9 fairly narrow grey or white longitudinal stripes outlined with dark brown on body and continuing around snout; fins yellow, soft dorsal, caudal, and pectoral fins with darker stripes disappearing with age; eye and lips yellowish; mouth, tongue, and gill rakers scarlet; chin white; juveniles have fins striped and fewer stripes on body.

Size: Maximum total length about 40 cm, commonly to 30 cm.

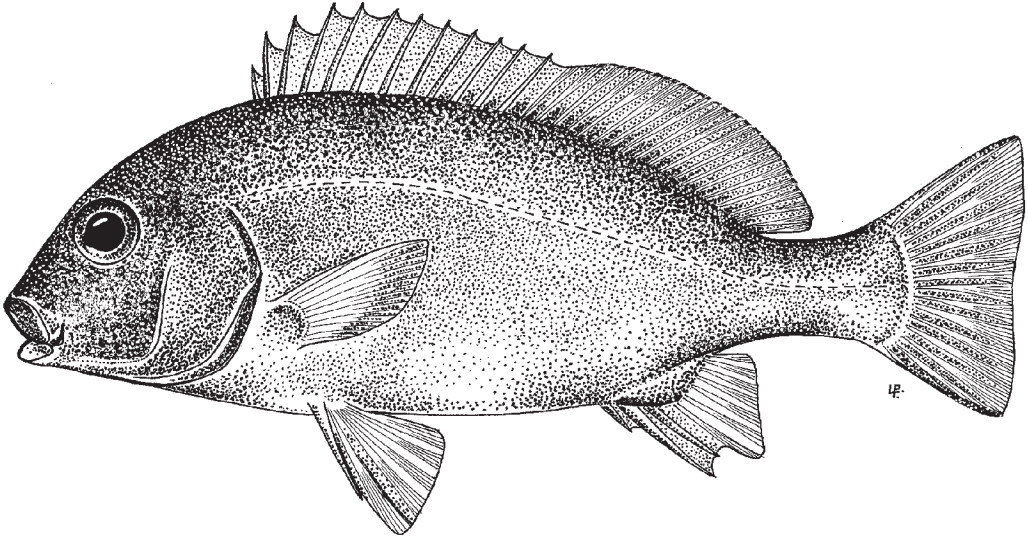
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters near reefs. Taken by handline and spear. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific from the west coast of India, Western Australia northwards to Torres Straits and to the Philippines.



Plectorhinchus schotaf (Forsskål, 1775)

(Plate XV, 109)

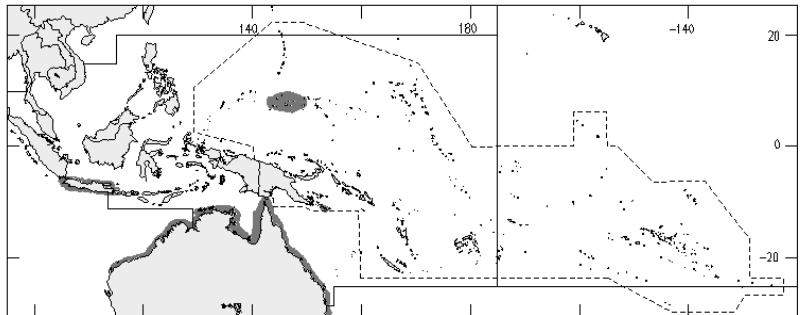
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** En - Minstrel sweetlips; Fr - Diagramme ménestrel; Sp - Burro trovador.

Diagnostic characters: Lips fleshy, moderately swollen with age. **Chin with 6 pores but no median pit. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 26 to 30 (9 to 13 on upper limb, 1 at corner, and 15 to 17 on lower limb). Dorsal fin with XII (rarely XIII) spines and 18 to 21 soft rays.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch). Lateral line with about 54 to 58 tubed scales. **Colour:** grey, silver, or greyish brown, pale grey to whitish below; head darker dorsally with opercular membrane crimson, scarlet red to orange-red; base of pectoral fins dark red; inside of mouth and tongue bright reddish; juveniles sometimes with narrow faint blue lines on body and below eye; fins usually dark. Freshly caught fish often have irregular broad pale bars and blotches which disappear after death.

Size: Maximum total length about 90 cm, commonly to 40 cm.

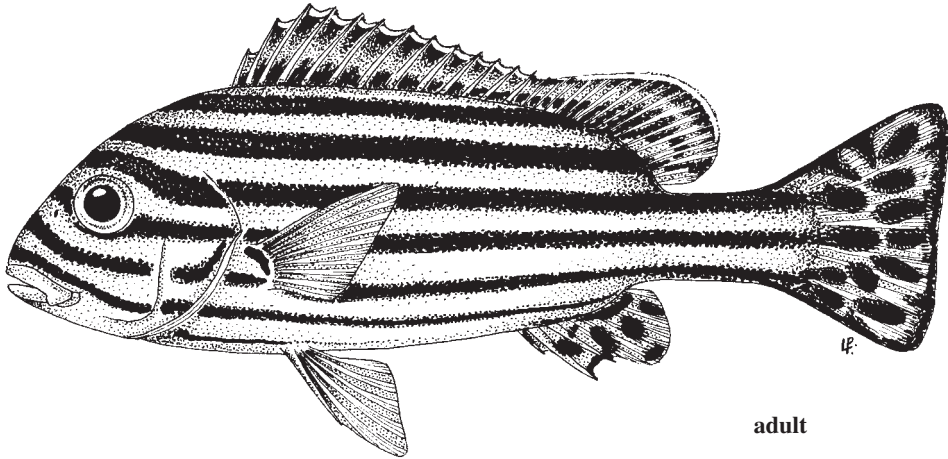
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters near reefs. Taken by handline and spear. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific from Port St. Johns, Transkei, East Africa to northern Australia, the Philippines, and southern Japan. Red Sea population differs slightly in coloration.



Plectorhinchus vittatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

(Plate XV, 110)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Plectorhinchus orientalis* (Bloch, 1793) / None.**FAO names:** En - Oriental sweetlips; Fr - Diagramme oriental; Sp - Burro oriental.

adult

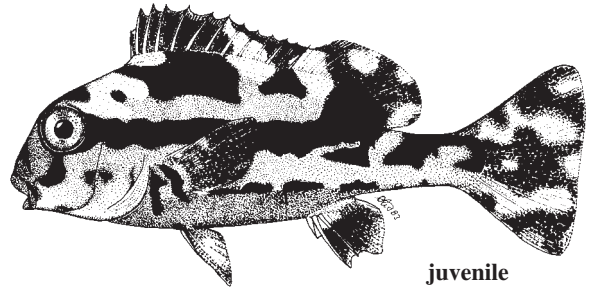
Diagnostic characters: Lips fleshy, greatly swollen with age. Chin with 6 pores but no median pit. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 29 to 34 (9 to 11 on upper limb, 1 at corner, and 20 to 23 on lower limb). Dorsal fin with XIII (rarely XII or XIV) spines and 17 to 20 soft rays. Scales ctenoid (rough to touch). Lateral line with about 55 to 65 tubed scales.

Colour: juveniles have connected black blotches and spots that gradually break up into horizontal stripes; pectoral fins black in juveniles becoming uniform yellow in adults; tail spotted with age. Adults with 6 to 12 broad dark brown, blue-brown or black stripes that persist on the belly and join horizontally across the nape and snout with anterior part of pale interspaces yellow forming 2 bright yellow stripes across interorbital and 2 around snout; eye usually yellow; fins yellow with black margins to vertical fins and black spots, pectoral fins uniform yellow with red-brown, chocolate, or blackish base, pelvic fins yellow with base red-brown, scarlet, or dark brown.

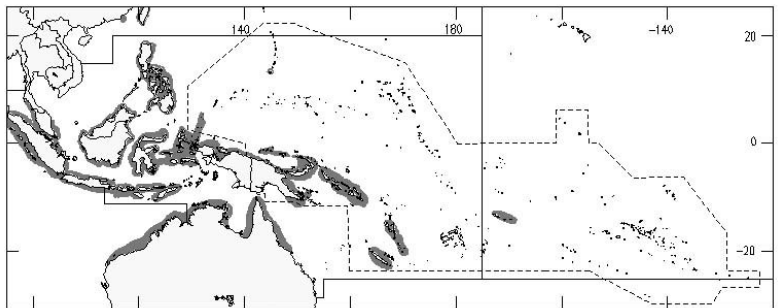
Size: Maximum total length about 60 cm, commonly to 40 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters near reefs. Taken by handline and spear. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific from East Africa to Indonesia, northern Australia, Thailand, Philippines, and Polynesia.



juvenile



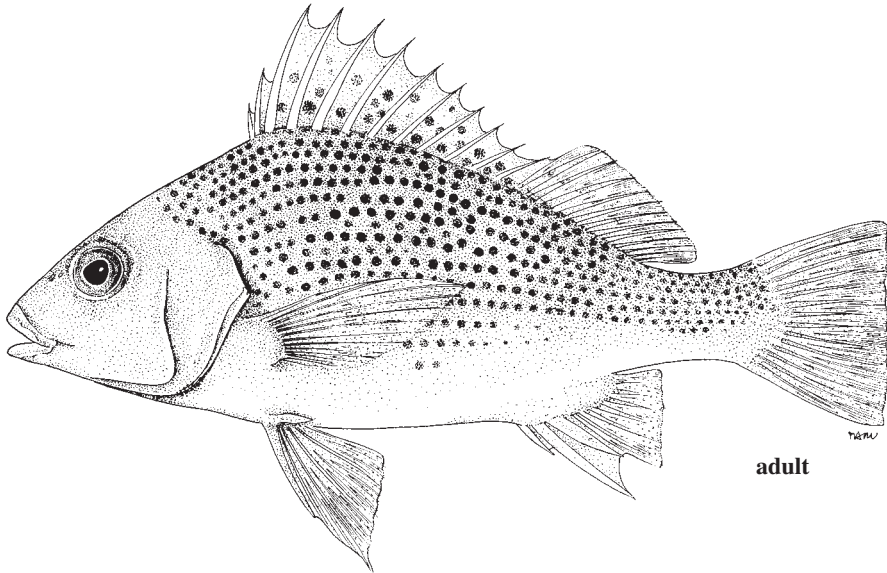
Pomadasys argenteus (Forsskål, 1775)

(Plate XV, 111)

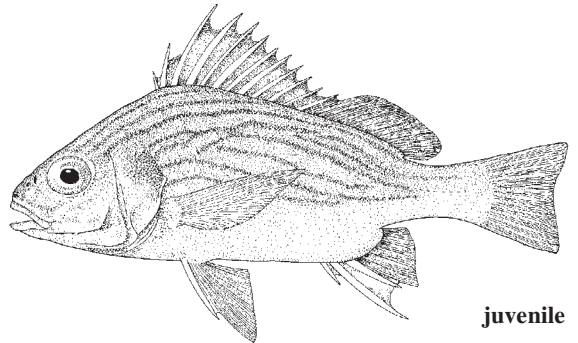
GRL

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Pomadasys hasta* (Bloch, 1790) / *Pomadasys opercularis* Playfair in Playfair and Günther, 1867.

FAO names: En - Silver grunt; Fr - Grondeur argenté; Sp - Corocoro plateado.



Diagnostic characters: Body depth 2.7 to 2.8 times in standard length. Head blunt, its upper profile convex; mouth small; maxilla reaching to eye; teeth in jaws arranged in villiform (brush-like) bands; **2 pores and a median pit on chin. Dorsal fin with XII spines and 14 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 7 soft rays.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line with 45 to 50 scales; **5 scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin; 21 or 22 scales around caudal peduncle, 9 above lateral line, 10 or 11 below.** Swimbladder without anterior extensions. **Colour:** juveniles with body pale brownish, lighter below, **back with irregular longitudinal streaks on alternate scale rows;** dorsal fin with dusky membranes; a dark spot on gill cover.

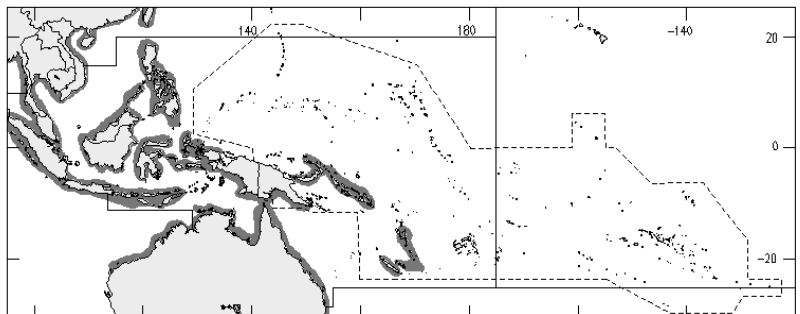


Adults with silvery body, dark blotches on dorsal fin and numerous scattered dark brown to blackish spots on body.

Size: Maximum total length about 60 cm, commonly to 40 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters in open bays and estuaries. Taken by handline, set net, trap, and spear. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted. From 1990 to 1995, the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics reports a range of yearly catch of 537 to 1 239 t of *Pomadasys argenteus* from the area (Malaysia only).

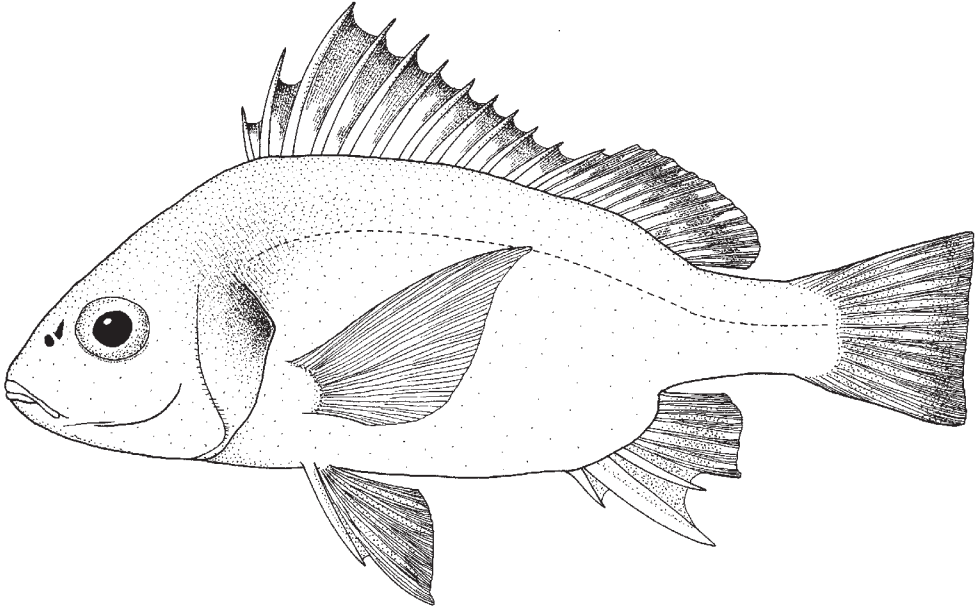
Distribution: Red Sea to southern Japan, including northern Australia from Exmouth Gulf to Clarence River, New South Wales.



Pomadasys argyreus (Valenciennes in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1833)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Bluecheek silver grunt; Fr - Grondeur à joues bleus; Sp - Corocoro mejilla azul.

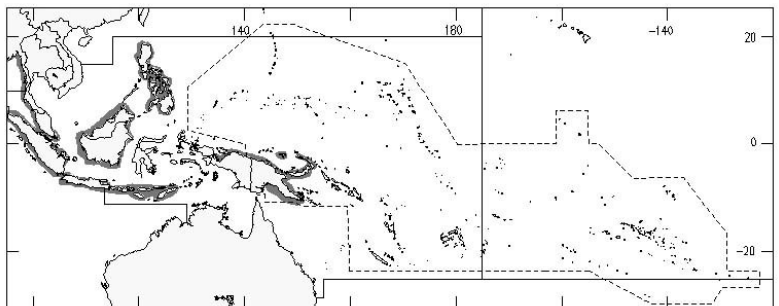


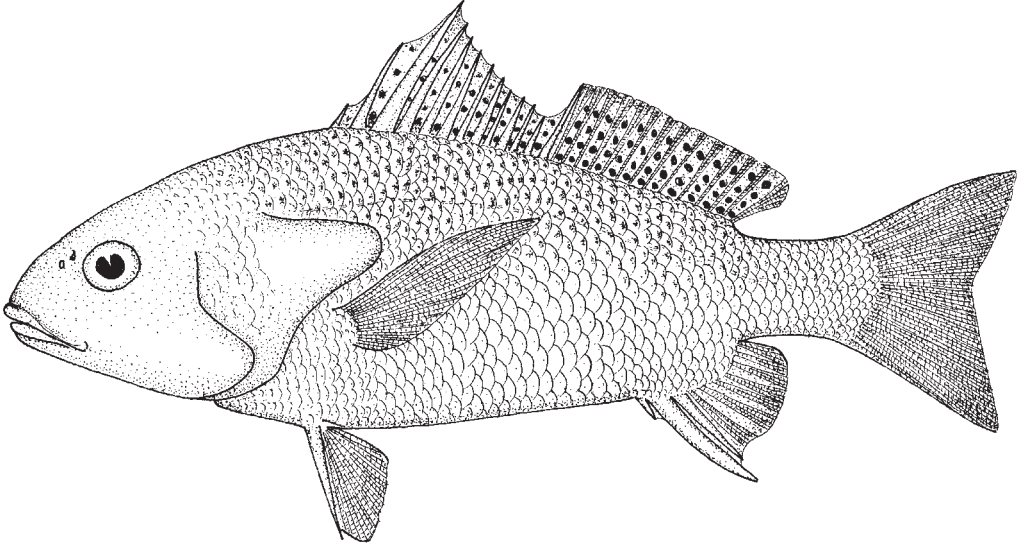
Diagnostic characters: Body depth 2.3 to 2.7 times in standard length. Head blunt, its upper profile convex; mouth small; maxilla reaching to eye; teeth in jaws arranged in villiform (brush-like) bands; **2 pores and a median pit on chin**. **Dorsal fin with XII spines and 13 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 7 soft rays.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line with 42 to 47 scales; **6 scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin; 18 to 20 scales around caudal peduncle, 7 to 9 above lateral line, 9 below.** Swimbladder more or less truncate anteriorly, without anterior extensions. **Colour:** body silvery; gill cover with a large blue-black blotch extending onto opercle and becoming indistinct in adults; peritoneum pale sandy brown; alimentary canal pale (not black).

Size: Maximum total length about 40 cm, commonly to 25 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters in open bays and on trawling grounds. Taken by handline, set net, bottom trawl, trap, and spear. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted.

Distribution: India, Sri Lanka to Papua New Guinea, excluding northern Australia.



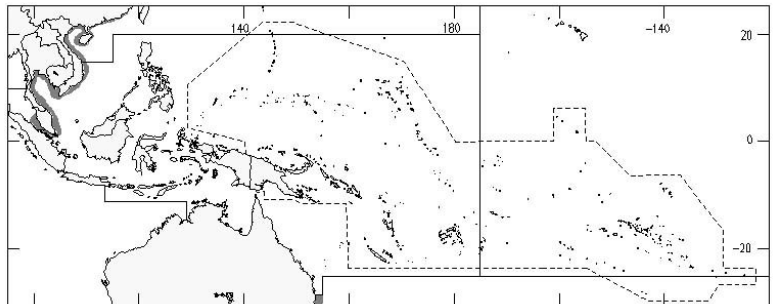
Pomadasys auritus (Cuvier in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1830)**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Longhead grunt.

Diagnostic characters: Body depth 3.2 times in standard length. Head large, its upper profile convex, **gill cover and angle of preopercle lengthened as convex rounded lobes, gill cover extending to above one-third to one-half of pectoral fins**; mouth small; maxilla reaching to eye; teeth in jaws arranged in villiform (brush-like) bands; **2 pores and a median pit on chin. Dorsal fin with XII spines and 14 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 7 soft rays.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line with 43 scales; **5 scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin; 16 scales around caudal peduncle, 7 above lateral line, 7 below.** Swimbladder morphology unknown. **Colour:** body silvery to light burnished gold; dorsal fins with well defined blackish spots on interspinous membranes; adults with a blackish spot on tip of each scale on back and upper sides.

Size: Maximum total length about 52 cm; none captured less than 43 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Unknown, perhaps from deeper waters of continental shelf. A rare species. Specimens wanted by museums.

Distribution: China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and New South Wales, Australia.

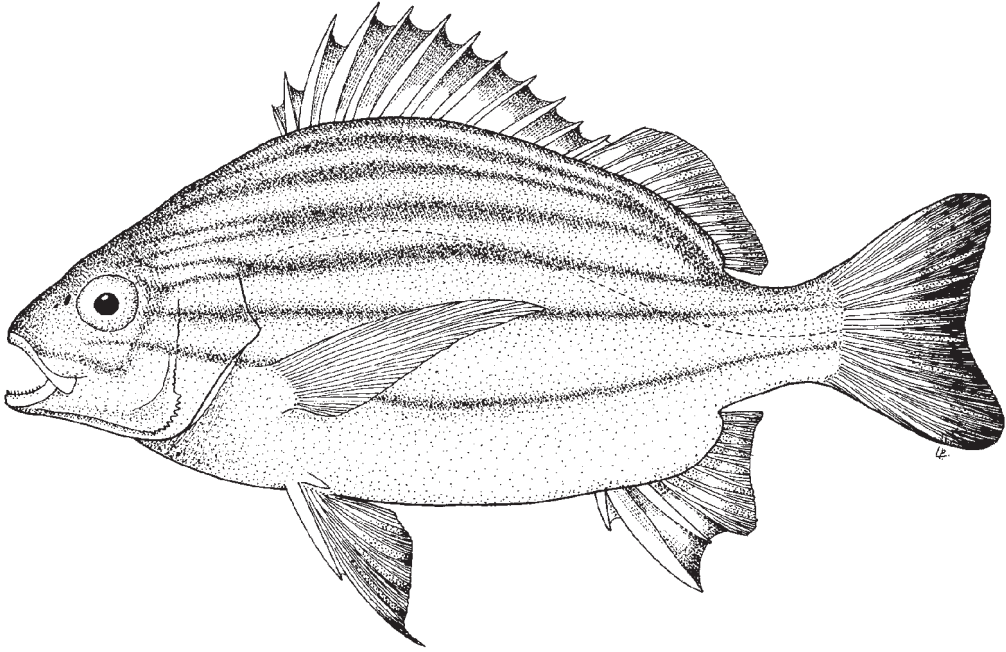


Pomadasys furcatum (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

(Plate XV, 112)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Rhonciscus furcatus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) / None.

FAO names: **En** - Banded grunt; **Fr** - Goret à six bandes; **Sp** - Ronco de seis bandas.

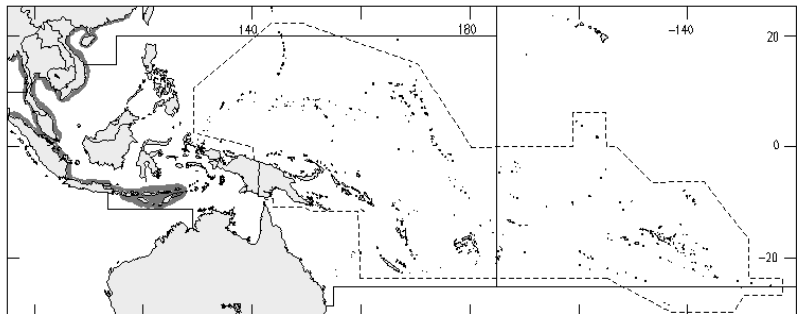


Diagnostic characters: Body depth 2.9 to 3 times in standard length. Head profile convex; mouth small; maxilla reaching to hind nostril or eye; teeth in jaws arranged in villiform (brush-like) bands; **2 pores and a median pit on chin**. **Dorsal fin with XII spines and 14 to 16 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 8 or 9 soft rays; soft portions of dorsal and anal fins with a row of interradi scales.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line with 52 to 54 scales; 8 or 9 scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin; 25 or 26 scales around caudal peduncle, 11 above lateral line, 12 or 13 below. Swimbladder without anteriolateral extensions. **Colour:** body light purplish brown above, paler below, with about 6 longitudinal dark stripes that are usually bifurcate anteriorly; the stripes becoming progressively more bifurcate or double with age.

Size: Maximum total length about 40 cm, commonly to 30 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal waters near reefs. Caught with handlines and gill nets. Marketed fresh.

Distribution: Malaysia, southern Indonesia, Thailand to China.

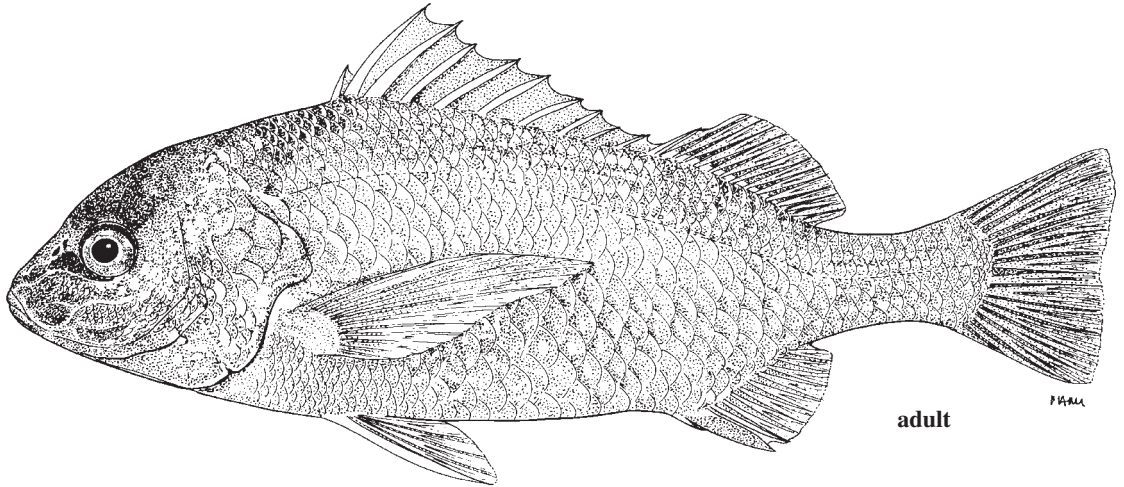


Pomadasys kaakan (Cuvier in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1830)

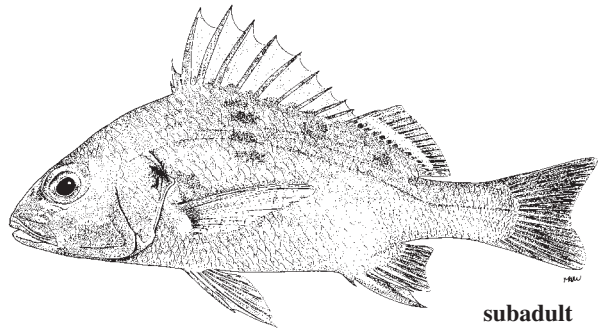
(Plate XV, 113)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Pomadasys hasta* (Bloch, 1790).

FAO names: En - Javelin grunt; Fr - Grondeur javelot; Sp - Corocoro jabalina.



adult



subadult

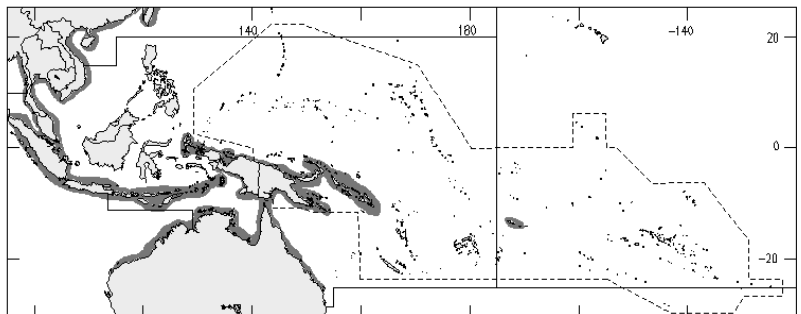
Diagnostic characters: Body depth 2.5 to 3 times in standard length. Head blunt, its upper profile convex; mouth small; maxilla reaching to eye; teeth in jaws arranged in villiform (brush-like) bands; **2 pores and a median pit on chin. Dorsal fin with XII spines and 13 to 15 (usually 14 ½) soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 7 soft rays.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line with 43 to 50 scales; **7 scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin; 20 scales around caudal peduncle, 9 above lateral line, 9 below.** Swimbladder without anteriolateral horn-like extensions.

Colour: juveniles brilliant silvery green above to golden silver on sides and silvery white on belly with 12 or more faint vertical bars comprised of small dark brown spots or irregular blotches; dorsal fin spotted with black-brown spots on lower half of spinous dorsal fin and in 3 rows on rayed dorsal fin; margin of soft dorsal fin darker and lower tip of caudal fin milk white. Adults uniform golden green above, silvery below with traces of the vertical bars present only when alive and spots on dorsal fins indistinct or absent.

Size: Maximum total length about 80 cm, commonly to 45 cm.

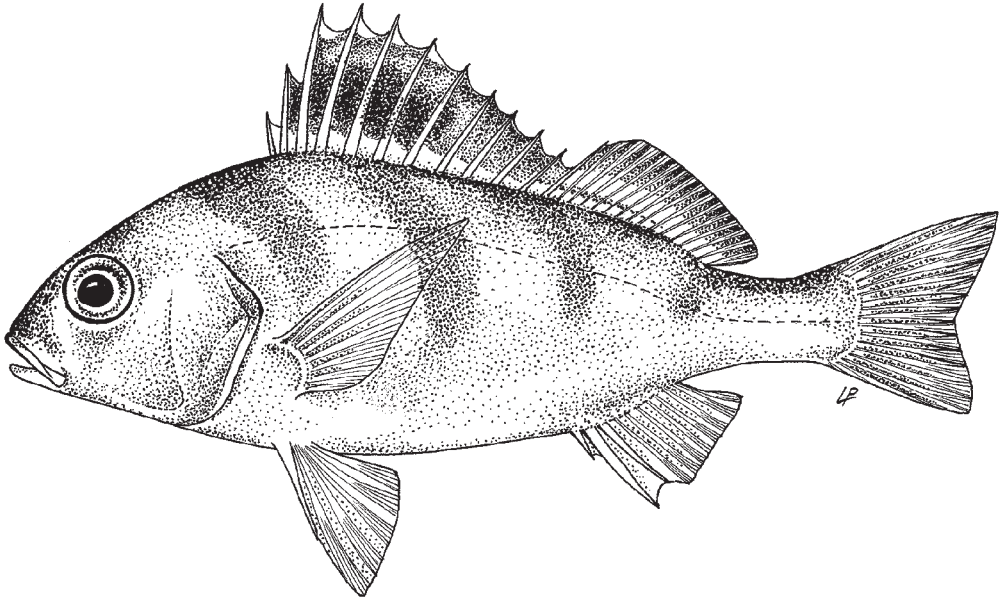
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters in open bays and estuaries, penetrating rivers to the upper limit of brackish water. Taken by handline, set net, trap, and spear. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted or smoked.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific from Transkei to Red Sea, Persian Gulf, India, Indonesia to China (including Taiwan Province), including northern Australia from Exmouth Gulf to Moreton Bay.



Pomadasys maculatus (Bloch, 1793)

(Plate XV, 114)

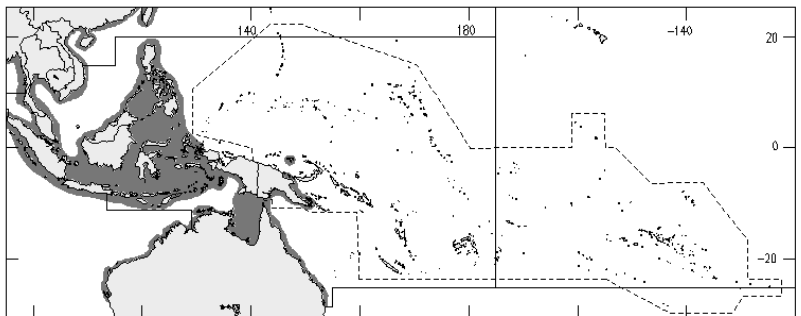
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** **En** - Saddle grunt (= blotched grunt, Fishing Areas 57/71); **Fr** - Grondeur selle; **Sp** - Corocoro montura.

Diagnostic characters: Body depth 2.3 to 2.7 times in standard length. Head blunt, its upper profile convex; mouth small; maxilla reaching to eye; teeth in jaws arranged in villiform (brush-like) bands; **2 pores and a median pit on chin**. **Dorsal fin with XII spines and 13 to 15 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 7 (rarely 6 or 8) soft rays**. Scales ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line with 50 to 55 scales; **7 to 9 scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin; 22 to 25 scales around caudal peduncle, 9 or 10 above lateral line, 11 or 12 below**. **Colour:** silvery grey, head purplish or brownish, nape and back with a series of incomplete cross bars (one on nape most conspicuous); spinous part of dorsal fin with a large black blotch; dorsal and caudal fins edged with black, other fins yellowish.

Size: Maximum total length about 50 cm, commonly to 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters in open bays, trawling grounds, and estuaries. Taken by bottom trawl, handline, set net, trap, and spear. Frequently abundant on prawn trawl grounds. Marketed fresh, a small quantity is salted or smoked.

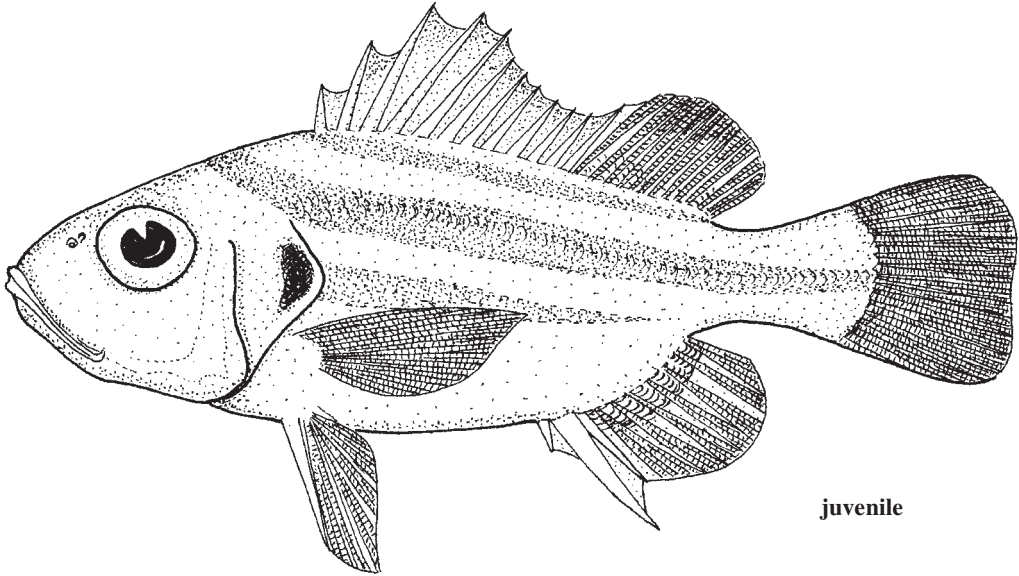
Distribution: East coast of Africa, Madagascar, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka to northern half of Australia from Shark Bay to Moreton Bay, New Guinea, Philippines to southern Japan.



Pomadasys trifasciatus Fowler, 1937

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Blackeared grunt.



Diagnostic characters: Body depth 2.6 to 2.9 times in standard length. Head blunt, its upper profile convex; mouth small; maxilla reaching to anterior margin of eye or pupil; teeth in jaws arranged in villiform (brush-like) bands; **2 pores and a median pit on chin. Dorsal fin with XII (rarely XIII) spines and 13 (rarely 12 or 14) soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 7 soft rays.** Scales ctenoid (rough to touch); lateral line with 43 to 50 (usually 47) scales; **6 scales between lateral line and dorsal-fin origin; 19 to 23 scales around caudal peduncle, 8 to 10 above lateral line, 9 to 11 below (mostly 9 above, 2 close to, and 11 below, lateral line).** **Colour:** juveniles with 3 dark stripes, the middle one wide, becoming faded or absent with growth; a distinct black-brown spot on gill cover; dorsal fins without dark spots or blotches; adults plain or with faint stripes.

Size: Maximum total length about 15 cm, commonly to 10 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Coastal inshore waters in open bays and mouths of rivers. Taken by bottom trawl and set net. No fishery has yet developed. Abundant on some prawn trawling grounds.

Distribution: Bay of Bengal to Sumatra, Bali, Lombok, northern Australia from Joseph Bonaparte Gulf to Bowen, Gulf of Thailand, and Philippines. Possibly more widespread.

