

Otolithoides biauritus (Cantor, 1849)

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IDENTIFICATION

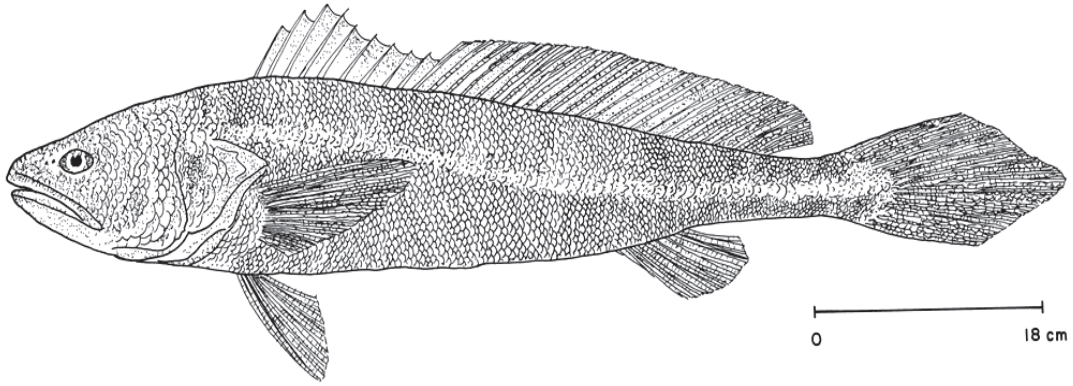
Order	: Perciformes
Family	: Sciaenidae
Common/FAO Name (English)	: Bronze croaker



Local names: Koth, Goyni (**Gujarati**); Koth (**Marathi**); Kora, Chemban kora (**Malayalam**)

MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

It has an acute snout with large terminal mouth, the upper jaw reaching back beyond the eye. No canine teeth are present, but a few small and strong teeth are present in both jaws. Lower gill rakers are 11. Swim bladder is carrot shaped with a single pair of appendages, arising from the posterior end of the bladder. Dorsal fin is with 8-9 spines followed by a low notch, second part of the fin is with one spine and 27-37 soft rays. Pectoral fin is moderate, about 75 % of head length. Anal fin is with two spines and 7-8 soft rays. The second anal spine is weak. Caudal fin is pointed. Cycloid scales on head and upper front of the body and ctenoid scales in other parts. Lateral line scales are reaching to tip of caudal fin. Head is green and grey in colour with a golden lateral line. Dorsal, anal and caudal fins are brown yellow to orange.



PROFILE

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The species is distributed in the Indo-West Pacific region from Pakistan and Sri Lanka to the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo and Vietnam. It is also reported from Antarctica, and United Kingdom. It is distributed in both the east and west coasts of India, with an abundance along the north-west coast.

HABITAT AND BIOLOGY

It is marine, demersal and amphidromous in nature. It is found in coastal and inshore waters. It is a carnivore and an active predator. The major food items are teleost fishes and crustaceans. Overall sex ratio is 1:1.09. Mature females occur throughout the year indicating a prolonged breeding season. However, the peak breeding season is from May to August in Gujarat and from August to January in Mumbai. The length at first maturity of females is 110.15 cm. Absolute fecundity ranges from 1,82,020 to 19,41,400. The reported maximum size is 152 cm at an age of 13 years.

The fish is having demand for its meat and swim bladder in international market. However, research on breeding and culture in captivity has not been initiated.

BREEDING IN CAPTIVE CONDITIONS

Information not available

LARVAL REARING

Information not available

NURSERY REARING

Information not available

GROW-OUT

Literature on grow-out culture is not available. However, an attempt was made in Vietnam to culture the fish in cages using wild collected juveniles, but details are lacking.

FOOD AND FEEDING

Food and feeding habit in captivity has not been studied. In the wild, it is a carnivore and actively feeds on fishes and crustaceans.

GROWTH RATE

Information not available

DISEASES AND CONTROL MEASURES

Information not available

PRODUCTION

Aquaculture production is not available. It forms a major catch along the north-west coast and more often, high unusual landings occur.

MARKET AND TRADE

The air bladder is in high demand in the international market, which is used for preparing isinglass in the beverage industry. Apart from airbladder, the skin is used as an alternate source of leather. It is also an important food fish. It is one of the most expensive fishes in Vietnam. Dried air bladder has very good export market in south-east Asian countries. From India, frozen fish is sold in the

international market for about ₹ 250/kg. The dried air bladders are sold in local markets at ₹ 40,000-50,000/kg.

CHALLENGES TO MARICULTURE

The main researchable issues to be addressed for its culture in India are developing and standardizing protocols for domestication and brood stock development, larval rearing and culture in confined environment.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Important characteristics like large size, high meat yield, good growth rate and high value for airbladders makes it a very lucrative candidate for mariculture. Culturing this species would provide a good source of income for farmers while protecting wild stocks.

SUGGESTED READING

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