

**Ocyurus** Gill, 1862

LUT Ocyur

**Genus** : Ocyurus Gill, 1862:236. Type-species Sparus chrysurus Bloch, 1790, by original designation.

**Synonyms** : None.

A single species in the genus - see Ocyurus chrysurus.

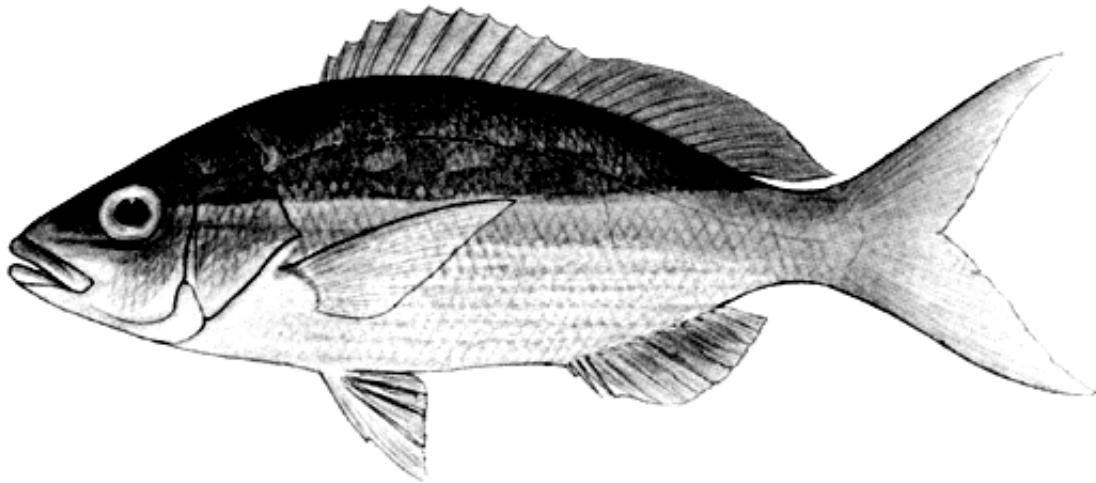
**Ocyurus chrysurus** (Bloch, 1790)

LUT Ocyur 1

Sparus chrysurus Bloch, 1790, Ichth., Pl. 262 (Brazil).

**Synonyms** : Anthias rabirubia Bloch & Schneider (1801) ; Sparus semiluna Lacepède (1803); Mesoprion aurovittatus Agassiz (1829); Ocyurus rijgersmoei Cope (1871); Lutjanus melandrus Jordan & Gilbert (1883).

**FAO Names** : En - Yellowtail snapper; Fr - Vivaneau queue jaune; Sp - Rabirubia.



See Plate V, 15

**Diagnostic Features** : Body slender (greatest depth about 2.9 to 3.3 times in standard length). Head relatively small, lower jaw projecting slightly beyond the upper; canine teeth in jaws small; vomerine tooth patch V-shaped, with a medial posterior extension; gill rakers on lower limb of first arch (including rudiments) 21 or 22. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 12 to 14 (usually 12) soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 9 (rarely 8) soft rays; pectoral fins with 15 or 16 rays; caudal fin deeply forked. Scale rows on back rising obliquely above lateral line. Colour: back and upper sides blue to violet with scattered yellow spots, unequal in size; a prominent midlateral yellow band from snout to caudal fin base, gradually broader posteriorly; lower sides and belly whitish with narrow reddish and yellow stripes; dorsal and caudal fins yellow; anal and pelvic fins whitish.

**Geographical Distribution :** Tropical western Atlantic Ocean, extending northward to Massachusetts and southward to southeastern Brazil. Rare north of the Carolinas. Most common in the Bahamas, off south Florida and throughout the Caribbean.

**Habitat and Biology :** Inhabits coastal waters at depths between about 10 and 70 m, mostly around coral reefs. Usually seen well above the bottom, frequently in aggregations. Young fish are usually found over weed beds. Adults feed on a combination of plankton and benthic animals including fishes, crustaceans, worms, gastropods and cephalopods. The young are zooplankton feeders. At Jamaica spawning occurs over most of the year with peak activity from January to April and from August to October. In the Florida Keys the season is April to August. The von Bertalanffy growth coefficient (K) and exponential rate of mortality (M) were estimated as 0.16 and 0.20 respectively for the Cuban population (Piedra, 1965). Estimated maximum age: 6 to 14 years.

**Size :** Maximum total length about 70 cm; common to 40 cm. Matures at about 25 to 30 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries :** Of interest to commercial and sport fisheries. Along with *Lutjanus synagris* it is taken more frequently than other lutjanids in shallow insular waters of the Caribbean. Caught mainly with beach seines and trammel nets; also taken with traps, handlines and bottom longlines. A total catch of 5 178 metric tons was reported to FAO from Fishing Areas 31 and 41 in 1983. The flesh is highly esteemed. Marketed mostly fresh, but also frozen.



**Local Names :** BRAZIL: Cioba; CUBA: Rabirrubia; MARTINIQUE: Colas, Sarde queue jaune; VENEZUELA: Rabirrubia.

**Literature :** Jordan & Evermann (1896); Anderson (1967); Randall (1968); Fischer (ed.) (1978).

**Paracaesio** Bleeker, 1875

LUT Para

**Genus :** *Paracaesio* Bleeker, 1875:38, 92. Type-species *Caesio xanthurus* Bleeker, 1868, by monotypy.

**Synonyms :** Genus *Vegetichthys* Tanaka (1917); Genus *Aetiasis* Barnard (1937).

**Diagnostic Features :** Medium-sized snappers with fusiform bodies, relatively slender and elongate, often robust. Jaws with an outer series of well developed canine teeth, larger anteriorly and with an inner band of villiform teeth; vomerine tooth patch V-shaped or crescentic, without a medial posterior extension; interorbital space convex. Dorsal fin continuous, not incised near junction of spinous and soft portions, with 10 spines and 10 (rarely 9 or 11) soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 (rarely 9) soft rays; dorsal and anal fins scaleless; pectoral fins long, from about equal to head length to significantly longer than head, with 16 or 17 rays; caudal fin emarginate to forked. Scales medium-sized to relatively small, about 47 to 73 in lateral line; maxilla with or without scales. Colour: bluish, purplish-brown or brown on back and upper sides; lighter below, often silvery or whitish; sometimes with a yellowish band on upper back or a series of broad, dark bars on sides.

**Biology, Habitat and Distribution :** Inhabits relatively shallow to moderately deep water (about 20 to 250 m depth), usually over rocky bottoms. They occur solitarily or in small to large schools, swimming well above the bottom. The diet consists largely of zooplankton.

**Geographical. Distribution :** Inshore tropical Indo-West Pacific.

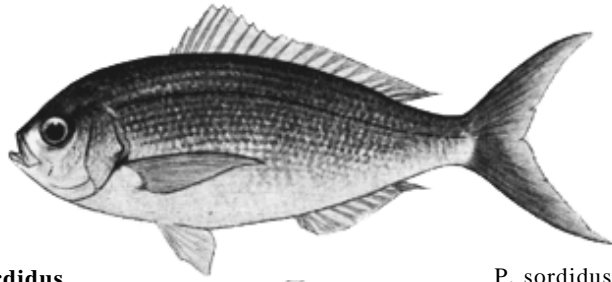
**Interest to Fisheries :** *Paracaesio* are important foodfishes in many areas. *Paracaesio xanthurus*, in particular, is commonly encountered in markets. These fishes are mainly caught with handlines and bottom longlines. Usually offered fresh.

**Key to the species of Paracaesio :**

Scales small, about 68 to 73 in lateral line; caudal fin deeply forked

- 2a. Length of caudal fin about 2.3 to 2.5 times in standard length; back blue to purplish-brown without an extensive yellow area .....

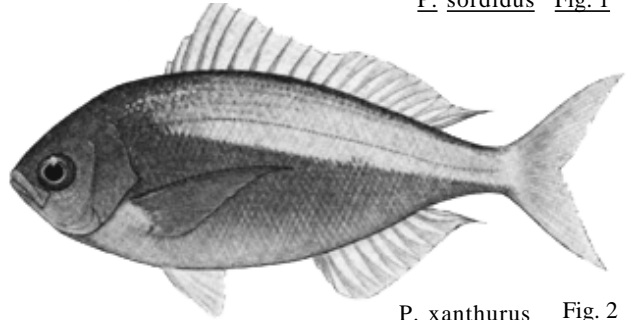
**P. sordidus**  
(Fig. 1)



P. sordidus Fig. 1

- 2b. Length of caudal fin about 2.6 to 2.8 in standard length; back covered with a broad yellow area from forehead to caudal fin base .....

**P. xanthurus**  
(Fig. 2)

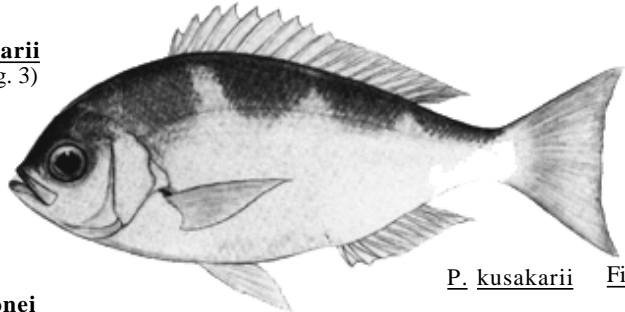


P. xanthurus Fig. 2

Scales larger, about 47 to 50 in lateral line; caudal fin nearly truncate to moderately forked

- 3a. Maxilla scaled; back with 4 brownish bars .....

**P. kusakarii**  
(Fig. 3)

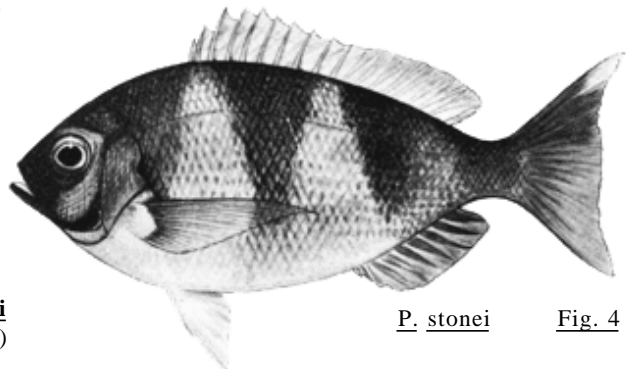


P. kusakarii Fig. 3

- 3b. Maxilla scaleless; back with 5 to 8 dark bars or uniform

- 4a. Upper sides with 5 relatively distinct brownish bars; lower gill rakers (including rudiments) 17 or 18. ....

**P. stonei**  
(Fig. 4)

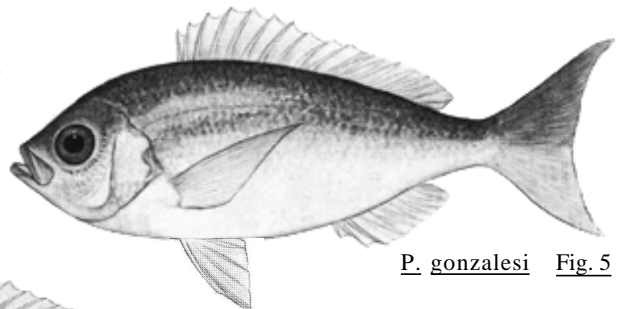


P. stonei Fig. 4

- 4b. Upper sides without bars or with 8 faint bars; lower gill rakers 18 to 20

- 5a. Back with a diagonal band of yellow from upper edge of gill cover to last dorsal spine; sometimes with 8 faint bars on side .....

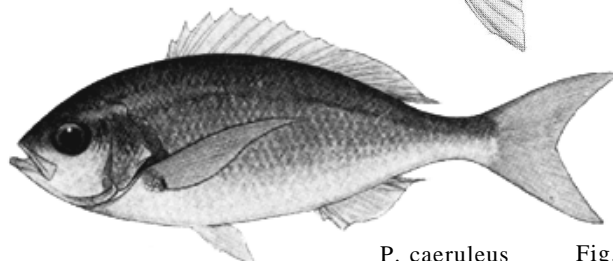
**P. gonzalesi**  
(Fig. 5)



P. gonzalesi Fig. 5

- 5b. Back uniform blue without a diagonal band or vertical bars .....

**P. caeruleus**  
(Fig. 6)



P. caeruleus Fig. 6

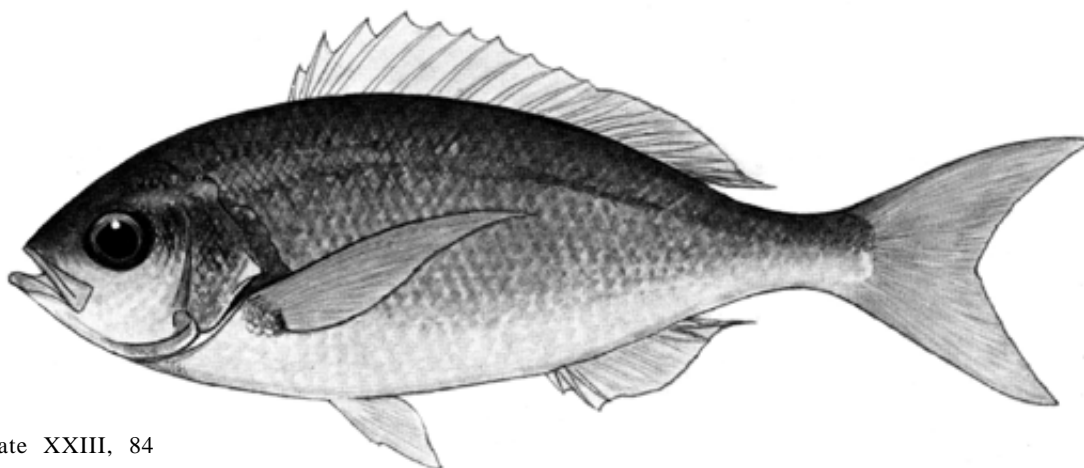
***Paracaesio caeruleus*** (Katayama, 1934)

LUT Para 2

*Vegetichthys caeruleus* Katayama, 1934, Proc.Imp.Acad.Tokyo, 10:436 (Hatizyo Island, Idu, Japan).

**Synonyms** : None.

**FAO Names** : En- Japanese snapper; Fr - Vivanette japonaise; Sp - Panchote japonés.



See Plate XXIII, 84

**Diagnostic Features** : Body moderately slender, fusiform. Eye large, about 3.1 to 3.4 times in head length; snout short, about equal to, or shorter than eye diameter; interorbital space convex; upper and lower jaws about equal, with small villiform teeth in bands; maxilla scaleless; gill rakers on lower limb of first arch (including rudiments) 19 or 20. Dorsal fin with 10 spines and 10 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; dorsal and anal fins scaleless; pectoral fins long, reaching level of anus, with 16 rays; caudal fin moderately forked or lunate. Scales moderate-sized, about 47 to 50 in lateral line. Scale rows on back parallel to lateral line. Colour: back and sides overall blue; whitish or silvery on belly and lower part of head; dorsal and caudal fins pale yellow; other fins whitish or translucent.

**Geographical Distribution** : Known only from southern Japan.

**Habitat and Biology** : Occurs ovdrt rocky bottoms at depths exceeding 100 m.

**Size** : Maximum total length about 50 cm; common to 30 cm.

**Interest to Fisheries** : An important foodfish often seen in markets. Caught mainly with handlines and bottom longlines. Marketed fresh.

**Local Names** : JAPAN: Aodai.

**Literature** : Lee (1982); Masuda et al. (1984).

