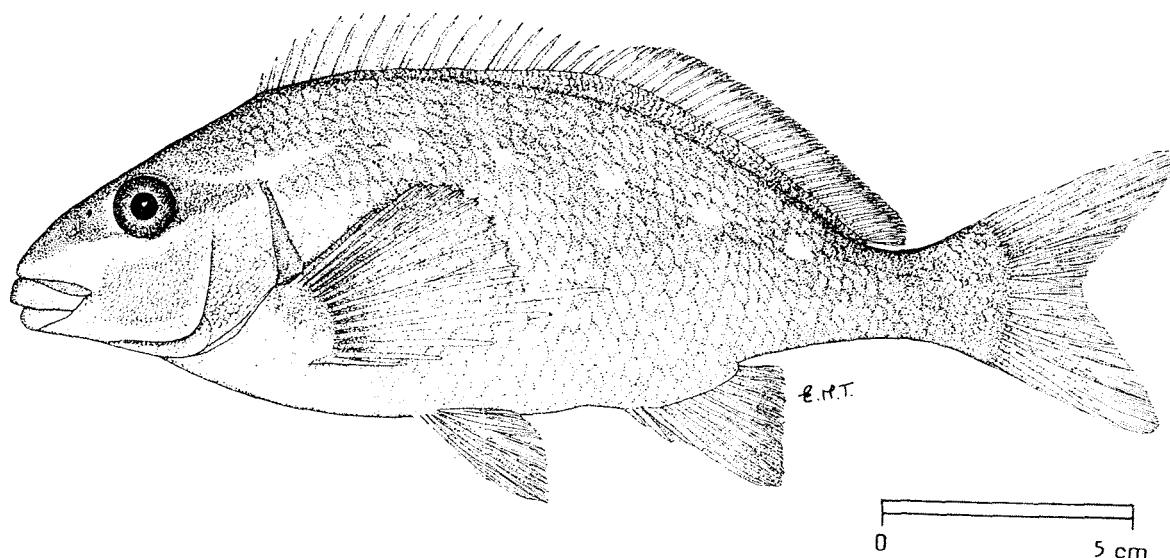


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: CHEILODACTYLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Chirodactylus brachydactylus</i> (Cuvier, 1830)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Palunolepis brachydactylus

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Two-tone fingerfin
 Fr - Castanette bicolore
 Sp - Pintadilla bicolor

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and compressed. Head without spines; eye diameter 4.4 to 4.8 times in head length; mouth small, lips thick, the upper overlapping; teeth small, villiform, in several rows anteriorly; vomer and palatines (roof of mouth) toothless; preopercle smooth; gillrakers 14 or 15 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin very long, with 16 to 18 spines and 28 to 31 soft rays; base of soft part of fin longer than that of spinous part; anal fin with 2 well developed spines and 1 slender spine, and 8 to 10 soft rays; pectoral fins with 1 or 2 slender, simple rays at top, followed by 6 subequal branched rays and then 6 simple, thickened, elongate rays with free tips, the 2nd from top longest, reaching to above anus or to anal seines, with 28 to 37% or ray free distally; 3rd enlarged ray from top also longer than branched rays; pelvic fins inserted well behind origin of pectorals; caudal fin forked. Scales moderate, 46 to 50 (plus 3 to 5) in lateral line, their surface pitted as though sandblasted, but margin smooth; a naked groove between dorsal sheath and body scales commencing below 2nd or 3rd dorsal spine.

Colour: head and anterior part of body bicoloured; dark bronze-brown dorsally, white ventrally, these areas separated by a silvery line running under eye to lateral line origin, ending in a silver spot on about the 5th lateral line scale, followed by 5 silver spots equidistant on every 6th lateral line scale; posterior half of body bronze, with scales edged dark brown. Dorsal and caudal fins golden brown except for lower tip of caudal; pelvics and anal fin dull vermilion, pectorals bright vermilion.

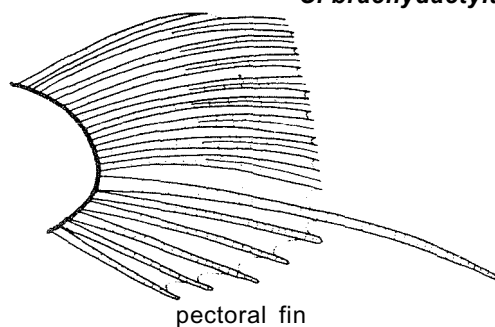
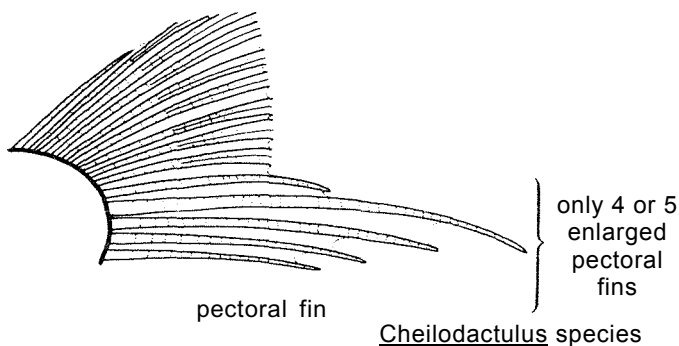
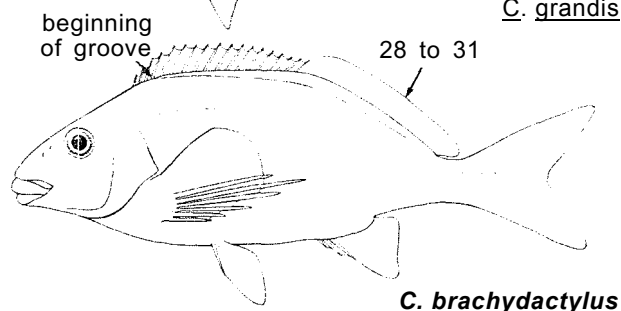
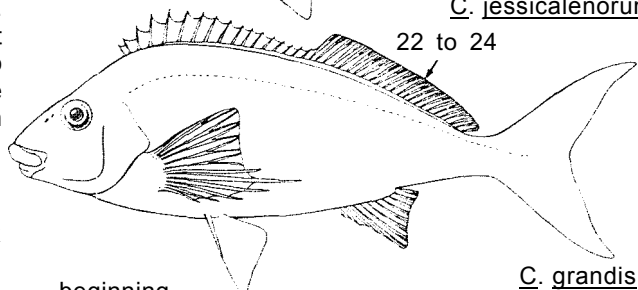
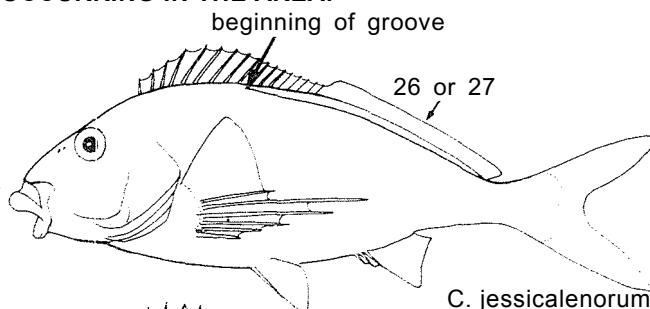
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chirodactylus jessicalenorum: colour uniform scarlet, with a conspicuous black shiny area on body around upper insertion of pectoral fin; naked groove between dorsal fin sheath and body scales starting below 10th to 13th dorsal spine (starting below 2nd or 3rd dorsal spine in C. brachydactylus); dorsal soft rays 26 or 27 (29 to 31, rarely 28 in C. brachydactylus); longest pectoral fin ray 43 to 50% free anteriorly 28 to 37% of longest ray free in C. brachydactylus).

C. randis (whose presence in Natal waters has still to be confirmed as records from there may all be C. jessicalenorum): uniform brown colouring; 22 to 24 soft dorsal rays making the soft part of fin base subequal to that of spinous portion (29 to 31 soft rays, making the base of the soft fin longer than that of the spinous portion in C. brachydactylus).

Cheilodactylus species. scales smooth and smaller, about 80 in lateral line; no naked groove between basal scaly sheath of dorsal fin and body scales; body with dark crossbars (staggered to give a chequered effect in C. fasciatus); caudal fin with a number of dark brown streaks on pale background in C. fasciatus).

Acantholatris monodactylus (within the area, restricted to the St. Paul and Amsterdam Islands): no naked groove between scaly dorsal sheath and body scales; only the topmost of lower enlarged pectoral fin rays distinctly longer than rest of fin.



SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm; common to 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

From Walvis Bay on the west coast, to the Bay of Maputo on the east coast of southern Africa.

Inhabits coastal waters from the shore line to about 240 m depth, associated with reef areas; plentiful in rock pools.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

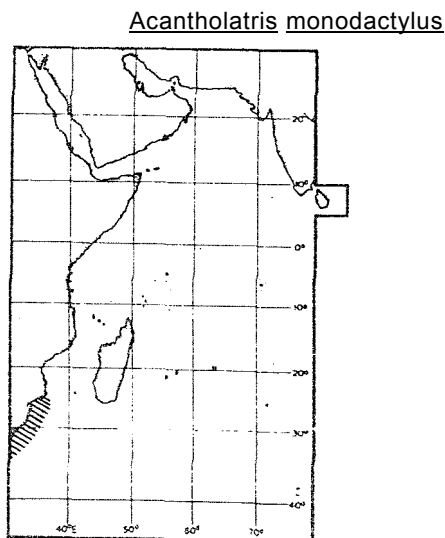
Caught incidentally throughout its range. Although not of significant commercial importance, it is the most common edible species on reefs off Natal.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORM OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

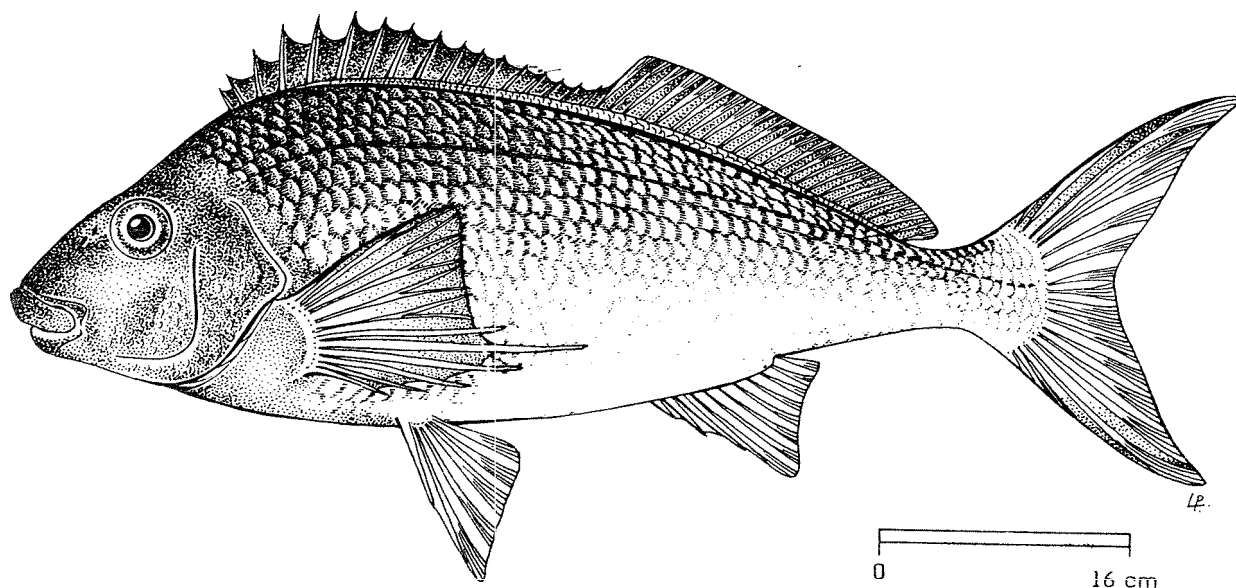
Caught on hook and line, and often speared.

Marketed fresh



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: CHEILODACTYLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Chirodactylus grandis* (Günther, 1860)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Palunolepis grandis*

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Bank steenbras
 Fr - Castanette des bancs
 Sp - Pintadilla de bancs

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and compressed. Head without spines; eye diameter contained 4.5 to 6.6 times in head length; mouth small, protrusible, terminal, with fairly thick lips, the upper overlapping; teeth small, villiform, in several bands anteriorly; vomer and palatines (roof of mouth) toothless; preopercle smooth; gillrakers 14 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin long, with 17 or 18 spines and 22 to 24 soft rays, base of soft portion of dorsal fin subequal to base of spiny portion; anal fin with 2 well developed and 1 slender spine, and 8 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 slender, simple, uppermost rays, 6 branched subequal rays, then 6 simple, thickened, elongate rays, the 2nd longest, but scarcely reaching level of anus; pelvic fins inserted well behind origin of pectorals; caudal fin forked. Scales moderate, 47 to 50 (plus 3 to 5) in lateral line; dorsal and anal fins with scaly basal sheaths; a naked groove present between dorsal sheath and body scales, commencing below 2nd or 3rd dorsal spine.

Colour: a more or less uniform light reddish brown, with edges of body scales darker; a red streak running from anterior eye margin toward tip of snout.

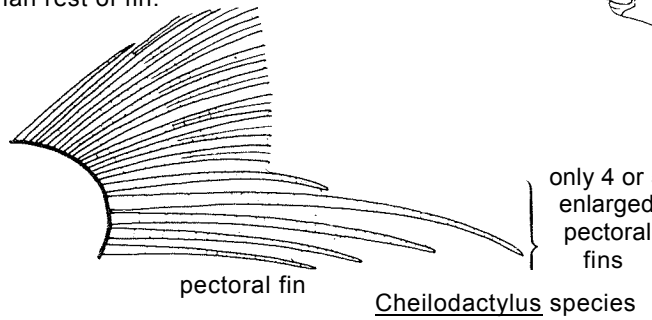
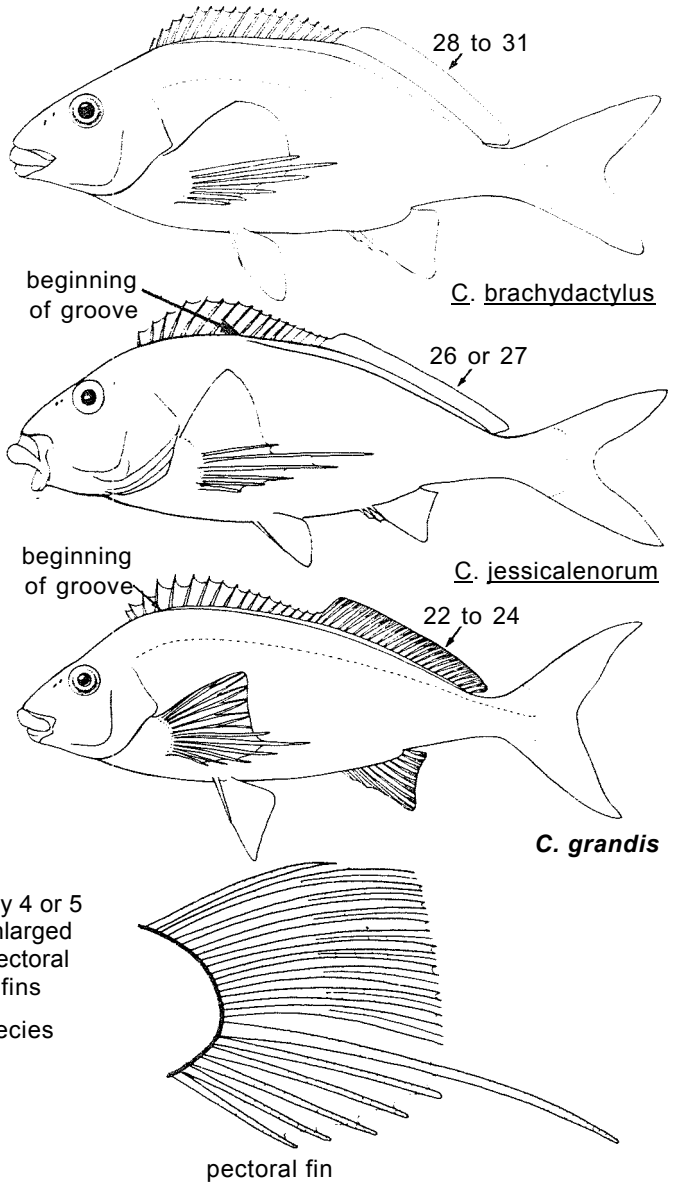
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Chirodactylus jessicalenorum (with which it is often confused): colour also uniform, but scarlet, with a shiny black area (dark red in life) on body at pectoral fin axil; soft dorsal fin rays 26 or 27, making the soft part of fin base longer than that of spinous part (22 to 24 soft dorsal fin rays, with base of soft part subequal to that of spinous part in C. grandis) naked groove between scaly sheath of dorsal fin and body, scales commencing below 10th to 13th dorsal spine; 2nd enlarged pectoral fin ray reaching beyond level of anus.

C. brachydactylus: bicoloured anteriorly; soft dorsal fin rays 28 to 31, making the base of soft portion of dorsal fin longer than that of spinous part (22 to 24 soft rays, base of soft part subequal to spiny part in C. grandis).

Cheilodactylus species: scales smooth and smaller, about 80 in lateral line; no naked groove between basal scaly sheath of dorsal fin and body scales; body with darker crossbars (staggered to give a chequered effect in C. fasciatus); caudal fin with a number of dark brown streaks on pale background in C. fasciatus.

Acantholatris monodactylus (within the area, restricted to the St Paul and Amsterdam Islands): no naked groove between scaly dorsal sheath and body scales; only the topmost of lower enlarged pectoral fin rays distinctly longer than rest of fin.



SIZE:

Maximum: 180 cm; common to 80 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Southern coast of South Africa. from Walvis Bay around the Cape to Durban.

Found from the shore line to depths of about 150 m. primarily an offshore species that prefers rocky or muddy banks.

Feeds in day time on small, bottom-dwelling invertebrates. Occasionally also on squid and small fish.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Throughout its range, a bycatch of bottom trawlers, and also in artisanal and sports fisheries.

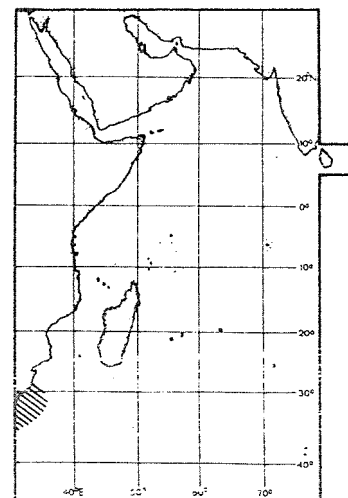
CATCHES, FISHING GROUNDS AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly can hook and line; also with bottom trawls.

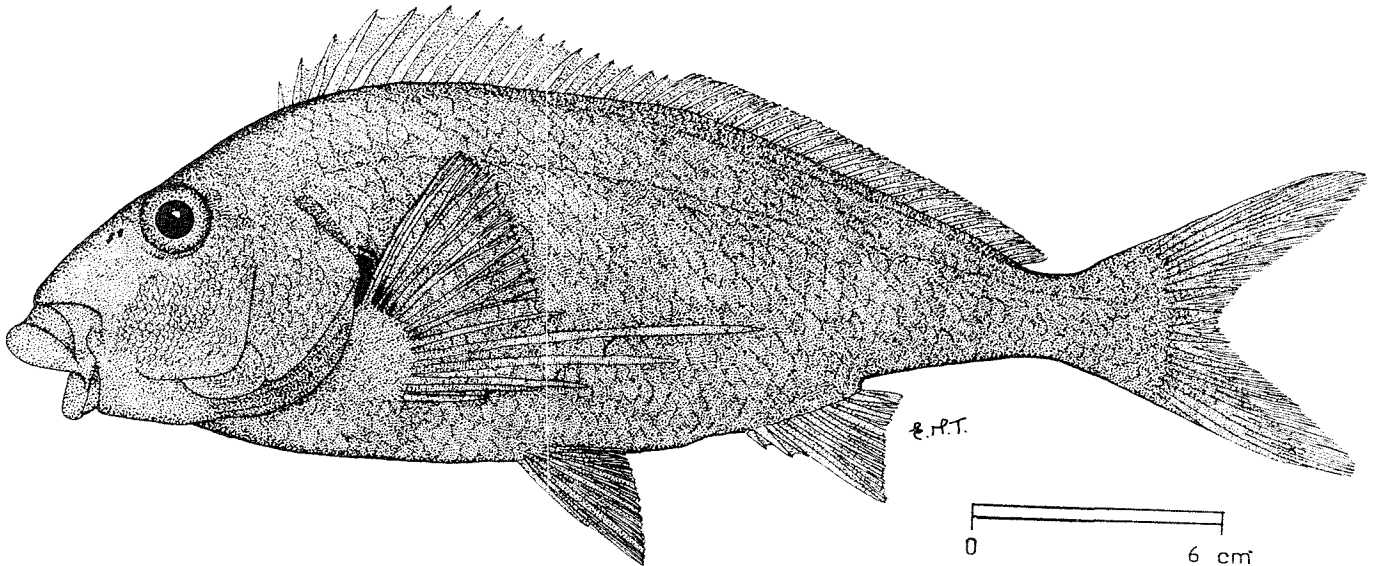
Marketed fresh, whole, flesh of excellent quality.

Acantholatris monodactylus



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: CHEILODACTYLIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Chirodactylus jessicalenorum* Smith, 1980OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None but confused with *Chirodactylus grandis*

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Natal fingerfin
 Fr - Castanette du Natal
 Sp - Pintadilla de Natal

NATIONAL :

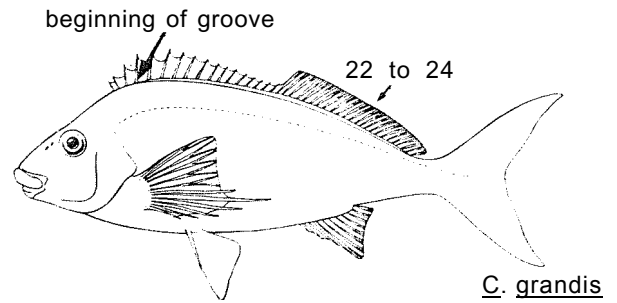
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and compressed. Head without spines; eye diameter smaller than interorbital space, contained 4 to 5.8 times in head length; mouth small and protrusible, terminal, with fairly thick lips, the upper overlapping; teeth moveable, villiform, in several bands anteriorly; vomer and palatines (roof of mouth) toothless; preopercle smooth; gillrakers 14 to 16 on lower limb of first arch. Dorsal fin long, with 17 or 18 spines and 26 or 27 soft rays, making the base of soft part longer than that of spinous part of fin; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 or 8 soft rays; pectoral fin with 2 uppermost fine simple rays; 6 branched, subequal rays, and 6 lowermost simple, thickened, elongate rays, the 2nd from top longest, 43 to 50% free distally, reaching beyond anal fin origin and nearly double the length of branched rays; pelvic fins inserted well behind origin of pectorals; caudal fin forked. Scales with pitted surfaces, moderate sized, 46 to 54 in lateral line; a naked groove present between dorsal fin sheath and body scales starting below 10th to 13th dorsal spine.

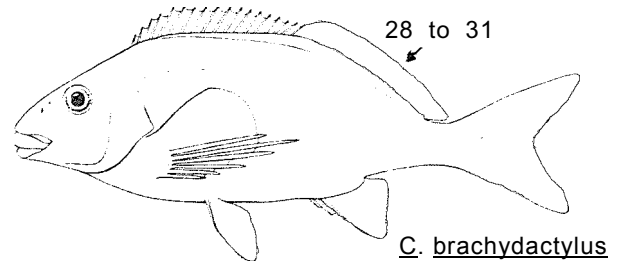
Colour: uniform scarlet (paler below), with darker edges to body scales and a shiny black area (dark red in life) on body at pectoral fin axil.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

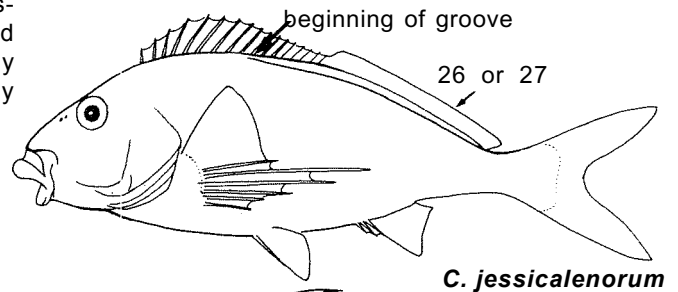
Chirodactylus grandis (with which it is often confused): colour also uniform, but reddish brown, paler below; soft dorsal fin with 22 to 24 soft rays, making the base of soft part subequal to that of spinous part of fin (26 or 27 soft rays, base of soft part of fin longer than base of spinous part in C. jessicalenorum); 2nd enlarged pectoral fin ray scarcely reaching to level of anus; naked groove between scaly dorsal sheath and body scales commencing below 2nd or 3rd dorsal spine (below 10th to 13th spine in C. jessicalenorum).



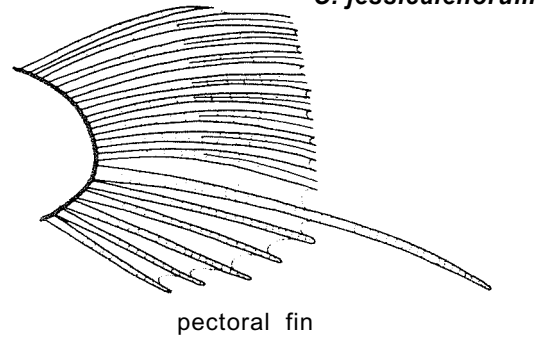
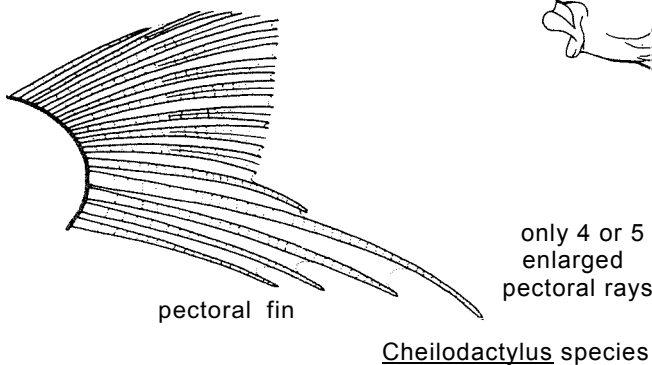
C. brachydactylus (a sympatric species in Natal): bicoloured anteriorly; soft dorsal fin rays 28 to 31; 2nd enlarged pectoral fin ray shorter, only 28 to 37% free (43 to 50% free in C. jessicalenorum); naked groove between scaly dorsal sheath and body scales commencing under 2nd or 3rd dorsal spine (below 10th to 13th spine in C. jessicalenorum).



Cheilodactylus species: scales smooth and smaller, about 80 in lateral line; no naked groove between basal scaly sheath of dorsal fin and body scales; body with dark crossbars (staggered to give a chequered effect in C. fasciatus); caudal fin with a number of dark brown streaks on pale background in C. fasciatus.



Acantholatris monodactylus (within the area, restricted to the St. Paul and Amsterdam Islands): no naked groove between scaly dorsal sheath and body scales; only the topmost of lower enlarged pectoral fin rays distinctly longer than rest of fin.



SIZE :

Maximum: at least 50 cm; common to 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

East coast of South Africa, from about 27° to 33°S.

Inhabits coastal waters from the shore line to at least 20 m depth.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught incidentally.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught occasionally on hook and line, but especially speared.

Marketed fresh, whole.

