

Geographical Distribution : South Africa: south coast of Cape Province from False Bay to Port Alfred (from 18°30' to 27°E). Also reported from the Fort Dauphin area of Madagascar (Crosnier & Jouannic, 1973:13) (Fig. 227).

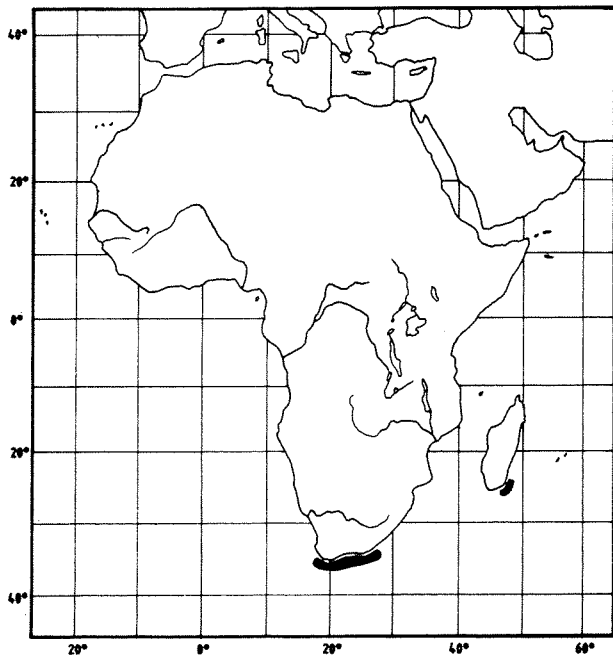


Fig. 227

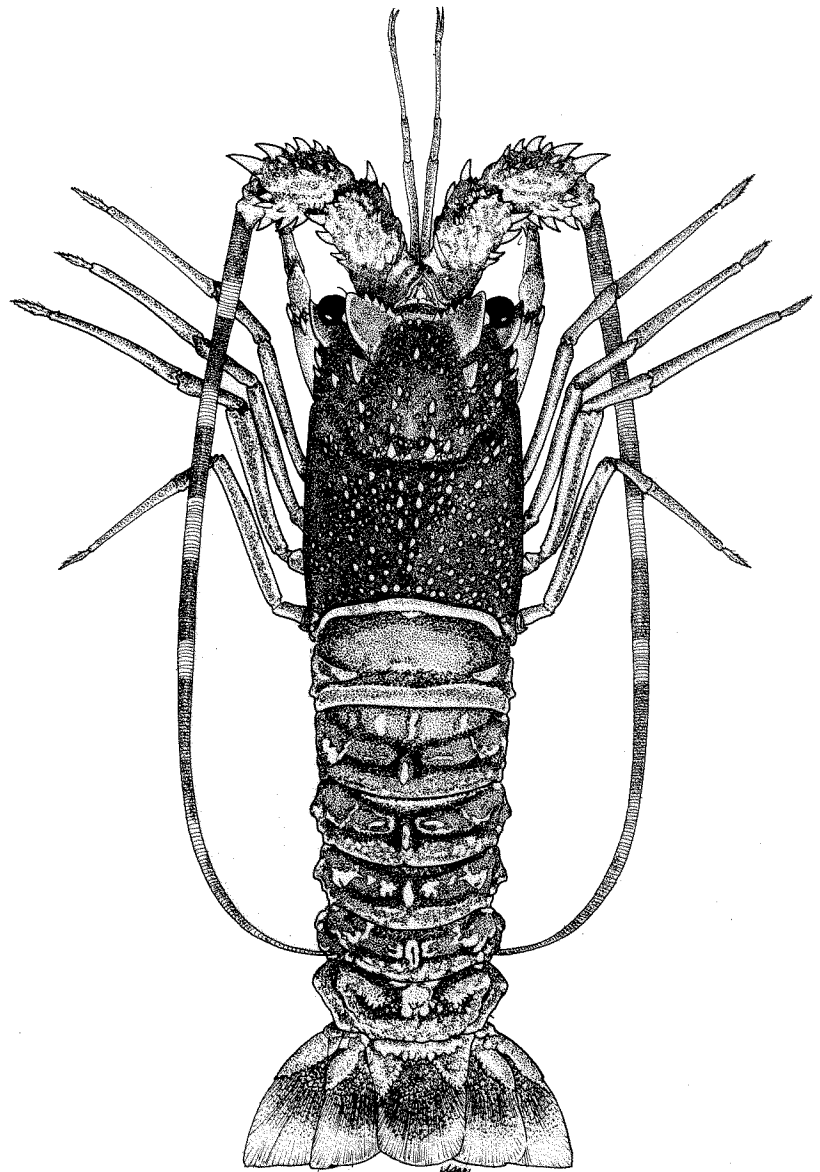
Habitat and Biology : The species has been reported from depths between 55 and 360 m; it inhabits rocky areas and shelters in the crevices of the rocks.

Size : Maximum total body length 16 cm (males) and 31 cm (females). The recorded carapace lengths vary from 3 to 13 cm, usually between 6 and 10 cm.

Interest to Fisheries : According to Berry (1971:18) the species did not support a commercial fishery. But Pollock & Augustyn (1982:57-73) reported that commercially exploitable densities of this species were discovered near the edge of the continental shelf between Cape Agulhas and Port Alfred in about 110 m depth. The FAO Yearbook of Fisheries Statistics reports annual catches of 1820 metric tons in 1987 and 880 tons in 1988, all by South Africa. Near Fort Dauphin, Madagascar, Crosnier & Jouannic (1973: 13) found only small quantities of lobsters in areas with rocky bottoms difficult to exploit with the gear available to them.

Local Names : SOUTH AFRICA: Gilchrist's crayfish (Barnard, 1950:542).

Literature : Berry, 1971: 1-23; Berry & Plante, 1973:373-380, pls 19, 20; Pollock & Augustyn, 1982:57-73; Williams, 1986: 15, figs 34,78 h-i.



(after Berry & Plante, 1973)

Fig. 226

Palinurus mauritanicus Gruvel, 1911

Fig. 228

PALIN Palin 3

Palinurus vulgaris mauritanicus Gruvel, 1911, *Annales Institut oceanoaraphiaue*, Monaco, (3)4:22, pl. 1 fig. 4

Synonyms: *Palinurus vulgaris inflata* Gruvel, 1910 (not *Palinurus inflatus* Bduvier, 1895 (= *Panulirus inflatus* (Bouvier))); *Palinurus thomsoni* Selbie, 1914.

FAO Names : **En** - Pink spiny lobster; **Fr** -Langouste rose; **Sp** - Langosta mora.

Type : Type locality: (for *P. v. inflata* and *P. v. mauritanicus*) "sur toute la côte mauritanienne, du cap Barbas [= Cabo Barbas, western Sahara, 22°18'N, 46°41'W] jusque un peu au nord de Saint-Louis [Senegal, 16°01'N, 16°30'W], par des fonds de 20 m à 50 m et souvent sur le sable coquillier". Syntypes in MP, no longer extant (not located in 1989).

Type locality of *P. thomsoni*: "58 mls. W 1\2 N of Blackball Head [SW. Ireland], 51°20'N., 11°30'W., 212-229 fms [= 388-420 m], sand" Holotype male in NMI, no. 104.1916, in good condition in alcohol.

Geographical Distribution : Eastern Atlantic from W. of Ireland (53°N) to southern Senegal (14° N), also in the western Mediterranean, West of about 16°E, not in the Adriatic (Fig. 229).

Habitat and Biology : Depth range from 180 to 600 m. In the western Mediterranean mostly between 400 and 500 m. On rocky and coral substrates, as well as on mud. At times gregarious. Trawl hauls of 200 to 500 specimens have been recorded off N.W. Africa.

Size : Maximum total body length 50 cm; a single record of a specimen of 75 cm needs confirmation. Usually the body length ranges between 20 and 40 cm.

Interest to Fisheries : The main commercial fishery of the species is off N.W. Africa. At its inception, this fishery was mainly operating by trawls, especially after 1954. From 1958 onwards, however, the lobster-pot fishery gradually replaced trawling. In the western Mediterranean, the commercial importance of the species is not very high, but it is regularly taken by deep sea trawlers as a bycatch. It is brought to the markets in Spain and Italy, but it is far from frequent there. Sold mostly fresh, sometimes frozen. Catch statistics are not recorded for this species. However, the figures given for *Palinurus* spp. in the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics most probably correspond to mixed catches of *P. elephas* and *P. mauritanicus* (4921 metric tons in 1987 and 7869 tons in 1988).

Local Names : FRANCE: Langouste rose, Langouste du large; ITALY: Aragosta bianca, Aragosta mauritanica; MOROCCO: Azeffane, Bakhouche, Langousta; SENEGAL: Soum. Soumpe; SPAIN: Langosta rosada, Langosta roja.

Literature : Fischer, Bianchi & Scott (eds), 1981:vol. 5; Fischer, Bauchot & Schneider (eds), 1987:309-310.

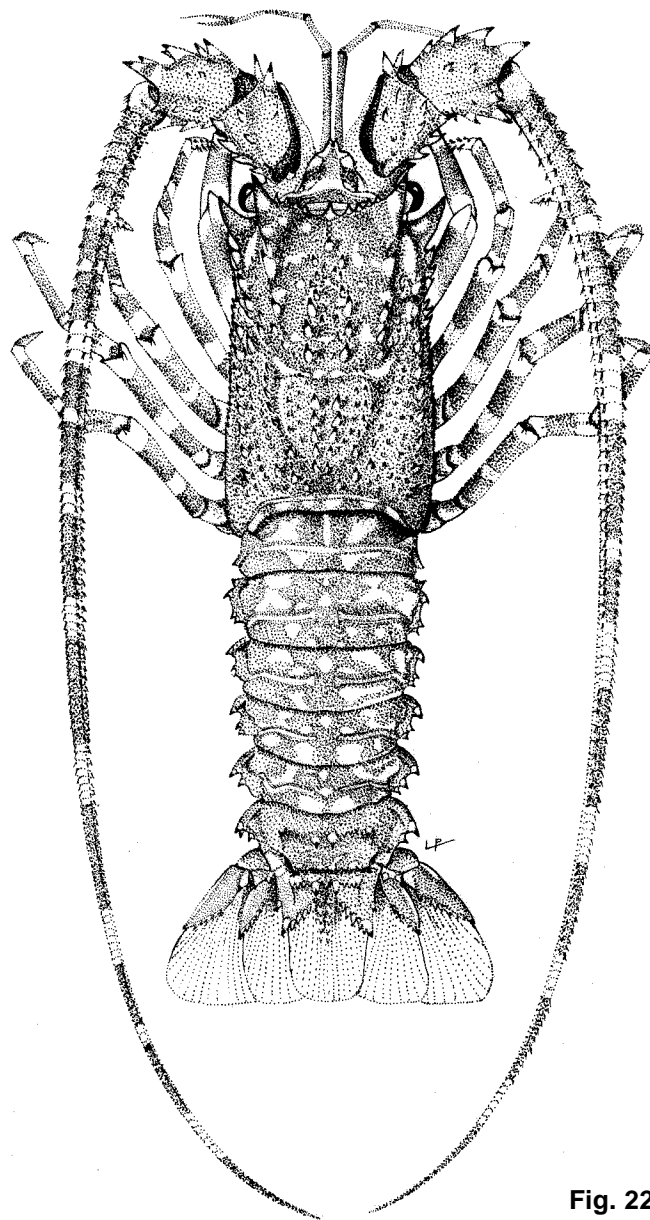


Fig. 228

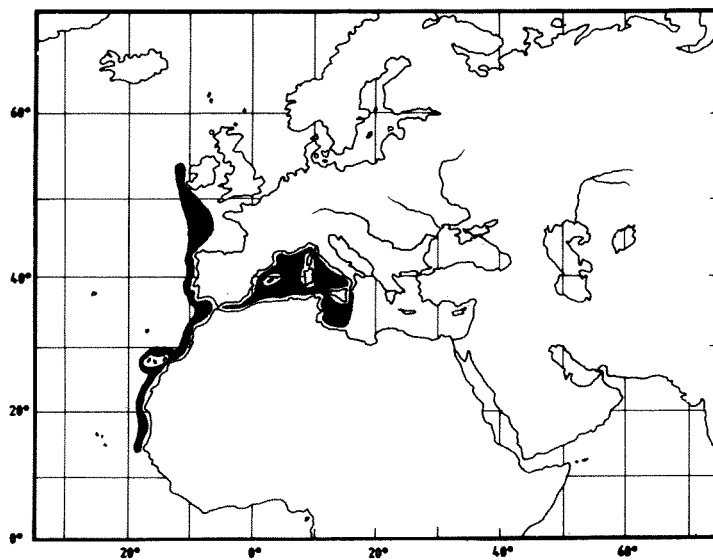


Fig. 229

Palinustus A. Milne Edwards, 1880

PALIN **Palinus**

Palinustus A. Milne Edwards, 1880, *Bulletin Museum Comparative Zoology, Harvard College*, 8(1):66. Gender masculine. Placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology in Opinion 519 (published in 1958).

Type Species : by monotypy: ***Palinustus truncatus*** A. Milne Edwards, 1880.

The genus is characterized by the shape of the frontal horns, that do not end in a sharp point but in a broad, bluntly truncated top that sometimes is crenulated; a strong spine is present on the outer margin of each horn.

Four species have been described of this genus, none with any commercial value as the species all seem to be very scarce and all occur at considerable depths. The taxonomic status of some of the species is not yet clear.

From the data in the literature it seems most likely that almost all the specimens, other than the type material, that have been identified as ***Palinustus mossambicus*** do not belong to that species but must be assigned to ***Palinustus waguensis***. This assumption, which still has to be proven by thorough study of an extensive material, has been adopted here, admittedly without sufficient basic data. However, this seems the best solution at the present time.

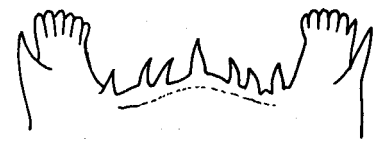
Tentative Key to Species:

1a. Anterior margin of carapace between the frontal horns convex, with a single median spine; no other spines on this margin, but a single, small denticle on the inner margin of each horn (Fig. 230a). Epistome with 5 to 7 spines on the anterior margin, and small spines in the anterolateral corner (Natal, South Africa) ***P. unicornutus*** (Fig. 235)



a. *P. unicornutus*

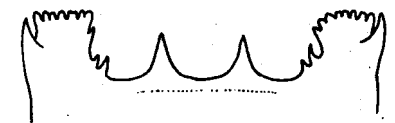
1b. Anterior margin of carapace between the frontal horns straight or convex, with two or more spines. Epistome with spinules or tubercles on the anterior margin; anterolateral corners with a single spine or unarmed



b. *P. truncatus*

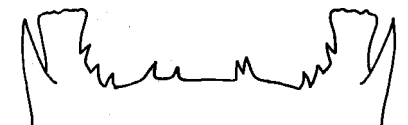
2a. A strong median spine, in addition to several others, on the anterior margin of the carapace between the frontal horns. Inner margin of the horns without spines (230b). Epistome with 5 tubercles on the anteromedian margin; anterolateral corner with a strong spine. Western Atlantic ***P. truncatus*** (Fig. 233)

2b. No median spine on anterior margin of carapace. Epistome with tubercles or spinules on anteromedian margin; anterolateral corner with a small spine or unarmed. Indo-West Pacific.



c. *P. mossambicus*

3a. Anterior margin of carapace between frontal horns with a single pair of strong submedian spines; rest of the margin as well as the inner margin of the horns unarmed or with 2 very small spinules (Fig. 230c). Deep sea (406 m), but also reported from 59 to 61 m. East Africa (Somalia, Mozambique) ***P. mossambicus*** (Fig. 231)



d. *P. waguensis*

3b. Anterior margin of carapace as well as inner margin of the frontal horns with several distinct spines (Fig. 230d). Shallow water form, 0 to 180 m. Indo-West Pacific region (India, Thailand, Philippines, Japan) ***P. waguensis*** (Fig. 237)

anterior margin of carapace (dorsal view) fig. 230

Palinustus mossambicus Barnard, 1926

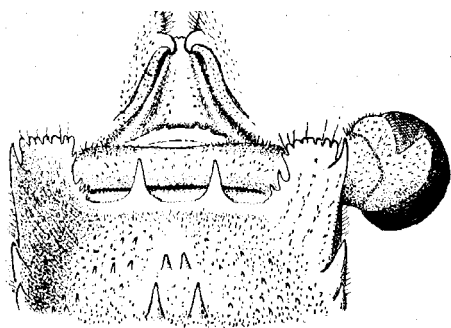
Fig. 231

PALIN Palinus 2

Palinustus mossambicus Barnard, 1926, *Transactions Royal Society South Africa*, 13: 126, pl. 11.

FAO Names : En - Buffalo blunthorn lobster.

Type : Type locality: Off Mozambique, "25" S., 33°10'E., 406 metres, mud". This position cited by Barnard (1926) is definitely incorrect, as it would be on dry land; it is possible that a number of minutes has to be added to 25" S. Holotype male in SAM, no. A 10684 (in alcohol; condition good).



anterior part of carapace (dorsal view)
(from Barnard, 1950)

Geographical Distribution : The species has been reported from East Africa (Mozambique and Somalia) (Fig. 232).

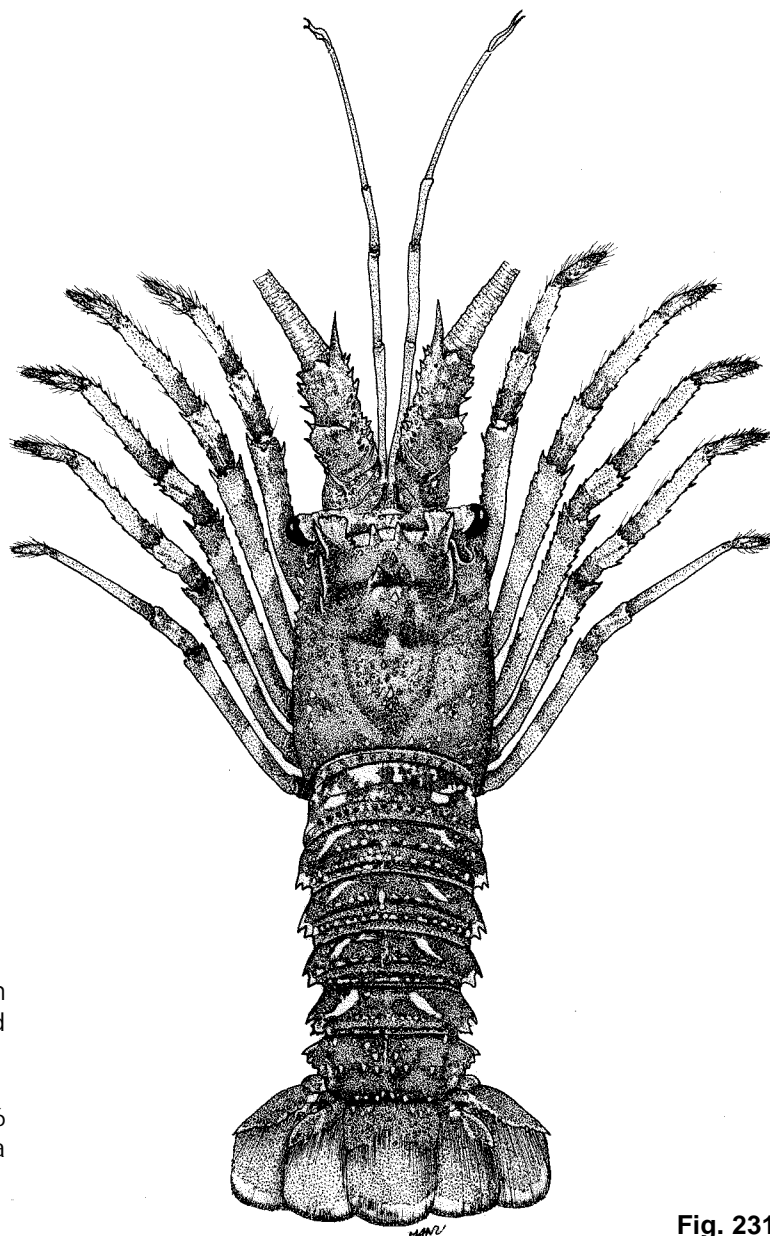
Habitat and Biology : Found in deep water (406 m), but also in 59-61 m depth. Reported from a muddy substrate.

Size : Total body length 9.5 cm. Carapace length 3cm.

Interest to Fisheries : So far none. Very little is known of this species of which only very few specimens have been found.

Literature : Barnard, 1950:545, figs 102 a,b; Berry, 1979:88,89, fig. 1A.

Remarks: Specimens reported under the name *P. mossambicus* from India and the Philippines have here, provisionally, been assigned to *P. waguensis*. The status of these two species, however, needs further investigation.



(after Barnard, 1926)

Fig. 231

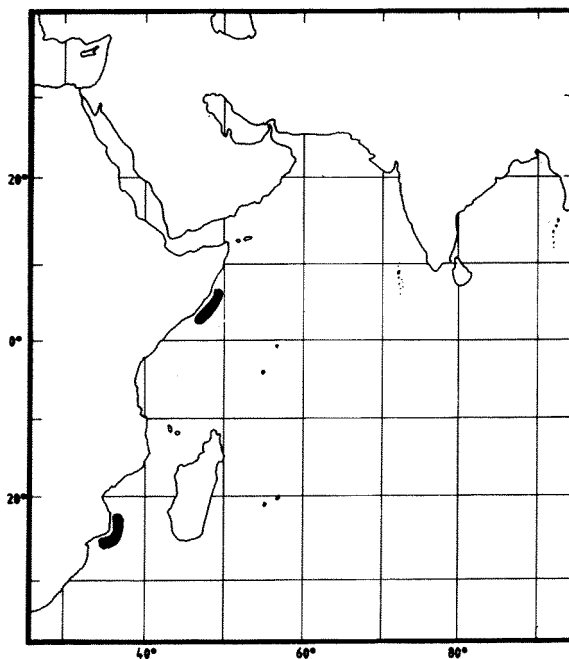


Fig. 232

Palinustus truncatus A. Milne Edwards, 1880

Fig. 233

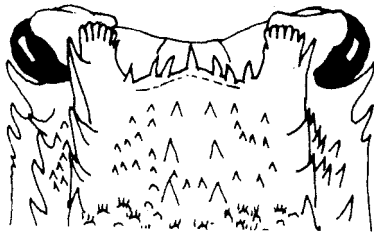
PALIN Palinus 1

Palinustus truncatus A. Milne Edwards, 1880, *Bulletin Museum Comparative Zoology*, Harvard College, 8:66. Name placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology in Opinion 519 (published in 1958).

Synonyms: *Palinurus truncatus* - Gruvel, 1911.

FAO Names : **En** - American blunthorn lobster; **Fr** - Langouste aliousta; **Sp** - Langosta ñata.

Type : Type locality: "Blake" "Station No. 241. Profond. 163 brasses. Cariacou" (= off the Grenadines, 12°28'22"N, 61°32'18"W, 163 fms (= 298 m), sand and coral): type in MCZ.



anterior part of carapace (dorsal view)

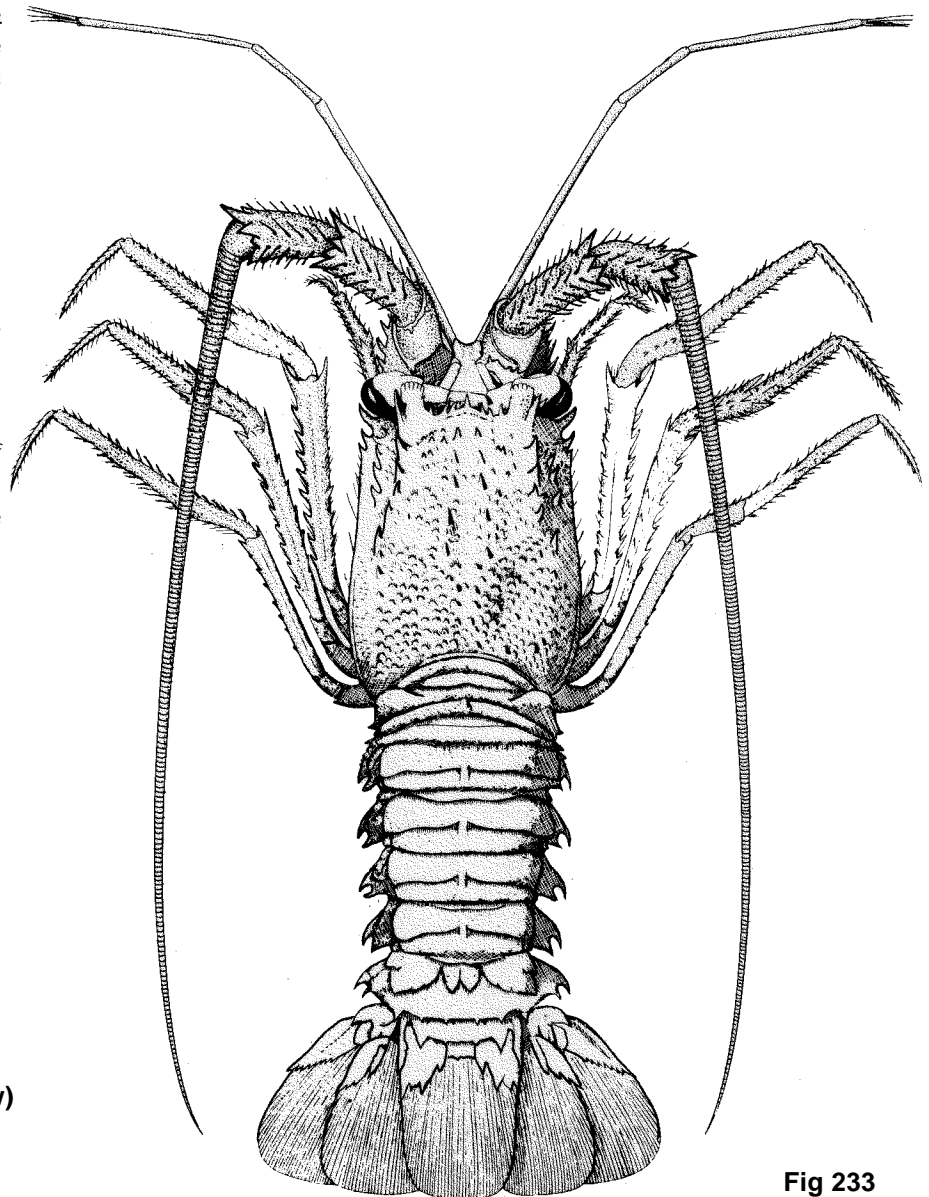


Fig 233

Geographical Distribution : Western Atlantic: from Carriacou Island, Grenadines, to off the mouth of the Amazon River, Amapá and Pará States, Brazil (Fig. 234).

Habitat and Biology : The species has been taken in depths between 120 and 298 m, but there is a record from the littoral zone, and one from 4111-4122 m. The bottom is variously described as "sand and coral", "sandy calcarenite", and "smooth, consisting of brown mud".

Size : Carapace lengths of 1.6 to 3.2 cm have been reported, the known maximum body length is 10 cm.

Interest to Fisheries : So far none. The species is evidently rare, and perhaps has a restricted range. Better knowledge of its occurrence and habits is required for deciding whether a future fishery will prove feasible.

Literature : Fischer (ed.), 1978: vol. 6.

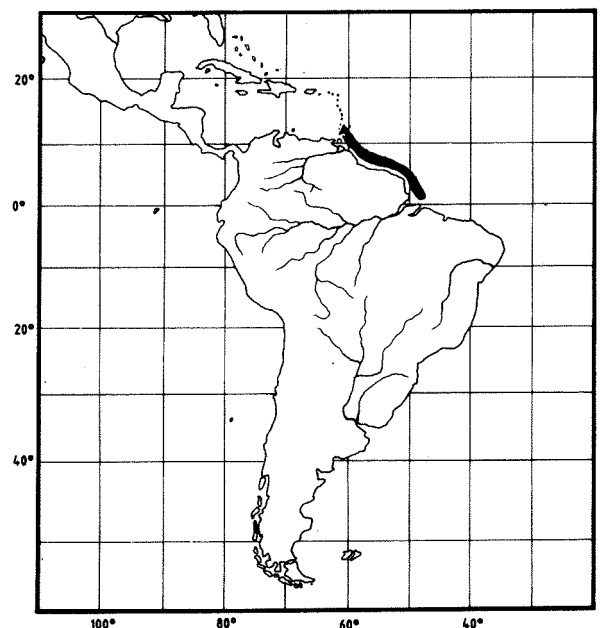


Fig. 234

Palinustus unicornutus Berry, 1979

Fig. 235

PALIN Palinus 3

Palinustus unicornutus Berry, 1979, Annals South African Museum, 78(3):93, figs 1,2,3G.

FAO Names : En - Unicorn blunthorn lobster.

Type : Type locality: "Due east of Boteleur Point, Natal (approximately 26°57'S 32°58'E). Depth 390 m"; holotype ovigerous female in SAM, No. A 15880 (in alcohol, condition good); paratype in SAM, No. A 15881 (in alcohol condition good).

Geographical Distribution : Off Natal, South Africa (off Boteleur Point, and off Park Rynie, ca. 30°19'S 30°56'E) (Fig. 236).

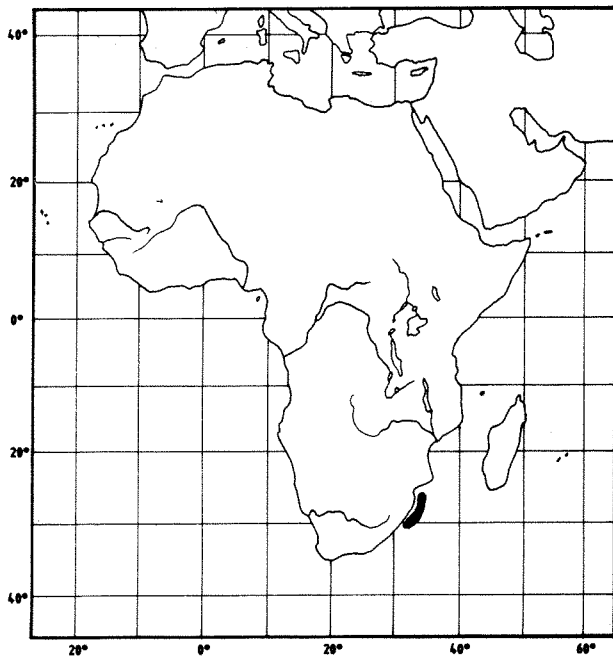
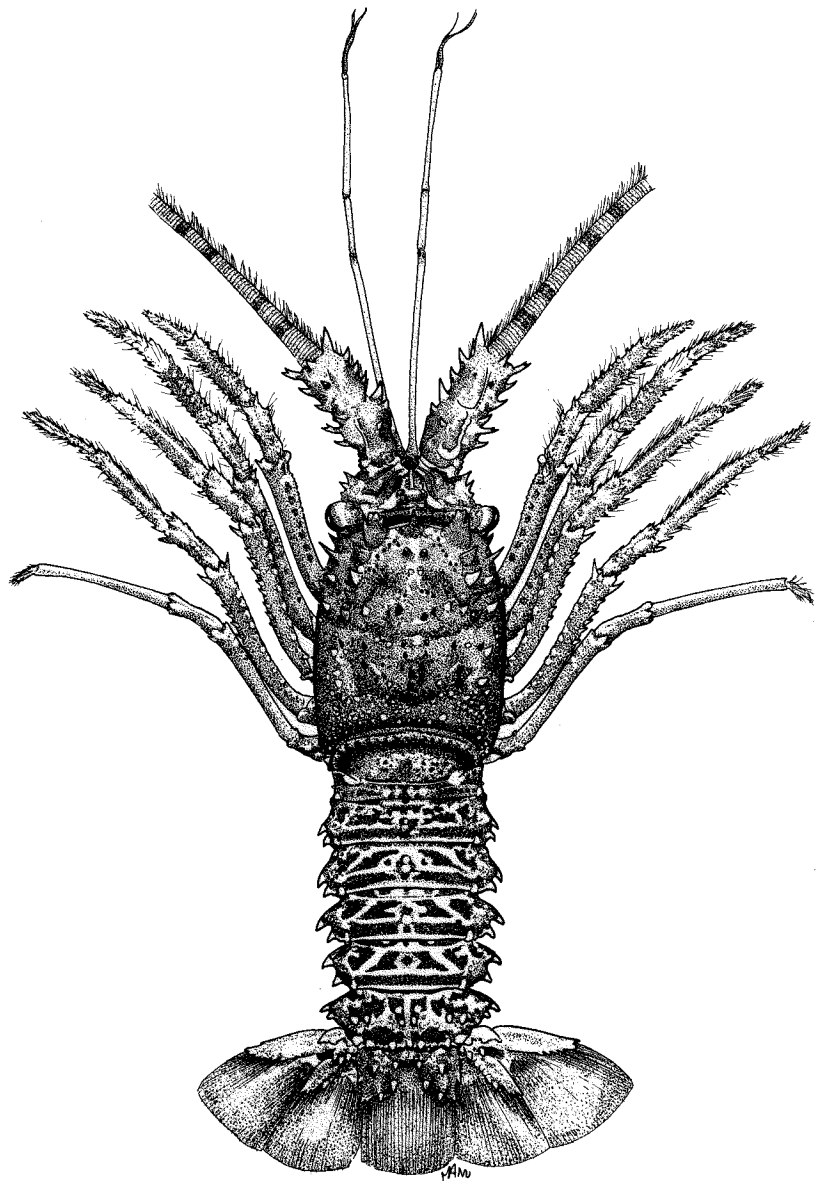


Fig. 236



(after Berry, 1979)

Fig. 235

Habitat and Biology : Depth range from 305 to 390 m.

Size : The two known specimens (both females) have a total body length of 14.2 cm (ovigerous female) and 13.4 cm, corresponding to a carapace length of 4.8 and 4.4 cm.

Interest to Fisheries : Since only 2 specimens are known, captured in lobster pots, it is clear that so far there is no fishery for the species.

Literature : Original publication.

Palinustus waguensis Kubo, 1963

Fig. 237

PALIN Palinus 4

Palinustus waguensis Kubo, 1963, Journal Tokyo University Fisheries, 49(1):63, figs 1-3.

FAO Names : En - Japanese blunthorn lobster.

Type : Type locality: "Shallow waters in the vicinity of Wagu, Mie Prefecture", Honshu, Japan; whereabouts of holotype male unknown.

Geographical Distribution : Indo-West Pacific region. The species so far is only known from Honshu Island, Japan, viz. from Wagu and Kii-nagashima, both Mie Prefecture, and from Sagami Bay. Sekiguchi & Okubo (1986) mentioned 15 specimens from the east and south coast of Kii peninsula (Mie and Yamagata prefectures) without giving precise localities. What is believed to be this species has been reported under the name *P. mossambicus* from S-W. India and the Philippines (Sulu Sea). In the Zoological Museum at Copenhagen there is a juvenile (cl 8 mm) from the Bay of Amboina (Moluccas, Indonesia). Specimens from the Andaman Sea near Ranong, Thailand, are present in Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and RMNH (Fig. 238).

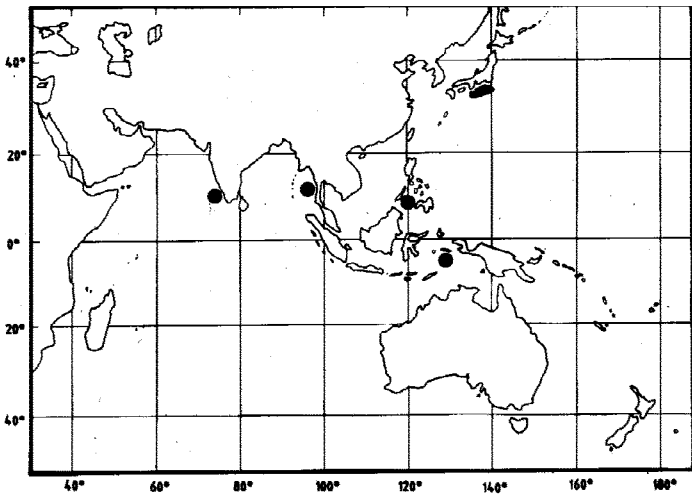
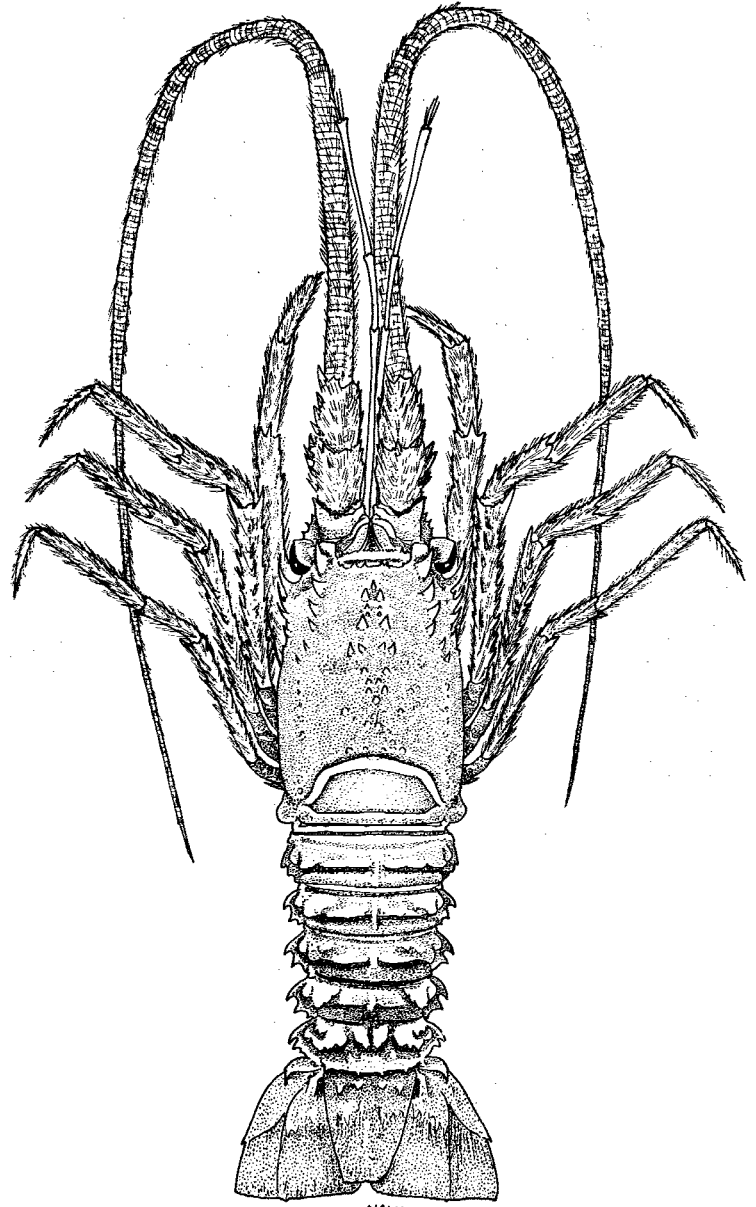


Fig. 238



(after Kubo, 1963)

Fig. 237

Habitat and Biology : Reported from rather shallow water in Japan, where it sometimes is caught in lobster trap nets. The specimens from India and the Philippines were taken in depths between 72 and 84 m, the juvenile from Amboina came from a depth of "ca. 100 fms" (about 180 m), from a stony bottom. Some data on the biology and body posture are published by Sekiguchi & Okubo (1986).

Size : Total body length 5 to 10 cm, carapace length 0.8 to 3.2 cm.

Interest to Fisheries : In Japan there is no commercial fishery for this relatively rare species, but fishermen obtaining specimens in their lobster nets (which in Japan can only be legally used from October to April), often give or sell these specimens to the public aquaria on the Japanese east coast. George (1973), however, reported that the species, he had indicated as *P. mossambicus*, has been obtained in large numbers from certain localities in India and that it may be the object of a fishery there (Kurian & Sebastian, 1982: 162).

Local Names : JAPAN: Wagu-ebi.

Literature : Berry, 1979:88,89, fig.3; Sekiguchi & Okubo, 1986: 19-26.

Remarks : The taxonomic status of this species vis à vis *P. mossambicus* is far from clear, and a closer study of the complex is highly desirable.