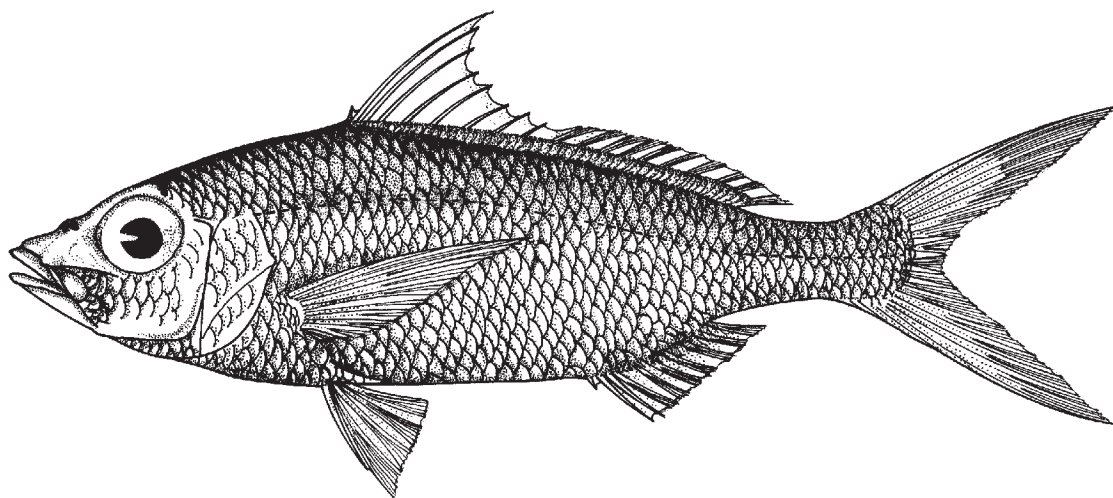


***Gerres oblongus* Cuvier, 1830**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Gerres gigas* Günther, 1862 / None.

FAO names: En - Slender silverbiddy; Fr - Blanche élégante; Sp - Mojarra elegante.

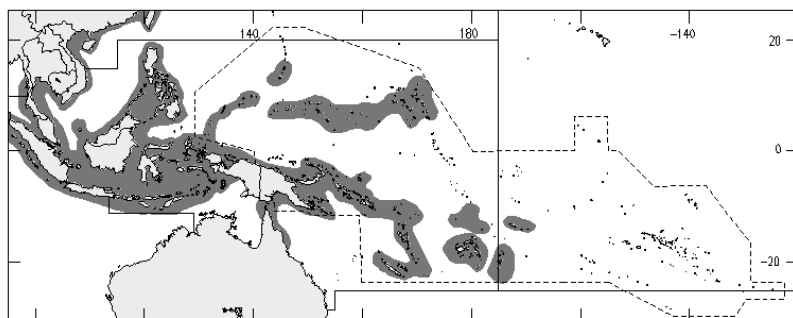


Diagnostic characters: Body compressed, elongate, slender, its depth 3.1 to 3.4 times in standard length; anterodorsal profile very slightly convex, ascending at an angle of less than 30° to horizontal axis; eye comparatively large, its diameter 3 times in length of head (excluding upper jaw); snout long, subequal to eye diameter. Fin spines slender; in larger fish, leading dorsal- and anal-fin spines relatively longer than other fin spines and rays, in fish longer than about 8 cm standard length profile of spinous part of dorsal fin sweeping rapidly upwards from about midway along its length, second dorsal-fin spine, for example, at least twice length of sixth dorsal-fin spine; second anal-fin spine short, about 2/3 length of base of anal fin, even shorter in smaller fish; pectoral fins short, tip of depressed fins reaching almost to or just past level of anus, nowhere near level of base of first anal-fin spine; **caudal fin very deeply forked, but lobes not exceptionally long**, longest caudal-fin ray about 1/3 standard length. **Scales on lateral line 44 to 46 to base of caudal fin**, and 2 to 5 more pored scales in scaly sheath on base of caudal fin; **5.5 to 6 scales between lateral line and base of fifth dorsal-fin spine (transverse series of scales inclined at a low angle to horizontal)**. **Colour:** silvery, blue dorsally in life, but lilac brown in some market specimens; up to 5 columns of horizontally elongated spots on sides of trunk appearing as faint bars in some cases; dusky tip to dorsal fin, other fins pale.

Size: Maximum total length almost 40 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Judging by the localities at which this species has been caught, its habitat is restricted to coral reefs. Schooling, at least while small. In Palau, adults congregate to spawn over shallow sandy patches near the outer reef edge around certain full moons. Feeds on small organisms living in sand. Caught with set nets and beach seines. Flesh reported to be excellent.

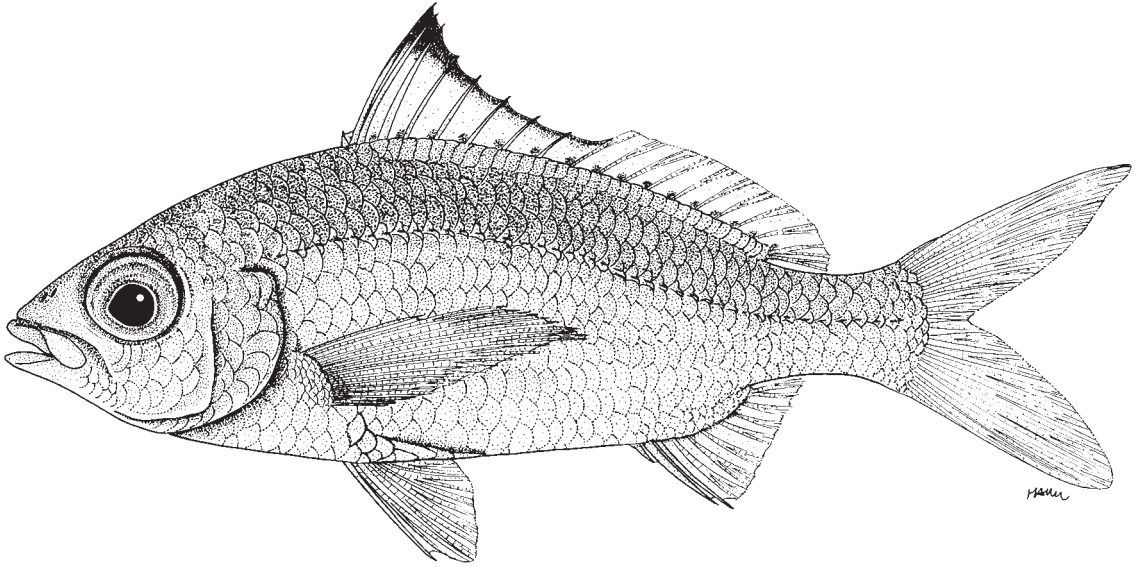
Distribution: Widely distributed throughout the tropical Indo-West Pacific region: Mozambique, Kenya, Seychelles, Laccadive Islands, Maldives, Sri Lanka, South India, Andaman Islands, Indonesia, Philippines, Palau, Marianas, Rotorua, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, north to the Ryukyu Islands and New Guinea, south to coasts of Queensland and New Caledonia.



Gerres oyena (Forsskål, 1775)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Gerres argyreus* (Schneider, 1801).

FAO names: En - Common silverbiddy; Fr - Blanche commune; Sp - Mojarra común.

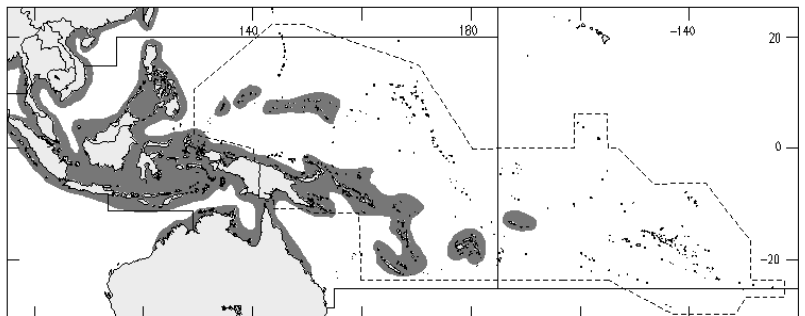


Diagnostic characters: Body compressed, oblong, slender, its depth 3 to 3.3 times in standard length; anterodorsal profile gently convex. Dorsal fin distinctly notched, last spine 2/3 length of first soft ray; second dorsal-fin spine neither elongate nor exceptionally short, contained about 0.6 to 0.7 times in length of head (excluding jaws); **second and third anal-fin spines slender and short, e.g. second slightly less than 1/2 length of second or third dorsal-fin spines**; caudal fin very deeply forked, but lobes relatively short, length of longest ray subequal with head length; pectoral fins short, tip of depressed fins only reaching level between bases of first and second dorsal-fin ray. **Scales on lateral line 35 to 39 to base of caudal fin**, and 2 to 4 more pored scales in scaly sheath on base of caudal fin; **3.25 to 3.5 scales between lateral line and base of fifth dorsal-fin spine**. **Colour:** silvery, with a trace of pale olive above lateral line; 7 or 8 faint dusky bars on sides of body in young, absent in older fish; prominent black tip to spinous part of dorsal fin, usually confined to distal part of membrane between second and fifth spines but sometimes continuing as a black margin along whole of dorsal fin.

Size: Maximum total length 25 cm, commonly to 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits inshore areas on silty-sand bottoms down to at least 30 m; found along sandy beaches but commonly in estuaries and brackish lagoons. Schools; feeds by sifting small invertebrates from mouthfuls of substrate. Fished mainly with seines and bottom trawls. Marketed fresh; also used as fishmeal.

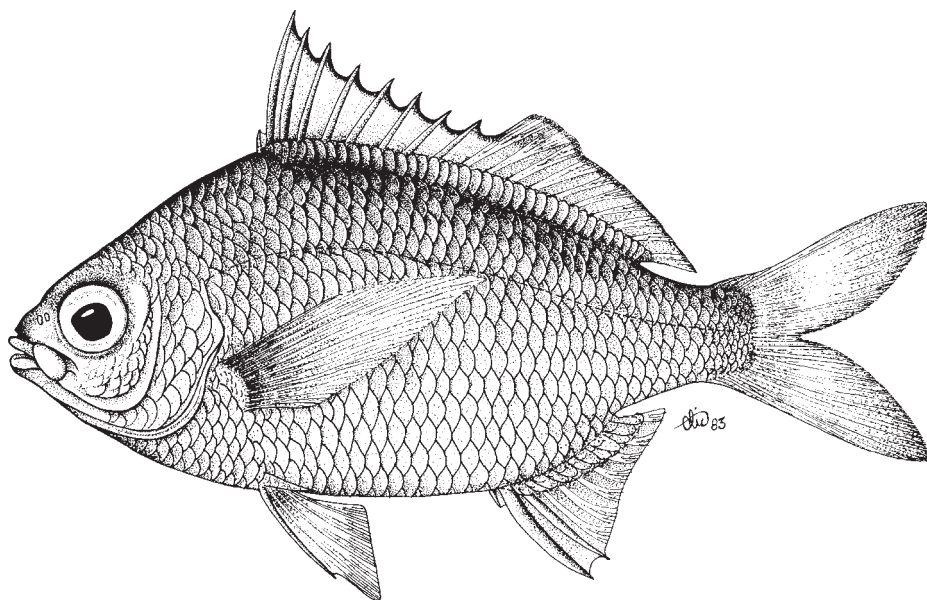
Distribution: Widespread in the tropical Indo-West Pacific Region from the east coast of Africa and the Red Sea westward to Samoa in the south Pacific and the Caroline Islands in the north Pacific; extends northward to southern Japan and southward to tropical Australia and to New Caledonia.



Gerres poieti Cuvier in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1830

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / non *Gerres poieti* Cuvier, 1829.

FAO names: En - Strongspine silverbiddy; Fr - Blanche armie; Sp - Mojarra espinuda.

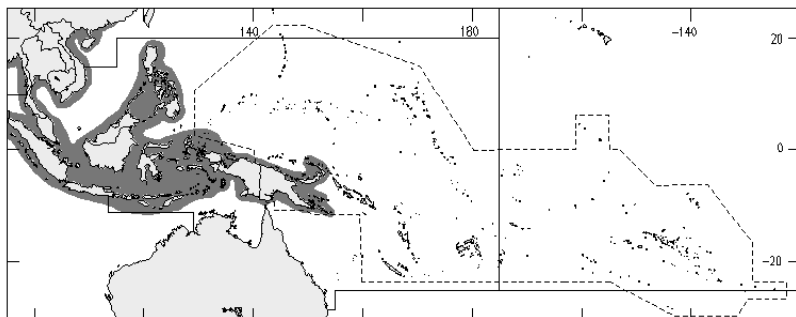


Diagnostic characters: Body compressed, deep, with an elevated back; body depth 2.1 to 2.3 times in standard length. Anterodorsal profile ascending at an angle of about 45° to the horizontal in 2 steps: one corresponding to curve of head, the other to curve of nape up to base of first dorsal-fin spine. Dorsal- and anal-fin spines strong, **second anal-fin spine exceptionally robust**; dorsal-fin rays long, the first about 1.25 times eye diameter; second anal-fin spine as long as or slightly shorter than anal-fin base; pectoral fins moderately long, **tip of depressed fins just reaching to level of first anal-fin spine**; **caudal fin strongly forked but short**, longest rays slightly longer than head length, **lobes broad with pointed tips**. Lateral-line scales 38 to 40 to base of caudal fin, and 2 or 3 more pored scales in scaly sheath on base of fin; 4 scale rows between base of fifth dorsal-fin spine and lateral line. **Colour:** upper sides of head and trunk tinged with golden brown, grading to silver on lower sides; about 10 diffuse dusky bars spread across sides of trunk in some specimens; fins mostly hyaline; a fine black line outlining margin of membrane of dorsal fin; tips of first few rays of anal fin and trailing edge of caudal fin dusky.

Size: Maximum total length about 20 cm, commonly to 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Lives in very shallow coastal waters; common about estuaries and coastal lagoons over bottoms of muddy sand. Schools; feeds from the bottom on small invertebrates. Caught with stake nets, lift nets, and beach seines. Marketed fresh.

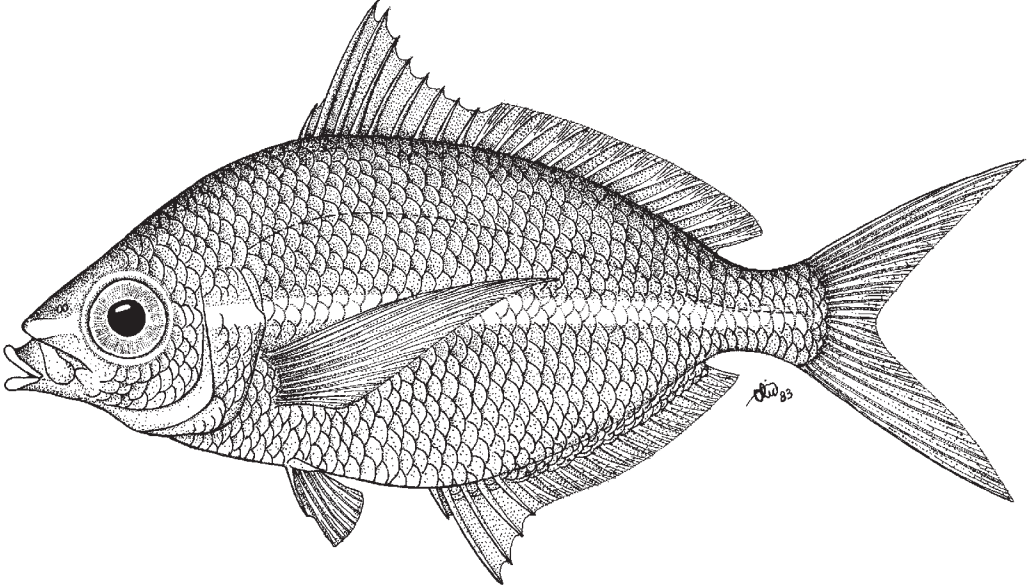
Distribution: Occurs discontinuously from southwestern coast of India to central Indo-Malayan region: Indonesia, Philippines, and New Guinea.



Pentaprion longimanus (Cantor, 1850)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Longfin silverbiddy; Fr - Blanche à pagaies; Sp - Mojarra alona.

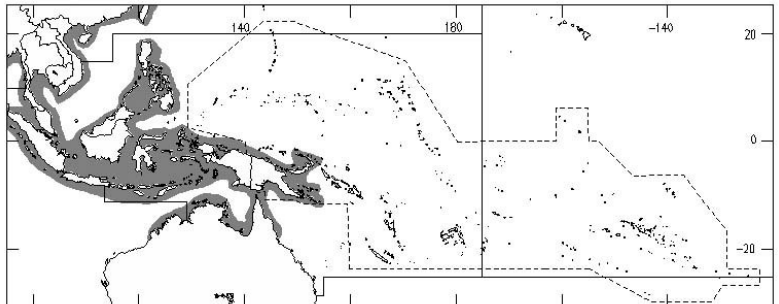


Diagnostic characters: Body compressed, ovoid, moderately deep, its depth 2.5 to 2.8 times in standard length. Dorsal fin with IX or X spines and 12 to 15 soft rays; anal fin with V or VI spines and 12 to 14 soft rays, its base longer than base of soft portion of dorsal fin; caudal fin deeply forked with pointed lobes, longer than head; pectoral fins long, tip of depressed fins reaching a level half-way along base of anal fin. Scales on lateral line 44 to 48 to base of caudal fin; all scales shed easily. **Colour:** silvery, with a mirror-like stripe from snout to caudal peduncle; fins dusky yellow; market specimens pale pink or grey when scales lost.

Size: Maximum total length almost 20 cm, commonly to 10 cm.

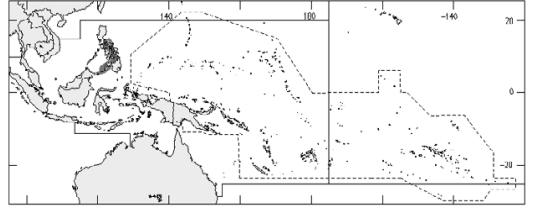
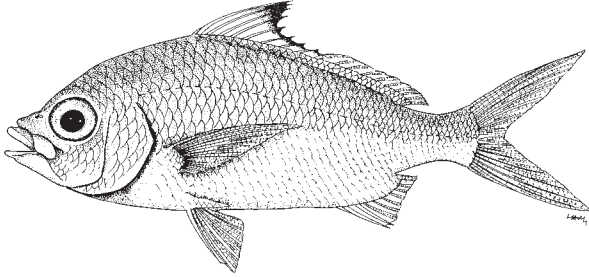
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits inshore areas, on muddy-sand bottoms, to depths of 70 m. Feeds on small benthic invertebrates. Forms very large schools. Caught mainly with bottom trawls, in very large quantities in some areas. Marketed fresh, but shabby look makes them unattractive as food fish; used in large quantities for fishmeal and as a duck food in parts of Southeast Asia.

Distribution: West coast of India, Sri Lanka, Indo-Malayan area including Indonesia, Philippines, northern Australia, north to Taiwan Province of China and Ryukyu Islands.

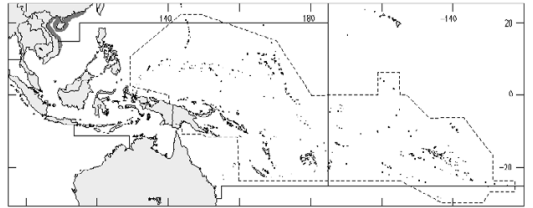
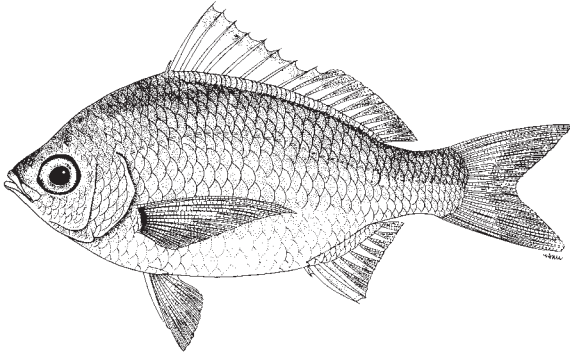


Gerres baconensis (Evermann and Seale, 1907)**En** - Scalynosed silverbididy.

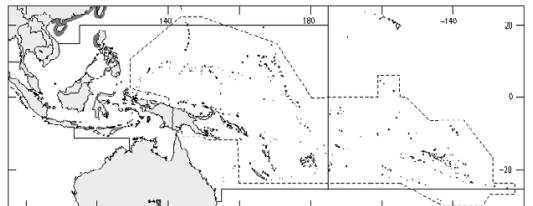
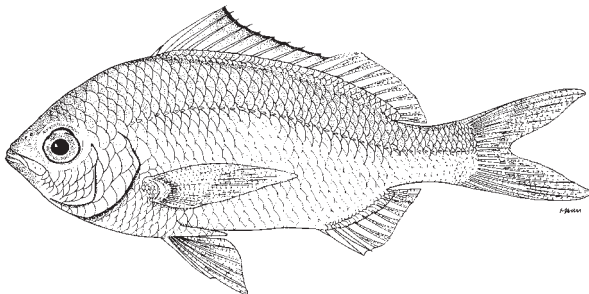
Maximum total length about 25 cm. Coastal, in bays and along open beaches. Schooling; no doubt feeds on small invertebrates living in surface layer of the substrate, as other gerreids do. Caught with beach seines; marketed fresh. In the WCP area known only from the Philippines (Sulu Archipelago north to Luzon), but also recorded from Ogasawara Islands.

***Gerres decacanthus*** (Bleeker, 1865)**En** - Tenspined silverbididy.

Maximum total length about 15 cm. Recorded for continental localities only, not for offshore coral islands. Schooling; no doubt similar feeding habits to other gerreids. Known only from South China Sea area.

***Gerres japonicus*** Bleeker, 1854**En** - Japanese silverbididy.

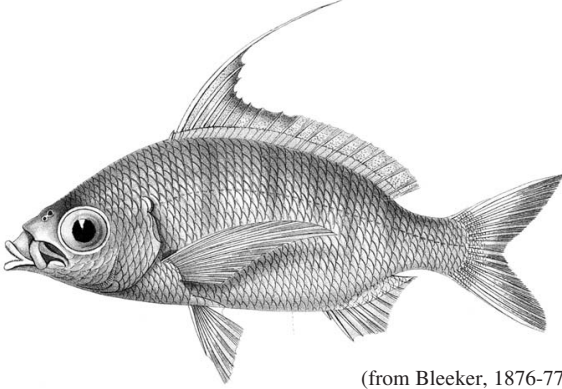
Maximum total length about 25 cm. Coastal, along the shore and in bays. Schooling; common in the northern part of its range, which is outside the WCP area. Feeds from the bottom by taking up mouthfuls of substrate and sieving out the small invertebrates. Caught with set and seine nets. Marketed fresh; flesh delicious, but full of bones. From Mie and Nagasaki prefectures in South Japan, and Korea southward to Taiwan Province of China, Hainan, and, reputedly, Luzon, Philippines.



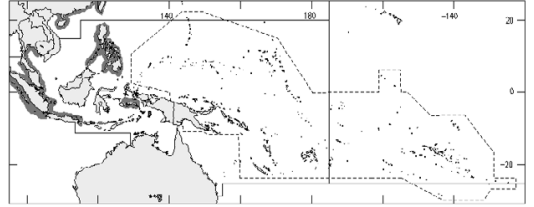
***Gerres macracanthus* Bleeker, 1854**

En - Longspined silverbidly.

Maximum total length 20 cm. Shallow coastal waters to depths of at least 30 m on sandy bottoms, entering estuaries. Schooling; feeds by sieving small vertebrates from sand. Caught with gill nets and beach seines. Reported from East Africa to the central Indo-Malayan area, as far east as the Philippines and north to Taiwan Province of China.



(from Bleeker, 1876-77)



***Gerres subfasciatus* Cuvier, 1830**

En - Southern silverbidly.

Maximum total length about 26 cm. Coastal, down to 40 m, but very common in small and large estuaries, preferring murky waters over muddy bottoms. In schools of up to a few hundred individuals; feeds on any small invertebrates living in bottom sediments. Taken as bycatch by estuarine prawn trawlers, or by cast net for bait. Marketed fresh in small quantities. Within Australia confined to tropical and warm-temperate waters; not present along southern coastline; probably occurs in southern New Guinea.

