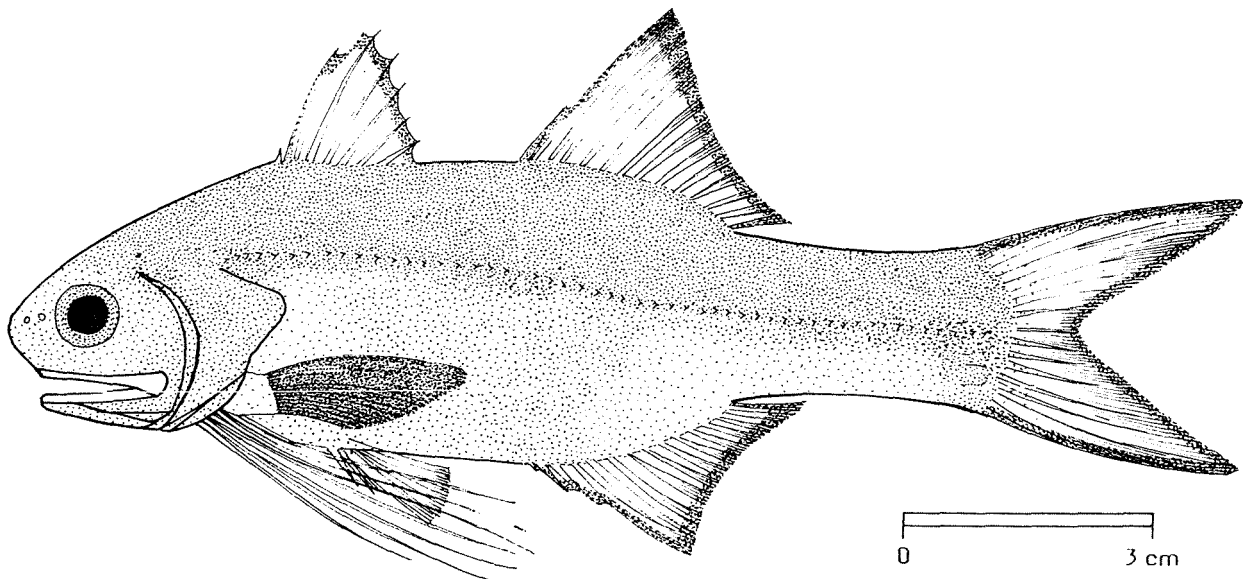


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Polynemus heptadactylus Cuvier, 1829

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE:

Polydactylus heptadactylus (Cuvier, 1829)Polydactylus multiradiatus (Günther, 1860)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Sevenfinger threadfin
 Fr - Barbure à sept doigtas
 Sp - Barbudo sietededos

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth large, with small teeth; upper lip absent, lower lip well developed; eyes large (eye diameter 3.5 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fins in two parts, upper part with all rays unbranched, lower with 7 free filamentous rays, of which the 3rd 4th and 5th are the longest reaching to anal fin on in; caudal fin forked with lobes equal. Scales large, ctenoid (rough to touch).

Colour: back brown, flanks golden; pectoral fins black, as also margins of other fins.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Polynemus paradiseus: also has 7 free pectoral filamentous rays, but the longest rays reach to, or extend beyond tip of caudal fin.

All other polynemid species: have 4 to 6 free pectoral filamentous rays.

SIZE:

Maximum: 27 cm; common to 15 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, found along the west coast of India to Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, from the east coast of India to Burma, Pinang, Malay Peninsula, Malaccas, Indonesia and New Guinea.

Lives mainly over shallow muddy bottoms at the continental shelf; also in brackish waters.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans (especially shrimps), fishes and bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

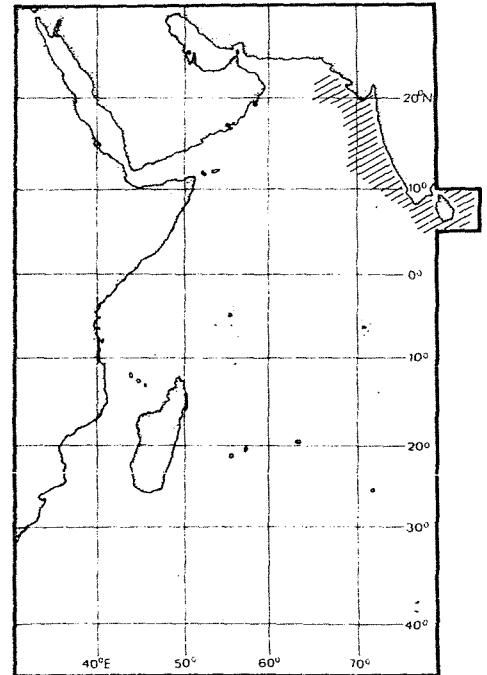
Caught in the shallow waters of the continental shelf.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

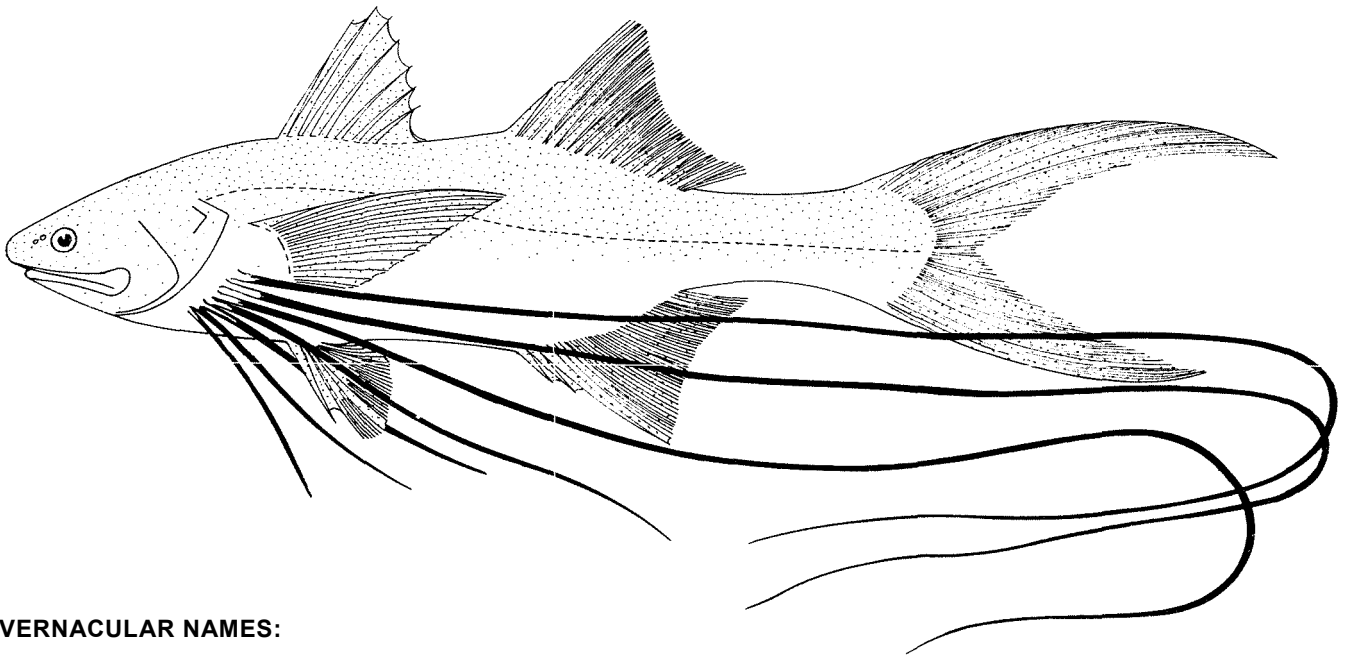
Caught mainly with beach seines, set gillnets, traps and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, frozen and dried salted.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

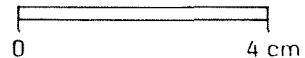
FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Polynemus paradiseus Linnaeus, 1758OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Polynemus hilleri (Fowler, 1905)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Paradise threadfin
 Fr - Barbure paradis
 Sp - Barbudo paralso

NATIONAL:



DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth large, with small teeth; upper lip absent, lower lip well developed; eyes small (eye diameter 8 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fins in two parts, upper part with all rays unbranched; lower part with 7 free filamentous rays, of which the 3 upper ones are the longest - about twice the length of fish; caudal fin deeply forked with upper lobe longer than lower. Scales moderately large, etenoid (rough to touch).

Colour: body golden with a shade of grey along back; all fins greyish.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

All other polynemid species: longest pectoral filamentous rays shorter, much less than twice the length of fish.

SIZE

Maximum: 23 cm; common to 17 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, from Pakistan to the west coast of India and Sri Lanka. Elsewhere, in the Bay of Bengal.

Lives over shallow sandy bottoms, regularly entering freshwaters during breeding season.

Feeds mainly on crustaceans (especially shrimps), small fishes and bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

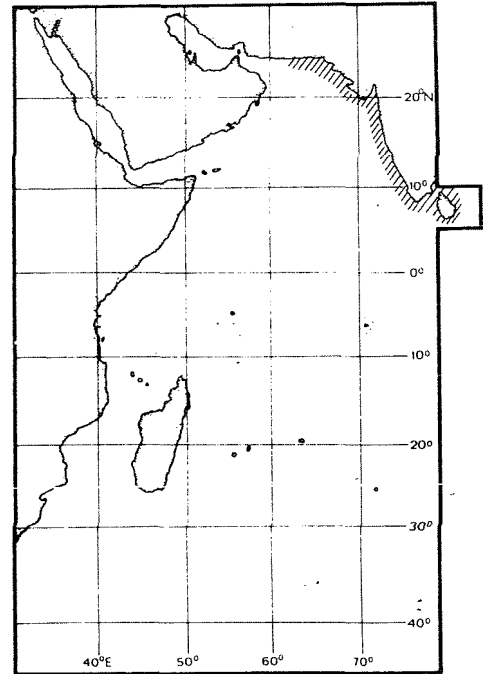
Caught in the shallow waters of the continental shelf and lower reaches of rivers.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORM OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

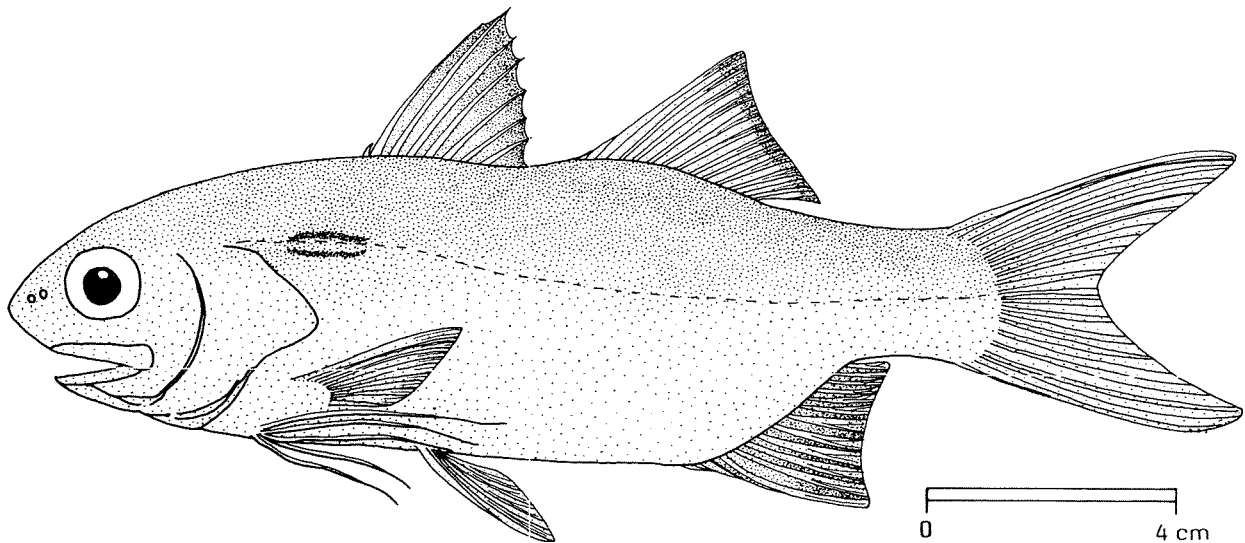
Caught mainly with fine-meshed beach seines, set gillnets and bottom trawls.

Marketed mostly fresh.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Polynemus microstoma* Bleeker, 1851OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: *Polydactylus microstoma* (Bleeker, 1851)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Mamali threadfin
 Fr - Barbure mamalina
 Sp - Barbudo mamalino

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth fairly large reaching behind eye, villiform teeth on jaws and palatines, no teeth on vomer; upper lip absent, lower lip well developed but not continuous at symphysis; eyes large (eye diameter 3.8 to 4.0 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fins in two parts, upper part with most of the rays branched; lower part with 5 free filamentous rays, of which the largest reaching the middle of pelvic fins; caudal fin forked with lobes equal. Scales small, ctenoid (rough to touch).

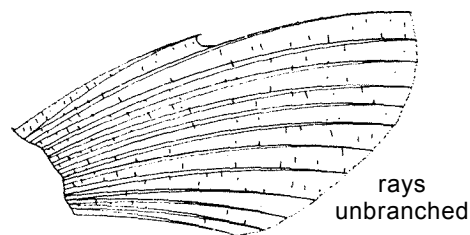
Colour: golden brownish above, silvery below; fins yellowish, first dorsal and anal fins more or less dusky, as well as free border of second dorsal; a black blotch present at the beginning of the lateral line, above origin of pectoral fins.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

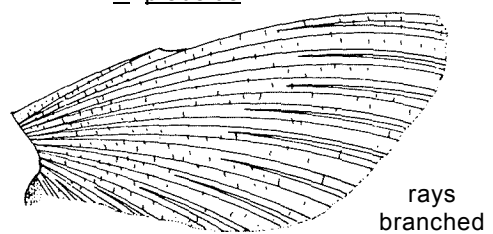
Poynemus plebeius: all upper pectoral fin rays unbranched; colour pattern different, narrow dusky stripes present on body and pectoral fins black, black blotch on shoulder absent.

P. indicus: longest pectoral filament reaching anal fin origin; shoulder blotch absent; caudal fin deeply lunate, with pointed lobes ending in filaments, eyes very small, eye diameter contained 7 times in head length (3.8 to 4.0 times in P. microstoma).

All other polynemid species: have 4, 6 or 7 free pectoral filamentous rays (5 in P. microstoma).



P. plebeius



P. microstoma

SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm; common to 20 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, found only in the Gulf of Mannar (southeast coast of India). Elsewhere, off Pinang, Borneo, Bali, Sambawa, Saleyer, Celebes, Ambar, Ceram, New Guinea, Taiwan Island and the Philippines.

Lives mainly over shallow muddy and sandy bottoms of the continental shelf.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans (especially shrimps), fishes and bottom-living organisms.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

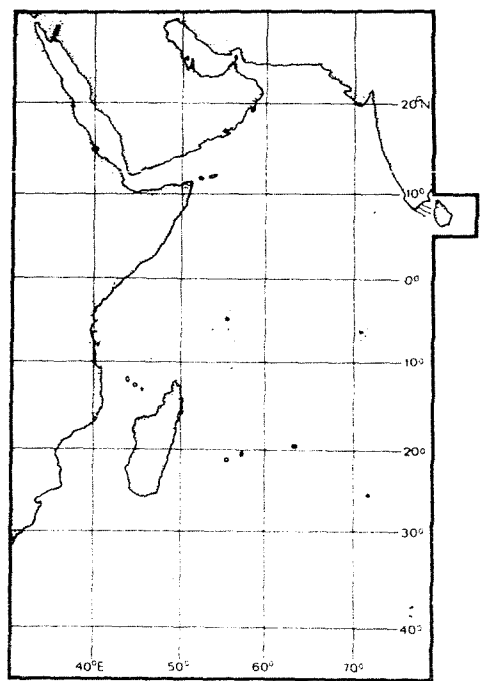
Caught in the shallow muddy and sandy waters of the continental shelf.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

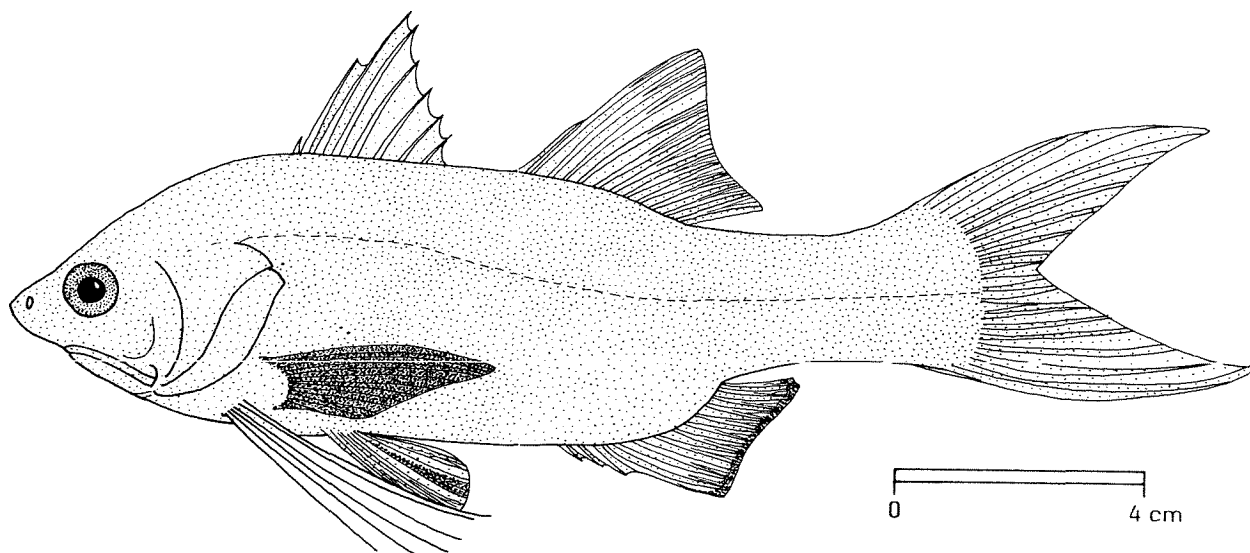
Caught mainly with beach seines, bottom driftnets and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh, frozen and dried salted.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: POLYNEMIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Polynemus sexfilis Valenciennes 1831OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Polydactylus sexfilis (Valenciennes, 1831)

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Golden sixthread tasselfish
 Fr - Barbure talia
 Sp - Barbudo dorado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong and somewhat compressed. Snout projecting, mouth moderately large, with small teeth; upper lip absent, lower lip well developed; eyes moderate in size (eye diameter 4.5 times in head length), with adipose tissue. Pectoral fins in two parts, upper part with unbranched rays; lower part with 6 free filamentous rays, of which the upper 2 are the longest reaching to tip of pelvic fin; caudal fin forked with lobes equal. Scales small, ctenoid rough to touch).

Colour: golden, pectoral fins deep black, anal fin with a black margin, pelvic fins dark in the middle.

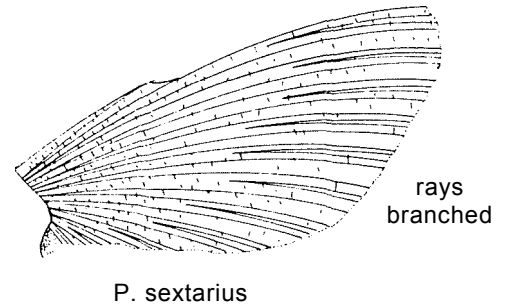
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA :

Polynemus sextarius: upper pectoral fin rays branched; different colour pattern, a black blotch at the beginning of the lateral line.

All other polynemid species: have 4, 5 or 7 free pectoral filamentous rays (6 in P. sexifilis),

SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

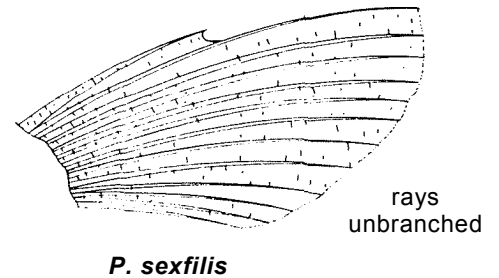


GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, along the west coast of India and Sri Lanka, also recorded from Mauritius. Elsewhere, along the east coast of India.

Lives mainly over shallow sandy shores and estuaries.

Feeds mainly on small crustaceans, fishes and bottom-living organisms.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Caught in the shallow muddy and sandy waters of the continental shelf throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught mainly with beach seines and bottom trawls.

Marketed fresh.

