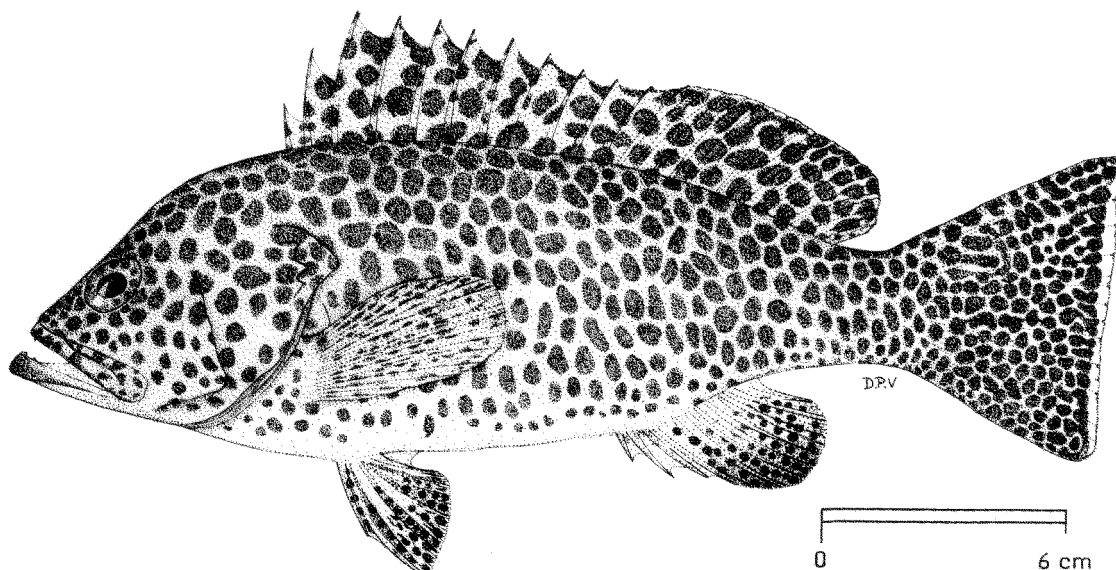


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Epinephelus areolatus* (Forsskål, 1775)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Areolated grouper
Fr - Mérou aréolé
Sp - Mero areolado

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth 3.0 to 3.3 times in standard length. Eye diameter 4.1 to 5.5 times in head length. Preopercle serrate, with 3 to 7 large serrae at the angle; lower gillrakers 14 to 16. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 15 to 17 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; dorsal fin membrane distinctly incised between the spines; anal fin rounded to slightly angular; pectoral fin rays 17 or 18; caudal fin margin truncate to slightly concave. Pored lateral line scales 50 to 56; lateral scale series 97 to 115. Pyloric caeca 11 to 17.

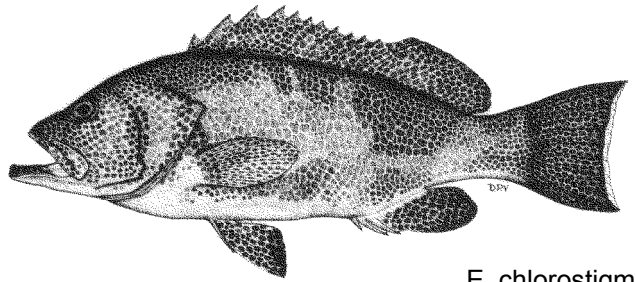
Colour: head, body and fins pale, covered with numerous dark brown spots; about 8 to 14 dark spots from last dorsal spine to anus; spots relatively smaller and more numerous with growth. Caudal fin with a narrow pale margin. Pectoral fins covered with dark spots or bands.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

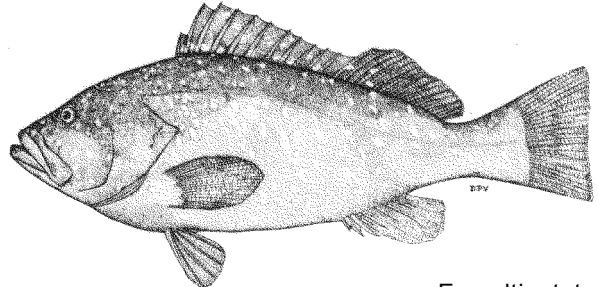
Epinephelus chlorostigma: dark spots on body smaller, about 25 to 30 from last dorsal spine to anus; anal fin angular to pointed in large specimens; pyloric caeca 26 to 30 (11 to 17 in E. areolatus).

E. multinotatus: rear edge of caudal fin slightly convex; dorsal fin membrane not incised between the spines; white spots usually present on body; dark spots usually not discernible on dorsal half of body; pored lateral line scales 67 to 77 (50 to 56 in E. areolatus).

Other Epinephelus species: caudal fin rounded, or colour pattern not like that of E. areolatus.



E. chlorostigma



E. multinotatus

SIZE:

Maximum: 35

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Widely distributed in the Western Indian Ocean including the Red Sea and the "Gulf", but apparently not recorded from Madagascar or Mauritius. Also found in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific, eastward to Melanesia, southern Japan and Australia.

Usually found on small rocky outcrops or coral heads in silty sand areas or seagrass beds.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

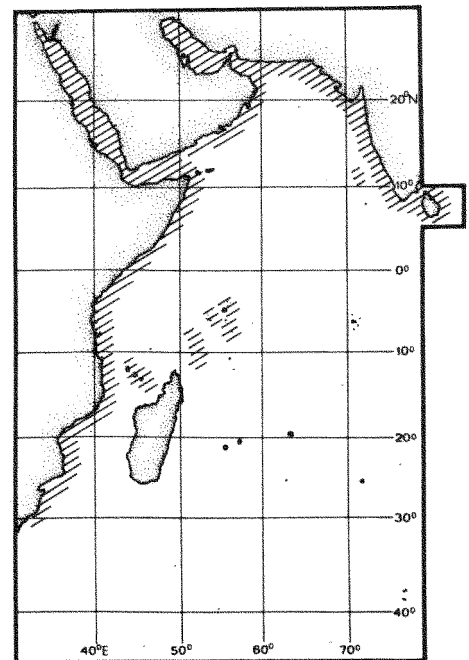
Coastal waters throughout its range.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

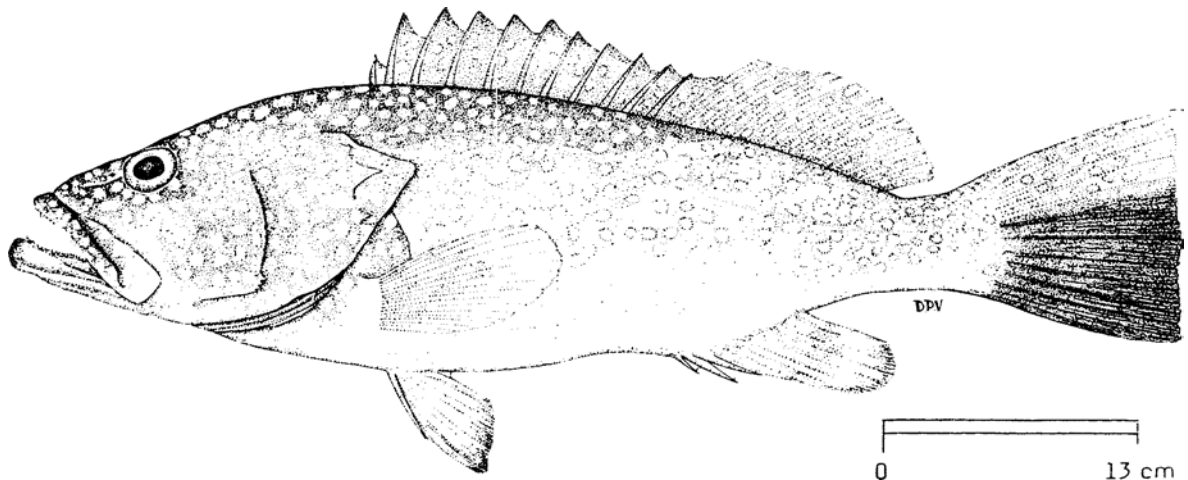
Caught with hook and line, gillnets and in traps.

Sold fresh in local markets; also dried salted.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Epinephelus bleekeri (Vaillant, 1877)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Epinephelus coromandelicus Day, 1878

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Duskytail grouper (= Bleeker's grouper, Areas 57/71)
 Fr - M erou demideuil
 Sp - Mero medioluto

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 3.0 to 3.4 times in standard length; caudal peduncle depth greater than length of second anal spine. Preopercle finely serrate; serrae at angle enlarged; maxilla scaly; sides of lower jaw with 2 rows of subequal teeth; lower gillrakers 16 or 17. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 16 or 17 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral rays 17 or 18; caudal fin truncate to slightly convex. Pored lateral line scales 49 to 54.

Colour: body, dorsal fin and upper third of caudal fin brownish grey, covered with gold spots; distal half of anal fin and lower 2/3 of caudal fin dark purplish grey; pectoral fins pale.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Other Epinephelus species: caudal fin not dark ventrally and upper third pale with gold spots.

SIZE:

Maximum: 70 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Tropical waters of the Indo-West Pacific from the west coast of India and Sri Lanka, eastward to China and the Philippines.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

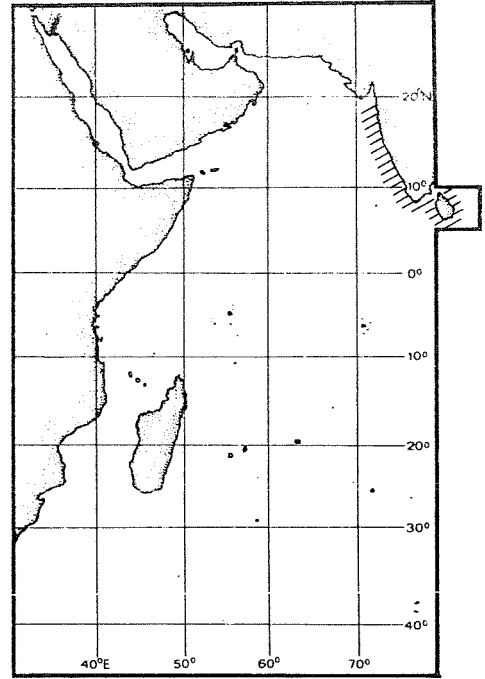
Not restricted to coral reefs.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

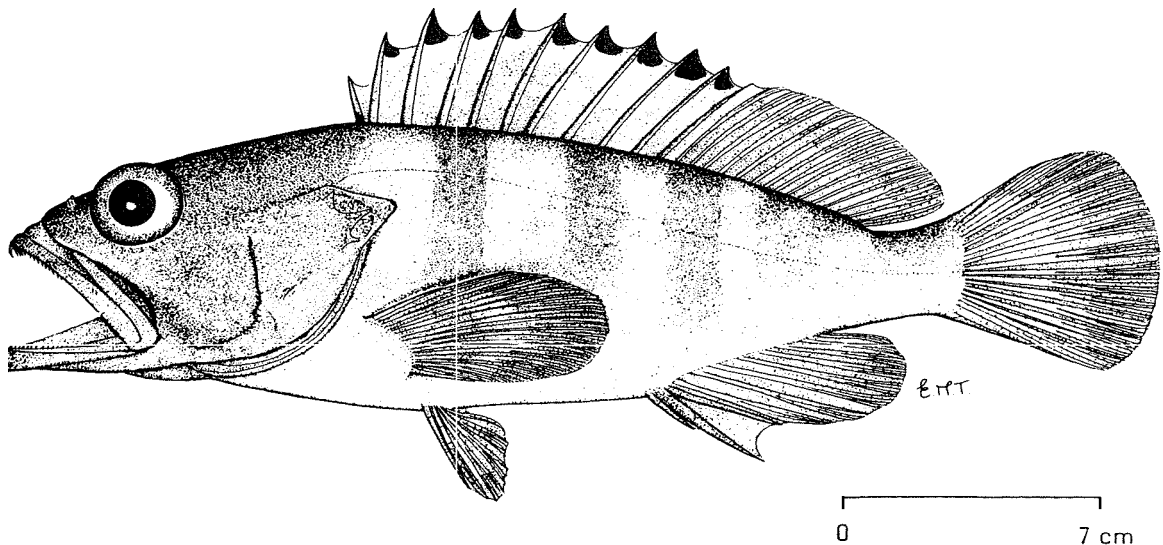
Caught with hook and line, gillnets and in traps.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.



FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: SERRANIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Epinephelus fasciatus (Forsskål, 1775)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Epinephelus emoryi Schultz, 1953

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO: En - Redbanded grouper
Fr - Mérou oriflamime
Sp - Mero banderilla

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body depth contained 2.9 to 3.3 times in standard length. Preopercle serrate, with serrae at the angle slightly enlarged; lower gillrakers 15 to 18. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 15 to 17 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral fin rays 18 to 20; caudal fin rounded. Pored lateral line scales 50 to 56; lateral scale series 102 to 123; auxiliary scales very numerous on body above opercle.

Colour: ground colour varying from pale pinkish grey to pale yellowish red, reddish brown or reddish orange; 5 dusky to dark reddish brown vertical bars usually visible on dorsal half of body; dorsal part of head often dark reddish brown; a conspicuous black triangle on membrane behind tip of each dorsal fin spine; orbit usually with a narrow blackish edge.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Epinephelus retouti: lateral line scales 70 to 73 (50 to 56 in E. fasciatus); margin of soft dorsal and upper edge of caudal fin dusky; body depth 2.6 to 3.0 times in standard length (2.9 to 3.3 times in E. fasciatus).

E. rivulatus: head olive brown (often), with wavy dark violet lines; each body scale usually with a conspicuous bluish white spot; pectoral fin with dark reddish brown blotch at base of fin; irregular dark bars on body.

Cephalopholis species: dorsal fin spines 9 (11 in E. fasciatus).

SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout the Western Indian Ocean and in the Red Sea, but not recorded from the "Gulf". Also found in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific, eastward to Pitcairn Islands; absent from Hawaii, but does occur from southern Japan to southern Queensland.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Occurs on coral reefs and rocky bottoms from the shore to 160 m depth.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with hook and line, in traps and gillnets.

Marketed fresh and dried salted.

