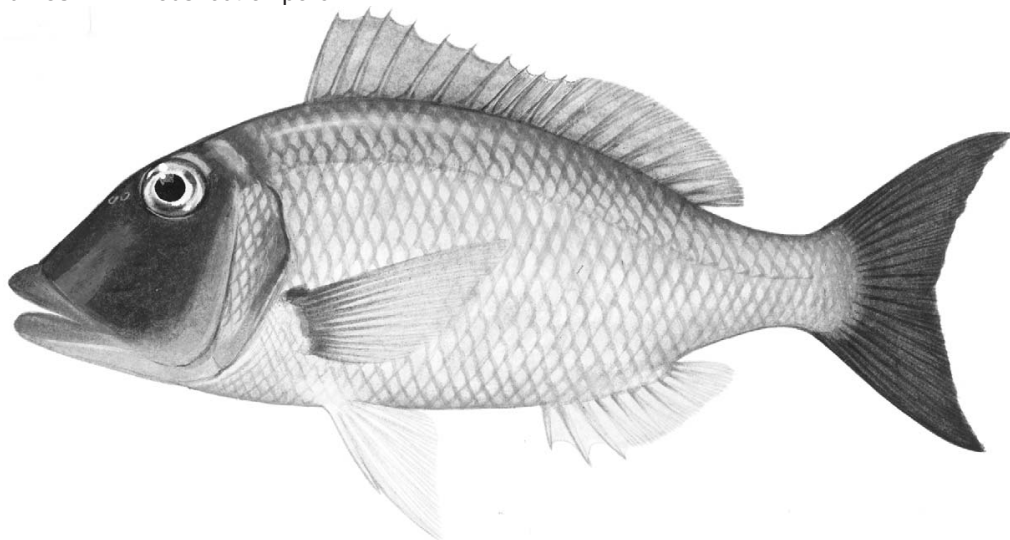


***Lethrinus reticulatus*** Valenciennes, 1830

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Redsnout emperor.

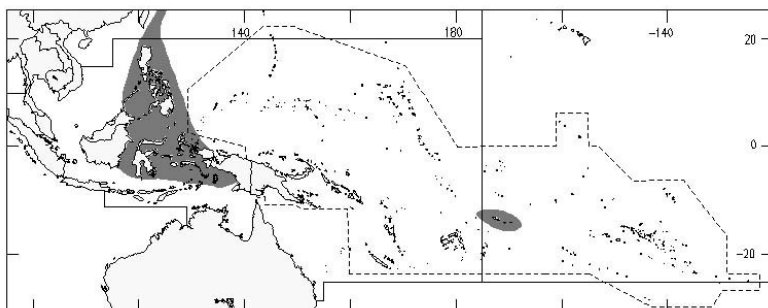


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately elongate, its depth 2.8 to 3.3 times in standard length. Head length 1.1 to 1.2 times in body depth, 2.5 to 2.8 times in standard length, dorsal profile near eye convex or nearly straight; snout length about 1.9 to 2.4 times in head length, measured without the lip the snout is 0.8 to 0.9 times in cheek height, its dorsal profile concave, snout angle relative to upper jaw between 50° and 60°; **interorbital space flat or concave**; posterior nostril a longitudinal oblong opening, closer to orbit than anterior nostril; eye situated close to dorsal profile, its length 3.3 to 4.3 times in head length; cheek height 2.7 to 3.4 times in head length; lateral teeth in jaws conical; outer surface of maxilla usually smooth. Dorsal fin with X spines and 9 soft rays, the third dorsal-fin spine the longest, its length 2 to 2.8 times in body depth; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays, the first soft ray usually the longest, its length almost equal to, shorter, or slightly longer than length of base of soft-rayed portion of anal fin and 1.4 to 1.8 times in length of entire anal-fin base; pectoral-fin rays 13; **pelvic-fin membranes between rays closest to body without dense melanophores**. Lateral-line scales 46 to 48; **cheek without scales; 4 ½ scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines; 15 or 16 scale rows in transverse series between origin of anal fin and lateral line; usually 15 rows in lower series of scales around caudal peduncle; 7 to 10 scales in supratemporal patch; inner surface of pectoral-fin base without scales**; posterior angle of operculum fully scaly. **Colour:** body olive grey or tan, often with scattered irregular black blotches; base of pectoral, upper edge of opercle, and sometimes posterior edge of preopercle red; head brown or olive with a somewhat indistinct reddish band on snout, originating midway between eye and snout and terminating on tip of snout; lips red; fins pale or orangish.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 40 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Nothing specific is reported on the habitat or biology of this species. It is thought to occur on soft bottoms near reefs. The diet is presumably benthic invertebrates and fishes. Caught mostly by trawl and handline. Marketed fresh.

**Distribution:** Mauritius, Chagos, southern Japan, the Philippines to Irian Jaya, and Samoa.

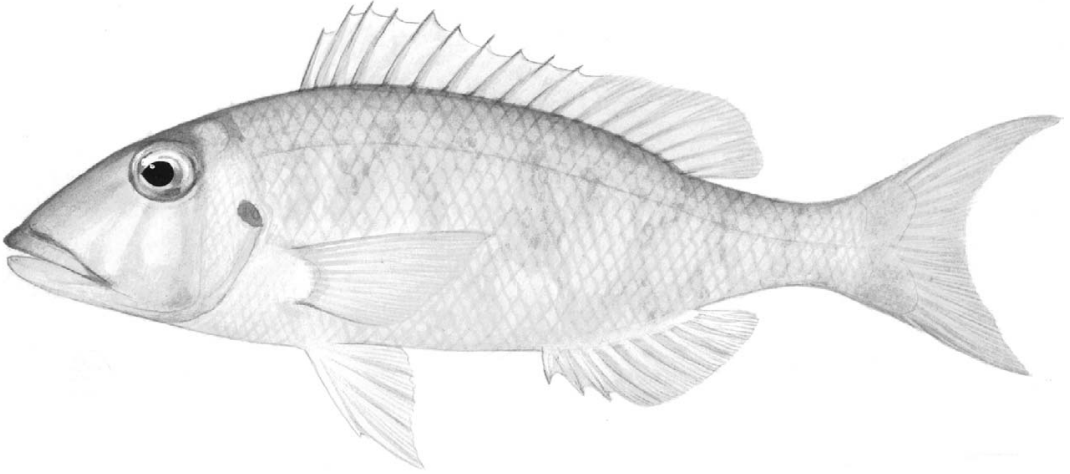


*Lethrinus rubrioperculatus* Sato, 1978

(Plate XIX, 140)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Lethrinus variegatus* non Valenciennes, 1830.

**FAO names:** En - Spotcheek emperor; Fr - Empereur honteux; Sp - Emperador maquillado.

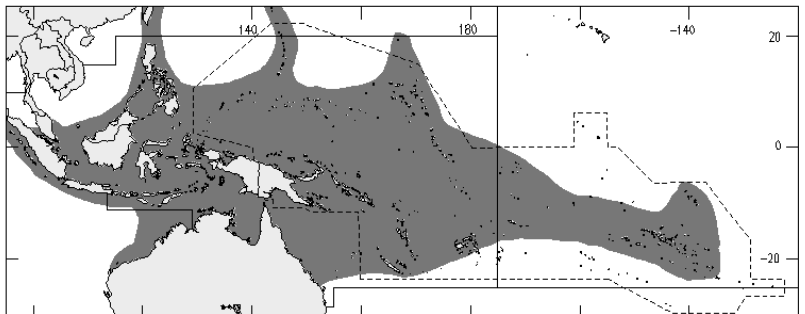


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately elongate, its depth 3 to 3.4 times in standard length. Head length 1.1 to 1.3 times in body depth, 2.6 to 3 times in standard length, dorsal profile near eye convex without a distinct hump; snout length 1.8 to 2.1 times in head length, measured without the lip the snout is 0.7 to 0.9 times in cheek height, its dorsal profile nearly straight or slightly concave, snout angle relative to upper jaw between 54° and 65°; interorbital space flat or slightly convex; posterior nostril a longitudinal oblong opening, closer to orbit than anterior nostril; eye situated close or slightly removed from dorsal profile, its length 3.9 to 4.7 times in head length; cheek height 2.4 to 3.3 times in head length; lateral teeth in jaws conical; outer surface of maxilla smooth or with a longitudinal ridge. Dorsal fin with X spines and 9 soft rays, the third dorsal-fin spine the longest, its length 2.4 to 2.7 times in body depth; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays, the first soft ray usually the longest, its length shorter than length of base of soft-rayed portion of anal fin and 1.4 to 1.8 times in length of entire anal-fin base; pectoral-fin rays 13; pelvic-fin membranes between rays closest to body without dense melanophores. Lateral-line scales 47 to 49; cheek without scales; 4 ½ scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines; 15 or 16 scale rows in transverse series between origin of anal fin and lateral line; usually 15 rows in lower series of scales around caudal peduncle; 7 to 10 scales in supratemporal patch; inner surface of pectoral-fin base without scales; posterior angle of operculum with a wide scaleless area. **Colour:** body olive grey or brown, with scattered irregular small black blotches; lips and a spot on upper edge of operculum usually red; fins pale or pinkish.

**Size:** Maximum reported total length 50 cm; commonly to 30 cm.

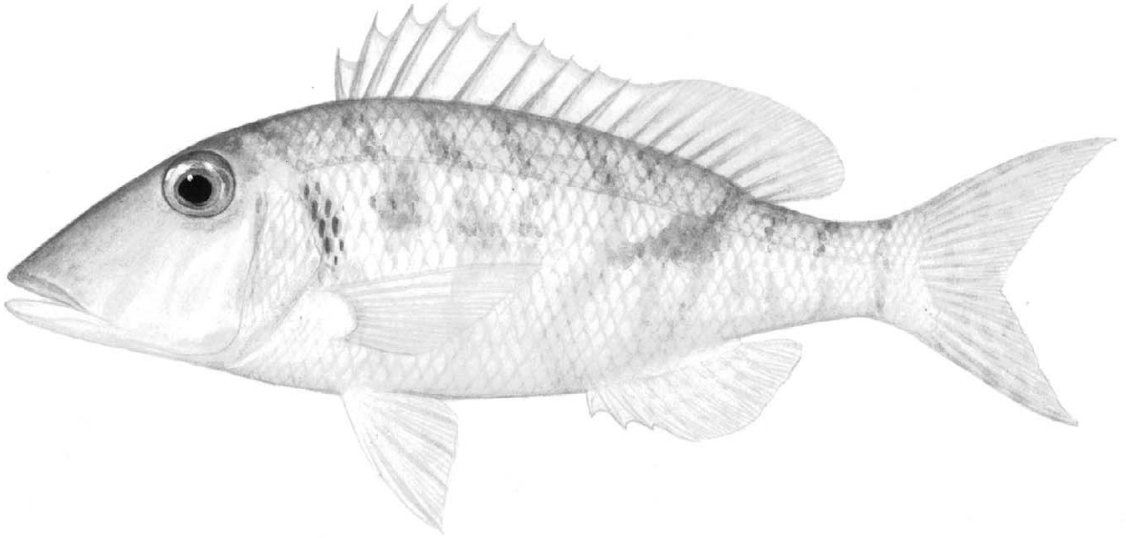
**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits sand and rubble areas of outer reef slopes to depths of 160 m. Feeds mostly on crustaceans, fishes, echinoderms, and molluscs. Caught mostly by handline, trap, and trawl. Marketed mostly fresh. An excellent food fish. One of the most abundant species taken in bottom fisheries in the Marianas.

**Distribution:** Widespread Indo-West Pacific, including East Africa to southern Japan and the Marquesas.



***Lethrinus semicinctus*** Valenciennes, 1830

(Plate XIX, 141)

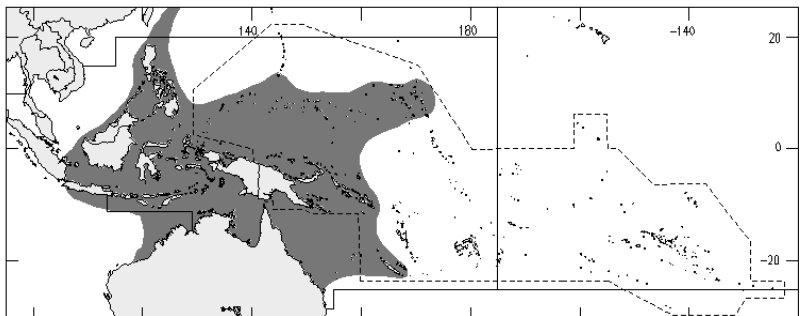
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Lethrinus variegatus* non Valenciennes, 1830.**FAO names:** En - Blackblotch emperor; Fr - Empereur maill; Sp - Emperador malla.

**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately elongate, its depth 2.9 to 3.3 times in standard length. Head length 1.1 to 1.2 times in body depth, 2.5 to 2.8 times in standard length, **dorsal profile near eye convex but without a distinct hump**; snout length about 1.9 to 2.1 times in head length, **measured without the lip the snout is 0.7 to 0.9 times in cheek height, its dorsal profile nearly straight**, snout angle relative to upper jaw between 55° and 67°; interorbital space flat or slightly convex; posterior nostril a longitudinal oblong opening, closer to orbit than anterior nostril; eye situated close to dorsal profile, its length 3.6 to 4.3 times in head height; cheek length 2.5 to 3.0 times in head length; **lateral teeth in jaws conical**; outer surface of maxilla smooth or with a longitudinal ridge. Dorsal fin with X spines and 9 soft rays, the third or fourth dorsal-fin spine the longest, its length 2.3 to 2.9 times in body depth; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays, the first soft ray usually the longest, its length approximately equal to or shorter than length of base of soft-rayed portion of anal fin and 1.3 to 1.7 times in length of entire anal-fin base; pectoral-fin rays 13; **pelvic-fin membranes between rays closest to body without dense melanophores**. Lateral-line scales 46 to 48; **cheek without scales; 4 ½ scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines; usually 14 or 15 scale rows in transverse series between origin of anal fin and lateral line; usually 15 rows in lower series of scales around caudal peduncle; 4 to 7 scales in supratemporal patch; inner surface of pectoral-fin base without scales; posterior angle of operculum fully scaly.** **Colour:** body brown or tan, with scattered irregular small black blotches, **a large oblong black blotch below soft-rayed portion of dorsal fin and bordering below lateral line**; fins pale or pinkish.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 35 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits shallow seagrass beds, reef flats, lagoons, and sandy areas near coral reefs. Feeds on benthic invertebrates and small fishes. Caught by shore seine, trawl, trap, and handline. Marketed fresh. Minor importance to fisheries.

**Distribution:** East Indian Ocean and West Pacific, including Sri Lanka, Indonesia, northern Australia, the Ryukyu Islands to the Marshall and Solomon Islands.

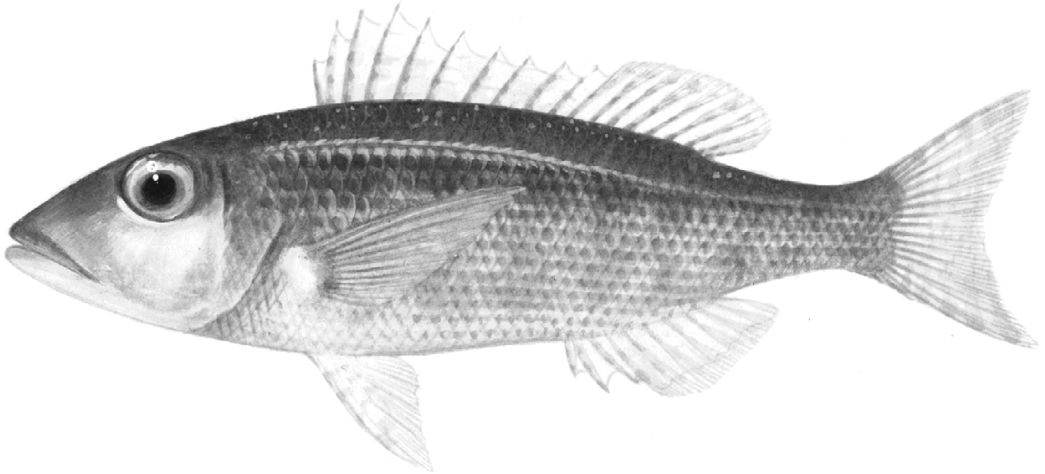


*Lethrinus variegatus* Valenciennes, 1830

(Plate XIX, 142)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Lethrinus semicinctus* non Valenciennes, 1830; *L. reticulatus* non Valenciennes, 1830.

**FAO names:** En - Slender emperor; Fr - Empereur bas cou; Sp - Emperador moteado.

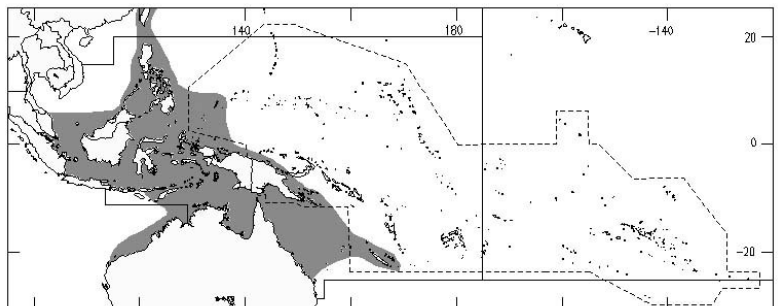


**Diagnostic characters:** Body slender, its depth 3.2 to 3.9 times in standard length. Head length 1.1 to 1.5 times in body depth, 2.6 to 2.9 times in standard length, dorsal profile near eye convex or nearly straight; snout length 2.2 to 2.7 times in head length, **measured without the lip the snout is 0.8 to 1 times in cheek height**, its dorsal profile nearly straight, snout angle relative to upper jaw between 50° and 65°; **interorbital space flat or convex**; posterior nostril a vertical oblong opening, closer to anterior nostril than orbit, or closer to orbit than anterior nostril; eye situated close to dorsal profile, its length 3.2 to 4.4 times in head length; cheek height 2.9 to 3.8 times in head length; **lateral teeth in jaws conical**; outer surface of maxilla smooth. Dorsal fin with X spines and 9 soft rays, the fourth dorsal-fin spine usually the longest, its length 1.9 to 2.5 times in body depth; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays, the first soft ray usually the longest, its length approximately equal to or shorter than length of base of soft-rayed portion of anal fin and 1.3 to 1.6 times in length of entire anal-fin base; pectoral-fin rays 13; pelvic-fin membranes between rays closest to body without dense melanophores. Lateral-line scales 45 to 47; **cheek without scales; 4 ½ scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines; 13 or 14 scale rows in transverse series between origin of anal fin and lateral line**; 14 or 15 rows in lower series of scales around caudal peduncle; 4 to 7 scales in supratemporal patch; **inner surface of pectoral-fin base without scales**; posterior angle of operculum fully scaly. **Colour:** body brown and grey, lighter ventrally, with scattered irregular dark spots; often 2 dark bands below eye, 1 to lower rim of preopercle and 1 to corner of mouth, another dark band across interorbital space; dorsal, anal, pectoral, and pelvic fins light or translucent; caudal fin light and dark striped.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 20 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits sandy areas near coral reefs. Feeds on small benthic invertebrates. Caught mostly by shore seine and trawl. Of minor importance to fisheries where it occurs.

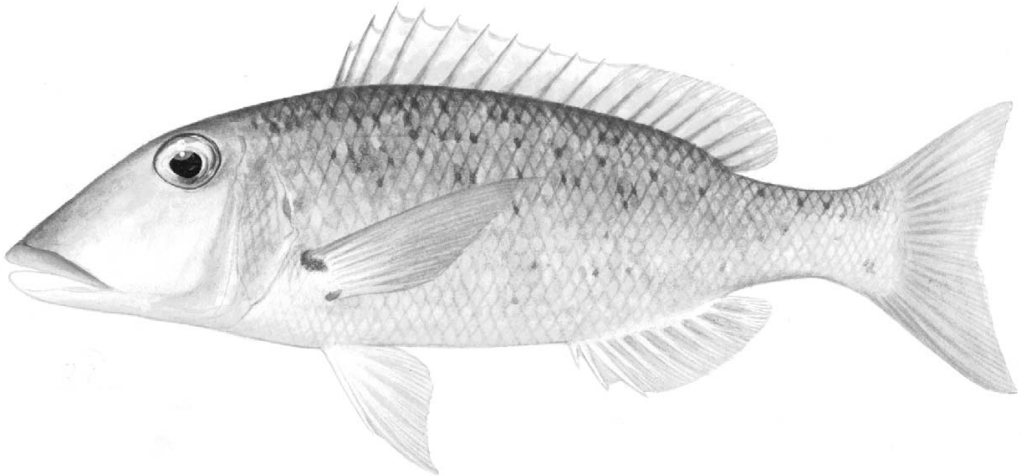
**Distribution:** Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, including the Red Sea, East Africa, Sri Lanka, Chagos Archipelago, Malaysia and Indonesia to the Ryukyu Islands and Palau, and to northwestern Australia and New Caledonia.





*Lethrinus xanthochilus* Klunzinger, 1870

(Plate XIX, 143)

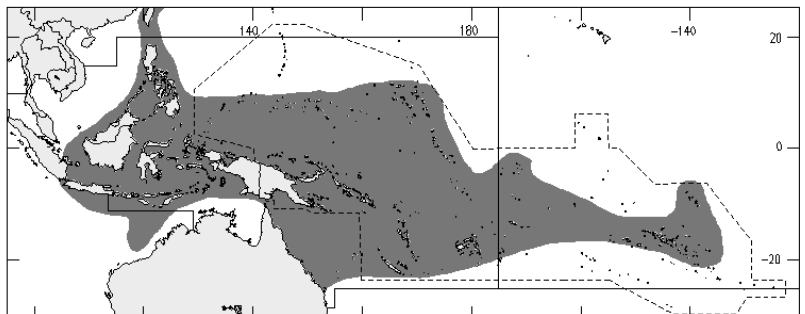
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Lethrinus variegatus* non Valenciennes, 1830.**FAO names:** En - Yellowlip emperor; Fr - Empereur bec de cane; Sp - Emperador trompa amarilla.

**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately elongate, its depth 2.8 to 3.5 times in standard length. Head length 1 to 1.2 times in body depth, 2.6 to 3 times in standard length, dorsal profile near eye convex; snout length about 1.7 to 2.5 times in head length, measured without the lip the snout is 0.8 to 0.9 times in cheek height, its dorsal profile nearly straight, snout angle relative to upper jaw between 45° and 60°; interorbital space distinctly concave; posterior nostril a longitudinal or vertical oblong opening, closer to orbit than anterior nostril; eye situated close to dorsal profile, its length 2.8 to 5.1 times in head length; cheek height 2.3 to 3.4 times in head length; lateral teeth in jaws conical; outer surface of maxilla smooth. Dorsal fin with X spines and 9 soft rays, the third dorsal-fin spine the longest, its length 2 to 2.8 times in body depth; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays, the first soft ray usually the longest, its length approximately equal to or shorter than length of base of soft-rayed portion of anal fin and 1.3 to 1.7 times in length of entire anal-fin base; pectoral-fin rays 13; pelvic-fin membranes between rays closest to body with dense melanophores. Lateral-line scales 47 or 48; cheek without scales; 4 ½ scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines; 15 or 16 scale rows in transverse series between origin of anal fin and lateral line; usually 15 rows in lower series of scales around caudal peduncle; 5 to 8 scales in supratemporal patch; inner surface of pectoral fins without scales; posterior angle of operculum fully scaly. **Colour:** body yellowish grey with scattered irregular dark spots; lips yellowish, upper lip more intense; a red spot at upper base of pectoral fins; fins bluish grey and mottled, bases of fins lighter and edges of dorsal and caudal fins reddish.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 60 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits seagrass beds, sand and rubble areas of coral reefs, deep channels, and lagoons. Often found in shallow water but recorded to depths of 150 m. Occurs usually in small groups. Feeds primarily on crustaceans, fishes, and echinoderms. Caught mostly with handline, traps, and trawl.

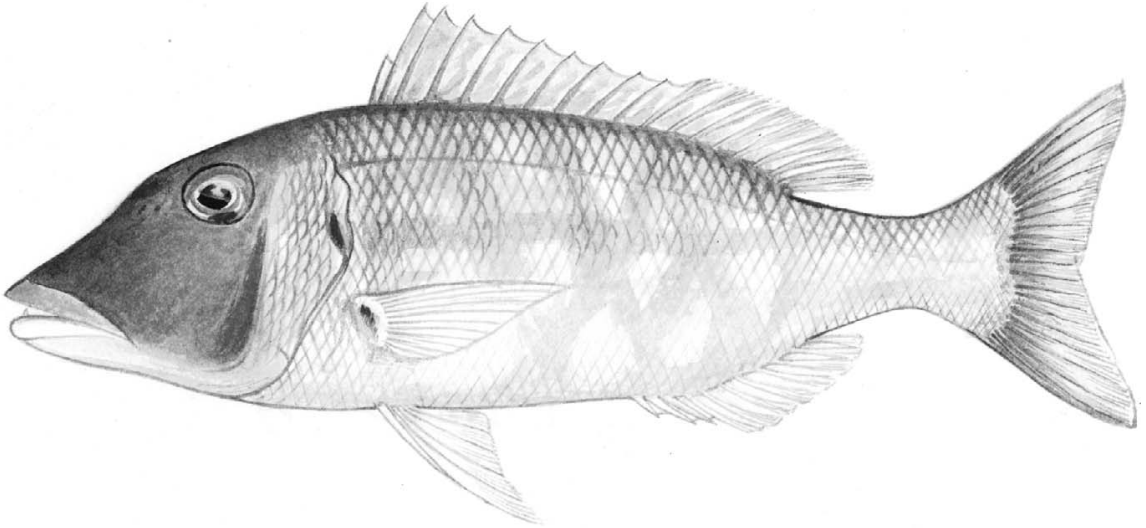
**Distribution:** Widespread in the Indo-West Pacific, including the Red Sea, East Africa, Central Indian Ocean, Indonesia to the Ryukyu Islands, south to Queensland, and the Caroline Islands to the Marquesas.



***Lethrinus* sp. 1**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Maldive emperor.

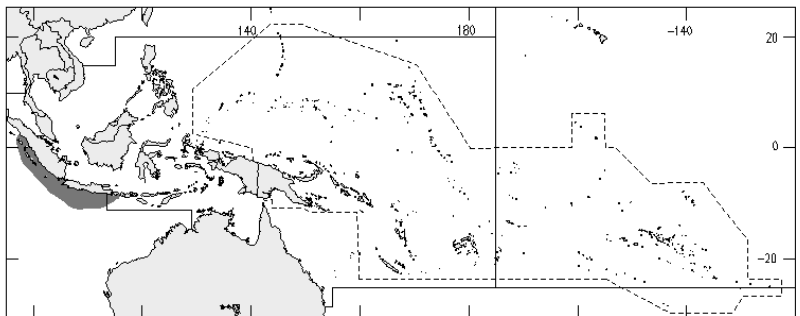


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately elongate, its depth 3 to 3.3 times in standard length. Head length 1.1 to 1.2 times in body depth, 2.6 to 2.9 times in standard length, **dorsal profile near eye convex with a hump in front of eye**; snout length about 1.8 to 2 times in head length, **measured without the lip the snout is 0.8 to 0.9 times in cheek height, its dorsal profile concave**, snout angle relative to upper jaw between 50° and 60°; **interorbital space flat or convex**; posterior nostril a longitudinal oblong opening, closer to orbit than anterior nostril; eye situated close to or not close to dorsal profile, its length 4.2 to 4.7 times in head length; cheek height 2.4 to 2.7 times in head length; lateral teeth in jaws conical; outer surface of maxilla smooth. Dorsal fin with X spines and 9 soft rays, the third dorsal-fin spine the longest, its length 2.5 to 2.8 times in body depth; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays, the first soft ray usually the longest, its length approximately shorter than length of base of soft-rayed portion of anal fin and about 1.6 to 1.8 times in length of entire anal-fin base; pectoral-fin rays 13; pelvic-fin membranes between rays closest to body without dense melanophores. Lateral-line scales 47 or 48; **cheek without scales; 4 ½ scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines; usually 15 scale rows in transverse series between origin of anal fin and lateral line**; usually 15 rows in lower series of scales around caudal peduncle; 8 to 11 scales in supratemporal patch; **inner surface of pectoral-fin base without scales**; posterior angle of operculum fully scaly. **Colour:** body light grey or tan, head darker; **base of pectoral fins, spot on upper posterior margin of opercle, posterior edge of preopercle, and indistinct area on snout in front of eye usually reddish**; fins pale or reddish.

**Size:** Maximum recorded total length about 32 cm, but presumably attains a much larger size.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits sandy areas near coral reefs. Presumably feeds mostly on crustaceans and fishes. Occasionally caught by handline in the Maldives and by trawl in Indonesia.

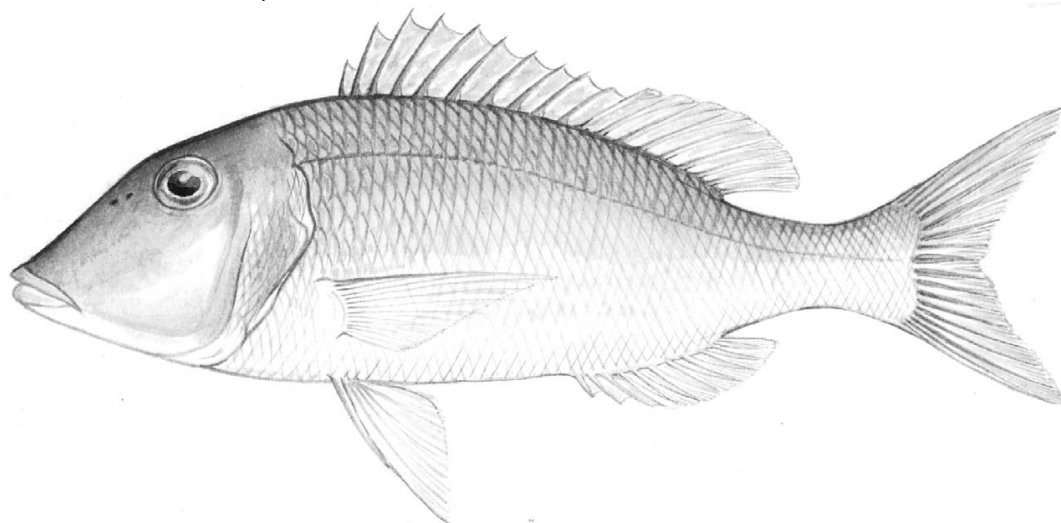
**Distribution:** The Maldives and southwestern Indonesia.



***Lethrinus* sp. 2**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Lethrinus variegatus* non Valenciennes, 1830.

**FAO names:** En - Drab emperor.

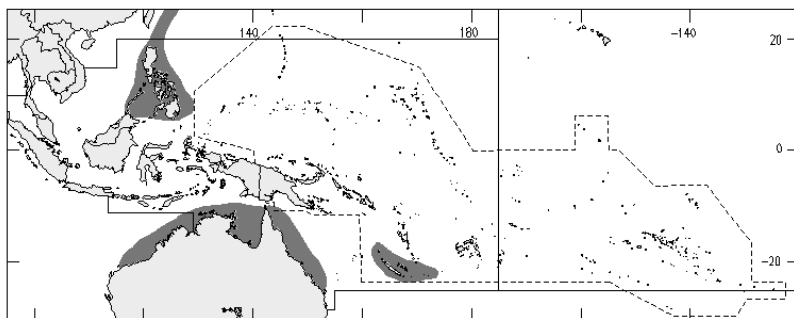


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately elongate, its depth 2.9 to 3.1 times in standard length. Head length 1 to 1.2 times in body depth, 2.7 to 2.9 times in standard length, dorsal profile near eye convex, without a distinct hump; snout length about 1.9 to 2 times in head length, measured without the lip the snout is 0.8 to 0.9 times in cheek height, its dorsal profile nearly straight, snout angle relative to upper jaw between 60° and 70°; interorbital space flat or convex; posterior nostril a longitudinal oblong opening, closer to orbit than anterior nostril; eye situated close to dorsal profile, its length 3.6 to 4.1 times in head length; cheek height 2.4 to 2.9 times in head length; lateral teeth in jaws conical; outer surface of maxilla smooth or with a longitudinal ridge. Dorsal fin with X spines and 9 soft rays, the third dorsal-fin spine the longest, its length 2.4 to 2.6 times in body depth; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays, the first soft ray usually the longest, its length shorter than length of base of soft-rayed portion of anal fin and 1.5 to 1.7 times in length of entire anal-fin base; pectoral-fin rays 13; pelvic-fin membranes between rays closest to body without dense melanophores. Lateral-line scales 48 or 49; cheek without scales; 4 ½ scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines; 15 or 16 scale rows in transverse series between origin of anal fin and lateral line; usually 15 rows in lower series of scales around caudal peduncle; 6 to 8 scales in supratemporal patch; inner surface of pectoral-fin base without scales; posterior angle of operculum fully scaly. **Colour:** body light grey or tan with scattered irregular dark blotches; head brown or tan; fins pale.

**Size:** Maximum recorded total length about 27 cm, but probably attains a larger size.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Very little is recorded about the biology of this species. In the Philippines it is caught together with smaller specimens of such species as *Lethrinus olivaceus*, *L. reticulatus*, and *L. semicinctus*; it presumably has habitat characteristics similar to these species. Caught by shore seine and trawl.

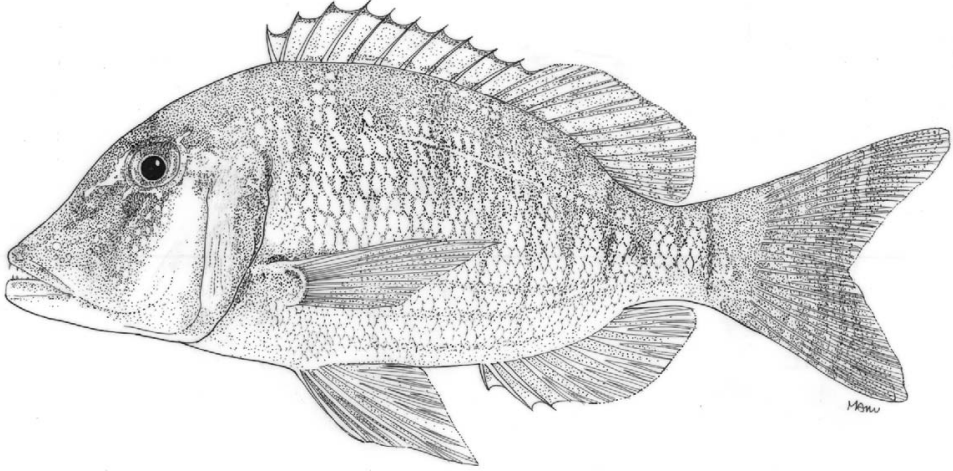
**Distribution:** So far known only from the Philippines, the Ryukyu Islands, northwestern to northeastern Australia, New Caledonia, and the Loyalty Islands.



***Lethrinus* sp. 3**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Lethrinus laticaudis* non Alleyne and Macleay, 1877; *L. lentjan* (non Lacepède, 1802); *L. nebulosus* (non Forsskål, 1775); *L. punctulatus* Macleay, 1878.

**FAO names:** En - Lesser spangled emperor.



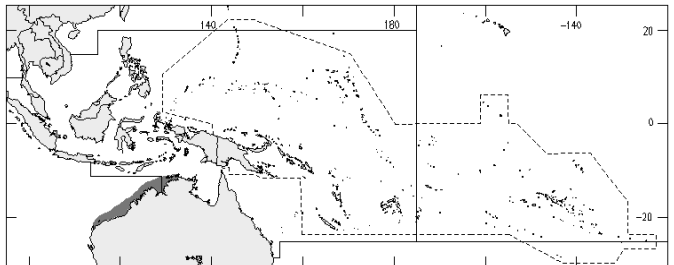
**Diagnostic characters:** **Body fairly deep, its depth 2.3 to 2.5 times in standard length.** Head length 0.8 to 0.9 times in body depth, 2.6 to 2.9 times in standard length; dorsal profile near eye nearly straight; snout moderately short, its length about 1.8 to 2 times in head length, **measured without the lip the snout is 0.9 to 1 times in cheek height**, its dorsal profile nearly straight to concave, snout angle relative to upper jaw between 59° and 66°; interorbital space convex; posterior nostril an oblong longitudinal opening, closer to orbit than anterior nostril; eye situated close to or not close to the dorsal profile, its length 3.7 to 5 times in head length; cheek height 2 to 2.6 times in head length; **lateral teeth in jaws conical, sometimes rounded at base but still with conical tips; outer surface of maxilla smooth or with a longitudinal ridge.** Dorsal fin with X spines and 9 soft rays, the fourth or fifth dorsal-fin spine usually the longest, its length 3.1 to 3.8 times in body depth; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays, the first soft ray usually the longest, its length almost equal to or shorter than length of base of soft-rayed portion of anal fin; pectoral-fin rays 13; pelvic-fin membranes between rays closest to body without dense melanophores. Lateral-line scales usually 46 or 47; **cheek without scales; 5 ½ scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines;** usually 16 or 17 scale rows in transverse series between origin of anal fin and lateral line; usually 15 rows in lower series of scales around caudal peduncle; 5 to 8 scales in supratemporal patch; **inner surface of pectoral-fin base with usually less than 50% of lower part of base densely covered with scales, with a few scales, or naked;** posterior angle of operculum fully scaly. **Colour:** body and head brownish bronze to yellowish, grading to light bluish on sides then white or just white ventrally, centres of some scales on upper sides pearly white to light bluish, often a series of 9 or 10 broken indistinct bars on sides and caudal peduncle; head with bluish or whitish streaks and spots around eye and on snout and cheeks, 1 distinct streak emanating from eye and passing through or near nostrils and 2 less distinct streaks, sometimes broken into spots, emanating from eye more ventrally; a broad, indistinct bar on both the preopercle and opercle; fins hyaline to light brownish or yellowish, sometimes a tinge of reddish orange on fringe of soft dorsal and caudal fins, upper rays of pectoral fins and outer rays of pelvic fins bright white to light bluish.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 40 cm; commonly to about 30 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** On coral reefs and lagoons and adjacent sandy areas. Caught mostly by anglers.

**Distribution:** Apparently restricted to Western Australia from around Exmouth Gulf to Dampier Land and possibly to Darwin.

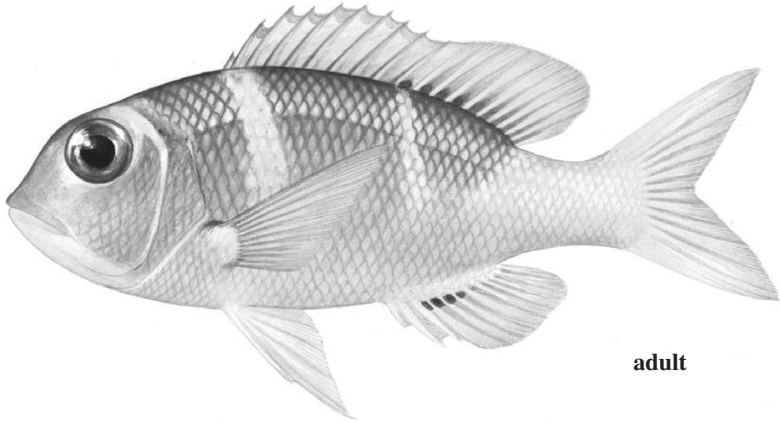
**Remarks:** This species may be undescribed or it may turn out to be *Lethrinus punctulatus* Macleay, 1878.





***Monotaxis grandoculis*** (Forsskål, 1775)

(Plate XIX, 144)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Humnose bigeye bream.

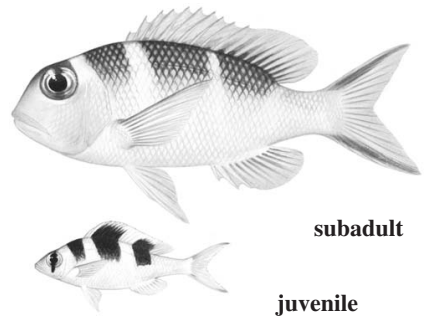
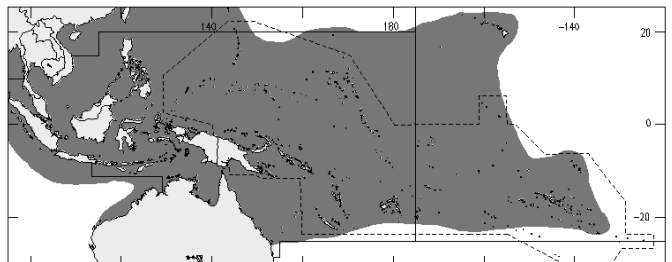
adult

**Diagnostic characters:** Body oblong, its depth 2.1 to 2.7 times in standard length. Head profile strongly convex in front of eye, the snout sloping steeply; eye large, its diameter about equal to length of snout or 2.5 to 3.2 times in head length; interorbital space wide and flat; hind margin of preopercle finely serrated; posteriormost part of jaws reaching beyond vertical through anterior margin of eye; **a broad patch of small teeth in jaws anteriorly, followed by a series of 6 or 7 round, flat molars on each side and preceded by canines in front of each jaw; maxilla with a longitudinal denticulated ridge. Dorsal fin with X slender spines and 10 soft rays**, the first spine half the length of second, otherwise remaining spines about equal; anal fin with III spines and 9 soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 14 including splint-like uppermost ray; caudal fin forked with pointed tips. Lateral-line scales 44 to 47, about 4 or 5 horizontal scale rows above lateral line; **cheek with scales; inner surface of pectoral-fin base densely scaly.** **Colour:** ground colour bluish grey grading to whitish on ventral parts; lips yellow to pinkish; area around eye often yellow or orange; fins without distinctive markings, the membranes clear or dusky, but often reddish to yellow-orange; base of upper pectoral-fin rays and inner base of pectoral-fin axil black; caudal fin frequently with blackish rays contrasted against paler membranes. Small juveniles whitish on lower half with 3 prominent black saddles separated by narrower white bars on upper half; a prominent black bar through eye; fins clear to white except the dorsal fin includes the continuation of 2 of the black saddles of the upper side and the outer edges of the caudal-fin lobes yellow-brown. The juvenile pattern of bars sometimes in relatively large (20 to 30 cm) individuals. Largest adults, although usually seen without markings, are able to rapidly assume dark bars or saddles.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 60 cm; commonly to 40 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Usually on coral reefs, often on the sandy periphery or in sand and rubble areas. Solitary fishes are often encountered, but large adults frequently form aggregations of up to about 50 individuals. The depth range is between about 3 and 60 m, although it appears to be most common between about 5 and 30 m. Consumes mainly gastropod molluscs, ophiuroids, and echinoids, but also pagurid and brachyuran crabs, polychaetes, tunicates, and holothurians. Caught mainly with gill nets, traps, spears, and handlines. Marketed fresh. Sometimes ciguatoxic in the Marshall Islands.

**Distribution:** Widespread in the Indo-West and Central Pacific from Hawaii and south-eastern Oceania to the east coast of Africa and Red Sea and from Australia northwards to Japan.

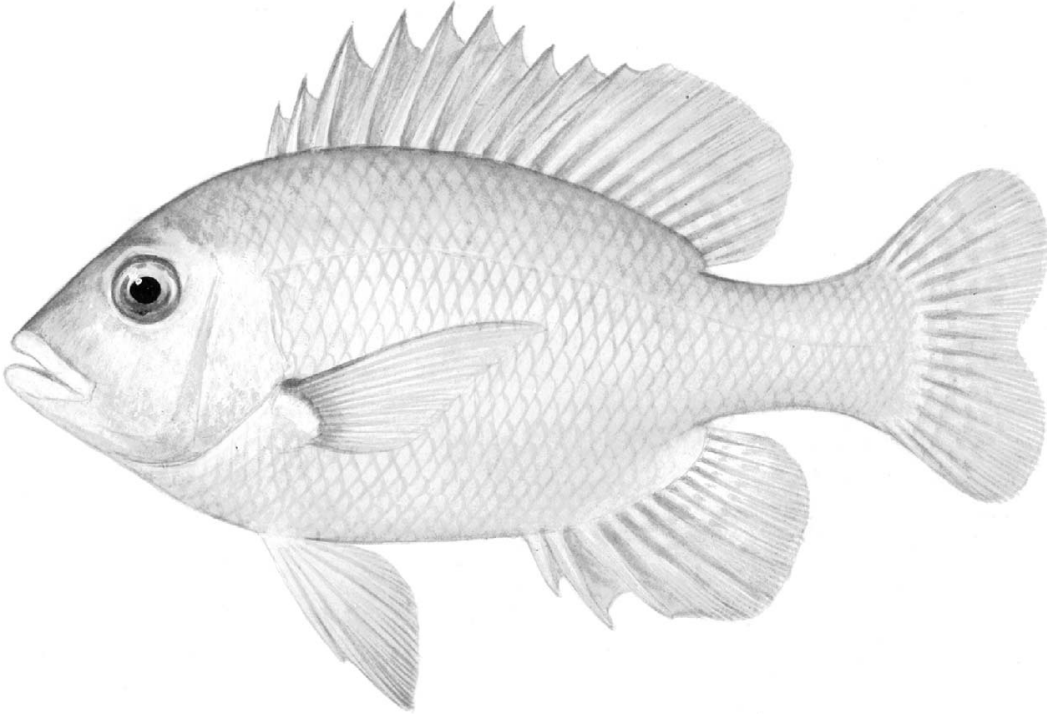


subadult

juvenile

*Wattsia mossambica* (Smith, 1957)

(Plate XIX, 145)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.**FAO names:** En - Mozambique large-eye bream.

**Diagnostic characters:** Body relatively deep, roughly rhomboid, its depth 1.9 to 2.2 times in standard length. Head profile slightly convex; eye moderate in size, its diameter much shorter than snout length; **jaw teeth in a narrow, villiform band bordered by an outer series of conical teeth**; anteriorly 4 moderate-sized canines in upper jaw and 6 in lower jaw; maxilla with a longitudinal denticulated ridge; a pair of close-set nasal openings, the posterior one slit-like, ending close to eye. Dorsal fin with X long, strong spines and 10 soft rays; first spine about 2/3 length of second, the second spine slightly longer than eye diameter, the fourth to sixth spines longest; **anal fin with III strong spines and 10 soft rays**; third spine twice as long as eye diameter; anal-fin base 1.4 to 1.6 times longer than longest anal-fin ray; **caudal fin slightly forked with broadly rounded lobes**. Lateral-line scales 41 to 47; 5 scale rows between lateral line and base of middle dorsal-fin spines; **cheek with scales; inner surface of pectoral-fin axil scaleless**. **Colour:** overall silvery grey with yellowish suffusion; scale margins narrowly brownish; indistinct dark blotches or bars sometimes apparent on body; lips whitish to yellow; fins yellow, faint brown spotting may be present on soft dorsal, anal, and caudal fins; a narrow blackish bar across base of pectoral fins.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 55 cm; commonly to 35 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Inhabits the outer edge of the continental shelf at depths between 100 and 180 m. It feeds on bottom-living invertebrates and small fishes. Occasionally seen in markets, mainly fresh. Caught mainly with bottom longlines and bottom trawls.

**Distribution:** Tropical Indian Ocean and West Pacific from Mozambique to southern Japan, the Marshall Islands, northwestern Australia, and to Queensland.

