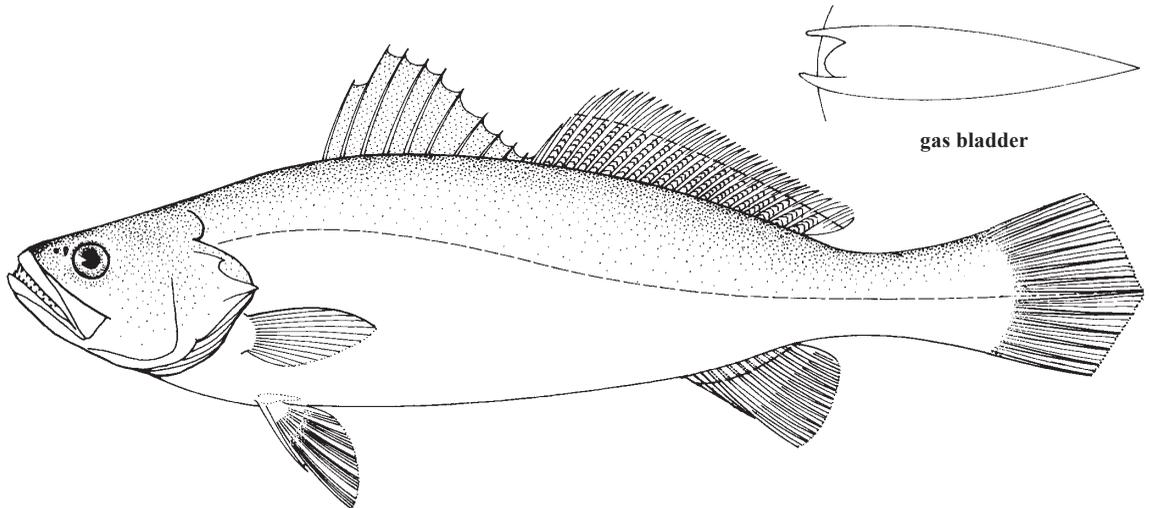


Cynoscion steindachneri (Jordan, 1889)

WKB

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Cynoscion acoupa* (Lacepède, 1801); *Cynoscion similis* Randall and Cervigón, 1968.

FAO names: En - Smalltooth weakfish; Fr - Acoupa tident; Sp - Corvinata pescada.

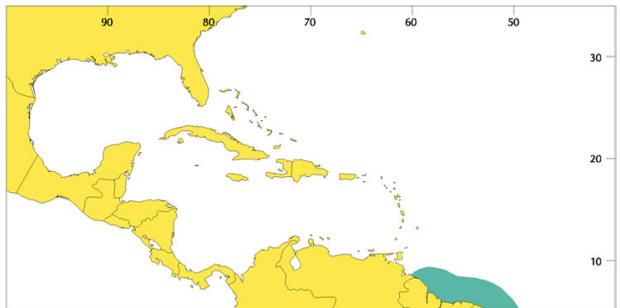


Diagnostic characters: A large fish, elongate and moderately compressed. **Mouth large, distinctly oblique, lower jaw projecting;** maxilla extending to below hind margin of eye. **Tip of upper jaw without enlarged canines;** teeth small, villiform and set in narrow bands with outer row slightly enlarged in both jaws, particularly in their posterior portion. **Chin without barbels or pores; snout with only 2 marginal pores.** Gill rakers long and slender, 11 to 14 on first gill arch. Preopercular margin smooth. Spinous dorsal fin with 10 spines, posterior portion with 1 spine and 21 to 24 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 10 to 12 (usually 10) soft rays, second spine slender; **pectoral fins much shorter than pelvic fins;** caudal fin rhomboidal in adults. **Gas bladder with a pair of medium-sized, nearly straight, horn-like anterior appendages.** Sagitta (large earstone) thin and elongate, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales large and ctenoid (comb-like); **soft portion of dorsal fin almost entirely covered with small scales;** lateral line extending to hind margin of caudal fin. **Colour:** greyish above, whitish below; dorsal fin dusky, upper margin of pectoral fins orange, pelvic fins and anal fin pale, caudal fin grey with a dark margin; inside of mouth orange.

Size: Maximum 110 cm; common to 50 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found mostly in brackish water swamps along the coasts; also entering fresh waters; uncommon in typical marine habitats; spawning takes place in the sea. Feeds mainly on shrimps, fishes, and sometimes plant material. Caught mainly with seines and cast nets; occasionally with bottom trawls at sea. Marketed mostly fresh and salted. In Guyana it is listed among the species cultivated in brackish environments, the fry being obtained from the sea.

Distribution: North coast of South America from Guyana to northern Brazil.

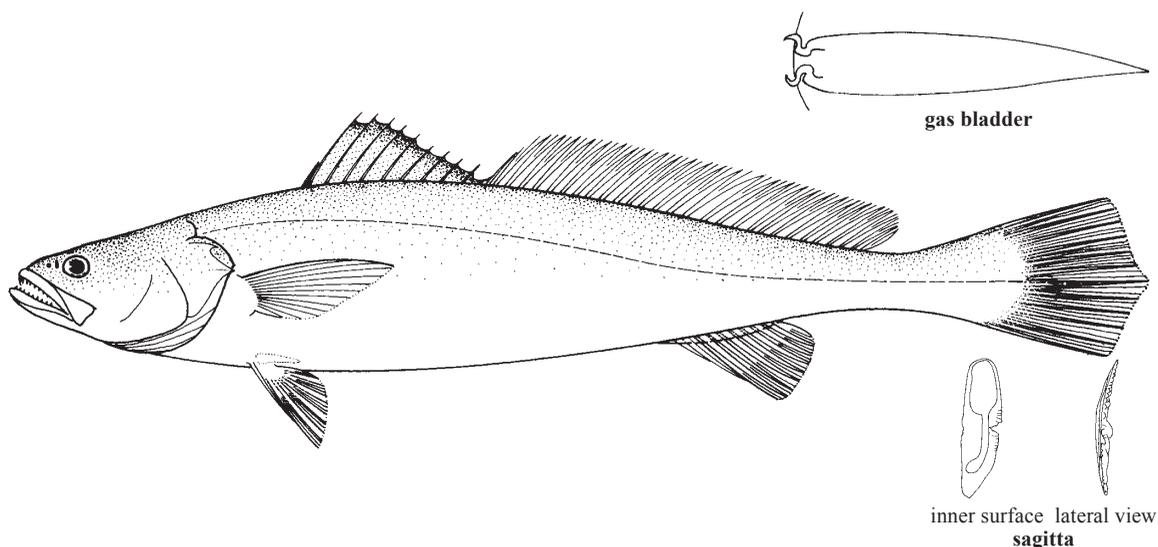


Cynoscion virescens (Cuvier, 1830)

YNV

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Cynoscion leiarchus* (Cuvier, 1830).

FAO names: **En** - Green weakfish; **Fr** - Acoupa cambucu; **Sp** - Corvinata cambucú.

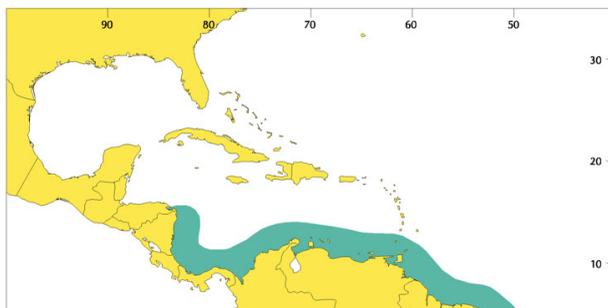


Diagnostic characters: A large elongated fish, moderately compressed. **Mouth large, distinctly oblique, lower jaw projecting;** maxilla extending beyond hind margin of eye. Teeth sharp, set in narrow bands on both jaws; **upper jaw with a pair of large canine-like teeth at tip**, and a row of enlarged sharp outer-row teeth; lower jaw with a row of widely spaced sharp inner-row teeth, gradually increasing in size posteriorly. **Chin without barbels or pores; snout with 2 marginal pores.** Gill rakers 7 to 11, moderately long and slender, but shorter than gill filaments. Preopercle margin smooth. Spinous dorsal fin with 10 spines, posterior portion with 1 spine and 27 to 31 soft rays; anal fin with 2 weak spines and 8 or 9 soft rays; caudal fin pointed in juveniles and rhomboidal in adults. **Gas bladder with a pair of long, curved, horn-like appendages.** **Sagitta** (large earstone) **elongate, with a notch on dorsal margin**, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales small, all cycloid (smooth), with about 140 rows of transverse scales above lateral line; **soft portion of dorsal fin membranes unscaled except 2 or 3 rows of scales at base.** **Colour:** greyish to brownish above, silvery below; upper sides sometimes with inconspicuous minute dark dots; dorsal fin dusky, its spinous portion black-edged; soft dorsal fin with dark spots on each ray; pectoral and pelvic fins as well as anal fin yellowish to orange; caudal fin dusky; **inside of mouth orange.**

Size: Maximum 95 cm; common to 50 cm.

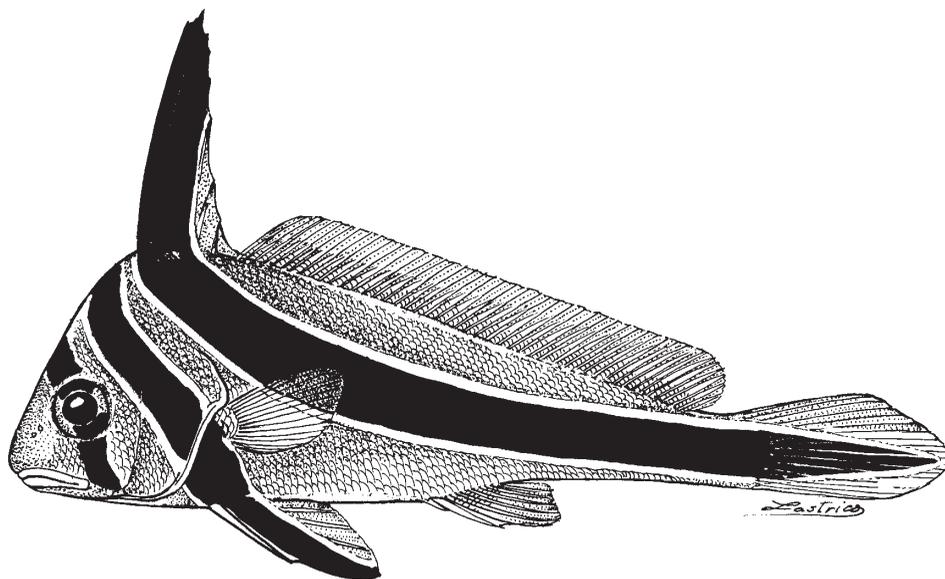
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found usually over mud and sandy mud bottoms in coastal waters near river mouths, from 6 to about 70 m (apparently more abundant offshore in river mouth areas). Juveniles inhabit estuaries during summer; in some areas (French Guiana) adults are also caught in estuarine waters. This species is mostly demersal in daytime, and moves toward the surface at night. Feeds mainly on shrimps and occasionally on fish. Caught mainly with seines, bottom trawls, gill nets, and trammel nets; also on hook-and-line. Very common and abundant in Guyanas; outside the area, found off northeastern to southeastern Brazil. Marketed mostly fresh and salted; an excellent foodfish; gas bladders are further processed for food and isinglass.

Distribution: Along the Caribbean and Atlantic coasts of South America from Panama to southeastern Brazil.



Equetus lanceolatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

EQL

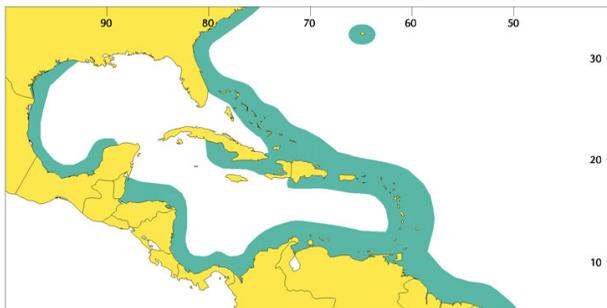
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Equetus punctatus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801).**FAO names:** En - Jack-knife fish; Fr - Évêque couronné; Sp - Obispo coronado.

Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized to small fish, body short, back strongly arched and deep. Head low, **mouth small, inferior, nearly horizontal**; maxilla reaching below middle of eye. Teeth villiform, set in bands on jaws, outer-row teeth on upper jaw slightly enlarged. Chin without barbel but with 5 mental pores; snout with 10 pores (5 rostral and 5 marginal). Gill rakers 14 to 18, short and stout. Preopercle margin nearly smooth. **Spinous dorsal fin very elevated, higher than head length with 12 to 14 spines, posterior portion with 1 spine and 47 to 55 soft rays; pectoral fin with 15 or 16 rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 6 soft rays; caudal fin elongated rhomboidal. Gas bladder simple, carrot-shaped, without appendages. Sagitta (large earstone) near rounded and thick, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales ctenoid (comb-like), cyclod (smooth) below eye and underside of head. Soft dorsal fin covered with thick scales to half height. Colour:** body whitish, **with 3 broad and distinct white-edged dark bands**, first running vertically through eye, second from nape across operculum and chest to front of pelvic fins, third band beginning on tip of spinous dorsal fin and running from its base obliquely to end of caudal fin.

Size: Maximum 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found over sandy and muddy coastal waters and reefs, usually in deeper waters to about 60 m. Feed mainly on soft bottom dwelling worms, small crustaceans, and organic detritus. Caught occasionally with bottom trawls, also by traps, also on hook-and-line by anglers. Not marketed as foodfish, but a highly sought fish for public aquarium exhibit and marine aquarium fish hobbyists.

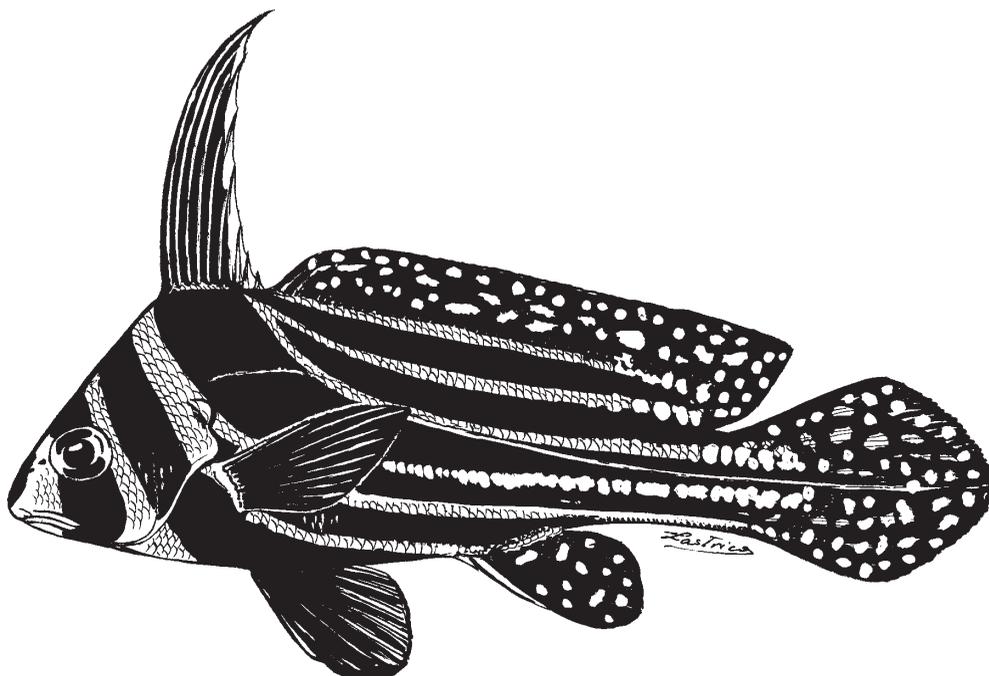
Distribution: Bermuda, and Atlantic coast from South Carolina, western Gulf of Mexico to Brazil, not common in West Indies.



Equetus punctatus (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Equetus lanceolatus* (Linnaeus, 1758); *Pareques acuminatus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801).

FAO names: **En** - Spotted drum; **Fr** - Évêque étoilé; **Sp** - Obispo estrellado.

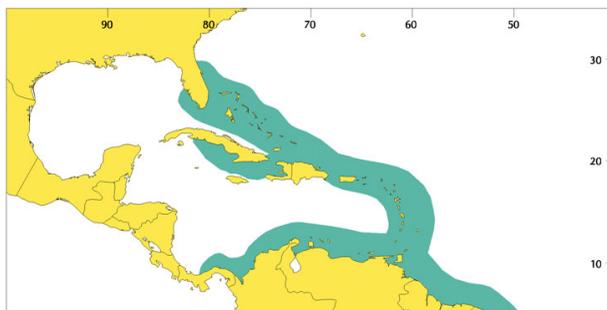


Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized to small fish, body short, back strongly arched and deep. Head low, **mouth small, inferior, nearly horizontal**; maxilla reaching below middle of eye. Teeth villiform, set in bands on jaws, outer-row teeth on upper jaw slightly enlarged. Chin without barbel but with 5 mental pores; snout with 10 pores (5 rostral and 5 marginal). Gill rakers 15 to 18, short and stout. Preopercle margin nearly smooth. **Spinous dorsal fin very elevated, higher than head length with 12 to 14 spines, posterior portion with 1 spine and 45 to 47 soft rays**; pectoral fin with 17 or 18 rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 6 to 8 soft rays; caudal fin rhomboidal, near rounded. **Gas bladder simple, carrot-shaped without appendages. Sagitta (large earstone) near rounded and thick**, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales ctenoid (comb-like), cycloid (smooth) below eye and underside of head. Soft dorsal fin covered with thick scales to half height. **Colour:** body whitish **with 3 broad and distinct white-edged dark brown bands**, first running vertically through eye, second from nape across operculum and chest to pelvic fins, third band beginning on front of spinous dorsal fin and curving, its base obliquely to midbase of caudal fin; 2 narrow dark stripes above and below this band; posterior portion of dorsal, caudal, and anal fins with white spots; paired fins dark brown.

Size: Maximum 25 cm; common to 20 cm.

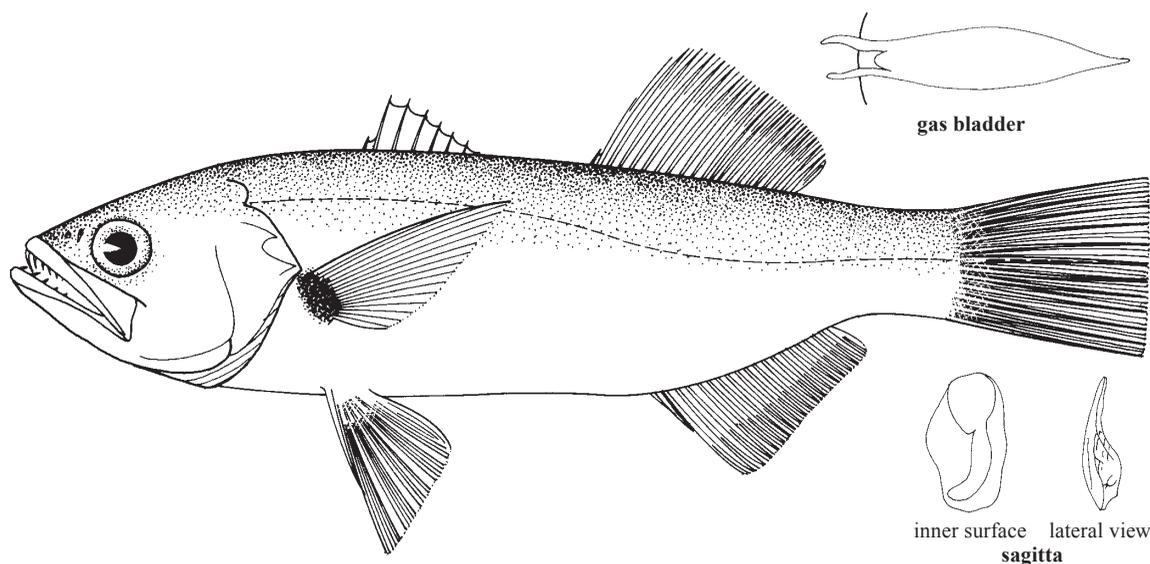
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found principally in coral reefs. Feed mainly on soft coral, reef-dwelling worms, and small crustaceans. Caught with traps, and on hook-and-line by anglers. Secretive by day in reefs and usually solitary. Not marketed as foodfish, but a highly sought fish for public aquarium exhibit and marine aquarium fish hobbyists.

Distribution: Bermuda, south Florida and West Indies, and from Panama to Brazil.



***Isopisthus parvipinnis* (Cuvier, 1830)**

ISA

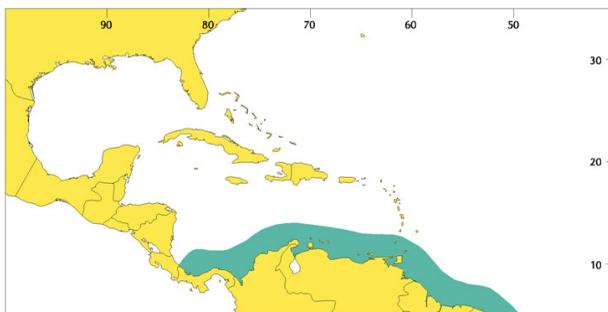
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Isopisthus affinis* Steindachner, 1879 / None.**FAO names:** **En** - Shortfin corvina; **Fr** - Acoupa aile-courte; **Sp** - Corvinata aletacorta.

Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized to small fish, body elongate and moderately compressed. **Mouth large, strongly oblique, lower jaw projecting**; maxilla extending to below middle of eye. Teeth sharp, set in narrow bands on both jaws; **upper jaw with a pair of large canine-like teeth at tip**, one often prominent, with a row of enlarged outer-row teeth; lower jaw large set in a single row except 2 or 3 rows of small teeth at the tip. **Chin without barbel or pores, lower margin of snout with 2 marginal pores.** Gill rakers 9 to 12, longer than gill filament. Preopercle margin soft, slightly denticulated. **Two widely separated dorsal fins**, spinous dorsal fin with 7 or 8 spines, posterior one with 1 spine and 18 to 22 soft rays; **anal fin long, with 2 weak spines and 16 to 20 soft rays**; caudal fin truncate in adults. **Gas bladder with a pair of horn-like anterior appendages.** **Sagitta** (large earstone) **moderately thick and oval**, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales small, all cycloid (smooth); soft dorsal fin covered entirely with small scales. **Colour:** silver grey, darker above; a diffuse black spot at pectoral-fin bases, fins pale to yellowish.

Size: Maximum 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found in coastal waters over sandy mud or soft mud bottoms to about 45 m, also common in estuaries. Feed mainly on small shrimps. Caught mainly with bottom trawls and seines. Usually not marketed as foodfish due to its small size; mostly used for bait.

Distribution: From Costa Rica along the Caribbean coast and the Atlantic coast of South America to southern Brazil.

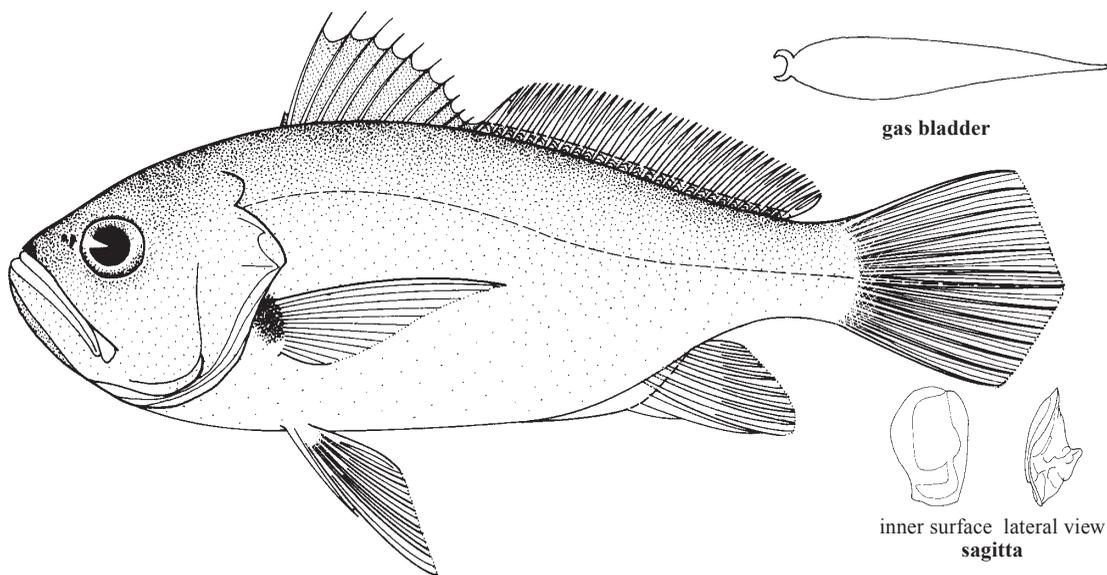


Larimus breviceps (Cuvier, 1830)

LRJ

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Shorthead drum; Fr - Verrue titête; Sp - Bombache cabezón.

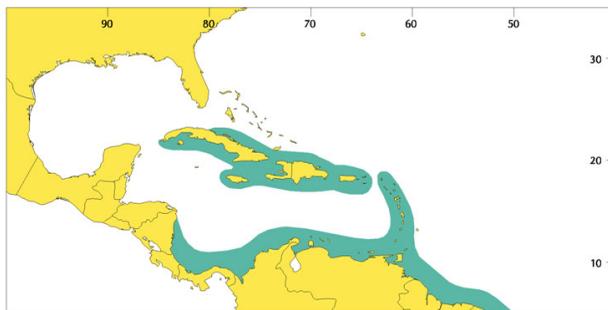


Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized to small fish, **short and robust**. **Mouth very large, strongly oblique, lower jaw projecting**; maxilla extending below middle of eye. **Teeth very small and sharp, set in 1 or 2 rows along edges of jaws**. **Chin without barbels**, but with 4 minute pores; **snout with 5 marginal pores**, no rostral pores. Gill rakers 28 to 33, much longer than gill filament. Preopercle margin soft and slightly denticulated. Spinous dorsal fin with 10 spines (rarely 9), posterior portion with 1 spine and 26 to 29 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 6 or 7 soft rays, second spine long and stout; caudal fin rhomboidal in adults. **Gas bladder with a pair of small, horn-like anterior appendages**. **Sagitta (large earstone) thick and short**, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales large, ctenoid (comb-like) on body and top of head, cycloid (smooth) on cheek and opercles. **Colour:** silvery grey, darker above; a dark spot at bases of pectoral fins; pelvic and anal fins often yellowish.

Size: Maximum 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found over mud and sandy mud bottoms in coastal waters to 60 m; juvenile also in estuaries, but more abundant in clear waters. Feeds mainly on small shrimps. Caught mainly with bottom trawls, 'mandingas,' and occasionally with traps and seines; abundant off Guyanas where it often makes up a meaningful portion of bycatch. Large specimens are marketed mostly fresh; smaller fish are used for bait.

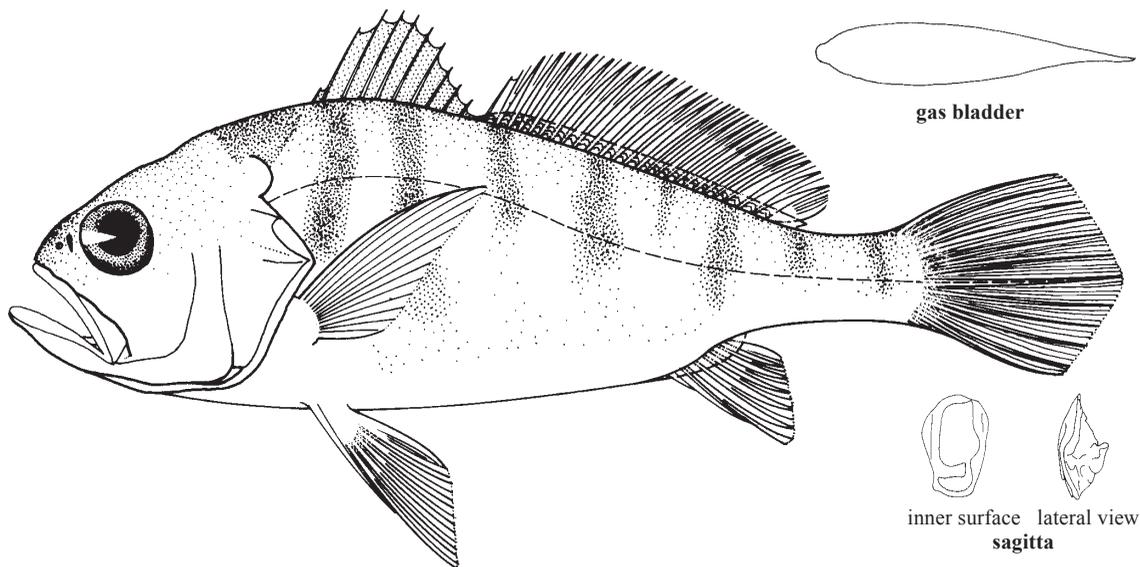
Distribution: Greater Antilles and from Costa Rica along the Caribbean coast and the Atlantic coasts of South America to southeast Brazil.



Larimus fasciatus Holbrook, 1855

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Banded drum; Fr - Verrue rayé; Sp - Bombache listado.

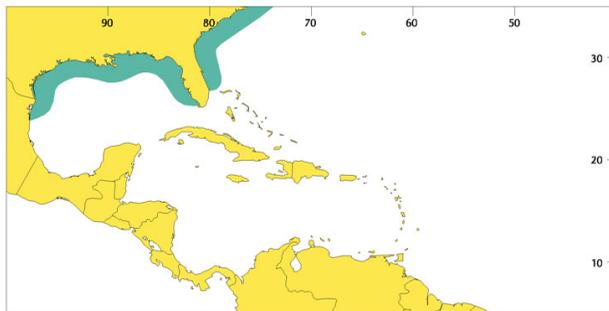


Diagnostic characters: A moderately small fish, body **short and robust**. **Mouth large, strongly oblique, lower jaw projecting**; maxilla reaching beyond middle of eye. **Teeth very small and pointed, set in 1 or 2 rows along edges of jaws**. **Chin without barbels**, but with 4 minute pores; **snout with 5 marginal pores** and no rostral pores. Gill rakers 34 to 36, very long and slender, on first arch. Preopercular margin smooth. Spinous dorsal fin with 10 spines, posterior portion with 1 spine and 24 to 27 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 6 or 7 soft rays, second spine long and stout; caudal fin rounded in adults. **Gas bladder simple, carrot-shaped, without anterior appendages**. **Sagitta** (large earstone) **short but very thick**, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales large, ctenoid (comb-like) on body and head, except before and below eyes. **Colour:** greyish olive above, silvery white below; back with 7 to 9 rather conspicuous dark vertical bars; inside of opercle dark; lower parts of pelvic fins, anal and caudal fins yellowish.

Size: Maximum 22 cm; common to 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found over mud and sandy mud bottoms in coastal waters to about 60 m, not common in estuaries. Feeds mainly on small shrimps. Caught mainly with bottom trawls; occasionally with seines and pound nets. No special fishery but common in trawl bycatch from the shrimp grounds in the Gulf of Mexico. Not marketed for human consumption; used mostly for bait.

Distribution: Northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coast of the USA from south Florida to Massachusetts.

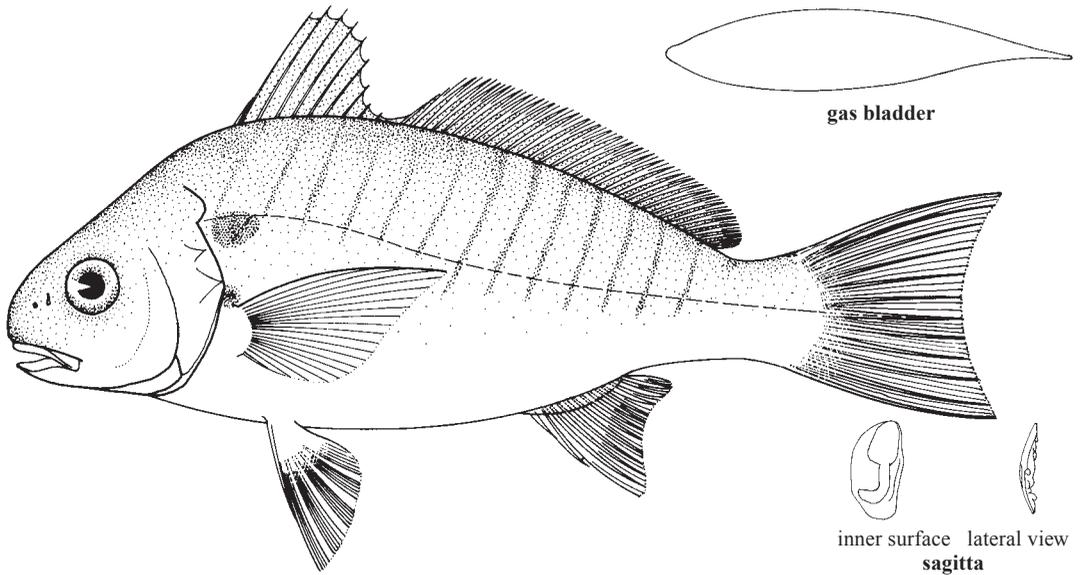


Leiostomus xanthurus Lacepède, 1802

SPT

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: **En** - Spot croaker (AFS: Spot); **Fr** - Tambour croca; **Sp** - Verrugato croca.

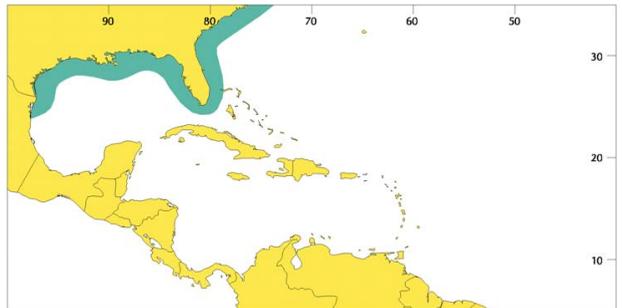


Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized to small fish, body short, back strongly arched and deep. Head low, **mouth small, inferior, nearly horizontal**; maxilla reaching below middle of eye. Teeth villiform, set in bands on jaws. **Chin without barbel** but with 5 mental pores; snout with 10 pores (5 rostral and 5 marginal). Gill rakers 30 to 36, short and slender. Preopercle margin soft, nearly smooth. Spinous dorsal fin with 10 spines, posterior portion with 1 spine and 29 to 35 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 12 or 13 soft rays; caudal fin truncate to emarginated. **Gas bladder simple, carrot-shaped without appendages. Sagitta (large earstone) oval and thin**, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales ctenoid (comb-like), cycloid (smooth) below eye and underside of head. Soft dorsal fin naked, except 1 or 2 rows of scales along its base. **Colour:** silvery grey, darker above; **back with 11 to 15 oblique dark streaks extending to below lateral line; a prominent humeral spot, the size of iris, behind upper end of gill slit**; dorsal and caudal fins dusky, other fins pale to yellowish.

Size: Maximum 36 cm; common to 25 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found over sandy or muddy bottoms in coastal waters to about 60 m. The fish spend the summer and autumn in their nursing and feeding grounds in estuaries, the young-of-the year often remaining in the estuarine waters. Feed mainly on bottom-dwelling worms, small crustaceans, and organic detritus. Caught with bottom trawls, seines, gill nets, and pound nets; also on hook-and-line by anglers. Seasonal fisheries in river estuaries, and along beaches throughout its range, except off the southern tip of Florida. Larger fish marketed fresh and becoming quite popular in recent years; smaller fish are mainly used for manufacture of pet food and for bait.

Distribution: Atlantic coast, Cape Cod to Florida and Gulf of Mexico, from Florida to Rio Grande.

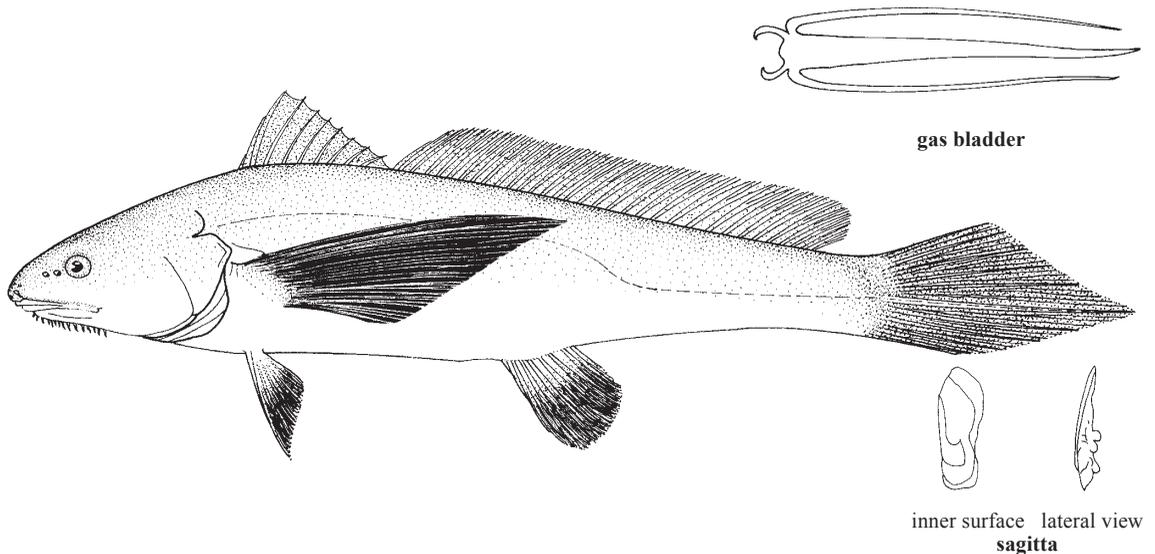


Lonchurus elegans (Boeseman, 1948)

RLE

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Paralonchurus elegans* Boeseman 1948 / *Lonchurus lanceolatus* (Bloch, 1788).

FAO names: En - Blackfin croaker; Fr - Bourrugue coquette; Sp - Lambe aleta negra (=Lambe pituco).



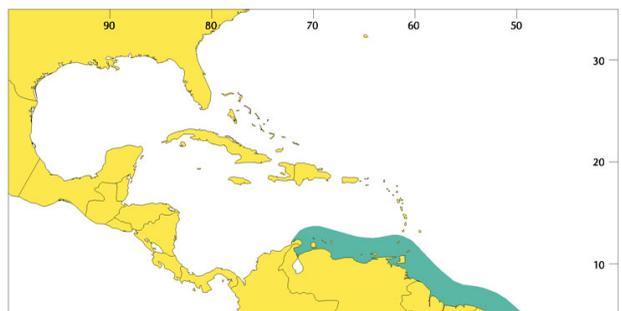
Diagnostic characters: A medium-sized to small fish, body moderately elongate and compressed. **Eye small, about 8 to 9 times in head length. Mouth small, inferior, enclosed under snout;** maxilla reaching beyond hind margin of eye; Teeth villiform, set in narrow bands on jaws. **Chin with 5 pores and many barbels, 3 or 4 pairs in a tuft around median mental pore, 15 or 16 pairs along median edges of lower jaws and subopercles;** snout with 8 pores (3 upper and 5 marginal). Gill rakers 7 to 9, short and stout. Spinous dorsal fin with 10 spines, posterior portion with 1 spine and 31 to 34 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 6 or 7 soft rays, second spine thin and long, over 1/2 of fin height; caudal fin long, asymmetrically pointed, upper half truncate; **pectoral fins greatly enlarged, extending beyond anal-fin base. Gas bladder narrow, about equal to head length, bearing anteriorly 2 pairs of appendages, anterior pair short and horn-like, lateral pair long, tube-like, extends to posterior end of gas bladder.** A pair of well-developed drumming muscles present only in males. Sagitta (large earstone) thin and elongate, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales cycloid (smooth); soft dorsal-fin membrane unscaled. **Colour:** dark greyish above, yellowish to pale below; **pectoral fins long and jet black;** tips of pelvic and anal fins dark. Inside of gill cover black.

Size: Maximum 35 cm; common to 25 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found over soft mud bottoms in coastal waters to at least 25 m; also occurring in estuaries. Feeds on bottom-dwelling organisms, mainly worms. Caught mainly with bottom trawls and seines. No special fishery but caught along with other sciaenids, particularly off Guyanas. Marketed fresh and salted, a good foodfish.

Distribution: Along the Caribbean and Atlantic coasts of South America from eastern Venezuela to Amazon delta and northeast Brazil.

Note: *Paralonchurus elegans* Boeseman and *Lonchurus lanceolatus* (Bloch) both have 11+18=29 vertebrae and pectoral fins long and jet black, which are unique for sciaenids. They belong to the same genus, in spite of the number and arrangement of mental barbels (only 1 pair of mental barbels in *L. lanceolatus*).

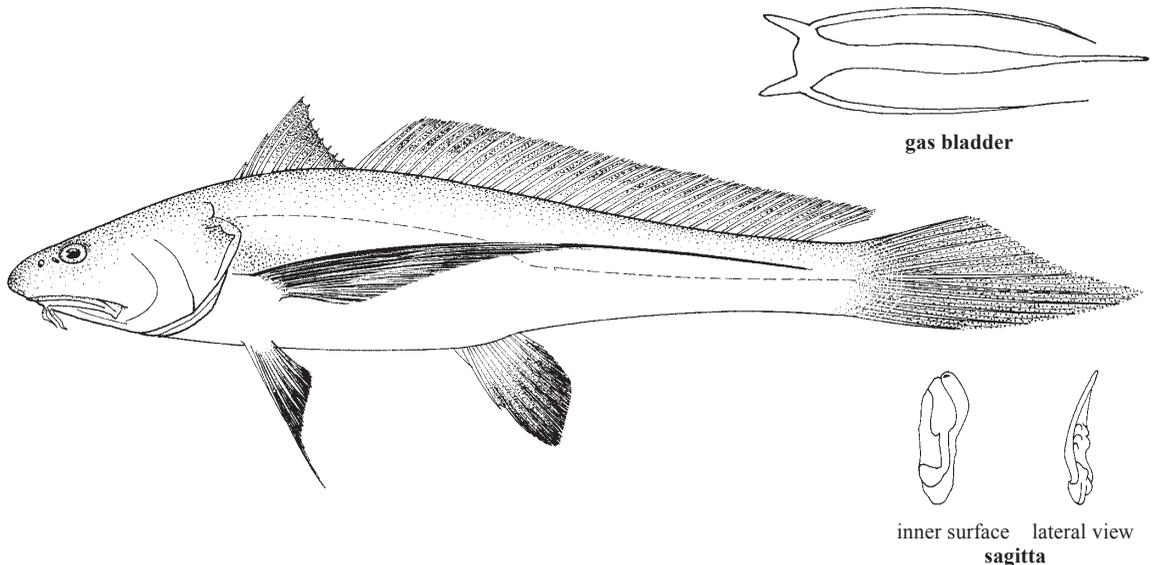


Lonchurus lanceolatus (Bloch, 1788)

LNL

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Lonchurus elegans* (Boeseman, 1948).

FAO names: En - Longtail croaker; Fr - Barbiche longue aile; Sp - Lambe aludo.



Diagnostic characters: A small fish, body elongate and compressed. Eye small, about 10 times in head length. **Mouth large, but inferior, nearly horizontal;** maxilla extending much beyond eye. Teeth small but sharp, set in bands on both jaws. **Chin with a pair of moderately long, slender barbels (longer than eye diameter)** and 2 pairs of lateral pores; snout with 10 pores (5 rostral, 5 marginal). Gill rakers 15 to 18, moderately long and slender, about equal length of gill filament. Spinous dorsal fin with 10 or 11 spines, posterior portion with 1 spine and 37 to 39 soft rays; anal fin with 2 spines and 7 to 9 soft rays, first spine very short, second one slender, less than 1/2 of fin height; caudal fin long rhomboidal, asymmetrically with pointed lower half; **pectoral fins very long, upper rays filamentous, extending to caudal peduncle; pelvic fins with first soft ray filamentous, extending beyond anus. Gas bladder reduced in size, much shorter than head length; bearing anteriorly 1 pair of appendages, the first short and horn-like, the second long, tube-like, and directed backward.** A pair of well-developed drumming muscles present only in males. Sagitta (large earstone) thin and elongate, lapillus (small earstone) rudimentary. Scales ctenoid (comb-like), few cycloid (smooth) scales found below eye and on isthmus in front of pelvic fins; soft dorsal fin unscaled. **Colour:** body often brownish to yellowish, slightly darker above; all fins darkish, **pectoral fins long and jet black;** base of pelvic and anal fins yellowish. Inside of gill cover dusky.

Size: Maximum 30 cm; common to 20 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found over sandy to muddy bottoms in coastal marine and brackish waters. Mature females found in May with less than 20 cm total length. Feeds mainly on small shrimps and fishes. Caught mainly with bottom trawls and seines in coastal waters, no special fishery; occasionally caught in large quantities. Usually not marketed for human consumption due to its small size and lean body. Mostly used for bait

Distribution: South American coast from western Venezuela to southeast Brazil; also in some of the Lesser Antilles (uncommon)

Note: See *Lonchurus elegans*.

