

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

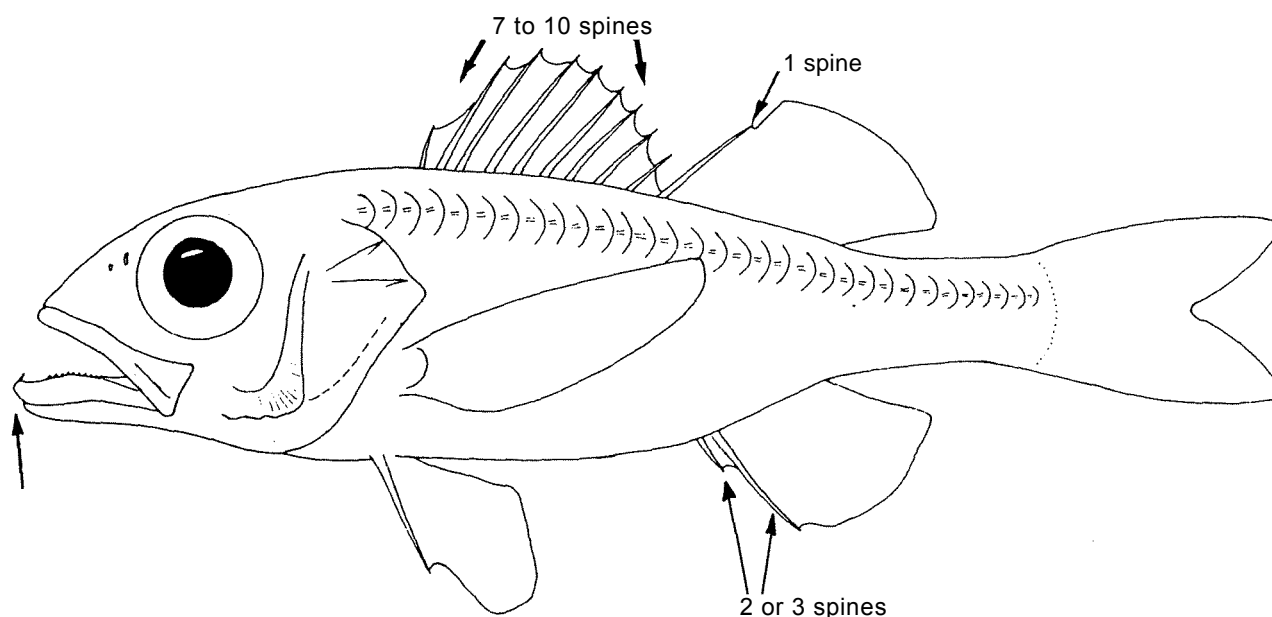
FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

ACROPOMATIDAE

(= "Percichthyidae")

Glow-bellies and splitfins

Body oblong, more or less compressed. Mouth terminal; lower jaw slightly projecting; maxillae not covered by preorbitals; 2 or 3 flat opercular spines; eye large; its diameter greater than distance from eye to maxilla; small teeth on jaws, and on roof of mouth (vomer and palatines); canines in jaws of most species; gill membranes separate, free from isthmus; branchiostegal rays 7. Dorsal fin divided to base before last spine, or completely separated into spiny and soft-rayed fins; first part with 7 to 10 spines, second fin with 1 spine and 9 or 10 soft rays; anal fin with 2 or 3 weak spines and 6 to 8 soft rays; pelvic fins with 1 spine and 5 soft rays, without a large axillary process of fused scales; caudal fin emarginate to deeply forked. Vertebrae 10 + 15 = 25.



*This motley and ill-defined assemblage of fishes is here adopted for the sake of convenience. The fishes here assigned to the Acropomatidae are put in the Percichthyidae by some authors. The genus *Percichthys* comprises 3 species of freshwater fishes in Chile and Argentina; they have 33 to 35 vertebrae and are not closely related to acropomatids.

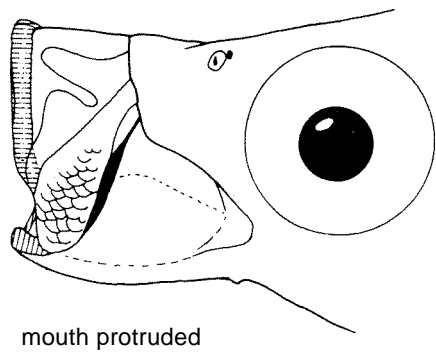
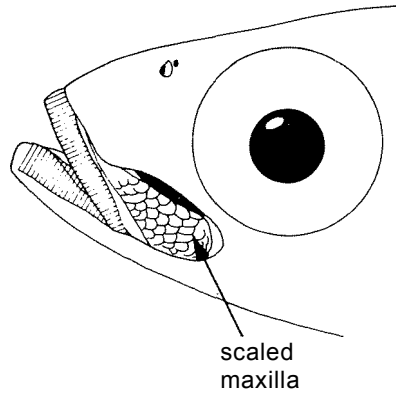
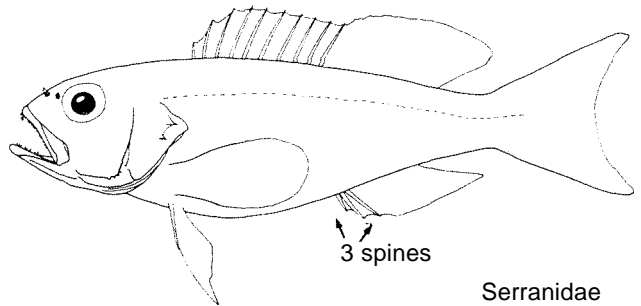
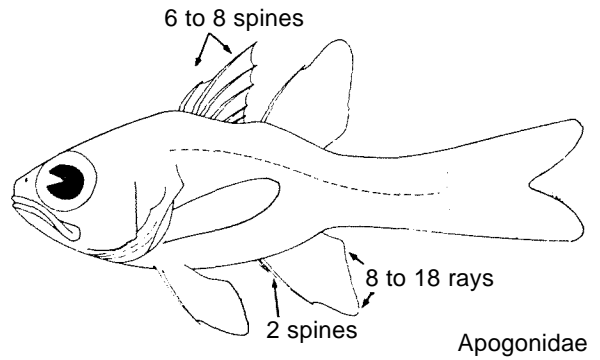
SIMILAR FAMILIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA

Apogonidae: first dorsal fin with 6 to 8 spines (7 to 10 in Acropomatidae); anal fin with 2 spines and 8 to 18 branched soft rays (6 to 8 in Acropomatidae); most species with a single opercular spine (2 or 3 in Acropomatidae).

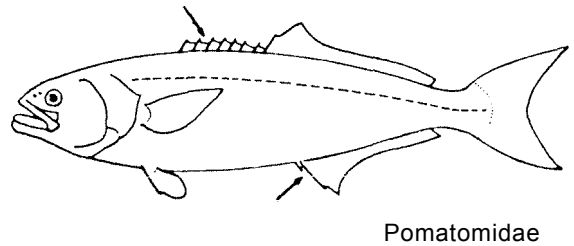
Serranidae: dorsal fin not divided to base in most species; soft dorsal fin rays more than 13; always 3 anal fin spines.

Emmelichthyidae: dorsal fin spines 12 or 13; pelvic axillary process well developed; mouth very protrusile; maxilla scaled.

Pomatomidae: soft dorsal and anal fin rays 13 to 28; dorsal fin spines short.

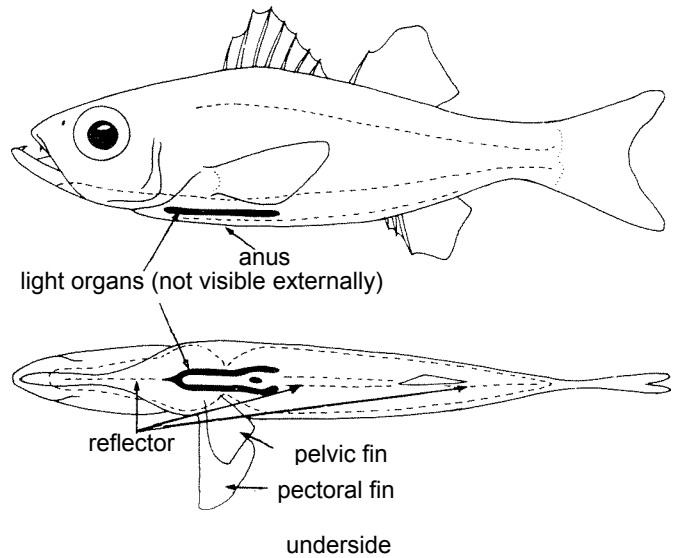


Emmelichthyidae

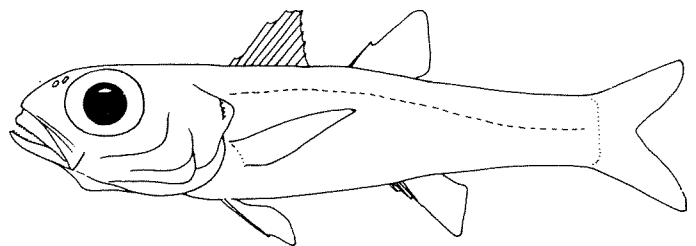


KEY TO GENERA OCCURRING IN THE AREA :

- 1a. Anus nearer pelvic fin origins than to anal fin; luminescent organ between pelvic fins (Fig.1) Acropoma
- 1b. Anus much nearer anal fin than to pelvics; no light organ between pelvics
- 2a. Scales ctenoid (rough to touch); no canines in jaws (Fig.2) Oxydon
- 2b. Scales cycloid (smooth to touch); canines present in one or both jaws
- 3a. Anal fin with 3 spines; lateral line scales 36 to 41 Neoscombrops
- 3b. Anal fin with 2 spines; lateral line scales 24 to 33 Synagrops



Acropoma Fig.1



Oxydon Fig.2

LIST OF SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Code numbers are given for those species for which Identification Sheets are included

<u>Acropoma japonicum</u> Günther, 1859	ACRD Acro 1	
<u>Neoscombrops annectens</u> Gilchrist, 1922	ACRD Neo 1	
<u>Neoscombrops cynodon</u> Regan, 1921)		
<u>Oxydon macrops</u> Brauer, 1906		
<u>Synagrops adeni</u> Kotthaus, 1970	ACRD Syn 1	
<u>Synagrops japonicus</u> (Döderlein, 1884)	ACRD Syn 2	(= <u>Synagrops natalensis</u> Gilchrist, 1921)
<u>Synagrops pellucidus</u> (Alcock, 1889)		

Prepared by P.C. Heemstra, J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Grahamstown, South Africa

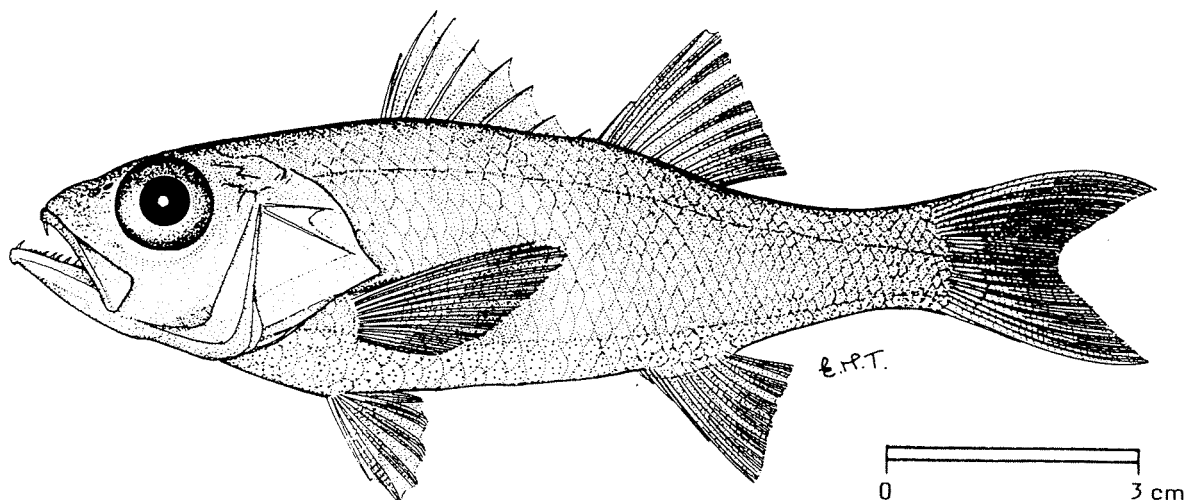
Part of drawings prepared by E.M. Tarr, J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Grahamstown, South Africa

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ACROPOMATIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)*Acropoma japonicum* Günther, 1859

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

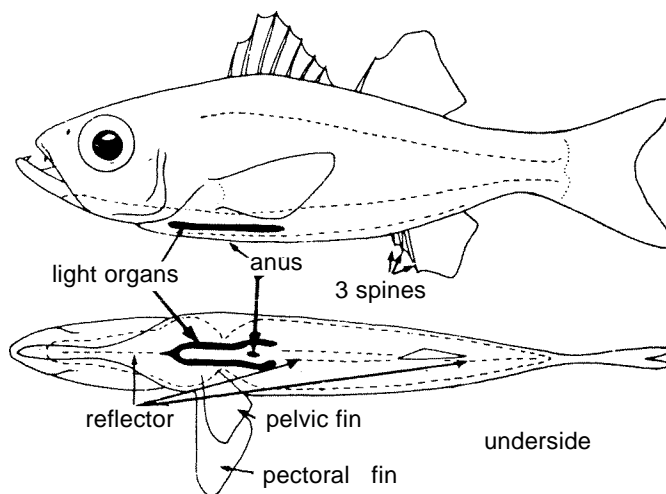
FAO: En - Glow-belly
Fr - Maconde lumineux
Sp - Farolito

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong, more or less compressed. Two large canines at front of upper jaw, between which fits a pair of smaller canines at front of lower jaw; sides of lower jaw with a row of tiny slender teeth and several small canines; a narrow band of small, sharp teeth on front half of upper jaw, becoming broader posteriorly while teeth become smaller; gillrakers 5 to 8 upper, and 15 to 18 lower, on first gill arch. Anus closer to pelvic fin origins than to anal fin; a light organ (not visible externally) located between pelvic fins; light reflector a white, opalescent, opaque membrane on lower body profile extending from isthmus to base of caudal fin. First dorsal fin with 8 or 9 slender spines; second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 10 soft rays; anal fin with 3 slender spines and 7 soft rays. Scales ctenoid, easily shed.

Colour: body pink; ventral surface abruptly silver and thickly covered with dark dots. At night or in the dark, the entire ventral region is brightly luminescent.

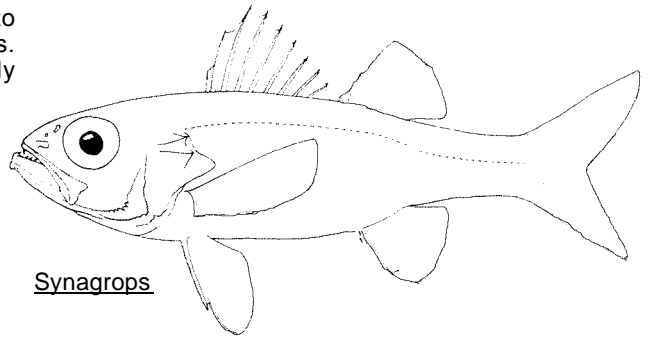


DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA

Other species of Acropomatidae: anus closer to anal fin than to origins of pelvic fins; no light organs. Furthermore, scales cycloid (smooth to touch) and only 2 anal fin spines in Synagrops species.

SIZE:

Maximum: 17 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

In the area, along the east coast of Africa from the Gulf of Aden to Natal (South Africa), and along the Western coast of India. Also known from the Philippines, northern Australia and Japan.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

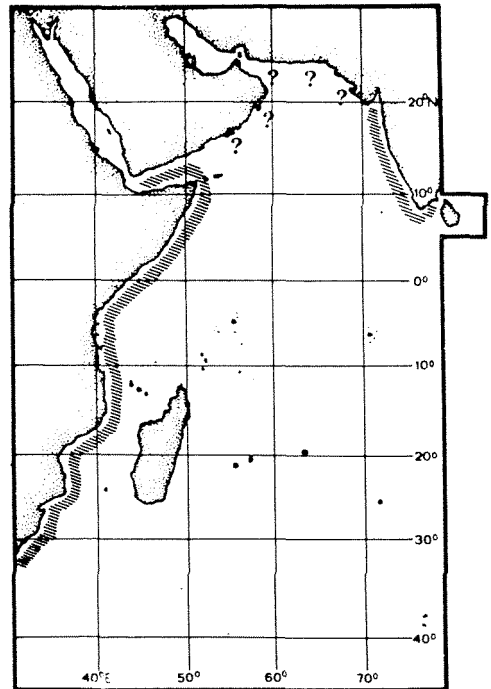
Trawlable bottoms in depths of 100 to 300 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with trawls.

Marketed fresh and reduced to fishmeal.

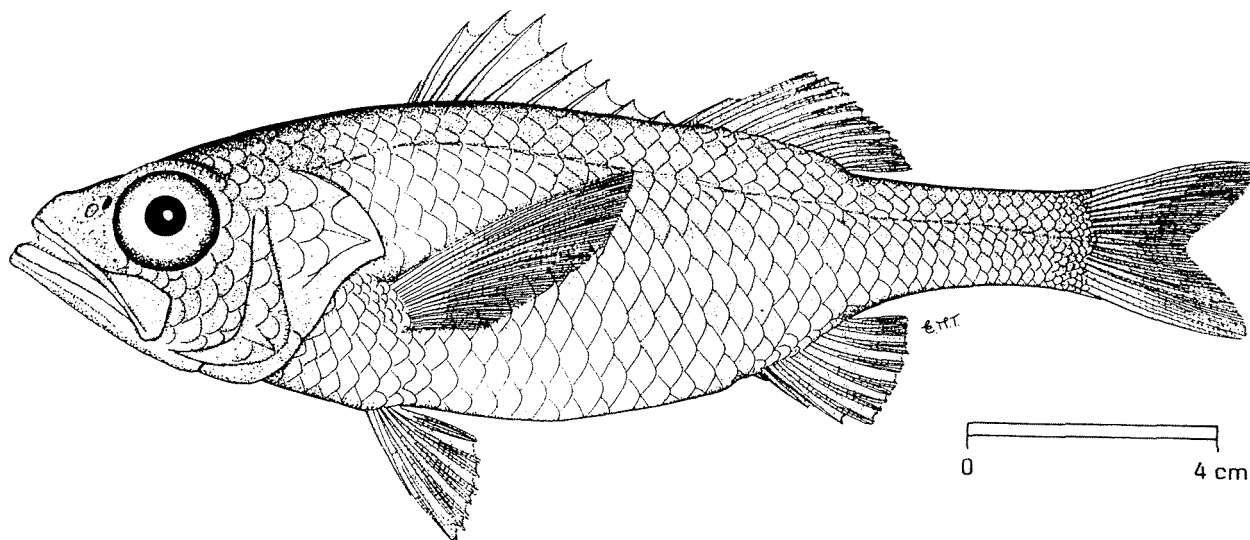


FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ACROPOMATIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Neoscombrops annectens Gilchrist, 1922

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - Sombre splitfin
 Fr - Maconde sombre
 Sp - Maconda fusca

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong, more or less compressed. A broad band of granular teeth in upper jaw and two widely-spaced canines at symphysis; lower jaw with a row of small canines laterally, preceded by a short band of granular teeth and 2 or 3 canines at symphysis; gillrakers 5 or 6 upper and 15 or 16 lower (not counting rudiments) on first gill arch. Anus closer to anal fin than to pelvic fin origins; no light organ between pelvic fins. First dorsal fin with 9 or 10 slender spines; second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 9 or 10 soft rays; anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays; pectoral fin rays 15 to 17. Scales cycloid (smooth to touch) easily shed; 36 to 41 lateral-line scales to base of caudal fin.

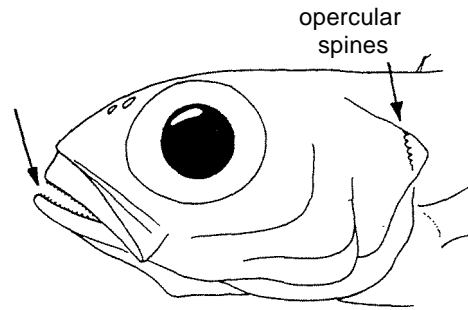
Colour: head, body and fins dark brownish silver.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Synagrops species: only 2 anal fin spines (3 in N. annectens); lateral-line scales 24 to 33 (36 to 41 in N. annectens).

Oxyodon macrops: scales ctenoid (rough to touch); no canines in jaws; opercle with 3 or 4 short spines dorsally; anal fin with 2 spines and 8 or 9 soft rays (3 spines and 7 soft rays in N. annectens).

Acropoma japonicum: anus closer to pelvic fin origins than to anal fin; a light reflector present between pelvic fins and a light reflector along lower profile of body.



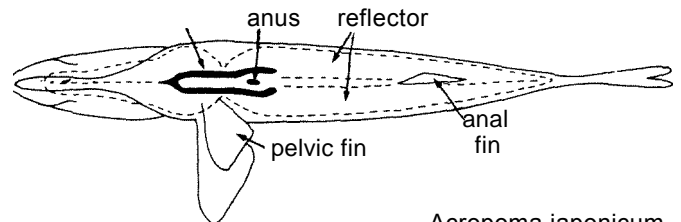
Oxyodon macrops

SIZE:

Maximum: 25 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Natal (South Africa), southern Mozambique and Japan.



underside

Acropoma japonicum

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

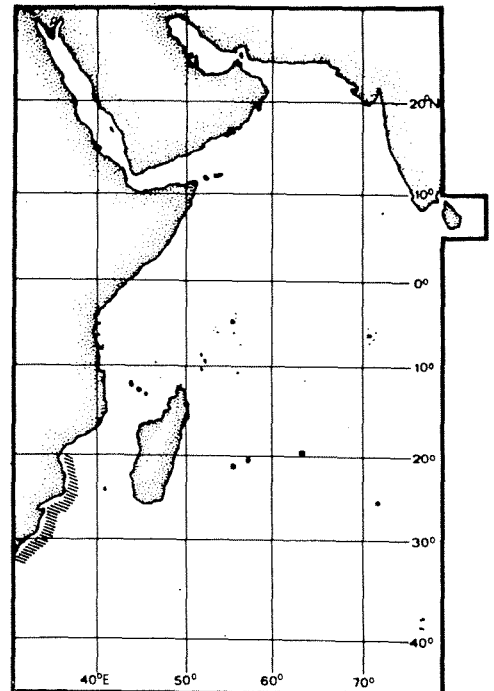
Trawlable bottoms off southern Mozambique in depths of 100 to 500 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with trawls.

Marketed fresh and reduced to fishmeal.



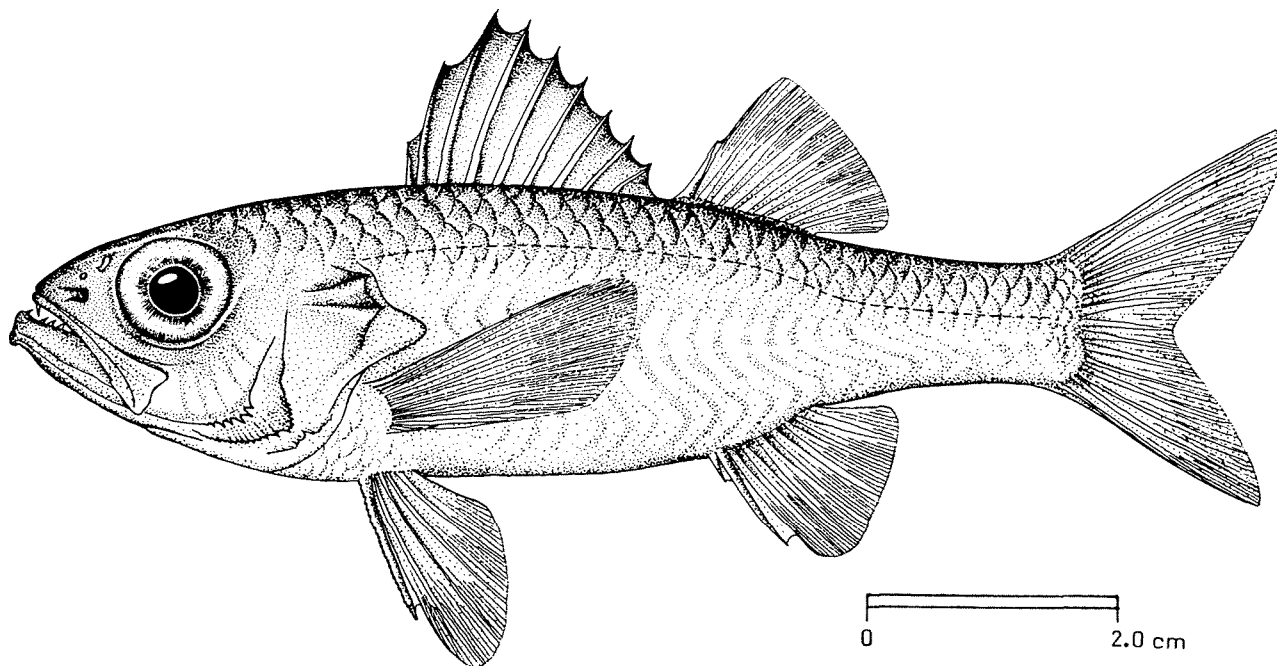
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: ACROPOMATIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Synagrops adeni</i> Kotthaus, 1970

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :	En - Aden splitfin
	Fr - Maconde aden
	Sp - Maconda de Adén

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong, more or less compressed. A band of villiform teeth in upper jaw, separated by a gap at symphysis, with a large canine on each side of gap; lower jaw with a narrow band of small teeth anteriorly, 3 to 5 canines laterally, and a large pair of backward-pointing canines at symphysis; preopercular ridge with 3 to 7 small spines at angle; gill-rakers 5 or 6 upper and 17 to 19 lower (not counting rudiments on first gill arch. Anus closer to anal fin than to pelvic fin origins; no light organ between pelvic fins. First dorsal fin with 8 or 9 slender spines; second dorsal with 1 spine and 9 soft rays; anal fin with 2 slender spines and 7 soft rays; pectoral fin rays 17; pelvic fin spine serrate. Scales cycloid (smooth to touch), easily shed.

Colour: head and body pale brown or dusky.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

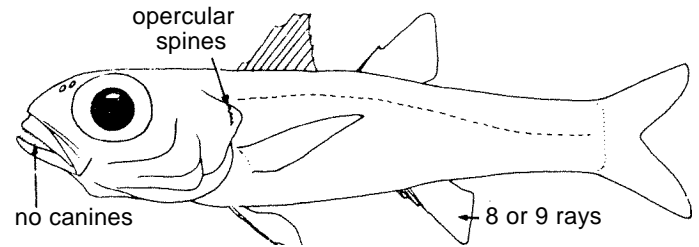
Synagrops japonicus: pelvic fin spine smooth; gillrakers on lower limb of first arch 12 (15 or 16 in S. adeni).

S. pellucidus: total gillrakers on first arch 20.

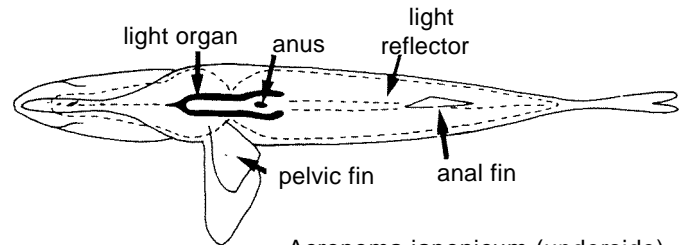
Oxydon macrops: scales ctenoid (rough to touch); no canines in jaws; opercle with 3 or 4 short spines dorsally; anal fin with 8 or 9 soft rays (7 in S. adeni).

Neoscombrops annectens: anal fin spines 3; 15 or 16 gillrakers on lower limb of first arch; scales smaller, 36 to 41 along lateral line (33 in S. adeni).

Acropoma japonicum: anus closer to pelvic fin origins than to anal fin; a light organ between pelvic fins and a light reflector along lower profile of body; 3 anal fin spines (2 in S. adeni).



Oxydon macrops



Acropoma japonicum (underside)

SIZE:

Maximum: 11 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Gulf of Aden south to Mombasa, Kenya.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS

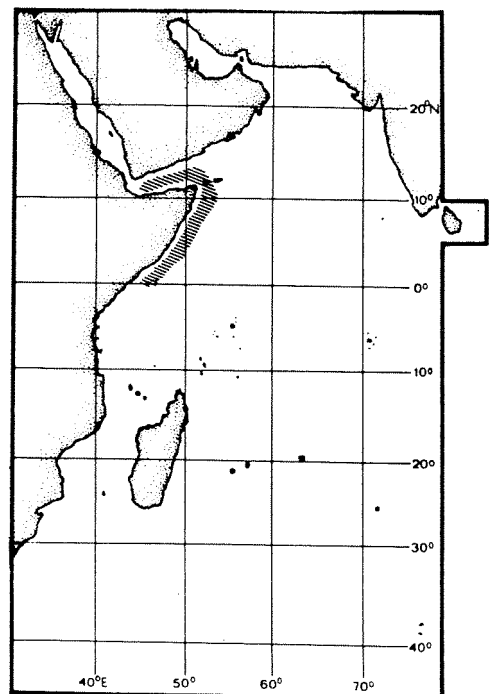
Trawlable bottoms in depths of 280 to 600 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with trawls.

Marketed fresh.



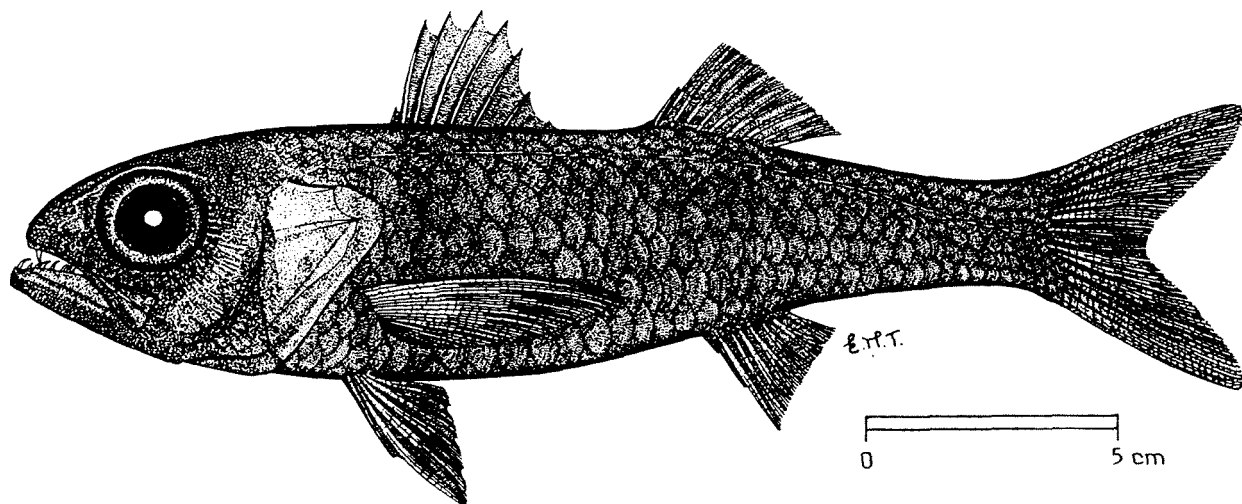
FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY : ACROPOMATIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Océan)

Synagrops japonicus (Döderlein, 1884)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE : *Synagrops natalensis* Gilchrist, 1921



VERNACULAR NAMES:

- FAO : En - Japanese splitfin
- Fr - Maconde bouche
- Sp - Maconda boquinegra

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong, more or less compressed. A band of villiform teeth in upper jaw, separated by a gap at symphysis, with a large canine on each side of gap; lower jaw with a narrow band of small teeth anteriorly, 3 to 5 canines laterally, and a large pair of backward-pointing canines at symphysis; gillrakers 3 upper and 12 lower on first arch; no spines on preopercular ridge. Anus closer to anal fin than to pelvic fin origins; no light organ between pelvic fins. First dorsal fin with 8 or 9 slender spines; second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 9 or 10 soft rays; anal fin with 2 slender spines and 7 or 8 soft rays. No fin spines serrate. Scales cycloid (smooth).

Colour: head, body and fins brownish black; pectoral fins pale.

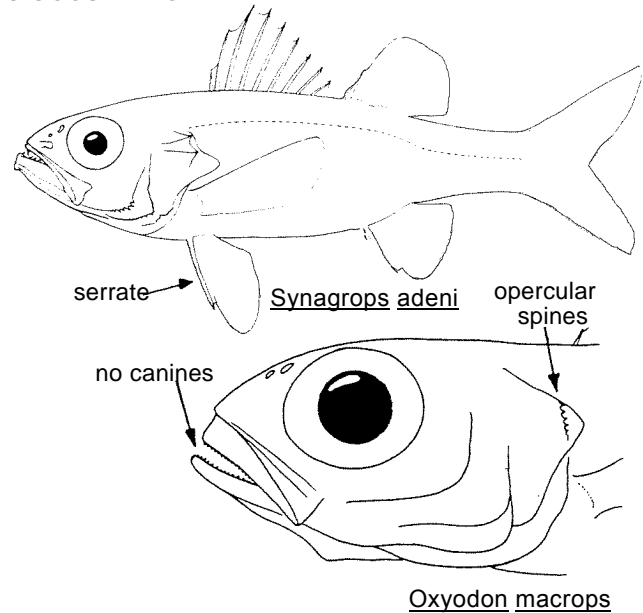
DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Synagrops adeni and S. pellucidus: pelvic fin spine serrate; preopercular ridge with spines.

Neoscombrops annectens: 3 anal fin spines (2 in S. japonicus); 15 or 16 gillrakers on lower limb of first arch (12 in S. japonicus).

Oxyodon macrops: scales ctenoid (rough to touch); no canines in jaws; opercle with 3 or 4 short spines dorsally.

Acropoma japonicum: anus closer to pelvic fin origins than to anal fin; a light organ between pelvic fins and a light reflector along lower profile of body; 3 anal fin spines.

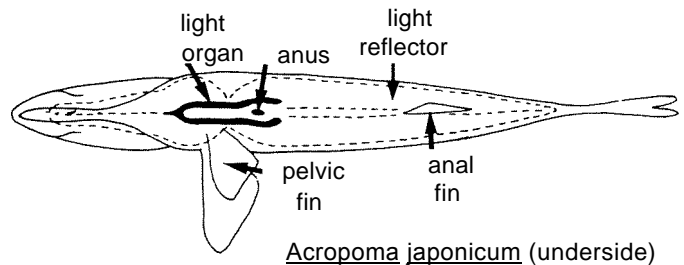


SIZE:

Maximum: 30 cm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Probably widely distributed throughout Western Indian Ocean. Recorded from Natal (South Africa) and off Kenya.



PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Trawlable bottoms in depths of 180 to 600 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Caught with trawls.

Marketed fresh and used for fishmeal.

