

LACT

1983

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

**FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)**

LACTARIIDAE

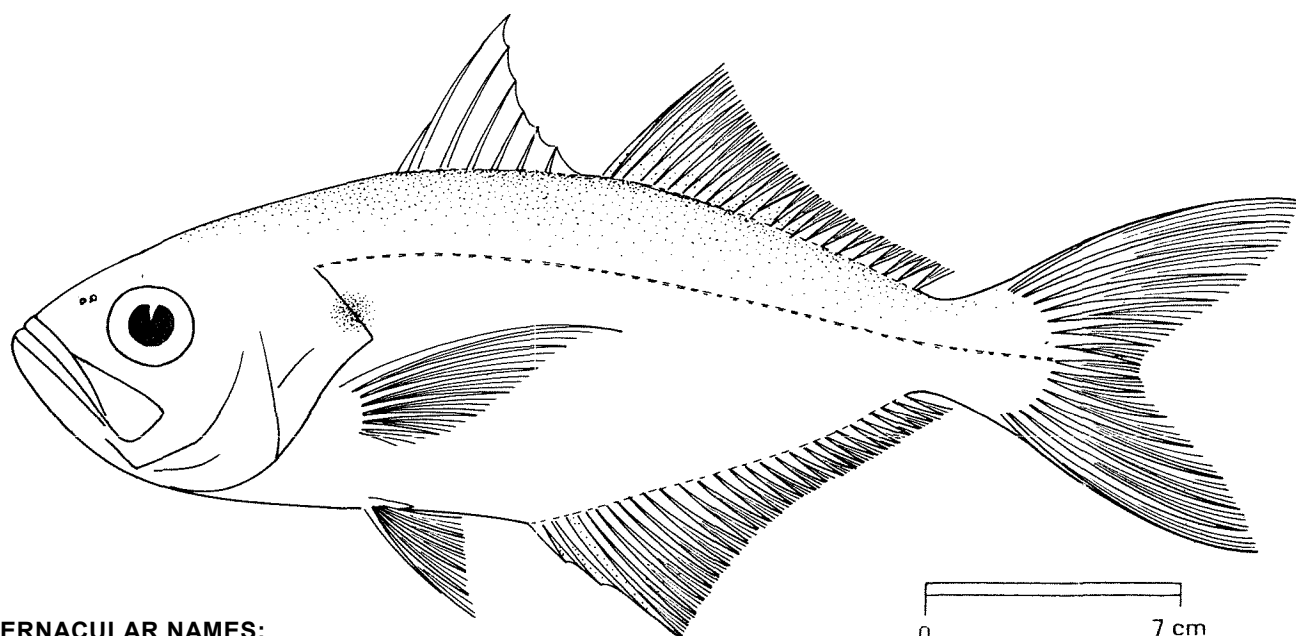
False trevallies, milk trevallies

A single species in the area: see species sheet for:

Lactarius lactarius (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) LACT Lact 1

FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LACTARIIDAE

FISHING AREA 51
(W. Indian Ocean)Lactarius lactarius (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Lactarius delicatulus Valenciennes, 1833

VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO : En - False trevally
 Fr - Péliau chanos
 Sp - Pagapa

NATIONAL:

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body oblong, strongly compressed. Head large; subequal to height of body, contained 2.8 to 3.2 times in standard length; snout 3.8 to 4.3 times in head length; maxilla reaching to posterior third of eye; mouth large and oblique, with a prominent lower jaw; one pair of small, sharp canine teeth at front of each jaw; gillrakers 16 to 21. Two dorsal fins of about equal height, the first with 7 or 8 spines, the second with 1 spine and 20 to 22 soft rays; pectoral fins long and pointed; pelvic fins just below pectoral fin bases, half as long as the pectorals; anal fin with 3 spines and 25 to 28 rays, its base longer than that of second dorsal fin; caudal fin forked. Scales medium-sized, cycloid (smooth), very easily shed (market specimens often lack almost all scales). Lateral line scales 62 to 78.

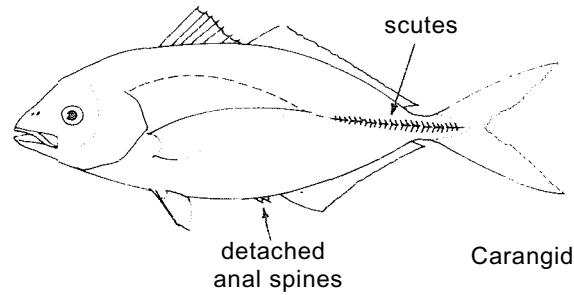
Colour: silvery grey with a blue iridescence above; silvery white below. A dusky spot on upper part of gill cover. Fins all pale yellow; dorsal and caudal fin sometimes with dusky margins. The blue iridescence and sometimes the yellow of the fins is lost some hours after death.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA :

Carangidae: 2 short spines in front of and separate from the anal fin; also, In many species spiny scutes present on the lateral line.

SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm; common to 30 cm.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Throughout the area. Also found in the Eastern Indian Ocean and the Western Central Pacific, extending eastward to the Philippines, northward to Japan, and southward to Queensland (Australia).

Occurs in water shallower than 100 m on a wide range of bottom types. In some areas it shows seasonal changes in catch rates.

Feeds on a range of bottom-living animals.

PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

Coastal waters to depths of 100 m.

CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

The total catch in the area in 1981 was 4 480 tons (mostly India).

Caught mainly with bottom trawls, boat seines and traps.

Marketed mostly fresh; also dried salted. Its flesh is highly appreciated.

