

Acknowledgements

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Note about the Organization of this Book

Ichthyologists tend to rigorously follow phylogeny (ie progressive linear evolutionary sequences) when it comes to organizing books about fishes. Other types of technical specialists and the general public have their own criteria for organizing fish groups which sometimes combine phylogenetically distantly related taxons (ie eels, pomfrets). In order to make this volume a little easier to use for non-ichthyologists (who are not the primary intended readership in any case) the author has taken some liberties in arranging and ordering the groupings of families of fishes. This has produced a certain compromise between rigorous science and popular perception, which it is hoped will not provoke too much censure from ichthyologists and make use of the book and 'learning' the Sundarbans finfishes easier for most readers.

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প্রকাশন নং ৭১
তারিখ ১৭-৪-০৩

**Guide to the FINFISHES
of the Bangladesh Sundarbans**
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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	i
SHARKS & RAYS	1
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans	1
Family Carcharhinidae	2
<i>Scoliodon laticauda</i>	2
<i>Glyphis glyphis</i>	3
<i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i>	7
Family Sphyrnidae	8
<i>Eusphyrna blochii</i>	8
Family Rhinobatidae	8
<i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i>	8
<i>Rhinobatos granulatus</i>	9
Family Pristidae	11
<i>Pristis microdon</i>	11
Family Narcinidae	12
<i>Narcine brunnea</i>	12
<i>Narcine timlei</i>	14
<i>Narke dipterygia</i>	16
Family Dasyatidae	17
<i>Himantura uarnak</i>	17
<i>Himantura fluviatilis</i>	18
<i>Himantura gerrardi</i>	20
<i>Himantura uarnacoides</i>	22
<i>Himantura undulata</i>	25
<i>Himantura walga</i>	26
<i>Dasyatis zugei</i>	28
<i>Pastinachus sephen</i>	30
Family Gymnuridae	31
<i>Gymnura poecilura</i>	31
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans	33
ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES	35
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans	35
Family Engraulidae	36
<i>Coilia dussumieri</i>	36
<i>Coilia neglecta</i>	37
<i>Coilia ramcarati</i>	38
<i>Setippina phasa</i>	39
<i>Setipinna taty</i>	40
<i>Stolephorus tri</i>	41
<i>Thryssa dussumieri</i>	41
<i>Thryssa hamiltonii</i>	42
Family Pristigasteridae	43
<i>Pellona ditchela</i>	43
<i>Ilisha melastoma</i>	43
<i>Ilisha megaloptera</i>	44
<i>Raconda russelliana</i>	45
Family Chirocentridae	46
<i>Chirocentrus dorab</i>	46
<i>Chirocentrus nudus</i>	47

Family Clupeidae.....	48
<i>Anodontostoma chacunda</i>	48
<i>Dussumieria acuta</i>	49
<i>Escualosa thoracata</i>	49
<i>Gudusia chapra</i>	50
<i>Sardinella fimbriata</i>	51
<i>Sardinella gibbosa</i>	51
<i>Sardinella melanura</i>	52
<i>Hilsa kelee</i>	53
<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>	54
<i>Tenualosa toli</i>	56
Family Elopidae	57
<i>Elops machnata</i>	57
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans	57
EELS	59
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	59
Family Muraenesocidae.....	60
<i>Congresox talabonoides</i>	60
<i>Muraenesox cinereus</i>	61
Family Synbranchidae	61
<i>Monopterusuchia</i>	61
Family Ophichthidae	62
<i>Pisodonophis boro</i>	62
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans	64
BARBS	65
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	65
Family Cyprinide.....	65
<i>Puntius terio</i>	65
CATFISHES	67
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	67
Family Bagridae	68
<i>Mystus gulio</i>	68
<i>Mystus bleekeri</i>	69
Family Schilbeidae	69
<i>Ailia coila</i>	69
<i>Pangasius pangasius</i>	70
<i>Silonia silondia</i>	71
Family Clariidae.....	72
<i>Clarias batrachus</i>	72
Family Plotosidae	73
<i>Plotosus canius</i>	73
<i>Plotosus lineatus</i>	74
Family Ariidae	75
<i>Arius gagora</i>	75
<i>Arius arius</i>	76
<i>Arius platystomus</i>	77
<i>Arius dussumieri</i>	78
<i>Arius maculatus</i>	80
<i>Arius nenga</i>	81
<i>Arius sona</i>	82
<i>Arius thalassinus</i>	84
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans	85

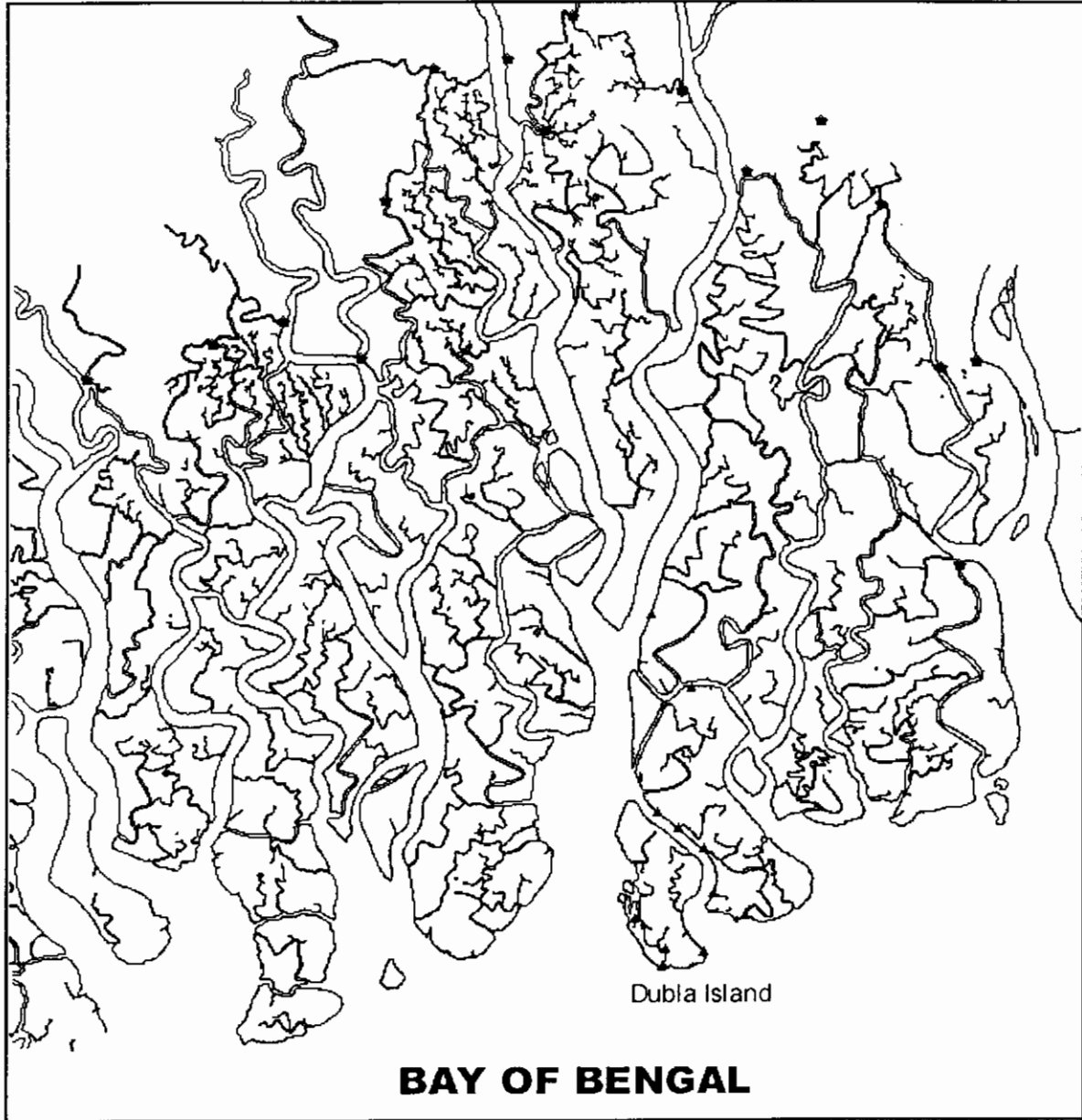
LIZARDFISHES & BOMBAY DUCKS.....	87
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	87
Family Synodontidae.....	87
<i>Saurida tumbil</i>	87
<i>Harpadon nehereus</i>	88
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	90
FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES.....	97
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	97
Family Platycephalidae.....	98
<i>Cociella punctata</i>	98
<i>Grammoplites scaber</i>	98
<i>Platycephalus indicus</i>	99
<i>Rogadius pristiger</i>	100
Family Batrachoididae.....	100
<i>Allenbatrachus grunniens</i>	100
Family Uranoscopidae.....	101
<i>Ichthyoscopus inermis</i>	101
<i>Uranoscopus guttatus</i>	102
Family Scorpaenidae.....	103
<i>Pterois milesi</i>	103
<i>Pterois russelli</i>	104
FLUTEMOUTHS AND SEAHORSES.....	95
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	95
Family Fistulariidae.....	95
<i>Fistularia petimba</i>	95
Family Syngnathidae.....	96
<i>Hippocampus kuda</i>	96
HALFBEAKS & NEEDLEFISHES.....	91
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	91
Family Hemiramphidae.....	91
<i>Rhynchorhamphus georgii</i>	91
<i>Hyporhamphus limbatus</i>	92
<i>Hyporhamphus xanthopterus</i>	92
Family Belonidae.....	93
<i>Strongylura strongylura</i>	93
<i>Tylosurus crocodilus</i>	94
<i>Xenentodon cancila</i>	94
BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS.....	105
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	105
Family Centropomidae.....	106
<i>Lates calcarifer</i>	106
Family Ambassidae.....	108
<i>Chanda nama</i>	108
<i>Pseudambassis baculis</i>	108
<i>Pseudambassis ranga</i>	109
Family Terapontidae.....	109
<i>Terapon jarbua</i>	109
<i>Terapon theraps</i>	110
Family Apogonidae.....	111
<i>Apogon novemfasciatus</i>	111
<i>Apogon septemstriatus</i>	111
Family Lobotidae.....	112
<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	112

Family Sparidae	113
<i>Argyrops spinifer</i>	113
Family Nemipteridae	114
<i>Nemipterus japonicus</i>	114
<i>Nemipterus nematophorus</i>	114
GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS	115
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans	115
Family Serranidae	116
<i>Cephalopholis miniata</i>	116
<i>Epinephelus fasciatus</i>	116
<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>	117
Family Lutjanidae	118
<i>Lutjanus johnii</i>	118
<i>Lutjanus sanguineus</i>	119
<i>Pinjalo pinjalo</i>	120
Family Lethrinidae	121
<i>Lethrinus ornatus</i>	121
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans	122
GRUNTS, TIGERFISHES & ARCHERFISHES	123
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans	123
Family Haemulidae	124
<i>Pomadasys argyreus</i>	124
<i>Pomadasys maculatum</i>	126
Family Coiidae	127
<i>Coius quadrifasciatus</i>	127
Family Toxotidae	128
<i>Toxotes chatareus</i>	128
GOATFISHES, WHITINGS & CODLETS	129
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans	129
Family Mullidae	130
<i>Upeneus sulphureus</i>	130
<i>Parupeneus heptacanthus</i>	130
Family Sillaginidae	131
<i>Sillaginopsis panijus</i>	131
<i>Sillago sihama</i>	132
Family Bregmacerotidae	133
<i>Bregmaceros maclellandi</i>	133
CROAKERS	135
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans	135
Family Sciaenidae	136
<i>Macrospinosa cuja</i>	136
<i>Chrysochir aureus</i>	138
<i>Otolithes ruber</i>	139
<i>Otolithoides pama</i>	140
<i>Panna microdon</i>	141
<i>Protonibea diacanthus</i>	142
<i>Pterolithus maculatus</i>	142
<i>Johnius argentatus</i>	143
<i>Johnius dussumieri</i>	144
<i>Johnius elongatus</i>	145
<i>Johnius gangeticus</i>	145
<i>Johnius vogleri</i>	146
<i>Pennahia anea</i>	147
<i>Dendrophysa russelli</i>	147
<i>Atrobucca nibe</i>	148
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans	148

MULLETS & BARRACUDAS	149
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	149
Family Mugilidae.....	150
<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	150
<i>Liza planiceps</i>	150
<i>Liza parsia</i>	151
<i>Liza subviridis</i>	152
<i>Valamugil speigleri</i>	152
<i>Rhinomugil corsula</i>	153
<i>Sicamugil cascasia</i>	154
Family Sphyraenidae.....	155
<i>Sphyraena barracuda</i>	155
<i>Sphyraena jello</i>	155
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	156
THREADFINS	157
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	157
Family Polynemidae.....	158
<i>Eleuthronema tetradactylum</i>	158
<i>Polynemus indicus</i>	159
<i>Polynemus paradiseus</i>	162
<i>Polynemus sexfilis</i>	164
<i>Polynemus microstoma</i>	164
<i>Polynemus sextarius</i>	165
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	165
TREVALLIES & SCADS	167
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	167
Family Carangidae.....	168
<i>Alectis indica</i>	168
<i>Atropus atropus</i>	169
<i>Carangoides malabaricus</i>	170
<i>Alepes djedaba</i>	171
<i>Alepes melanoptera</i>	171
<i>Megalaspis cordyla</i>	172
<i>Selar boops</i>	173
<i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>	173
<i>Scomberoides commersonianus</i>	174
Family Lactariidae.....	174
<i>Lactarius lactarius</i>	174
MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNA	175
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	175
Family Scombridae.....	175
<i>Rastrelliger brachysoma</i>	175
<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i>	176
<i>Sarda orientalis</i>	176
<i>Scomberomorus commersoni</i>	177
<i>Scomberomorus lineolatus</i>	178
<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>	179
<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	180
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	181
PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD	183
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	183
Family Leiognathidae.....	184
<i>Gazza minuta</i>	184
<i>Leiognathus bindus</i>	184
<i>Leiognathus equulus</i>	185
<i>Leiognathus fasciatus</i>	185
<i>Secutor insidiator</i>	186
<i>Secutor ruconius</i>	187

Family Gerreidae.....	188
<i>Gerres filamentosus</i>	188
<i>Pentaprion longimanus</i>	189
Family Kurtidae.....	190
<i>Kurtus indicus</i>	190
SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES	191
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	191
Family Scatophagidae.....	192
<i>Scatophagus argus</i>	192
Family Ephippidae.....	194
<i>Ephippus orbis</i>	194
Family Stromateidae.....	195
<i>Pampus chinensis</i>	195
<i>Pampus argenteus</i>	196
Family Carangidae.....	198
<i>Parastromateus niger</i>	198
Family Drepanidae.....	200
<i>Drepane longimana</i>	200
<i>Drepane punctata</i>	202
Family Menidae.....	203
<i>Mene maculata</i>	203
GOBIES, MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS	205
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	205
Family Eleotridae.....	206
<i>Eleotris fusca</i>	206
<i>Butis melanostigma</i>	206
<i>Butis butis</i>	207
Family Gobiidae.....	207
<i>Glossogobius giurus</i>	207
<i>Pogonogobius planiformes</i>	208
<i>Stigmatogobius sadanundio</i>	208
<i>Brachygobius nunus</i>	209
<i>Apocryptes bato</i>	209
<i>Pseudapocryptes lanceolatus</i>	210
<i>Parapocryptes batoides</i>	212
<i>Scartelaos histophorus</i>	212
<i>Periophthalmodon schlosseri</i>	213
<i>Boleophthalmus boddarti</i>	214
<i>Periophthalmus koelreuteri</i>	215
<i>Odontamblyopus rubicundus</i>	216
<i>Taenioides buchanani</i>	217
<i>Trypauchan vagina</i>	218
Family Channidae.....	219
<i>Channa orientalis</i>	219
<i>Channa punctata</i>	220
<i>Channa striatus</i>	221
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	221
RIBBONFISHES	223
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	223
Family Trichiuridae.....	223
<i>Lepturacanthus savala</i>	223
<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>	224
<i>Eupleurogrammus muticus</i>	226
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	227

FLATFISHES	229
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	229
Family Cynoglossidae.....	230
<i>Paraplagusia bilineata</i>	230
<i>Symphurus trifasciatus</i>	231
<i>Cynoglossus bilineatus</i>	232
<i>Cynoglossus cynoglossus</i>	232
<i>Cynoglossus lingua</i>	233
<i>Cynoglossus versicolor</i>	234
<i>Cynoglossus puncticeps</i>	234
Family Paralichthyidae.....	235
<i>Pseudorhombus arsius</i>	235
<i>Pseudorhombus elevatus</i>	236
<i>Pseudorhombus malayanus</i>	237
Family Psettodidae.....	238
<i>Psettodes erumei</i>	238
Family Soleidae.....	239
<i>Euryglossa orientalis</i>	239
<i>Euryglossa pan</i>	240
<i>Zebrias altipinnis</i>	240
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	241
TRIGGERFISHES & TRIPODFISHES	243
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	243
Family Balistidae.....	243
<i>Abalistes stellaris</i>	243
Family Triacanthidae.....	244
<i>Pseudotriacanthus strigifer</i>	244
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	246
PUFFERS	247
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans.....	247
Family Tetraodontidae.....	247
<i>Arothron stellatus</i>	247
<i>Chelonodon fluviatilis</i>	248
<i>Chelonodon patoca</i>	249
<i>Tetraodon cutcutia</i>	250
<i>Tetraodon travancoricus</i>	251
<i>Gastrophysus lunaris</i>	252
<i>Takifugu oblongus</i>	253
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans.....	254



The Rivers and Khals of the Bangladesh Sundarbans

INTRODUCTION

Environment and Fish Biodiversity

The closed canopy expanse of the Sundarbans of Bangladesh, along with the contiguous Sundarbans of India, is the largest mangrove forest in the world. Even though it has lost half of its inland area over the last 200 years through human encroachment, some 10,000 km² of mangrove wilderness still remain. The forest is contained within the lower catchment of one of the largest river basins of the world – the Ganges-Brahmaputra (or Padma-Jamuna as it is called in Bangladesh). The mangroves receive only minor direct affluent flow via the Passur River and some small local catchment streams, but is bathed twice daily by massive tidal flow from the northern Bay of Bengal - low in salinity and heavily laden with suspended sediment. The vigorous scouring action of the tides has formed wide river channels inside the forest with north-south alignment.

The special environmental conditions of the Sundarbans exert a rigorous ecological regime on its aquatic fauna and flora. Despite the combination of high tidal flow velocities, heavy silt load and low light penetration, a remarkable finfish biodiversity exists inside the Sundarbans forest and in the adjacent marine zone of the northern Bay of Bengal. The fish community is composed of at least 222 species. These are mainly of marine origin, but several freshwater species are able to take advantage of low salinity and freshwater conditions in the northeastern part of the forest.

The objective of this book is to provide an introductory guide to the finfishes of the Bangladesh Sundarbans. It is aimed at technical specialists who require biodiversity information, but are not professional ichthyologists. Hopefully, it will also be of utility to members of the public who are interested in the natural resources of the Sundarbans.

Finfish Material Examined

The most significant historical inventory of finfishes of the Sundarbans was carried out by Chantarasri (1994) under an FAO project. His species list has been reproduced in many subsequent reports on the Sundarbans when reference is made to fish biodiversity. The inventory was conducted by purchasing fish catches directly from commercial and subsistence fishermen operating in the Sundarbans in 1993. The list contains 196 finfish species. A preserved collection of finfish obtained by the FAO project, consisting of 85 specimen lots, is stored in the laboratory of the Aquatic Resources Division (ARD) of the Forestry Department.

The finfish species list of Chantarasri has been used as a baseline for this volume. Observations were made by the author during the period May 2000 to November 2001 of fish catches at Dubla Char (which represents mainly fish catches from behundi nets in the marine zone) and in the Sundarbans forest (which represent fish catches from many different types of fishing gears). Many specimens were collected and are preserved in the ARD fish collection. Full study of this material (and further study of the Chantarasri collection) in the future will no doubt yield additional new species records for the Sundarbans. An important result of the field work has been the identification of a rare shark species *Glyphis glyphis*. This has been written up as a separate report by Bernacsek and Haque (2001). Some additional new species records for the Sundarbans have resulted from the contracted field studies of Khulna University in January,

February and July 2001. These are presented in three field trip data reports, with additional information in an inception report and a baseline survey report.

Ichthyological Sources for the Sundarbans Finfishes

The author has used an assemblage of local, national and regional ichthyological source literature to identify the finfish species of the Bangladesh Sundarbans. Every effort has been made to present the most current taxonomic nomenclature, and to weed out synonyms.

The classification of fish families used is a recent one obtained from the California Academy of Science, and is based on Eschmeyer (1998).

Species identification and updating of nomenclature was carried out by using the excellent FAO regional publications of Carpenter and Niem (1998, 1999, 1999a) as the main taxonomic reference. They cover the marine fishes of the Western Central Pacific region, but many of the species accounts apply also to the Bay of Bengal. This is a six volume work¹, but only the first four volumes (up to the Carangidae [Trevallies and Scats]) were available to the author. A second reference work that was used is the FAO field guide for the marine fishes of Sri Lanka by De Bruin et al (1994). The FAO field guide for the marine fishes of Mozambique by Fischer et al (1990) - although somewhat removed geographically from the Bay of Bengal - proved to be a useful source for a few species.

Also of great utility were the series of FAO fish species catalogues which present detailed taxonomic and biological accounts of all known species of individual families. The catalogues for groupers, billfishes, scombrids, nemipterids, emperors, snappers, clupeoids, ribbonfishes and whittings were available to the author.

The following local Bangladesh and Indian reference works were also very useful:

- Commercial marine fishes of Bangladesh (Rahman et al, 1995).
- Fishes of the Bay of Bengal (Quddus and Shafi, 1995).
- Checklist of marine fishes in the Museum of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Cox's Bazar (Quayum, 1987).
- Freshwater fishes of Bangladesh (Rahman, 1989).
- Freshwater fishes of India and adjacent countries (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Future Fish Biodiversity Work, Future Editions of this Book

Some important work on the finfish biodiversity of the Sundarbans remains to be done. Once volumes 5 and 6 of the important Carpenter and Niem reference work become available, the identification and nomenclature of the relevant families need to be updated.

Although the fish biodiversity inventory of Chantarasri appears to be quite comprehensive, it is not clear if all of the species listed actually occur in the Sundarbans forest and marine zone. In a review of Chantarasri's 1994 report by Khulna University it was suggested that some species on the list may not actually be present in the Sundarbans, because these species were not found during the catch assessment survey. One explanation of this is that some species included in the

¹ Volume 1 covers seaweeds, corals, bivalves and gastropods.

list are widely ranging species found throughout the Bay of Bengal area, and hence were assumed to also occur within the SRF and marine zone. In some cases, this may be a valid assumption, but in other cases it may not be. Hence there is a need to validate the presence of all species listed by Chantarasri but not found during the current study.

A close scrutiny of primary evidence (ie the Chantarasri fish collection, and the collections of the present study) needs to be undertaken to assemble an accurate list of species. This is time consuming work, and there was insufficient opportunity during the present study to do a thorough investigation of the available preserved material. It is very likely that several 'new' species await discovery in the collections.

Future editions of this book will need to include keys for identification, as well as descriptions of diagnostic field characters, biological data and ecological information for each species. The conservation status of each species should also be assessed, and recommendations given for management strategies and measures to preserve the species in the Sundarbans.

Fish Biodiversity References

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Rahman, A.K.A., M.G. Khan, Z.A. Chowdhury and M.M. Hossain. 1995. Economically important marine fishes and shellfishes of Bangladesh. Department of Fisheries, April 1995, Dhaka.

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Photo above: large catch of *Arius dussumieri* from behundi net at Dubla Char, December 2000

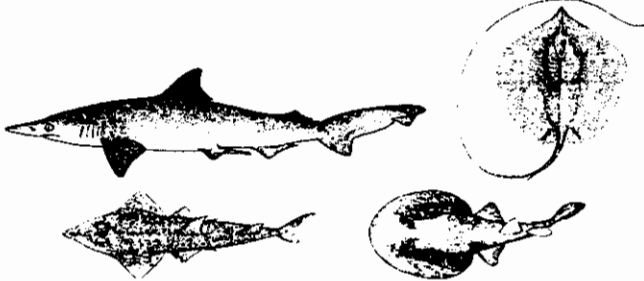
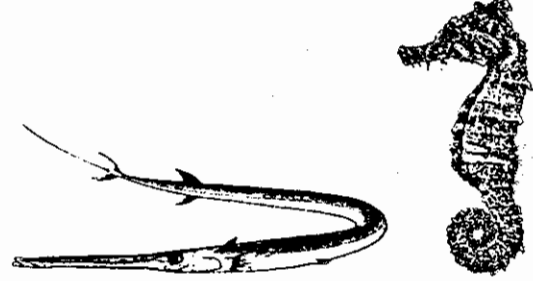
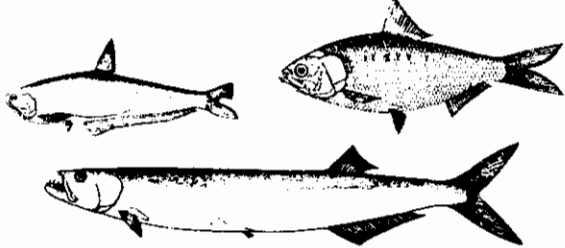
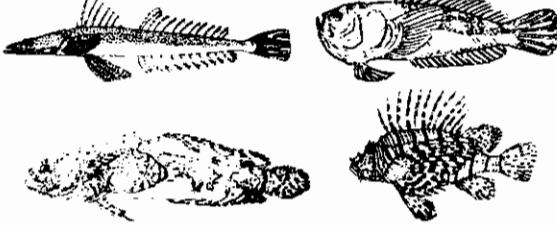
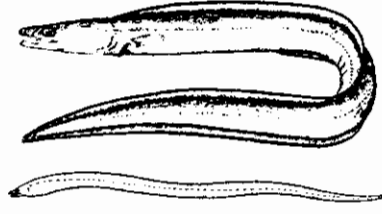
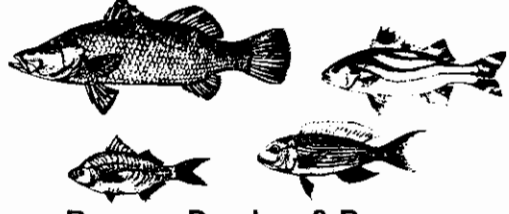
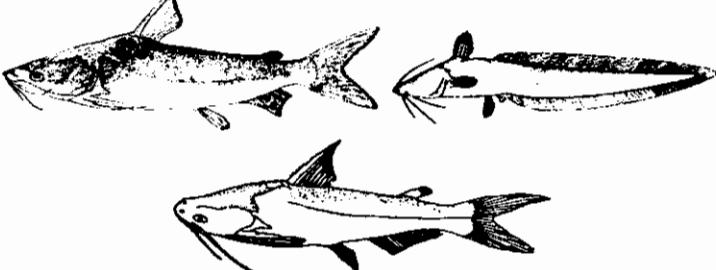
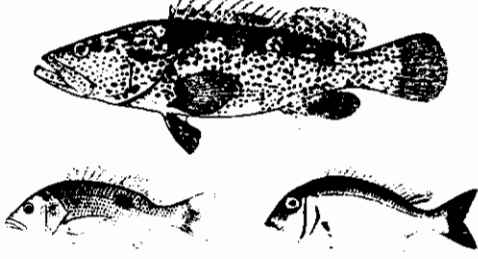
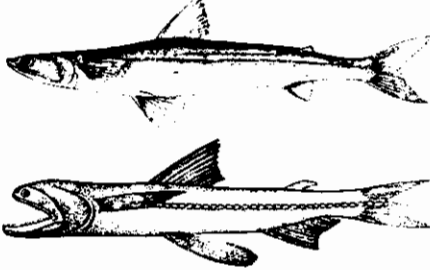
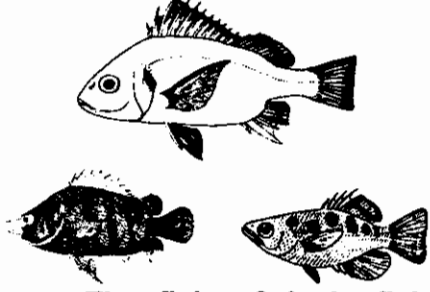
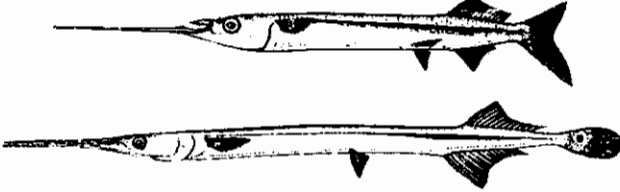
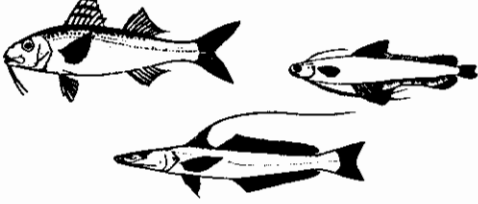
Opposite:

CYCLONE IN THE SUNDARBANS

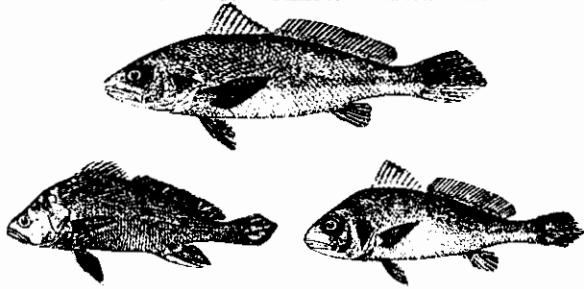
Gerhard Michael Bernacsek; 2001; 92 x 61 cm; oil on canvas



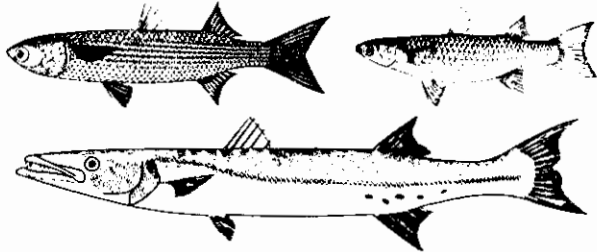
SUNDARBANS FINFISHES

 <p>Sharks & Rays</p>	 <p>Flutemouths & Seahorses</p>
 <p>Anchovies, Herrings & Sardines</p>	 <p>Flatheads, Toadfishes, Stargazers & Lionfishes</p>
 <p>Eels</p>	 <p>Basses, Perches & Breams</p>
 <p>Catfishes</p>	 <p>Groupers, Snappers & Emperors</p>
 <p>Lizardfishes & Bombay Ducks</p>	 <p>Grunts, Tigerfishes & Archerfishes</p>
 <p>Halfbeaks & Needlefishes</p>	 <p>Goatfishes, Whittings, & Codlets</p>

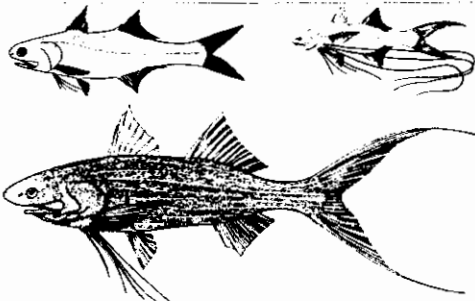
AT A GLANCE



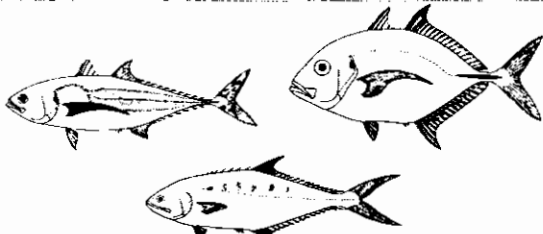
Croakers



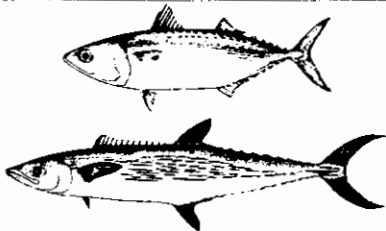
Mullets & Barracudas



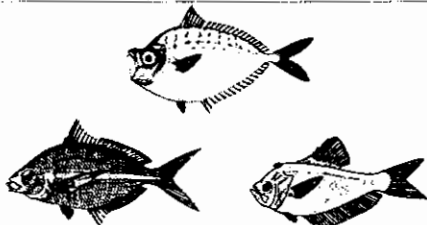
Threadfins



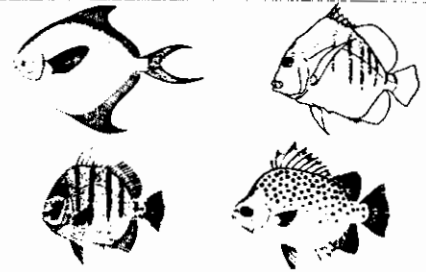
Trevallies & Scads



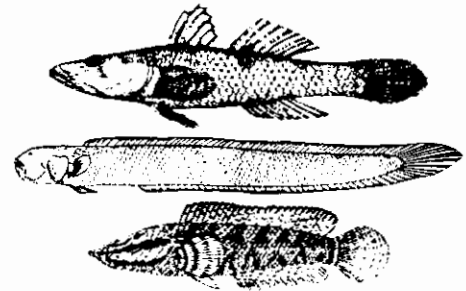
Mackerels, Seerfishes & Tunas



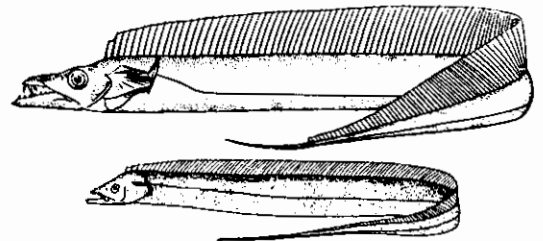
Ponyfishes, Silverbiddies & Humpheads



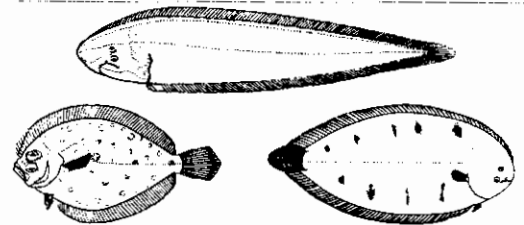
Pomfrets, Sicklefishes & Scats



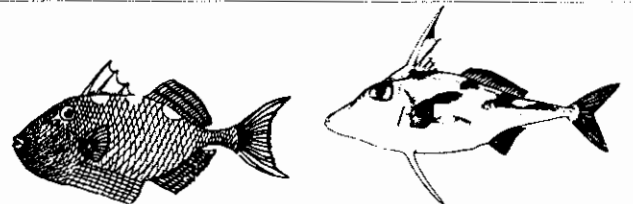
Gobies, Mudskippers & Snakeheads



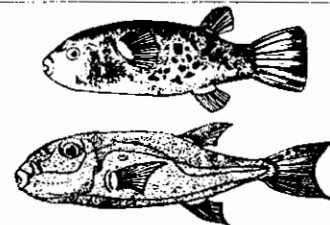
Ribbonfishes



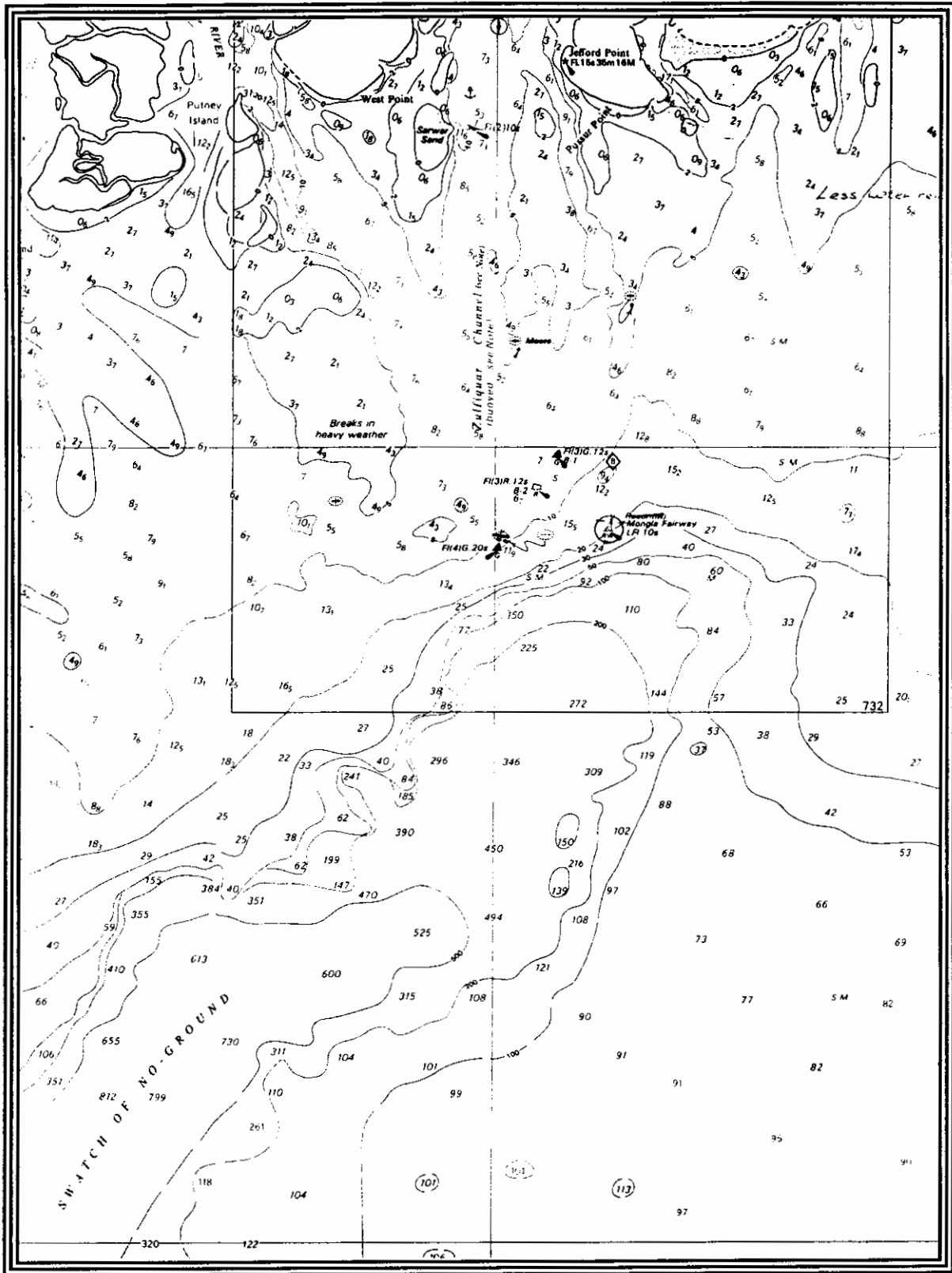
Flatfishes



Triggerfishes & Tripodfishes



Puffers



Bathymetry of the Sundarbans Marine Zone to the south of Dubla Island

(from British Admiralty Nautical Chart #859, Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh and India, Raimangal River to Elephant Point)

Distance from Jefford Point to 100 m isobath (due south 180° heading) = 37.2 km

Distance from Jefford Point to edge of Swatch of No Ground at 500 m isobath (south by southeast 206° heading) = 59.4 km

SHARKS & RAYS

SHARKS & RAYS

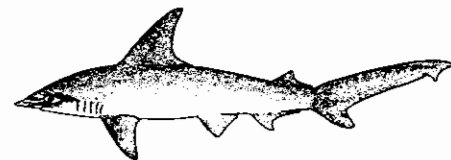
(and Related Cartilaginous Fishes)

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

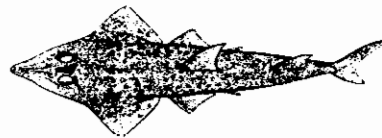
Carcharhinidae *Scoliodon laticauda*
Requiem sharks *Glyphis glyphis*
 Carcharhinus melanopterus



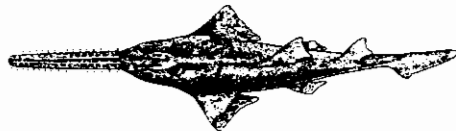
Sphyrnidae *Eusphyrna blochii*
Hammerheads



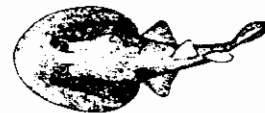
Rhinobatidae *Rhynchobatus djiddensis*
Guitarfishes *Rhinobatos granulatus*



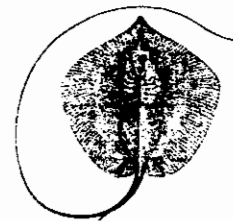
Pristidae *Pristis microdon*
Sawfish



Narcinidae *Narcine brunnea*
Electric rays *Narcine timlei*
 Narke dipterygia



Dasyatidae *Himantura uarnak*
Stingrays *Himantura fluviatilis*
 Himantura gerrardi
 Himantura uarnacoides
 Himantura undulata
 Himantura walga
 Dasyatis zugei
 Pastinachus sephen



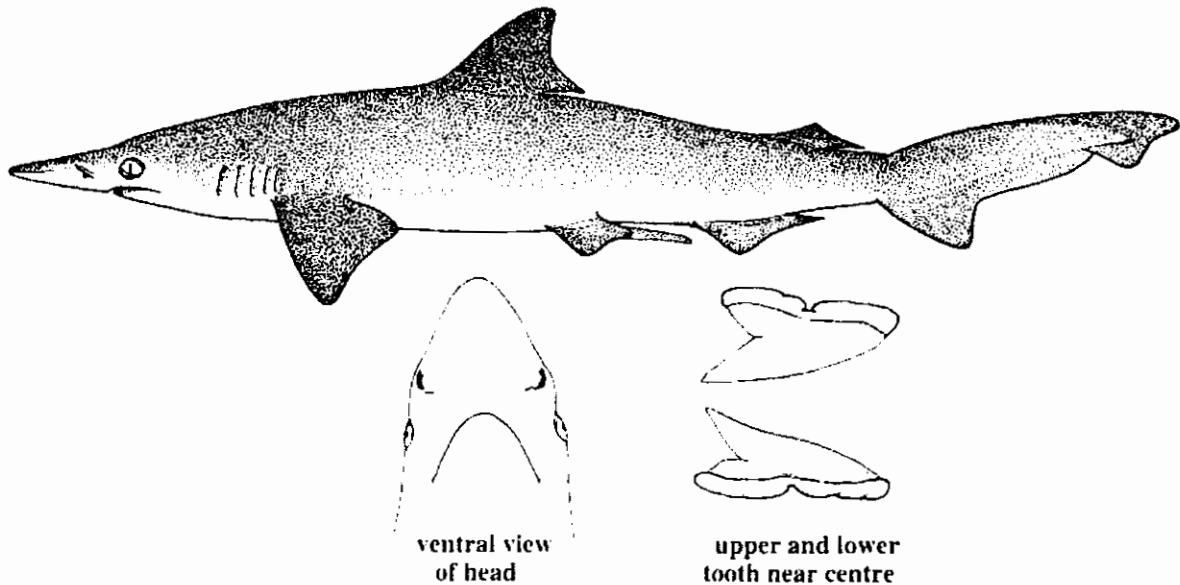
Gymnuridae *Gymnura poecilura*
Butterfly rays



SHARKS & RAYS

Family Carcharhinidae

Scoliodon laticauda (Muller and Henle, 1837)



Scoliodon laticauda SURI KAMOT

Local Names: Suri kamot, thutte hangar.

English Names: Spadenose shark.

Synonyms: *Scoliodon sorrakowah*, *S. walbeehmii*.

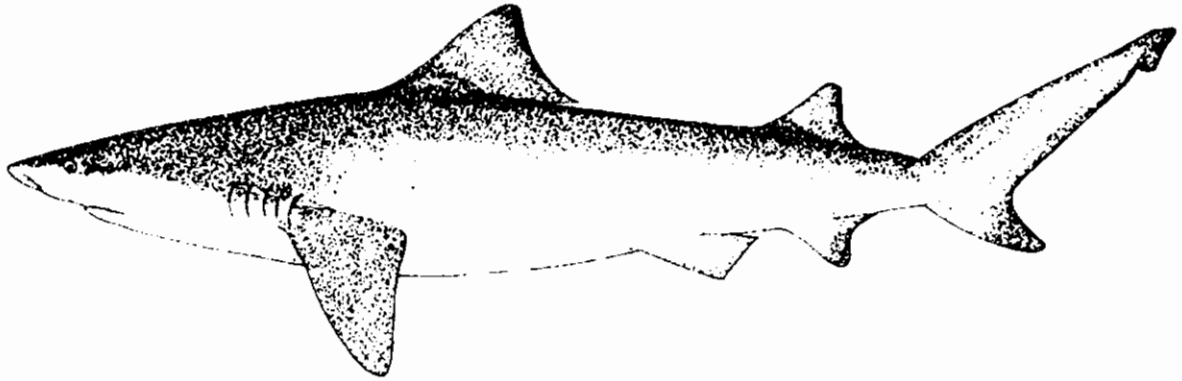
This small shark species is very abundant in the marine zone of the Sundarbans. It was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as the synonym *Scoliodon sorrakowah*. The author has seen large numbers of specimens in the fish drying camps at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. The species is caught by behundi nets set in the Sundarbans marine zone. Most of the specimens caught are small to medium in size (25 to 40 cm in length). It does not appear to enter the Sundarbans forest rivers to any important extent.



SHARKS & RAYS

Family Carcharhinidae

Glyphis glyphis (Muller and Henle, 1839)



Glyphis glyphis ILISHA HANGAR

Local Names: Ilisha hangar.

English Names: Speartooth shark, Queensland river shark

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. The author has examined a large male specimen (*circa* 200 cm in length) and a set of large articulated jaws, both from the Sundarbans marine zone. These specimens are provisionally identified with the species *Glyphis glyphis*. A third specimen, that of a smaller female (*circa* 70-80 cm in length) which had been caught in a poacher's gillnet inside the Sundarbans forest in the Sundarbans East Wildlife Sanctuary, may also belong to this species.

Glyphis glyphis is a rare and poorly known shark. The species was described by Muller and Henle (1839) from a single 100 cm long stuffed specimen in the Humboldt University Zoological Museum in Berlin without locality data. It is believed that a similar shark inhabiting the Bizant River in northern Queensland, Australia may be the same species.



SHARKS & RAYS



SHARKS & RAYS

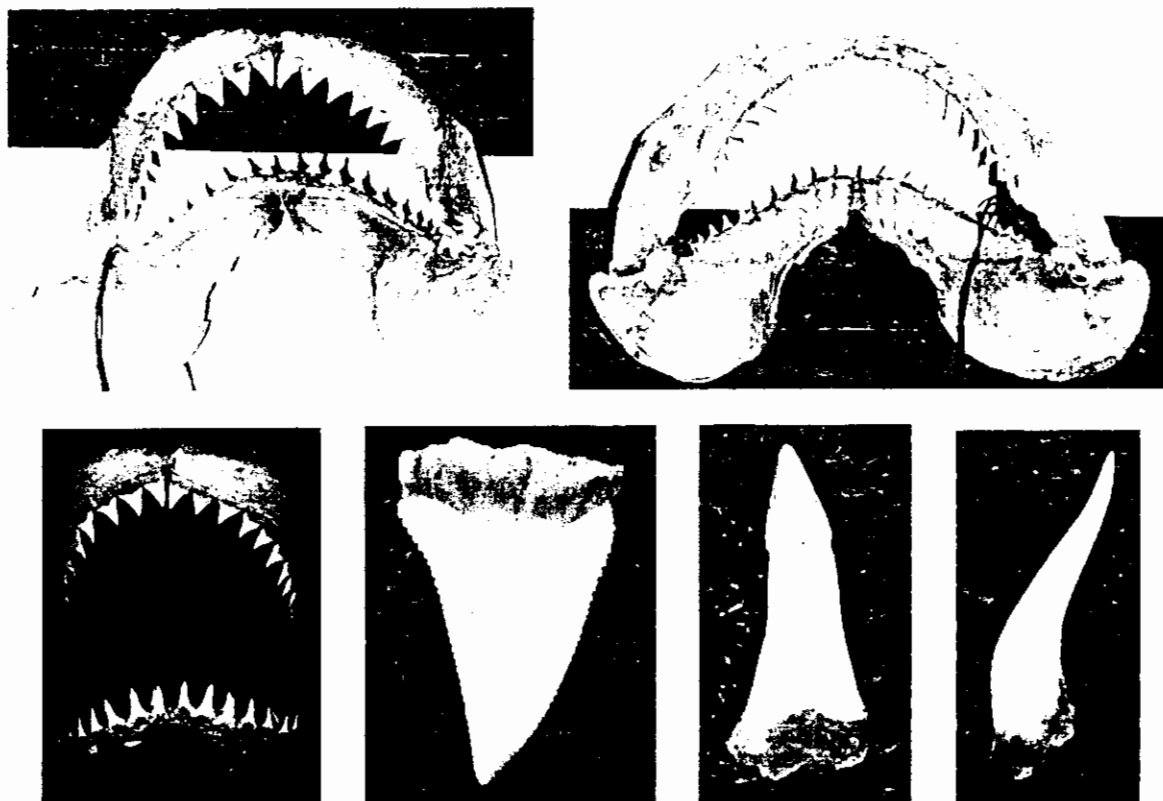


Four photos above of male specimen of *Glyphis glyphis* from marine zone of Sundarbans

Photo below of articulated jaws of *Glyphis glyphis* (ventral view)
(maximum width of jaws 41.9 cm)



SHARKS & RAYS



Six photos above of articulated jaws and teeth of *Glyphis glyphis* from marine zone of Sundarbans

Glyphis glyphis is rare in the commercial shark catch, with only about 10-15 taken each year off the Sundarbans in behundi nets and shark gillnets. The specimens examined by the author constitute a new record for the Sundarbans, for Bangladesh and for the Bay of Bengal, and extend the world distribution range of the species considerably. The species is not listed in the IUCN red book for Bangladesh (as it has only recently been recorded as occurring in Bangladesh), but it is suggested that the species is probably extremely rare and should be considered as critically endangered at national level. Worldwide, *Glyphis glyphis* should certainly be considered a highly endangered species.

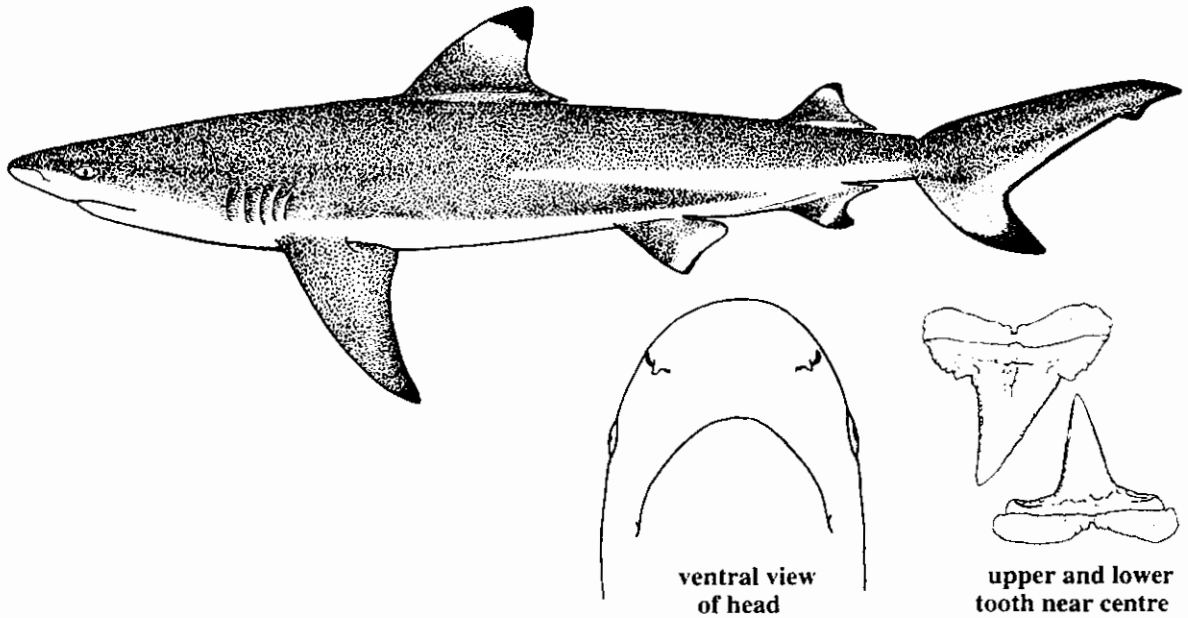


Photo above of possible female *Glyphis glyphis* caught by poachers in Sundarbans forest ('noose' marks from gillnet visible around head and trunk)

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Carcharhinidae

Carcharhinus melanopterus (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)



Carcharhinus melanopterus **KALA HANGAR**

Local Names: Kala hangar

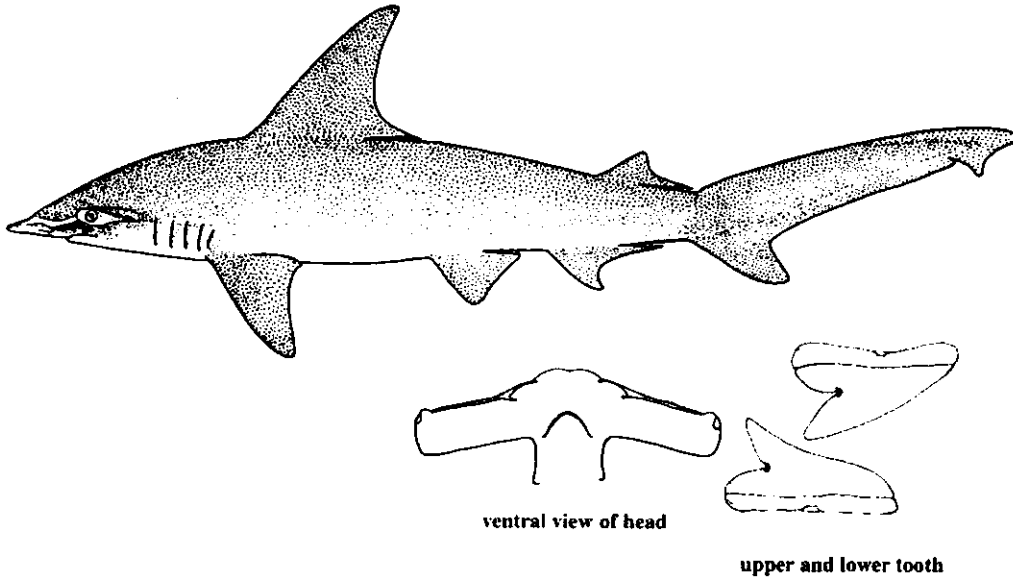
English Names: Blacktip reef shark

This species occurs in the marine waters of Bangladesh. It was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans, but no specimens were seen by the author. It is probably infrequently caught in the marine zone of the Sundarbans.

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Sphyrnidae

Eusphyrna blochii (Cuvier, 1817)



Eusphyrna blochii **KANUA HANGAR**

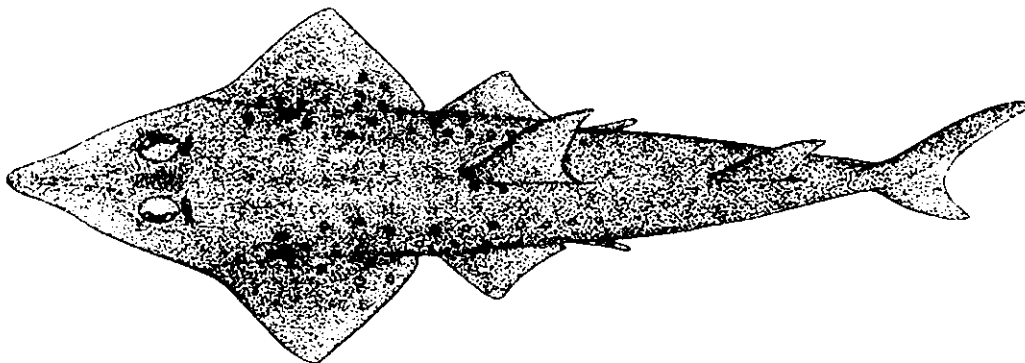
Local Names: Kanua hangar; haturi hangar, moishya. **English Names:** Hammerhead shark, winghead shark.

Synonyms: *Sphyrna blochii*.

This species occurs in the marine waters of Bangladesh. It was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans as the synonym *Sphyrna blochii*. No specimens were seen by the author. It is probably rarely caught in the marine zone of the Sundarbans.

Family Rhinobatidae

Rhynchobatus djiddensis (Forsskal, 1775)



Rhynchobatus djiddensis **KARANJA**

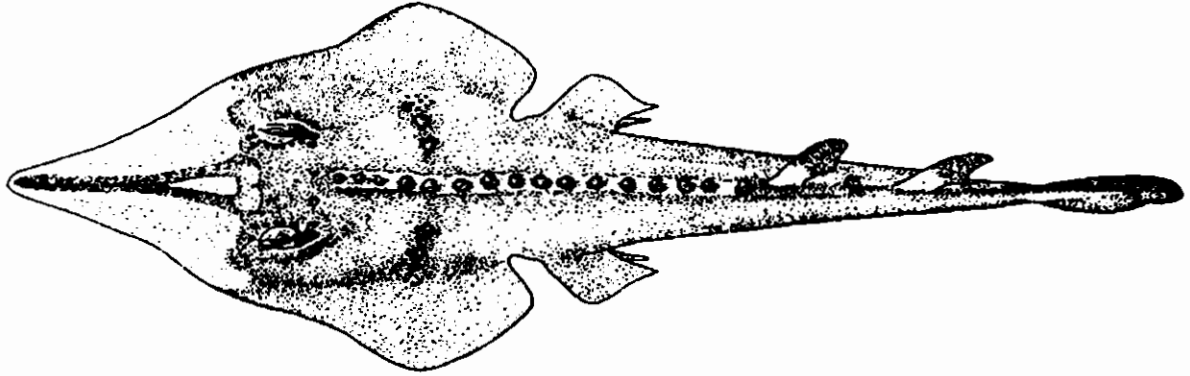
Local Names: Karanja, piambari. **English Names:** Whitespotted guitarfish

Chantarasri (1994) recorded this species from the Sundarbans. It was not seen by the author.

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Rhinobatidae

Rhinobatos granulatus Cuvier, 1829



Rhinobatos granulatus KARANJA

Local Names: Karanja, pitambari

English Names: Sharpnose guitarfish

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000, which had been caught with behundi nets in the marine zone.



SHARKS & RAYS

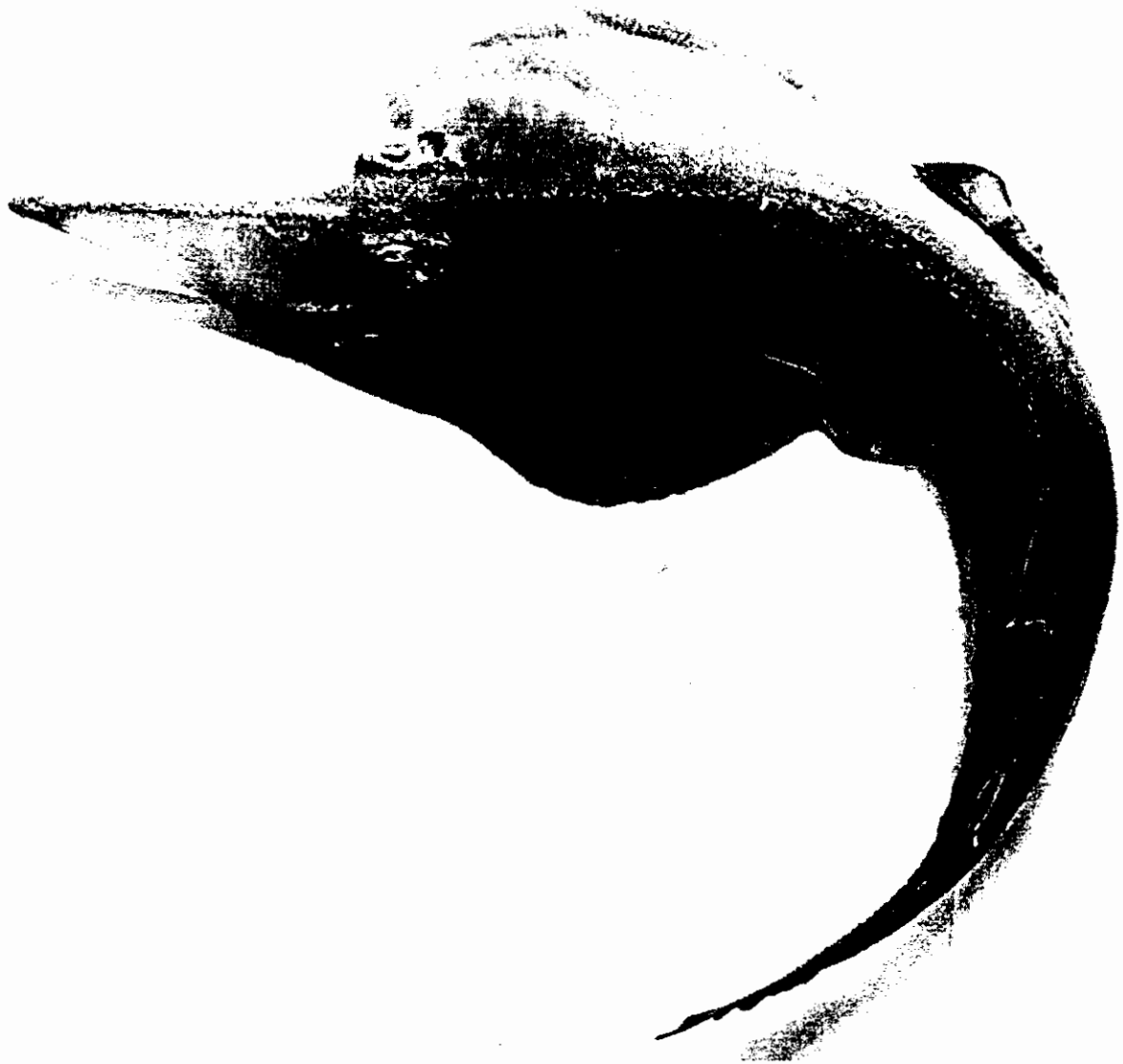
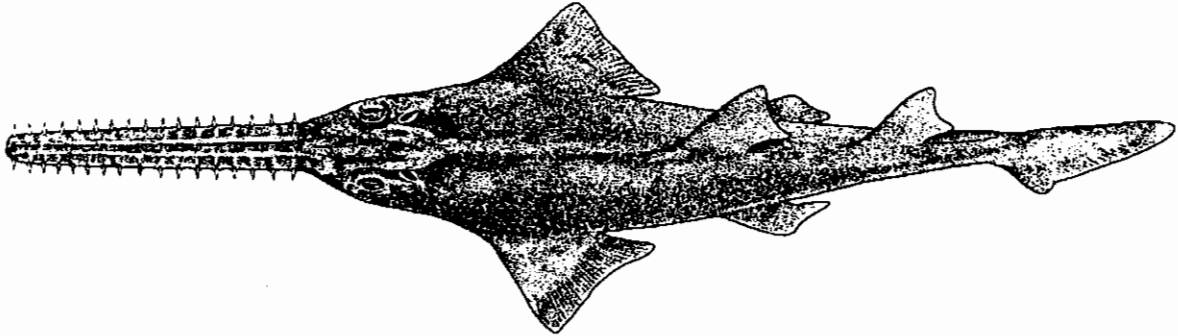


Photo above of *Rhinobatos granulatus*

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Pristidae

Pristis microdon Latham, 1851



Pristis microdon **KARAT HANGAR**

Local Names: Karat hangar, aishya.

English Names: Largetooth sawfish

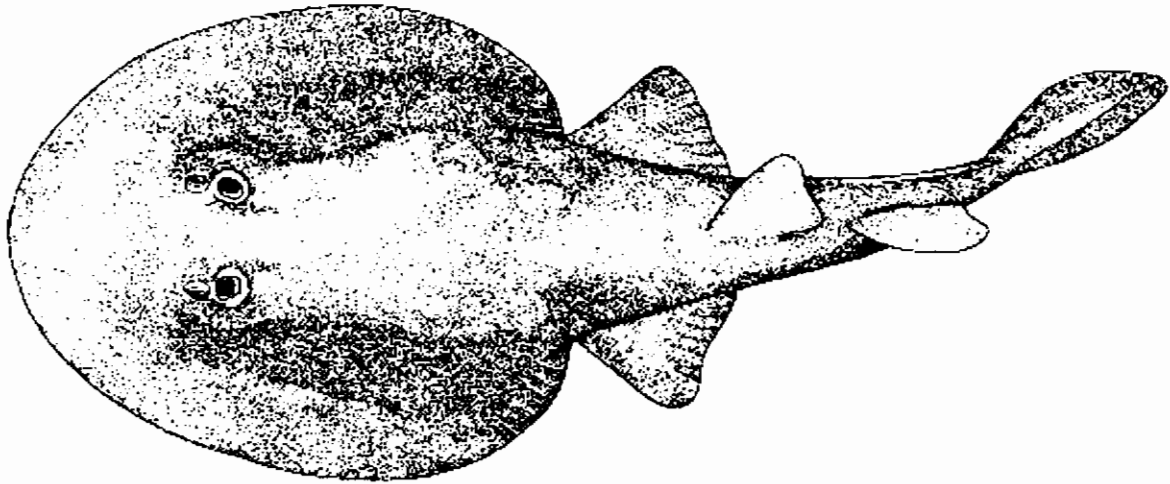
This species has not previously been reported from the Sundarbans. The author saw a specimen (cut into pieces) in a rickshaw in Khulna in December 2000. It was said to have been caught in the sea south of Khulna. The saw blade had 17 teeth on each side, and measured 135 cm in length. The estimated total length of the specimen was about 534 cm, based on the blade length. This blade is now part of a stylized life size representation of a sawfish which hangs from the ceiling of the aquarium room of the Sundarbans Information Centre in Khulna.



SHARKS & RAYS

Family Narcinidae

Narcine brunnea Annandale, 1909



Narcine brunnea CHORCHATA

Local Names: Chorchata, badami biddut.

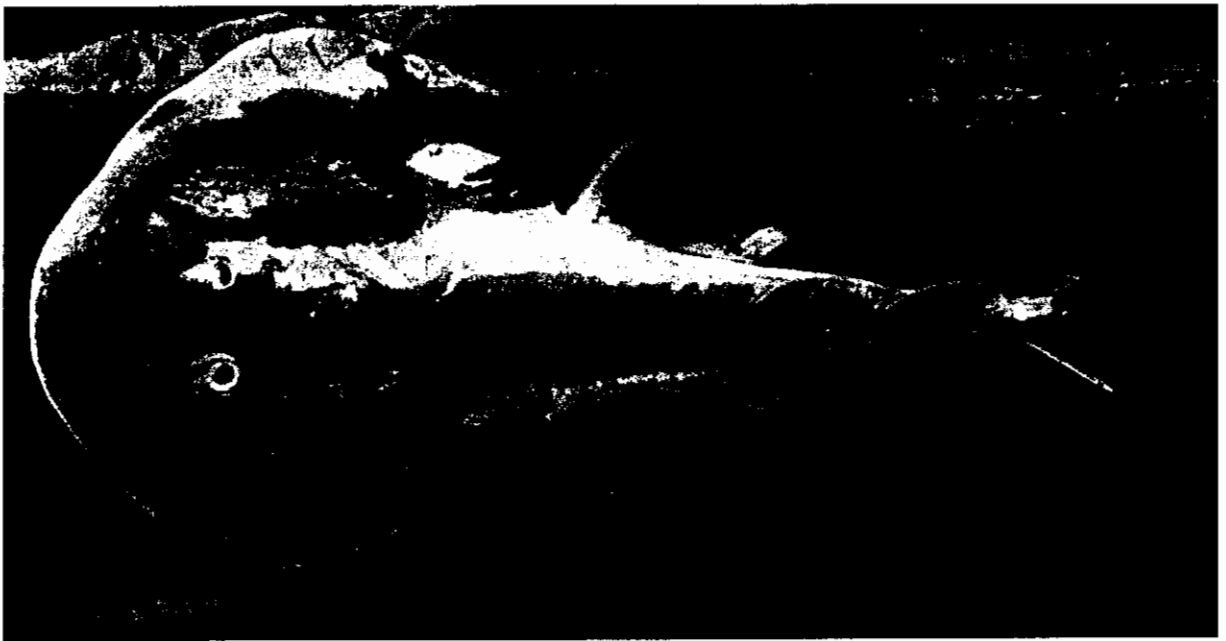
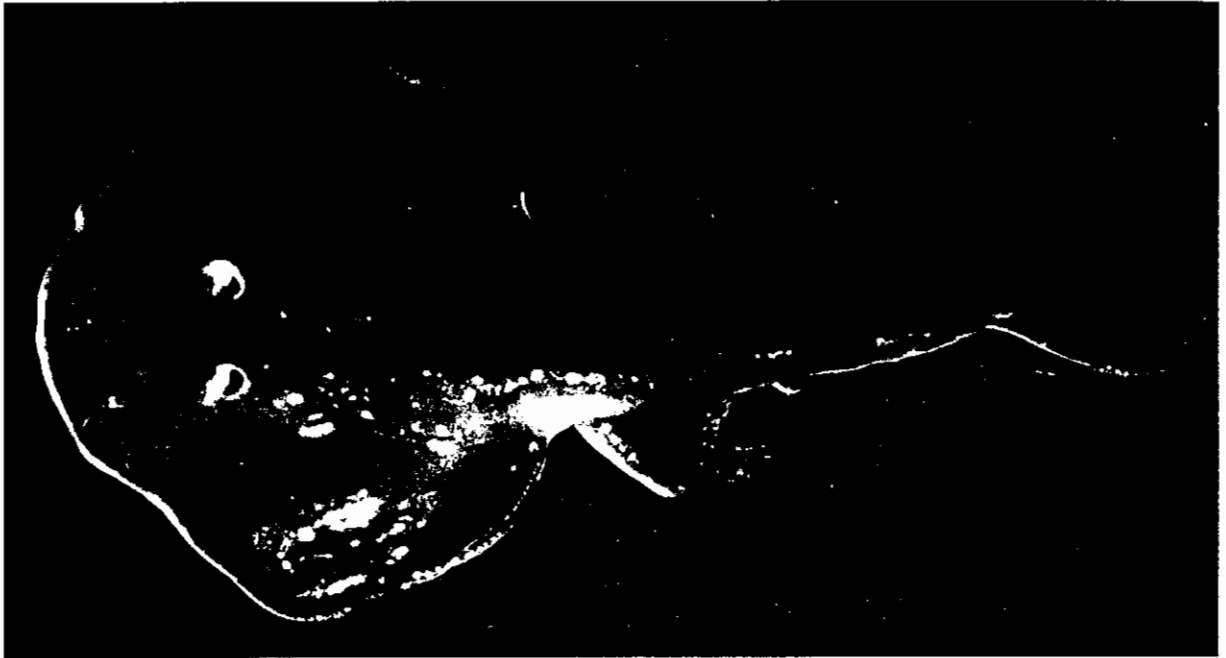
English Names: Brown electric ray, brown numbfish

This small electric ray has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. The author saw several specimens at Dubla Char in January and November 2001. It forms a very small component of the behundi net catch from the marine zone.



Photo above of a female specimen of *Narcine brunnea*

SHARKS & RAYS

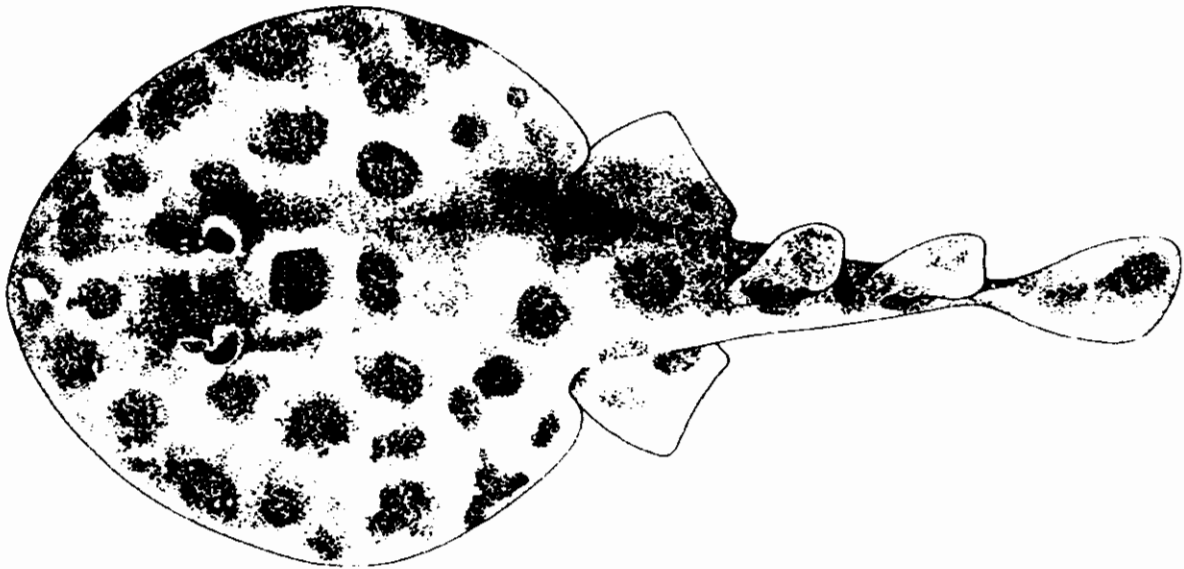


Two photos above of male specimens of *Narcine brunnea*

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Narcinidae

Narcine timlei (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

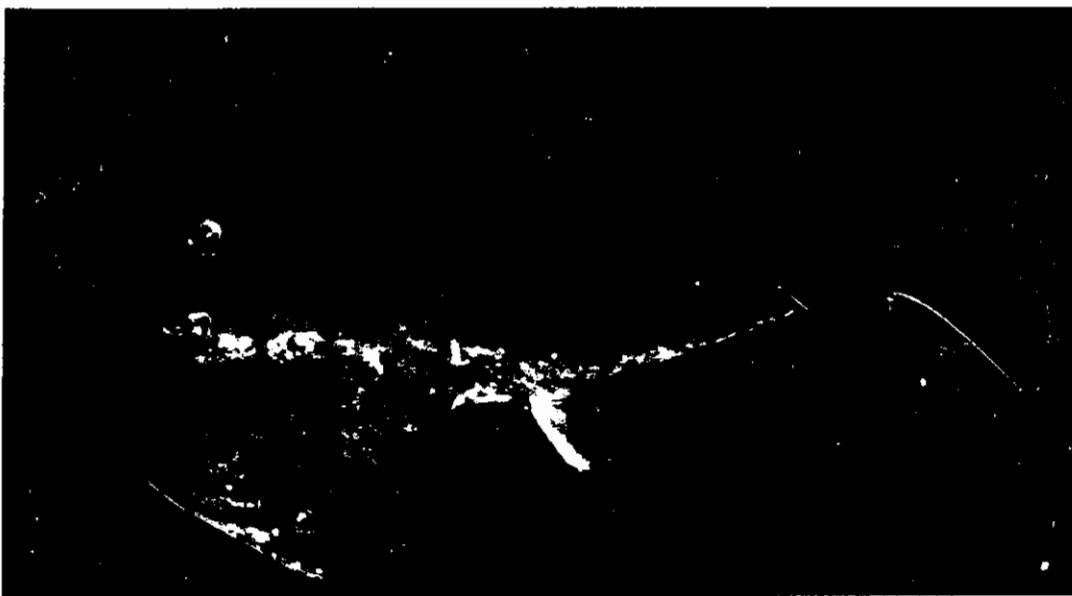


Narcine timlei CHORCHATA

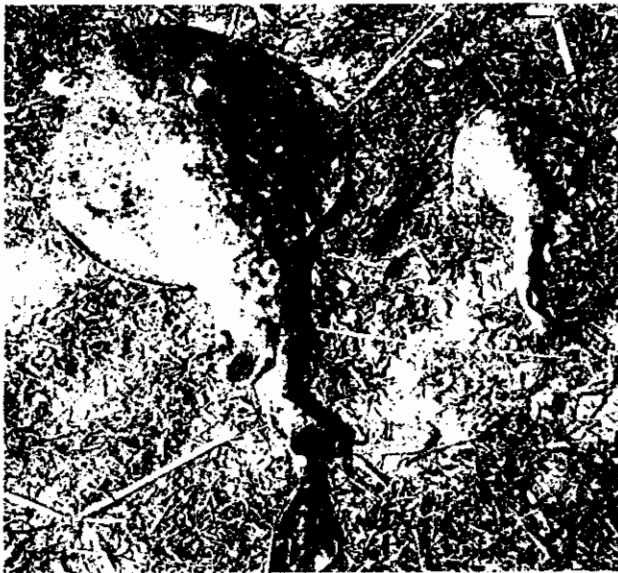
Local Names: Chorchata

English Names: Blackspotted electric ray, blackspotted numbfish.

This large spotted electric ray has not been previously recorded from the Sundarbans. It is very provisionally identified as *Narcine timlei*. Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. It is caught in behundi nets and forms a small part of the total catch.



SHARKS & RAYS



Comparison of typical size of *Narcine timlei* (left) with *Narcine brunnea*



Narcine timlei (left) and *Himantura uarnacoides*

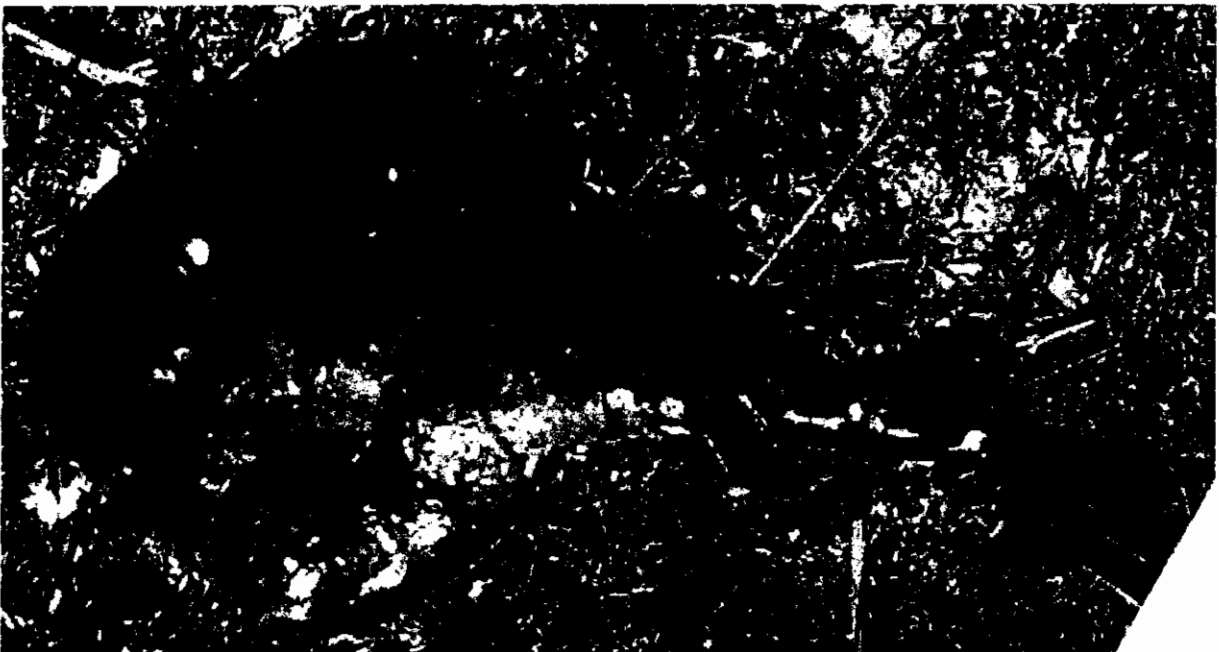
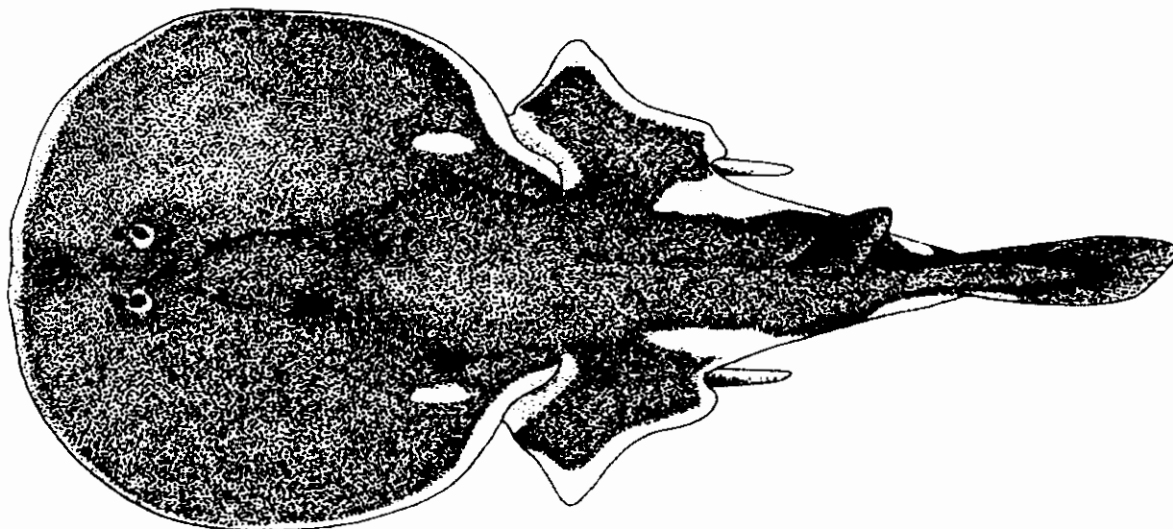


Photo above of female specimen of *Narcine timlei*

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Narcinidae

Narke dipterygia (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

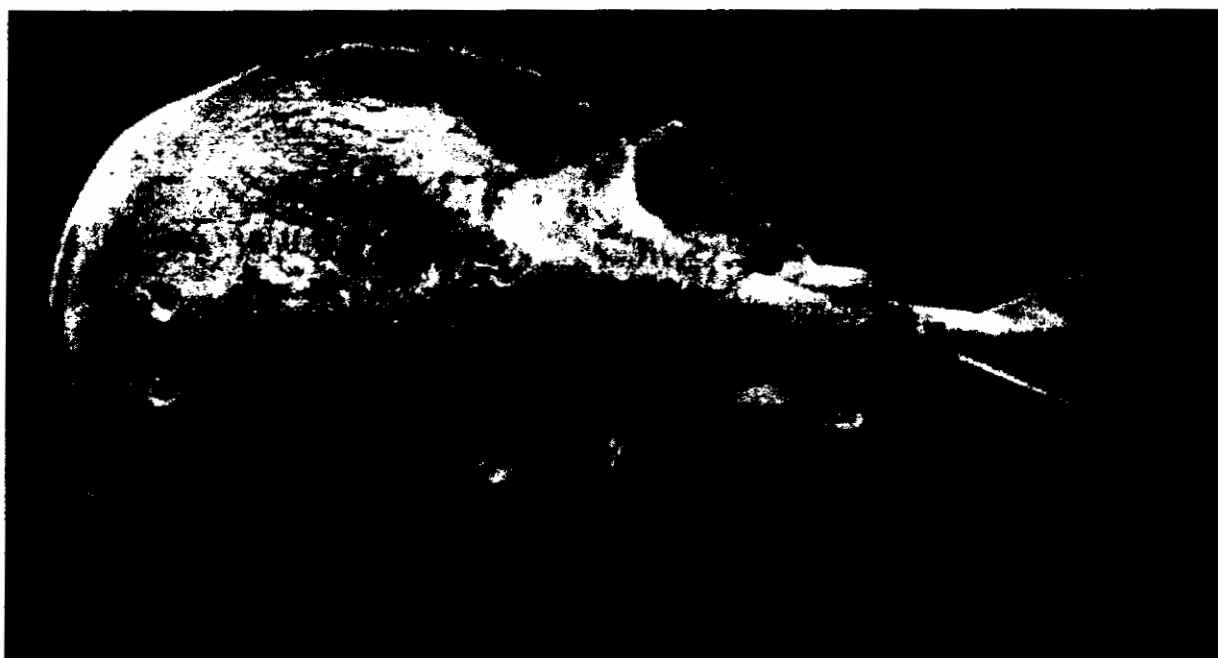


***Narke dipterygia* CHORCHATA**

Local Names: Chorchata

English Names: Spottail electric ray, spottail sleeper ray

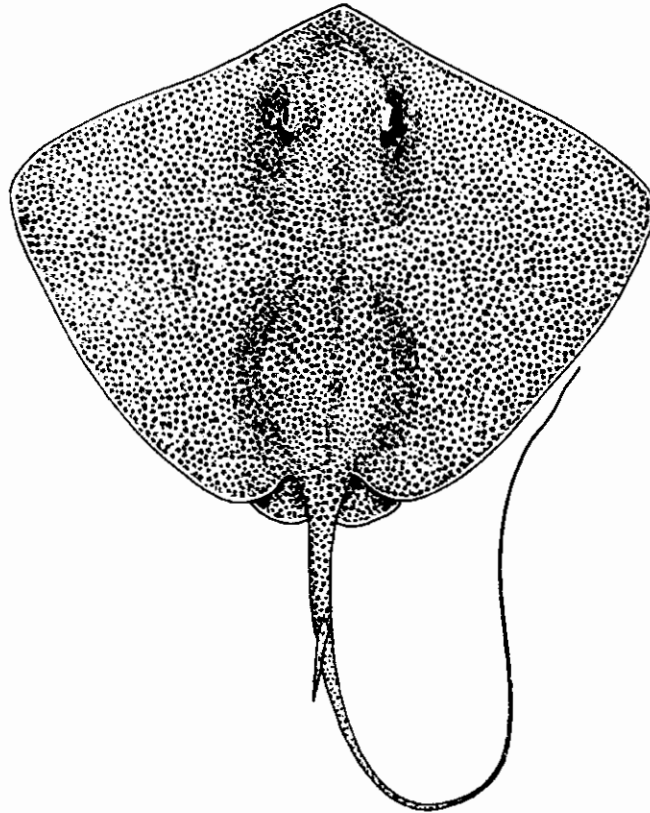
This small electric ray has not been previously recorded from the Sundarbans. One specimen were seen by the author at Dubla Char in November 2001. It was caught by a behundi net in the marine zone.



SHARKS & RAYS

Family Dasyatidae

Himantura uarnak (Forsskal, 1775)

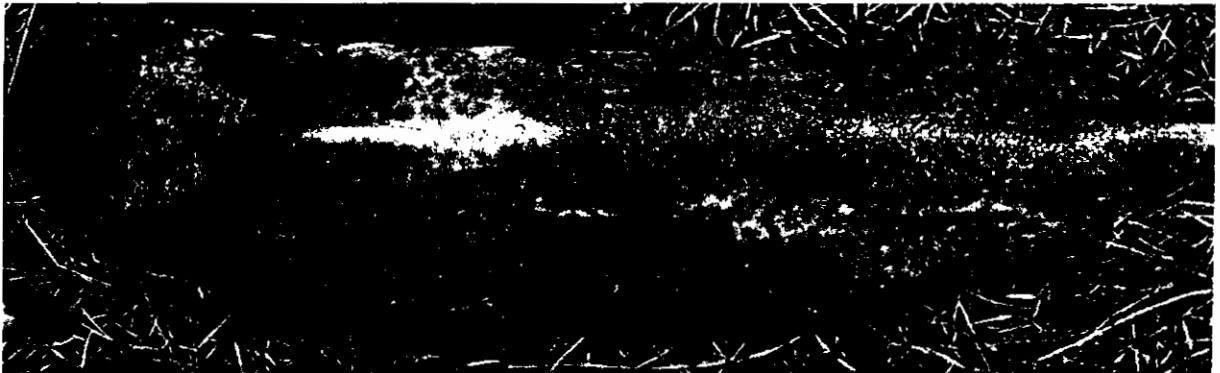


***Himantura uarnak* HAUSH**

Local Names: Haush, sankush.

English Names: Leopard stingray, reticulate whipray.

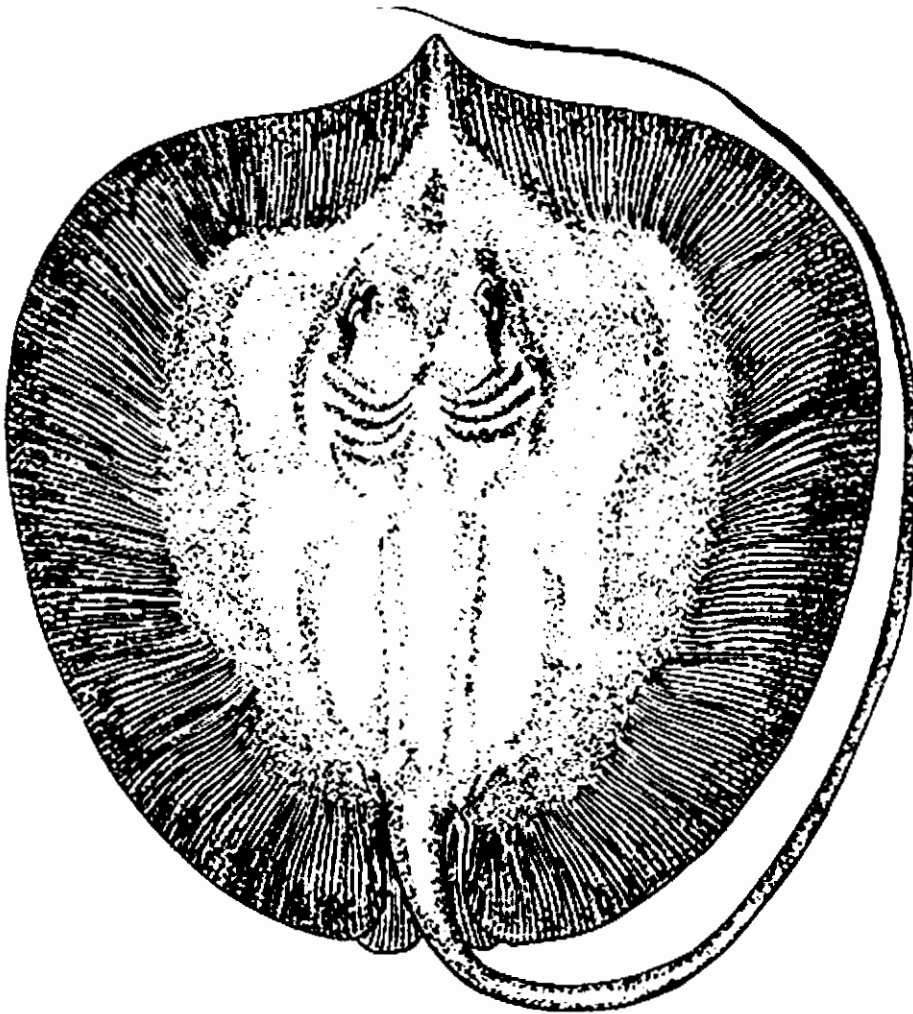
This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). The author has seen one specimen in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000, and a dried skin at Dubla Char in November 2001 (photo below). This species would appear to be relatively uncommon in the behundi net catch.



SHARKS & RAYS

Family Dasyatidae

Himantura fluviatilis (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Himantura fluviatilis SHUKUSH

Local Names: Shukush, shaplapata.

English Names: Gangetic stingray, giant stingray.

Synonyms: Possible synonyms are *Trygon polylepis* and *Himantura chaophraya*.

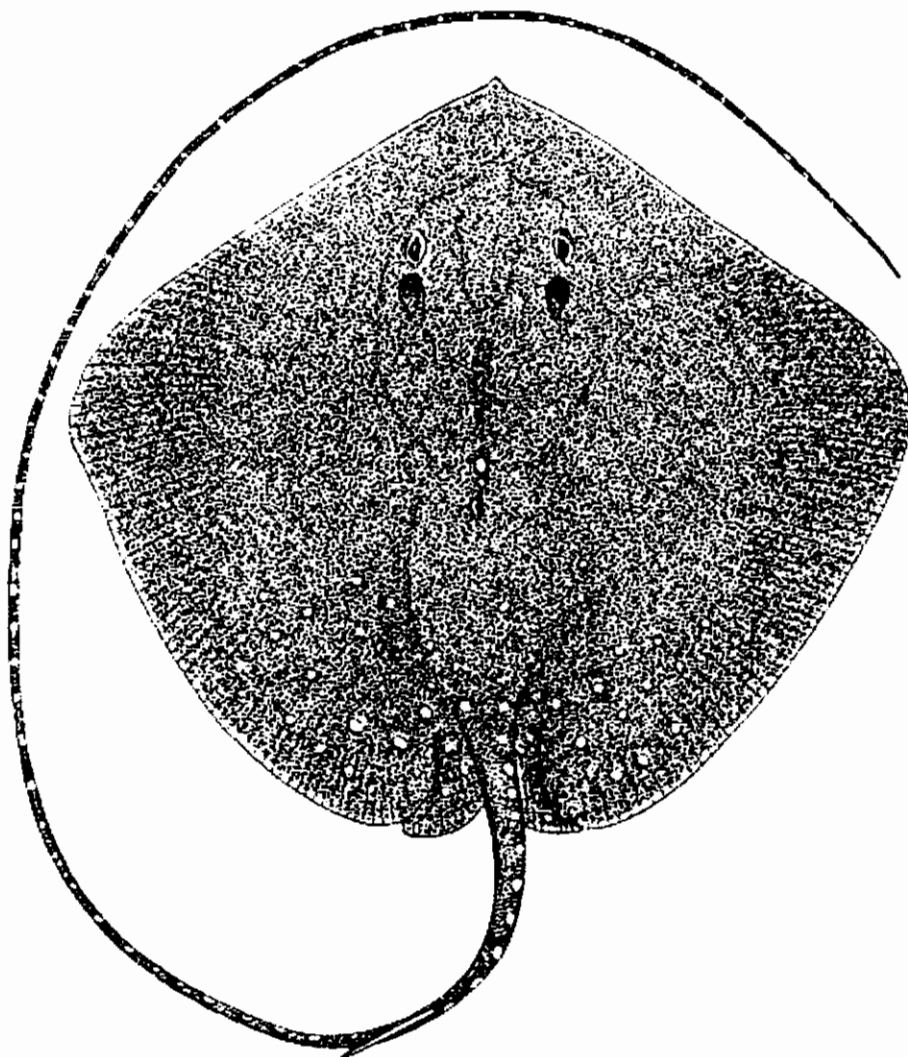
This gigantic stingray has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. The author examined a female specimen in a fisherman's boat near Alokor at Dubla Char (two photos next page). It measured over 220 cm across the disk, and may have weighed 50-75 kg. This species appears to occur widely in freshwater as well as shallow marine waters. A large specimen of 75 kg caught by fishermen in the Kushiyara River near its confluence with the Manu River was seen by the author in 1994. *H. fluviatilis* probably forms only a very small part of the Dubla Char catch. It should probably be regarded as an endangered species.



SHARKS & RAYS

Family Dasyatidae

Himantura gerrardi (Gray, 1851)



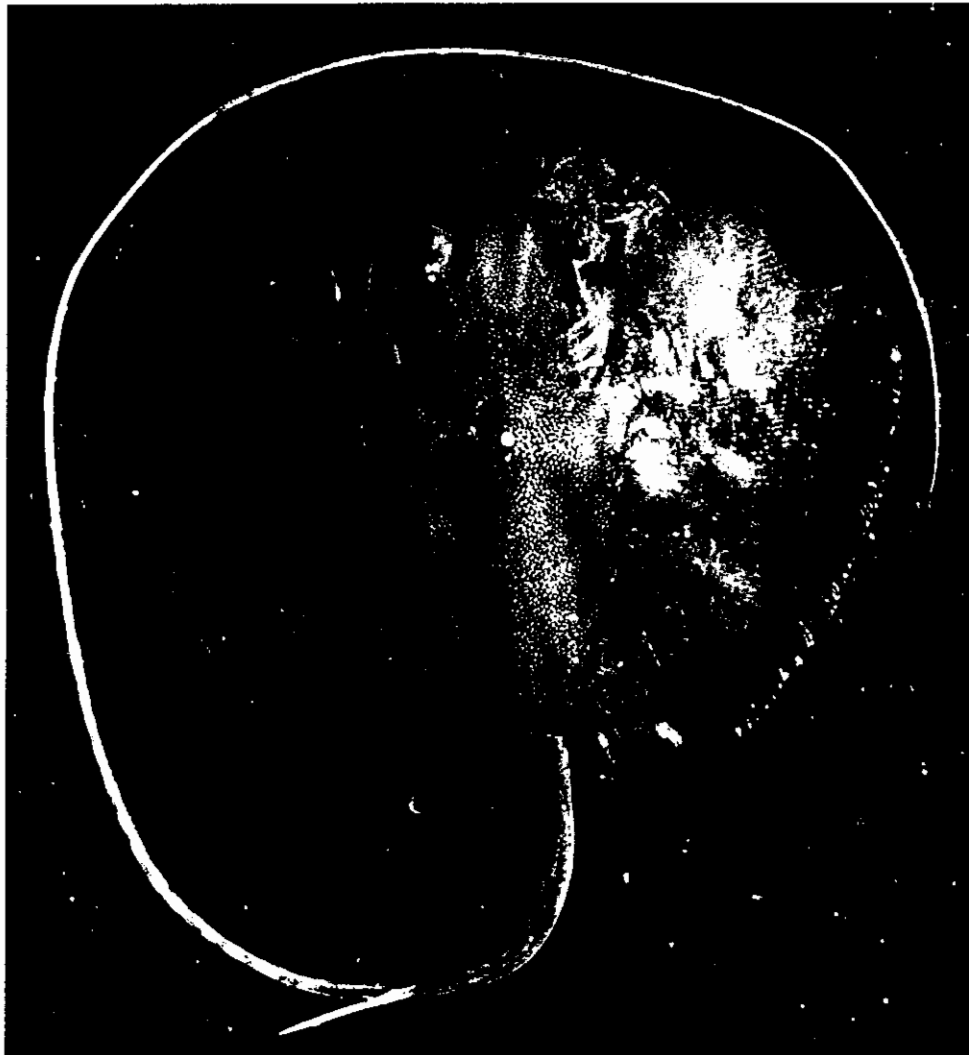
***Himantura gerrardi* SHAPLAPATA**

Local Names: Shaplapata.

English Names: Whitespotted stingray, whitespotted whipray.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. The author examined two specimens at Dubla Char in December 2000 and January 2001, and one specimen in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000. It is caught with behundi nets and does not appear to be especially abundant.

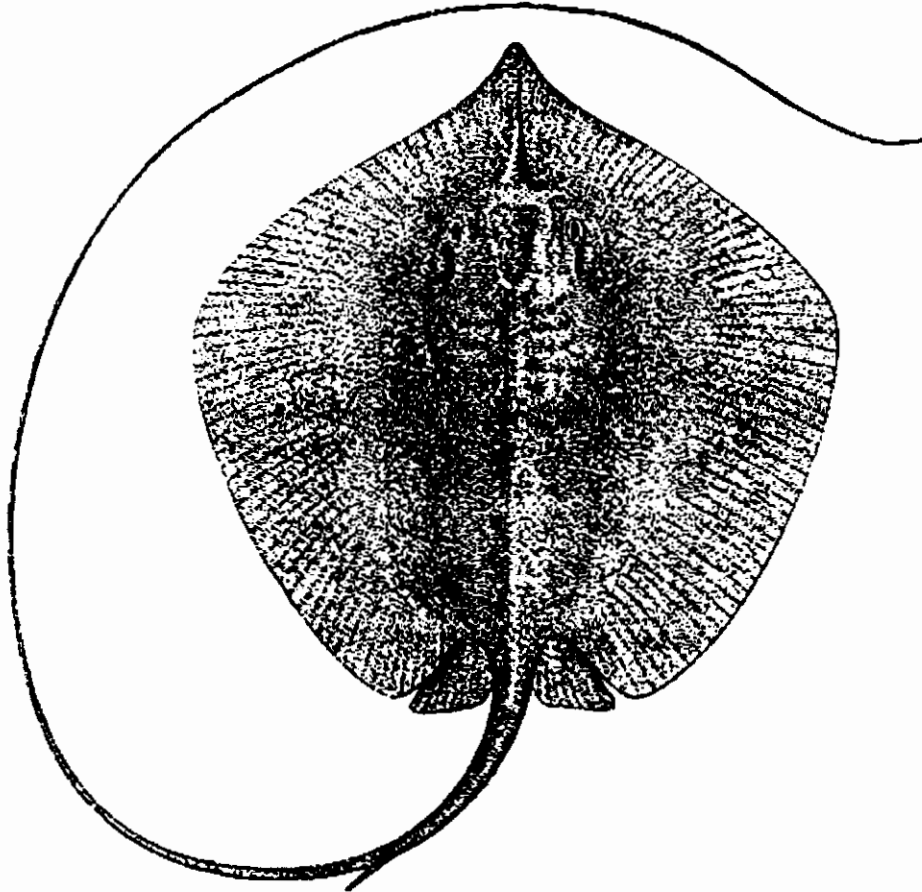
SHARKS & RAYS



SHARKS & RAYS

Family Dasyatidae

Himantura uarnacoides (Bleeker, 1852)



Himantura uarnacoides SHAPLAPATA

Local Names: Shaplapata. **English Names:** Bleeker's stingray, Bleeker's whipray.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Several dozen specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. Some specimens were seen in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000. It is the most abundant of the larger stingray species in the behundi net catch.



A 'flock' of *Himantura uarnacoides*

SHARKS & RAYS



SHARKS & RAYS

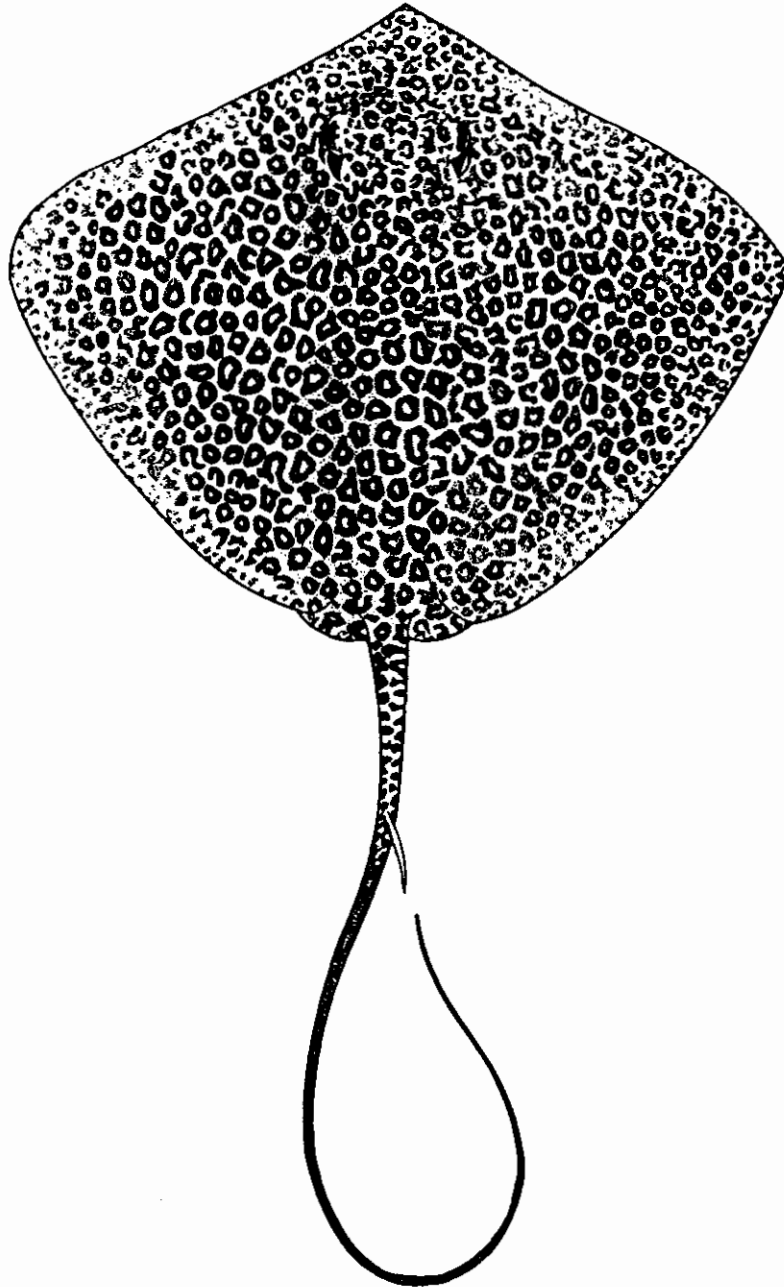


The skin of *Himantura uarnacoides* (and also *Himantura uarnak*, far right skin) is dried and sold for processing into leather.

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Dasyatidae

Himantura undulata (Bleeker, 1852)



Himantura undulata SHAPLAPATA

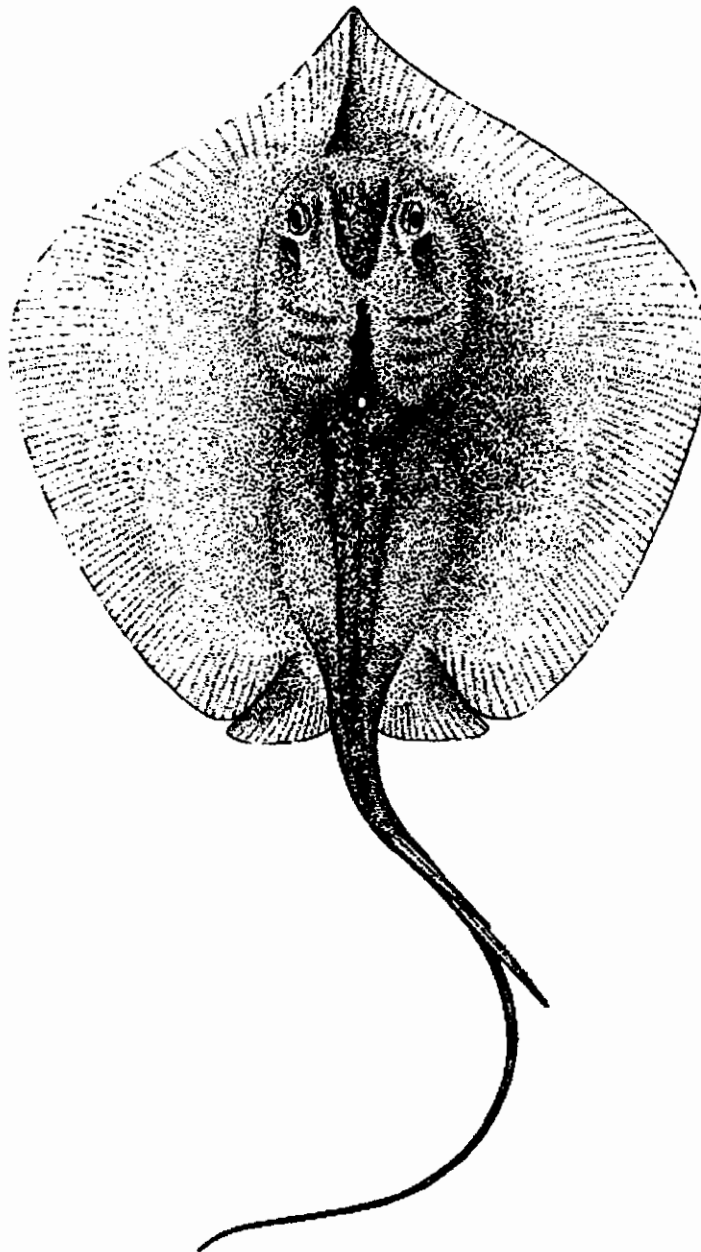
Local Names: Shaplapata. English Names: Leopard stingray, leopard whipray.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. The author saw one specimen in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000.

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Dasyatidae

Himantura walga (Muller and Henle, 1841)



Himantura walga SHAPLAPATA

Local Names: Shaplapata.

English Names: Dwarf stingray, dwarf whipray.

This dwarf stingray species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). The author has seen several specimens at Dubla Char in January 2001 and November 2001. It forms a small part of the behundi net catch.

SHARKS & RAYS

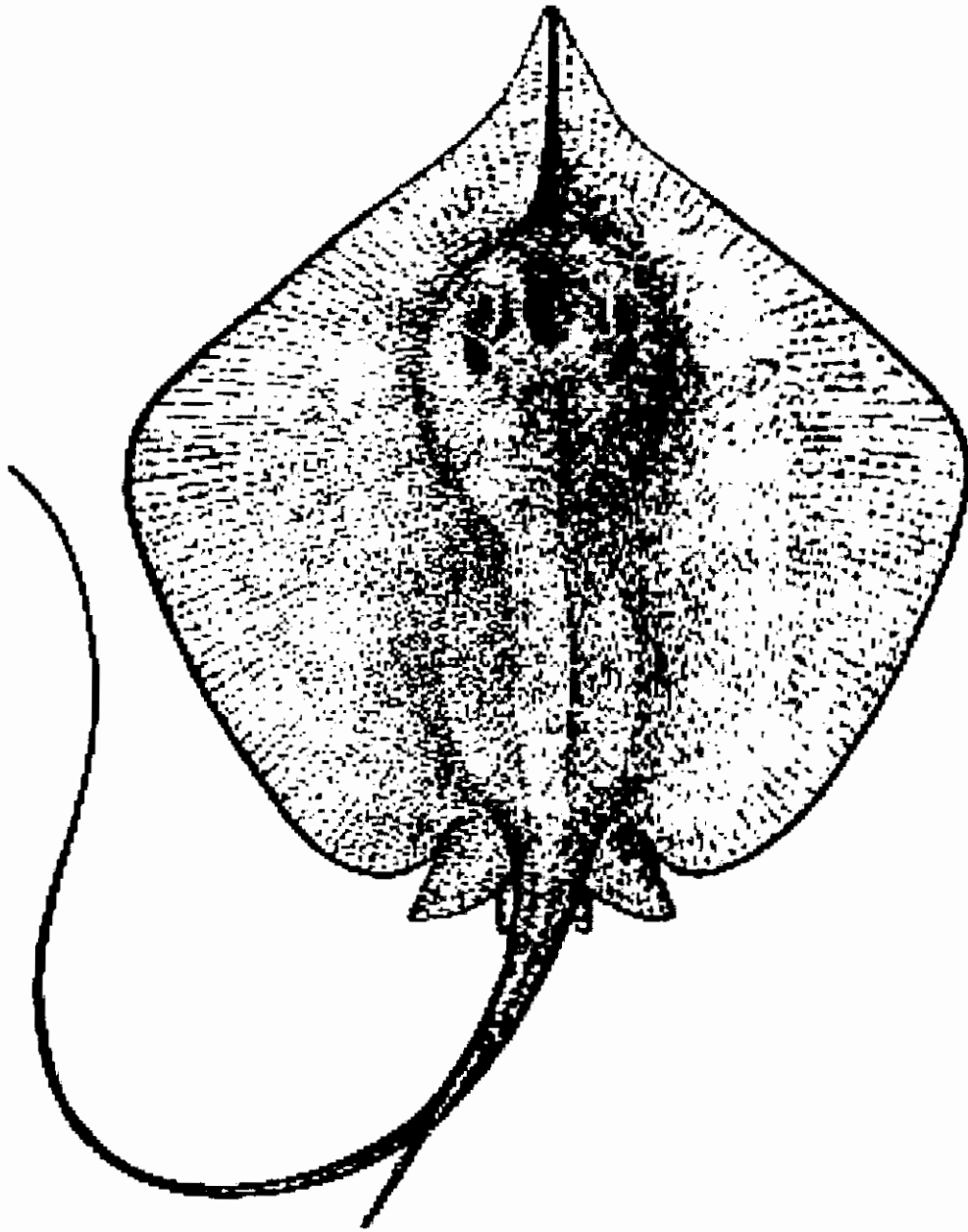


Photos above of dorsal and ventral views of a female specimen of *Himantura walga*

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Dasyatidae

Dasyatis zugei (Muller and Henle, 1841)



Dasyatis zugei SAPLAPATA

Local Names: Saplapata.

English Names: Sharpsnout stingray

Synonyms: *Amphotistius zugei*.

This medium size stingray was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans as the synonym *Amphotistius zugei*. One specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000.

SHARKS & RAYS

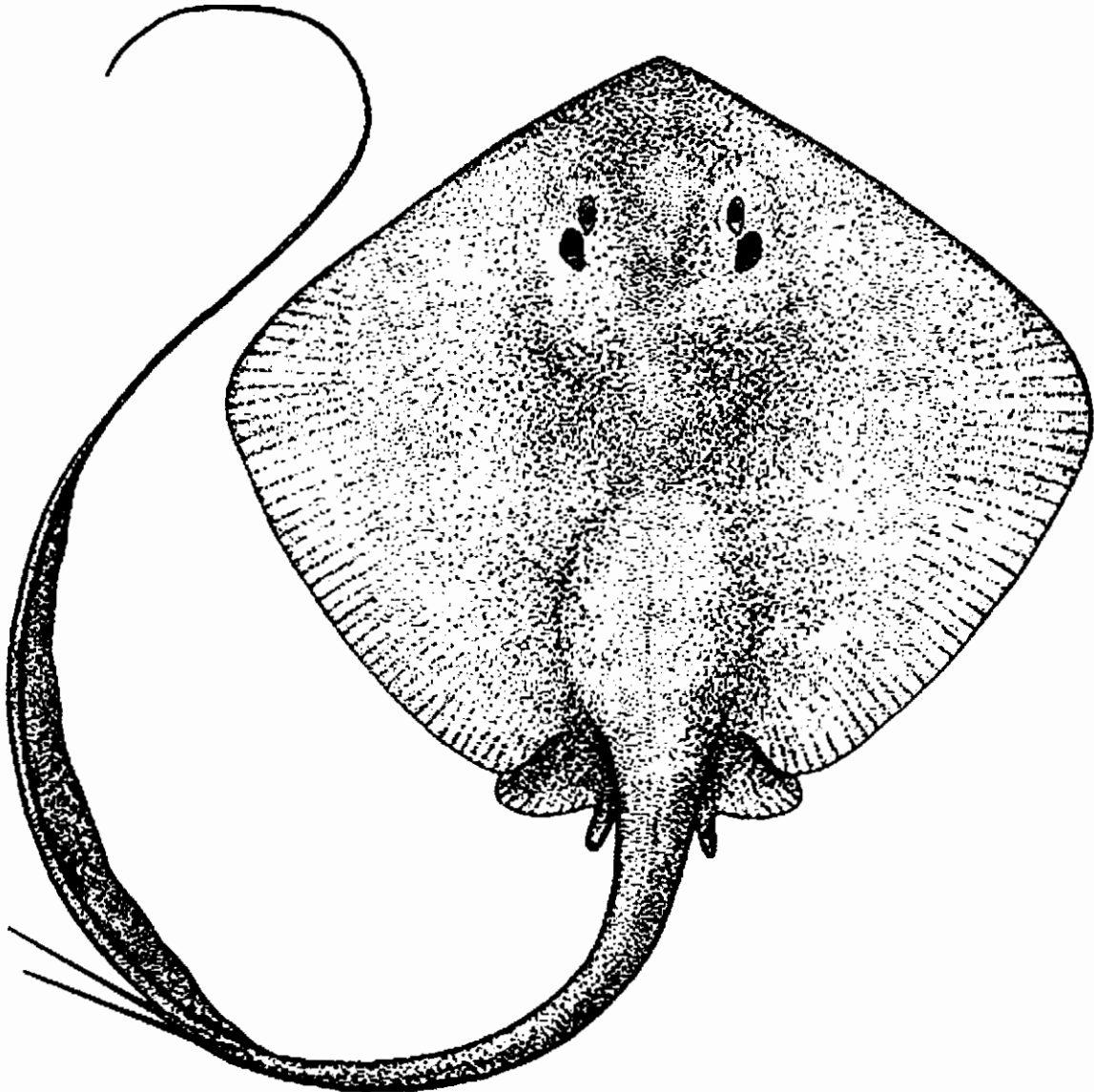


Photo above of *Dasyatis zugei*

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Dasyatidae

Pastinachus sephen (Forsskal, 1775)



Pastinachus sephen HAUSH

Local Names: Haush, sankush.

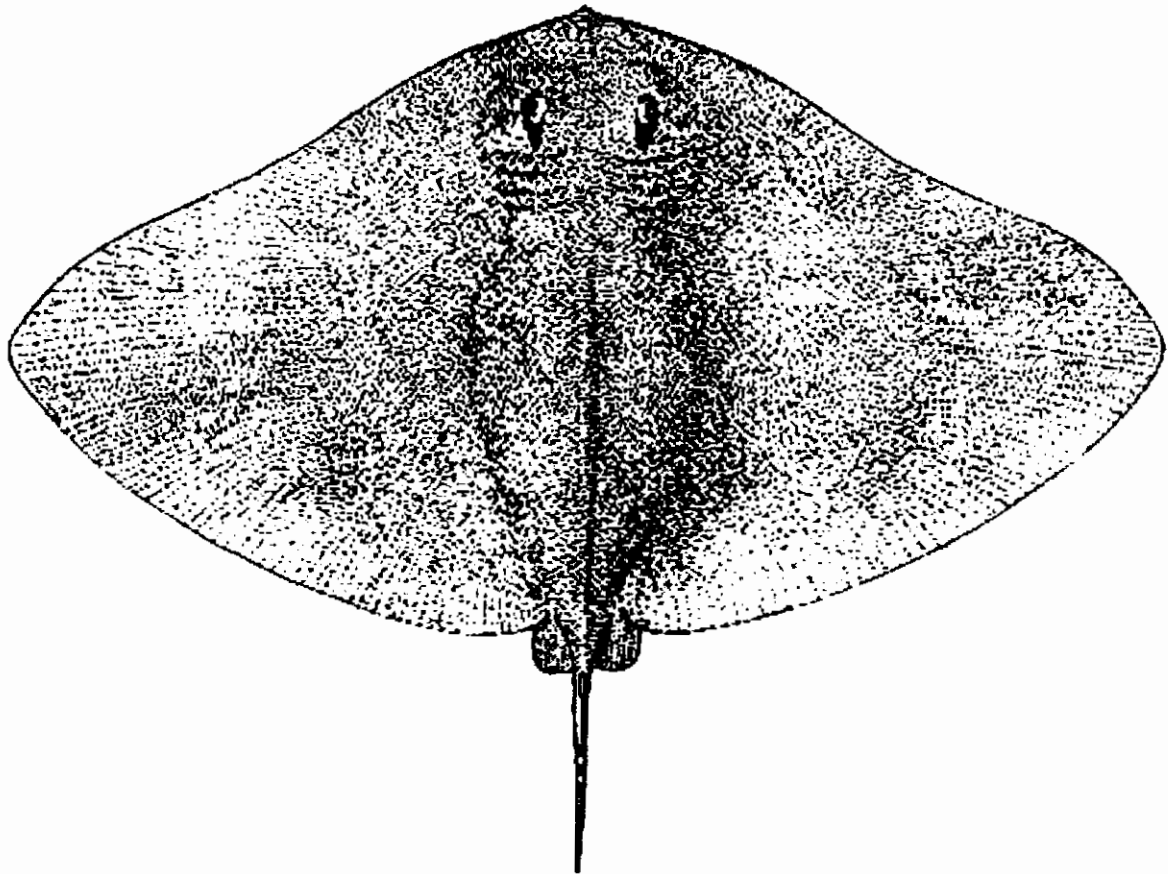
English Names: Cowtail stingray.

This large stingray was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

SHARKS & RAYS

Family Gymnuridae

Gymnura poecilura (Shaw, 1804)



Gymnura poecilura

English Names: Longtail butterfly ray.

This medium size butterfly ray has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. The author saw several dozen specimens at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. The species is fairly common in behundi net catches, and most hauls catch one or more individuals.

SHARKS & RAYS



SHARKS & RAYS

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

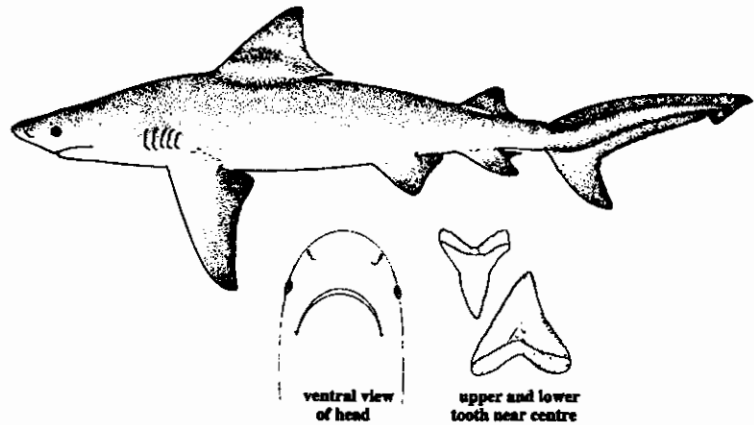
Family Carcharhinidae

Carcharhinus leucas (Valenciennes in Muller and Henle, 1839)

Bull shark

The bull shark *Carcharhinus leucas* is wide ranging in shallow coastal waters, estuaries and rivers. It is known from the Hooghly River in India, where it is probably responsible for most of the reported shark attacks on humans. It has not yet been reported from the Bangladesh Sundarbans. Large sharks are now rare inside the Sundarbans forest rivers, but

in previous decades were much more abundant and occasionally attacked and killed people. This species is the most likely one to have carried out such attacks.



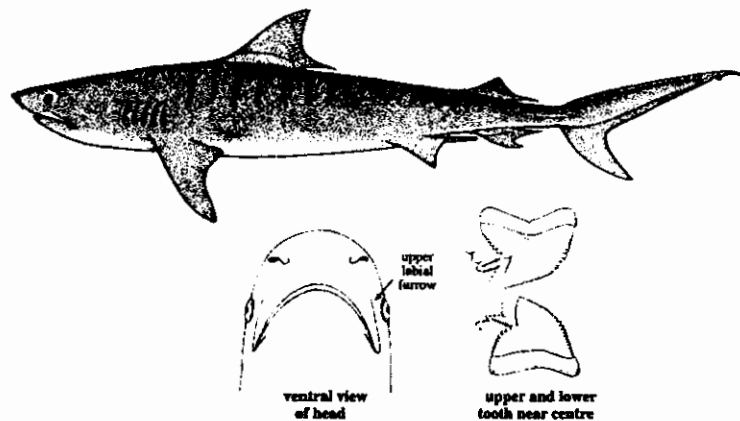
Family Carcharhinidae

Galeocerdo cuvier (Peron and LeSueur in LeSueur, 1822)

Baga hangar

Tiger shark

The tiger shark *Galeocerdo cuvier* is recorded from the shallow coastal waters of India. There is no record as yet from Bangladesh waters. Fishermen at Dubla Char however report catching a large shark with markings like a tiger, and this may have been a tiger shark.

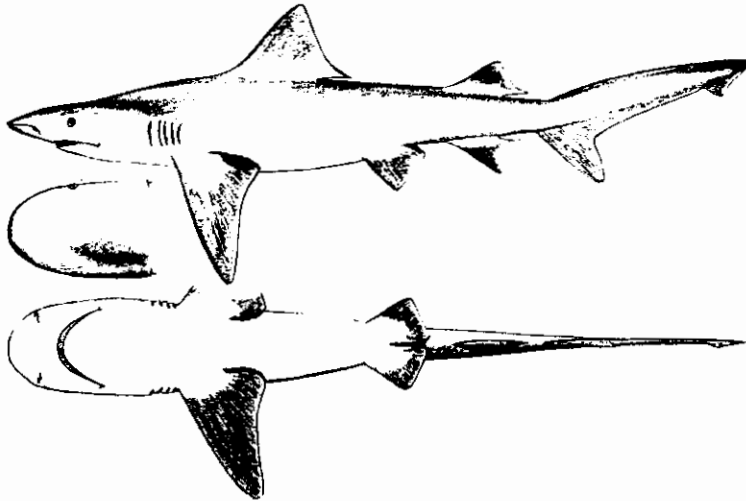


SHARKS & RAYS

Family Carcharhinidae

Glyphis gangeticus, (Muller and Henle, 1839)

Gangetic river shark

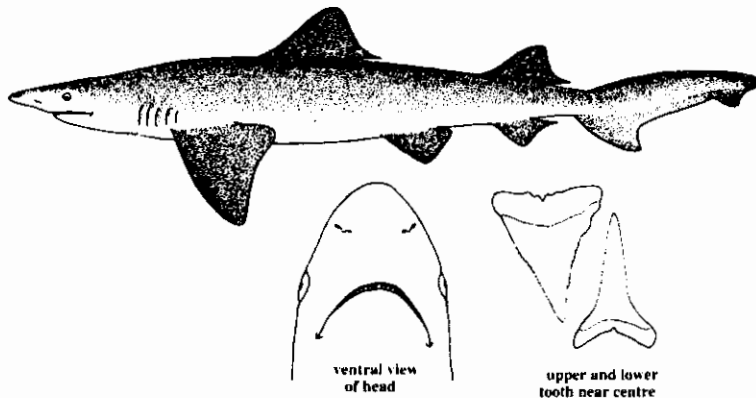


The rare Gangetic river shark *Glyphis gangeticus* occurs in the Ganga-Hooghly river system in India. It may eventually also be found to occur in the Bangladesh Sundarbans.

Family Carcharhinidae

Lamiopsis temmincki (Muller and Henle, 1839)

Broadfin shark



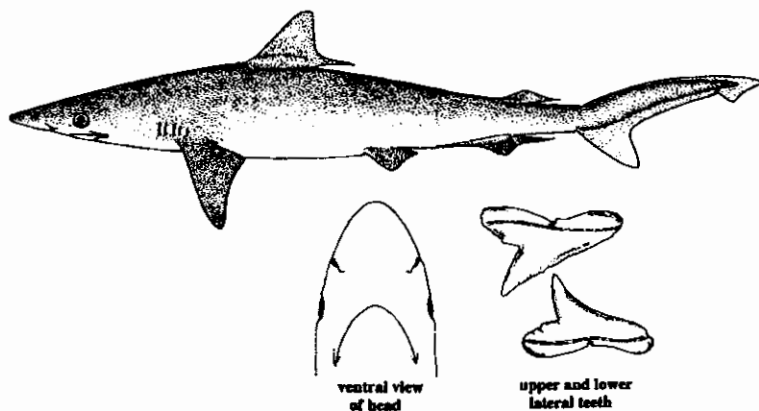
The broadfin shark *Lamiopsis temmincki* is a widely distributed species occurring in inshore marine waters and estuaries, including the Hooghly River. It may eventually also be found to occur in the Bangladesh Sundarbans.

Family Carcharhinidae

Rhizoprionodon acutus (Ruppell, 1837)

Kamot hangar

Milk shark



The milk shark *Rhizoprionodon acutus* is recorded from Bangladesh marine waters [as the synonym *Scoliodon walbeehmi* (Bleeker, 1856)] by Quddus and Shafi (1995). It is probably occasionally caught in the Sundarbans marine zone in behundi nets and shark nets.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

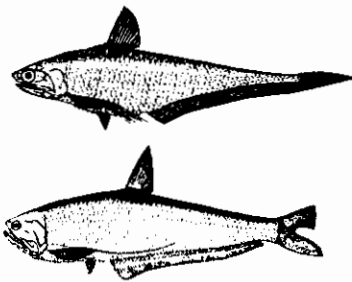
ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

(and Related Fishes)

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Engraulidae
Anchovies

Coilia dussumieri
Coilia neglecta
Coilia ramcarati
Setippina phasa
Setippina taty
Stolephorus tri
Thryssa dussumieri
Thryssa hamiltonii



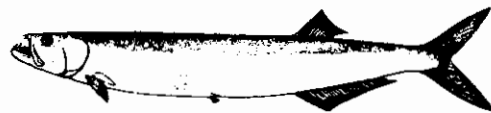
Pristigasteridae
Herrings

Pellona ditchela
Ilisha melastoma
Ilisha megaloptera
Raconda russelliana



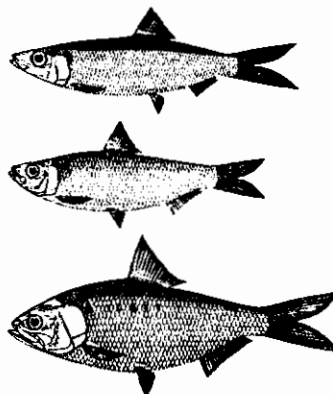
Chirocentridae
Wolf herrings

Chirocentrus dorab
Chirocentrus nudus



Clupeidae
Sardines and
shads

Anodontostoma chacunda
Dussumieria acuta
Escualosa thoracata
Gudusia chapra
Sardinella fimbriata
Sardinella gibbosa
Sardinella melanura
Hilsa kelee
Tenualosa ilisha
Tenualosa toli



Elopidae
Tarpon

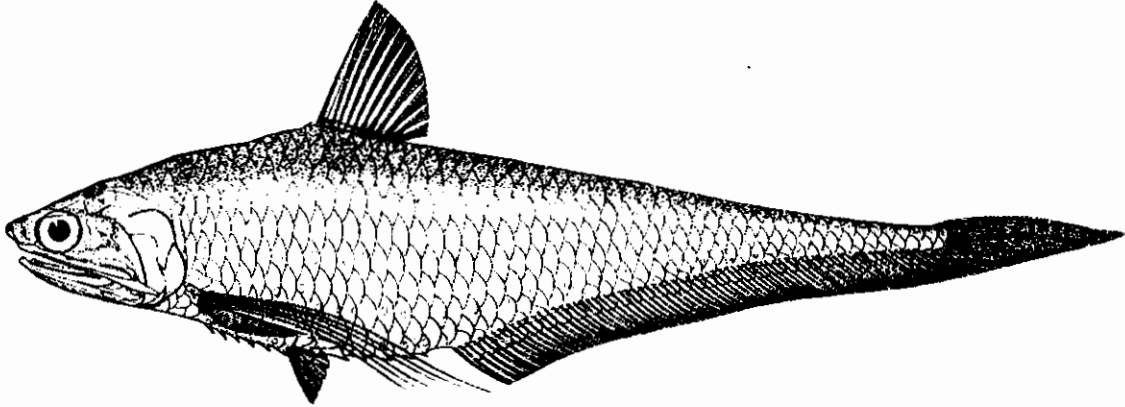
Elops machnata



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Engraulidae

Coilia dussumieri Valenciennes, 1848



***Coilia dussumieri* BOIRAGI**

Local Names: Boiragi, olua, amadi.

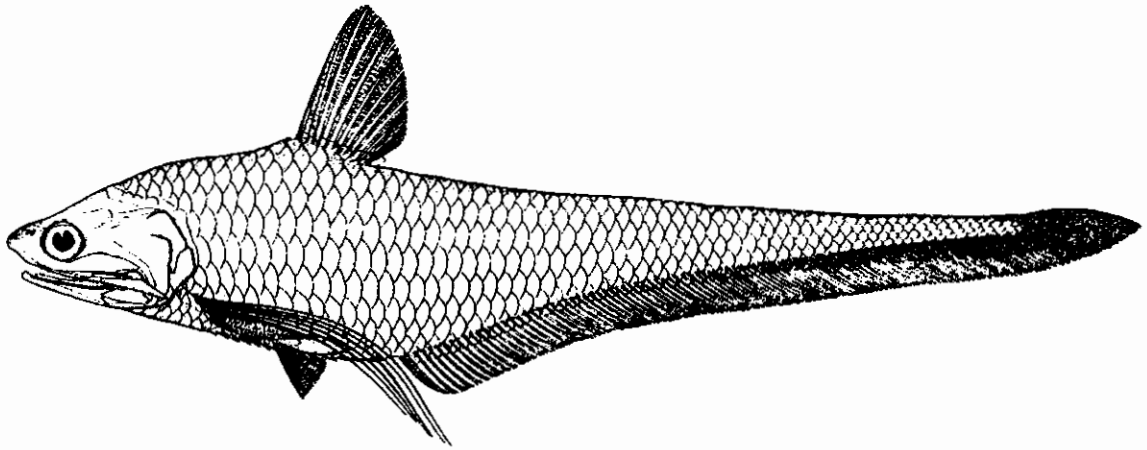
English Names: Pointed tail anchovy.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author saw several specimens at Dubla Char in November 2001.



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Engraulidae
Coilia neglecta Whitehead, 1968



Coilia neglecta **BOIRAGI**

Local Names: Boiragi, olua.

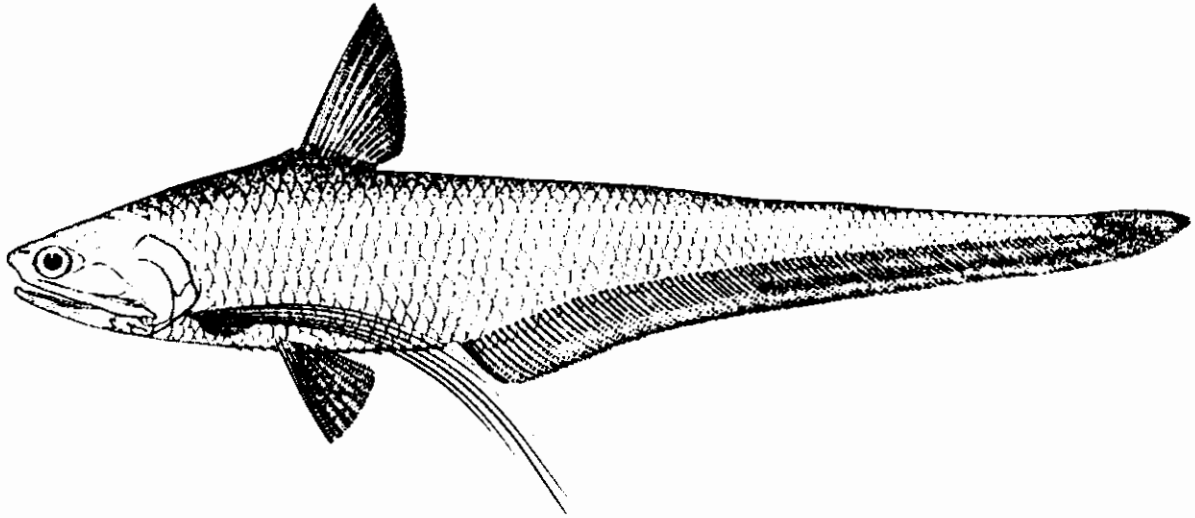
English Names: Neglected anchovy.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000, and in the Sundarbans forest in November 2001.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Engraulidae

Coilia ramcarati (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Coilia ramcarati* BOIRAGI**

Local Names: Boiragi, olua.

English Names: Tapertail anchovy.

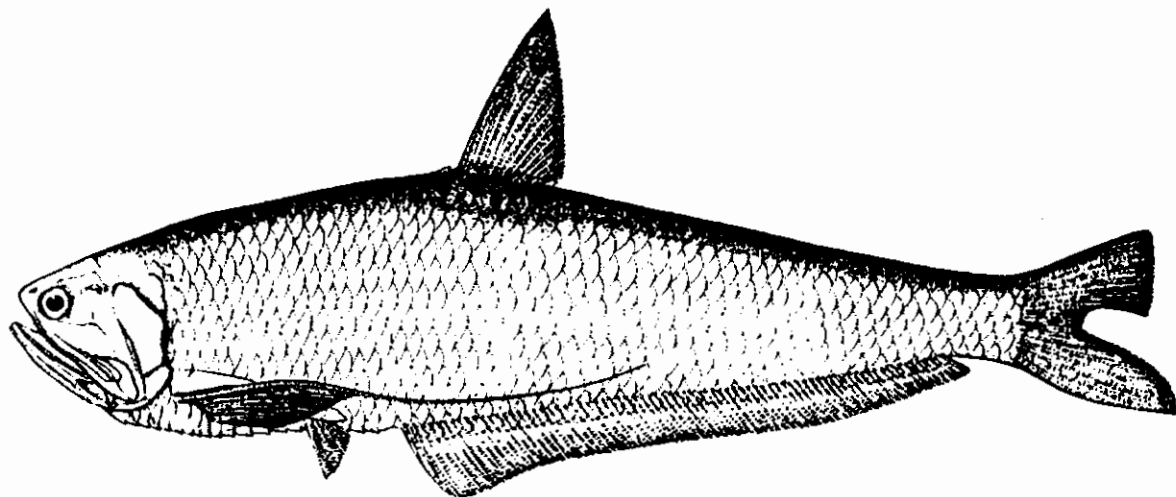
This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author saw two specimens at Dubla Char in November 2001.



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Engraulidae

Setippina phasa (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Setippina phasa PHASA

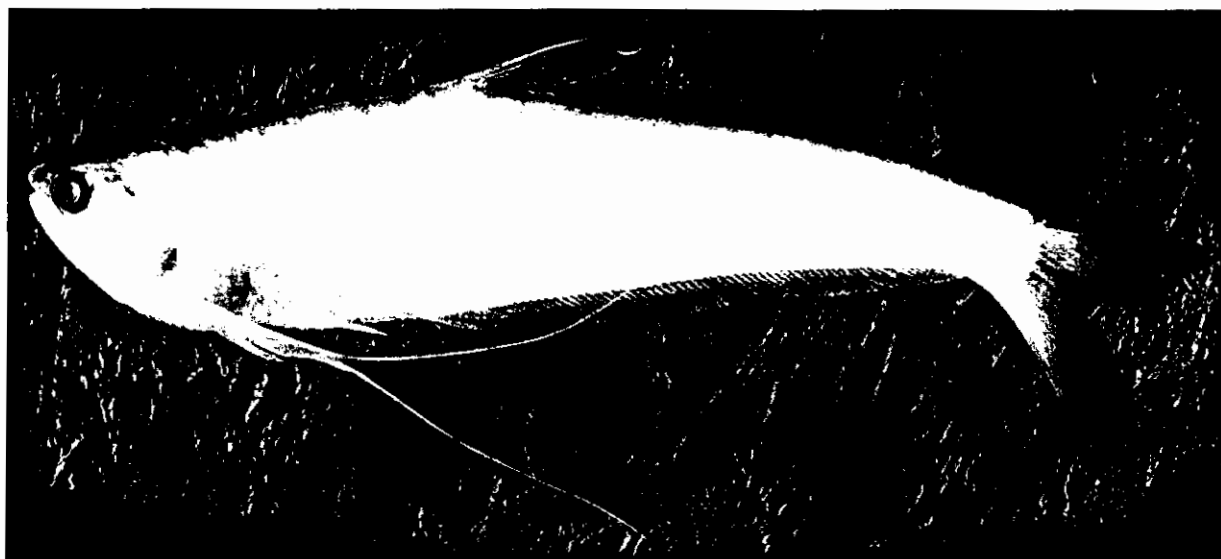
Local Names: Phasa.

English Names: Gangetic hairfin anchovy.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author has examined several hundred specimens at Dubla Char and from Sundarbans forest rivers in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. It forms a major component of the behundi net catch



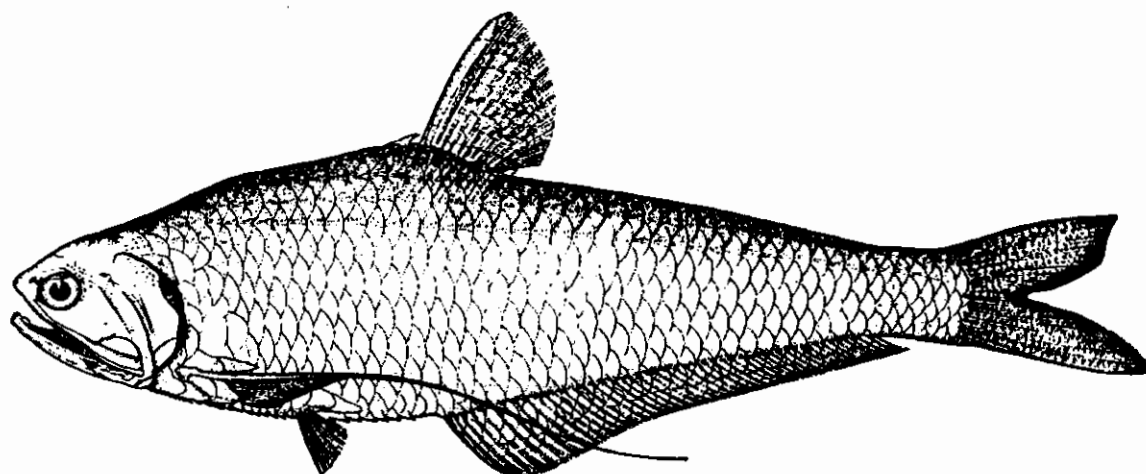
ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES



Scan of specimen of *Setipinna phasa*

Family Engraulidae

Setipinna taty (Valenciennes, 1848)



Setipinna taty **TEILLA PHASA**

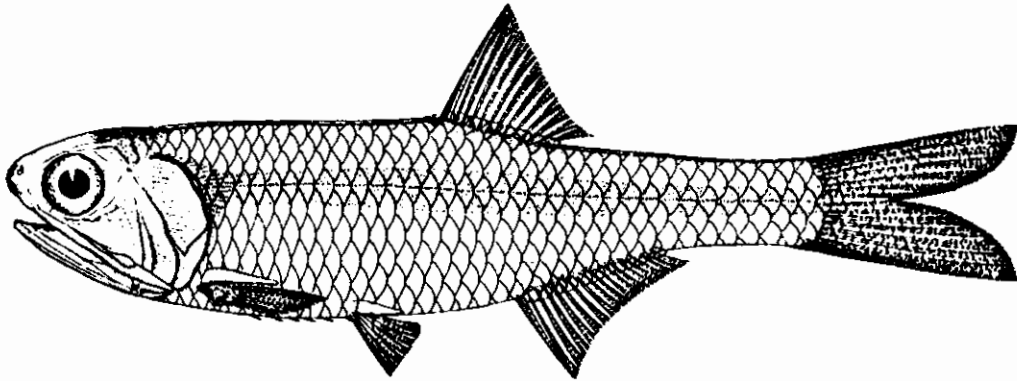
Local Names: Teilla phasa.

English Names: Scaly hairfin anchovy.

The species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author. It formed a substantial part of the behundi net catch in the Dubla Char fishery in 1993.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Engraulidae
Stolephorus tri (Bleeker, 1852)

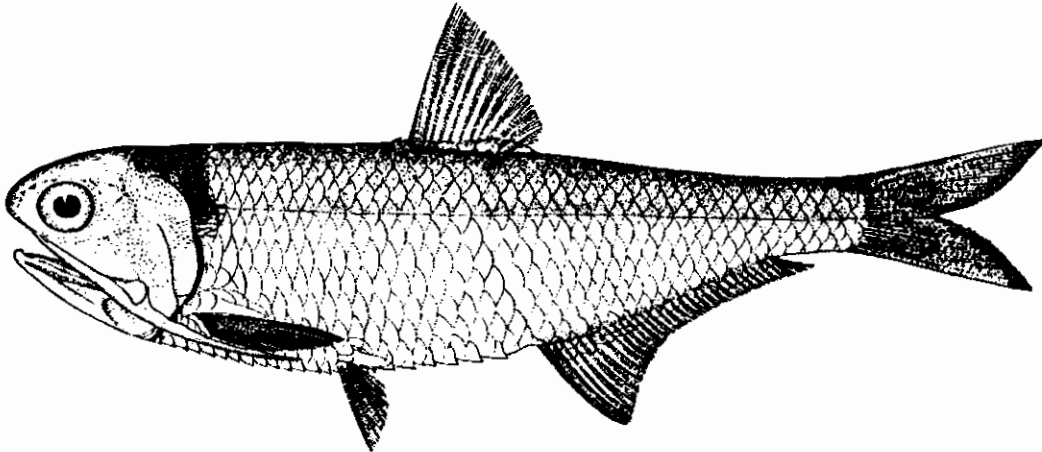


Stolephorus tri KATA PHASA

Local Names: Kata phasa.
English Names: Spined anchovy.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Engraulidae
Thryssa dussumieri (Valenciennes, 1848)



Thryssa dussumieri PHASA

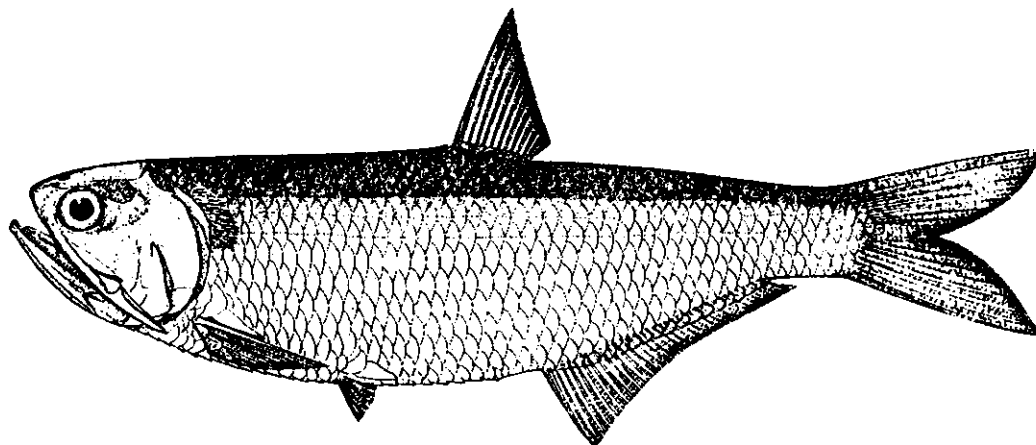
Local Names: Phasa.
English Names: Dussumier's anchovy.

This species was previously recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Engraulidae

Thryssa hamiltonii (Gray, 1835)

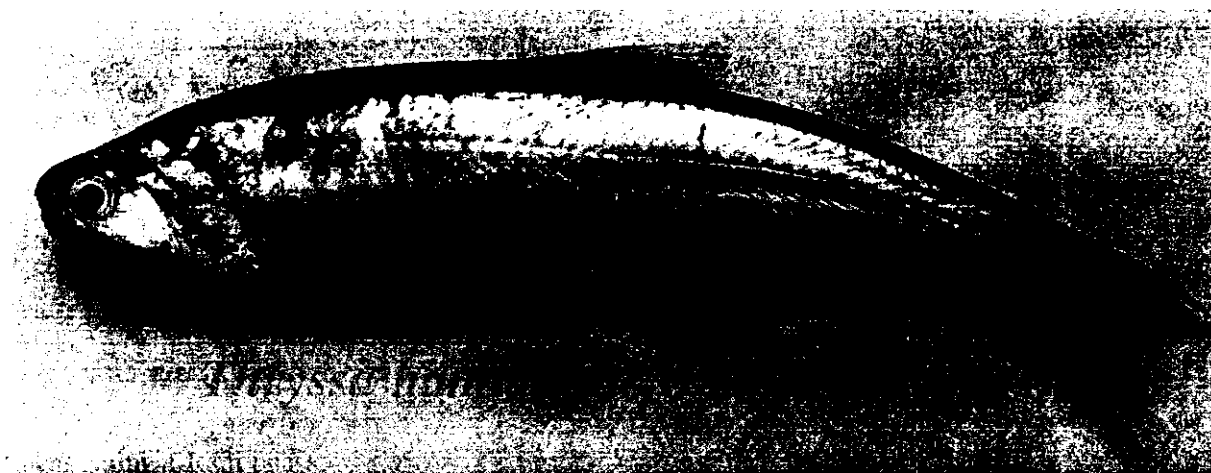


***Thryssa hamiltonii* RAM PHASA**

Local Names: Ram phasa.

English Names: Hamilton's anchovy.

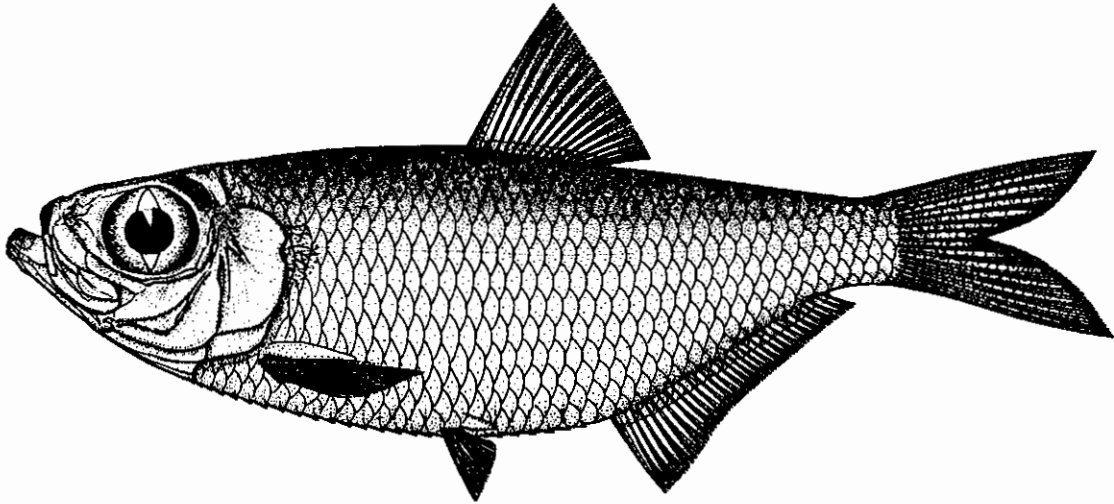
Chantarasri (1994) recorded this species from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and November 2001.



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Pristigasteridae

Pellona ditchela Valenciennes, 1847



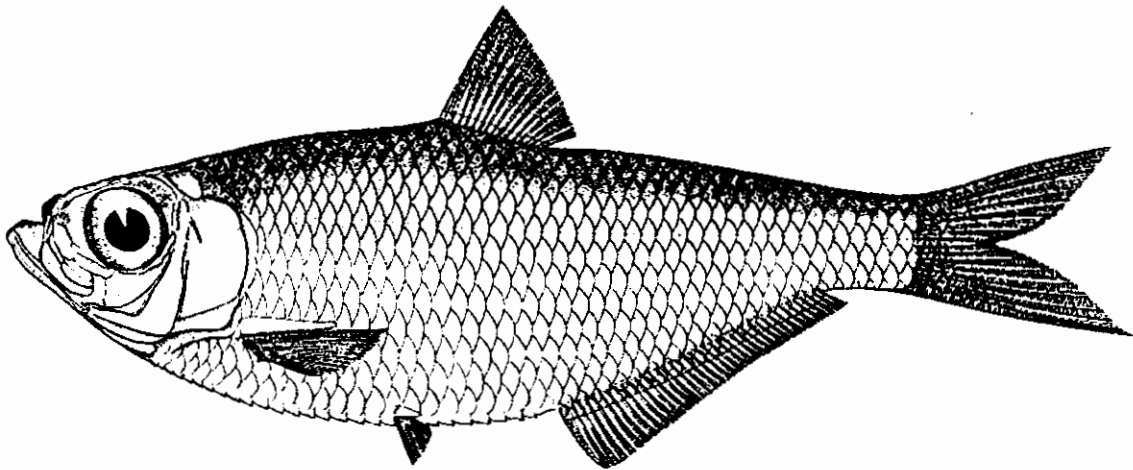
Pellona ditchela CHOUKKA

Local Names: Choukka. English Names: Indian pellona herring.

The species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Its occurrence was noted by the contracted Khulna University field study of 2001.

Family Pristigasteridae

Ilisha melastoma (Schneider, 1801)



Ilisha melastoma CHAUKKA

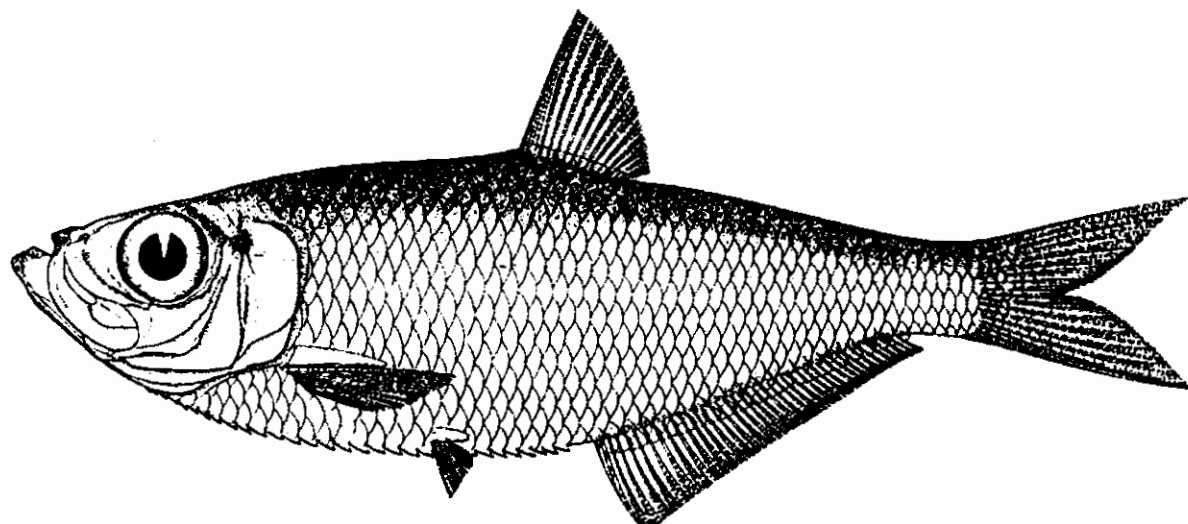
Local Names: Chaukka, choukya. English Names: Indian herring.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Pristigasteridae

Ilisha megaloptera (Swainson, 1839)

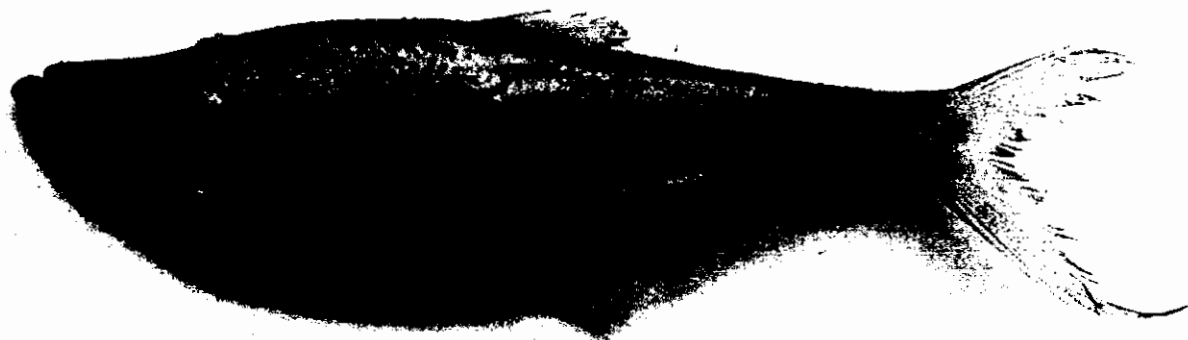


***Ilisha megaloptera* CHAUKKA**

Local Names: Chaukka, choukya.

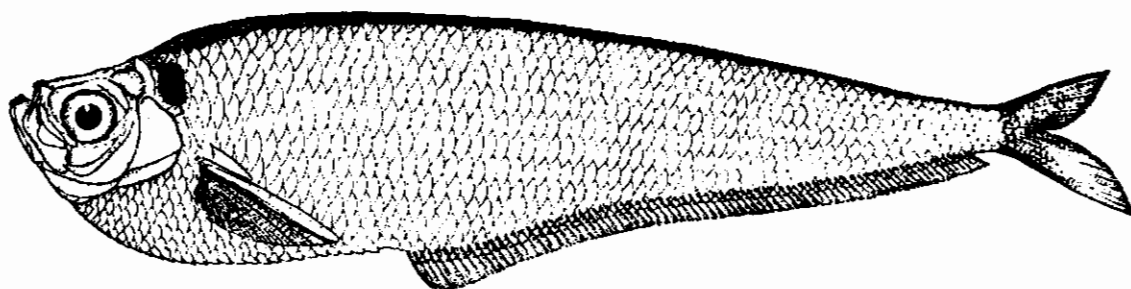
English Names: Bigeye herring.

Chantarasri (1994) recorded this species from the Sundarbans. Many specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001.



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Pristigasteridae
Raconda russelliana Gray, 1831

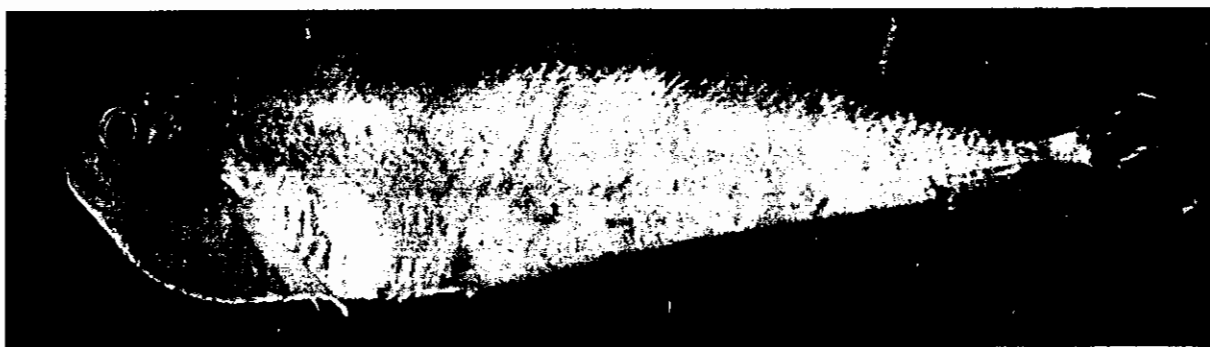


Raconda russelliana PATRA

Local Names: Patra, fasha, fatra, kurra phasa.

English Names: Smooth-back herring.

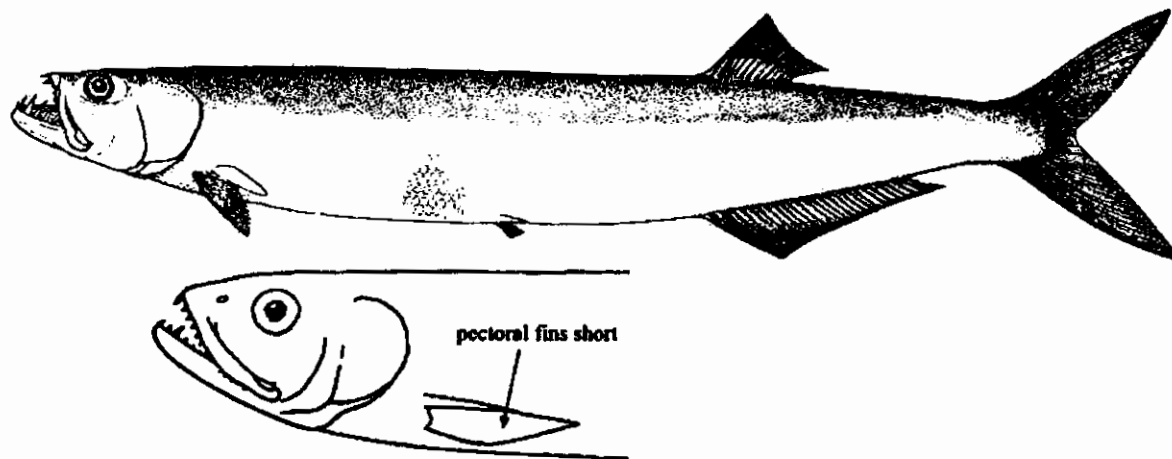
The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author saw numerous specimens at Dubla Char in December 2000 and November 2001. It is caught by behundi nets.



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family *Chirocentridae*

Chirocentrus dorab (Forsskal, 1775)



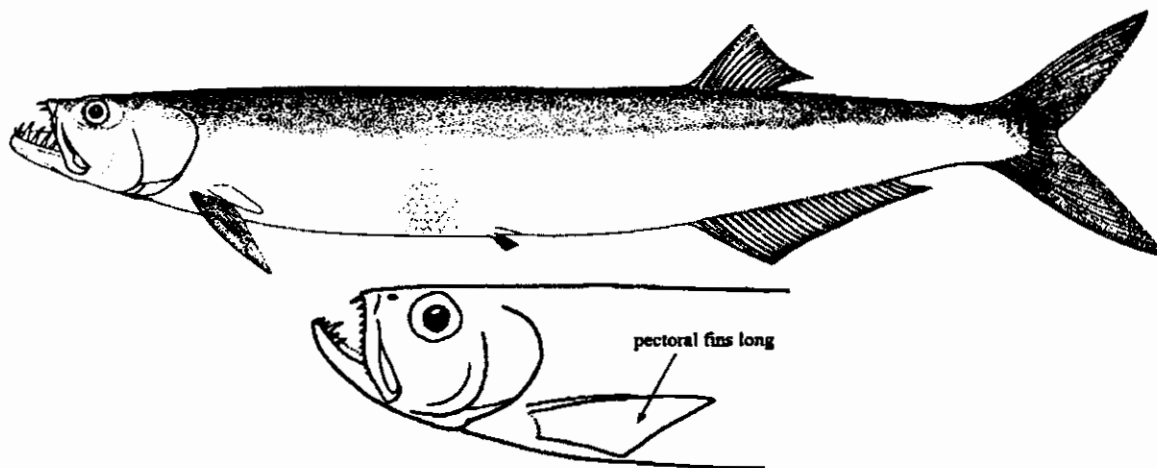
Chirocentrus dorab **KARATI CHELA**

Local Names: Karati chela.

English Names: Wolf herring.

The species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family **Chirocentridae**
Chirocentrus nudus (Swainson, 1839)



***Chirocentrus nudus* KARATI CHELA**

Local Names: Karati chela.

English Names: Wolf herring.

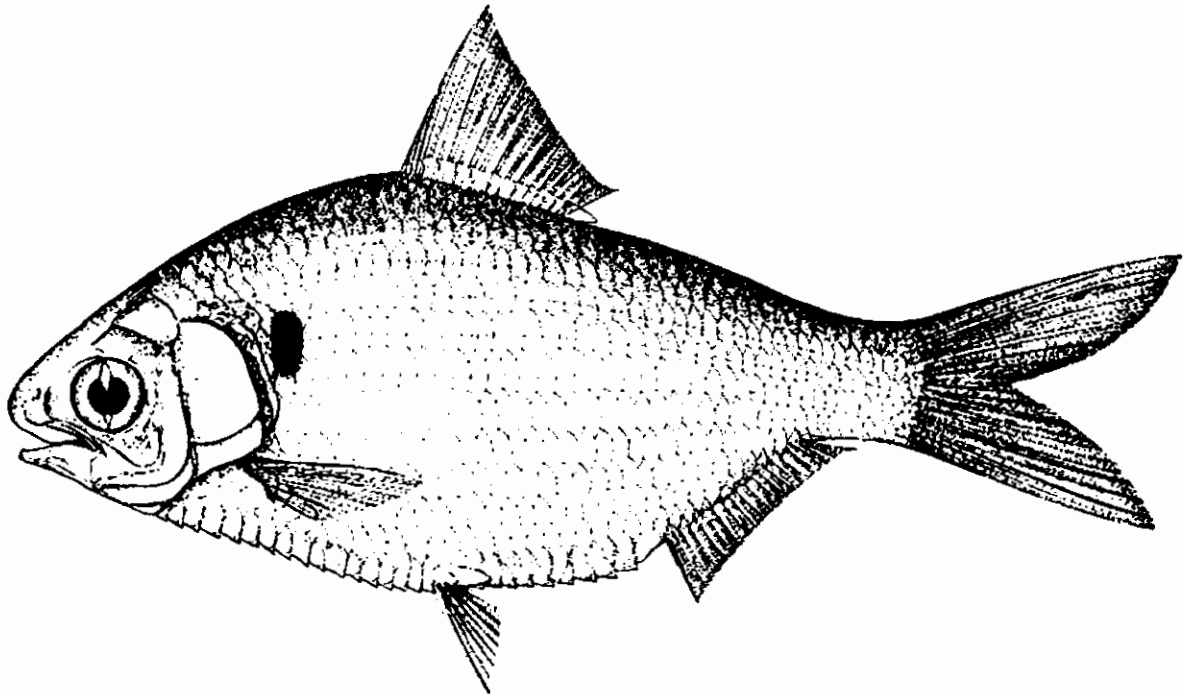
This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author saw many specimens at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001.



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Clupeidae

Anodontostoma chacunda (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Anodontostoma chacunda* KOIPUTI**

Local Names: Koiputi.

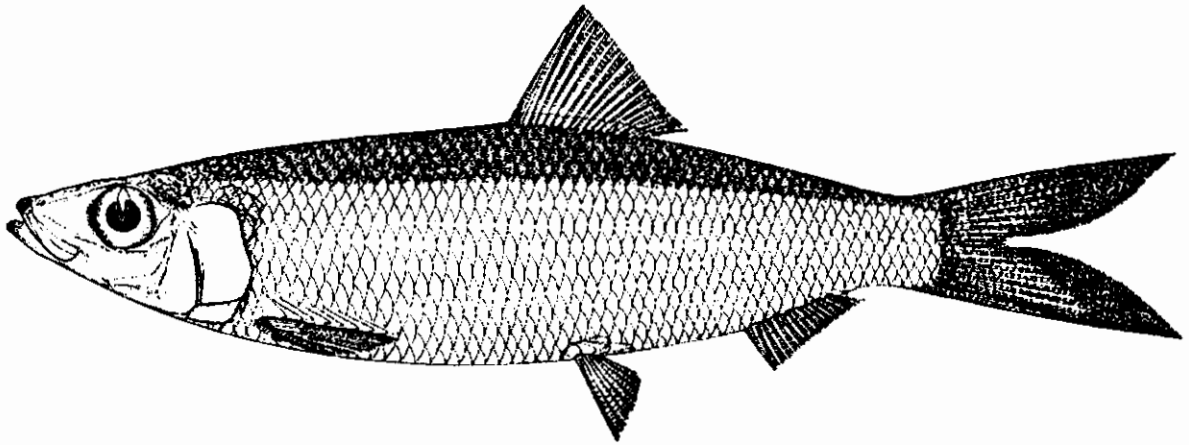
English Names: Gizzard shad.

Chantarasri (1994) recorded this species from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Clupeidae

Dussumieria acuta Valenciennes, 1847



***Dussumieria acuta* NAILLA**

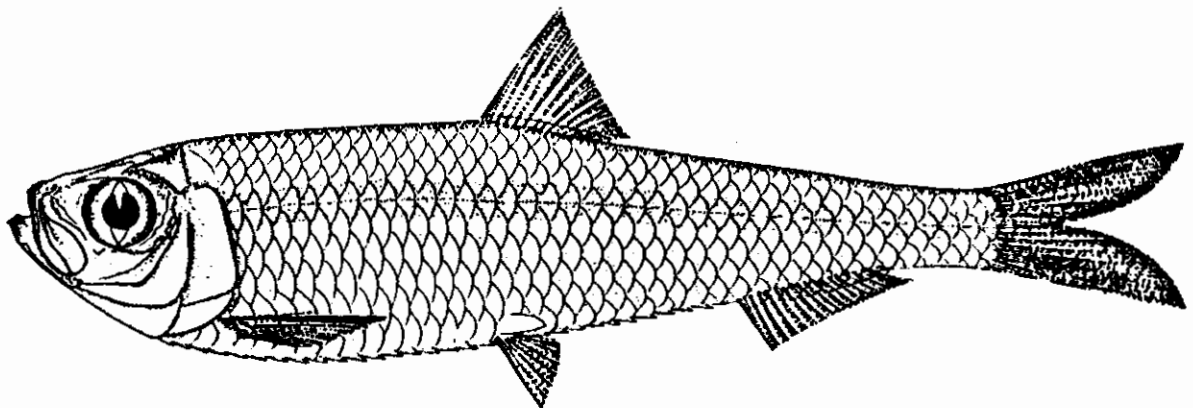
Local Names: Nailla.

English Names: Rainbow sardine.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Clupeidae

Escualosa thoracata (Valenciennes, 1847)



***Escualosa thoracata* HICHIRI**

Local Names: Hichiri.

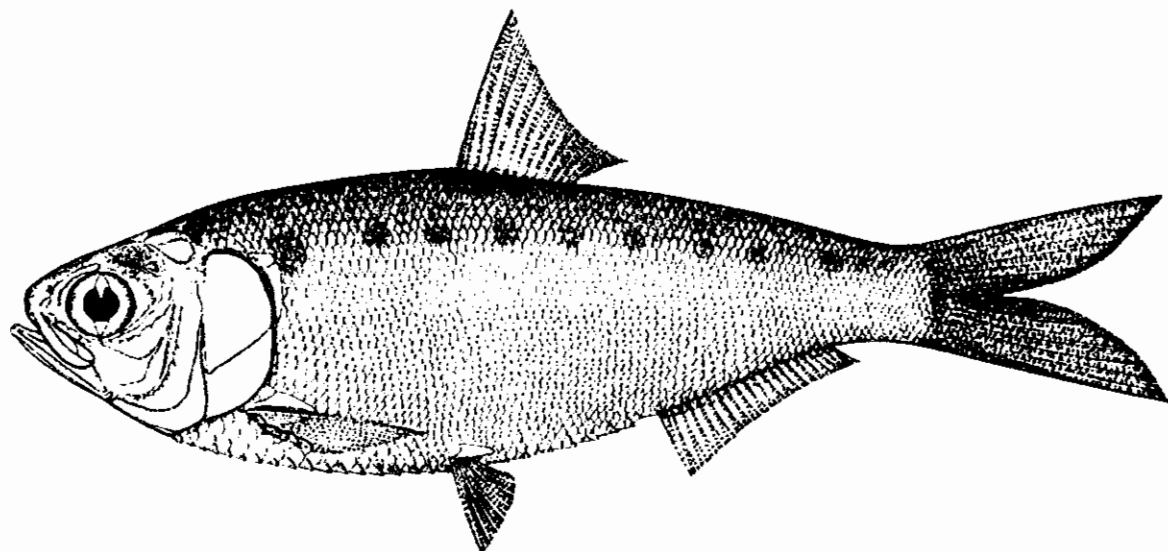
English Names: White sardine.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author did not see any specimens.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Clupeidae

Gudusia chapra (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Gudusia chapra* CHAPILA**

Local Names: Chapila.

English Names: Indian river sardine.

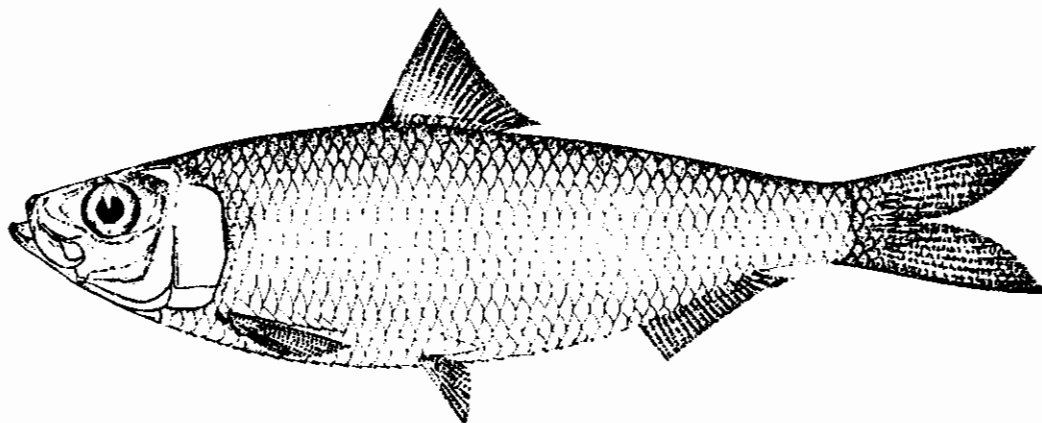
Chantarasri (1994) recorded the species from the Sundarbans. Several specimens are preserved in the FAO fish collection..



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Clupeidae

Sardinella fimbriata (Valenciennes, 1847)



Sardinella fimbriata TAKHIA

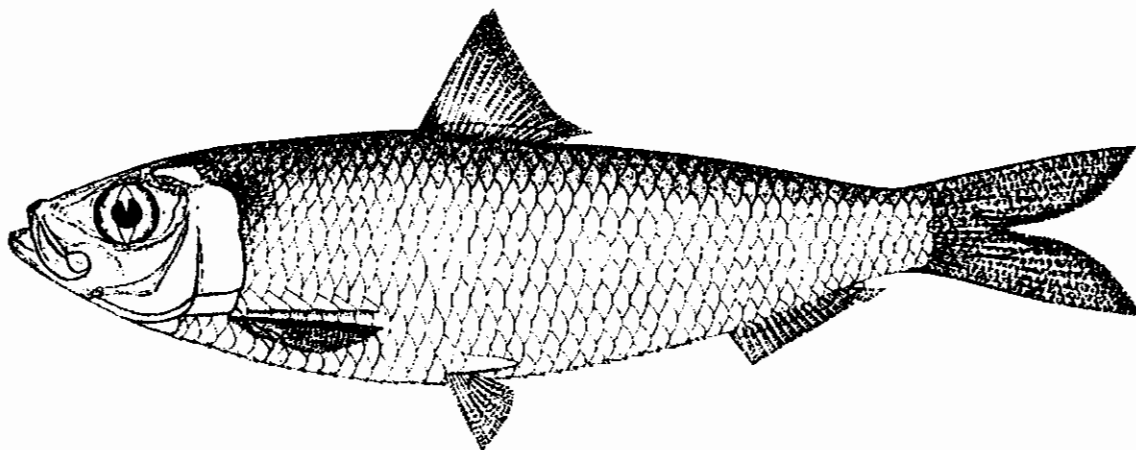
Local Names: Takhia.

English Names: Fringescale sardine.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Clupeidae

Sardinella gibbosa (Bleeker, 1849)



Sardinella gibbosa CHANDANA

Local Names: Chandana, takia.

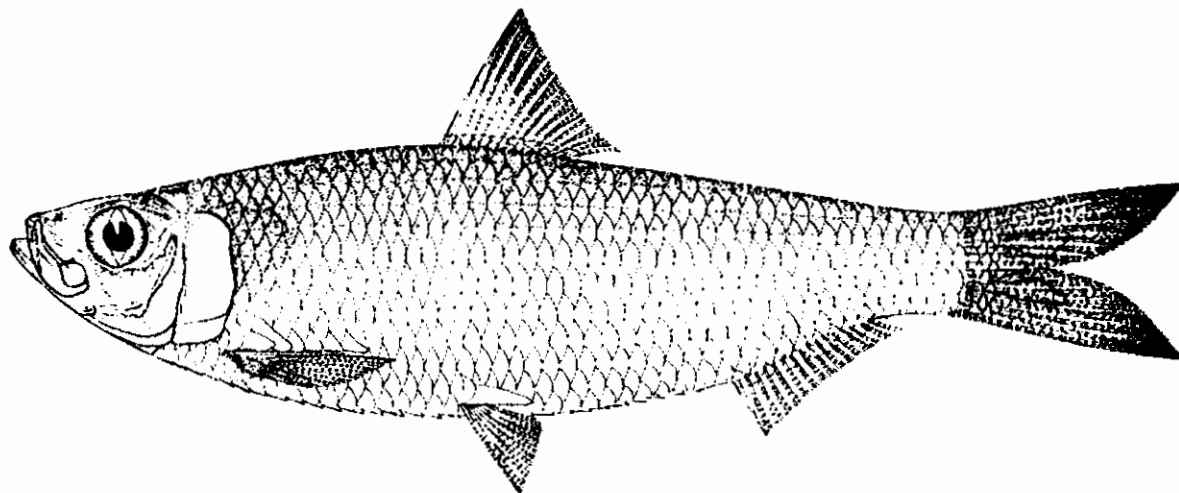
English Names: Goldstripe sardine.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Clupeidae

Sardinella melanura (Cuvier, 1829)

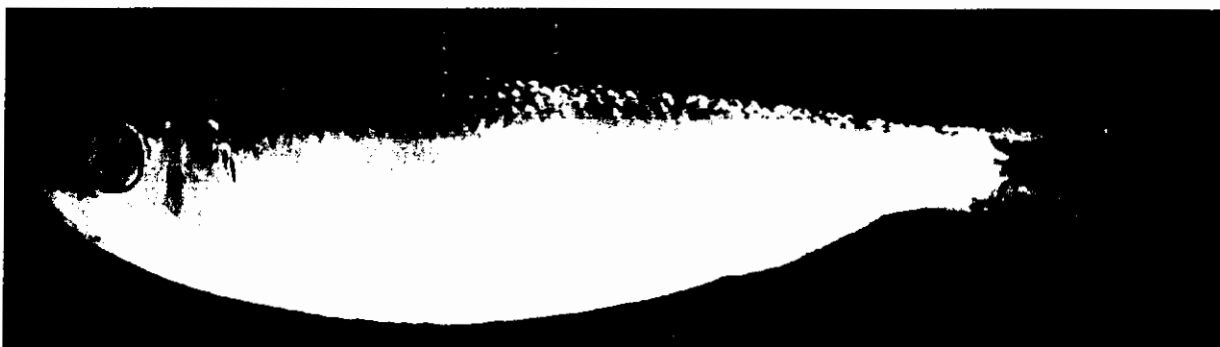


Sardinella melanura **CHANDANA**

Local Names: Chandana, takia.

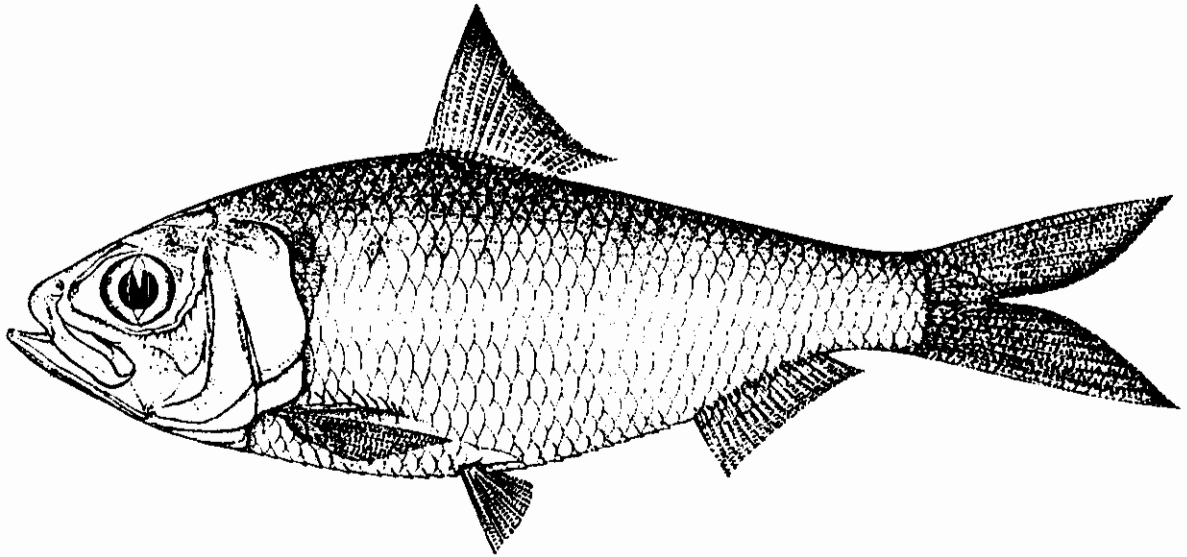
English Names: Sardine.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in November 2001.



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Clupeidae
Hilsa kelee (Cuvier, 1829)



Hilsa kelee GARTA ILISH

Local Names: Garta ilish.

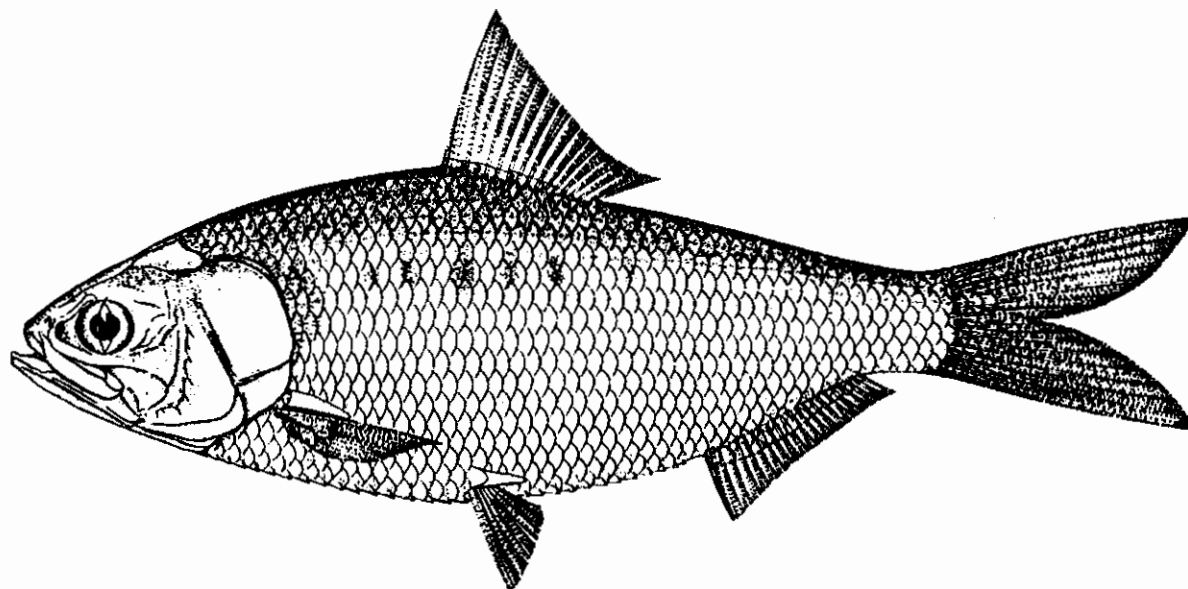
English Names: Kelee shad.

The species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Clupeidae

Tenualosa ilisha (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Tenualosa ilisha* ILISH**

Local Names: Ilish.

English Names: Hilsha shad.

This commercially important species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author saw numerous specimens in the Sundarbans forest in June 2000, and a few specimens at Dubla Char in January 2001 and November 2001. The species migrates annually from the Bay of Bengal into the larger Sundarbans rivers with substantial monsoon discharge (Baleswar, Passur) where it is caught with large mesh gillnets. It forms a major component of the total fish catch of the Sundarbans.



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES



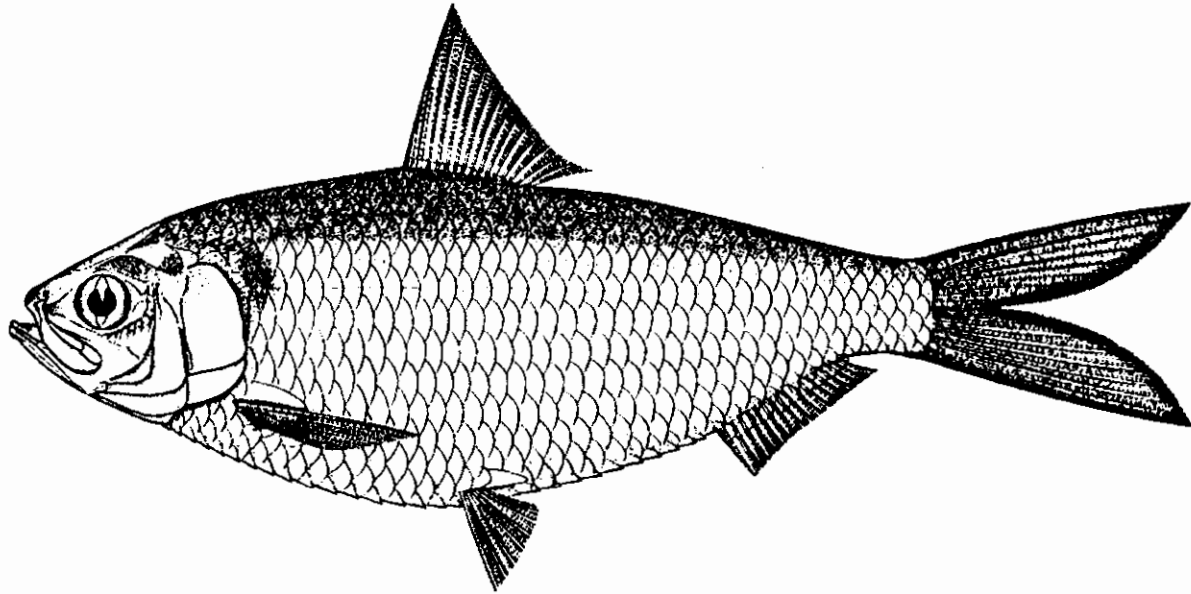
Photo below of small *Tenualosa ilisha*, known as jatka



ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Clupeidae

Tenualosa toli (Valenciennes, 1847)



***Tenualosa toli* CHANDANA ILISH**

Local Names: Chandana ilish.

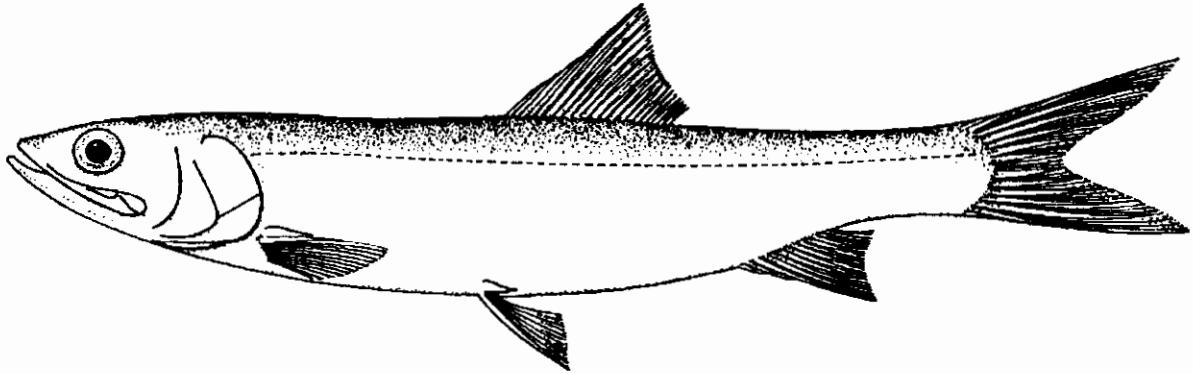
English Names: Toli shad.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

ANCHOVIES, HERRINGS & SARDINES

Family Elopidae

Elops machnata (Forsskal, 1775)



Elops machnata

English Names: Tarpon, tenpounder, ladyfish.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

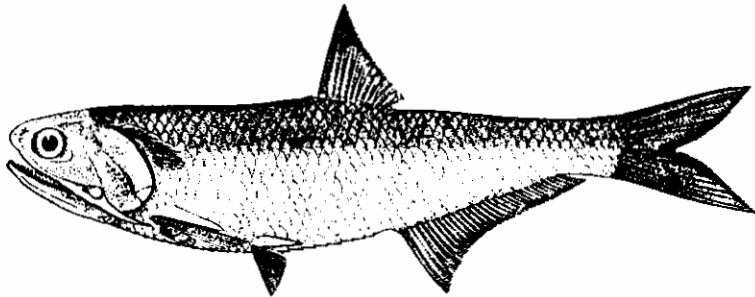
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

Family Engraulidae

Thryssa mystax (Schneider, 1801)

Phasa

Moustached anchovy

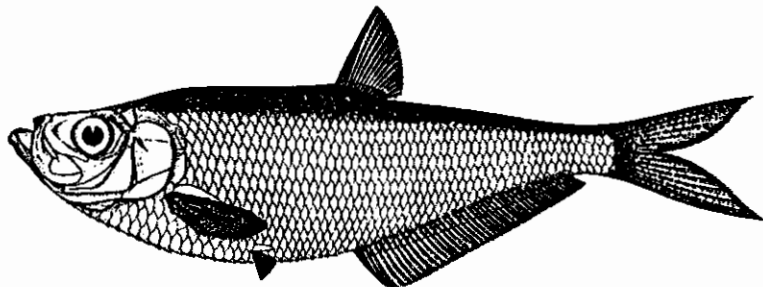


Family Pristigasteridae

Ilisha filigera (Valenciennes, 1847)

Choukya

Coromandel herring

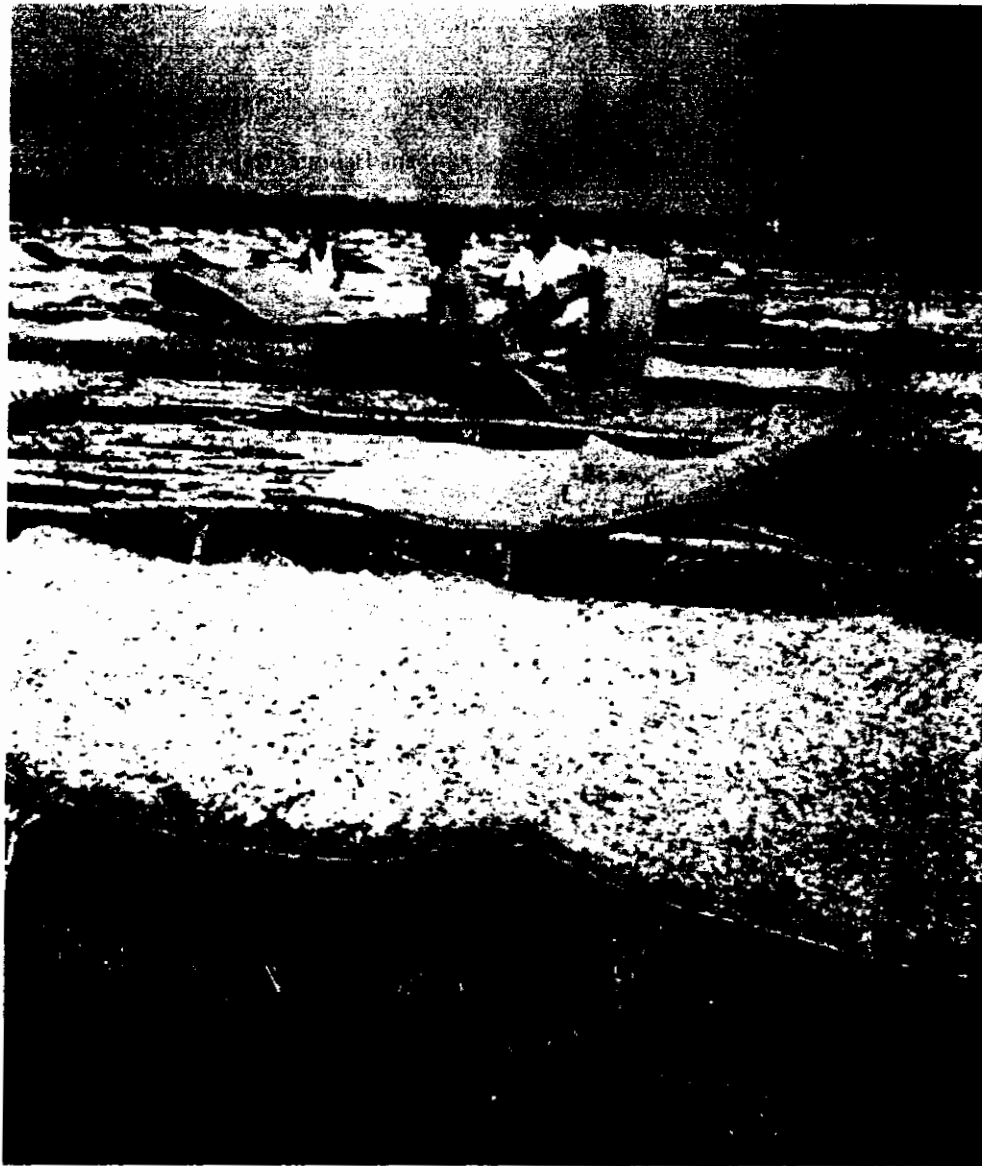




Phasa and patra drying on mat



Preparing Bombay duck for hanging on racks to dry



Small shrimp and finfish drying on mats supported on horizontal drying racks

SUN DRYING CATCHES AT DUBLA CHAR IN THE WINTER

EELS

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

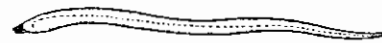
Muraenesocidae *Congresox talabonoides*
Pike conger eels *Muraenesox cinereus*



Synbranchidae *Monopterusuchia*
Mud eels



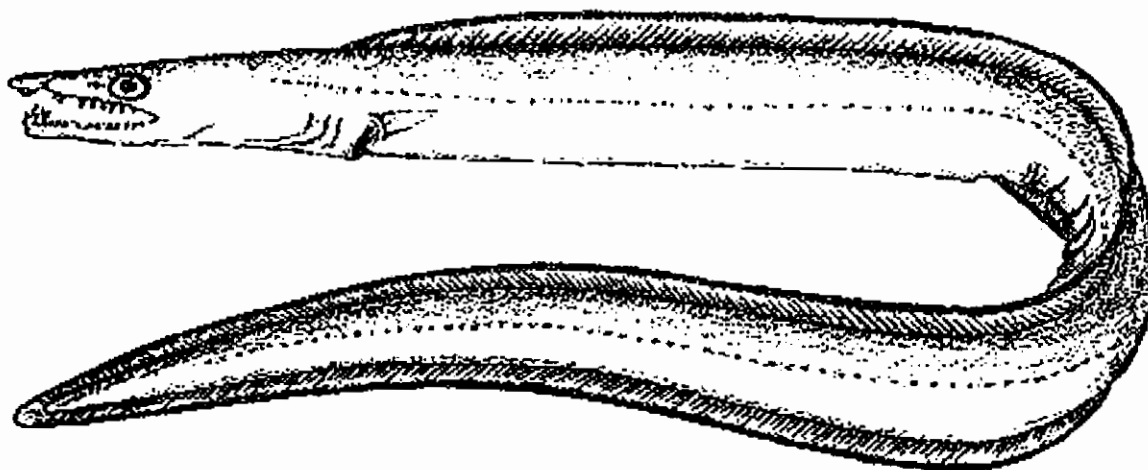
Ophichthidae *Pisodonophis boro*
Snake eels



EELS

Family Muraenesocidae

Congresox talabonoides (Bleeker, 1853)



***Congresox talabonoides* KAMILA**

Local Names: Kamila.

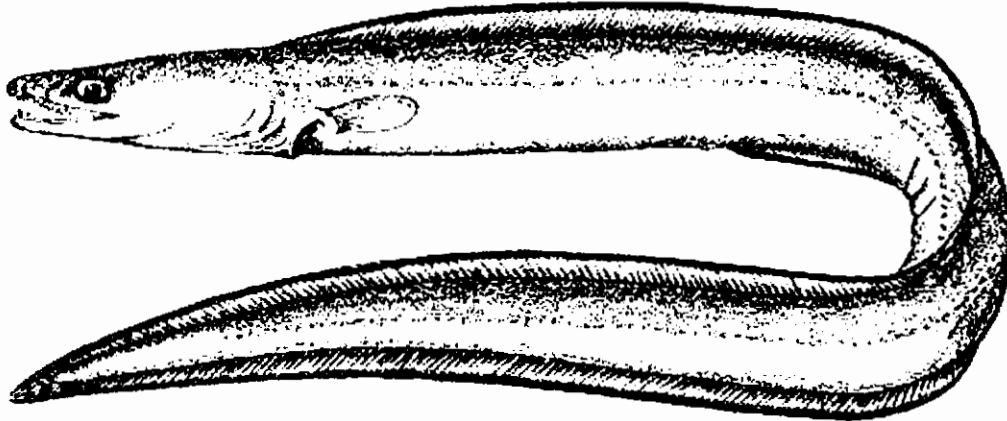
English Names: Indian pike conger eel.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author saw one specimen at Dubla Char in December 2000. A specimen is preserved in the FAO fish collection.



EELS

Family Muraenesocidae
Muraenesox cinereus (Forsskal, 1775)



Muraenesox cinereus **KAMILA**

Local Names: Kamila.

English Names: Daggertooth pike conger eel.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Synbranchidae
Monopterusuchia (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Monopterusuchia **KUCHIA**

Local Names: Kuchia.

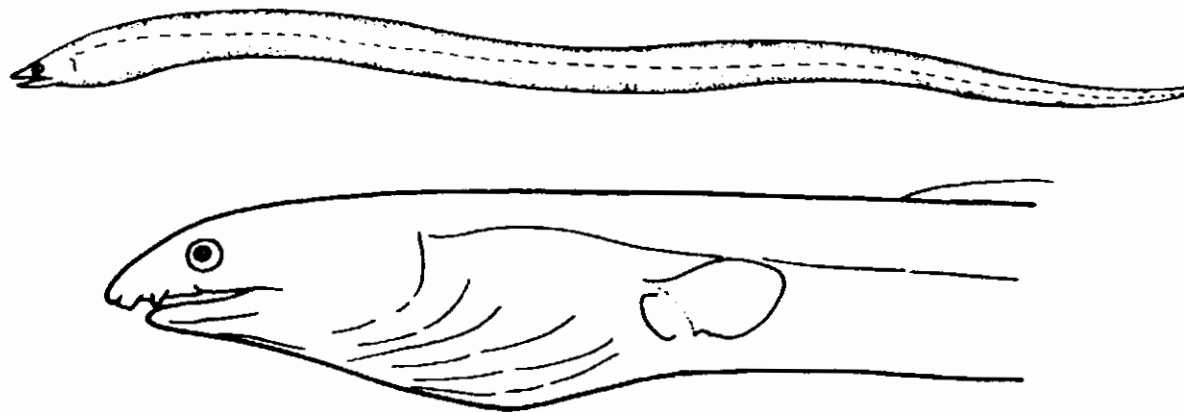
English Names: Gangetic mud eel.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

EELS

Family Ophichthidae

Pisodonophis boro (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Pisodonophis boro KHARU

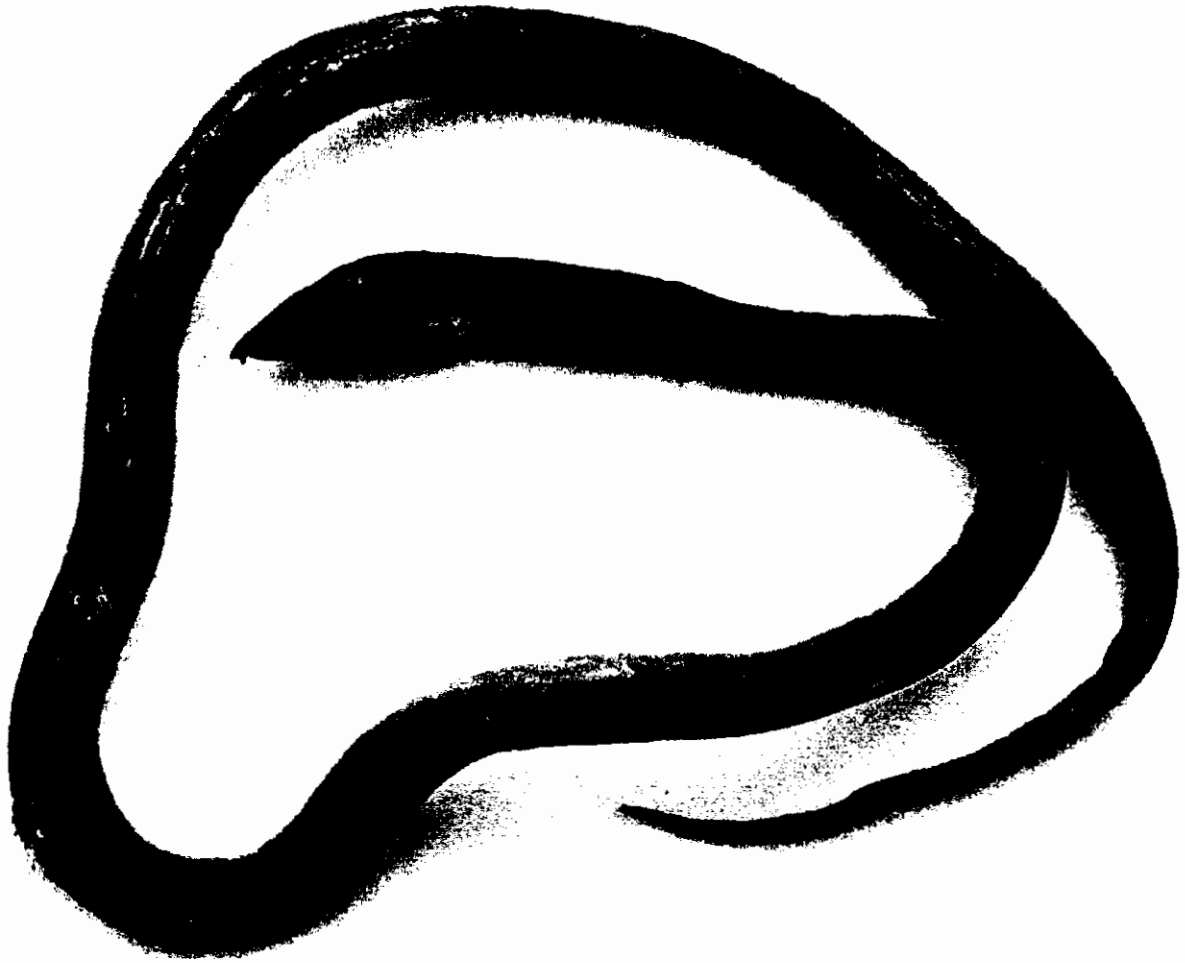
Local Names: Kharu, hijra

English names: Rice paddy eel.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. A specimen is preserved in the FAO fish collection.



EELS



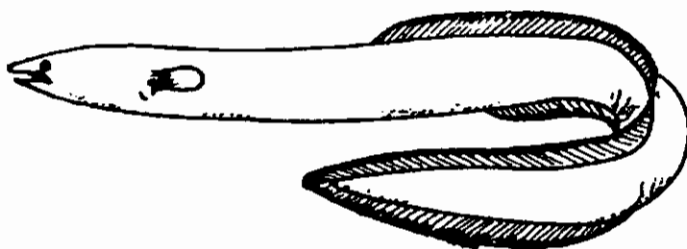
EELS

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

Family Anguillidae

Anguilla bengalensis (Gray, 1831)

Indian longfin eel



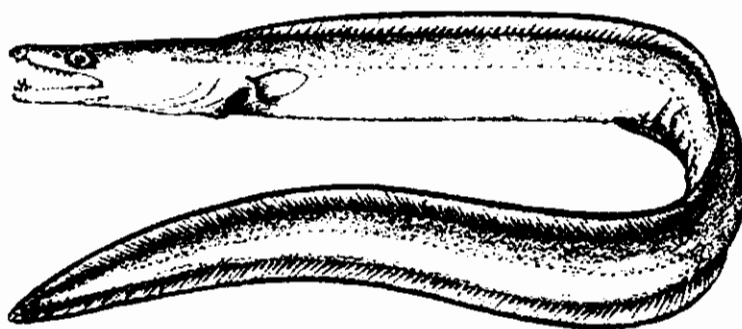
The Indian longfin eel *Anguilla bengalensis* is widely distributed in the region. It lives in freshwater [Rahman (1989) found it in several localities in Bangladesh] but occurs in estuarine waters during its early life stage and

near maturity, and likely spans in the sea. It is likely that it will eventually be recorded from the Sundarbans.

Family Muraenesocidae

Muraenesox bagio (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

Common pike conger eel



The common pike conger eel *Muraenesox bagio* was recorded by Rahman (1989) from Bangladesh. This species may occur in the Sundarbans marine zone.

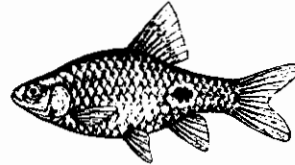
BARBS

BARBS

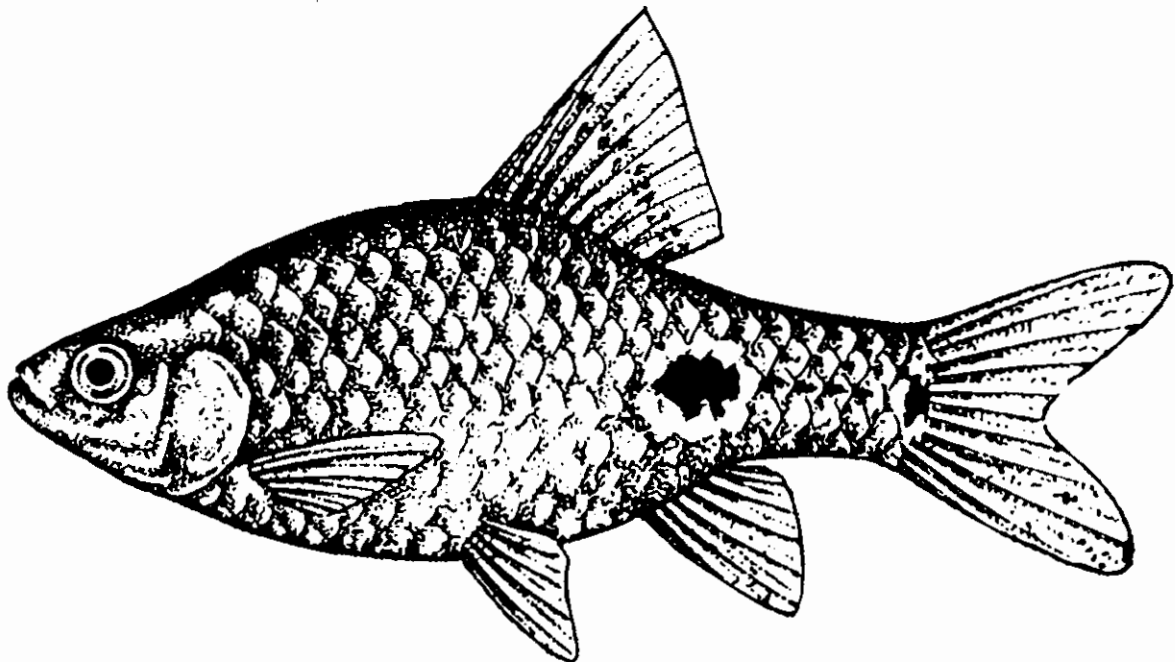
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Cyprinidae
Barbs & carps

Puntius terio



Family Cyprinidae
Puntius terio (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Puntius terio PUTI

Local Names: Puti, teri, punti.
English Names: One-spot barb.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001. It is normally found only in freshwater.



SORTING THE BEHUNDI NET CATCH AT DUBLA CHAR

CATFISHES

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Bagridae

Whiskered catfishes

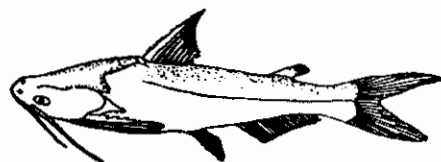
Mystus gulio
Mystus bleekeri



Schilbeidae

Fatty catfishes

Ailia coila
Pangasius pangasius
Silonia silonia



Clariidae

Walking catfish

Clarias batrachus



Plotosidae

Eeltail catfishes

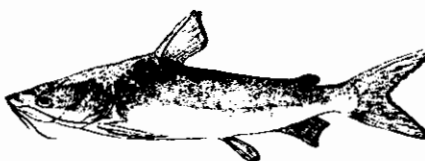
Plotosus canius
Plotosus lineatus



Ariidae

Sea catfishes

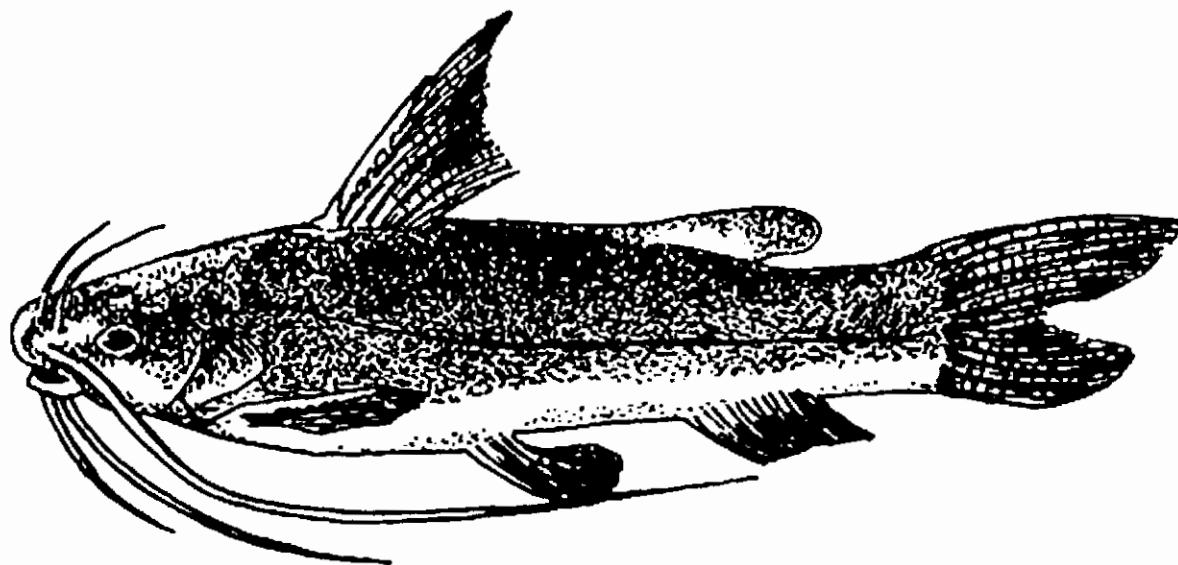
Arius gogora
Arius arius
Arius platystomus
Arius dussumieri
Arius maculatus
Arius nenga
Arius sona
Arius thalassinus



CATFISHES

Family Bagridae

Mystus gulio (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

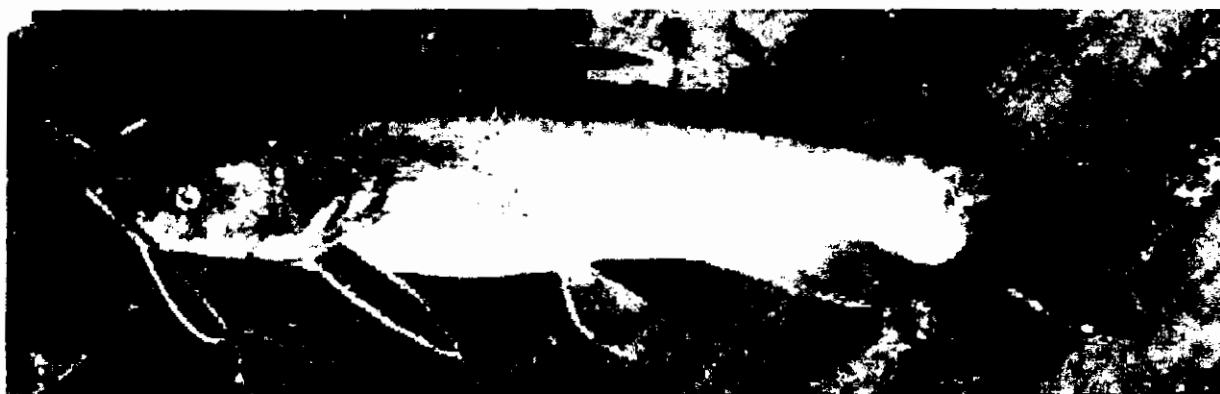


Mystus gulio TENGRA

Local Names: Tengra, guilla, nuna tengra.

English Names: Long-whiskered catfish.

This medium size species of whiskered catfish was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were examined by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000. It is of some commercial importance in the forest fishery.



CATFISHES
Family Bagridae
Mystus bleekeri (Day, 1877)

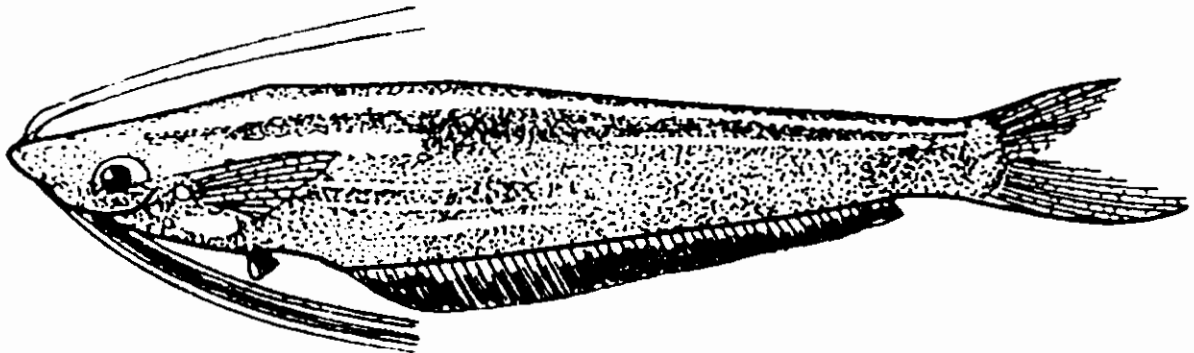


Mystus bleekeri **TENGRA**

Local Names: Tengra, golsha tengra.
English Names: Day's catfish.

This small species of whiskered catfish has not previously been recorded from Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study of 2001.

Family Schilbeidae
Ailia coila (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Ailia coila **BASPATA**

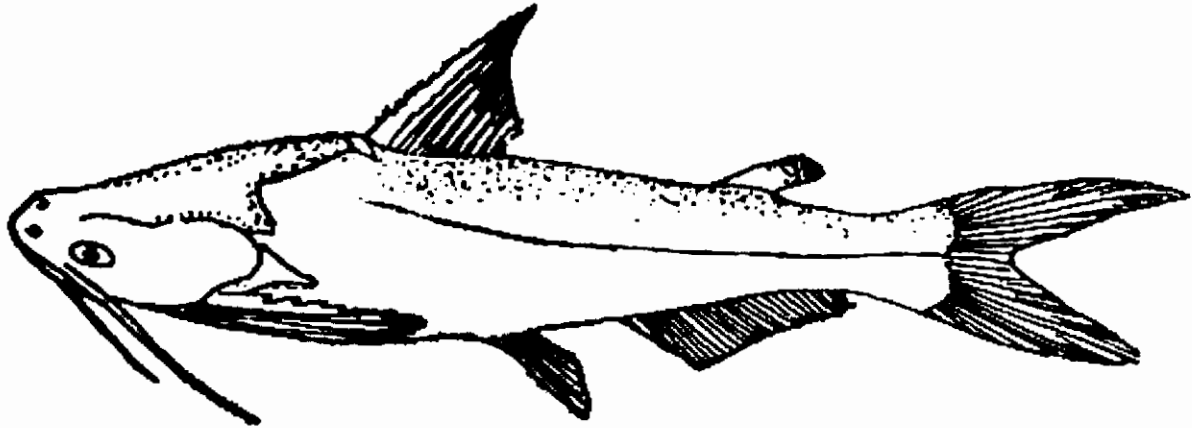
Local Names: Baspata, kajuli.
English Names: Gangetic catfish.

This medium size catfish has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

CATFISHES

Family Schilbeidae

Pangasius pangasius (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Pangasius pangasius PANGAS

Local Names: Pangas.

English Names: Fatty catfish.

This large and commercially important catfish was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author examined one juvenile and several fingerling in the Sundarbans forest and at Dubla Char in January and November 2001. The adults inhabit large rivers and may migrate long distances down to the estuaries to spawn. This is an endangered species in Bangladesh and requires comprehensive protection. The Sundarbans may be one of its more important remaining breeding and nursery grounds.



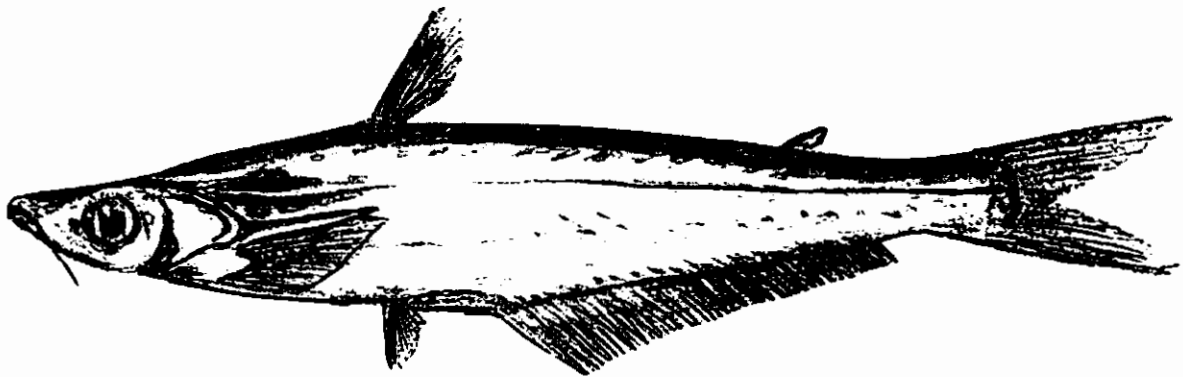
CATFISHES



Photo above of juvenile *Pangasius pangasius*, with stomach stuffed with snails

Family Schilbeidae

Silonia silondia (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Silonia silondia SHILLONG

Local Names: Shillong.

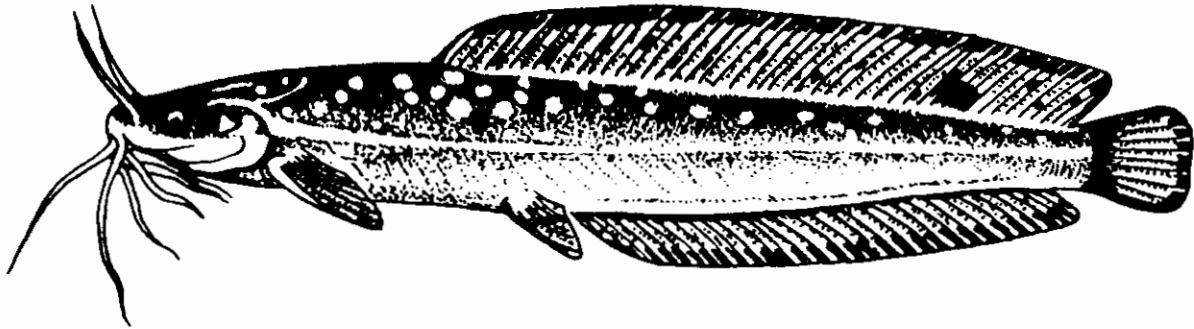
English Names: Silondia.

This large catfish was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

CATFISHES

Family Clariidae

Clarias batrachus (Linnaeus, 1758)



Clarias batrachus MAGUR

Local Names: Magur.

English Names: Walking catfish.

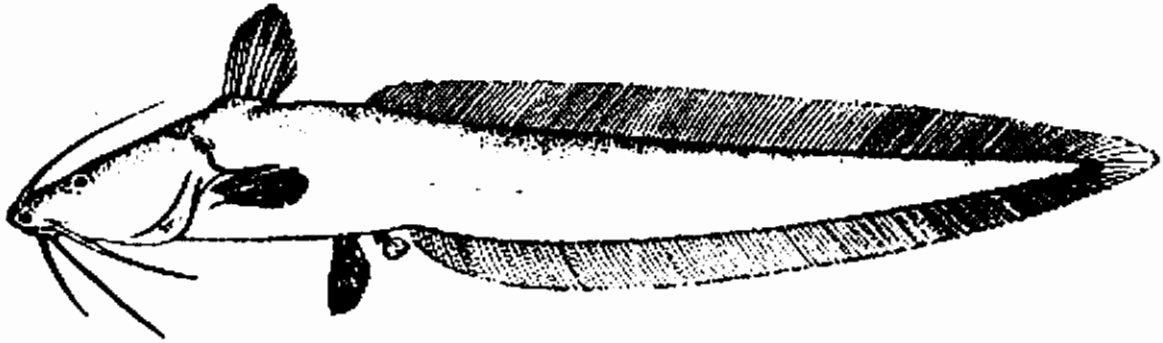
This freshwater species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. A single specimen was seen by the author in the northeastern part of the Sundarbans forest in November 2001.



CATFISHES

Family Plotosidae

Plotosus canius Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822



Plotosus canius **KAIN MAGUR**

Local Names: Kain magur.

English Names: Canine eeltail catfish.

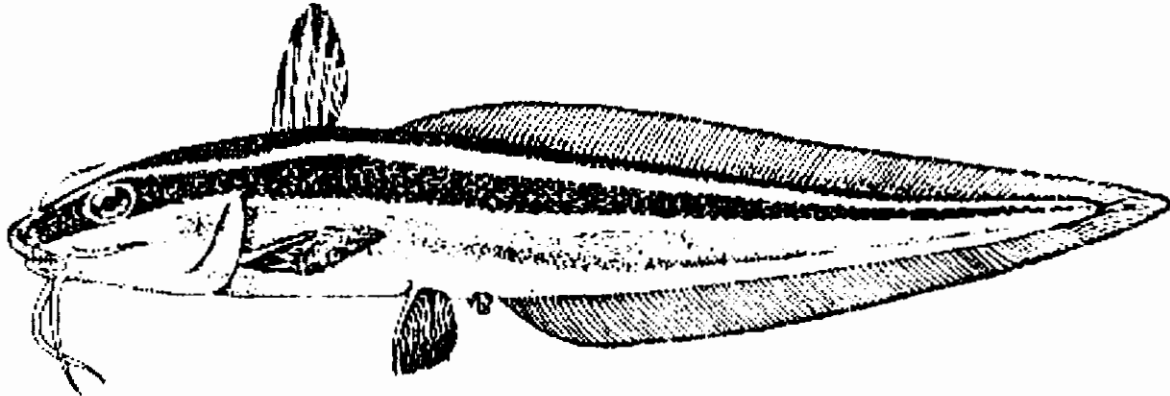
This medium size and commercially important catfish species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. Numerous specimens were seen in the Sundarbans forest by the author in December 2000 and November 2001.



CATFISHES

Family Plotosidae

Plotosus lineatus (Thunberg, 1787)



***Plotosus lineatus* KAIN MAGUR**

Local Names: Kain magur.

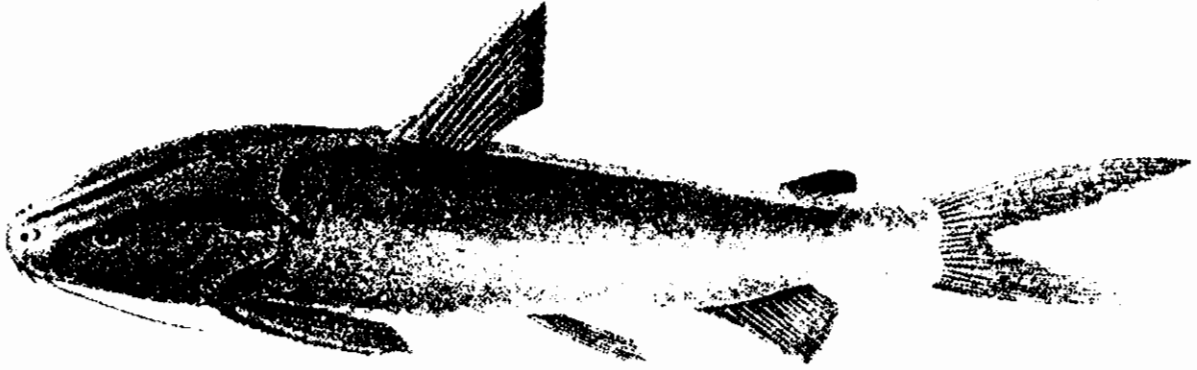
English Names: Striped eeltail catfish.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. It appears to be much less abundant than *Plotosus canius* in the Sundarbans. One specimen was seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in July 2000.

CATFISHES

Family Ariidae

Arius gagora (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

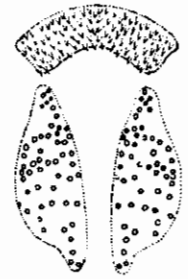


Arius gagora MAD

Local Names: Mad, kata.

English Names: Gagora sea catfish.

This species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author



upper tooth patches

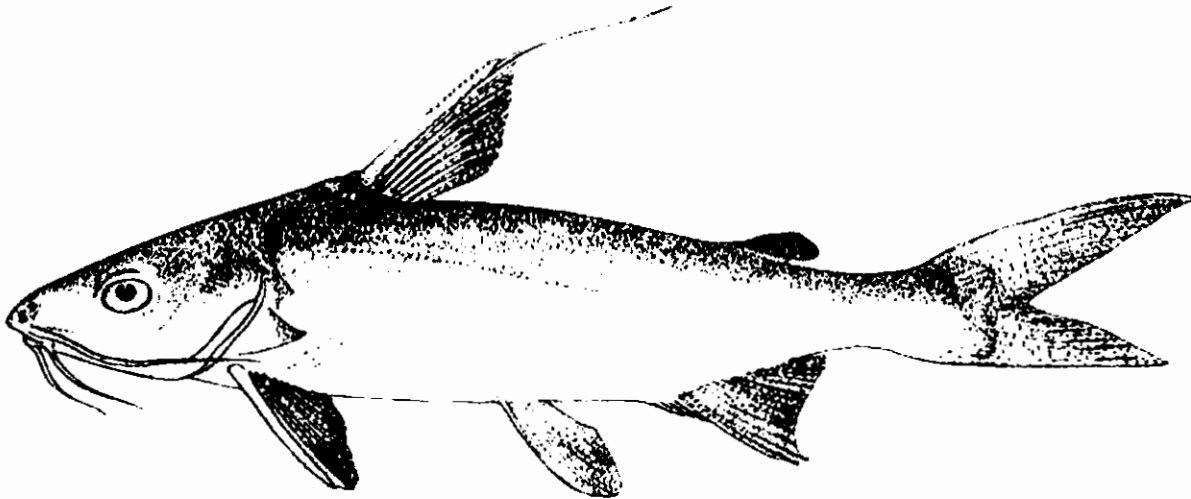
A Note about the genus *Arius*

Arius is considered a 'difficult' taxon. The identity of many of the species of the genus is not yet satisfactory, and it is difficult to clearly define them. Identifications presented in this book should be considered tentative. The collection and detailed study of more specimens is needed before a clearer understanding of the species composition of the ariids of the Sundarbans can be achieved, and reliable identifications made.

CATFISHES

Family Ariidae

Arius arius (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



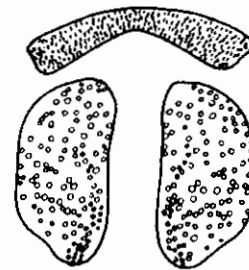
Arius arius MAD

Local Names: Mad, kata.

English Names: Threadfin sea catfish.

Synonyms: *Arius buchanani*.

This medium size sea catfish was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as the synonym *Arius buchanani*. The author has seen a single small specimen which is provisionally identified as *Arius arius*.



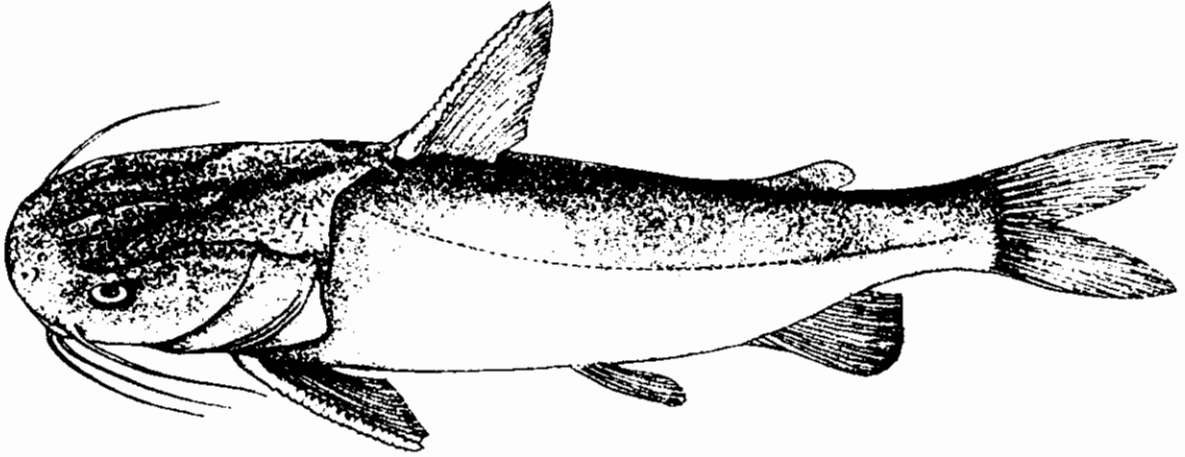
upper tooth patches



CATFISHES

Family Ariidae

Arius platystomus Day, 1877

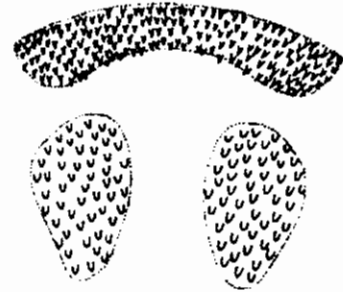


Arius platystomus MAD

Local Names: Mad, kata.

English Names: Flatmouth sea catfish.

This small sea catfish has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study of 2001.

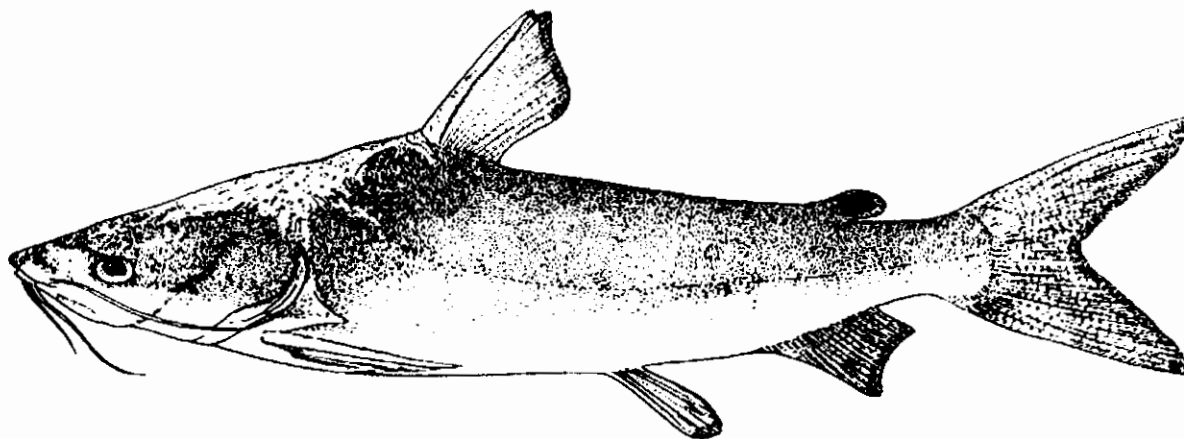


teeth on roof of mouth

CATFISHES

Family Ariidae

Arius dussumieri Valenciennes, 1840



Arius dussumieri GOOROO

Local Names: Gooroo, mad, kata.

English Names: Blacktip sea catfish.

This large and commercially important species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. Several dozen adult specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000. These are provisionally identified as *Arius dussumieri*.



upper tooth patches



CATFISHES

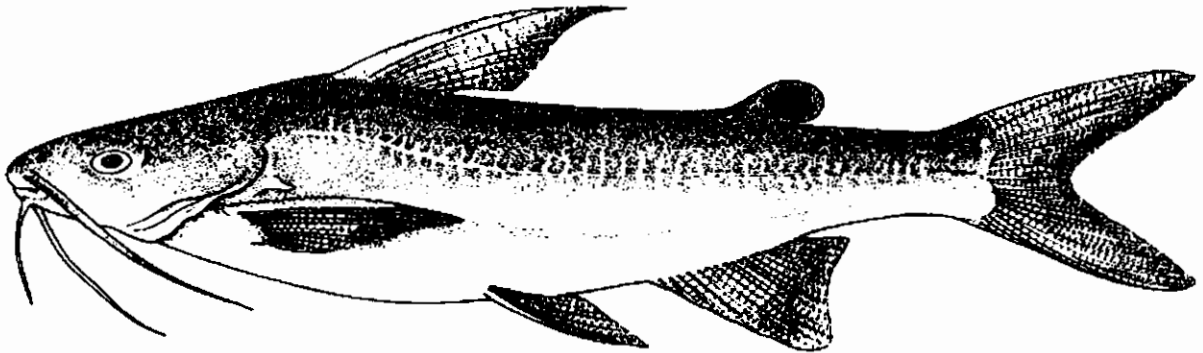


Photos of *Arius dussumieri* above

CATFISHES

Family Ariidae

Arius maculatus (Thunberg, 1792)



Arius maculatus MAD

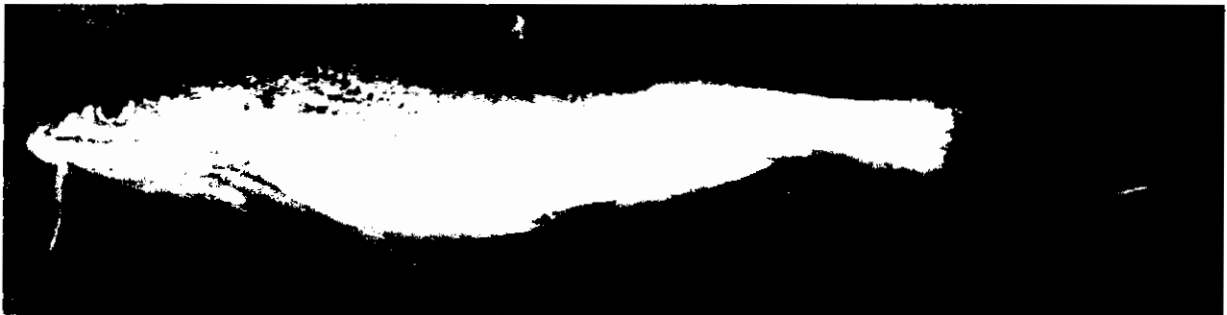
Local Names: Mad, kata.

English Names: Spotted sea catfish.

This medium size species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. One fingerling specimen examined by the author is provisionally identified as *Arius maculatus*. A specimen is preserved in the FAO fish collection.



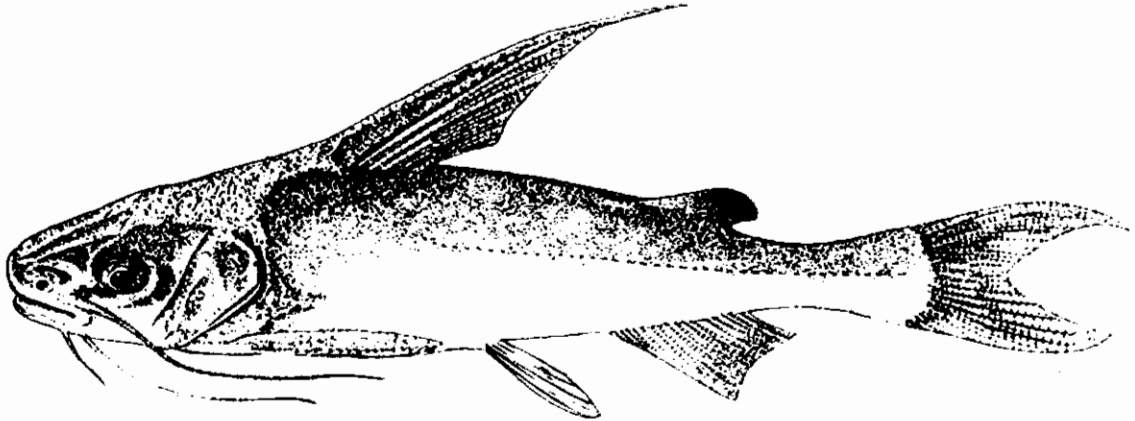
upper tooth patches



CATFISHES

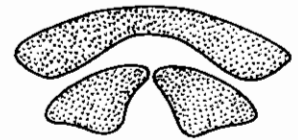
Family Ariidae

Arius nenga (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Arius nenga MAD

Local Names: Mad, kata. **English Names:** Engraved catfish.
Synonyms: *Arius caelatus*.



upper tooth patches

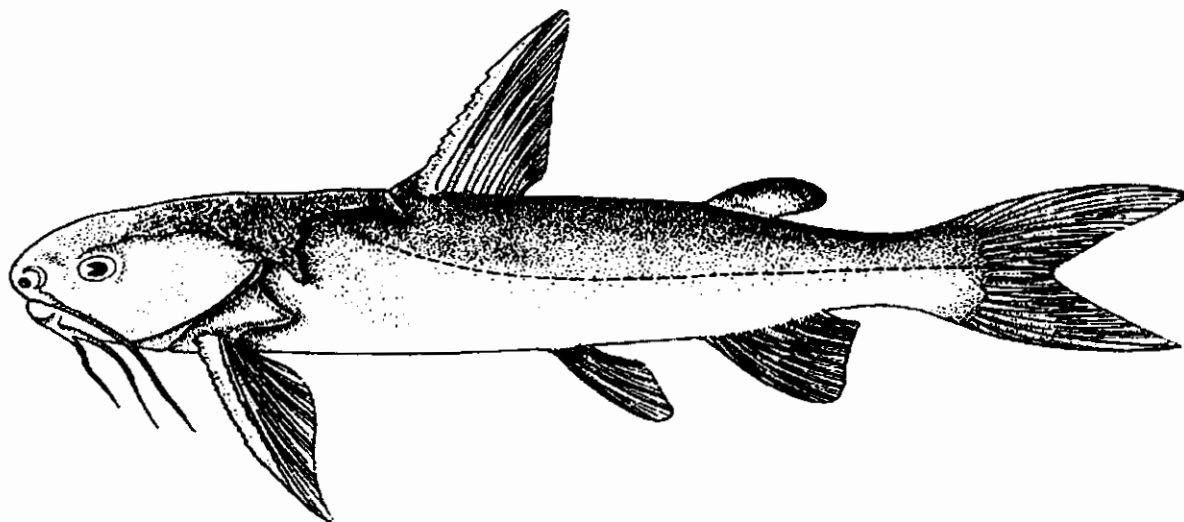
This medium size species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans as the synonym *Arius caelatus*. One specimen was seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000.



CATFISHES

Family Ariidae

Arius sona (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Arius sona MAD

Local Names: Mad, kata.

English Names: Sona sea catfish.

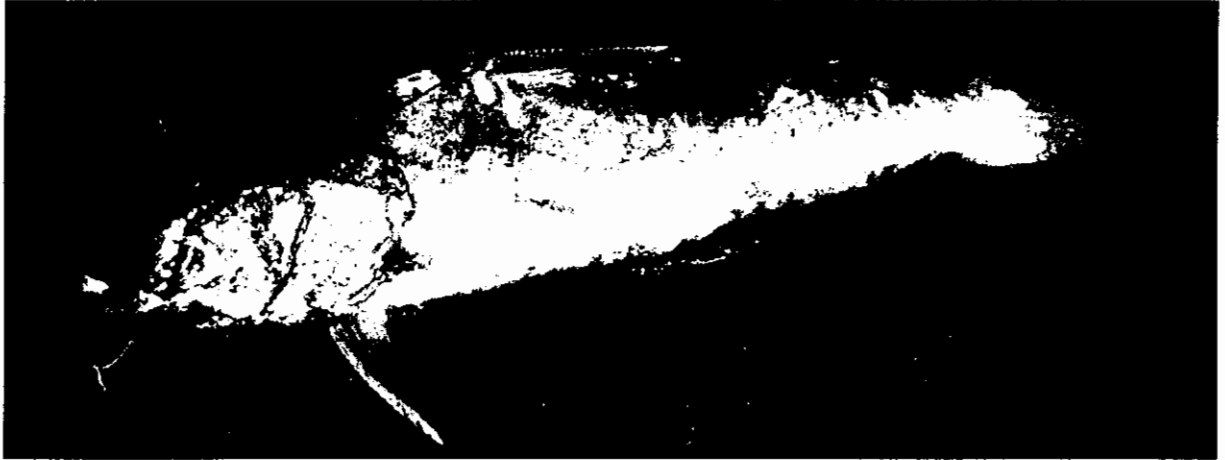


upper tooth patches



This large species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author has seen several specimens at Dubla Char in December 2000 and November 2001 (including a large dried head – see photo of palatal tooth patches above) which are provisionally identified as *Arius sona*. The species would appear to be relatively common in the marine zone and estuaries of the Sundarbans.

CATFISHES

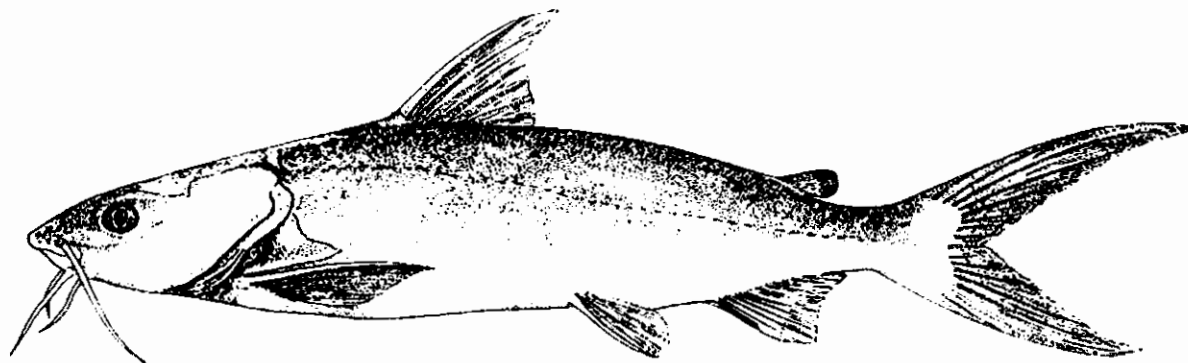


Photos of *Arius sona*

CATFISHES

Family Ariidae

Arius thalassinus (Ruppell, 1837)

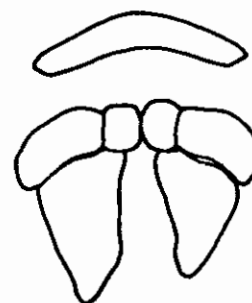


***Arius thalassinus* MAD**

Local Names: *Mad, kata.*

English Names: Giant sea catfish.

This giant catfish species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. A specimen from the Sundarbans is preserved at the Sundarbans Information Centre in Khulna.



upper tooth patches



CATFISHES

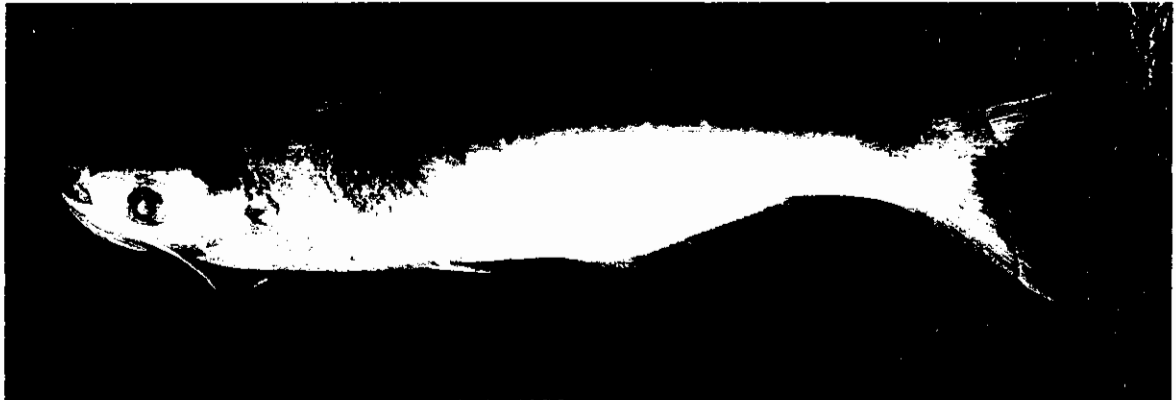
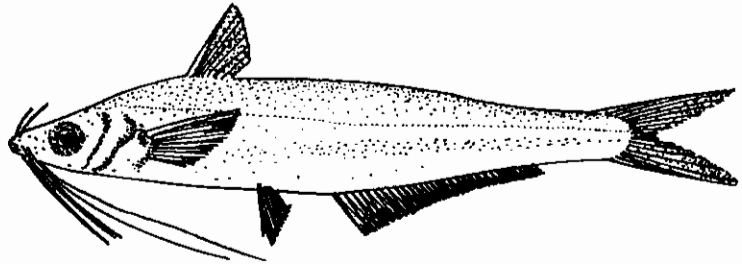
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

Family Schilbeidae

Clupisoma garua (Hamilton, 1822)

Garua

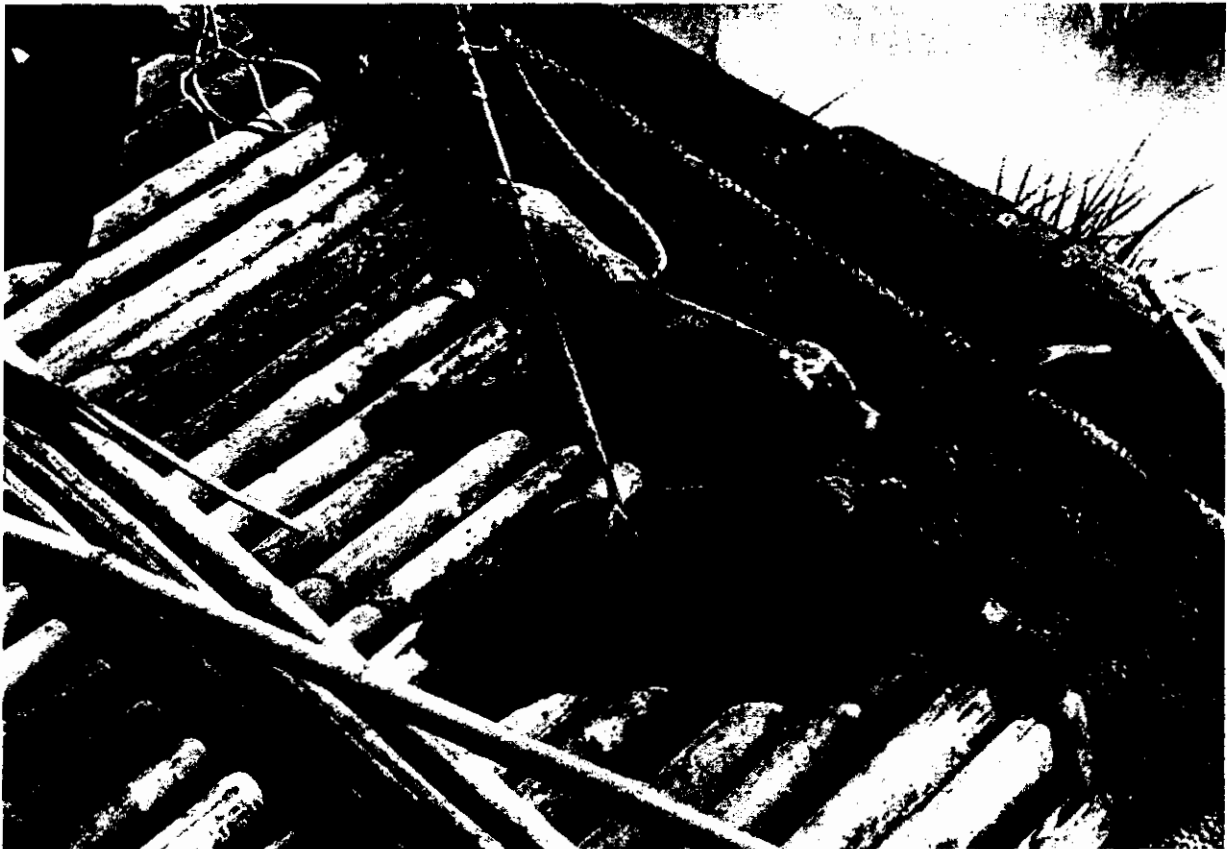
A specimen of the garua catfish *Clupisoma garua* was collected in the Passur river several km north of the Sundarbans. It is quite likely that the range of this species extends into the Sundarbans, especially during the rainy season. Other freshwater catfish species may also eventually be recorded from the low salinity zone of the Sundarbans forest.



Scan of specimen of *Clupisoma garua*



Bhetki gillnet fishermen



Otters used for fishing with tar jal for bhetki and pangas

LIZARDFISHES & BOMBAY DUCKS

LIZARDFISHES & BOMBAY DUCKS

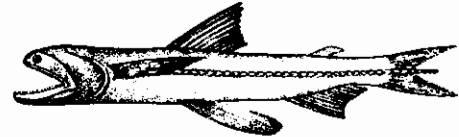
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Synodontidae
Lizardfishes and
Bombay ducks

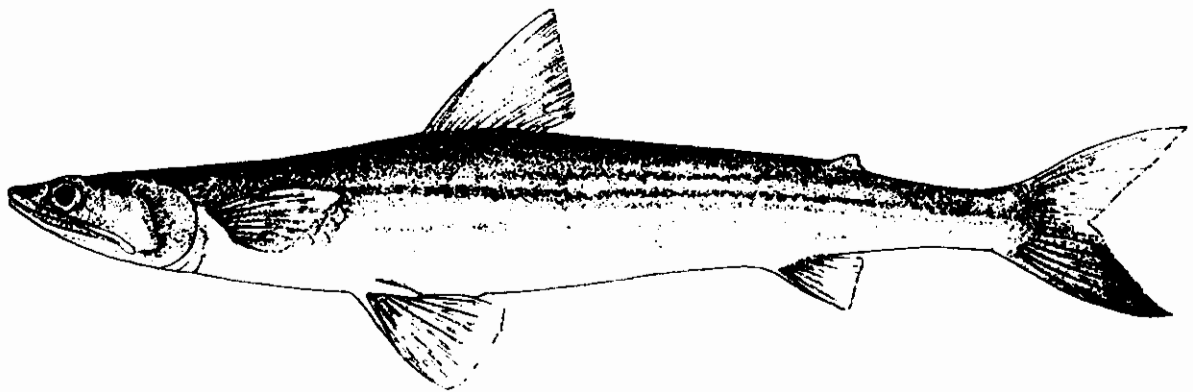
Saurida tumbil



Harpadon nehereus



Family Synodontidae
Saurida tumbil (Bloch, 1795)



Saurida tumbil **TIKTIKI**

Local Names: Tiktiki, achila.

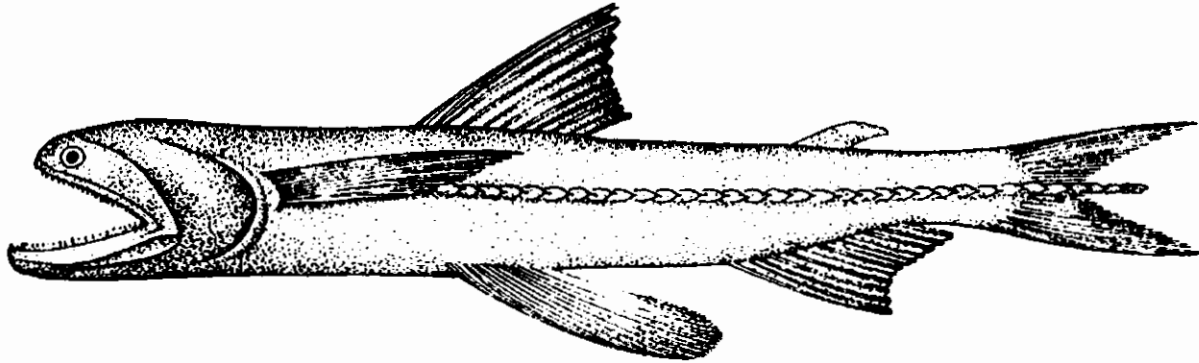
English Names: Greater lizardfish.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

LIZARDFISHES & BOMBAY DUCKS

Family Synodontidae

Harpadon nehereus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

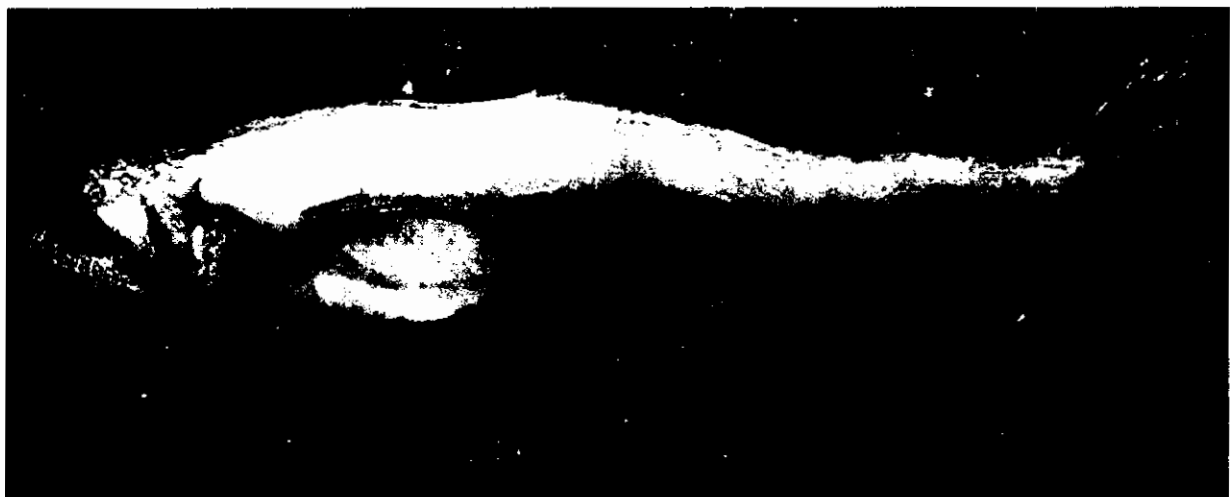


***Harpadon nehereus* LOITYYA**

Local Names: Loittyia.

English Names: Bombay duck.

This commercially important species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. The author saw large numbers of Bombay duck at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001, where the species is probably the single most abundant in the marine and estuarine behundi net catch. Fingerlings and juveniles were also seen in fish catches in the Sundarbans forest.



LIZARDFISHES & BOMBAY DUCKS



LIZARDFISHES & BOMBAY DUCKS

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

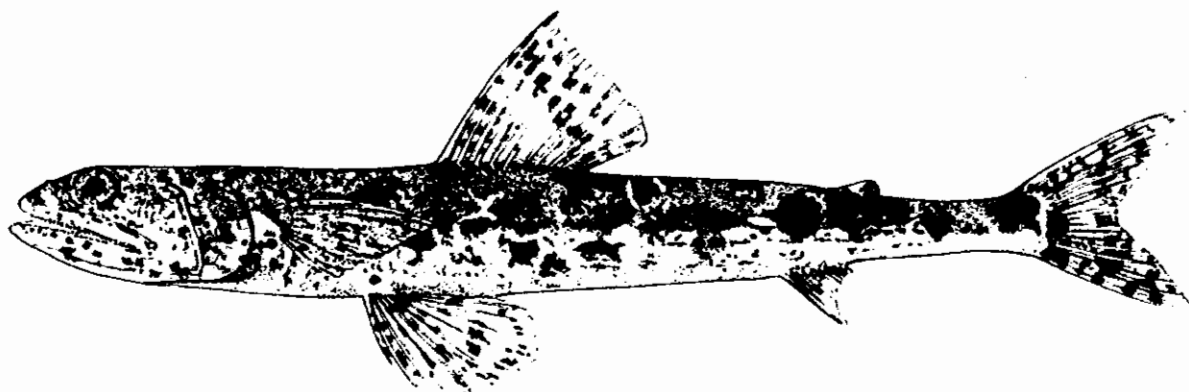
Several wide-ranging species of lizardfishes are likely to occur in Bangladesh waters and may eventually be recorded from the Sundarbans. These include:

- Saurida gracilis* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824) Gracile lizardfish
- Synodus binotatus* (Schultz, 1953) Twospot lizardfish
- Synodus dermatogenys* (Fowler, 1912) Banded lizardfish
- Synodus doaki* (Russell and Cressey, 1979) Doak's lizardfish
- Synodus indicus* (Day, 1873) Indian lizardfish
- Synodus jaculum* (Russell and Cressey, 1979)
- Synodus macrocephalus* (Cressey, 1981) Largehead lizardfish
- Synodus macrops* (Tanaka, 1917) Triplecross lizardfish
- Synodus oculus* (Cressey, 1981) Large-eye lizardfish
- Synodus sagineus* (Waite, 1905) Speartoothed lizardfish, speartoothed grinner
- Synodus variegatus* (Lacepede, 1803) Variegated lizardfish
- Trachinocephalus myops* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) Bluntnose lizardfish

Family Synodontidae

Saurida gracilis (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824)

Gracile lizardfish



HALFBEAKS & NEEDLEFISHES

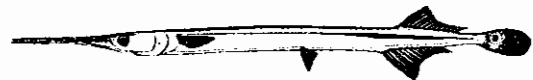
HALFBEAKS & NEEDLEFISHES

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

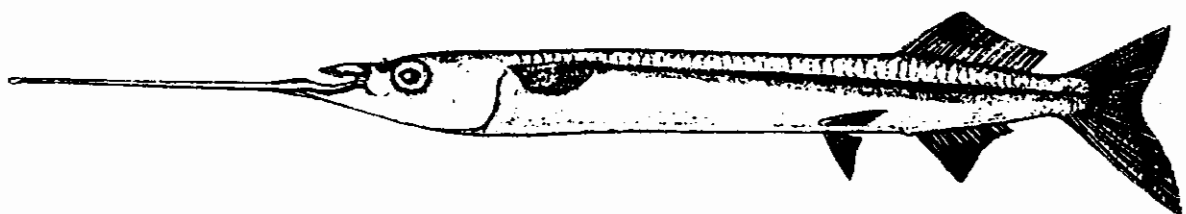
Hemiramphidae *Rhynchorhamphus georgii*
Halfbeaks *Hyporhamphus limbatus*
Hyporhamphus xanthopterus



Belonidae *Strongylura strongylura*
Needlefishes *Tylosurus crocodilus*
Xenentodon cancila



Family Hemiramphidae
Rhynchorhamphus georgii (Valenciennes, 1846)



Rhynchorhamphus georgii EKTHUITTA

Local Names: Ekthuitta.

English Names: George's halfbeak.

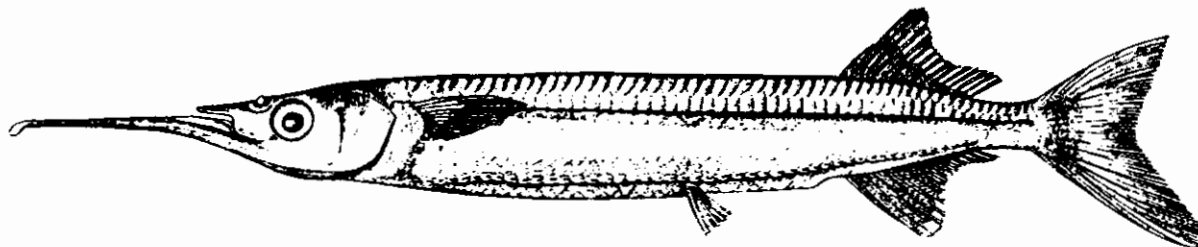
Synonyms: *Hemiramphus georgii*.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans as the synonym *Hemiramphus georgii*. No specimens were seen by the author.

HALFBEAKS & NEEDLEFISHES

Family Hemiramphidae

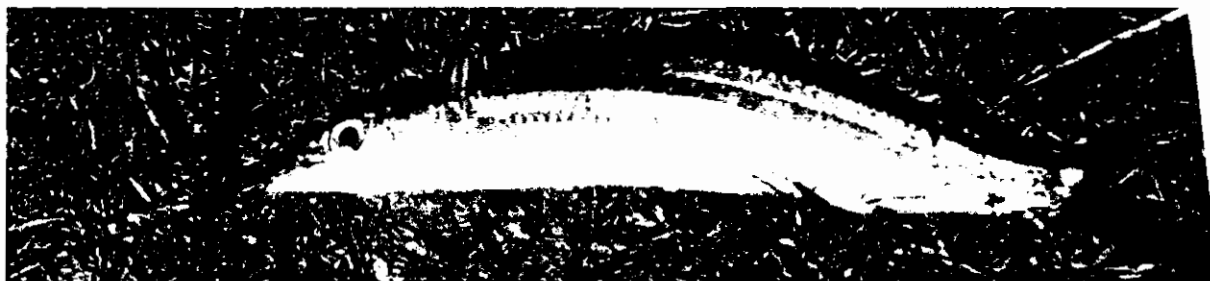
Hyporhamphus limbatus (Valenciennes, 1846)



Hyporhamphus limbatus EKTHUITTA

English Names: Congaturi halfbeak.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. One specimen was seen by the author at Dubla Char in January 2001.



Family Hemiramphidae

Hyporhamphus xanthopterus (Valenciennes, 1846)

Hyporhamphus xanthopterus

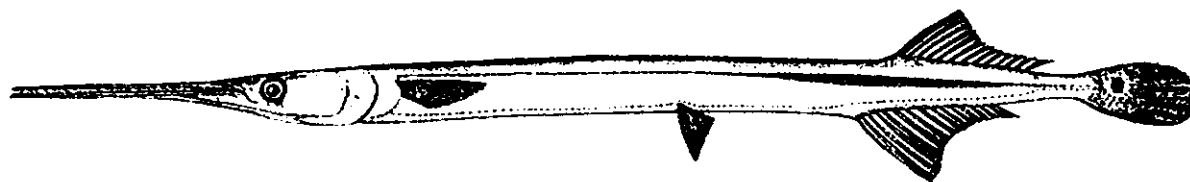
English Names: Vembanad halfbeak.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were examined by the contracted Khulna University field study from the Sundarbans in 2001.

HALFBEAKS & NEEDLEFISHES

Family Belonidae

Strongylura strongylura (van Hasselt, 1823)



Strongylura strongylura

English Names: Spottail needlefish.

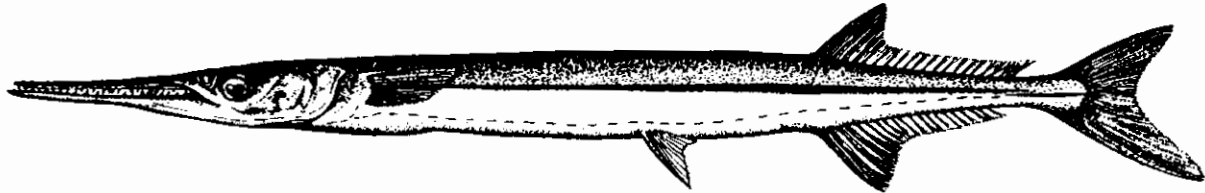
This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. A number of specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and November 2001. Also, several specimens were examined by the contracted Khulna University field study from the Sundarbans in 2001.



HALFBEAKS & NEEDLEFISHES

Family Belonidae

Tylosurus crocodilus (Peron and LeSueur, 1821)



Tylosurus crocodilus **KAIKKA**

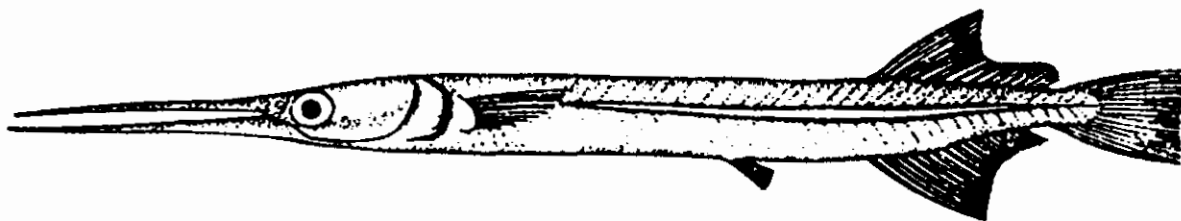
Local Names: Kaikka.

English Names: Spottail needlefish.

This large needlefish species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. A large dried specimen (with jaws removed) was seen by the author at Dubla Char in November 2001. It is provisionally identified as *Tylosurus crocodilus crocodilus*, but due to the incomplete nature of the specimen, the identification is considered very tentative.

Family Belonidae

Xenentodon cancila (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Xenentodon cancila **KAIKKA**

Local Names: Kaikka.

English Names: Spottail needlefish.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It normally occurs in freshwater systems. Several specimens were examined by the contracted Khulna University field study from the Sundarbans in 2001.

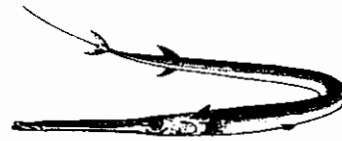
FLUTEMOUTHS & SEAHORSES

FLUTEMOUTHS & SEAHORSES

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Fistulariidae
Flutemouths

Fistularia petimba



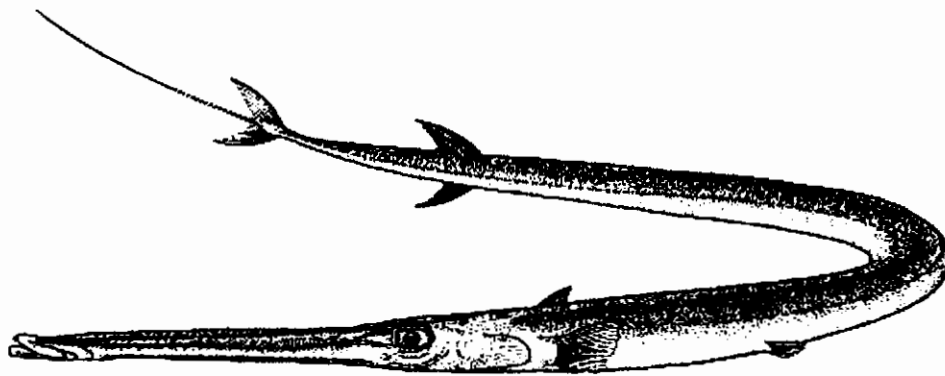
Syngnathidae
Seahorses

Hippocampus kuda



Family **Fistulariidae**

Fistularia petimba Lacepede, 1803



Fistularia petimba BONGSHI

Local Names: Bongshi.

English Names: Red flutemouth, red cornetfish.

Synonyms: *Fistularia villosa*.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans as the synonym *Fistularia villosa*. No specimens were seen by the author.

FLUTEMOUTHS & SEAHORSES

Family Syngnathidae

Hippocampus kuda Bleeker, 1852



***Hippocampus kuda* GHORA**

Local Names: Ghora.

English Names: Yellow seahorse.

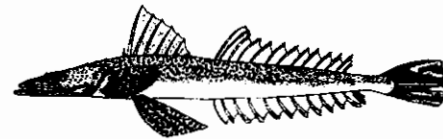
This small species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES

FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

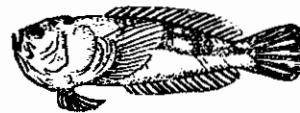
Platycephalidae *Cociella punctata*
Flatheads *Grammoplites scaber*
Platycephalus indicus
Rogadius pristiger



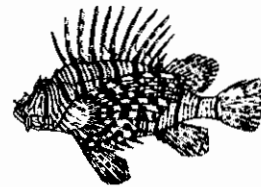
Batrachoididae *Allenbatrachus grunniens*
Toadfishes



Uranoscopidae *Ichthyoscopus inermis*
Stargazers *Uranoscopus guttatus*



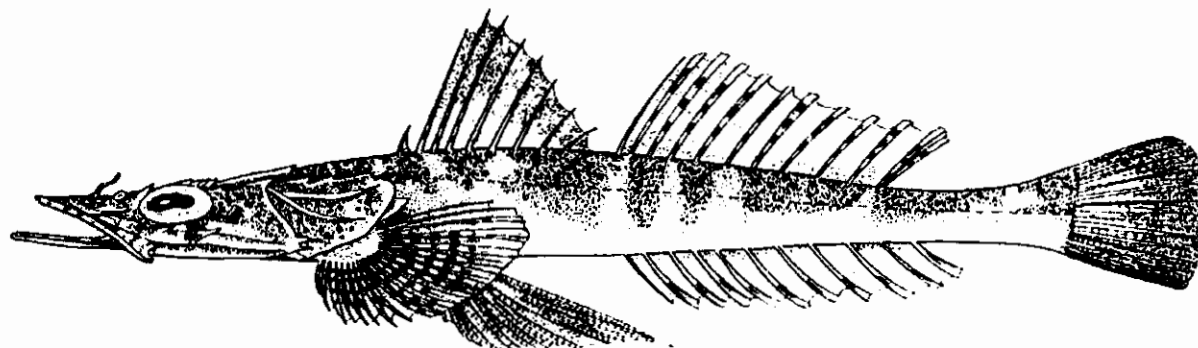
Scorpaenidae *Pterois milesi*
Lionfishes *Pterois russelli*



FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES

Family *Platycephalidae*

Cociella punctata (Tilesius, 1812)



Cociella punctata FOTA MURBAILA

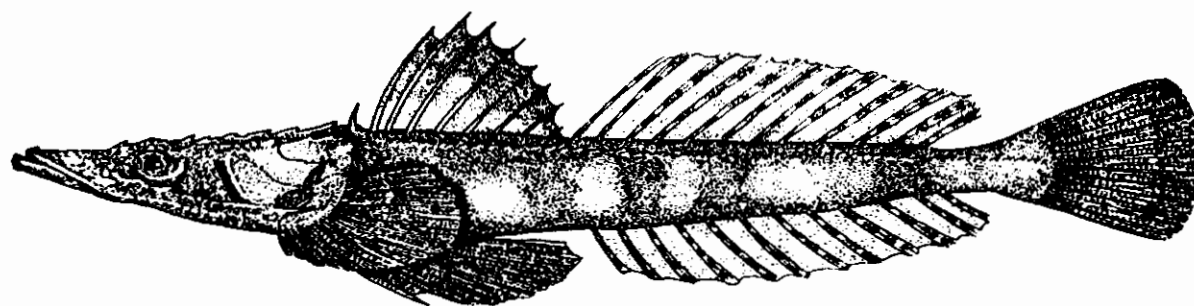
Local Names: Fota murbaila.

English Names: Spotted flathead.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as *Platycephalus crocodilus*. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family *Platycephalidae*

Grammoplites scaber (Linnaeus, 1758)



Grammoplites scaber MURBAILA

Local Names: Murbaila.

English Names: Rough flathead.

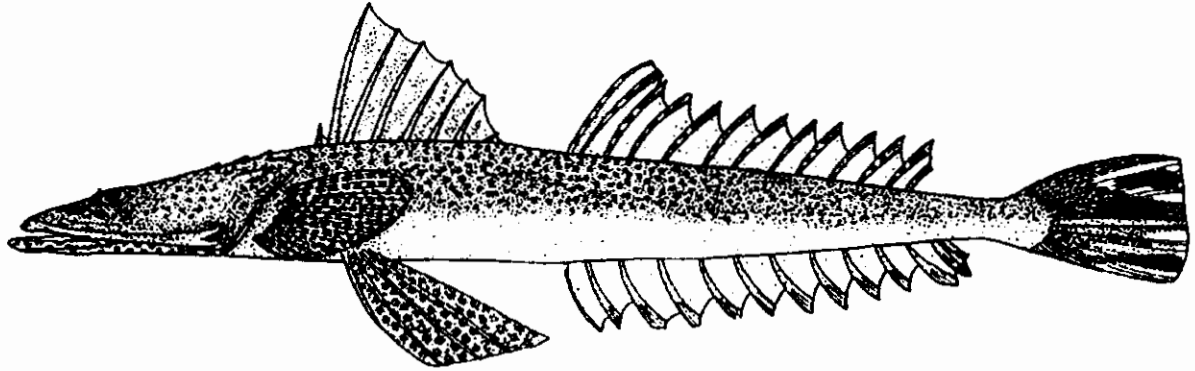
Synonyms: *Platycephalus scaber*.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as *Platycephalus scaber*. No specimens were seen by the author.

FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES

Family Platycephalidae

Platycephalus indicus (Linnaeus, 1758)



***Platycephalus indicus* MURBAILA**

Local Names: Murbaila.

English Names: Indian flathead, bartail flathead.

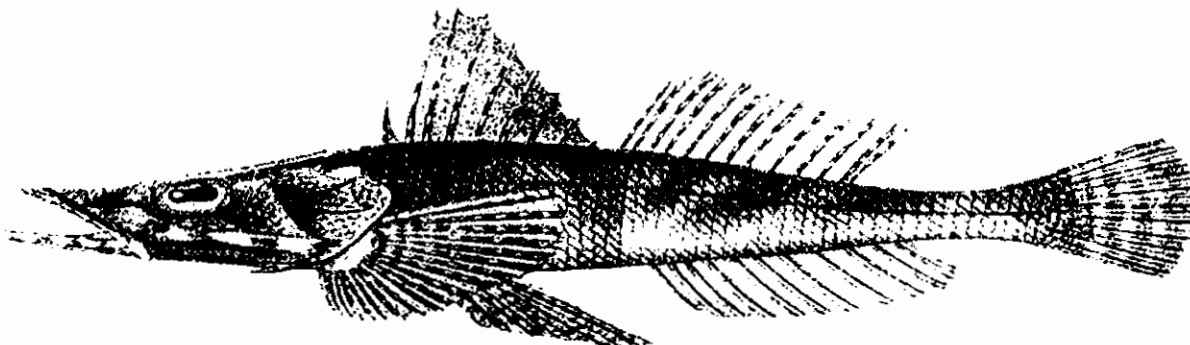
This large flathead was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) and Rahman (1989). Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char and in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and November 2001.



FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES

Family *Platycephalidae*

Rogadius pristiger (Cuvier, 1829)



***Rogadius pristiger* KATA MURBAILA**

Local Names: Kata murbaila.

English Names: Thorny flathead.

Synonyms: *Rogadius asper*.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as *Rogadius asper*. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family *Batrachoididae*

Allenbatrachus grunniens (Linnaeus, 1758)



***Allenbatrachus grunniens* GONGONIA**

Local Names: Gongonia

English Names: Gangetic toadfish.

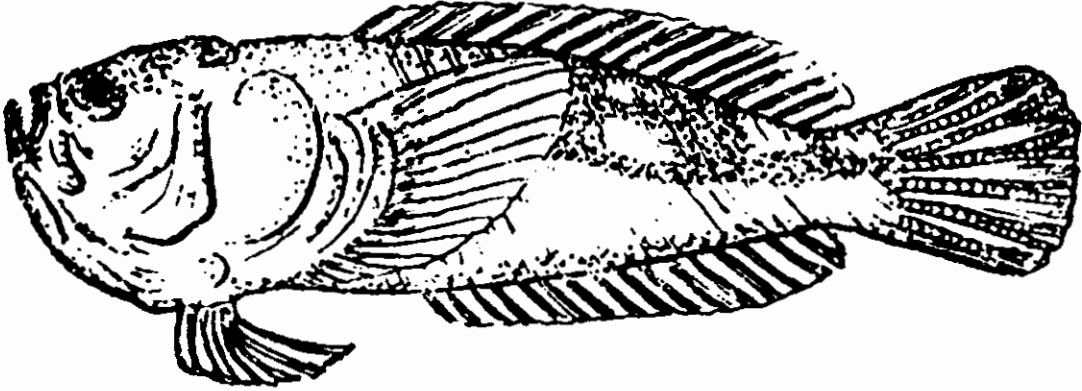
Synonyms: *Batrachthys grunniens*.

This small species has not been previously recorded from the Sundarbans. The author saw several specimens in the Sundarbans forest in January 2001. The species was also seen by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001 which reported it as the synonym *Batrachthys grunniens*.

FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES

Family Uranoscopidae

Ichthyoscopus inermis (Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1850)



Ichthyoscopus inermis BUTUM

Local Names: Butum, bhoot. English Names: Stargazer.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). A few specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char and in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and January 2001.

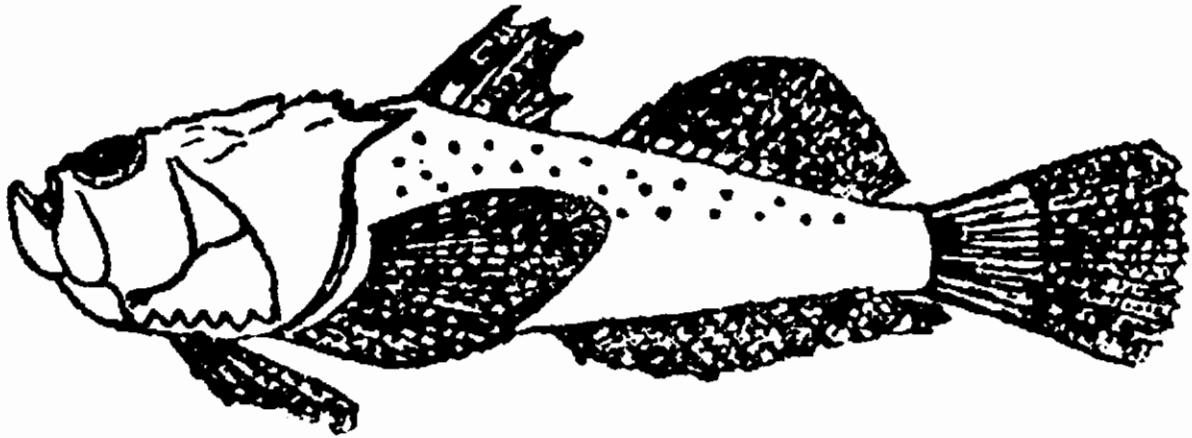


গ্রেস্কাগার বন ভবন, ঢাকা
প্রাক-শসন নং... 91.....
তারিখ... 17.8.03



Family Uranoscopidae

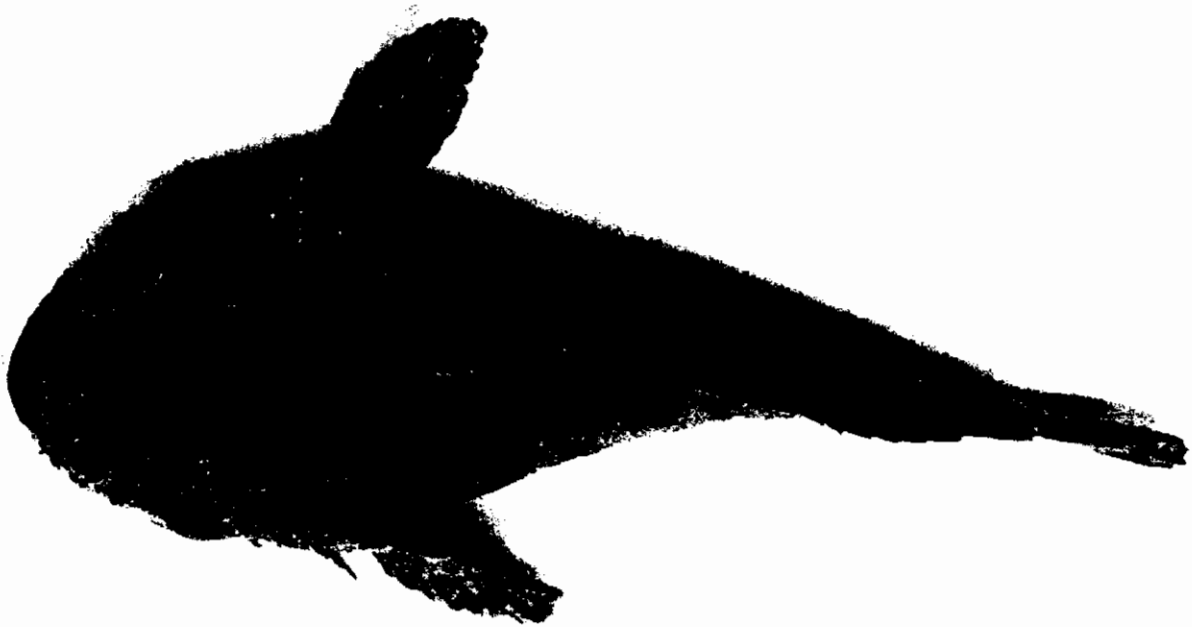
Uranoscopus guttatus (Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1831)



Uranoscopus guttatus TARA GAZAR

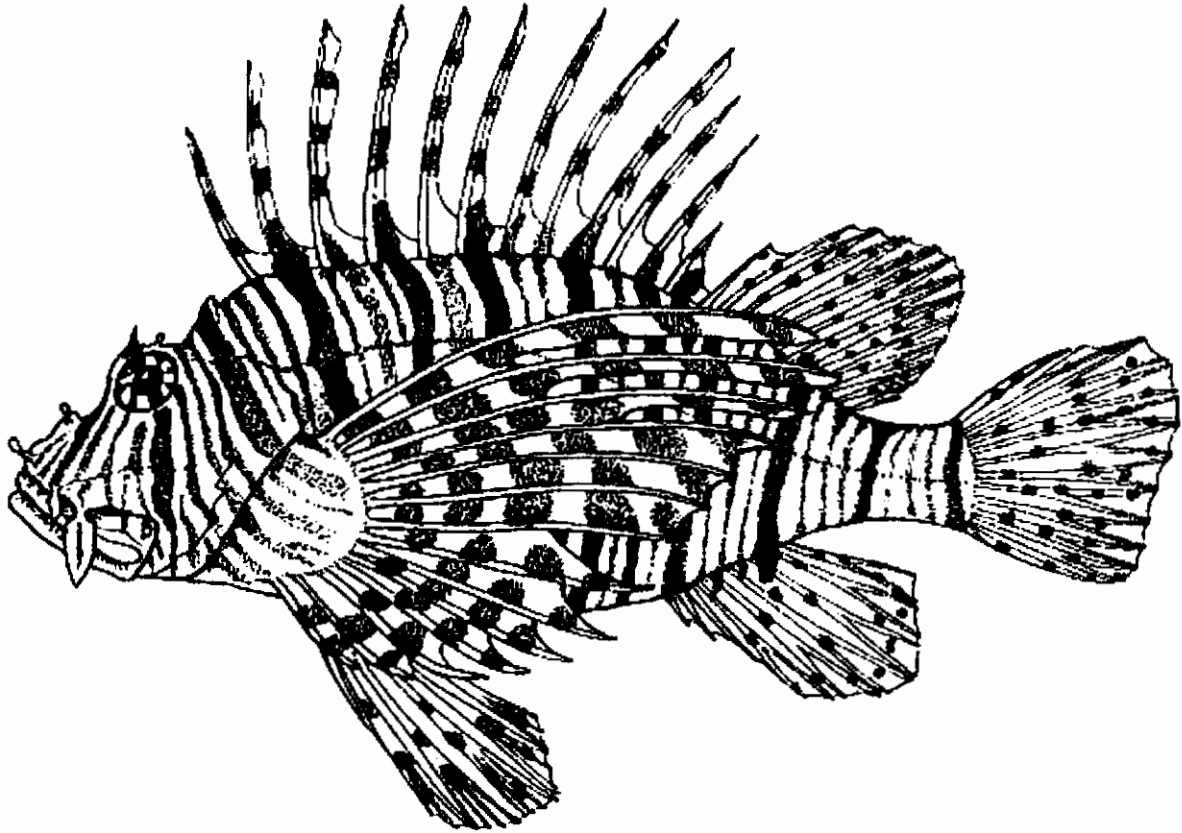
Local Names: Tara gazar, bhoot. English Names: Stargazer.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). One specimen was seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in January 2001.



FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES

Family Scorpaenidae
Pterois milesi (Bennett, 1828)



Pterois milesi RONGILLA

Local Names: Rongilla.

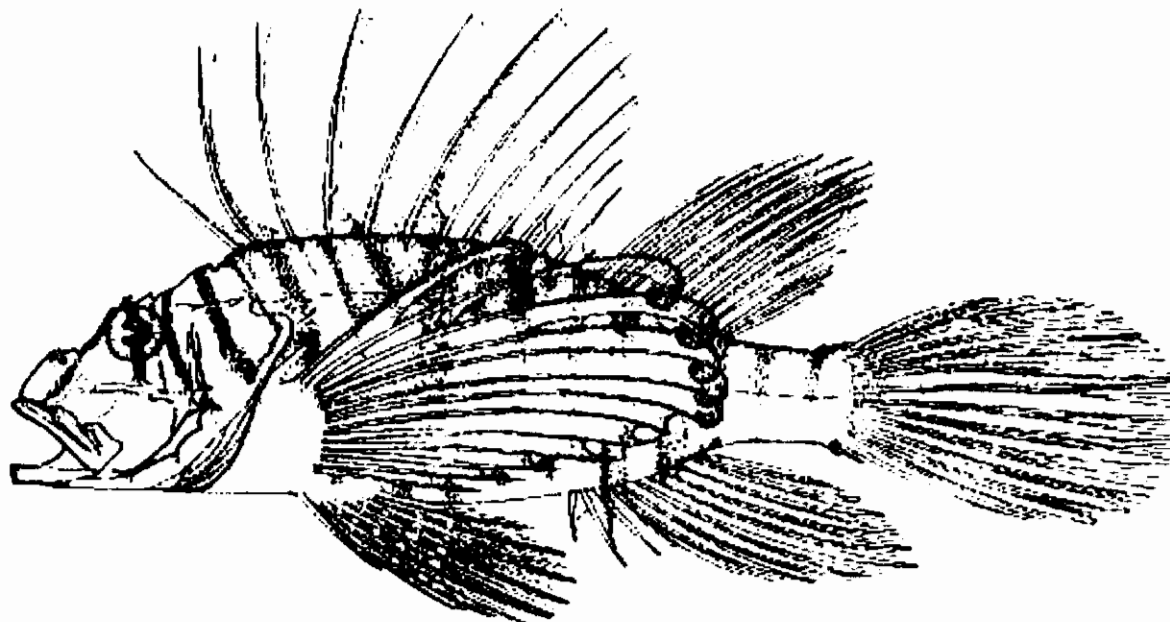
English Names: Russel's lionfish.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). One specimen seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000.

FLATHEADS, TOADFISHES, STARGAZERS & LIONFISHES

Family Scorpaenidae

Pterois russelli Bennett, 1831



Pterois russelli RONGILLA

Local Names: Rongilla.

English Names: Russel's lionfish.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

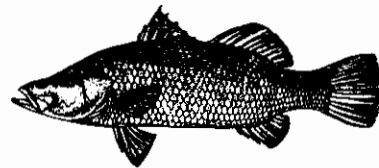
BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

(and Related Fishes)

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Centropomidae
Seabasses

Lates calcarifer



Ambassidae
Glassperches

Chanda nama
Pseudambassis baculis
Pseudambassis ranga



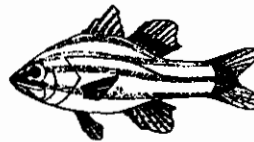
Terapontidae
Banded perches

Terapon jarbua
Terapon theraps



Apogonidae
Cardinfishes

Apogon novemfasciatus
Apogon septemstriatus



Lobotidae
Tripletails

Lobotes surinamensis



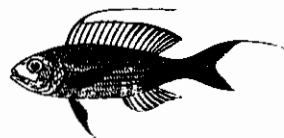
Sparidae
Seabreams

Argyrops spinifer



Nemipteridae
Threadfin breams

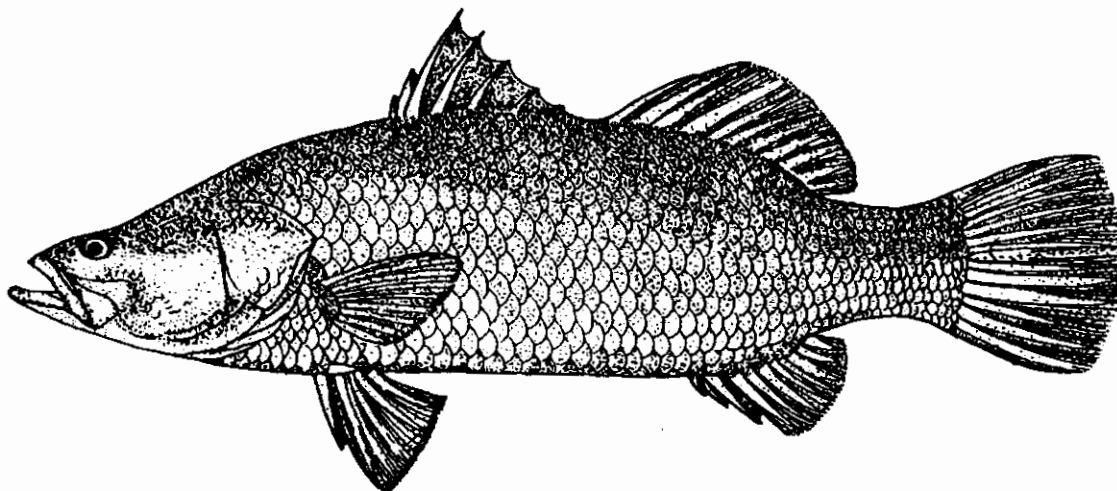
Nemipterus japonicus
Nemipterus nematophorus



BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

Family Centropomidae

Lates calcarifer (Bloch, 1790)

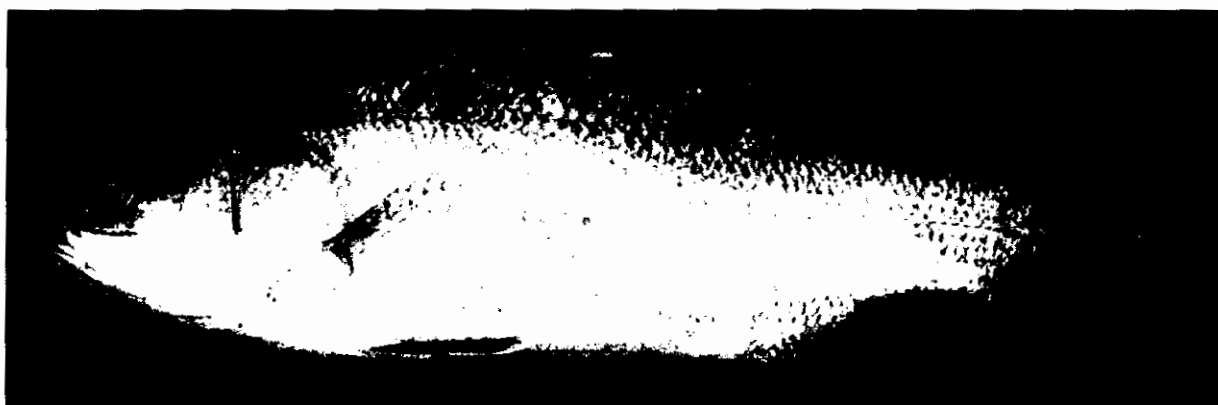


***Lates calcarifer* BHETKI**

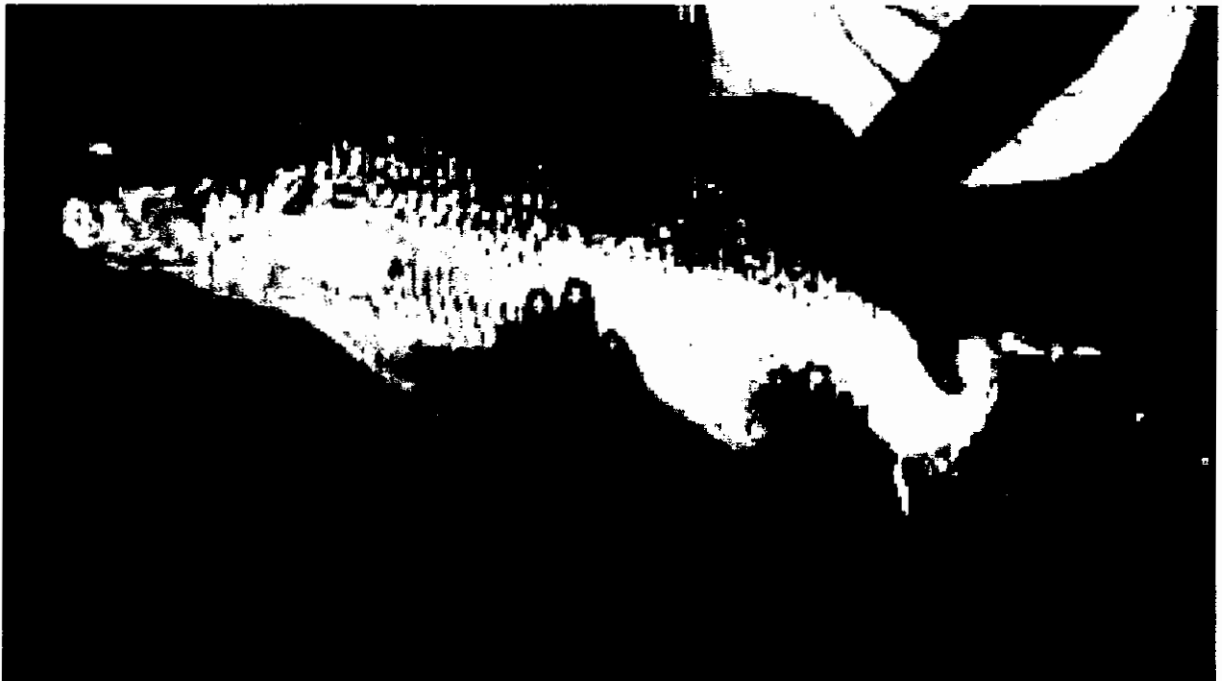
Local Names: Bhetki, koral, vetki.

English Names: Seabass, giant sea perch, barramundi.

This large and commercially important species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) and Rahman (1989). The author saw several juvenile specimens in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. Large adults are becoming increasingly rare as they are targeted by poachers in the wildlife sanctuaries. The species is caught mainly with nets in the forest rivers and khals, and much less frequently in behundi nets in the estuaries or marine zone.



BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

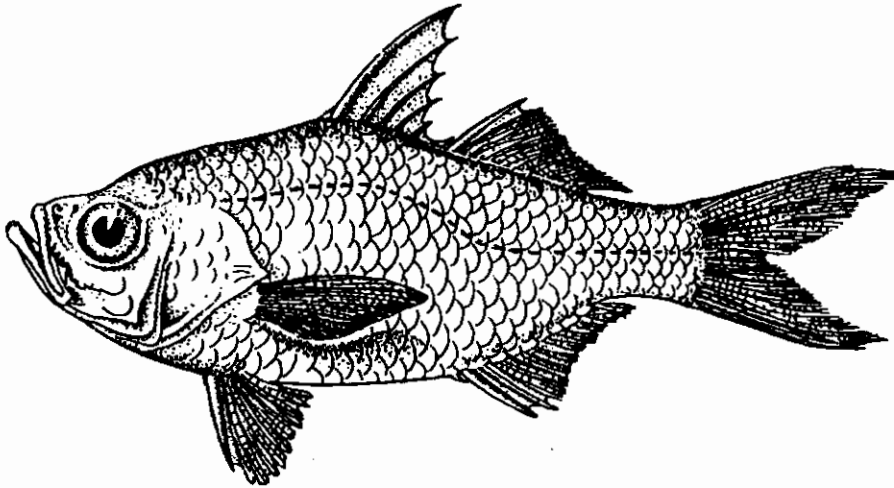


Photos above of large *Lates calcarifer* caught by poachers in wildlife sanctuary in Nov 2001
(the fish were returned to the water alive by project staff)

BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

Family Ambassidae

Chanda nama Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822



***Chanda nama* NAMA CHANDA**

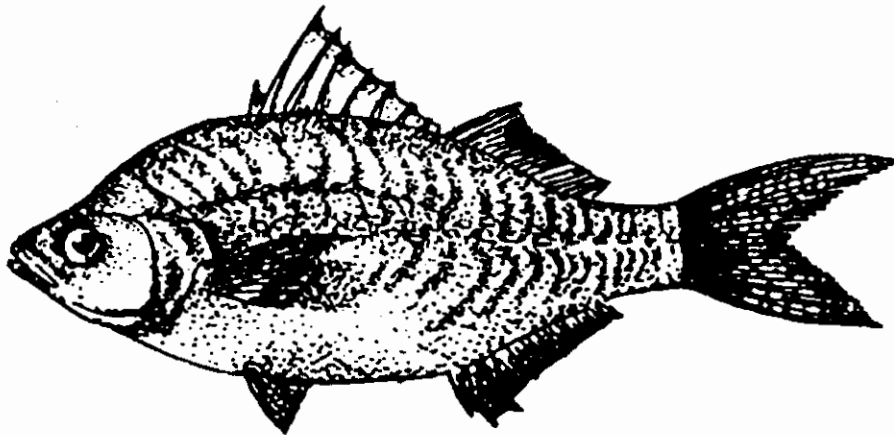
Local Names: Nama chanda.

English Names: Elongate glassperch.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Ambassidae

Pseudambassis baculis (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Pseudambassis baculis* KATA CHANDA**

Local Names: Kata chanda.

English Names: Himalayan glassperch.

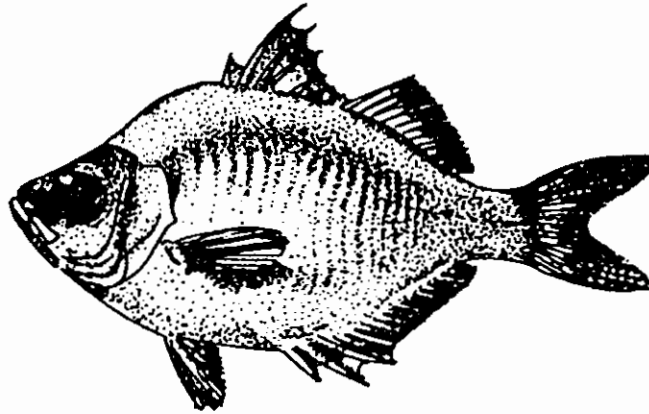
Synonyms: *Chanda baculis*.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as the synonym *Chanda baculis*. No specimens were seen by the author.

BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

Family Ambassidae

Pseudambassis ranga (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Pseudambassis ranga* LAL CHANDA**

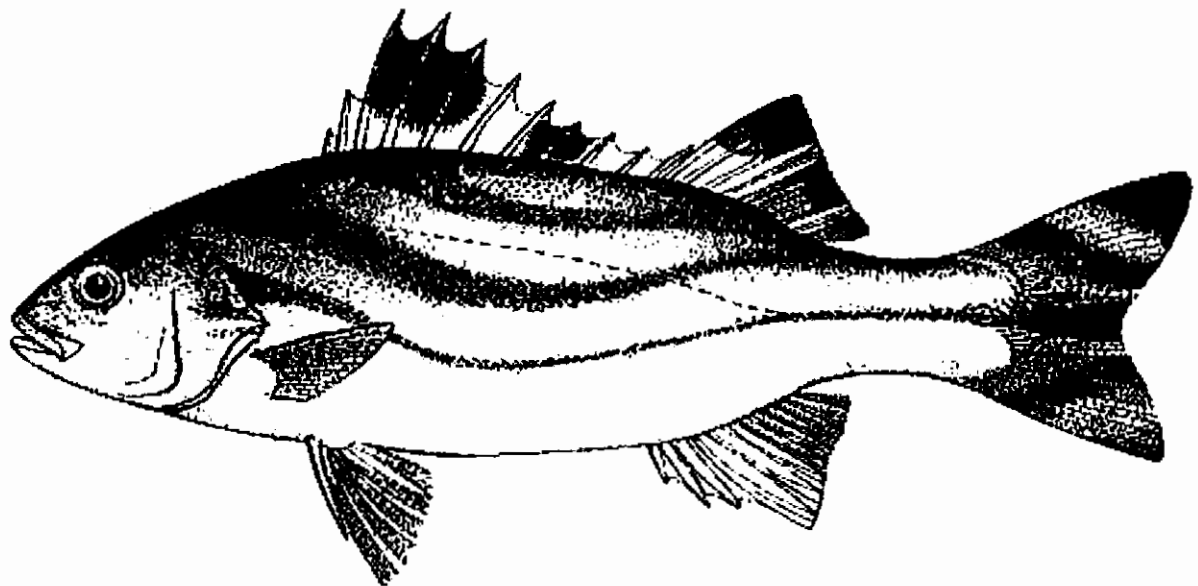
Local Names: Lal chanda. **English Names:** Indian glassperch.

Synonyms: *Chanda ranga*.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as the synonym *Chanda ranga*. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Terapontidae

Terapon jarbua (Forsskal, 1775)



***Terapon jarbua* BARGUNI**

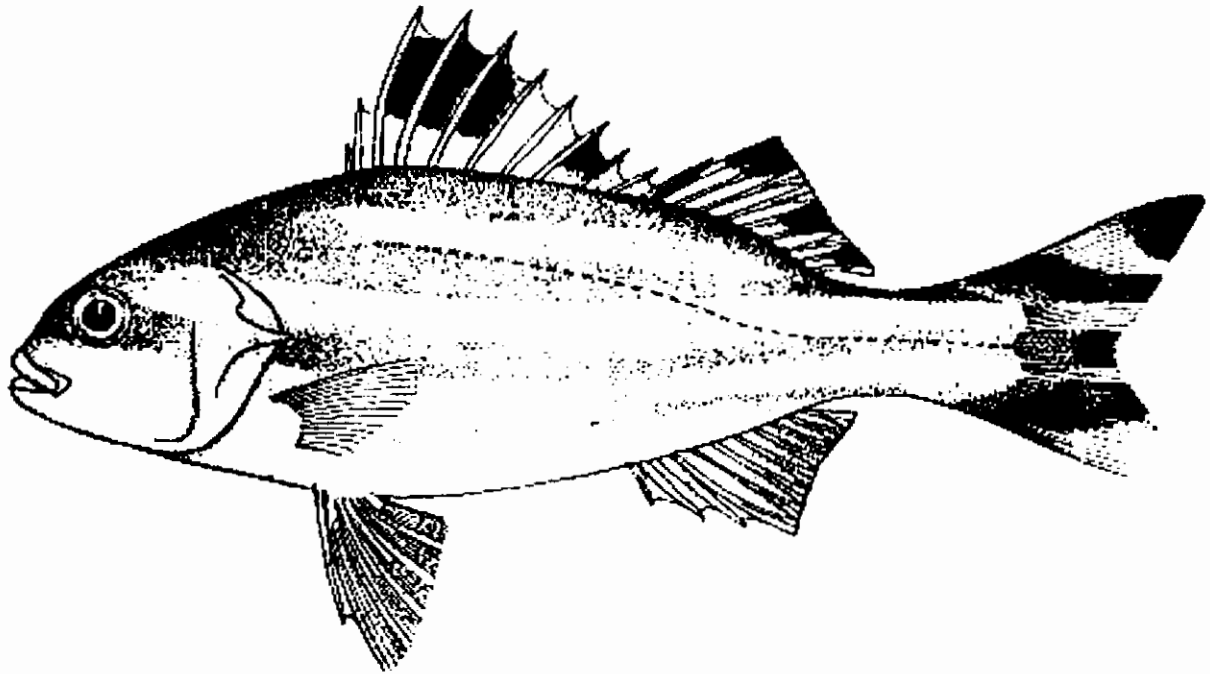
Local Names: Barguni, gugu. **English Names:** Terapon perch.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

Family Terapontidae

Terapon theraps (Cuvier, 1829)



Terapon theraps **BARGUNI**

Local Names: Barguni, gugu. **English Names:** Banded terapon perch.

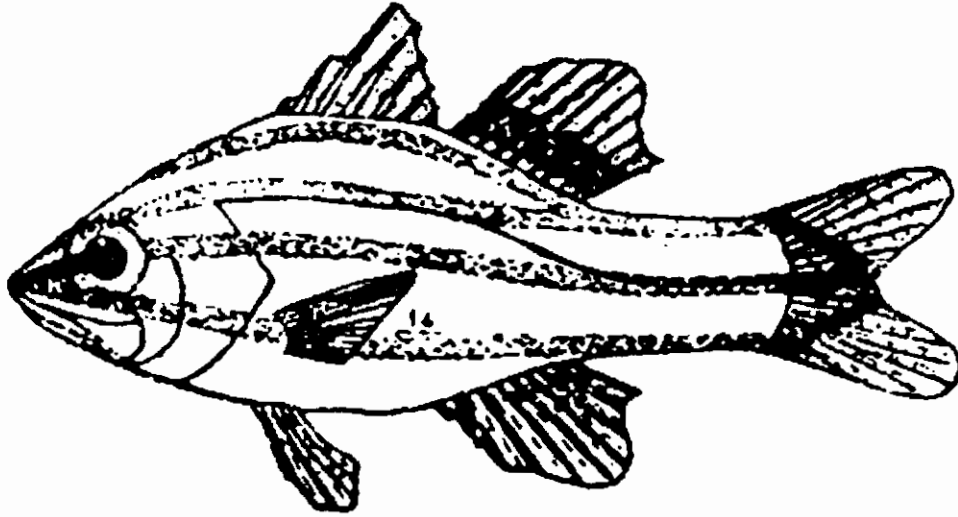
This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000.



BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

Family Apogonidae

Apogon novemfasciatus Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1828



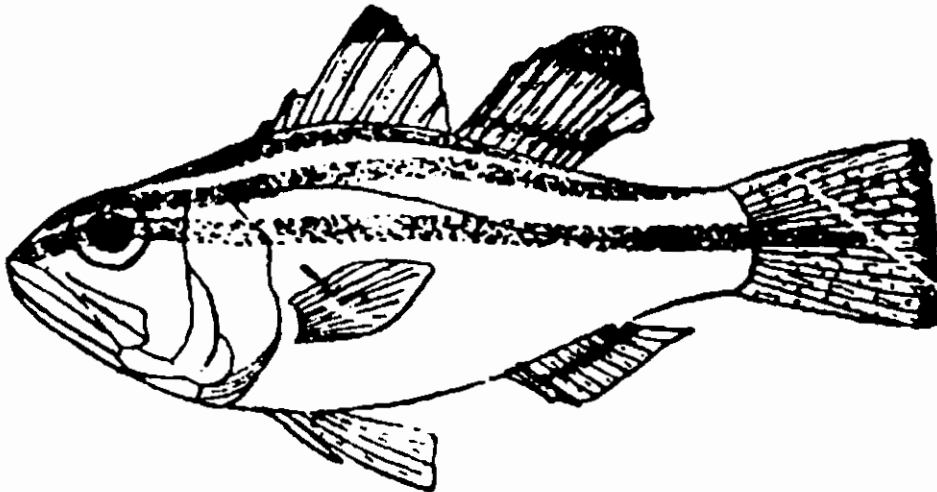
***Apogon novemfasciatus* DUIDEA**

Local Names: Duidea. **English Names:** Nine-banded cardinalfish.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Apogonidae

Apogon septemstriatus Gunther, 1880



***Apogon septemstriatus* GOGLA**

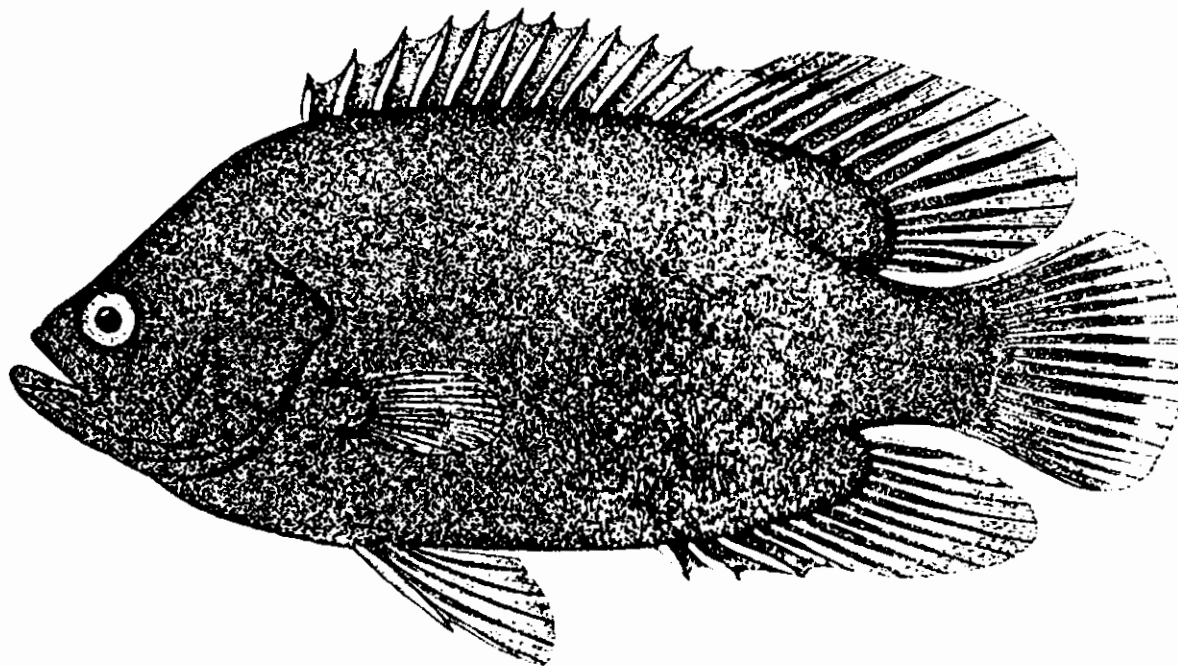
Local Names: Gogla. **English Names:** Seven-banded cardinalfish.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

Family Lobotidae

Lobotes surinamensis (Bloch, 1790)



***Lobotes surinamensis* SAGOR KOI**

Local Names: Sagor koi.

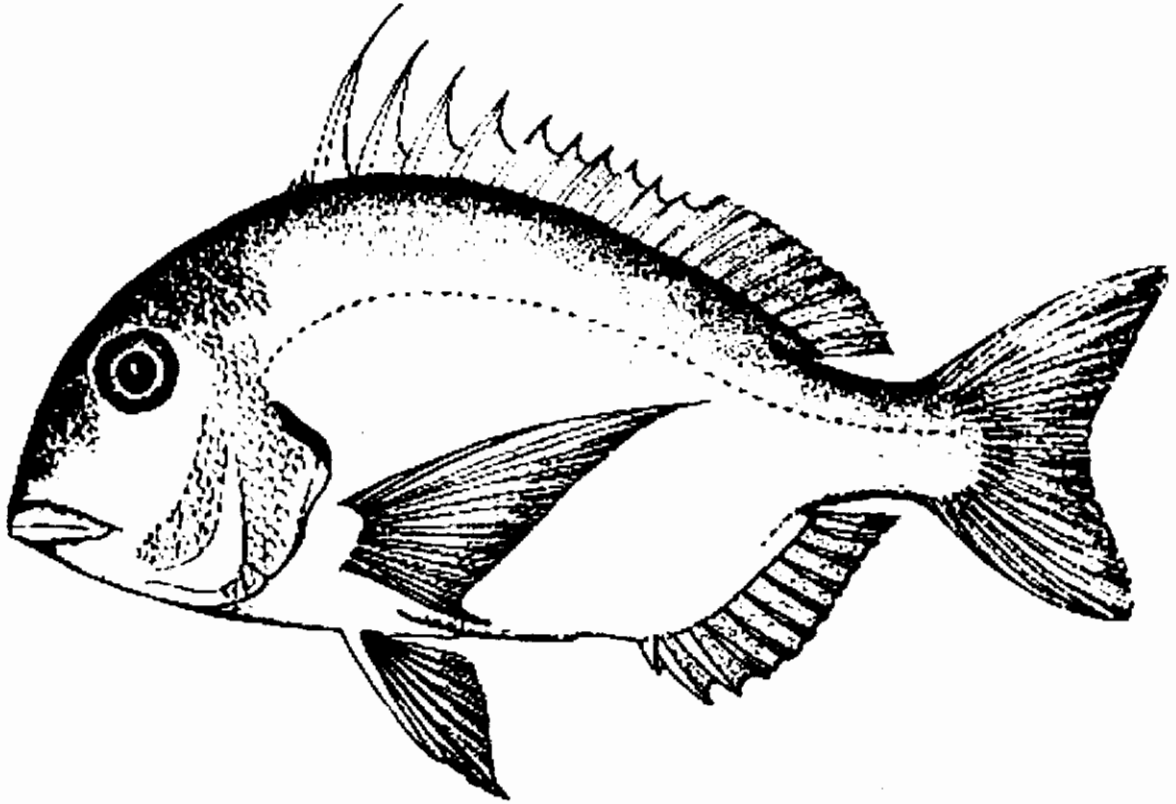
English Names: Tripletail.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) and Rahman (1989). No specimens were seen by the author.

BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

Family Sparidae

Argyrops spinifer (Forsskal, 1775)



***Argyrops spinifer* LAL DATINA**

Local Names: Lal datina.

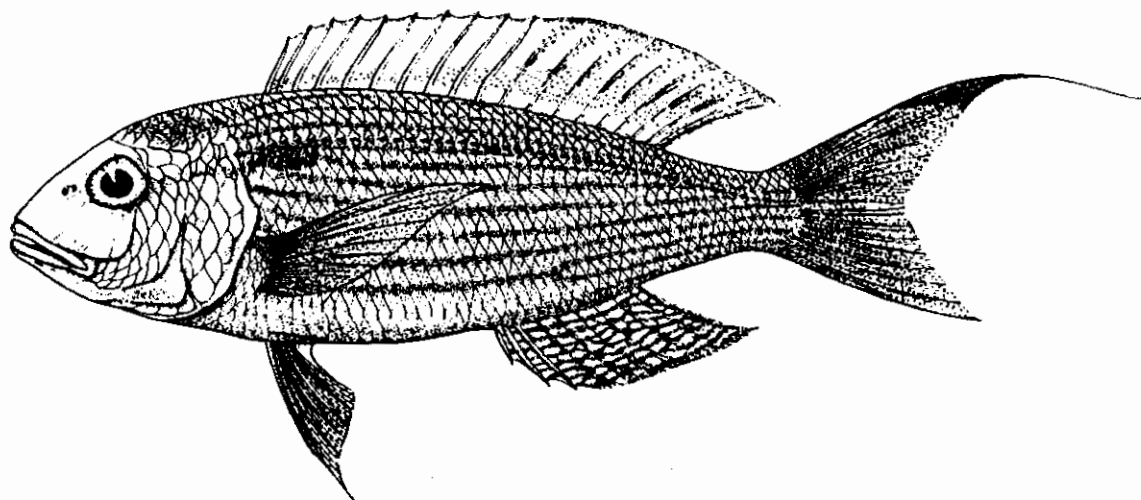
English Names: Longspine seabream.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

BASSES, PERCHES & BREAMS

Family Nemipteridae

Nemipterus japonicus (Bloch, 1791)



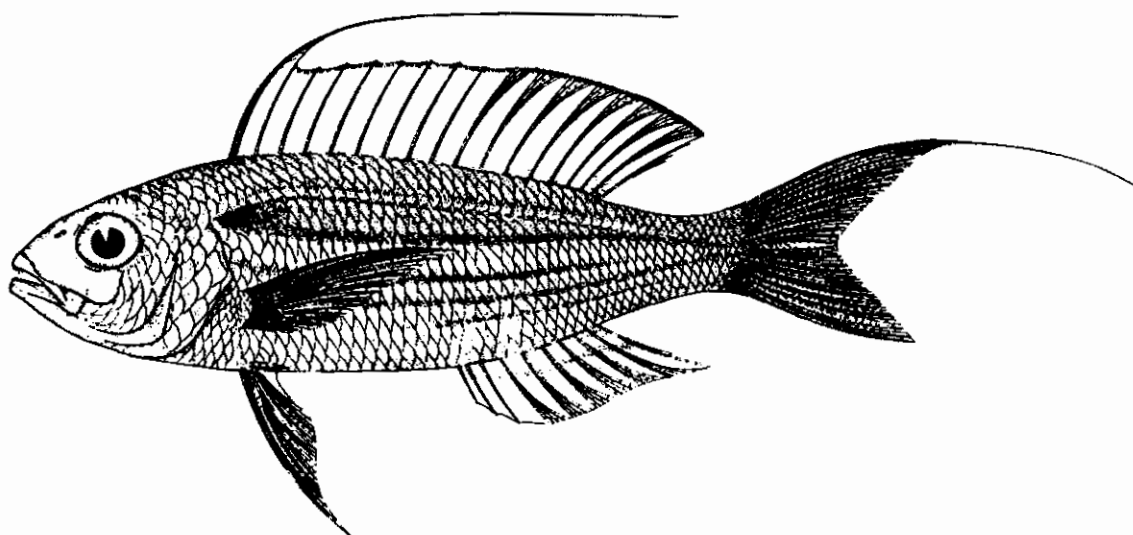
***Nemipterus japonicus* RUPBAM**

Local Names: Rupbam. **English Names:** Japanese threadfin bream.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Nemipteridae

Nemipterus nematophorus (Bleeker, 1851)



***Nemipterus nematophorus* SONABAM**

Local Names: Sonabam. **English Names:** Double whip threadfin bream.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

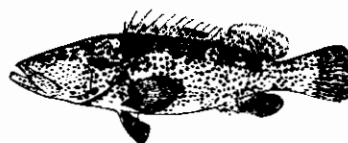
GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Serranidae
Groupers

Cephalopholis miniata
Epinephelus coioides
Epinephelus fasciatus



Lutjanidae
Snappers

Lutjanus johnii
Lutjanus sanguineus
Pinjalo pinjalo



Lethrinidae
Emperors

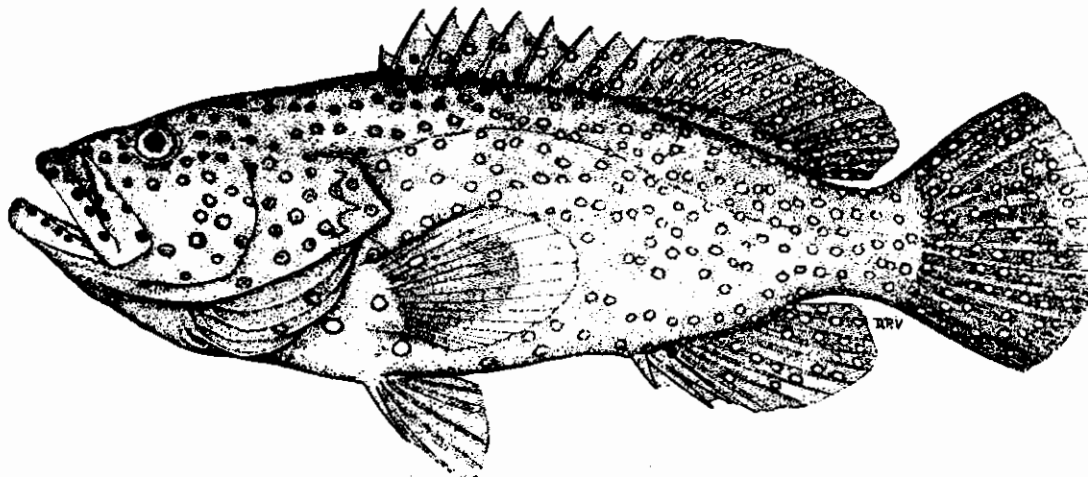
Lethrinus ornatus



GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

Family Serranidae

Cephalopholis miniata (Forsskal, 1775)



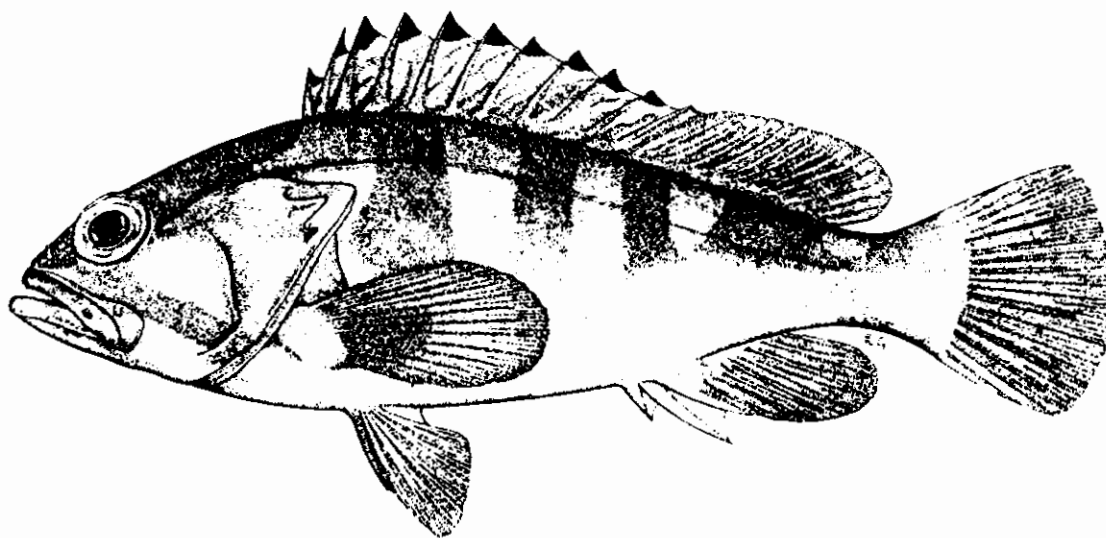
***Cephalopholis miniata* BOL**

Local Names: Bol. **English Names:** Vermillion grouper, coral hind.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Serranidae

Epinephelus fasciatus (Forsskal, 1775)



***Epinephelus fasciatus* BOL**

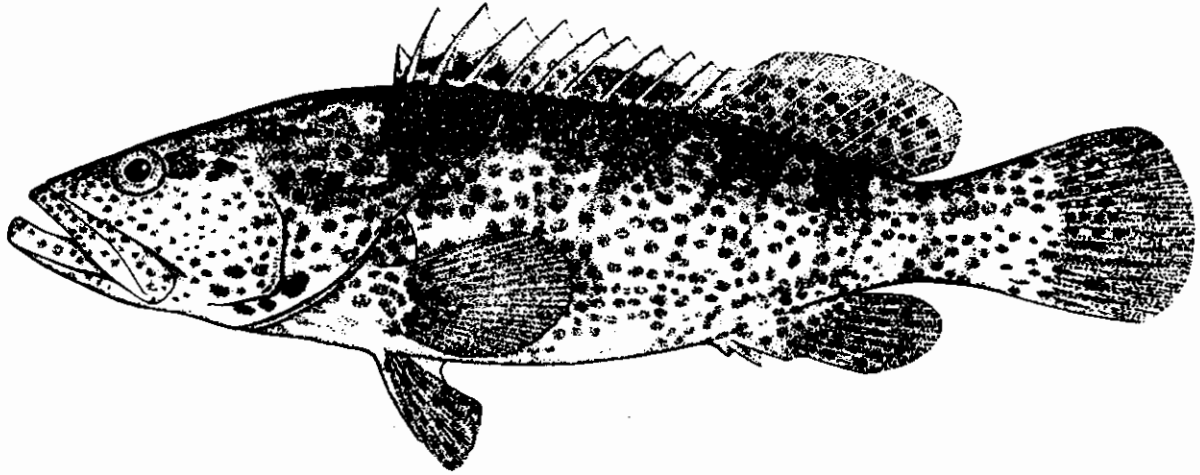
Local Names: Bol. **English Names:** Blacktip grouper, redbanded grouper.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

Family Serranidae

Epinephelus coioides (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Epinephelus coioides* BOL**

Local Names: Bol.

English Names: Orangespotted grouper.

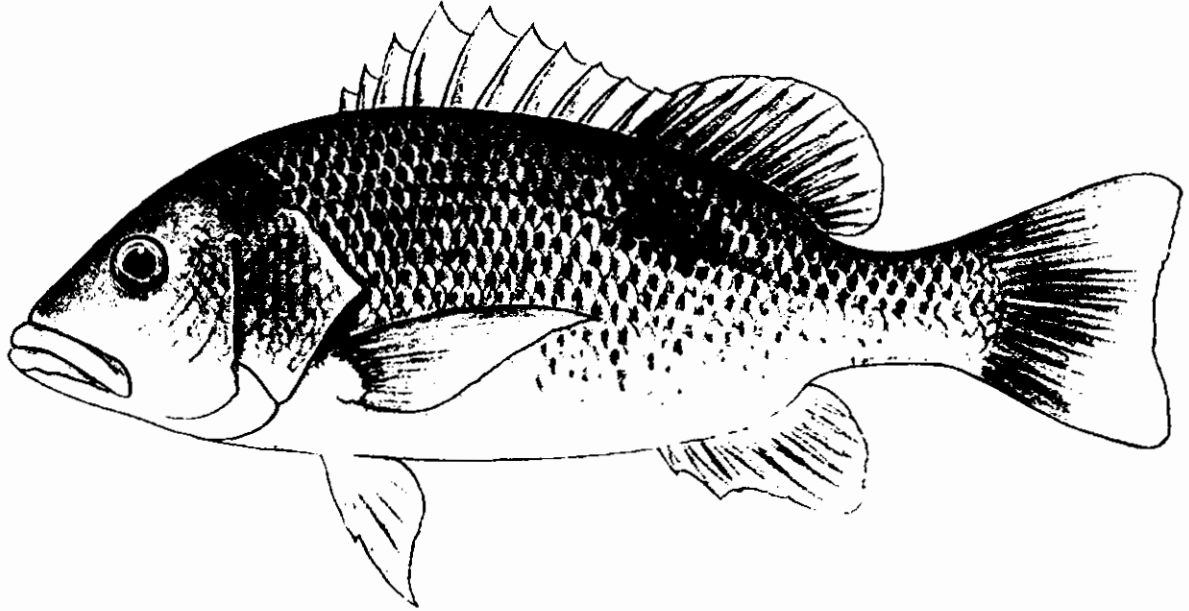
This large grouper has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Two specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000. This species was probably misidentified by the contracted Khulna University field study as *Epinephelus megachir*, which is a synonym of *Epinephelus quoyanus*. The latter species does not occur in the Indian Ocean.



GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

Family Lutjanidae

Lutjanus johnii (Bloch, 1792)



***Lutjanus johnii* RANGA CHOIKKA**

Local Names: Ranga choikka, ranga koi.

English Names: John's snapper.

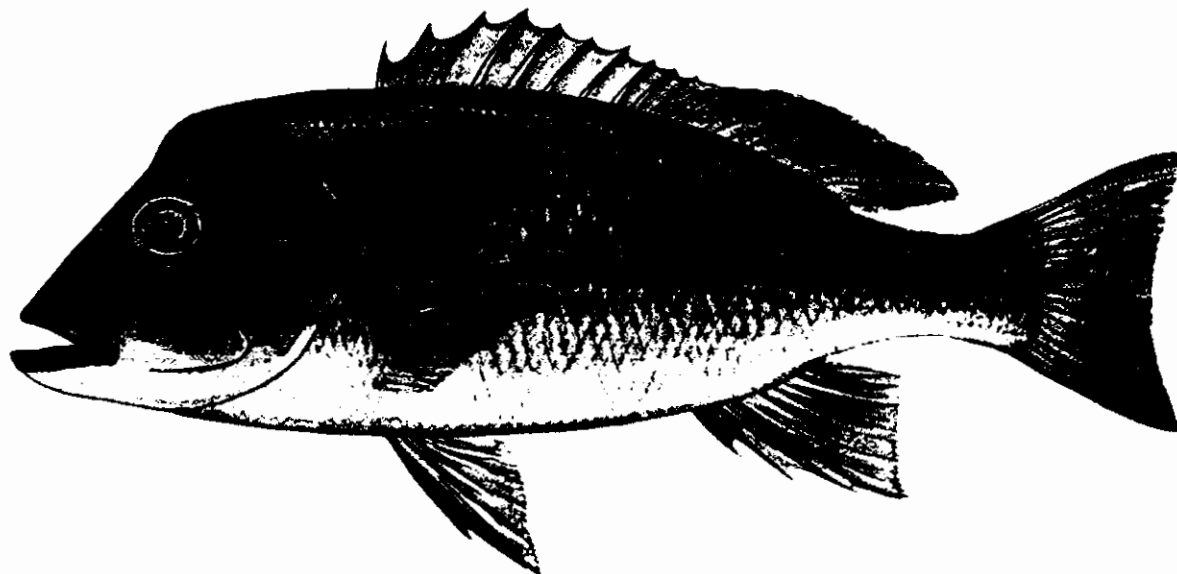
This large snapper was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000.



GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

Family Lutjanidae

Lutjanus sanguineus (Cuvier, 1828)



Lutjanus sanguineus **RANGA CHOIKKA**

Local Names: Ranga choikka, ranga koi.

English Names: Blood snapper, humphead snapper.

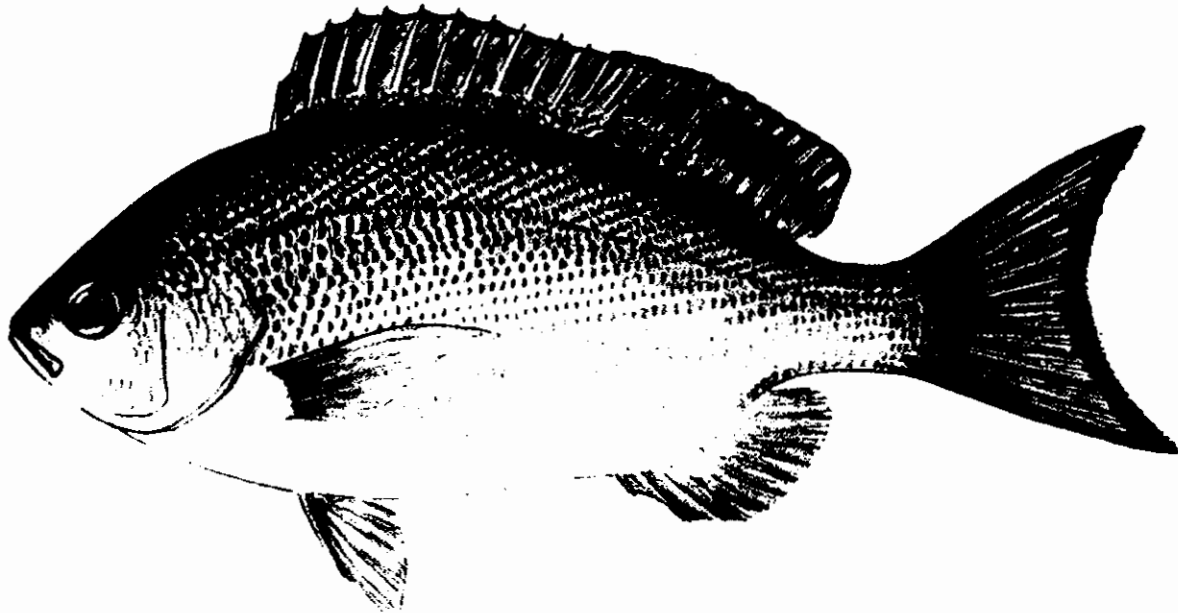
This large snapper was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. An adult specimen was seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000.



GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

Family Lutjanidae

Pinjalo pinjalo (Bleeker, 1850)



***Pinjalo pinjalo* CHOIKKA**

Local Names: Choikka.

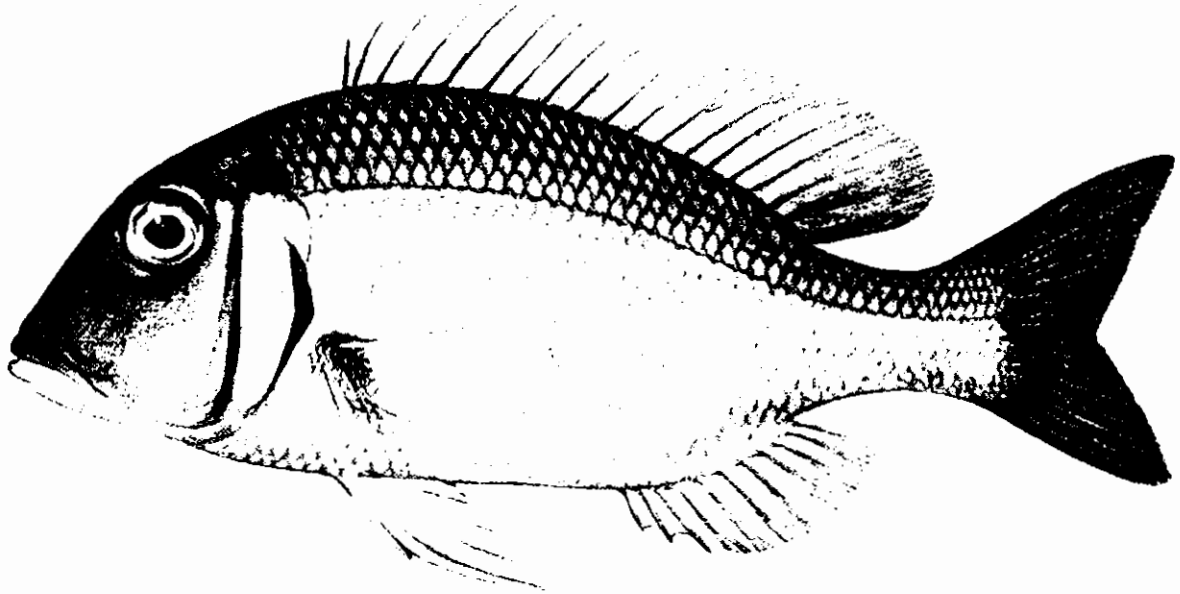
English Names: Pinjalo snapper.

This medium size snapper was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author

GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

Family Lethrinidae

Lethrinus ornatus (Valenciennes, 1830)



***Lethrinus ornatus* CHOIKKA**

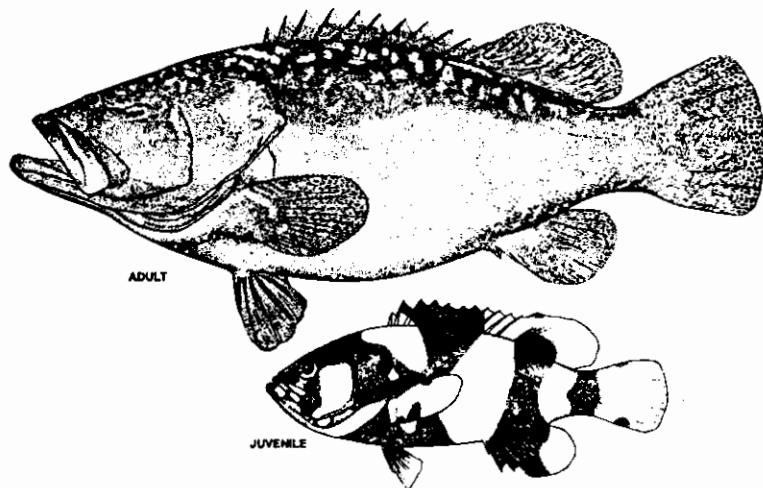
Local Names: Choikka.

English Names: Ornate emperor.

This medium size emperor was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

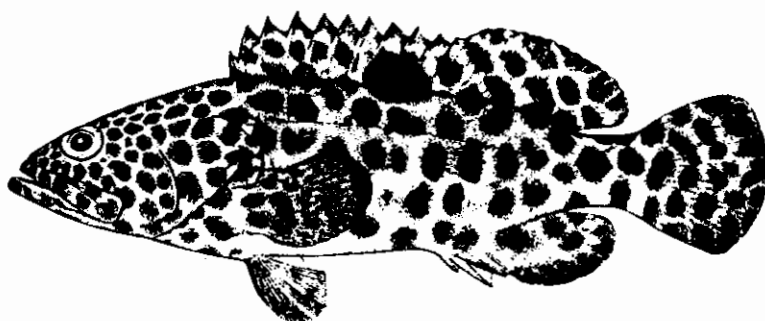
GROUPERS, SNAPPERS & EMPERORS

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans



Family Serranidae
Epinephelus lanceolatus
(Bloch, 1790)
Bola
Giant grouper

The giant grouper *Epinephelus lanceolatus* has been recorded from Bangladesh marine waters, and may eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans.



Family Serranidae
Epinephelus tauvina
(Forsskal, 1775)
Bol
Greasy grouper

The greasy grouper *Epinephelus tauvina* was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). It is very likely that the specimens seen by Chantarasri were actually *Epinephelus coioides*. The greasy grouper is a coral reef species and is not known to occur in mangrove forest rivers or silty estuarine waters.

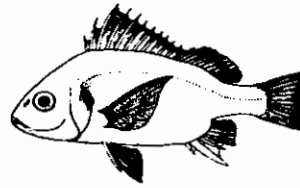
GRUNTS, TIGERFISHES & ARCHERFISHES

GRUNTS, TIGERFISHES & ARCHERFISHES

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

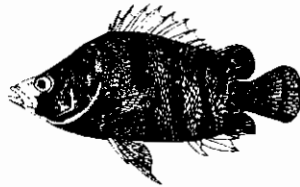
Haemulidae
Grunts

Pomadasys argyreus
Pomadasys maculatum



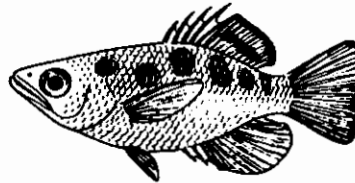
Coiidae
Tigerfishes

Coius quadrifasciatus



Toxotidae
Archerfishes

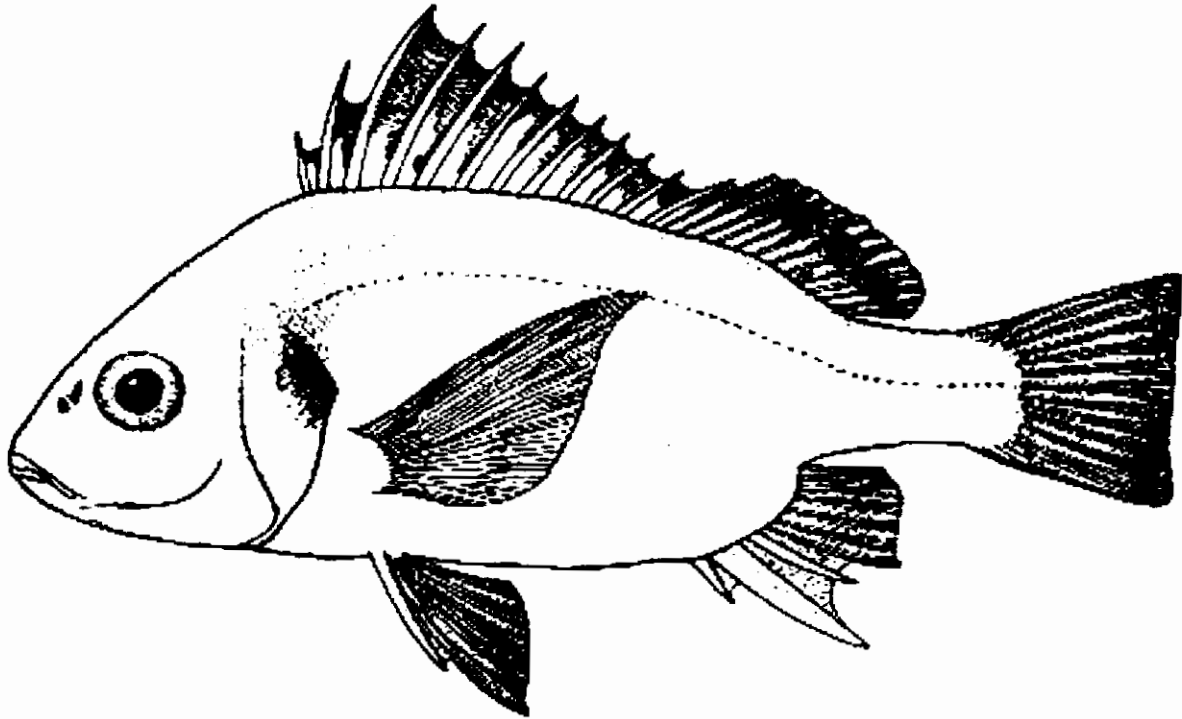
Toxotes chatareus



GRUNTS, TIGERFISHES & ARCHERFISHES

Family Haemulidae

Pomadasys argyreus (Valeciennes, 1833)



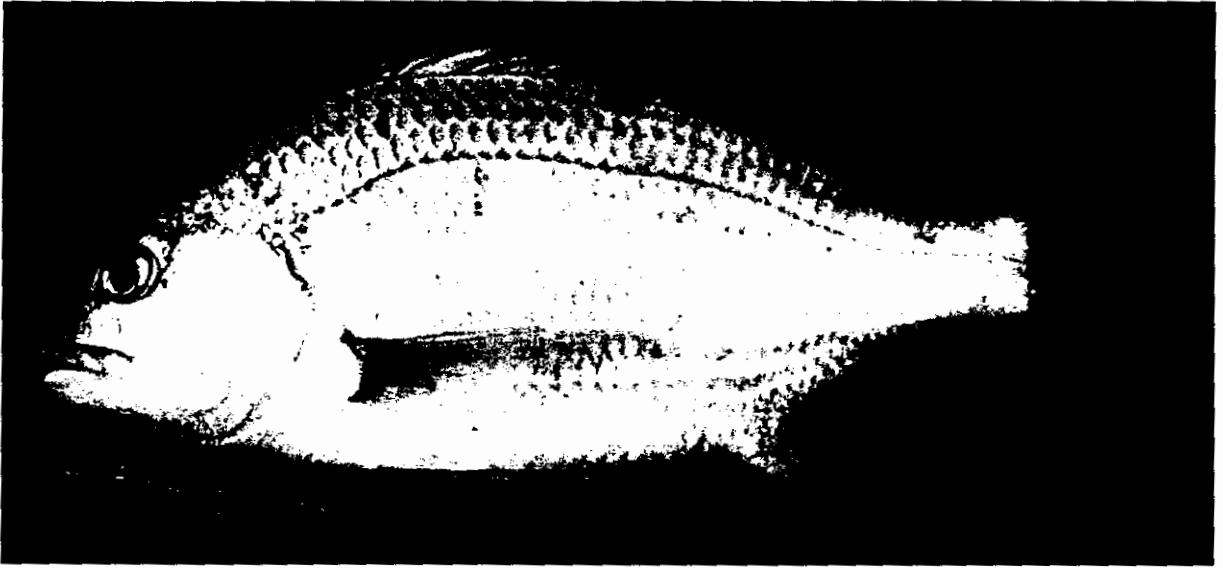
***Pomadasys argyreus* DATINA**

Local Names: Datina, sadha datina, sadia datina. **English Names:** Silver grunt.

This medium size commercially important species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as *Pomadasys hasta* Bloch (which is a synonym for *Pomadasys argentatus* Forsskal). Many specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char and in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. The specimens do not agree fully with descriptions of *P. argyreus* (or to *P. argentatus*), so the identification as *P. argyreus* is to be considered as tentative.



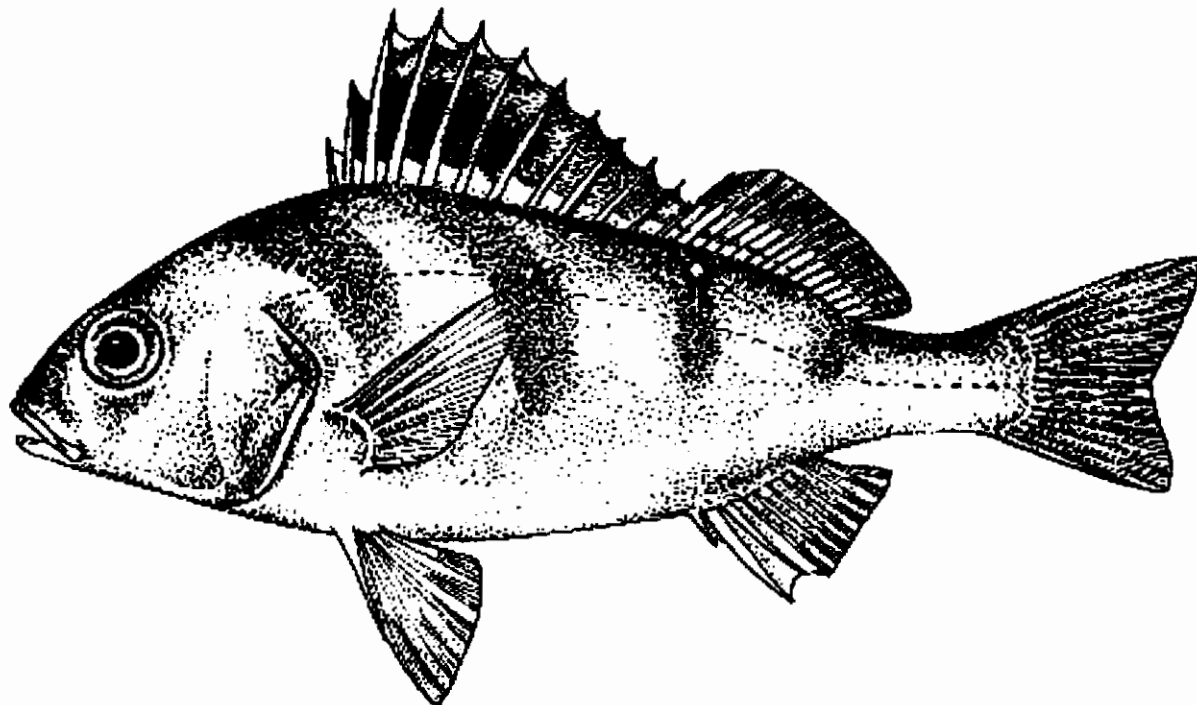
GRUNTS, TIGERFISHES & ARCHERFISHES



GRUNTS, TIGERFISHES & ARCHERFISHES

Family Haemulidae

Pomadasys maculatum (Bloch, 1797)



Pomadasys maculatum GUTI DATINA

Local Names: Guti datina.

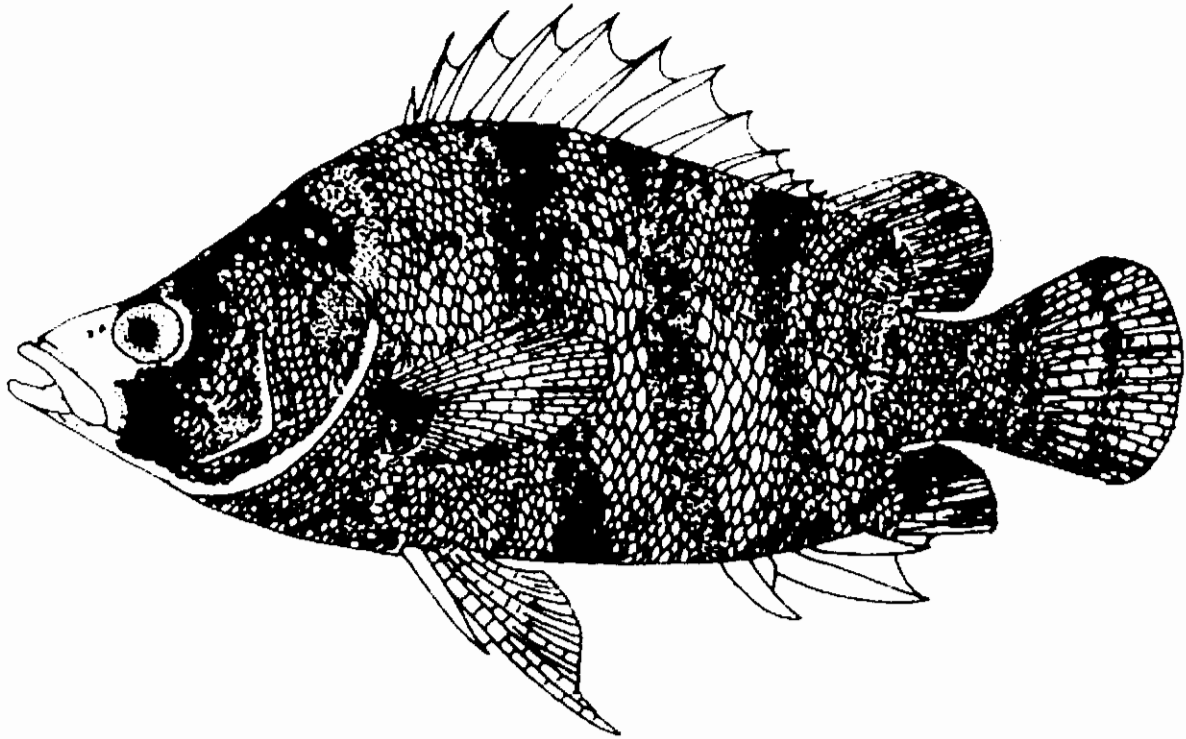
English Names: Saddle grunt.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

GRUNTS, TIGERFISHES & ARCHERFISHES

Family Coiidae

Coius quadrifasciatus (Sevastianov, 1809)



Coius quadrifasciatus **REKA**

Local Names: Reka.

English Names: Four-barred tigerfish.

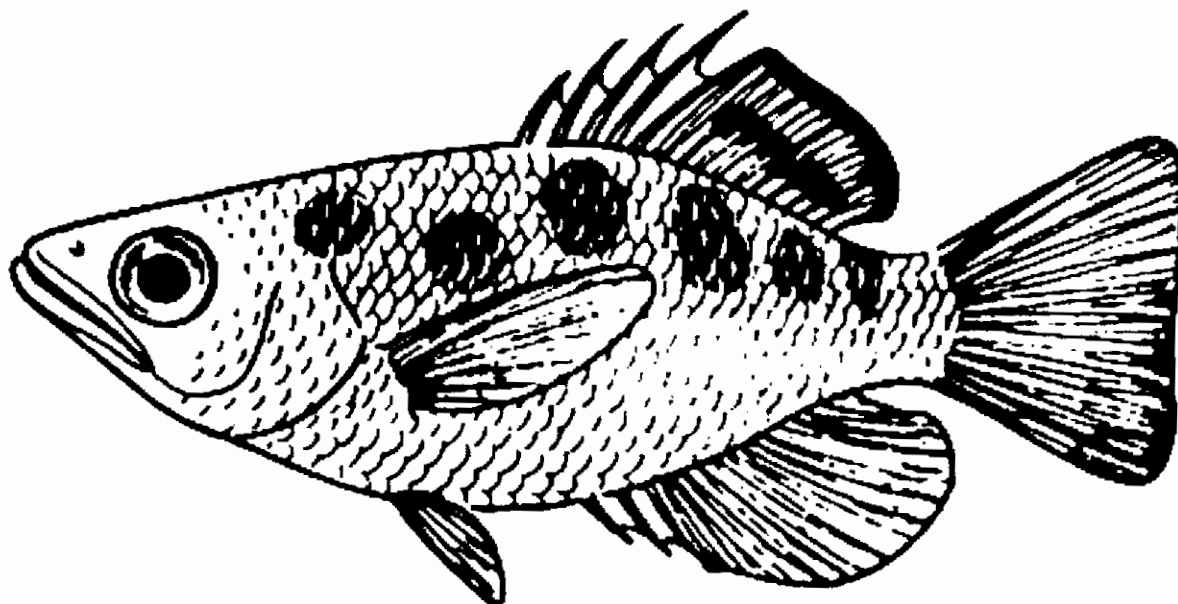
Synonyms: *Datnioides quadrifasciatus*.

This medium size species had not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Two specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000.

GRUNTS, TIGERFISHES & ARCHERFISHES

Family Toxotidae

Toxotes chatareus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Toxotes chatareus* POITKE**

Local Names: Poitke.

English Names: Spotted archerfish.

This medium size species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Three specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000. In addition, the contracted field study of Khulna University examined several specimens in 2001.



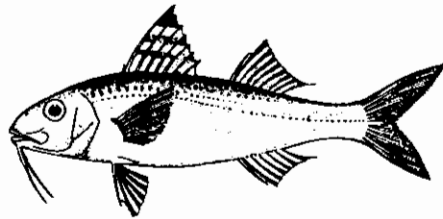
GOATFISHES, WHITINGS & CODLETS

GOATFISHES, WHITINGS & CODLETS

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Mullidae
Goatfishes

Upeneus sulphureus
Parupeneus heptacanthus



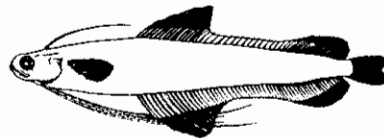
Sillaginidae
Whitings

Sillaginopsis panijus
Sillago sihama



Bregmacerotidae
Codlets

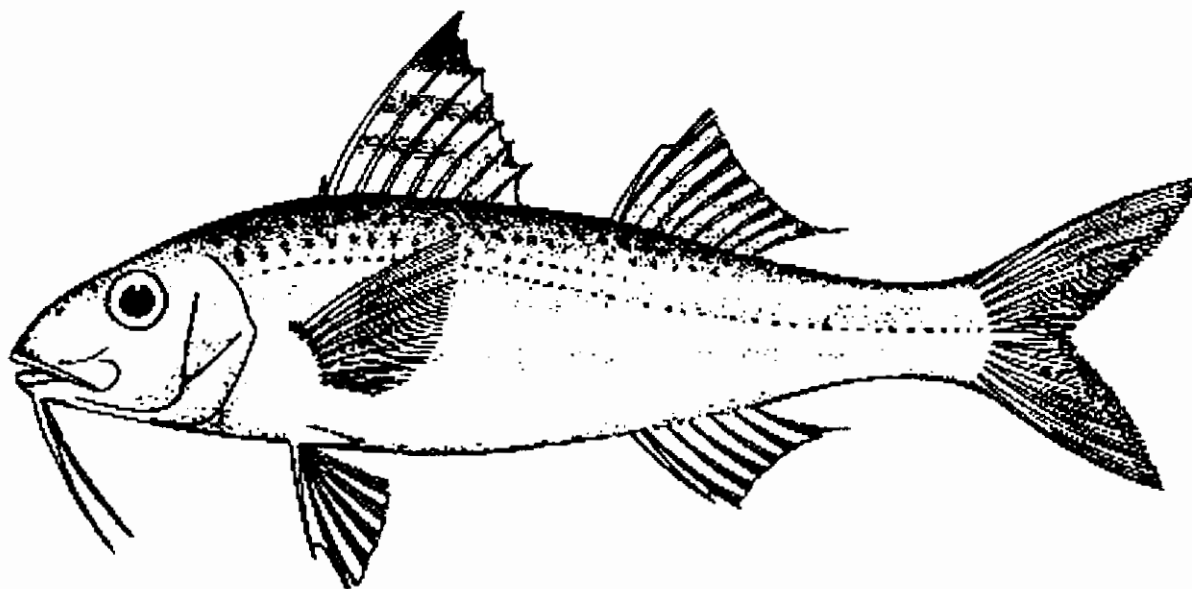
Bregmaceros maclellandi



GOATFISHES, WHITINGS & CODLETS

Family Mullidae

Upeneus sulphureus Cuvier, 1829



Upeneus sulphureus SONALI BATA

Local Names: Sonali bata.

English Names: Sulphur goatfish.

This small goatfish was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Mullidae

Parupeneus heptacanthus

Parupeneus heptacanthus SONALI BATA

Local Names: Sonali bata.

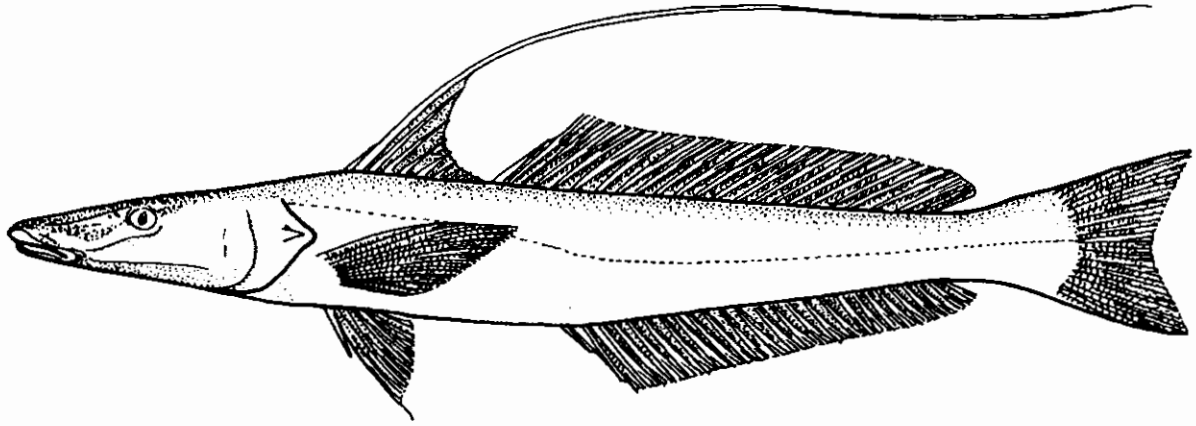
English Names: Goatfish.

This small goatfish was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

GOATFISHES, WHITINGS & CODLETS

Family Sillaginidae

Sillaginopsis panijus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



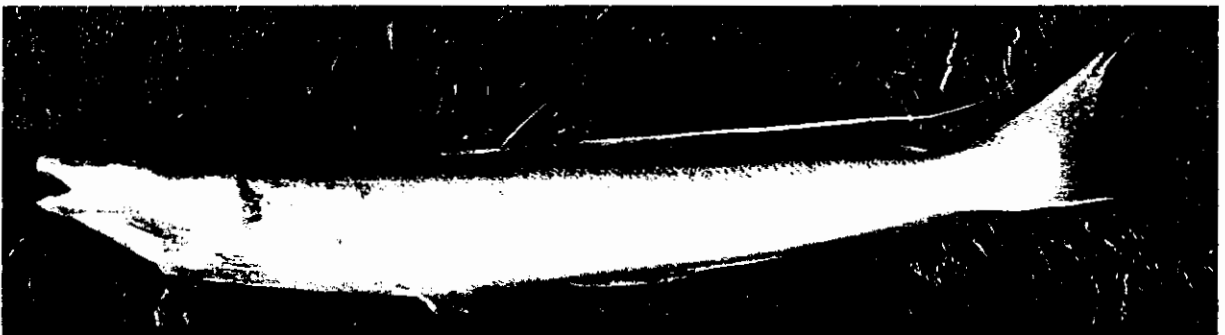
Sillaginopsis panijus HUNDRA

Local Names: Hundra, tolar dandi.

English Names: Gangetic whiting.

Synonyms: *Sillago domina*.

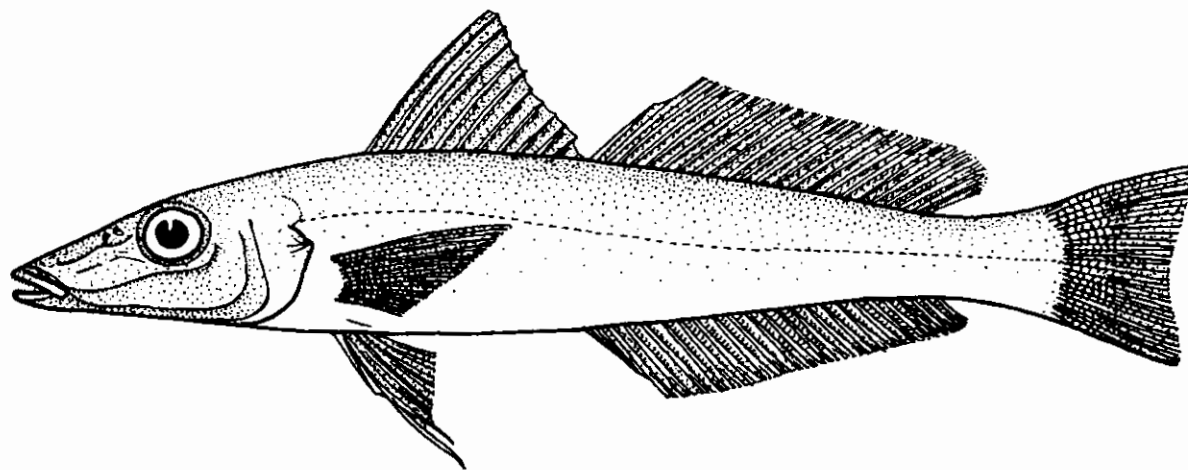
This medium size whiting was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as the synonym *Sillago domina*. Several specimens were seen by the author from the Sundarbans forest and from the Passur River several km north of the Sundarbans in June 2000 and November 2001.



GOATFISHES, WHITINGS & CODLETS

Family Sillaginidae

Sillago sihama (Forsskal, 1775)



Sillago sihama **HUNDRA**

Local Names: Hundra.

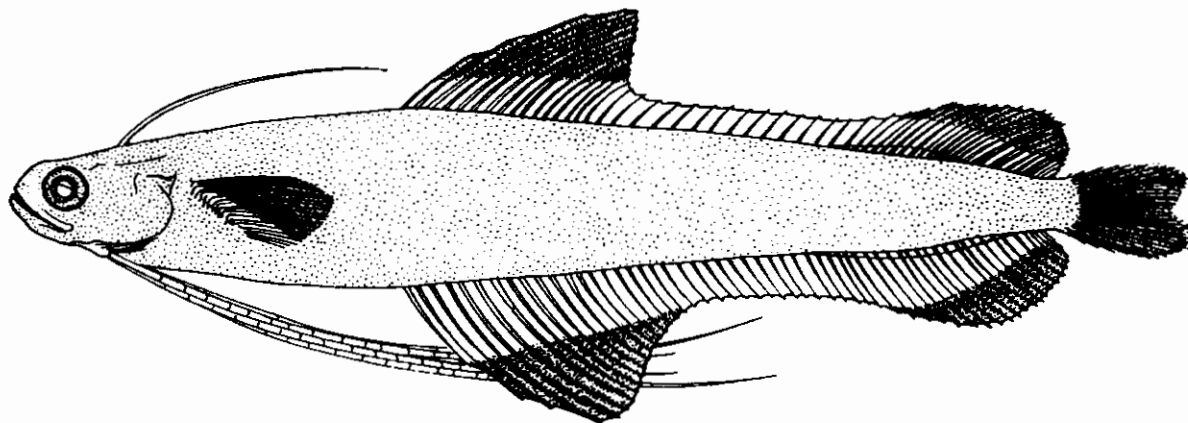
English Names: Silver whiting.

This medium size whiting was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

GOATFISHES, WHITINGS & CODLETS

Family Bregmacerotidae

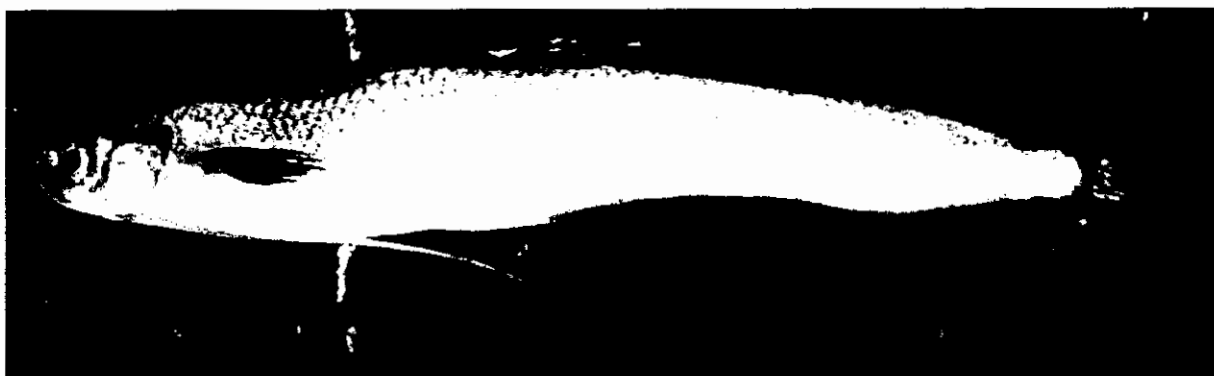
Bregmaceros mccllelandi Thompson, 1840



Bregmaceros mccllelandi

English Names: Unicorn codlet.

This small species of codlet has not been previously recorded from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were seen in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and November 2001. The taxonomy of this species is confused and the identification of the specimens from the Sundarbans should be considered tentative.





Sample of species caught by behundi net at Dubla Char

CROAKERS

CROAKERS

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Sciaenidae
(Croakers)

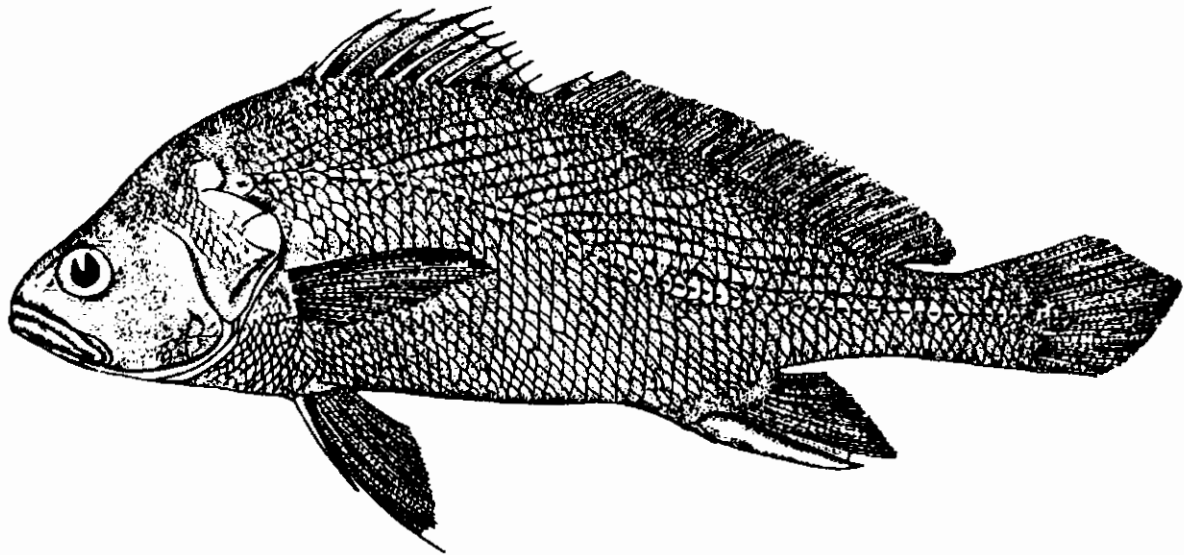
Macropsinosa cuja
Chrysochir aureus
Otolithes ruber
Otolithoides pama
Panna microdon
Protonibea diacanthus
Pterolithus maculatus
Johnius argentatus
Johnius dussumieri
Johnius elongatus
Johnius gangeticus
Dendrophysa russelli
Pennahia anea
Atrobucca nibe



CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae

Macrospinosa cuja (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Macrospinosa cuja* CUJA BOLA**

Local Names: Cuja bola, kuizza poa.

English Names: Cuja croaker.

Synonyms: *Bola cuja*, *Johnius cujus*.

This large, distinctive and commercially important croaker was recorded from the Sundarbans by Rahman (1989). The author saw several specimens in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and November 2001. Specimens were also seen by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

CROAKERS

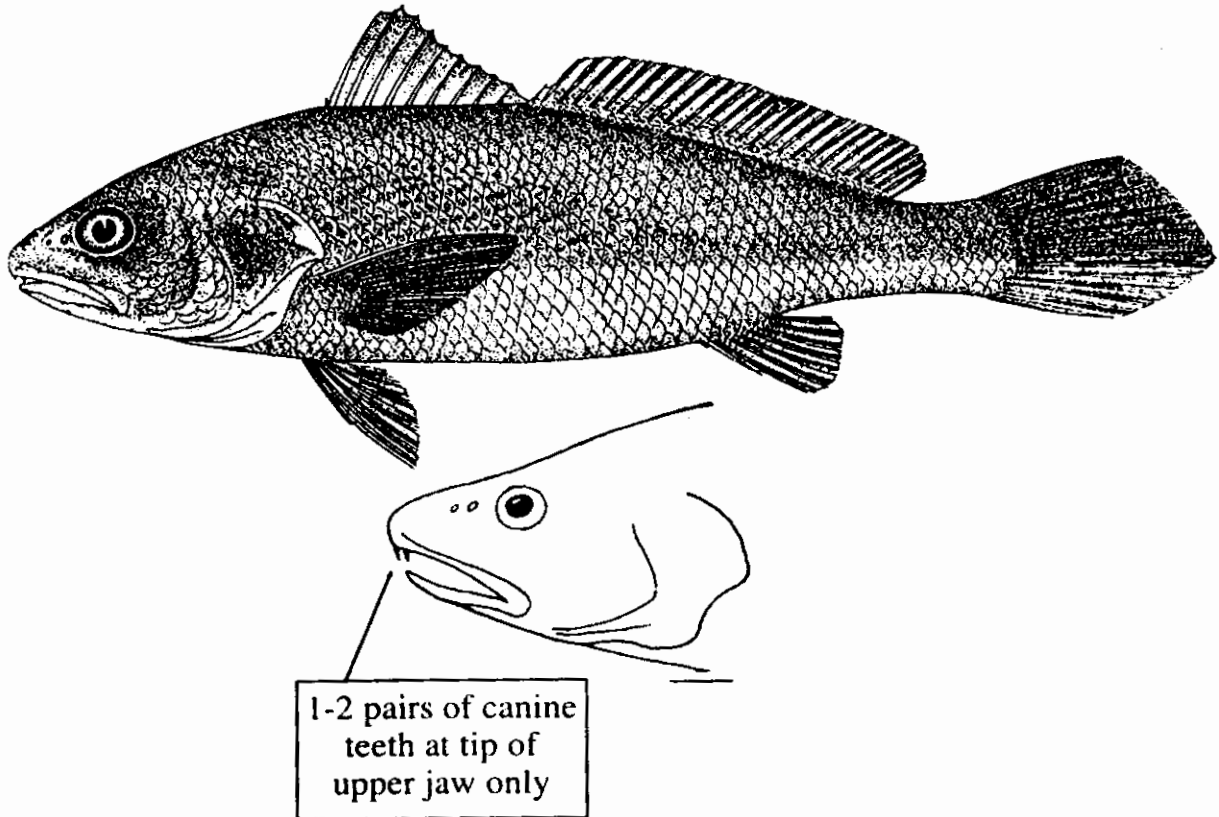


Photos above of *Macropsinosa cuja*

CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae

Chrysochir aureus (Cuvier, 1830)



Chrysochir aureus

English Names: Reeve's croaker.

This medium size croaker has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. The author saw two specimens at Dubla Char in December 2000.





Otolithes ruber DATO POA

Local Names: Dato poa.

English Names: Tigertooth croaker.

Synonyms: *Otolithoides ruber*.

This species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae

Otolithoides pama (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

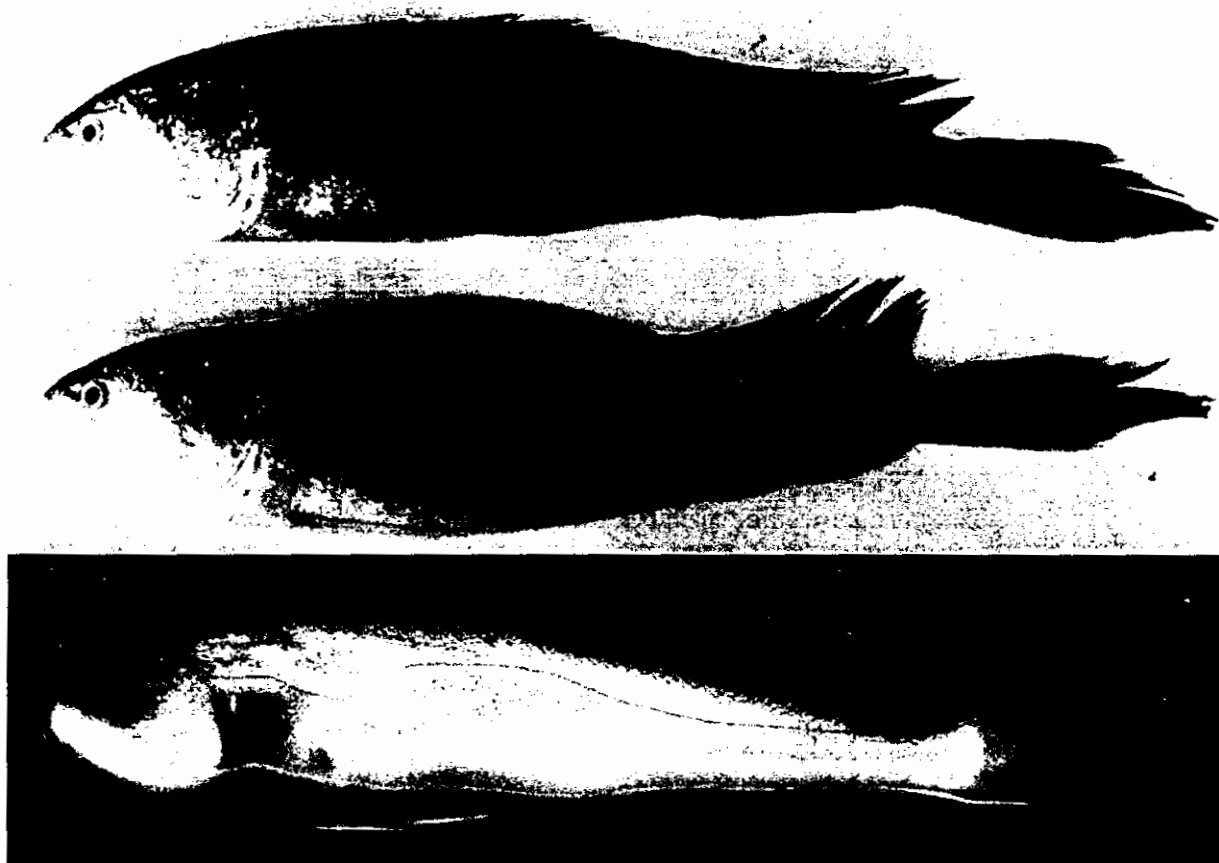


***Otolithoides pama* POMA**

Local Names: Poma, lambu, lombu, pama poa. **English Names:** Pama croaker.

Synonyms: *Pama pama*, *Bola pama*.

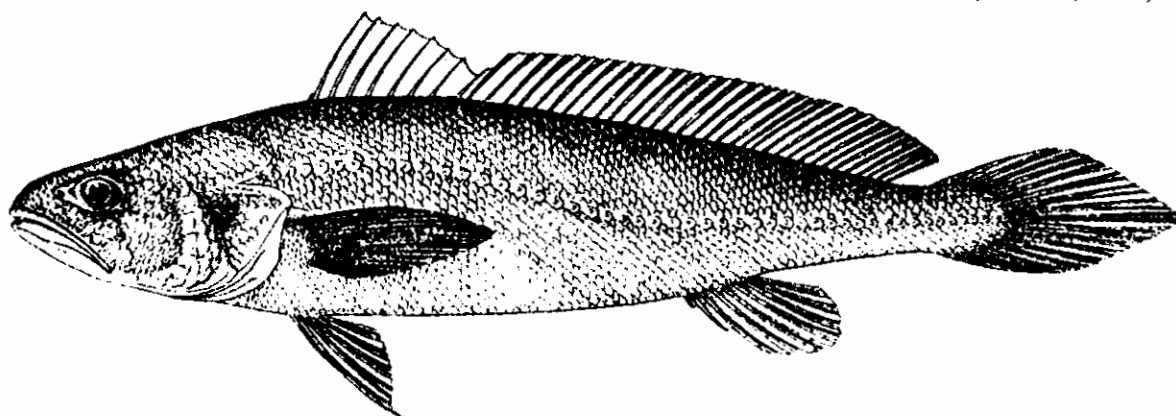
This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in November 2001.



Two photos and scan (lowermost) of *Otolithoides pama*

CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae
Panna microdon (Bleeker, 1849)



***Panna microdon* POA**

Local Names: Poa.

English Names: Panna croaker.

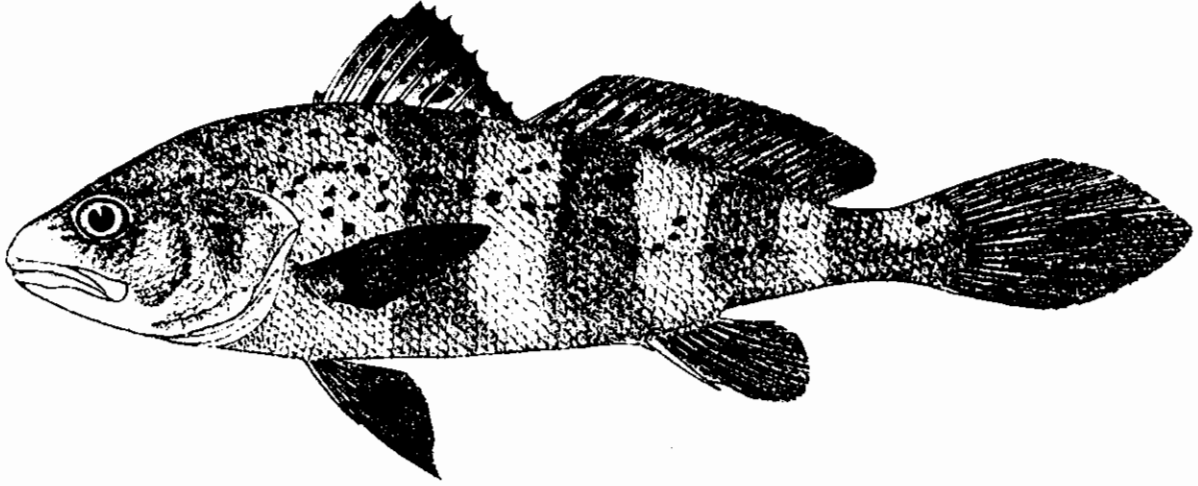
This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). One specimen seen by author at Dubla Char in December 2000.



CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae

Protonibea diacanthus (Lacepede, 1802)



***Protonibea diacanthus* KALA POA**

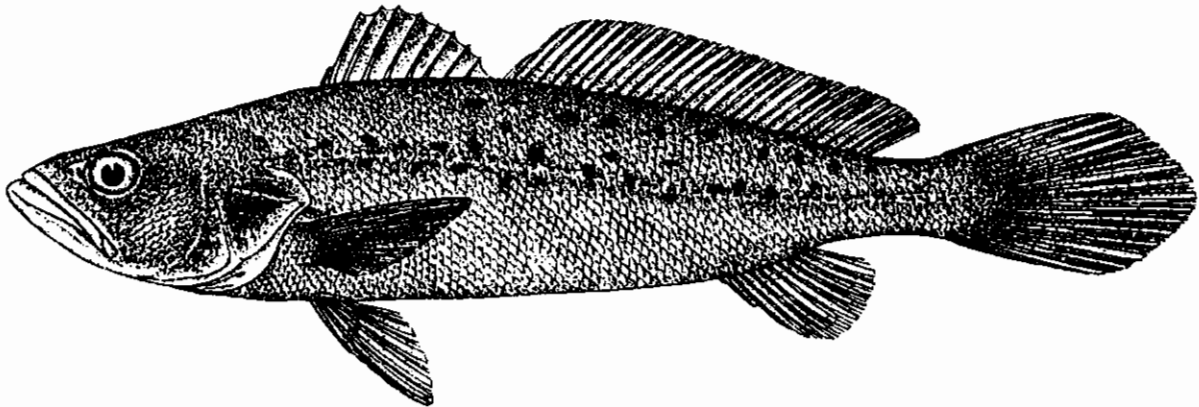
Local Names: Kala poa, kala datina, til poa, poka.

English Names: Spotted croaker.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Sciaenidae

Pterolithus maculatus (Kuhl and Van Hassel, 1830)



***Pterolithus maculatus* GUTI POA**

Local Names: Guti poa, goti poa.

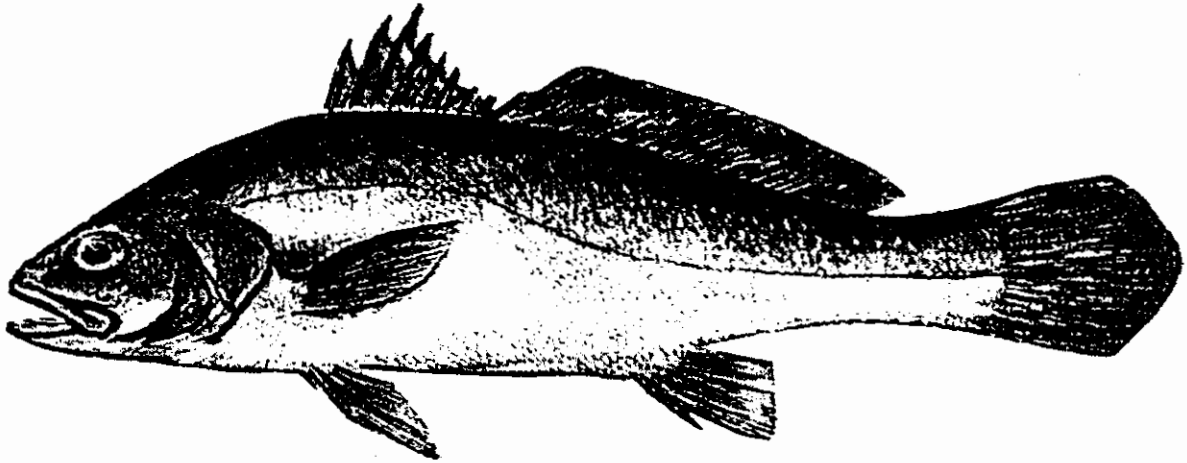
English Names: Spotted croaker, blotched tigertooth croaker.

Synonyms: *Otolithes maculatus*.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae
Johnius argentatus



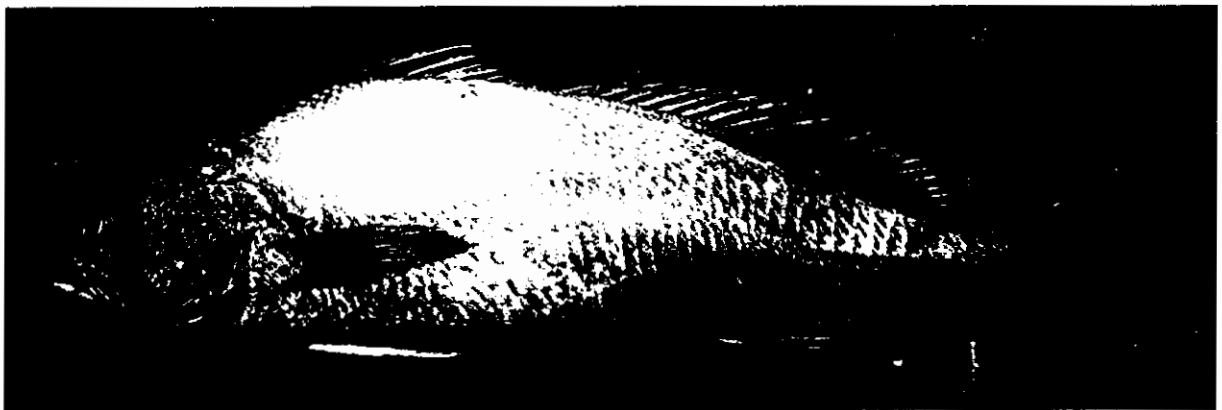
***Johnius argentatus* LAL POA**

Local Names: Lal poa, lambu, rupa poa, poka, hauka, vola.

English Names: Silver croaker.

Synonyms: *Pennahia argentata*.

This species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several large specimens were seen by author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and January 2001.



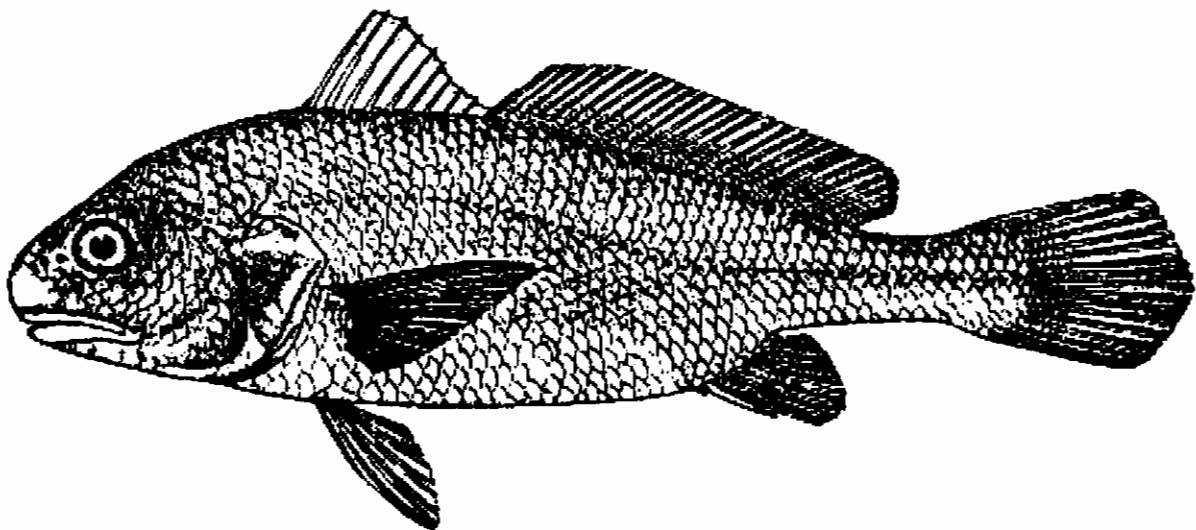
CROAKERS



Photo of large specimen of *Johnius argentatus*

Family Sciaenidae

Johnius dussumieri (Cuvier, 1830)



***Johnius dussumieri* KALA POA**

Local Names: Kala poa.

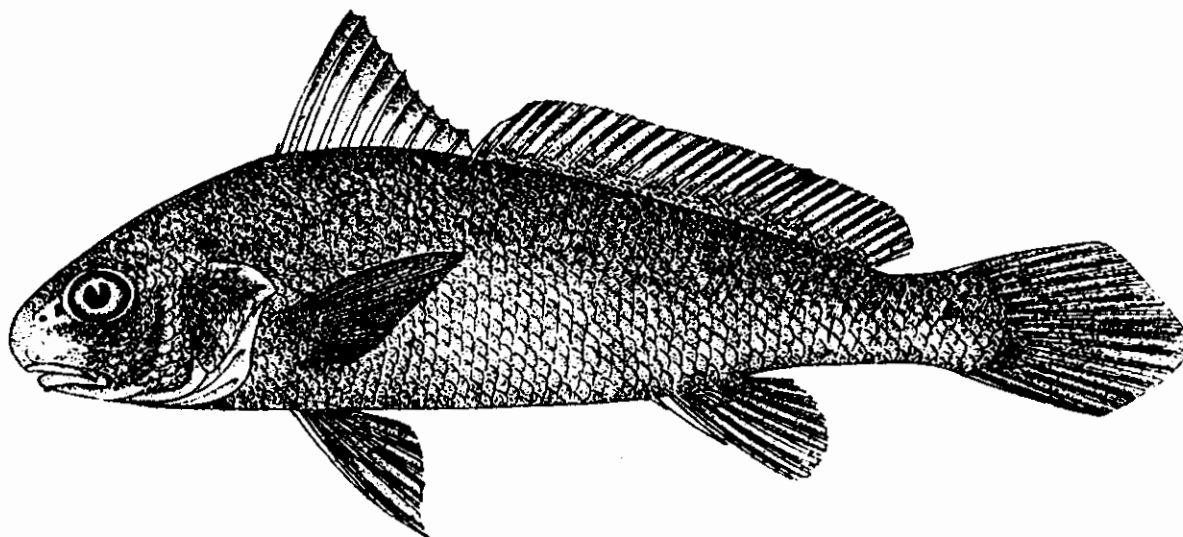
English Names: Black croaker.

This medium size croaker was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae

Johnius elongatus Mohan, 1976



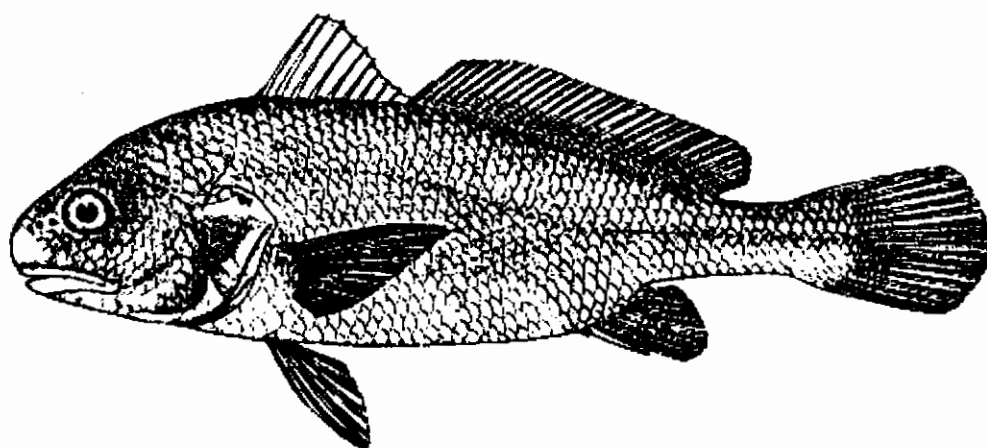
***Johnius elongatus* JAVA**

Local Names: Java. **English Names:** Spindle croaker.

This medium size species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was seen by the contracted Khulna University field study of 2001.

Family Sciaenidae

Johnius gangeticus Talwar, 1991



***Johnius gangeticus* TALWAR**

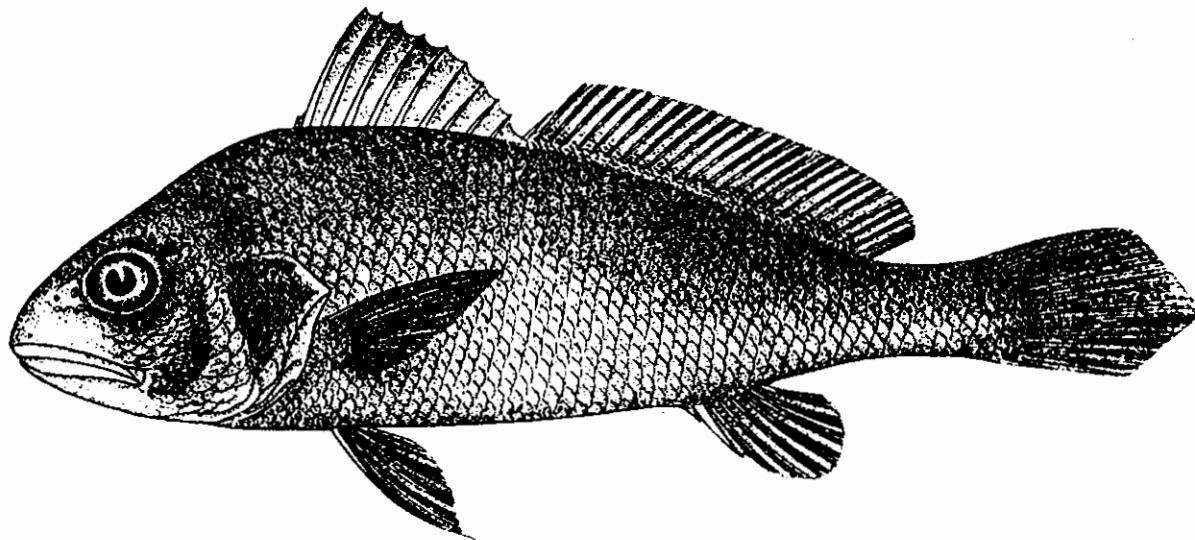
Local Names: Talwar. **English Names:** Gangetic croaker, Gangetic bola.

This small species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was seen by the contracted Khulna University field study of 2001.

CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae

Johnius vogleri (Bleeker, 1853)



Johnius vogleri

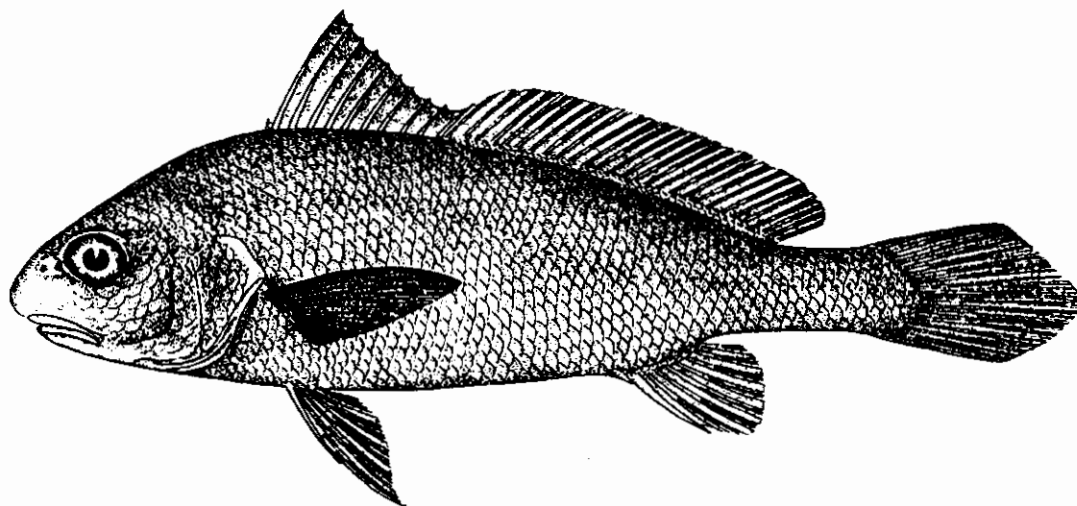
English Names: Sharptooth hammer croaker.

This medium size species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. One specimen seen by the author at Dubla Char and another in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000. The specimens are provisionally identified as *Johnius vogleri*.



CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae
Pennahia anea (Bloch, 1793)

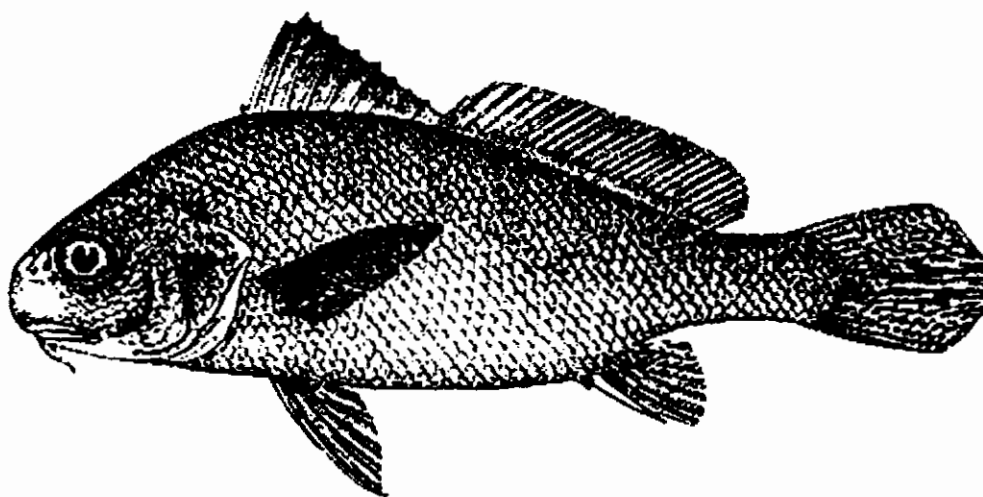


***Pennahia anea* CHOKA POA**

Local Names: Choka poa. **English Names:** Bigeye croaker, donkey croaker.
Synonyms: *Pennahia macrophthalmus*.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as the synonym *Pennahia macrophthalmus*. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Sciaenidae
Dendrophysa russelli (Cuvier, 1830)



***Dendrophysa russelli* POA**

Local Names: Poa. **English Names:** Goatee croaker.

This medium size croaker was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

CROAKERS

Family Sciaenidae

Atrobuca nibe

Atrobuca nibe KALA POA

Local Names: Kala poa.

English Names: Blackmouth croaker.

This species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

The croakers are a very diverse group in the region. The taxonomy of some species is somewhat confused, and identifications in this book are to be considered tentative. The following species have been recorded by various authors to occur in the northern Bay of Bengal and may eventually be found in the Sundarbans:

Bahaba chaptis (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822).

Daysciaena albida (Cuvier, 1830).

Johnius belangerii (Cuvier, 1830). Sada poa, poka. Belanger's croaker

Johnius carutta (Bloch, 1793). Karut croaker.

Johnius coitor (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822). Coitor croaker.

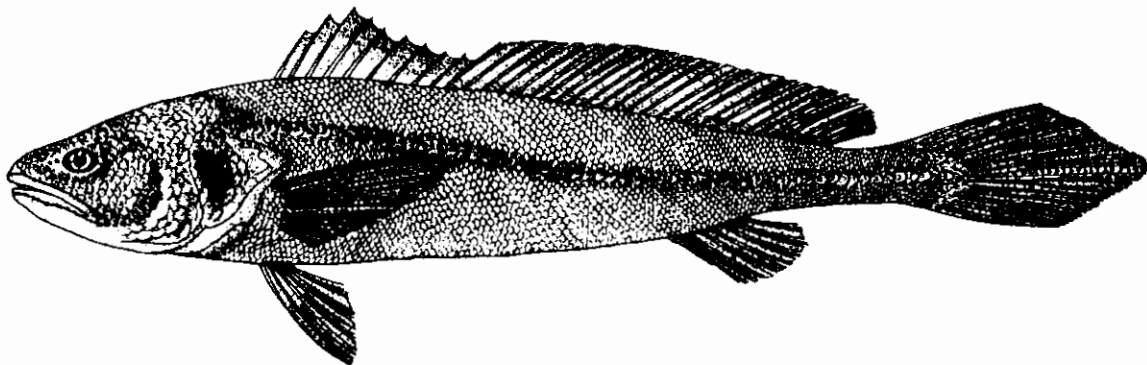
Johnius sina (Cuvier, 1830).

Otolithes biauritus (Cantor, 1850). Bronze croaker.

Otolithes cuvieri Trewavas, 1974. Poa. Lesser tigertooth croaker.

Pama heterolepis Trewavas, 1977. Hooghly croaker.

Pterolithus lateoides (Bleeker, 1853)



Otolithes biauritus (Cantor, 1850) Bronze croaker

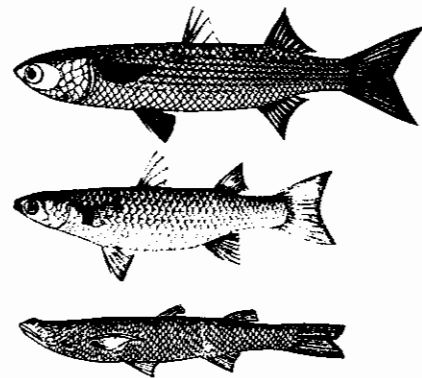
MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Mugilidae
Mullets

Mugil cephalus
Liza planiceps
Liza parsia
Lisa subviridis
Valamugil speigleri
Rhinomugil corsula
Sicamugil cascasia



Sphyraenidae
Barracudas

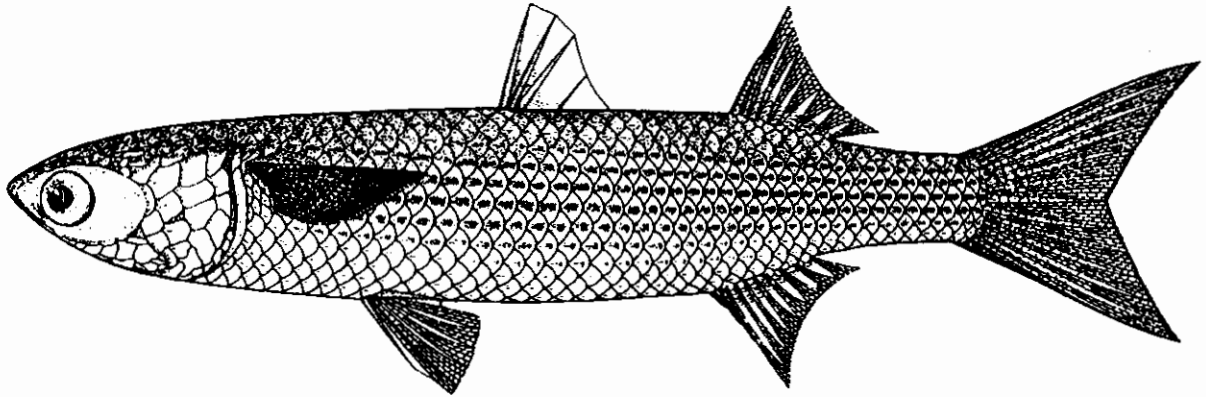
Sphyraena barracuda
Sphyraena jello



MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

Family Mugilidae

Mugil cephalus Linnaeus, 1758



***Mugil cephalus* KOROL**

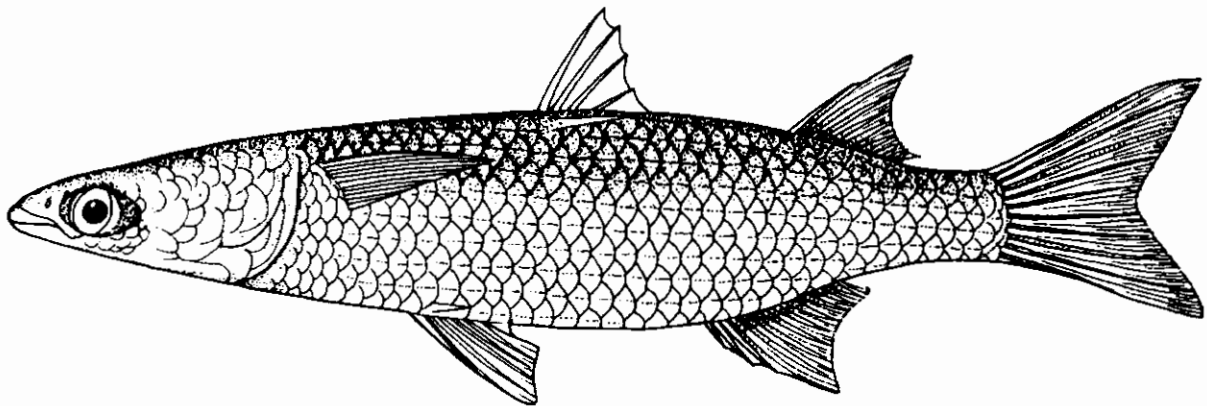
Local Names: Korol, khorul bata, bhangun.

English Names: Striped mullet, flathead mullet.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000.

Family Mugilidae

Liza planiceps (Valenciennes, 1836)



***Liza planiceps* GOOL BATA**

Local Names: Gool bata, pashia

English Names: Tade mullet.

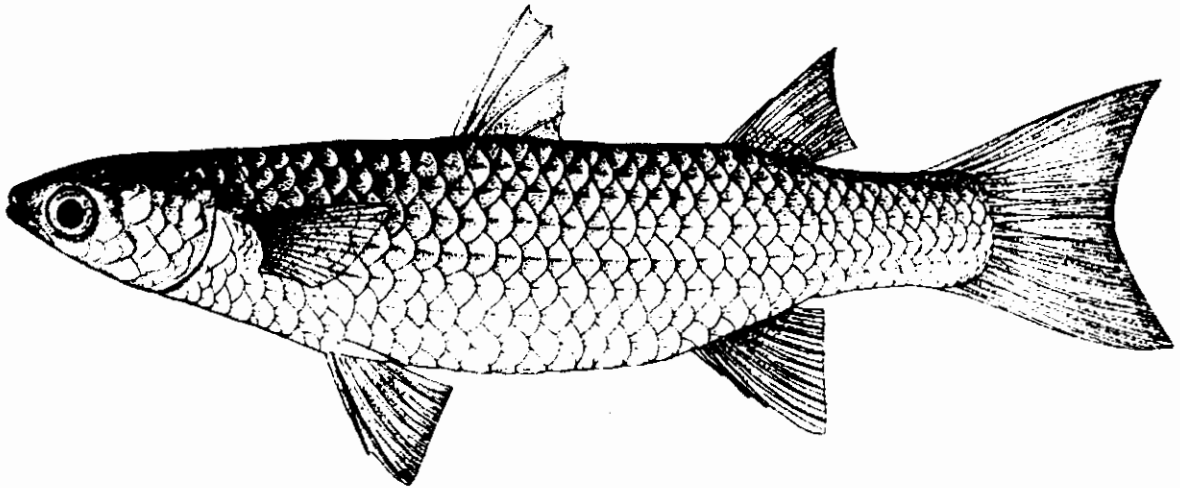
Synonyms: *Liza tade*.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

Family Mugilidae

Liza parsia (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

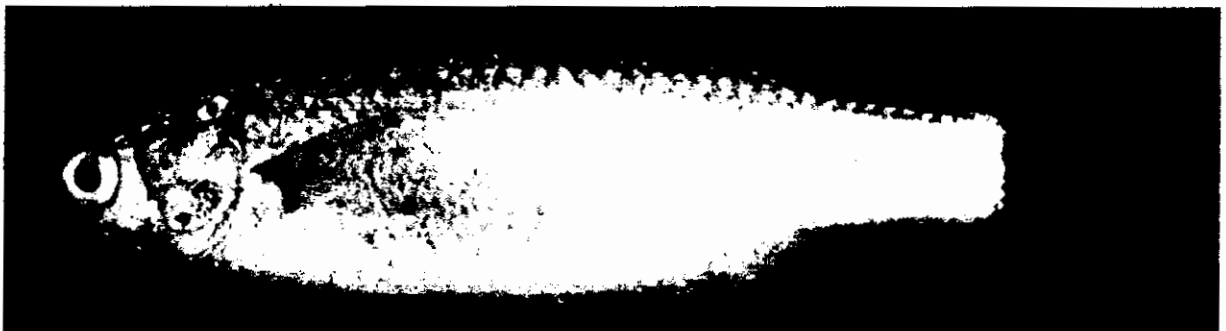


Liza parsia PARSIA

Local Names: Parsia, pashia, bata.

English Names: Goldspot mullet.

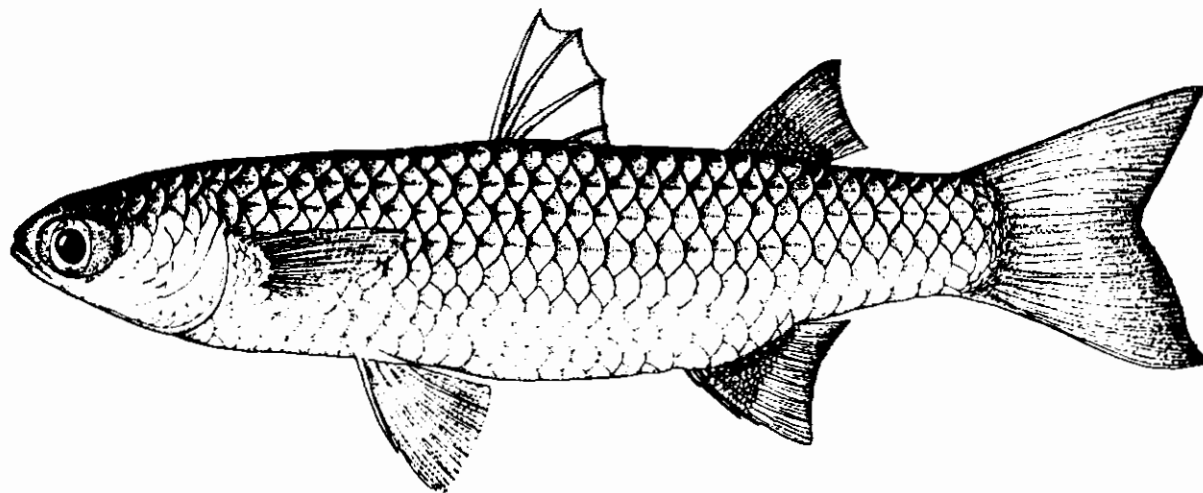
This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Many specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in June 2000, December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. This species is very abundant in the Sundarbans forest and is of substantial commercial importance.



MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

Family Mugilidae

Liza subviridis (Valenciennes, 1836)



Liza subviridis **BHANGNA BATA**

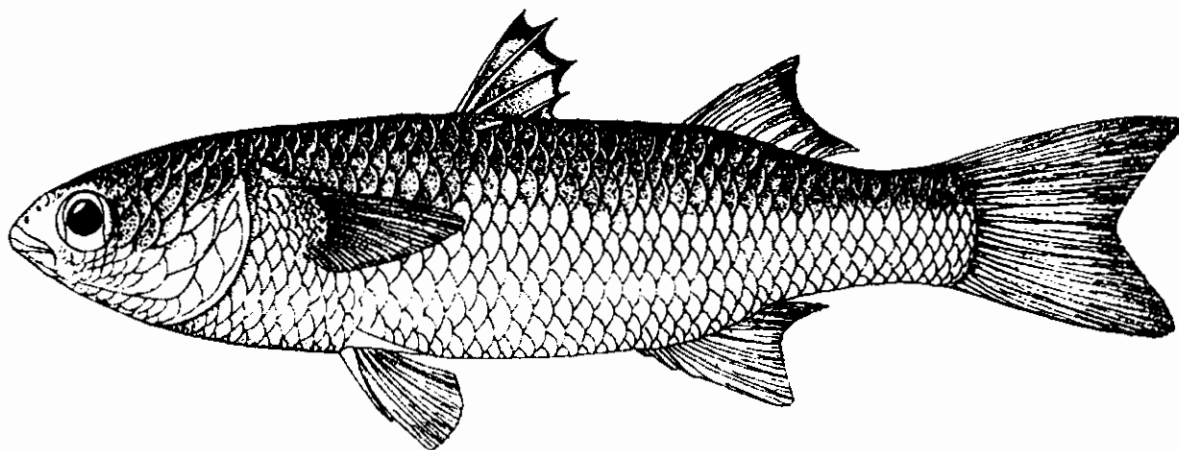
Local Names: Bhangna bata, pashia.

English Names: Greenback mullet.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Mugilidae

Valamugil speigleri (Bleeker, 1858)



Valamugil speigleri **PATHA BATA**

Local Names: Patha bata, ghangan, korol.

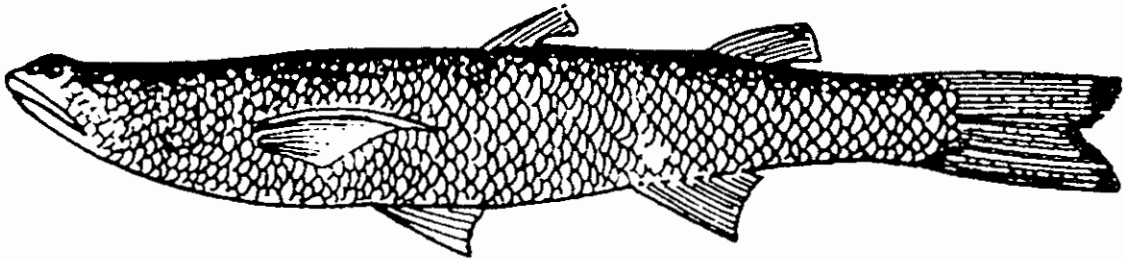
English Names: Speigler's mullet.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

Family Mugilidae

Rhinomugil corsula (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Rhinomugil corsula KHORSULA

Local Names: Khorsula, kholla, korol, khalla, bhangan, bata.

English Names: Corsula mullet.

Synonyms: *Mugil corsula*.

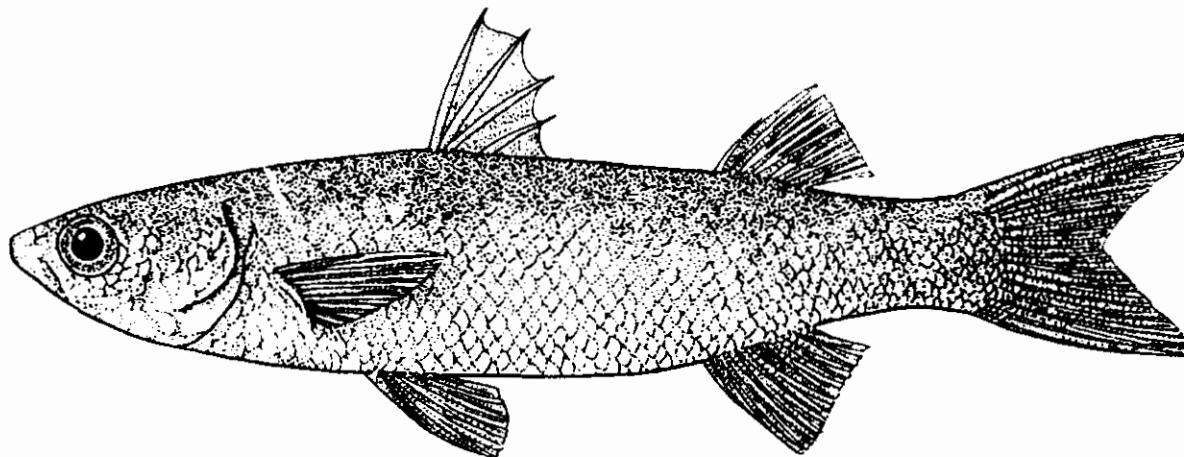
This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994), both as *Rhinomugil corsula* and its synonym *Mugil corsula*. One specimen is preserved in the FAO fish collection.



MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

Family Mugilidae

Sicamugil cascasia (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Sicamugil cascasia* KACHI KHOLLA**

Local Names: Kachi kholla.

English Names: Yellowtail mullet.

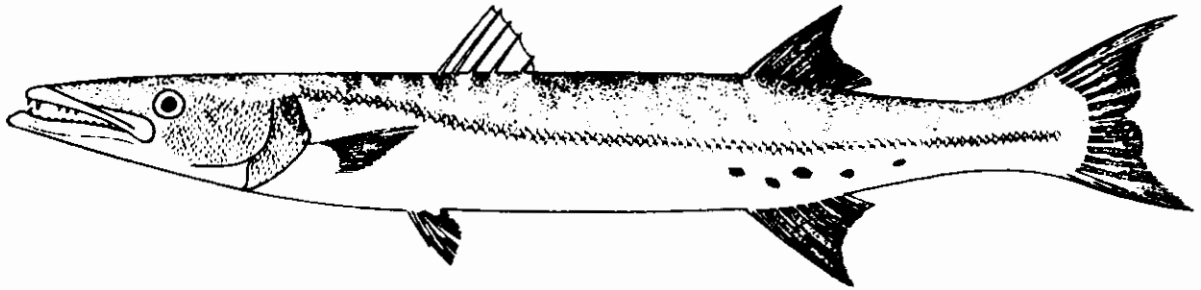
Synonyms: *Mugil cascasia*.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) as the synonym *Mugil cascasia*. No specimens were seen by the author.

MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

Family Sphyraenidae

Sphyraena barracuda (Walbaum, 1792)



Sphyraena barracuda **DARKUTA**

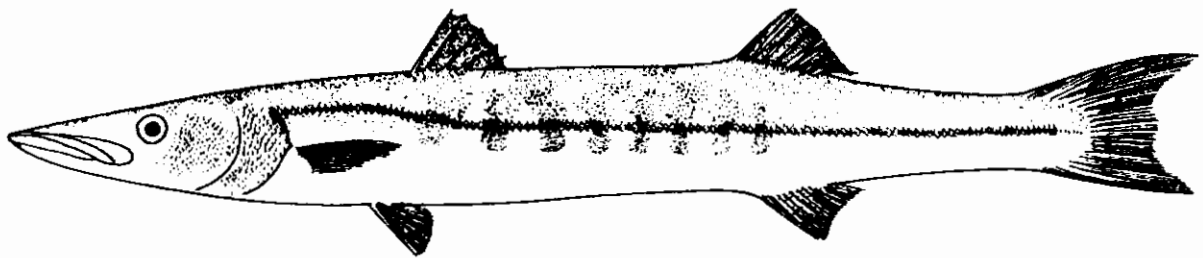
Local Names: Darkuta.

English Names: Great barracuda.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Sphyraenidae

Sphyraena jello Cuvier, 1829



Sphyraena jello **DARKUTA**

Local Names: Darkuta.

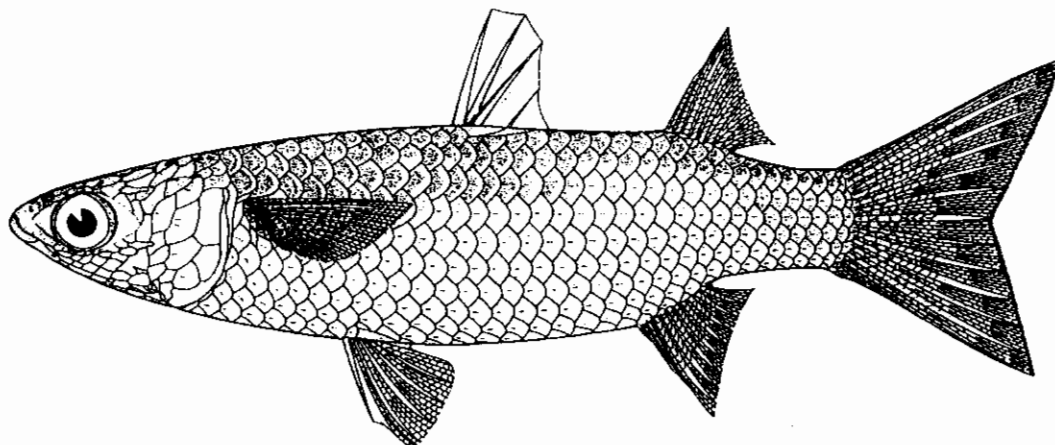
English Names: Pickhandle barracuda.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

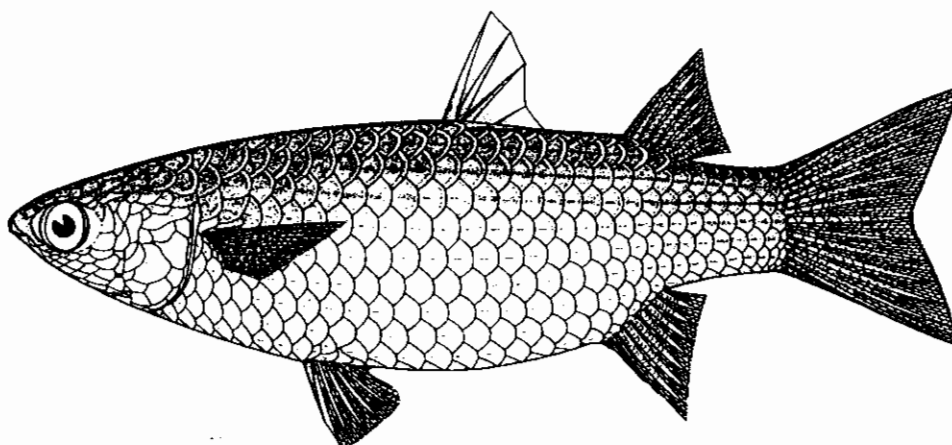
MULLETS & BARRACUDAS

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

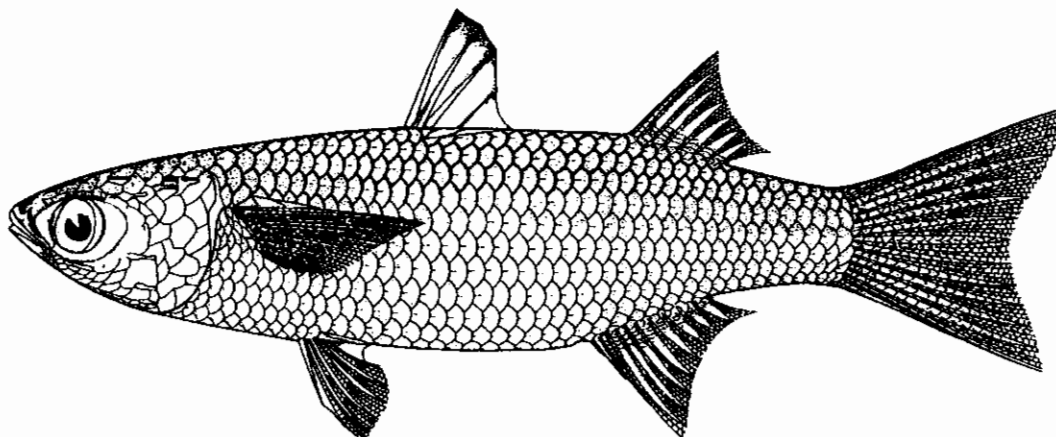
The following mullet species have been recorded from the northern Bay of Bengal and may eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans:



Liza macrolepis (Smith, 1849) Largescale mullet



Liza melinoptera (Valenciennes, 1836) Giantscale mullet



Valamugil cunnesius (Valenciennes, 1836) Longarm mullet

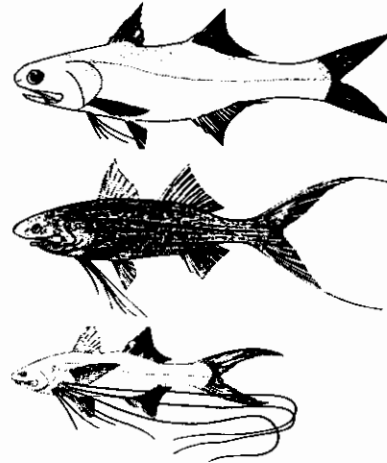
THREADFINS

THREADFINS

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Polynemidae
Threadfins

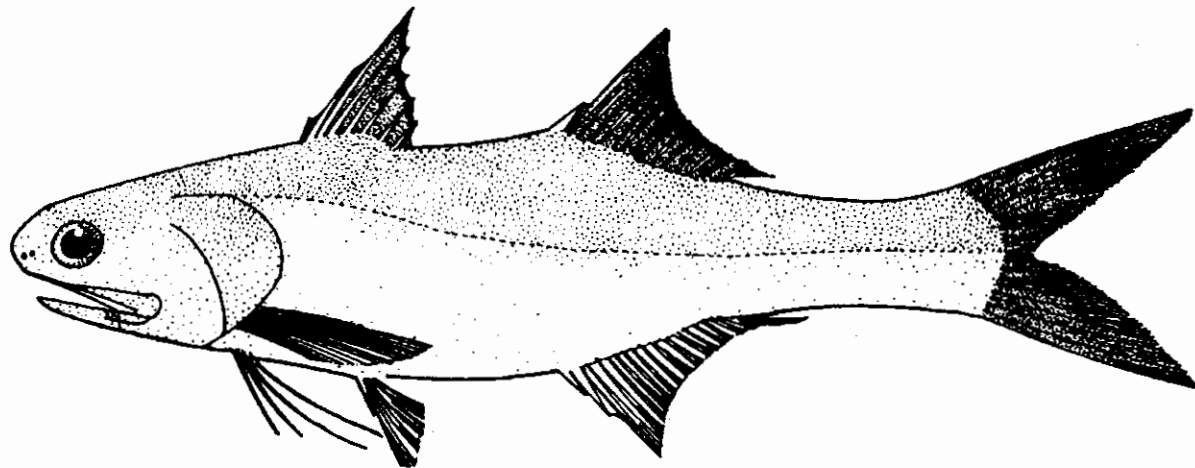
Eleuthronema tetradactylum
Polynemus indicus
Polynemus paradiseus
Polynemus sexfilis
Polynemus microstoma
Polynemus sextarius



THREADFINS

Family Polynemidae

Eleuthronema tetradactylum (Shaw, 1804)



Eleuthronema tetradactylum **TAILLA**

Local Names: Tailla, tarial.

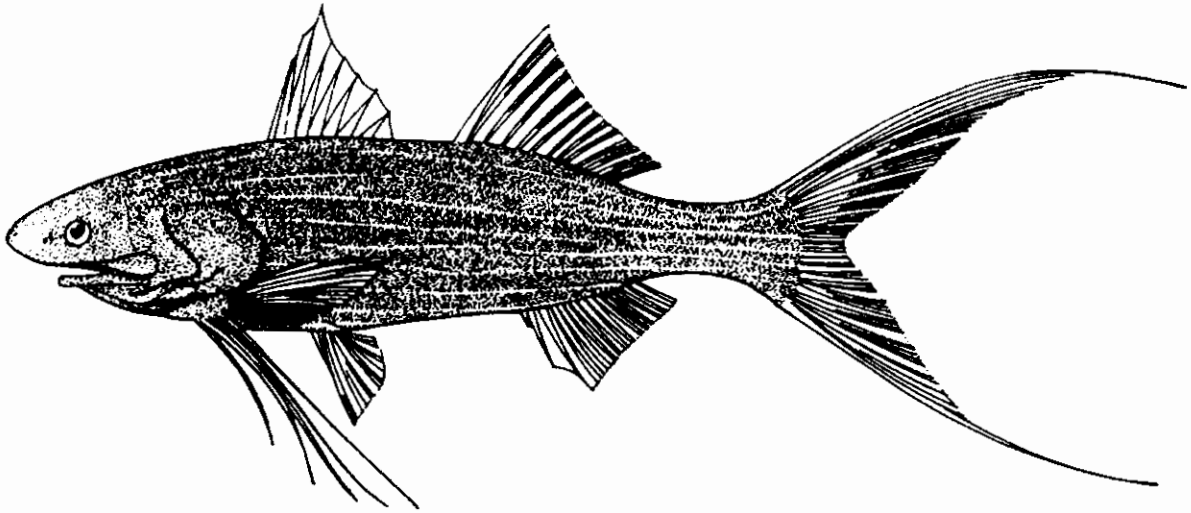
English Names: Fourfinger threadfin, four thread tasselfish.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several fingerlings were seen by the author in November 2001.



THREADFINS

Family Polynemidae
Polynemus indicus Shaw, 1804



***Polynemus indicus* LAKHUA**

Local Names: Lakhua, lakkha, tarial.

English Names: Indian threadfin, Indian salmon.

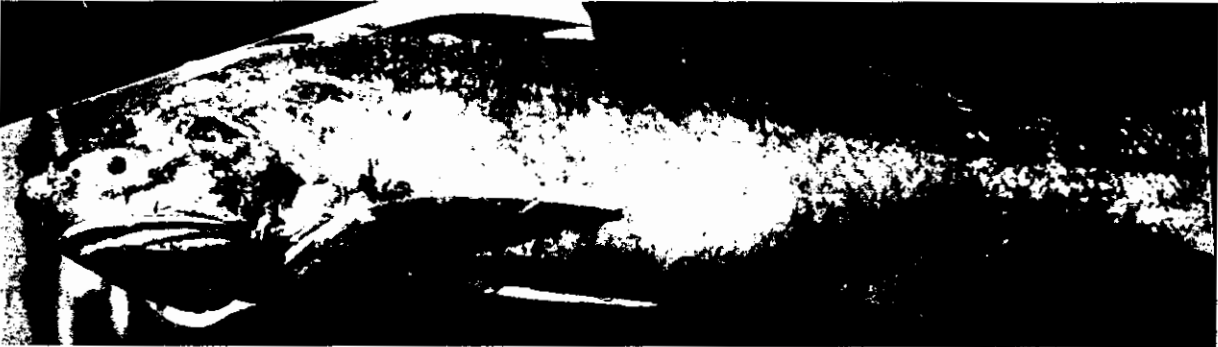
Synonyms: *Polydactylus indicus*.

This large and commercially important species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several large specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and January 2001, and one fingerling was seen in November 2001. The specimens are in general agreement with the descriptions of *Polynemus indicus* (although there are some differences) and are provisionally referred to that species.



Photo of fingerling of *Polynemus indicus*

THREADFINS



THREADFINS

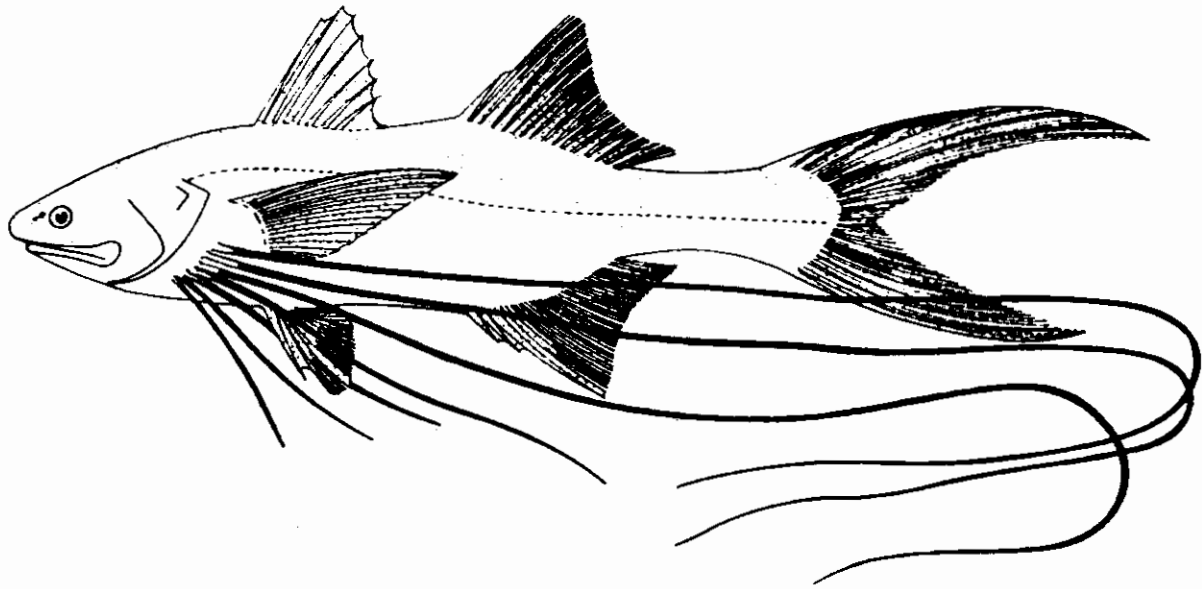


Photos on this and preceding page of adult specimens of *Polynemus indicus*

THREADFINS

Family Polynemidae

Polynemus paradiseus (Linnaeus, 1758)



***Polynemus paradiseus* TAPSI**

Local Names: Tapsi, taposi.

English Names: Paradise threadfin.

This small distinctive species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Many specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char, in the Sundarbans forest and in the Passur River several km north of the Sundarbans in July 2000, December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001.



THREADFINS

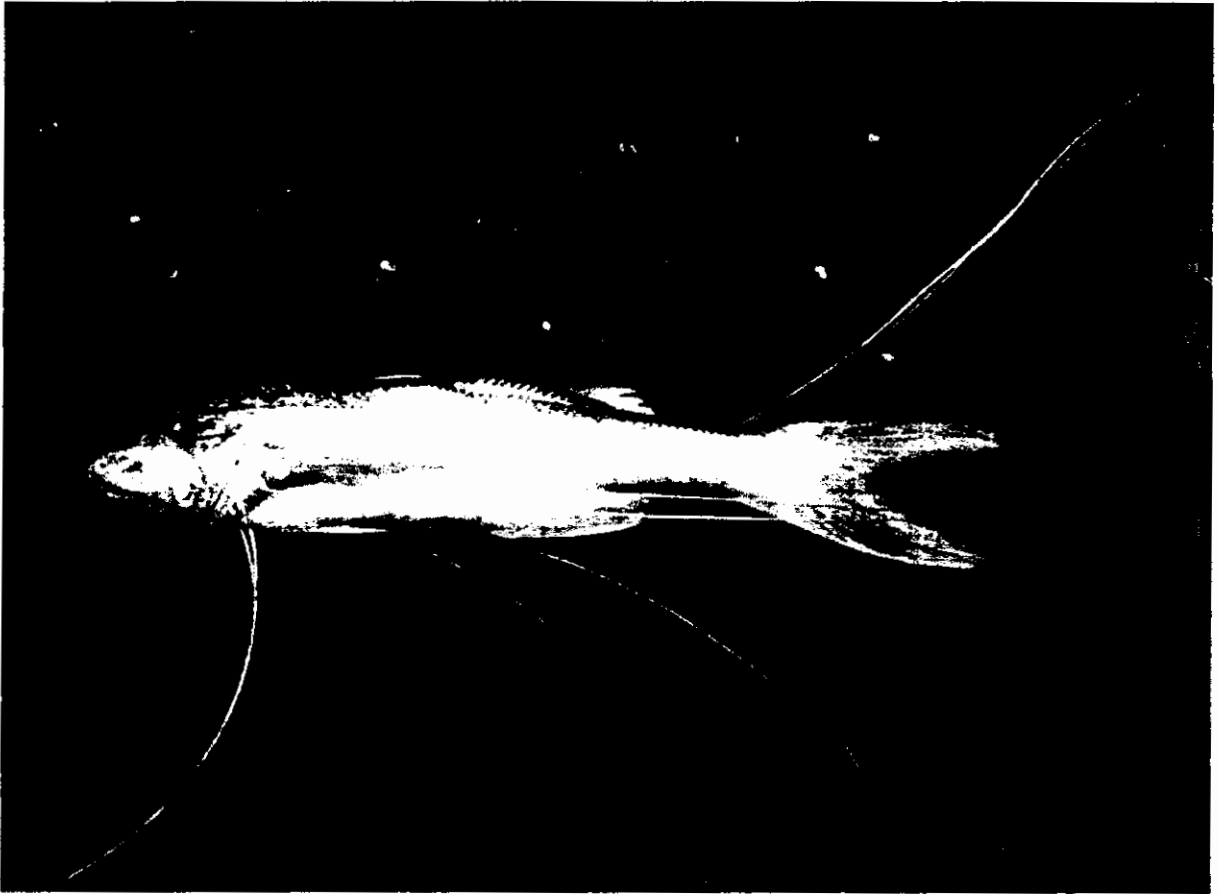
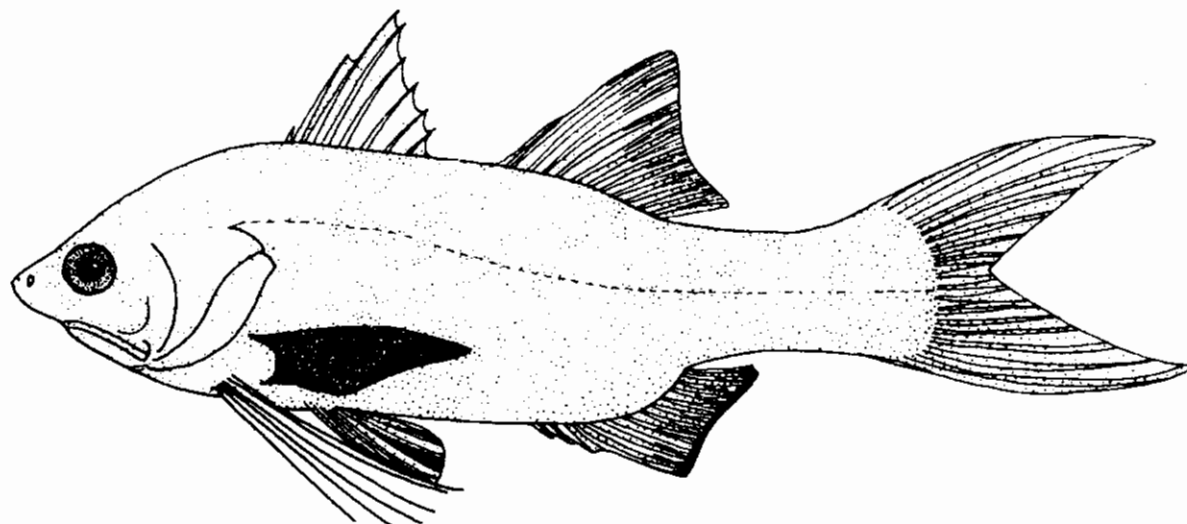


Photo of *Polynemus paradiseus* showing characteristic elongate pectoral fin rays

THREADFINS

Family Polynemidae

Polynemus sexfilis Valenciennes, 1831



Polynemus sexfilis SONA TAILLA

Local Names: Sona tailla.

English Names: Golden threadfin, golden sixthread tasselfish.

Synonyms: *Polydactylus sexfilis*.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Polynemidae

Polynemus microstoma (Bleeker)

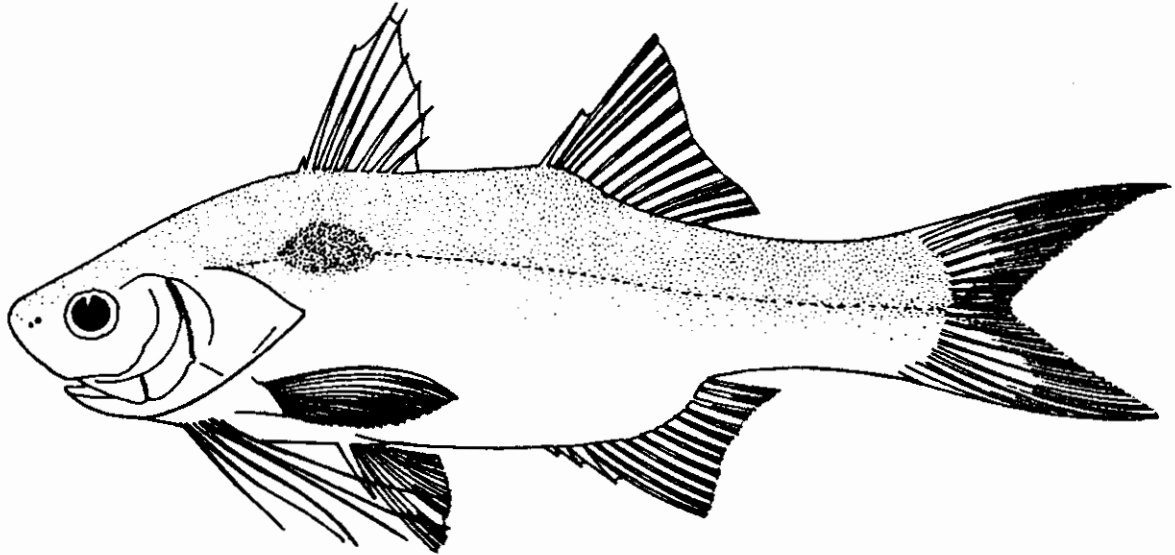
Polynemus microstoma

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

THREADFINS

Family Polynemidae

Polynemus sextarius Bloch and Schneider, 1801



Polynemus sextarius KALA TAILLA

Local Names: Kala tailla.

English Names: Blackspot threadfin.

Synonyms: *Polydactylus sextarius*.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

The following species have been recorded from the region of northern Bay of Bengal and may eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans:

Polynemus heptadactylus (Cuvier, 1829) Seven finger threadfin

Polynemus longipectoralis Weber and de Beaufort 1916 Borneo threadfin

Polynemus plebeius (Broussonet)

Polynemus xanthonemus (Valenciennes)



'Chinese lantern' trussing of Indian salmon (left) and croaker to improve sun drying at Dubla Char



Shark gillnet catch: *Glyphis* shark, seerfish, Indian salmon and croaker

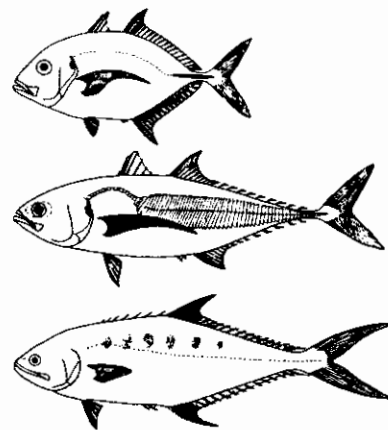
TREVALLIES & SCADS

TREVALLIES & SCADS

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

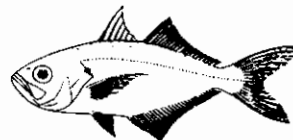
Carangidae
Trevallies &
Scads

Alectis indica
Atropus atropus
Carangoides malabaricus
Alepes djedaba
Alepes melanoptera
Megalaspis cordyla
Selar boops
Selar crumenophthalmus
Scomberoides commersonianus



Lactariidae
False trevally

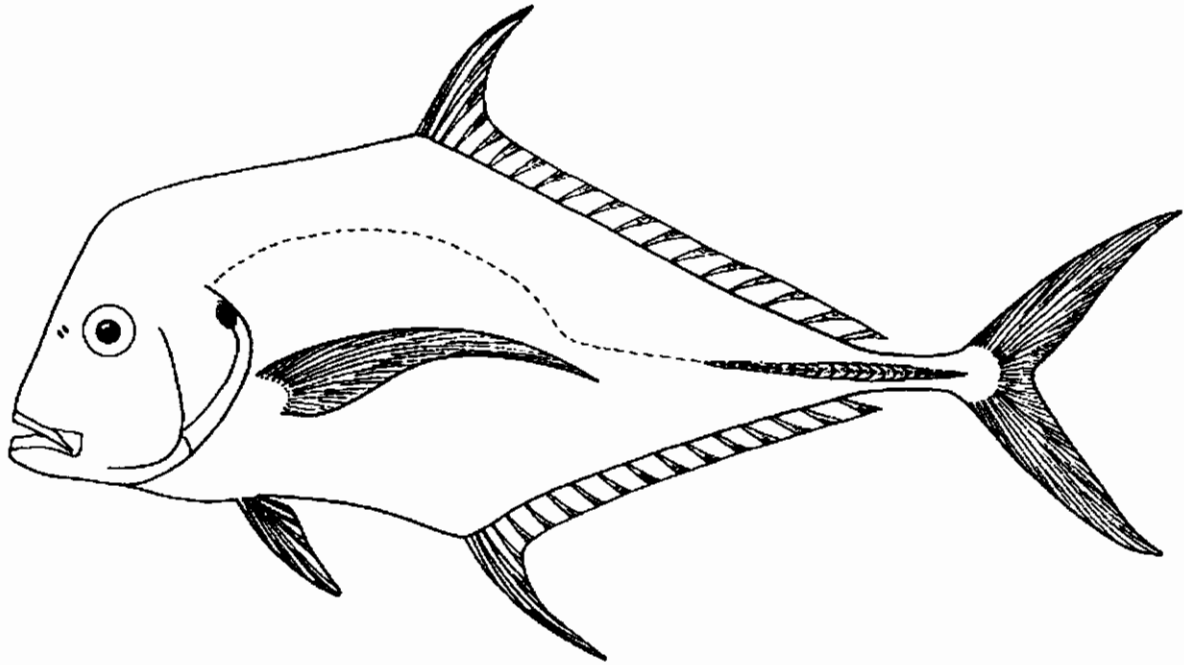
Lactarius lactarius



TREVALLIES & SCADS

Family Carangidae

Alectis indica (Ruppell, 1830)



***Alectis indica* PAKHAM MOURI**

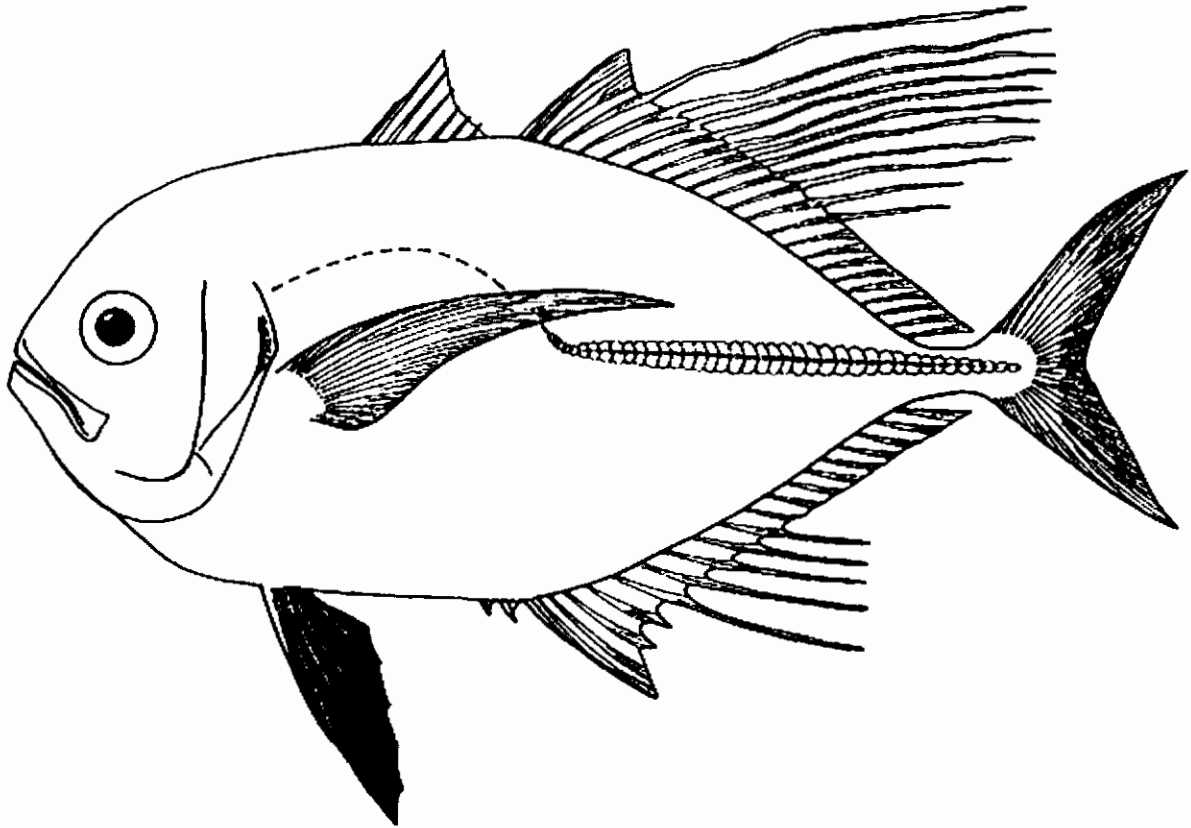
Local Names: Pakham mouri.

English Names: Indian threadfish

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author

TREVALLIES & SCADS

Family Carangidae
Atropus atropus (Schneider, 1801)



Atropus atropus MOURI

Local Names: Mouri.

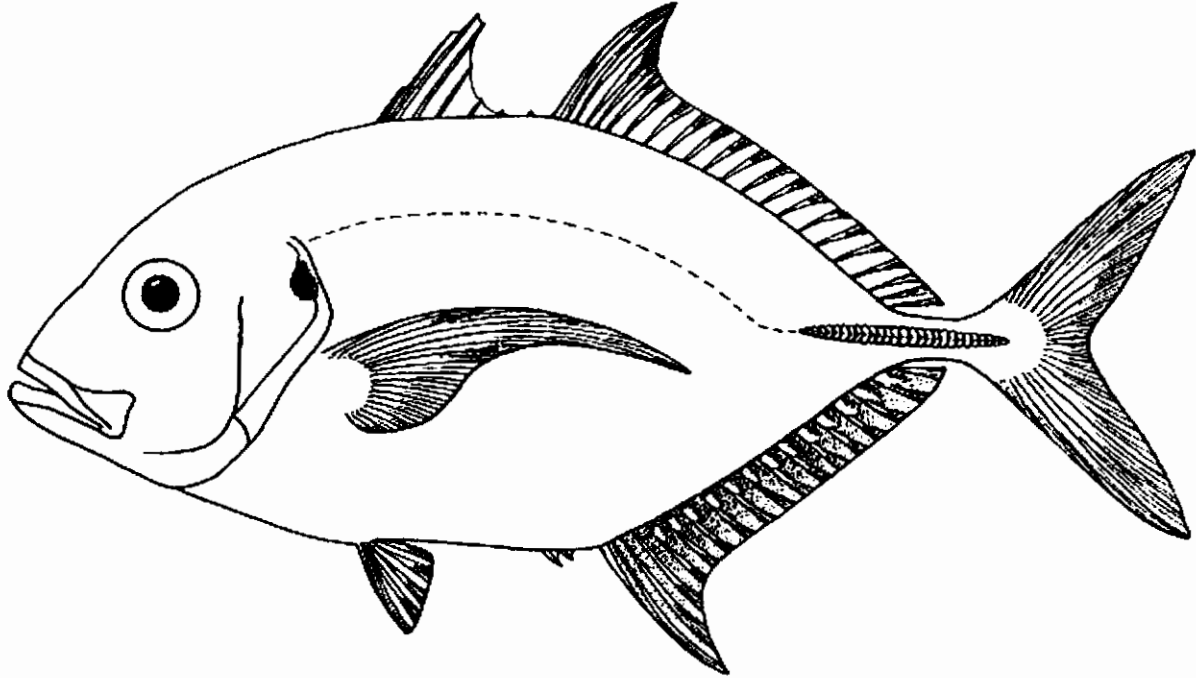
English Names: Cleftbelly trevally.

This medium size trevally was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

TREVALLIES & SCADS

Family Carangidae

Carangoides malabaricus (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)



Carangoides malabaricus MOORI

Local Names: Moori.

English Names: Malabar trevally.

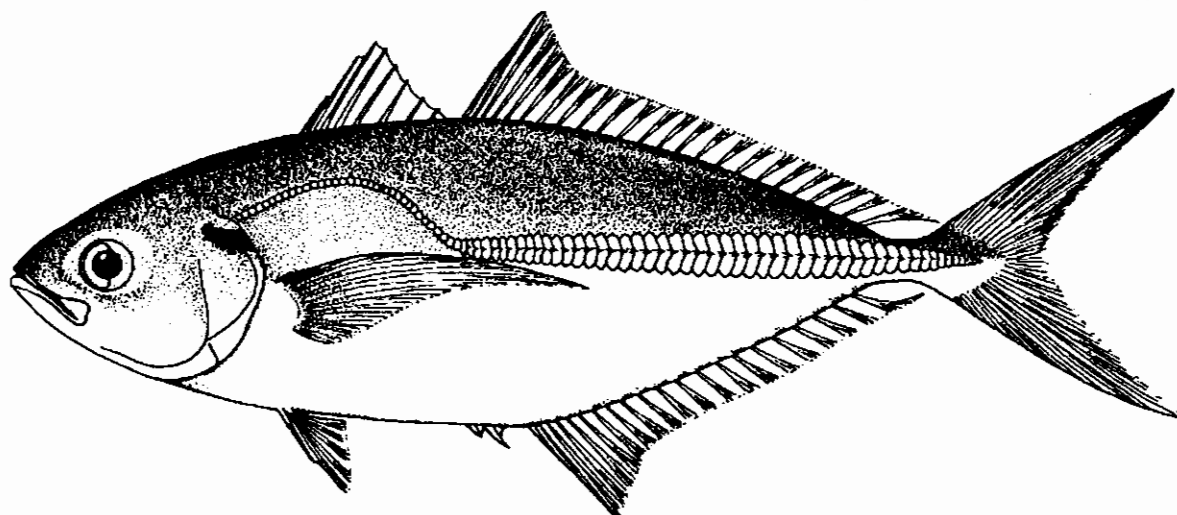
This medium size trevally was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). One damaged specimen is preserved in the FAO fish collection.



Photo of damaged specimen of *Carangoides malabaricus*

TREVALLIES & SCADS

Family Carangidae
Alepes djedaba (Forsskal, 1775)

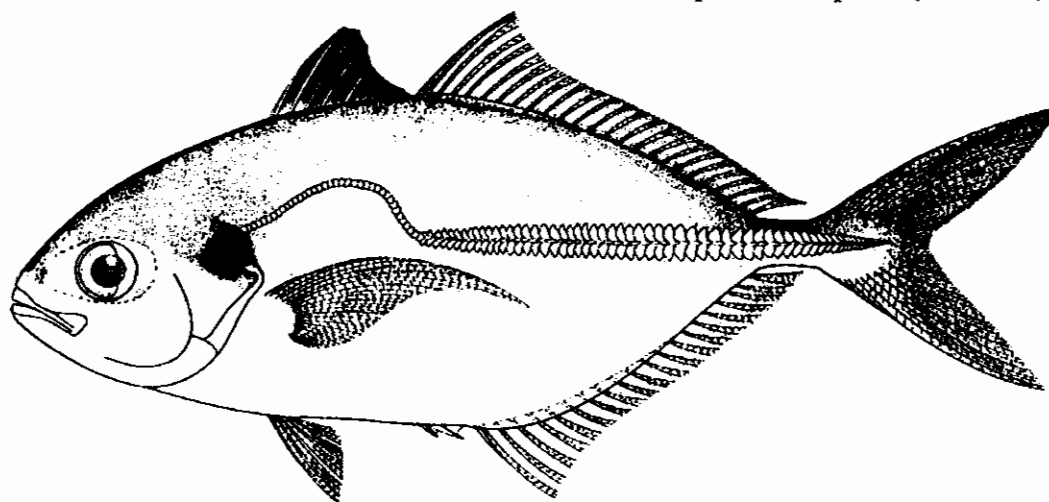


Alepes djedaba MOORI

Local Names: Moori. English Names: Shrimp scad.

This medium size scad was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author

Family Carangidae
Alepes melanoptera (Swainson, 1839)



Alepes melanoptera DORA MOURI

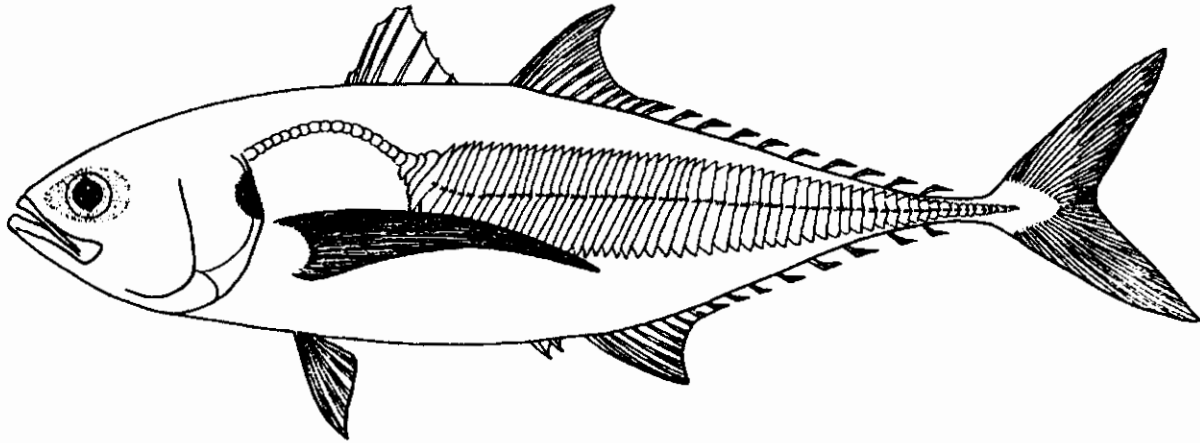
Local Names: Dora mouri. English Names: Blackfin scad.

This small scad was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). One specimen was seen by the author at Dubla Char in January 2001.

TREVALLIES & SCADS

Family Carangidae

Megalaspis cordyla (Linnaeus, 1758)



***Megalaspis cordyla* KAUWA**

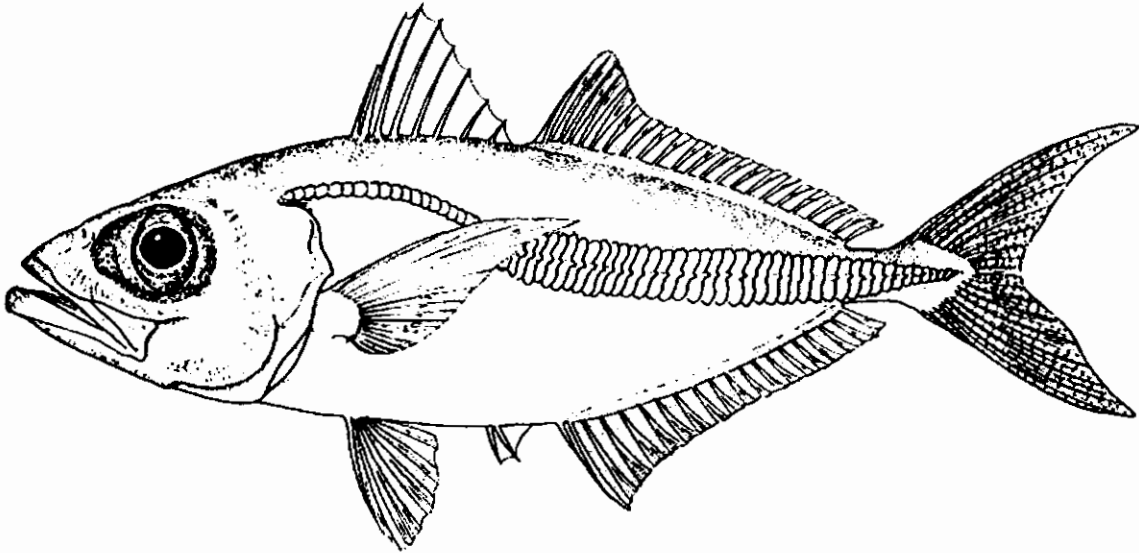
Local Names: Kauwa. English Names: Torpedo scad, hardtail scad.

This large scad was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several specimens seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and November 2001. It appears to be moderately abundant in the Sundarbans marine zone, and forms a small but regular part of the behundi net catch.



TREVALLIES & SCADS

Family Carangidae
Selar boops (Cuvier, 1833)

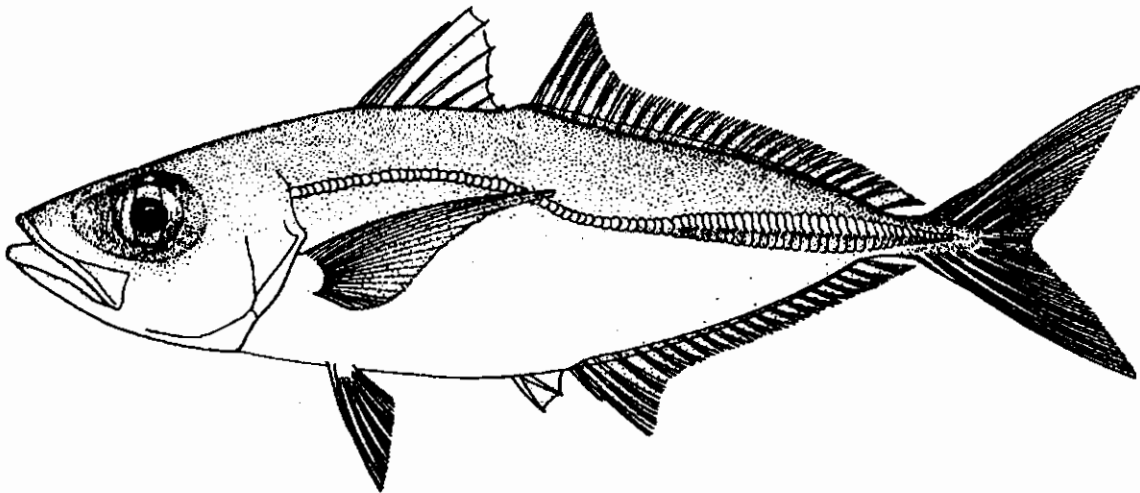


***Selar boops* MOORI**

Local Names: Moori, salar. **English Names:** Oxeye scad.

This medium size scad was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Carangidae
Selar crumenophthalmus (Bloch, 1793)



***Selar crumenophthalmus* BORO CHOKA**

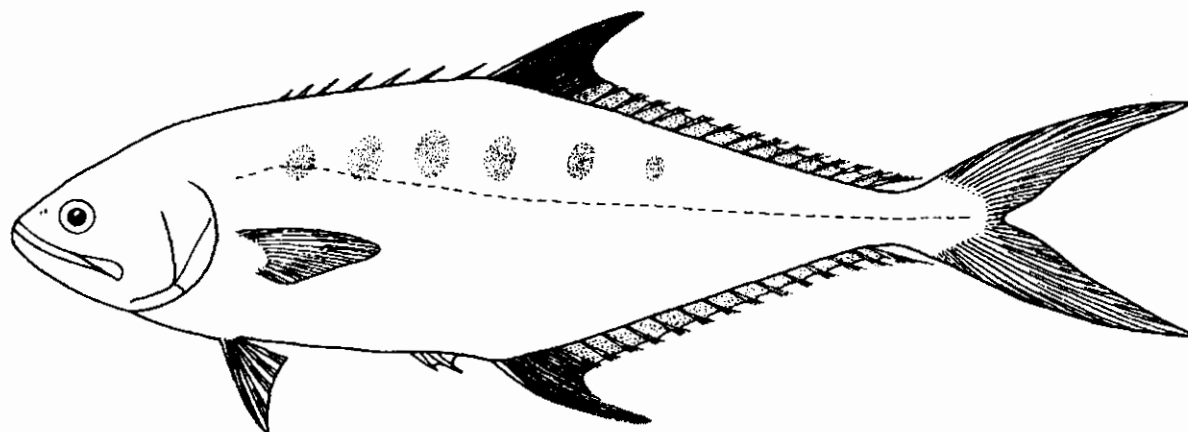
Local Names: Boro choka. **English Names:** Bigeye scad.

This medium size scad was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

TREVALLIES & SCADS

Family Carangidae

Scomberoides commersonianus Lacepede, 1802



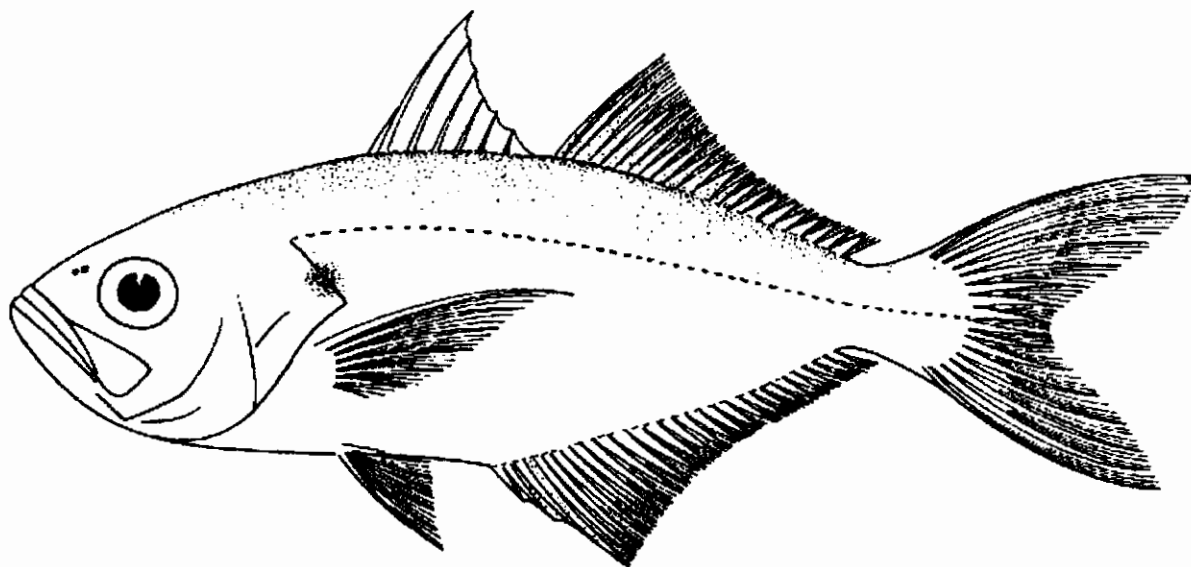
***Scomberoides commersonianus* CHAPRA KORI**

Local Names: Chapa kori. **English Names:** Talang queenfish.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Lactariidae

Lactarius lactarius (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)



***Lactarius lactarius* SADHA**

Local Names: Sadha. **English Names:** False trevally.

The medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNA

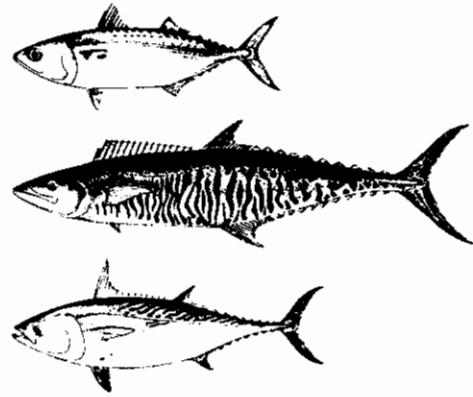
MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNAS

(and Related Fishes)

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

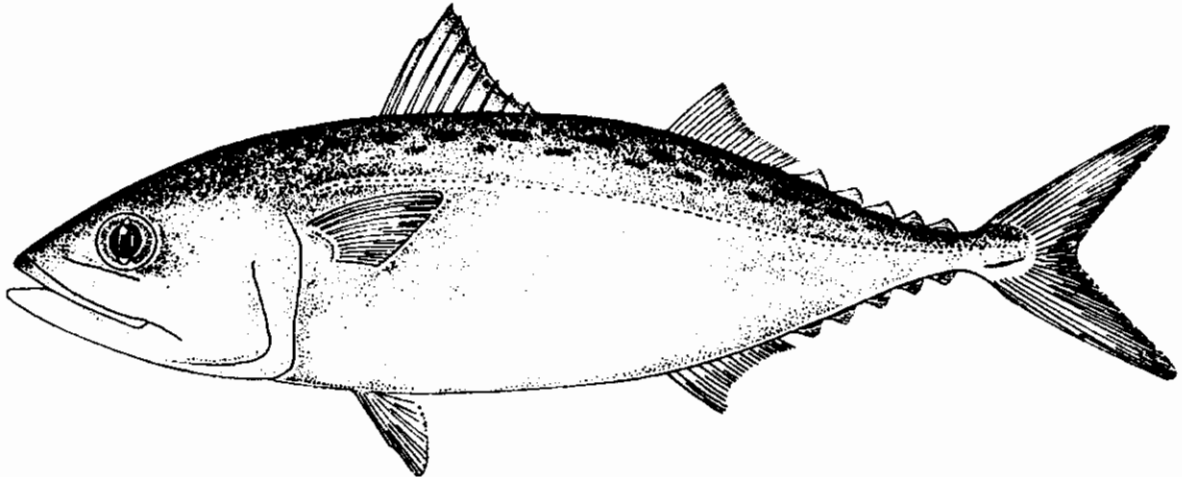
Scombridae
(Mackerels,
seerfishes and
tuna)

Rastrelliger brachysoma
Rastrelliger kanagurta
Sarda orientalis
Scomberomorus commersoni
Scomberomorus lineolatus
Scomberomorus guttatus
Euthynnus affinis



Family Scombridae

Rastrelliger brachysoma (Bleeker, 1851)



Rastrelliger brachysoma CHAMPA

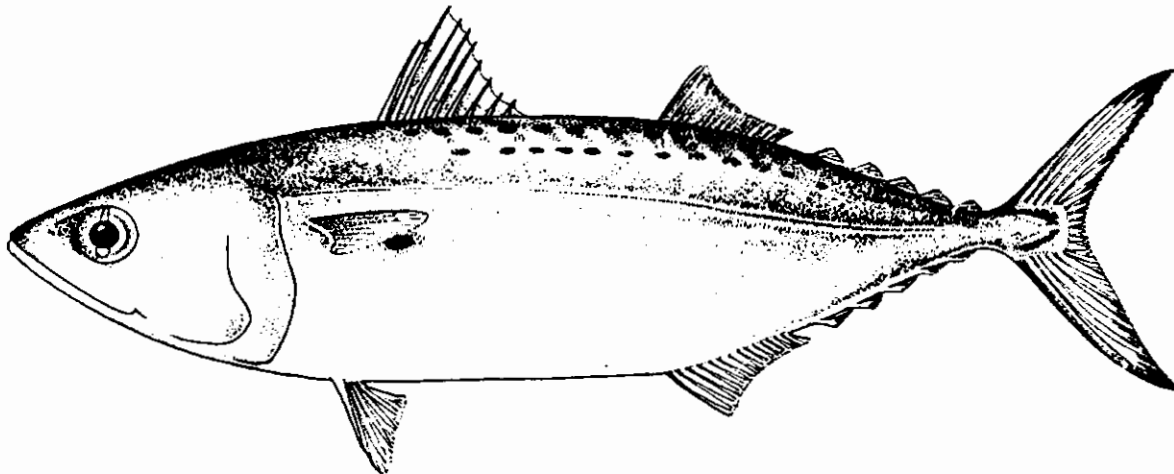
Local Names: Champa. **English Names:** Short mackerel, Indian mackerel.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNAS

Family Scombridae

Rastrelliger kanagurta (Cuvier, 1817)



***Rastrelliger kanagurta* CHAMPA**

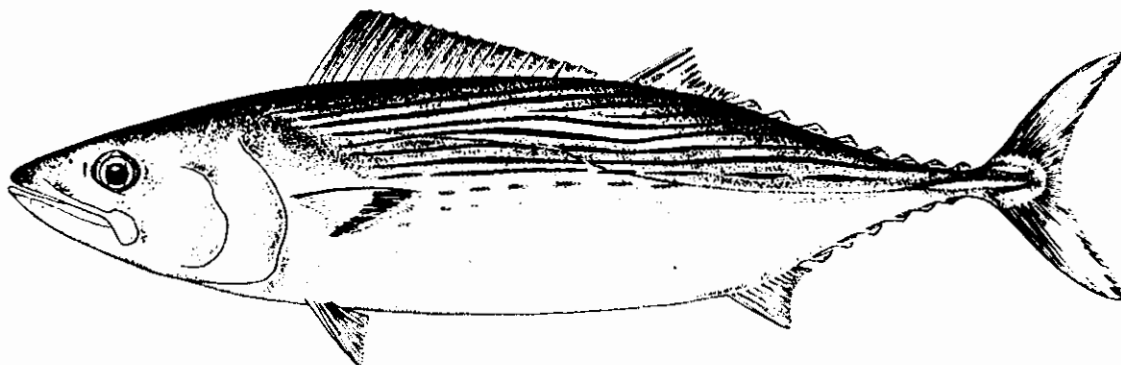
Local Names: Champa.

English Names: Indian mackerel.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Scombridae

Sarda orientalis (Temminck and Schlegel, 1844)



***Sarda orientalis* MAITTA**

Local Names: Maitta, bom maittya.

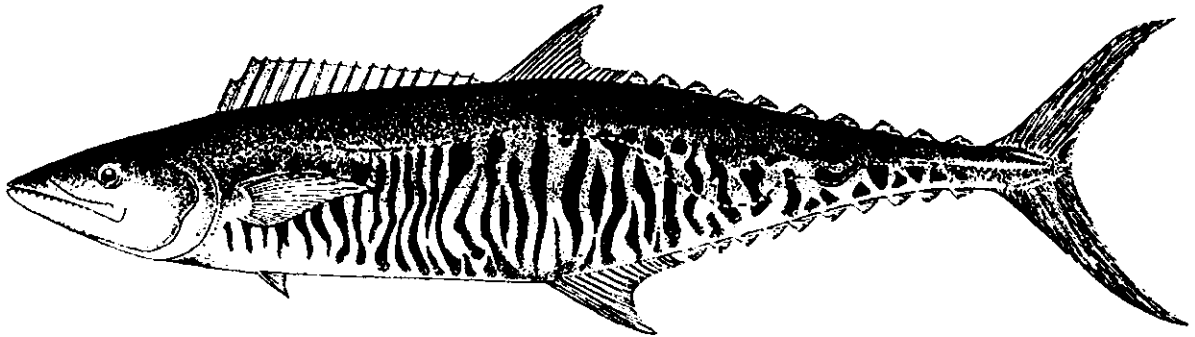
English Names: Striped bonito, striped mackerel.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNAS

Family Scombridae

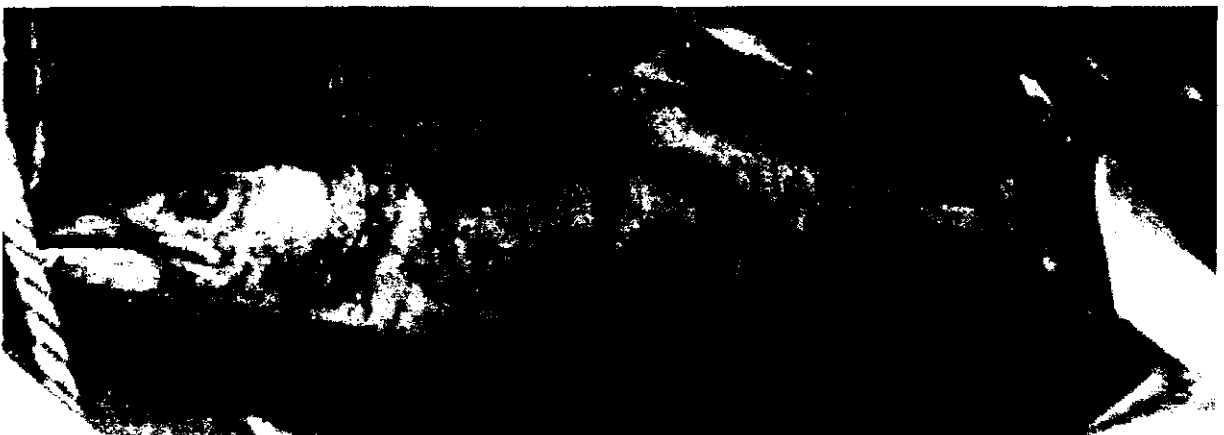
Scomberomorus commersoni (Lacepede, 1800)



Scomberomorus commersoni MAITTA

Local Names: Maitta, maittya, surma. **English Names:** Seerfish, banded seerfish, Spanish mackerel, narrowbarred Spanish mackerel, kingfish.

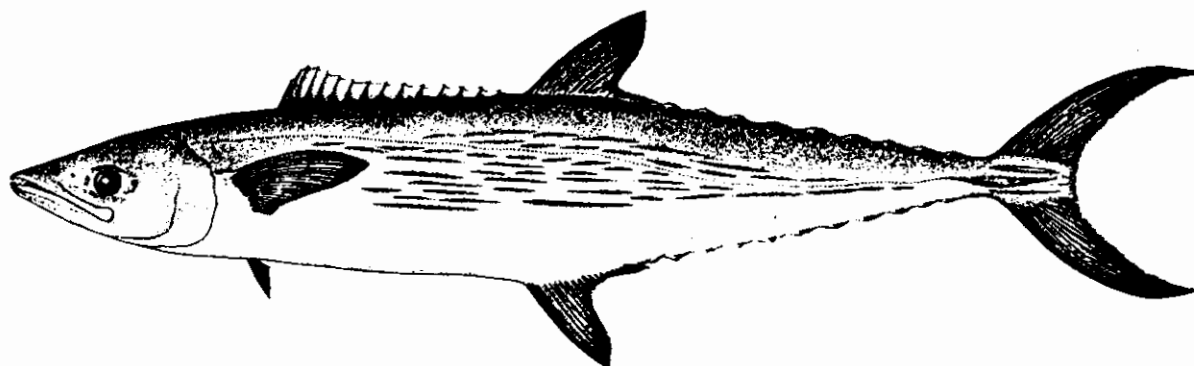
This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). A large specimen was seen by the author at Dubla Char in January 2001 which is provisionally identified as *Scomberomorus commersoni*.



MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNAS

Family Scombridae

Scomberomorus lineolatus (Cuvier, 1831)



Scomberomorus lineolatus

English Names: Streaked seerfish.

This large species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Several juvenile specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and November 2001 which are provisionally identified as *Scomberomorus lineolatus*.



MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNAS

Family Scombridae

Scomberomorus guttatus (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)



Scomberomorus guttatus MAITTA

Local Names: Maitta, maittya, suramai.

English Names: Spotted seerfish, Indopacific king mackerel, spotted Spanish mackerel.

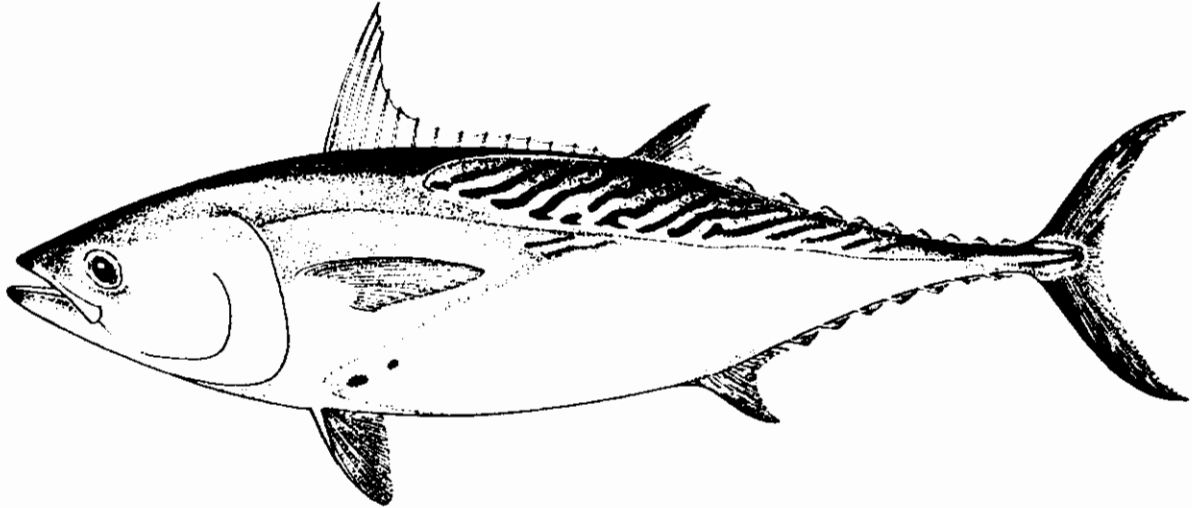
This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.



MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNAS

Family Scombridae

Euthynnus affinis (Cantor, 1849)



***Euthynnus affinis* MAITTA**

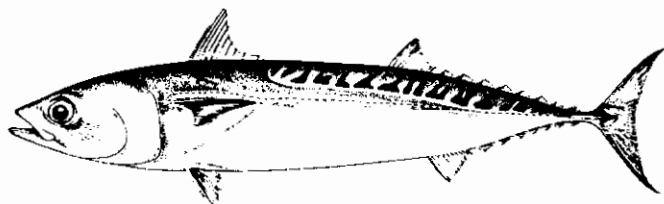
Local Names: Maitta, bom maittya. **English Names:** Eastern little tuna, kawakawa, mackerel.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

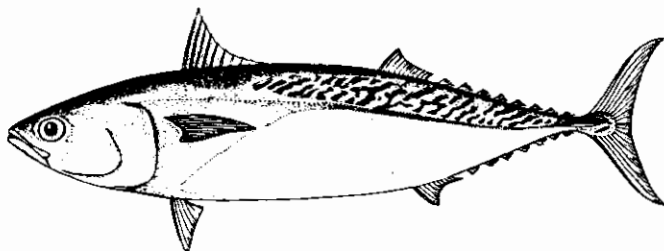
MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNAS

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

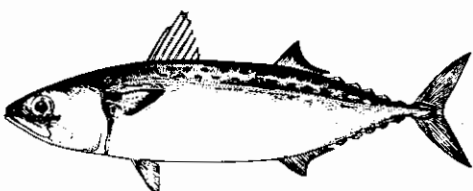
Several other species of scombrids have been recorded from the northern Bay of Bengal and some of these may eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans:



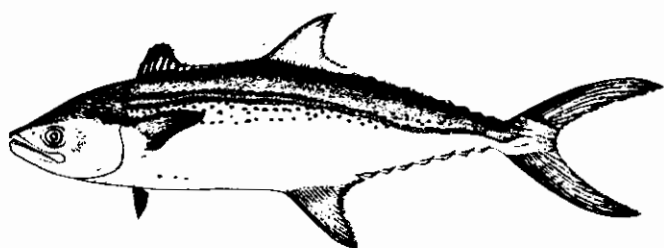
Family Scombridae
Auxis rochei (Risso, 1810)
Bullet tuna, bullet mackerel



Family Scombridae
Auxis thazard (Lacepede, 1800)
Frigate tuna, frigate mackerel



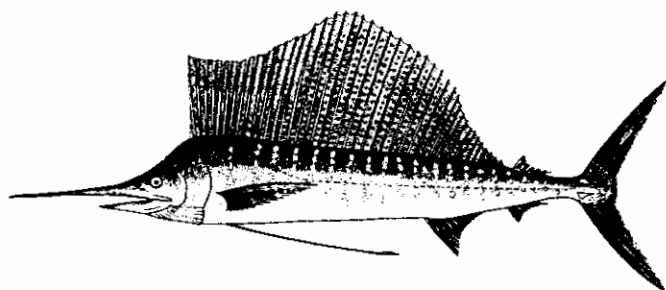
Family Scombridae
Rastrelliger faughni Matsui, 1967
Island mackerel



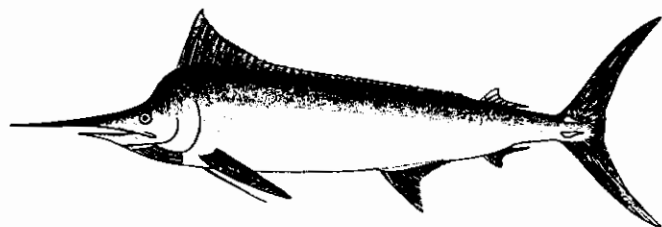
Family Scombridae
Scomberomorus koreanus
(Kishinouye, 1915))
Korean seerfish

MACKERELS, SEERFISHES & TUNAS

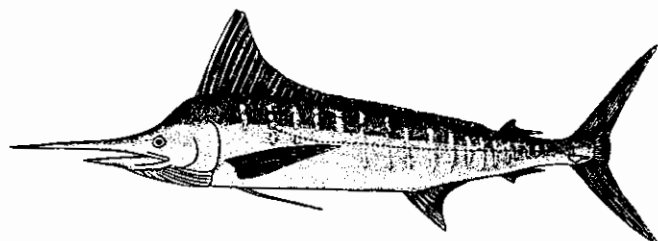
The billfishes (Families Istiophoridae and Xiphidae) are related to the scombrids. Several of these large species are known from the northern Bay of Bengal but have not yet been recorded from the Sundarbans:



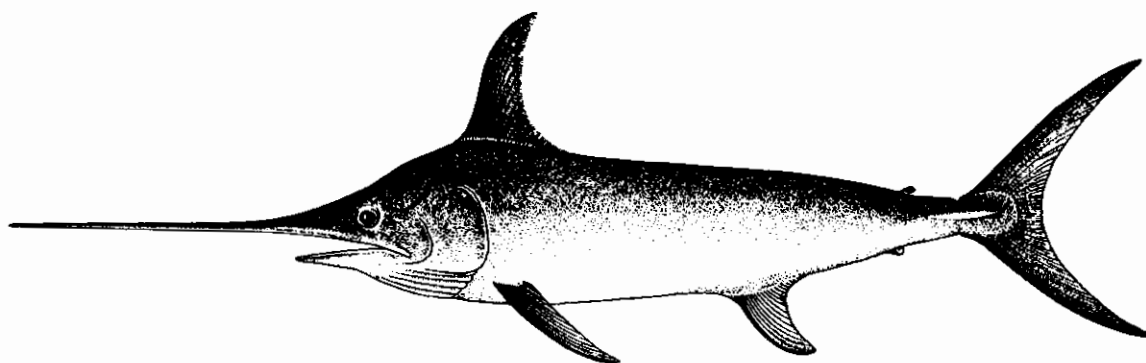
Family Istiophoridae
Istiophorus platypterus (Shaw & Nodder, 1792)
Indo-Pacific sailfish
Two large specimens were seen by the author at the BFDC wholesale fish landing and market at Cox's Bazar in November 1997.



Family Istiophoridae
Makaira indica (Cuvier, 1832)
Black marlin



Family Istiophoridae
Tetrapterus audax (Philippi, 1887)
Striped marlin



Family Xiphidae *Xiphias gladius* Linnaeus, 1758 Swordfish

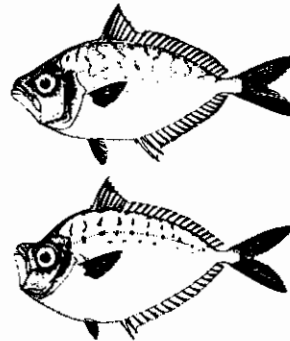
PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

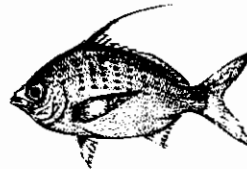
Leiognathidae
Ponyfishes

Gazza minuta
Leiognathus bindus
Leiognathus equulus
Leiognathus fasciatus
Secutor insidiator
Secutor ruconius



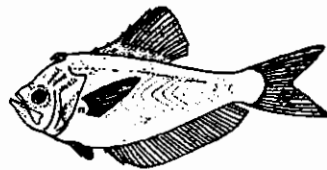
Gerreidae
Silverbiddies

Gerres filamentosus
Pentaprion longimanus



Kurtidae
Humphead

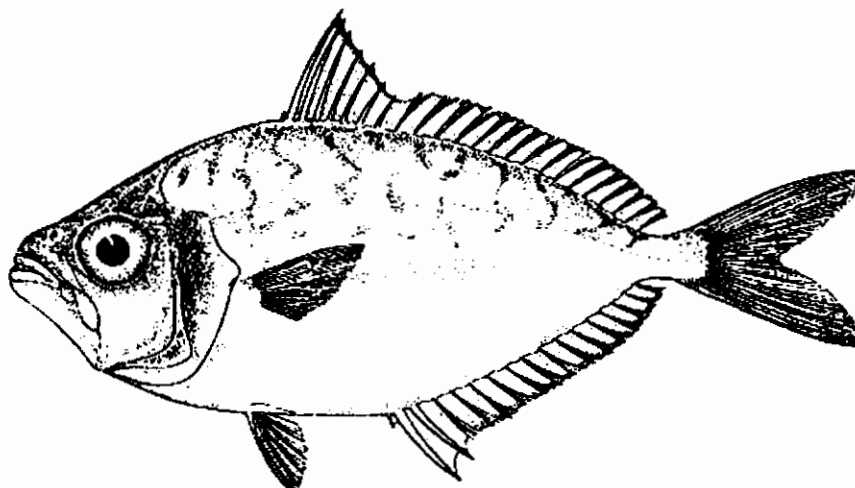
Kurtus indicus



PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

Family Leiognathidae

Gazza minuta (Bloch, 1797)



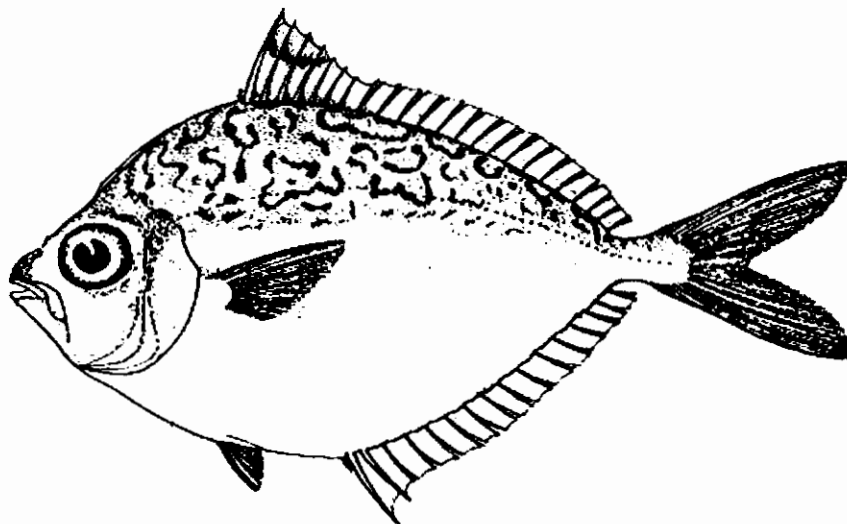
***Gazza minuta* TAKA CHANDA**

Local Names: Taka chanda. **English Names:** Toothed ponyfish.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Leiognathidae

Leiognathus bindus (Valenciennes, 1835)



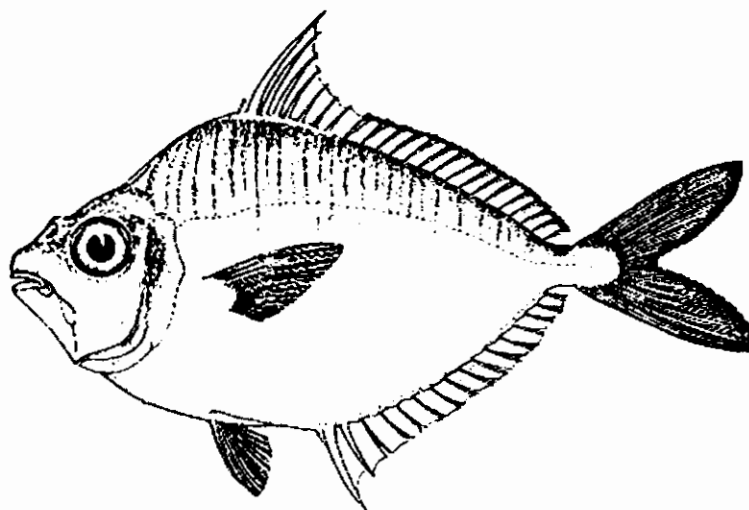
***Leiognathus bindus* TAKA CHANDA**

Local Names: Taka chanda. **English Names:** Orangefin ponyfish.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

Family *Leiognathidae*
Leiognathus equulus (Forsskal, 1775)



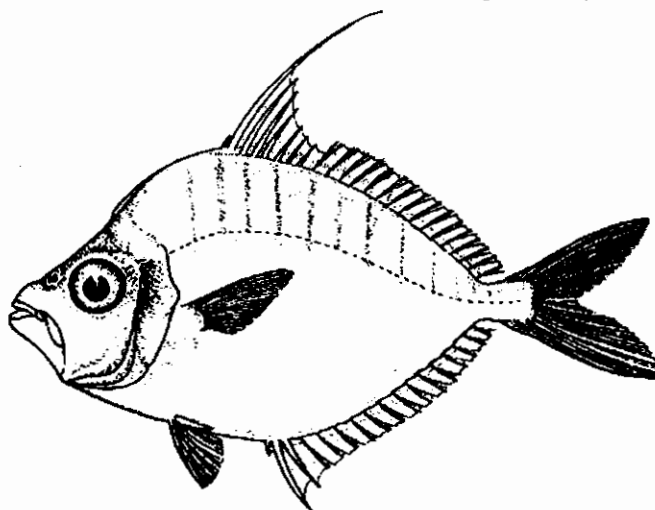
***Leiognathus equulus* TAKA CHANDA**

Local Names: Taka chanda. **English Names:** Common ponyfish.

Reproduction: fecundity; breeding season; breeding migration; breeding behavior.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family *Leiognathidae*
Leiognathus fasciatus (Lacepede, 1803)



***Leiognathus fasciatus* TAKA CHANDA**

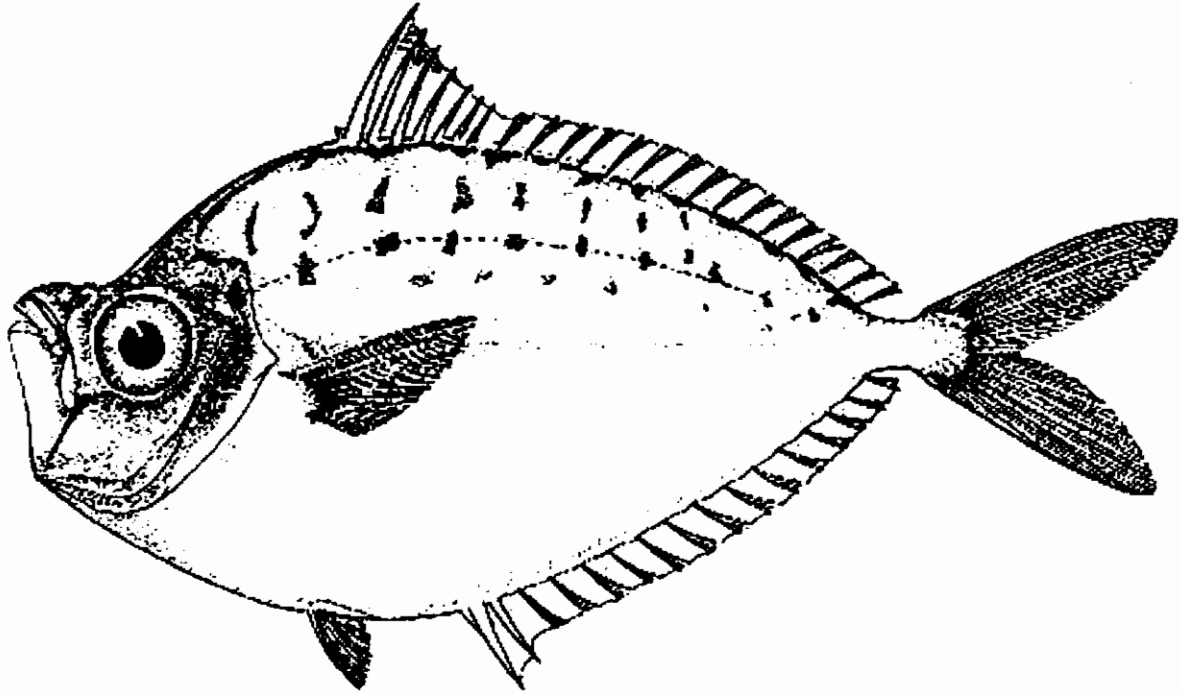
Local Names: Taka chanda. **English Names:** Striped ponyfish.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

Family Leiognathidae

Secutor insidiator (Bloch, 1797)

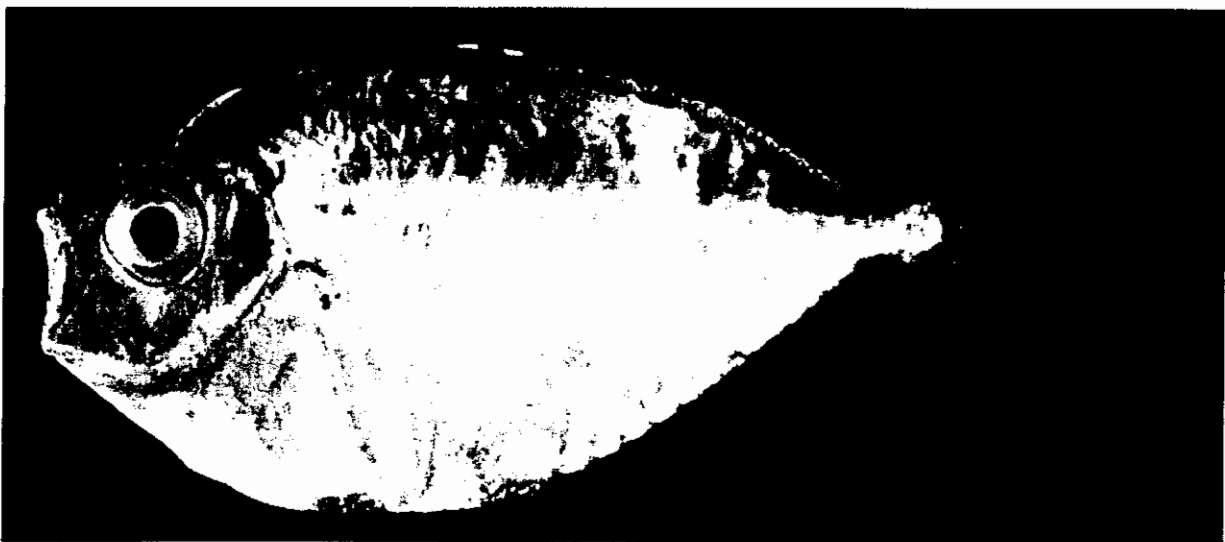


Secutor insidiator TAKA CHANDA

Local Names: Taka chanda.

English Names: Pugnose ponyfish.

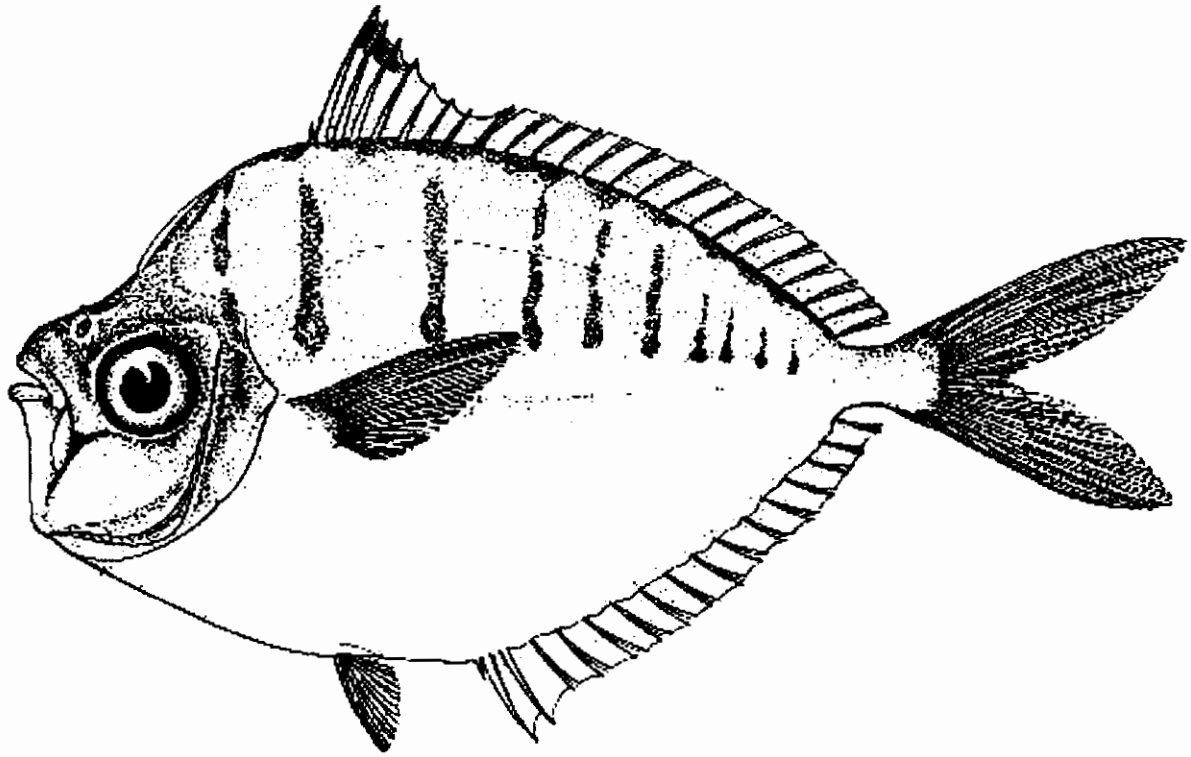
This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). One specimen was seen by the author at Dubla Char in November 2001.



PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

Family Leiognathidae

Secutor ruconius (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Secutor ruconius TAKA CHANDA

Local Names: Taka chanda.

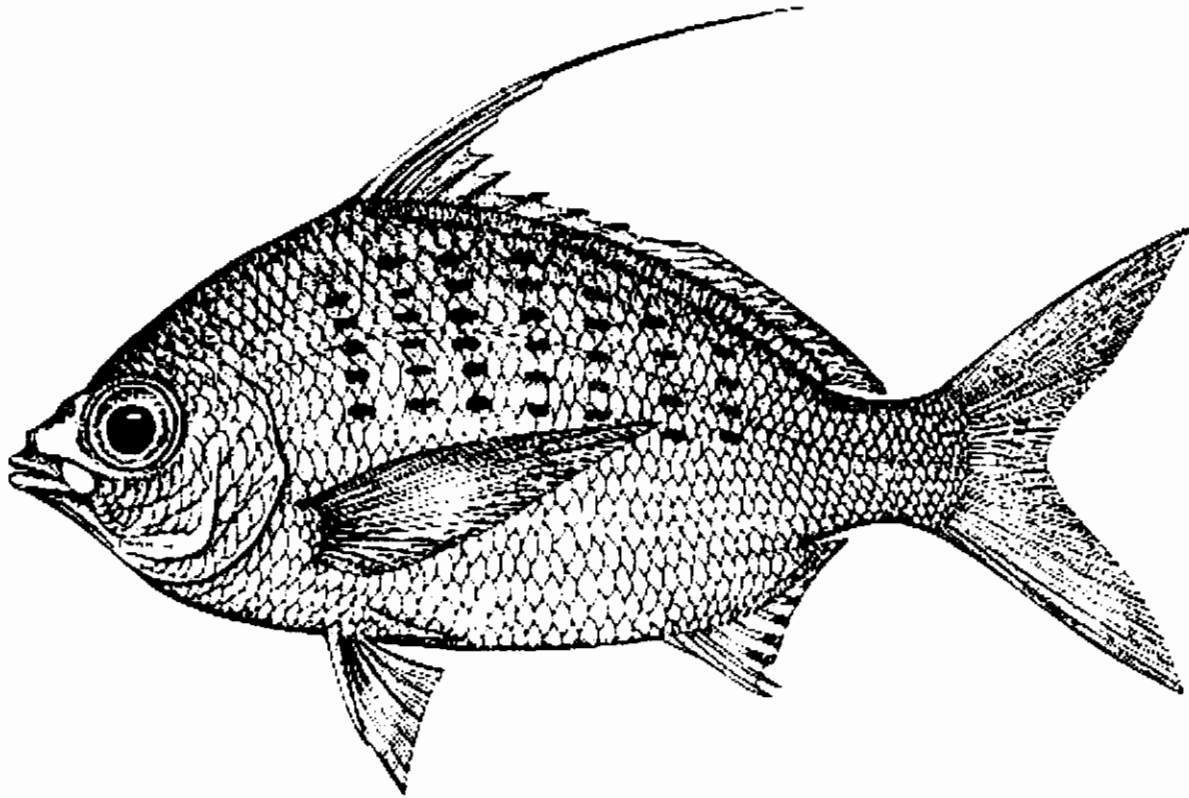
English Names: Deep pugnose ponyfish.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

Family Gerreidae

Gerres filamentosus (Cuvier, 1829)



***Gerres filamentosus* DOM**

Local Names: Dom.

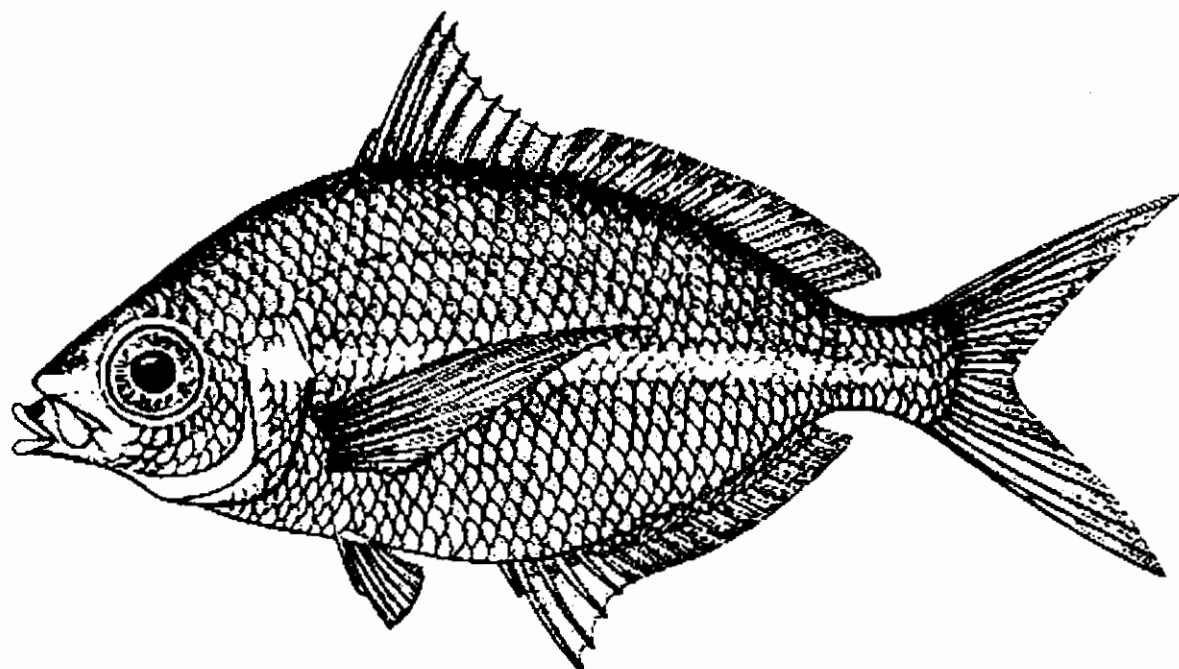
English Names: Whiptail silver biddy.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

PNYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

Family Gerreidae

Pentaprion longimanus (Cantor, 1850)



Pentaprion longimanus JAGIRI

Local Names: Jagiri.

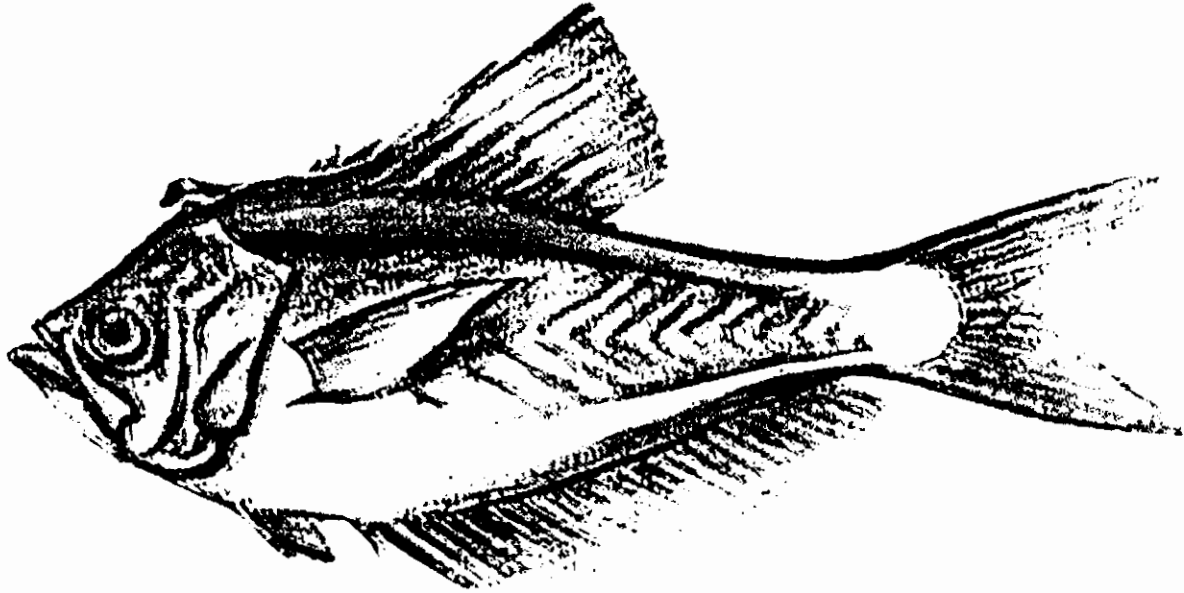
English Names: Longfin silver biddy.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

PONYFISHES, SILVERBIDDIES & HUMPHEAD

Family Kurtidae

Kurtus indicus Bloch, 1786

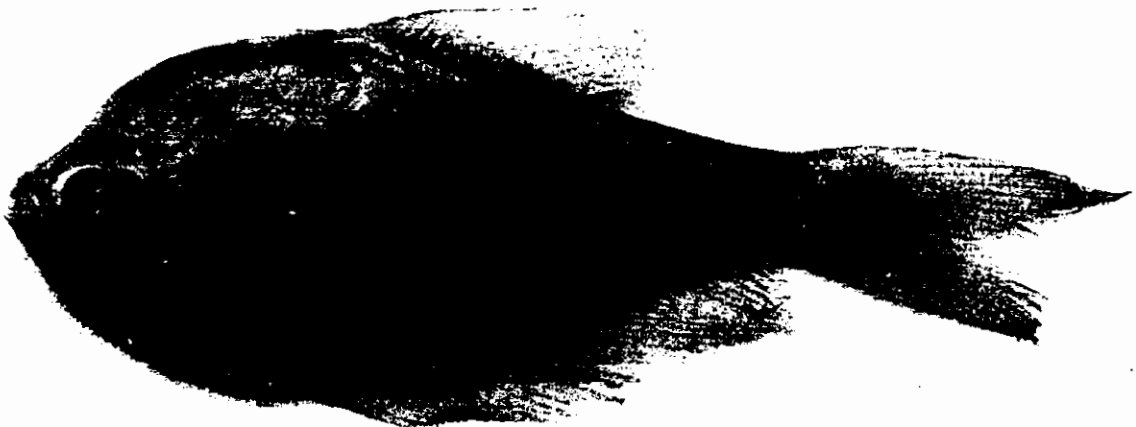


Kurtus indicus JUTI

Local Names: Juti, shangrai.

English Names: Indian humphead.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several specimens are preserved in FAO fish collection.



SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

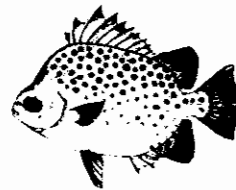
SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

(and Related Fishes)

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

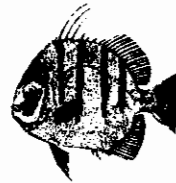
Scatophagidae
Scats

Scatophagus argus



Ephippidae
Spadefishes

Ephippus orbis



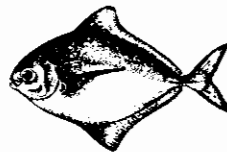
Stromateidae
Silver Pomfrets

Pampus chinensis
Pampus argenteus



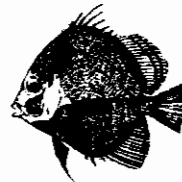
Carangidae
Black Pomfret

Parastromateus niger



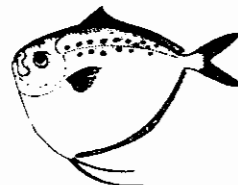
Drepanidae
Sicklefishes

Drepane longimana
Drepane punctata



Menidae
Moonfishes

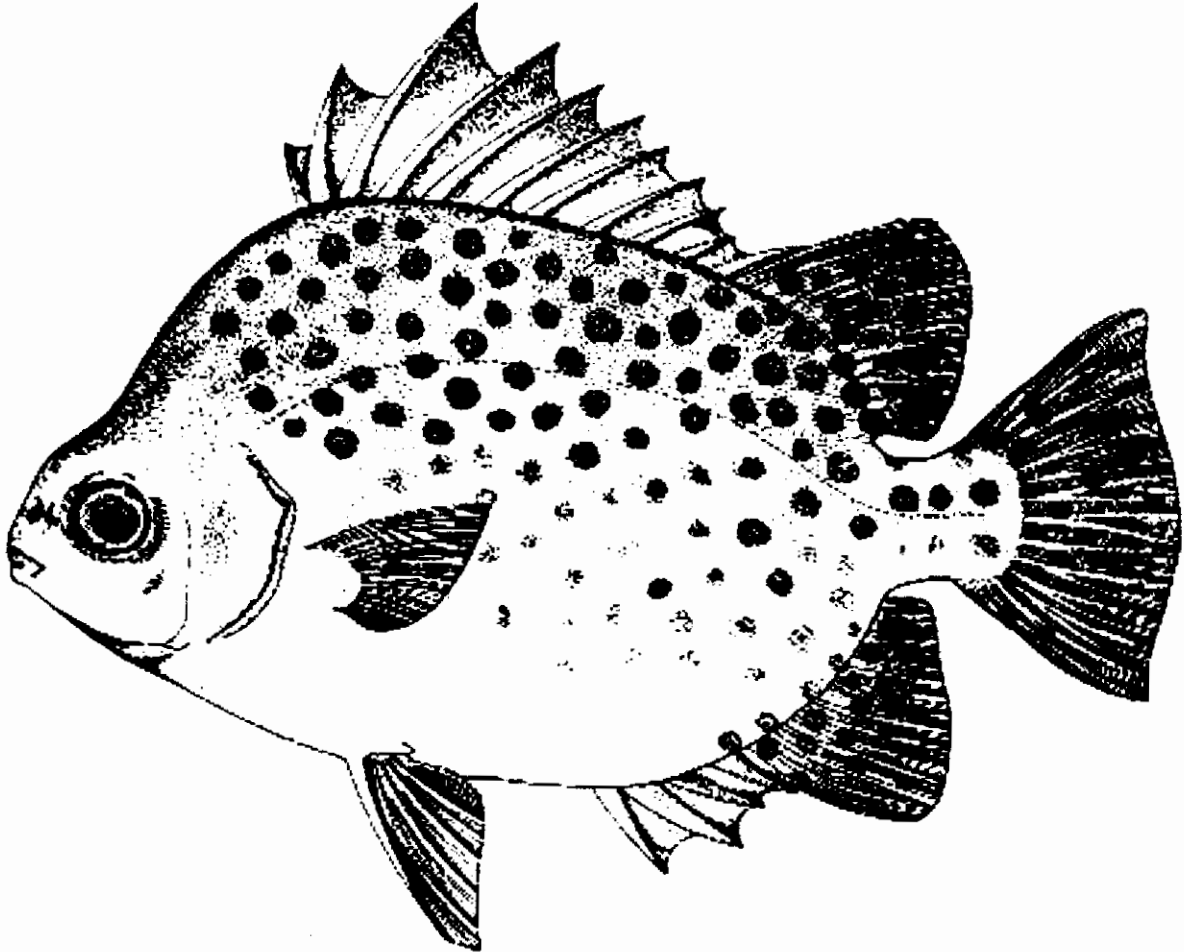
Mene maculata



SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

Family Scatophagidae

Scatophagus argus (Bloch, 1758)



Scatophagus argus **BISHTARA**

Local Names: Bishtara, chitra. **English Names:** Spotted scat.

This medium size and commercially important species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. Many specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and January 2001, and also in November 2001. It appears to be very common in the forest rivers.

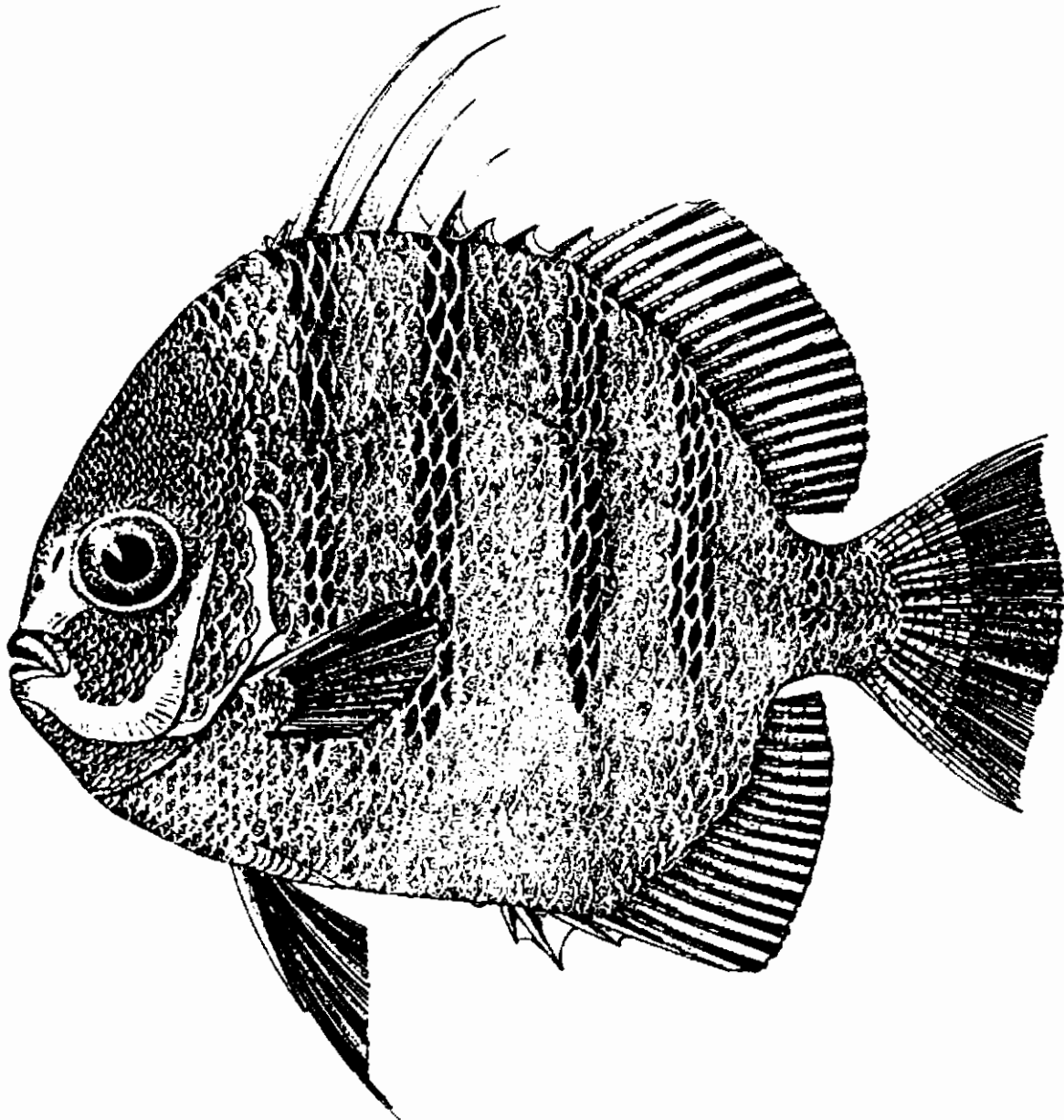
SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES



SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

Family Ehippidae

Ehippus orbis (Bloch, 1787)



Ehippus orbis HATIR KAN

Local Names: Hatir kan.

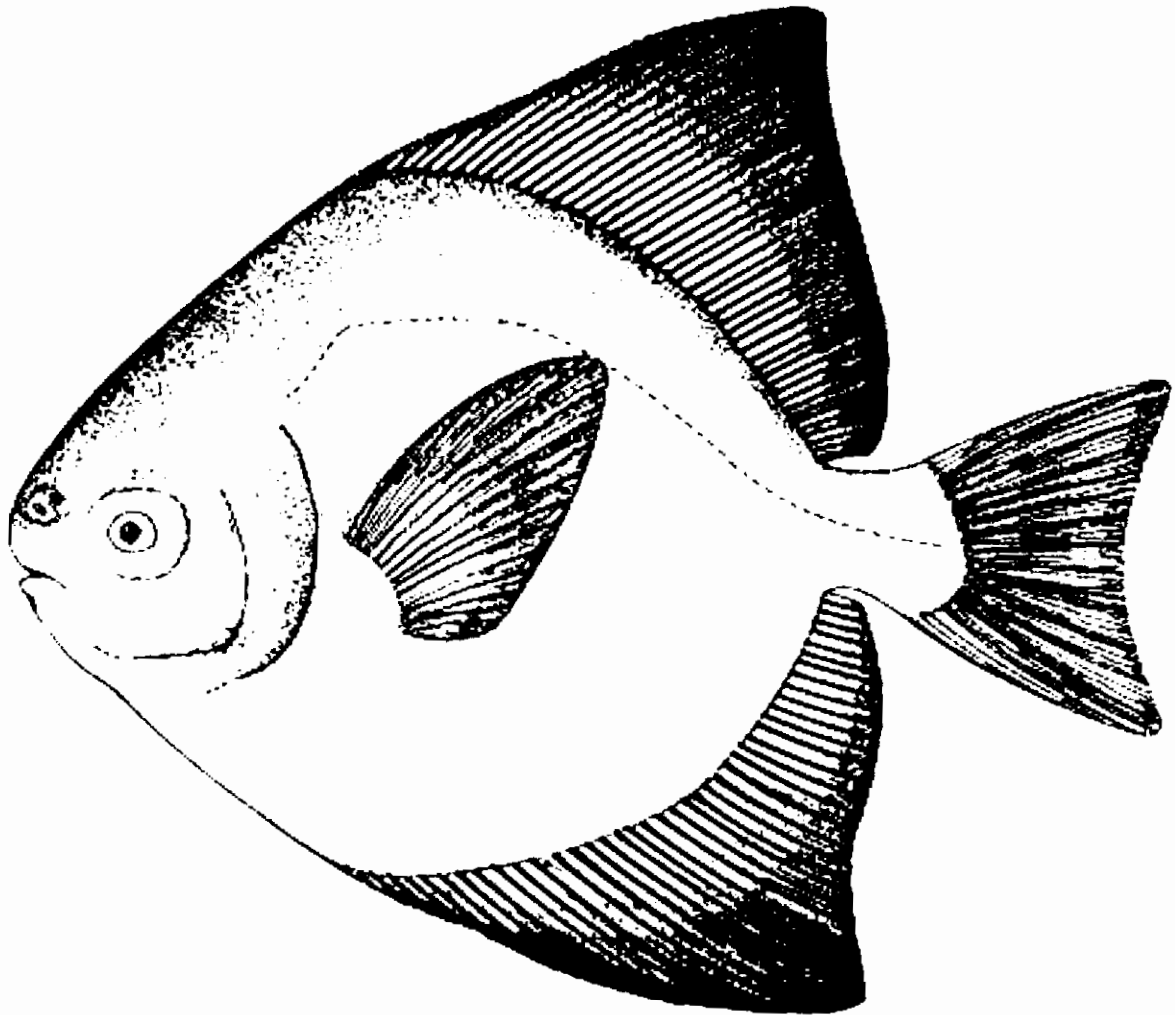
English Names: Spadefish.

This medium size species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

Family Stromateidae

Pampus chinensis (Euphrasen, 1788)



Pampus chinensis RUP CHANDA

Local Names: Rup chanda.

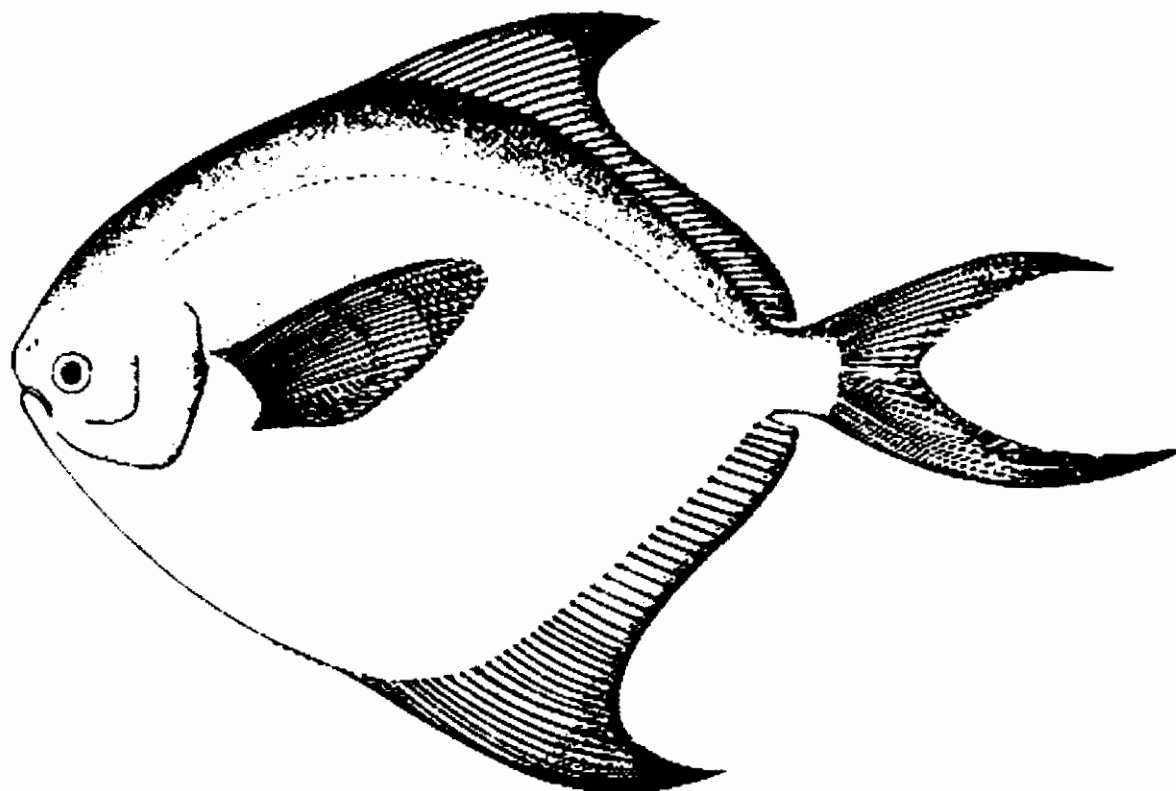
English Names: Chinese pomfret.

This large pomfret was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) and Rahman (1989). No specimens were seen by the author. It would appear to be less abundant than *Pampus argenteus*.

SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

Family Stromateidae

Pampus argenteus (Euphrasen, 1788)



Pampus argenteus RUP CHANDA

Local Names: Rup chanda, foli chanda. English Names: Silver pomfret.

This large and commercially valuable pomfret was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994) and Rahman (1989). Many specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and January 2001, and some in November 2001. The species is an important part of the behundi net catch from the Sundarbans marine zone.

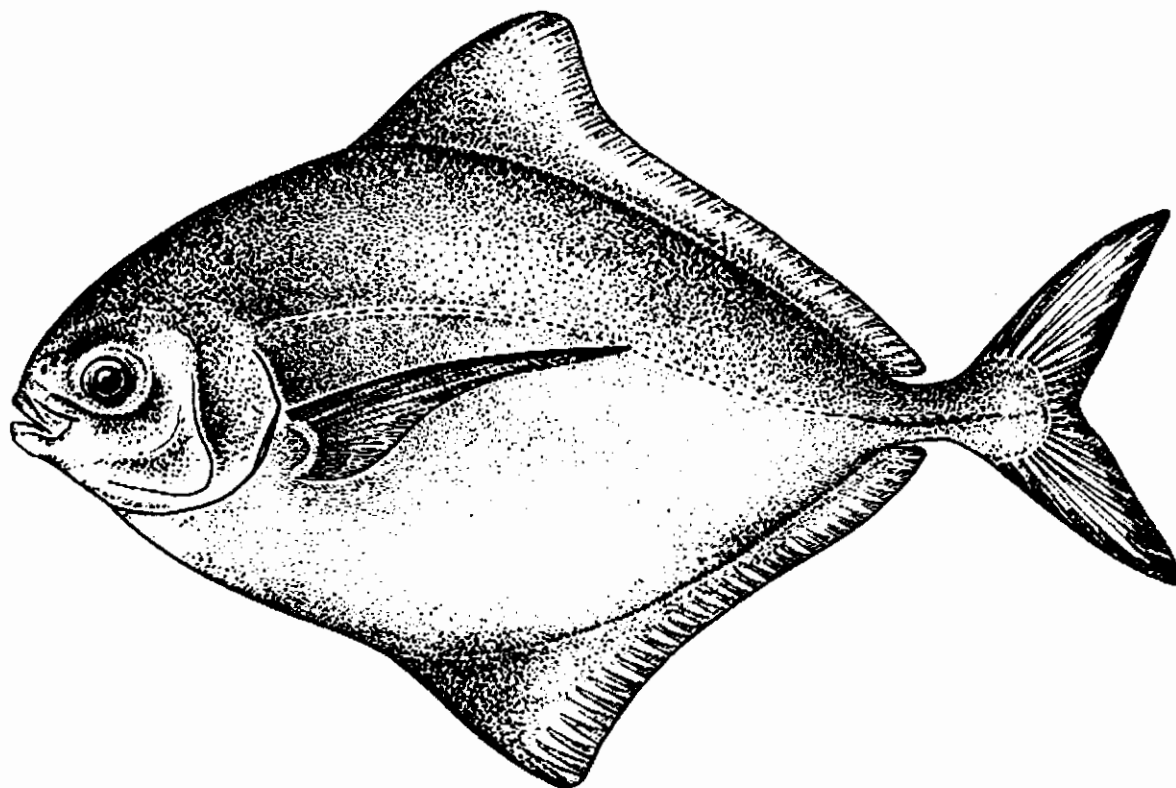
SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES



SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

Family Carangidae

Parastromateus niger (Bloch, 1795)



Parastromateus niger HAIL CHANDA

Local Names: Hail chanda. English Names: Black pomfret.

This species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000.

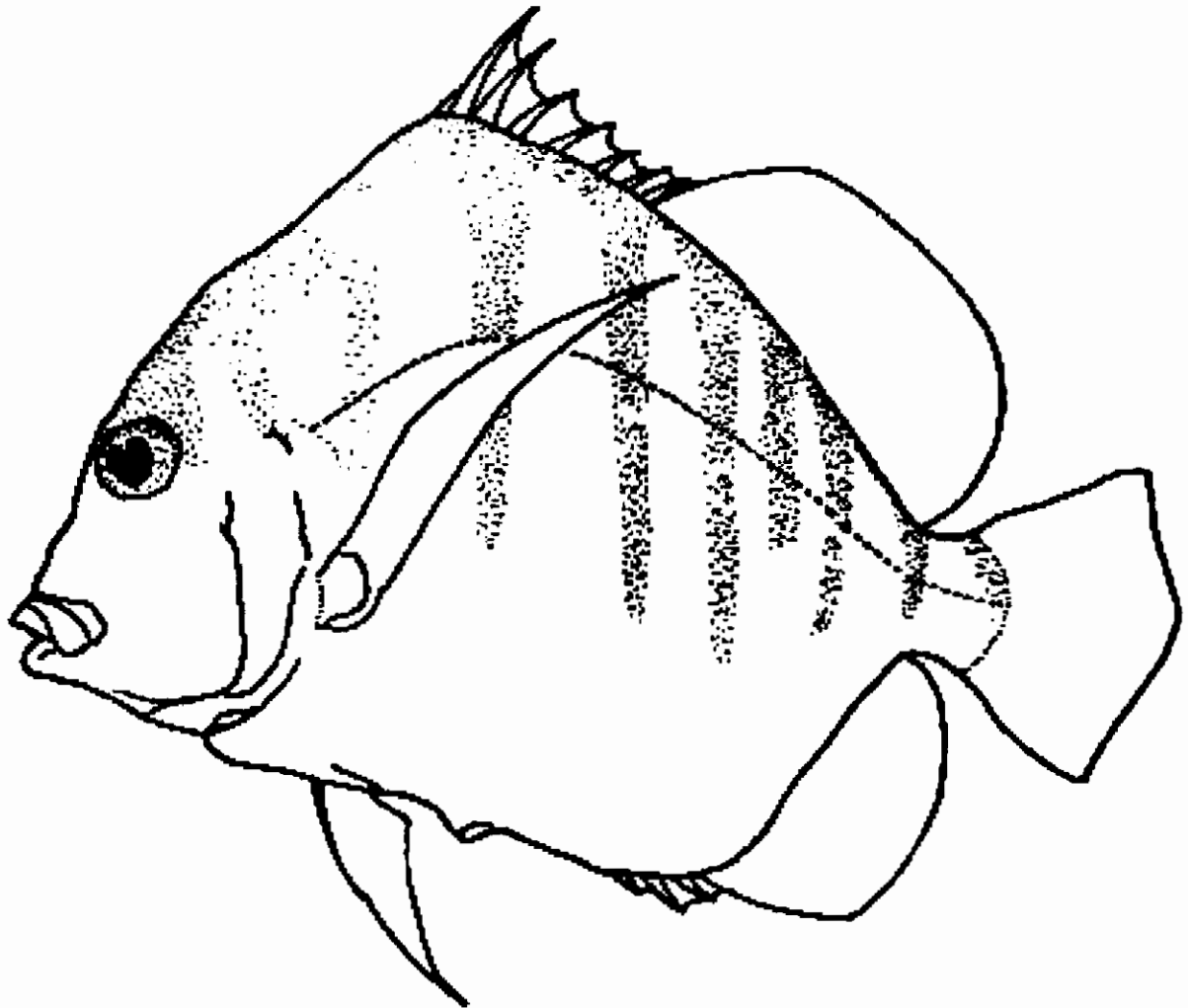
SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES



SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

Family Drepanidae

Drepane longimana (Bloch and Schneider)



Drepane longimana PAN

Local Names: Pan.

English Names: Banded sicklefish.

This medium size species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. One specimen was seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000.

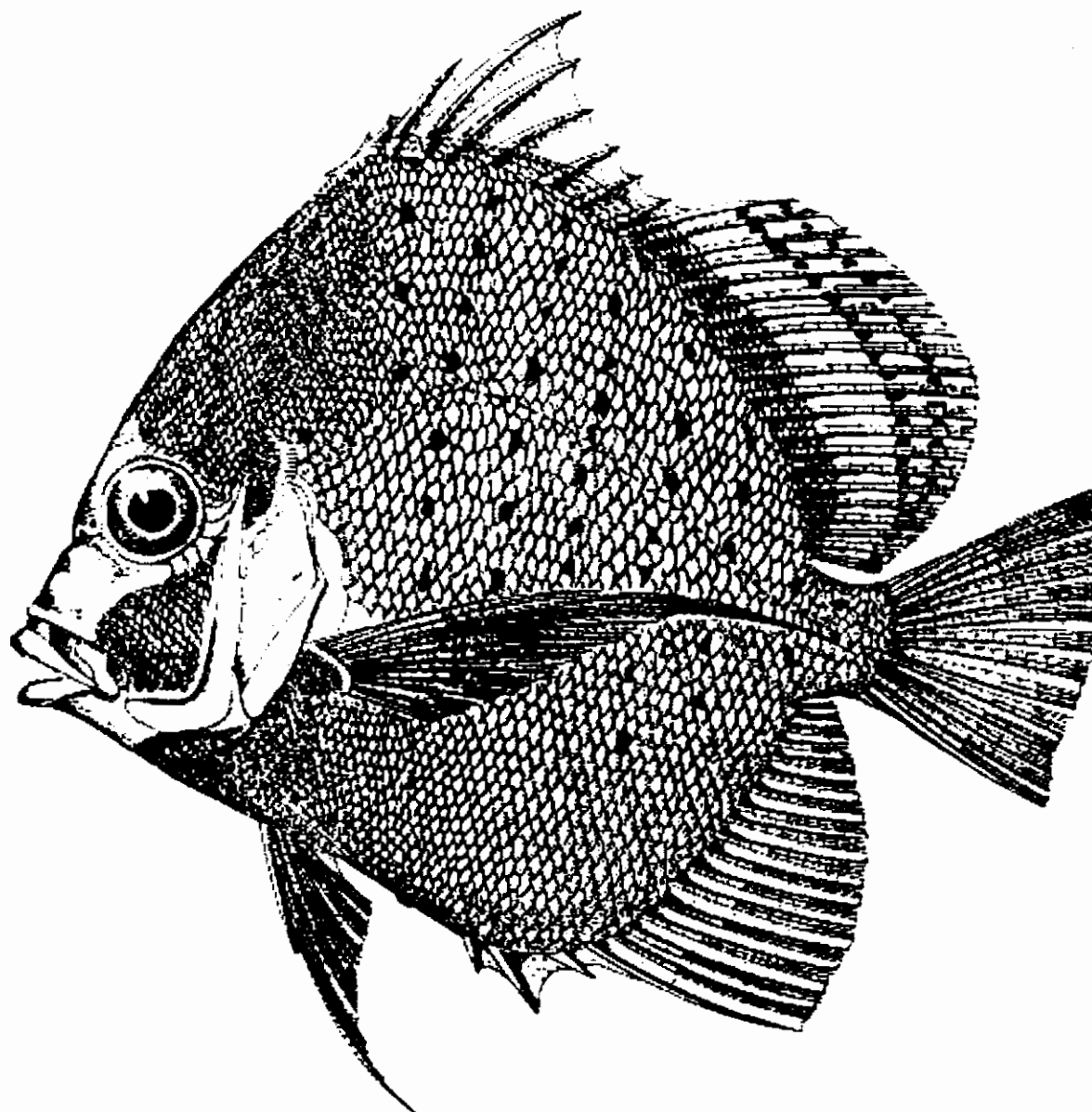
SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES



SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

Family Drepanidae

Drepane punctata (Linnaeus, 1758)



Drepane punctata PAN

Local Names: Pan.

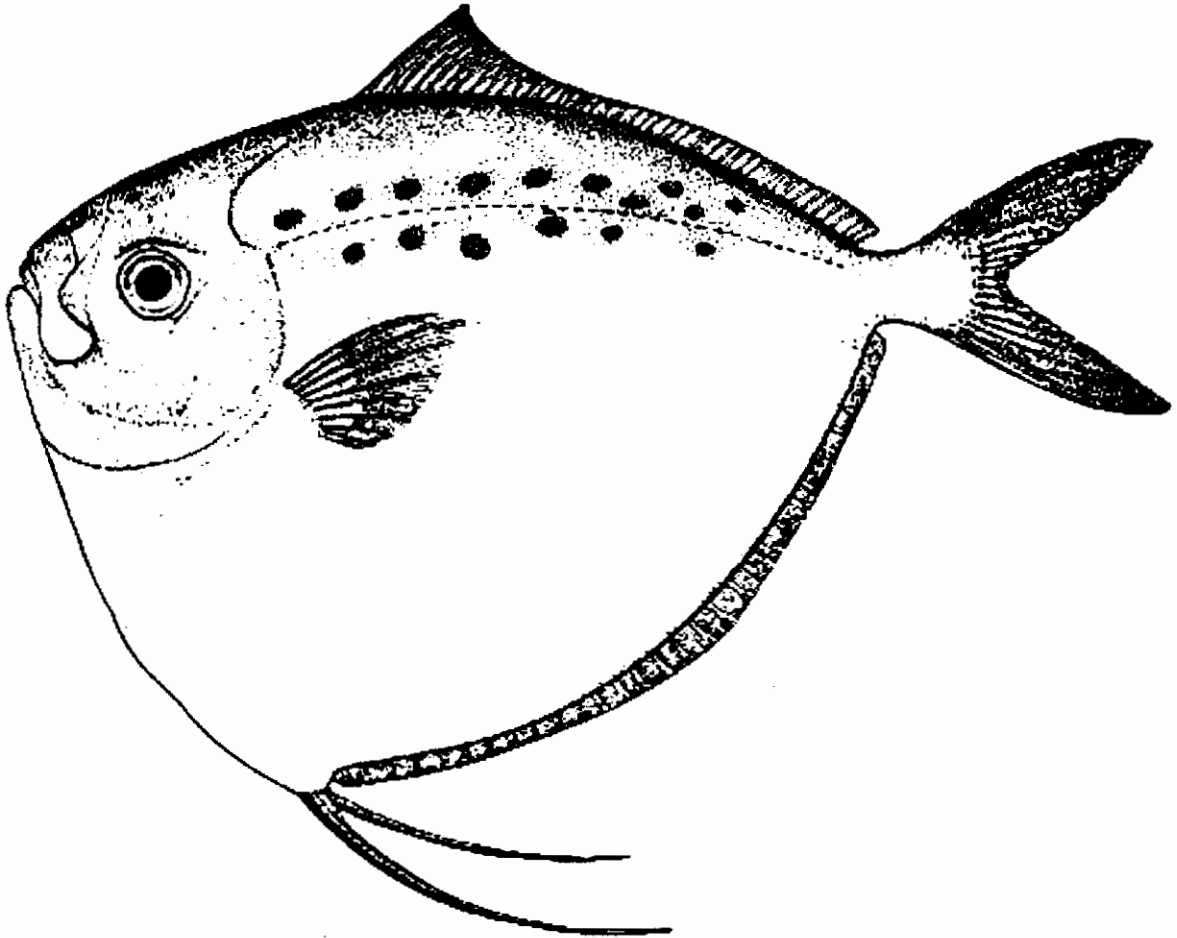
English Names: Spotted sicklefish.

This medium size species was recorded Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

SCATS, POMFRETS & SICKLEFISHES

Family Menidae

Mene maculata (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)



Mene maculata CHAN CHANDA

Local Names: Chan chanda.

English Names: Moonfish.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.



Charpata jal and sundri poles



Charpata jal hung on tree for drying



Charpata jal in raised position during low tide

**CHARPATA JAL
USED TO CATCH SCAT, SEABASS, GROUPE, SILVER GRUNT
AND GOLDA CHINGRI IN FOREST KHALS**

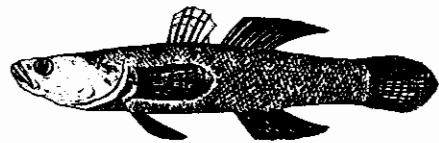
GOBIES, MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

GOBIES, MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

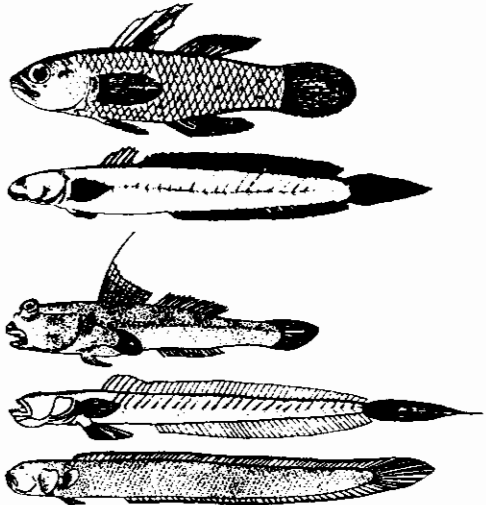
Eleotridae
Sleeper gobies

Eleotris fusca
Butis melanostigma
Butis butis



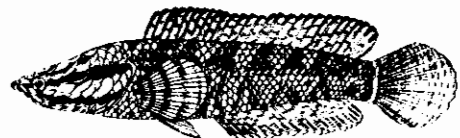
Gobiidae
Gobies,
mudskippers,
eelgobies &
burrowing gobies

Glossogobius giurus
Pogonogobius planiformes
Stigmatogobius sadanundio
Brachygobius nusus
Apocryptes bato
Pseudapocryptes lanceolatus
Parapocryptes batoides
Scartelaos histophorus
Periophthalmodon schlosseri
Boleophthalmus boddarti
Periophthalmus koelreuteri
Odontamblyopus rubicundus
Taenioides buchanani
Trypauchan vagina



Channidae
Snakeheads

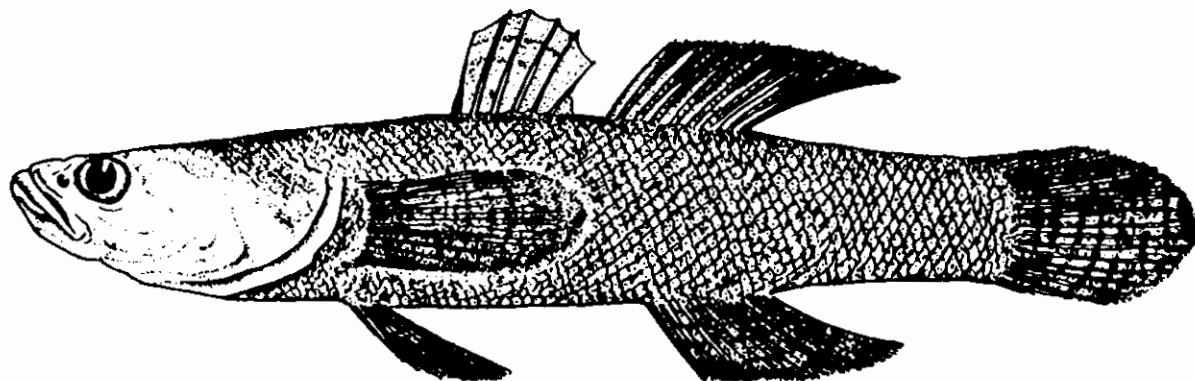
Channa orientalis
Channa punctata
Channa striatus



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Eleotridae

Eleotris fusca (Schneider, 1801)



***Eleotris fusca* BUDH BAILA**

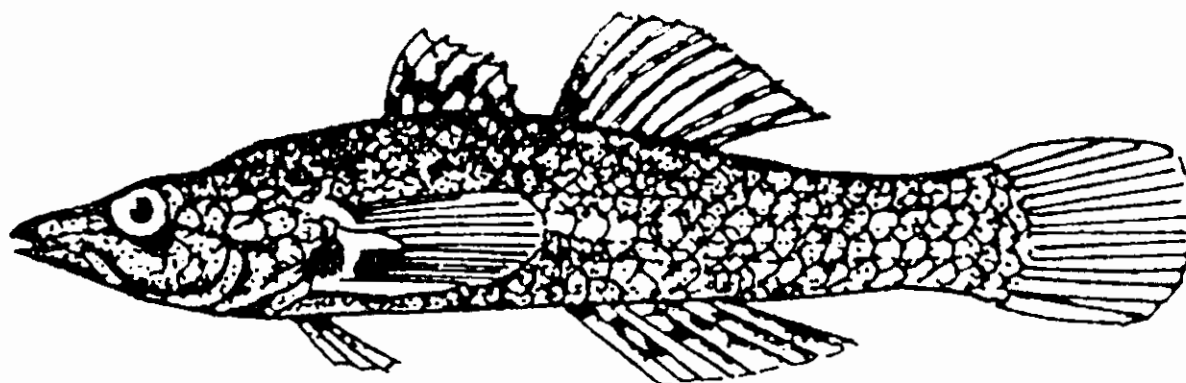
Local Names: Budh baila, kuli.

English Names: Dusky sleeper goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Eleotridae

Butis melanostigma (Bleeker, 1849)



***Butis melanostigma* KALO BAILA**

Local Names: Kalo baila, kuli.

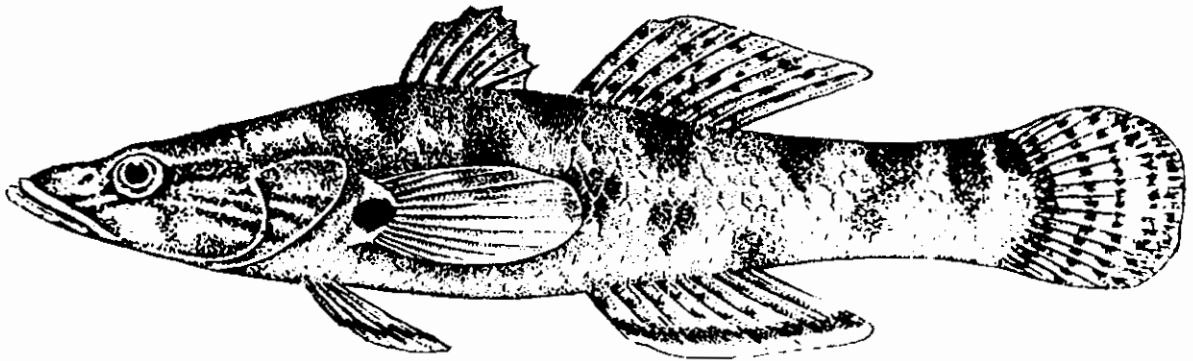
English Names: Blackspot sleeper goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Eleotridae

Butis butis (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Butis butis BAILA

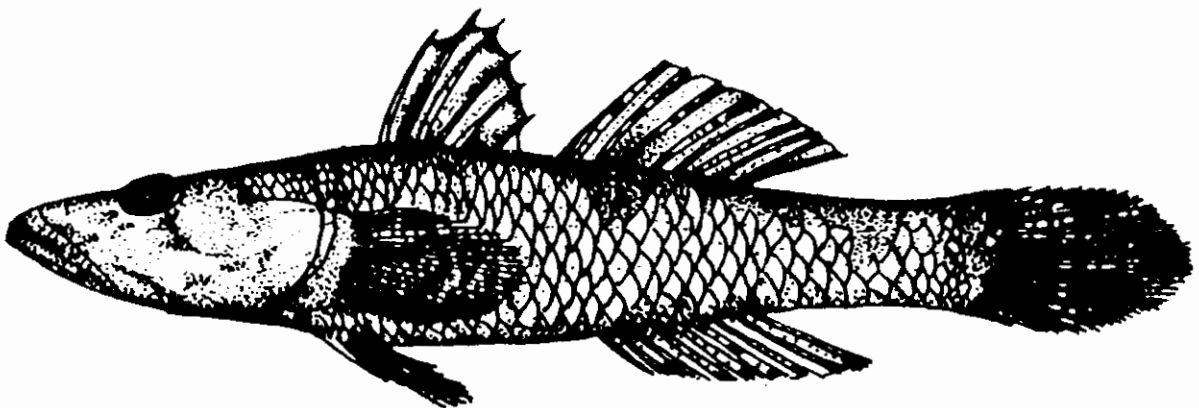
Local Names: Baila.

English Names: Duckbill sleeper goby.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

Family Gobiidae

Glossogobius giurus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Glossogobius giurus BAILA

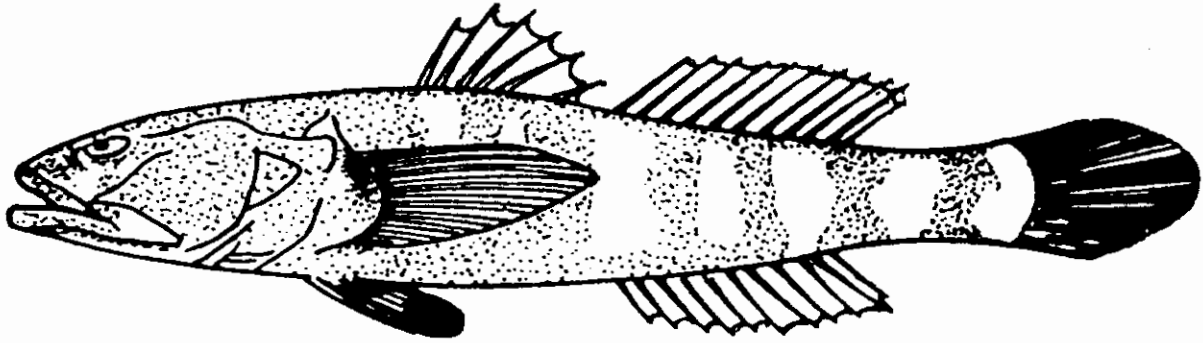
Local Names: Baila.

English Names: Tank goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. One specimens was seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000.

GOBIES, MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Pogonogobius planiformes (Day, 1873)



Pogonogobius planiformes BAILA

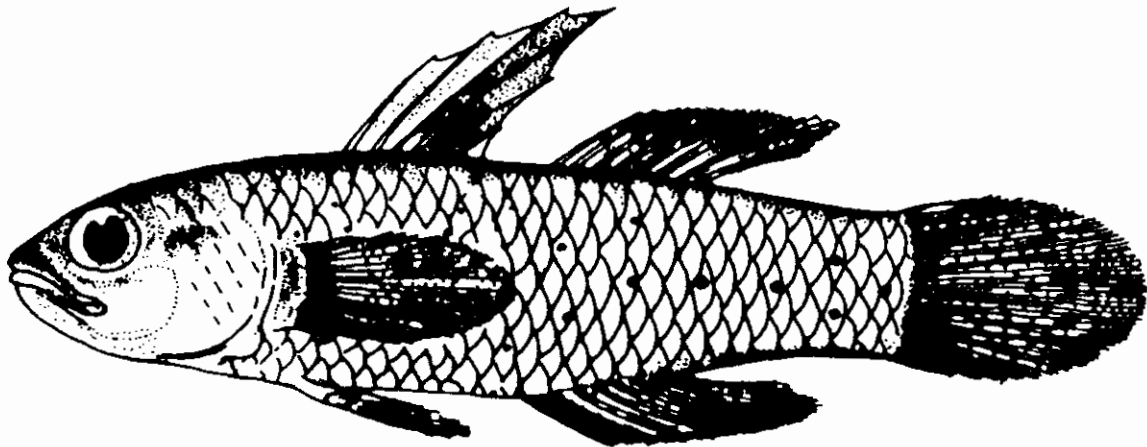
Local Names: Baila.

English Names: Goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Gobiidae

Stigmatogobius sadanundio (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Stigmatogobius sadanundio BAILA

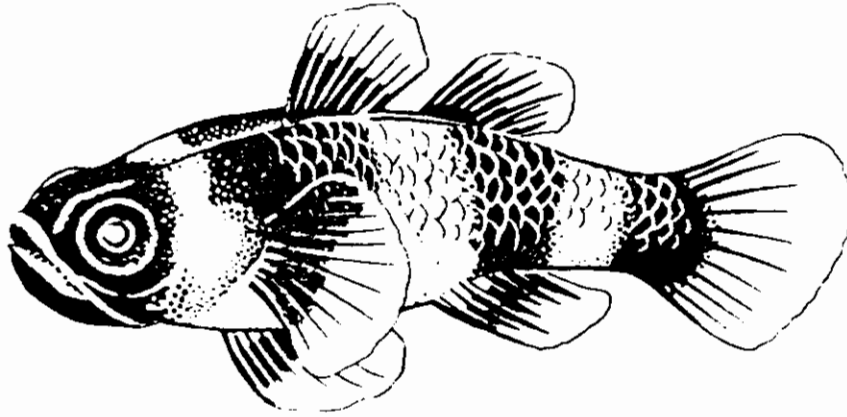
Local Names: Baila. English Names: Goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Brachygobius nunus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Brachygobius nunus* NUNA BAILA**

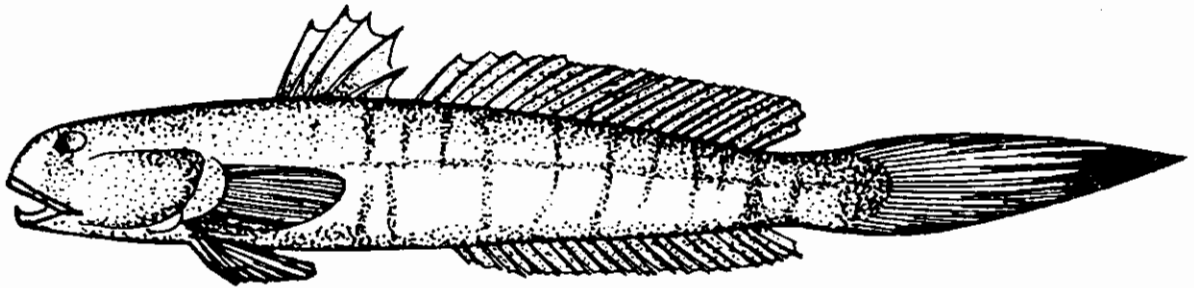
Local Names: Nuna baila, chat baila.

English Names: Bumblebee goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Gobiidae

Apocryptes bato (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Apocryptes bato* CHIRING**

Local Names: Chiring.

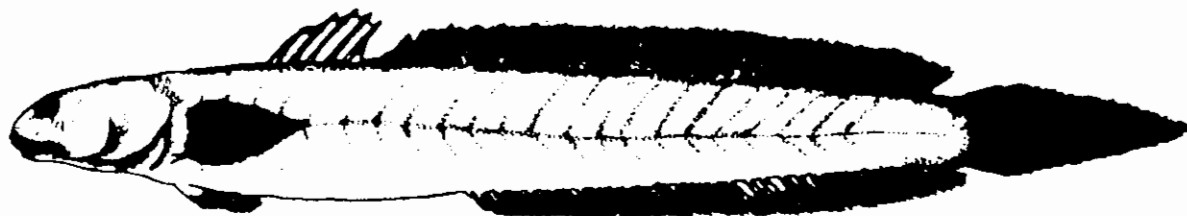
English Names: Goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Pseudapocryptes lanceolatus (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

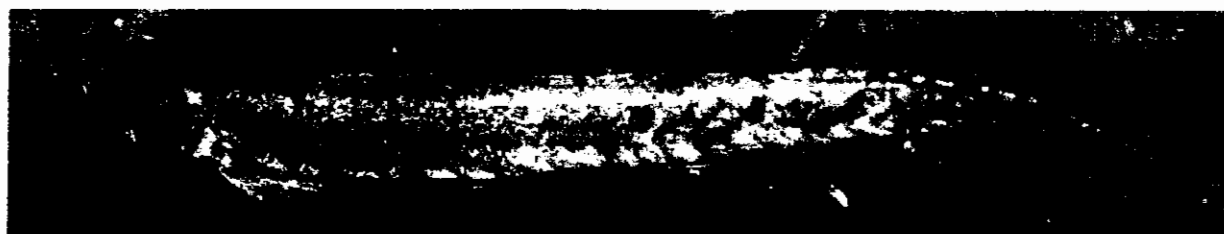


Pseudapocryptes lanceolatus CHIRING

Local Names: Chiring, chewa.

English Names: Goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. Several specimen were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and November 2001. These are provisionally identified as *Pseudapocryptes lanceolatus*.



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS



Photo above of *Pseudapocryptes lanceolatus*

GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Parapocryptes batoides (Day, 1876)



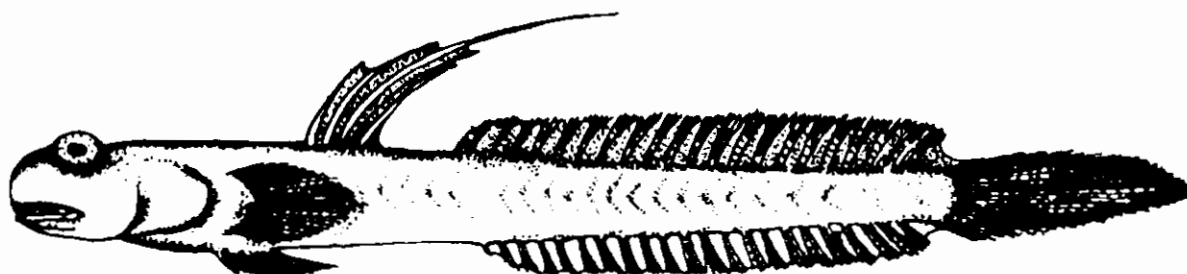
***Parapocryptes batoides* CHIRING**

Local Names: Chiring, chewa. English Names: Goby.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Gobiidae

Scartelaos histophorus (Valenciennes, 181837)



***Scartelaos histophorus* DAHUK**

Local Names: Dahuk. English Names: Goby.

Synonyms: *Scartelaos viridis*.

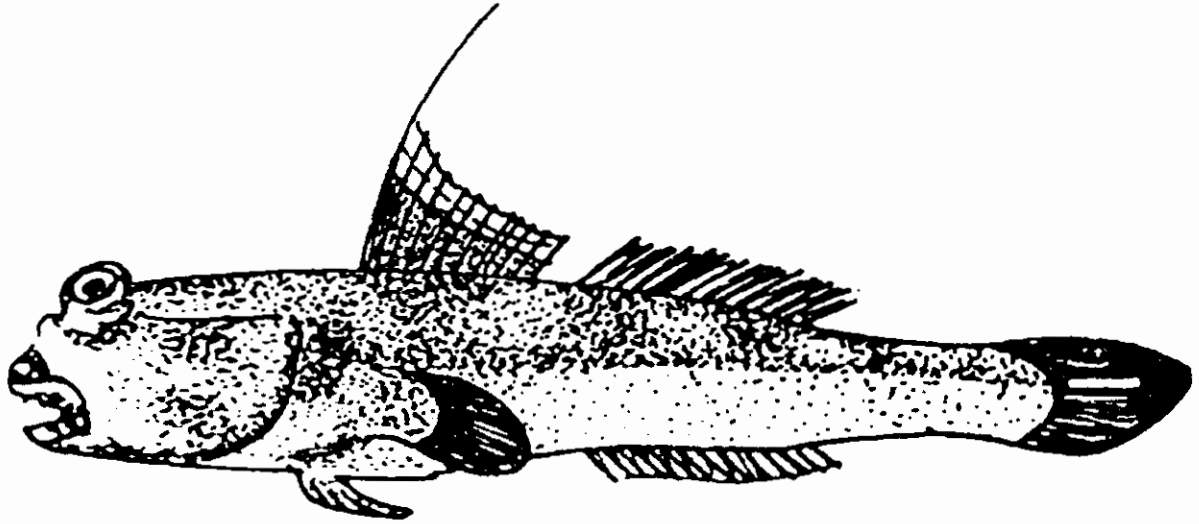
This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans as the synonym *Scartelaos viridis*. One specimens was seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in November 2001 which is provisionally identified as *Scartelaos histophorus*.



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Periophthalmodon schlosseri (Pallas, 1770)



Periophthalmodon schlosseri DAHUK

Local Names: Dahuk.

English Names: Mudskipper.

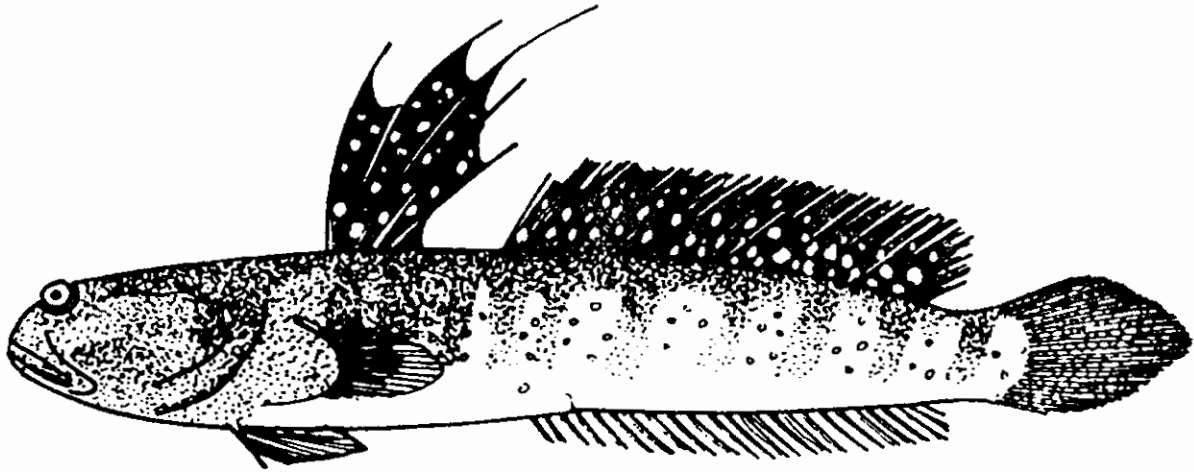
This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) and Rahman (1989) from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and November 2001.



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Boleophthalmus boddarti (Pallas, 1770)



***Boleophthalmus boddarti* DAHUK**

Local Names: Dahuk.

English Names: Mudskipper.

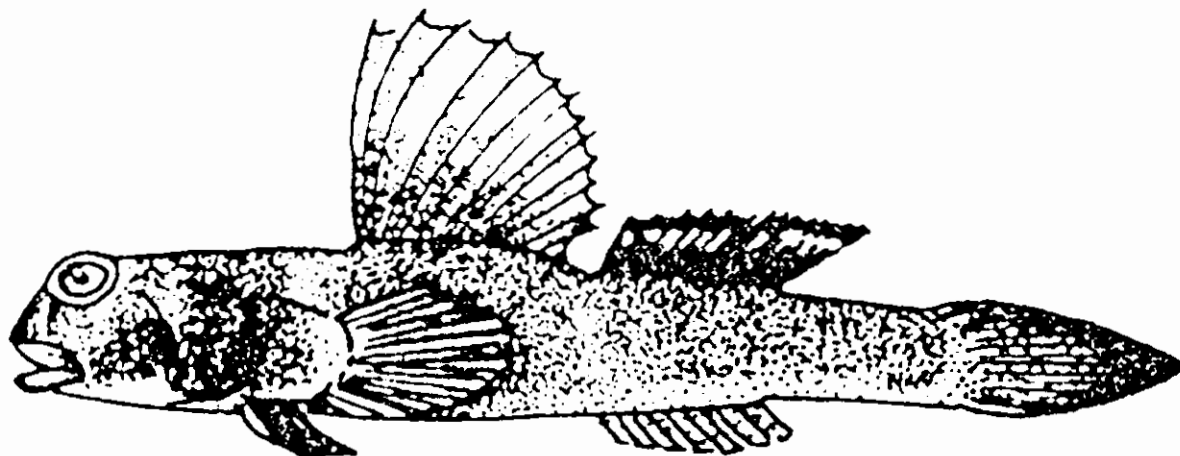
This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. One specimen was seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000.



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Periophthalmus koelreuteri (Pallas, 1770)



Periophthalmus koelreuteri DAHUK

Local Names: Dahuk.

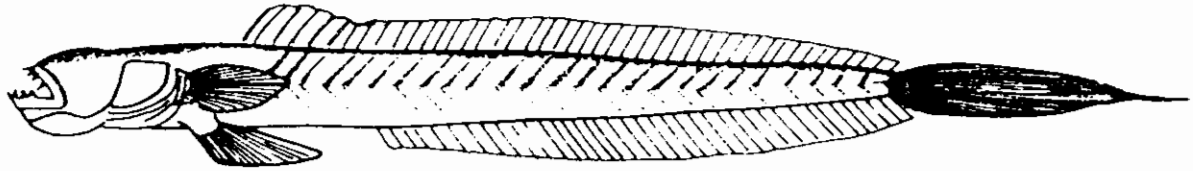
English Names: Mudskipper.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimens were seen by the author.

GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Odontamblyopus rubicundus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Odontamblyopus rubicundus* LAL CHEWA**

Local Names: Lal chewa.

English Names: Rubicundus eelgoby.

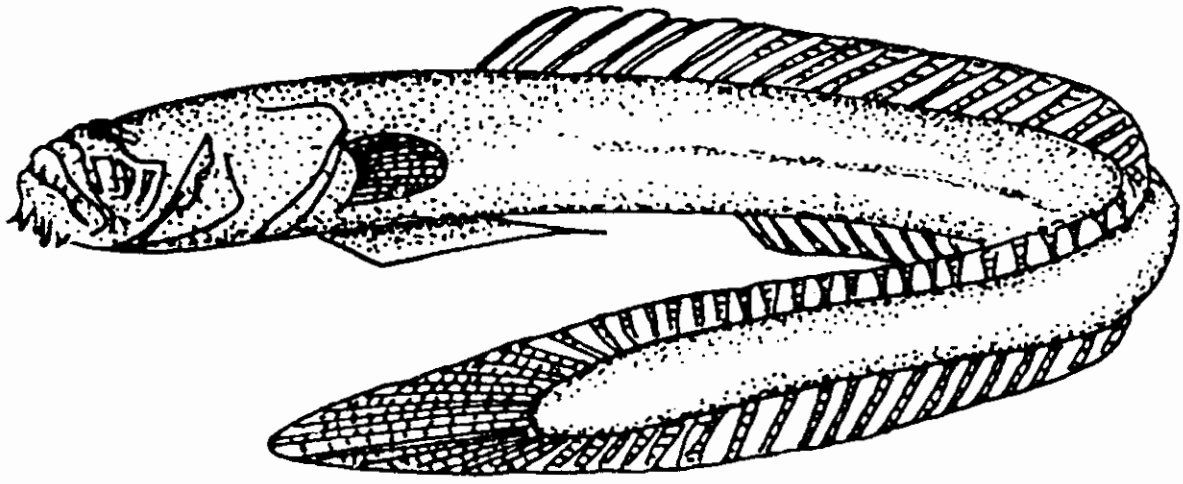
This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and November 2001.



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Taenioides buchanani (Day, 1873)



Taenioides buchanani CHEWA

Local Names: Chewa.

English Names: Burmese eelgoby.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char and in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000 and November 2001.

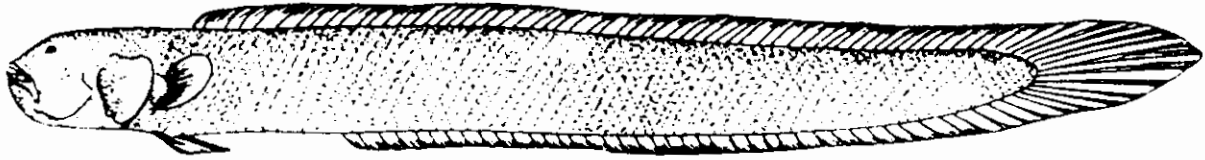
Photos below of dried specimen of *Taenioides buchanani*



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Gobiidae

Trypauchan vagina (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)

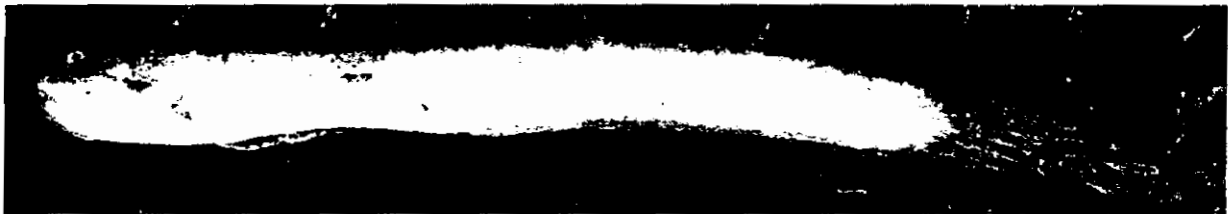


Trypauchan vagina SADA CHEWA

Local Names: Sada chewa.

English Names: Burrowing goby.

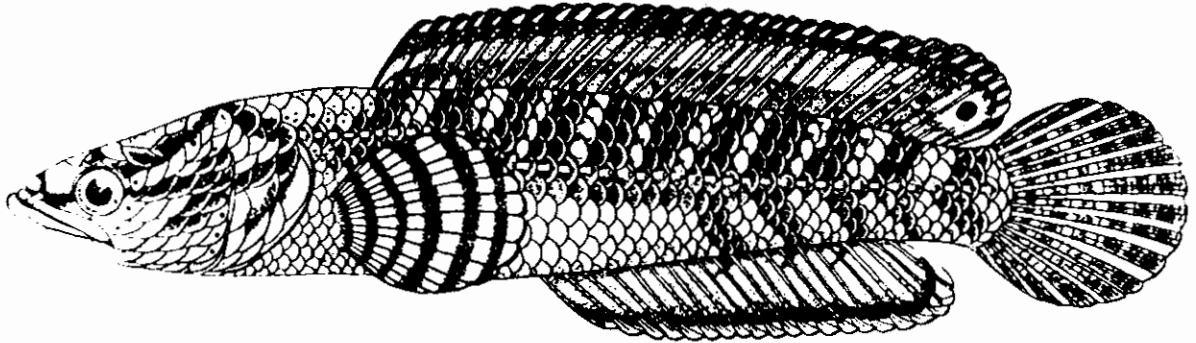
This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. One specimen was seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in November 2001.



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Channidae

Channa orientalis Bloch and Schneider, 1801



Channa orientalis GACHUA

Local Names: Gachua, raga, cheng.

English Names: Asiatic snakehead.

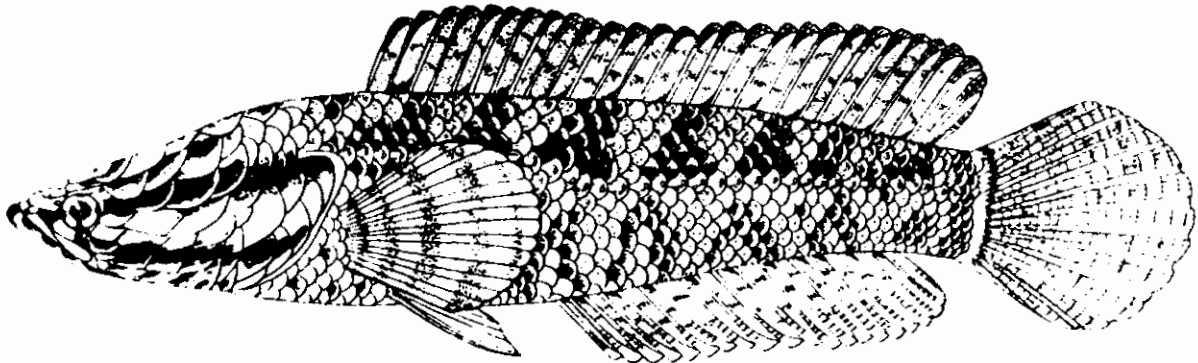
This freshwater species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. A single specimen was seen by the author in the northeastern part of the Sundarbans forest in November 2001.



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Channidae

Channa punctata (Bloch, 1793)

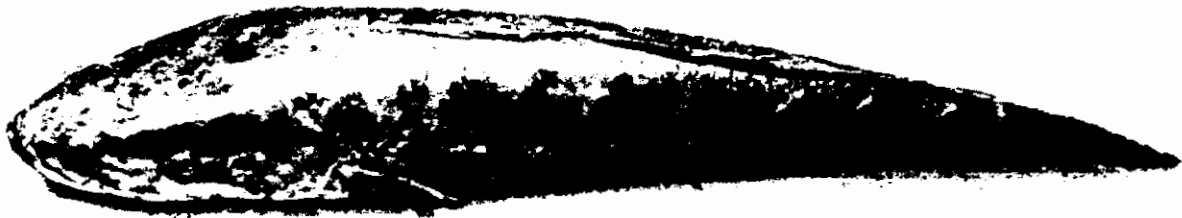


***Channa punctata* TAKI**

Local Names: Taki, lati, lata.

English Names: Spotted snakehead.

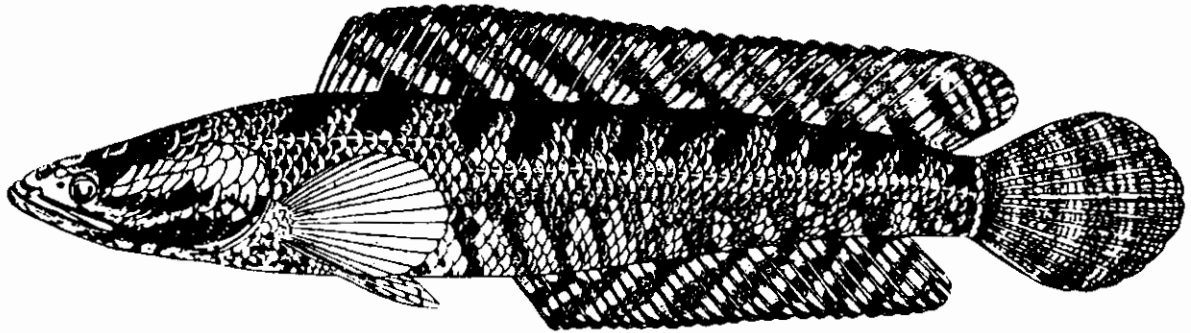
This freshwater species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. A single specimen was seen by the author in the northeastern part of the Sundarbans forest in November 2001.



GOBIES , MUDSKIPPERS & SNAKEHEADS

Family Channidae

Channa striatus (Bloch, 1793)



Channa striatus SHOL

Local Names: Shol.

English Names: Striped snakehead, banded snakehead.

This freshwater species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

The gobies and their allies are a very diverse group of brackishwater and marine fishes. At least another 30-40 species have been recorded from the Bay of Bengal region, and several of these will probably eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans.

Photo below of unidentified goby from Sundarbans forest





Large dry fish transport boat operated by Chittagong fish trader at Dubla Char



Dry fish transport boat at sea

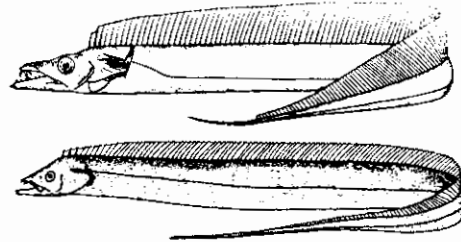
RIBBONFISHES

RIBBONFISHES

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

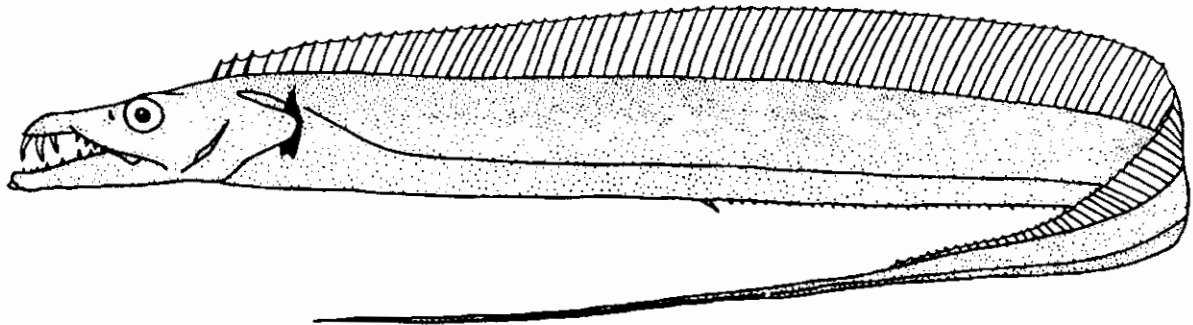
Trichiuridae
Ribbonfishes

Lepturacanthus savala
Trichiurus lepturus
Eupleurogrammus muticus



Family Trichiuridae

Lepturacanthus savala (Cuvier, 1829)



Lepturacanthus savala CHHURI

Local Names: Chhuri, suri.

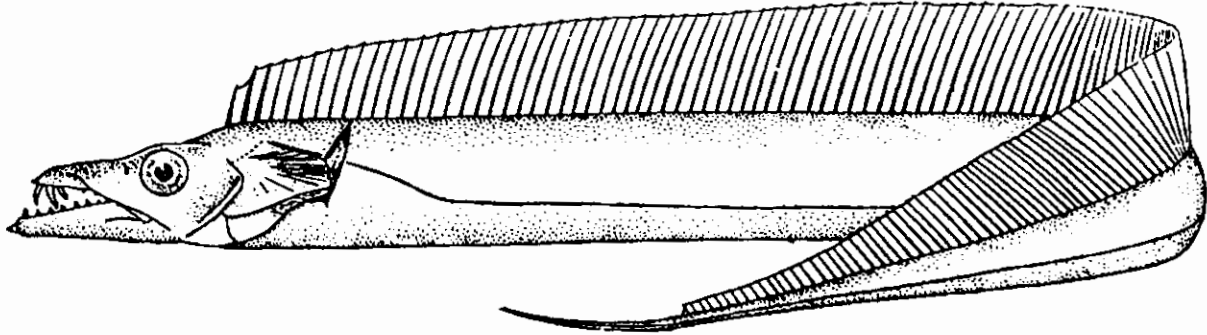
English Names: Savalani ribbonfish, savalani hairtail.

This large and commercially important species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Many specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. Of the three species of ribbonfish routinely caught by the Dubla Char behundi net fishery, *Lepturacanthus savala* is currently second in abundance.

RIBBONFISHES

Family Trichiuridae

Trichiurus lepturus Linnaeus, 1758



Trichiurus lepturus SURI

Local Names: Suri.

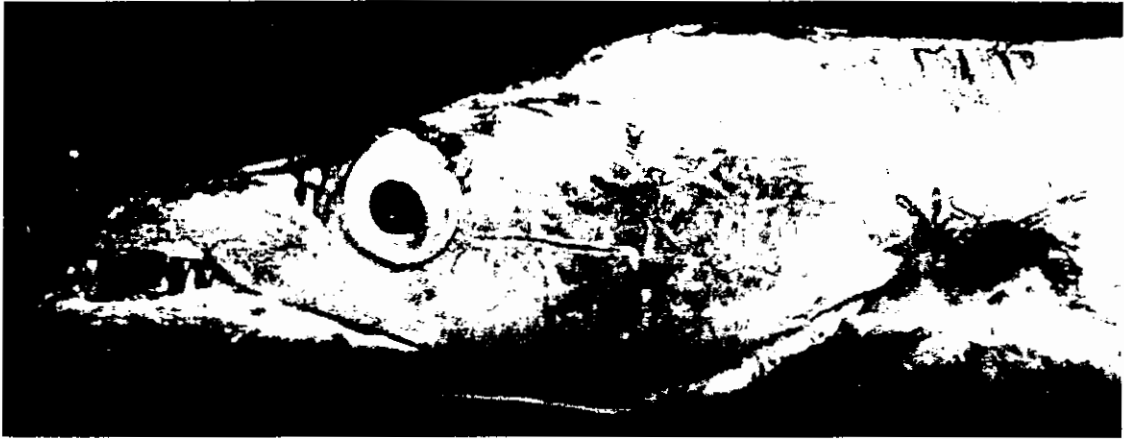
English Names: Largehead ribbonfish, largehead hairtail.

Synonyms: *Trichiurus haumela*.

This large and commercially important species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Many specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. Some specimens were also seen in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000. Of the three species of ribbonfish routinely caught by the Dubla Char behundi net fishery, *Lepturacanthus savala* is currently the most abundant.



RIBBONFISHES



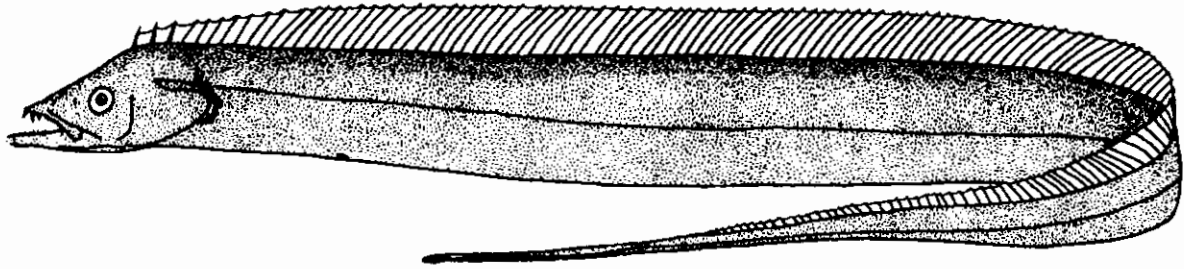
Scan of dried head of *Trichiurus lepturus* below



RIBBONFISHES

Family Trichiuridae

Eupleurogrammus muticus (Gray, 1831)



***Eupleurogrammus muticus* SURI**

Local Names: Suri.

English Names: Smallhead ribbonfish, smallhead hairtail.

This large and commercially important species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Many specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000, January 2001 and November 2001. Of the three species of ribbonfish routinely caught by the Dubla Char behundi net fishery, *Eupleurogrammus muticus* currently forms the smallest share.

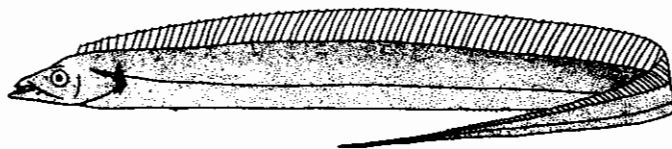


RIBBONFISHES

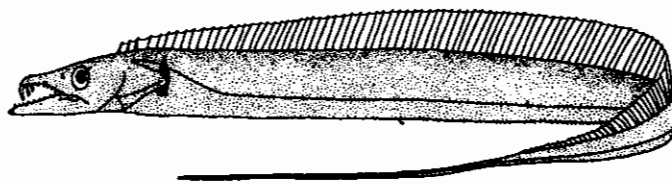


Photo above of head of *Eupleurogrammus muticus*

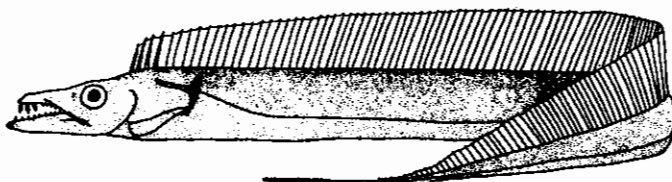
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans



Trichiuridae
Eupleurogrammus glossodon
(Bleeker, 1860)
Longtooth ribbonfish

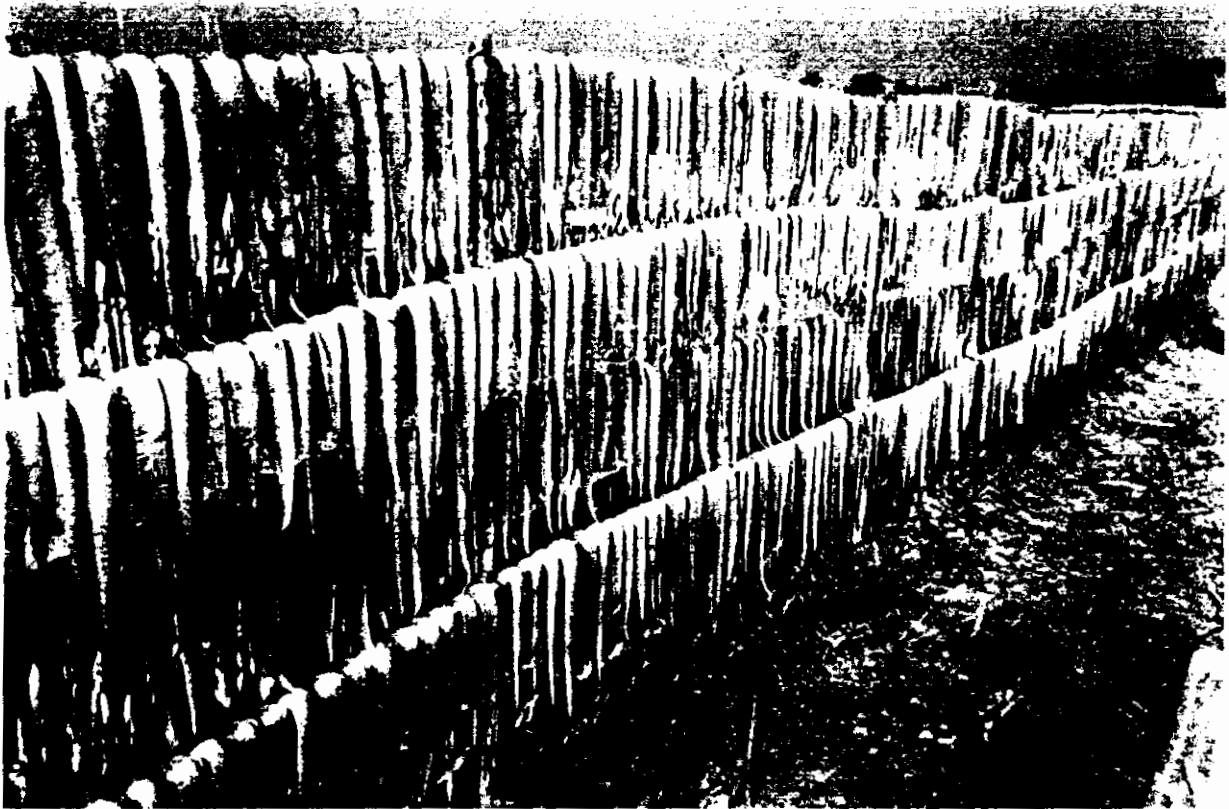


Trichiuridae
Lepturacanthus pantului
(Gupta, 1966)
Coromandel ribbonfish



Trichiuridae
Trichiurus gangeticus Gupta,
1966
Gangetic ribbonfish

At least three other species of ribbonfish are known to occur in the northern half of the Bay of Bengal, and one or more may eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans.



Adult ribbonfish sun drying on vertical racks at Dubla Char



Juvenile ribbonfish sun drying on mats on ground at Dubla Char

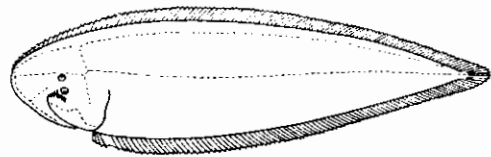
FLATFISHES

FLATFISHES

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

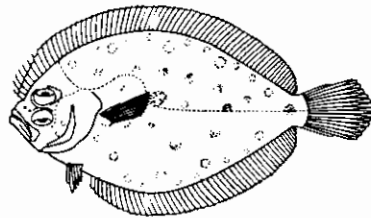
Cynoglossidae
Tonguesoles

Paraplagusia bilineata
Symphurus trifasciatus
Cynoglossus bilineatus
Cynoglossus cynoglossus
Cynoglossus lingua
Cynoglossus versicolor
Cynoglossus puncticeps



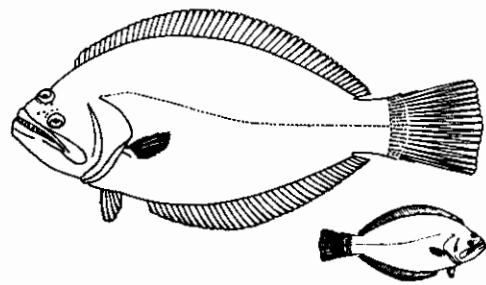
Paralichthyidae
Sand flounders

Pseudorhombus arsius
Pseudorhombus elevatus
Pseudorhombus malayanus



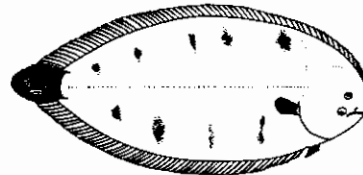
Psettodidae
Halibuts

Psettodes erumei



Soleidae
Soles

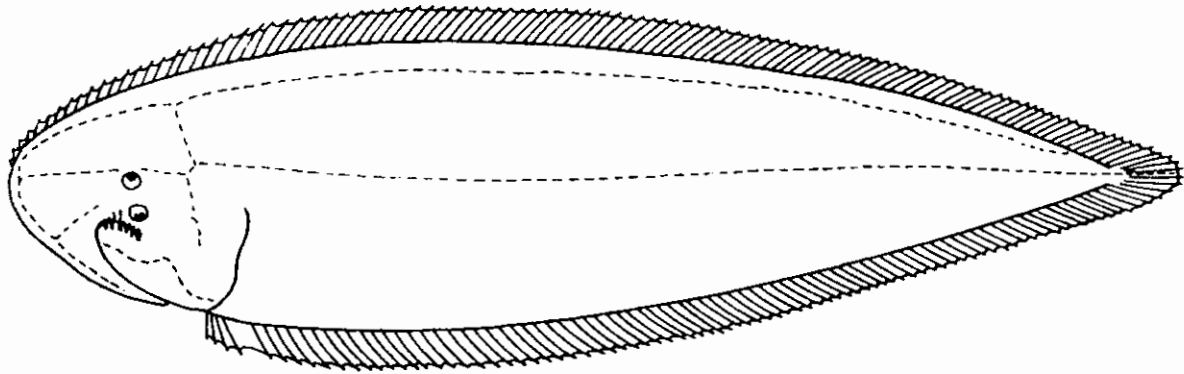
Euryglossa orientalis
Euryglossa pan
Zebrias altipinnis



FLATFISHES

Family Cynoglossidae

Paraplagusia bilineata (Bloch, 1784)



Paraplagusia bilineata KUKUR JIV

Local Names: Kukur jiv.

English Names: Fringelip tonguesole, doublelined tonguesole.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and January 2001.

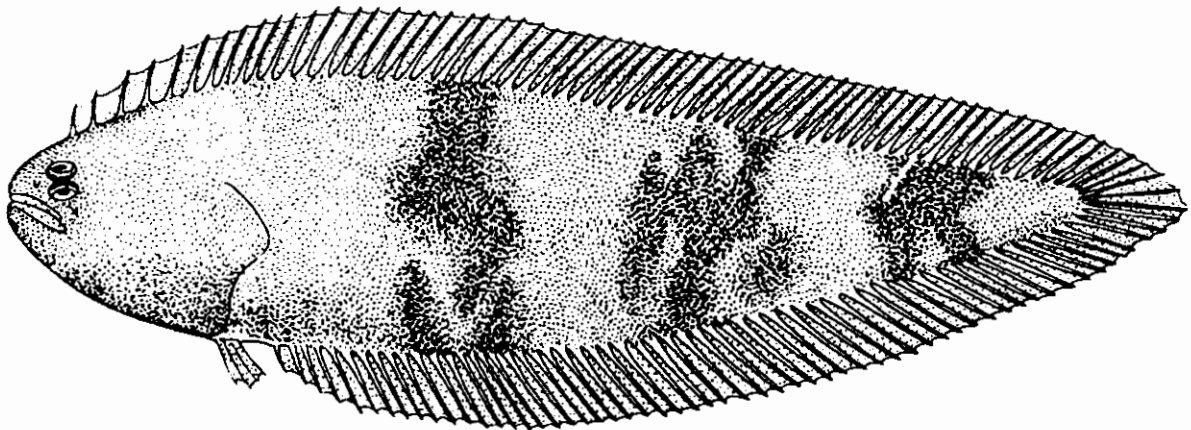


FLATFISHES

Photo below of *Paraplagusia bilineata*



Family Cynoglossidae
Symphurus trifasciatus (Alcock, 1894)



Symphurus trifasciatus

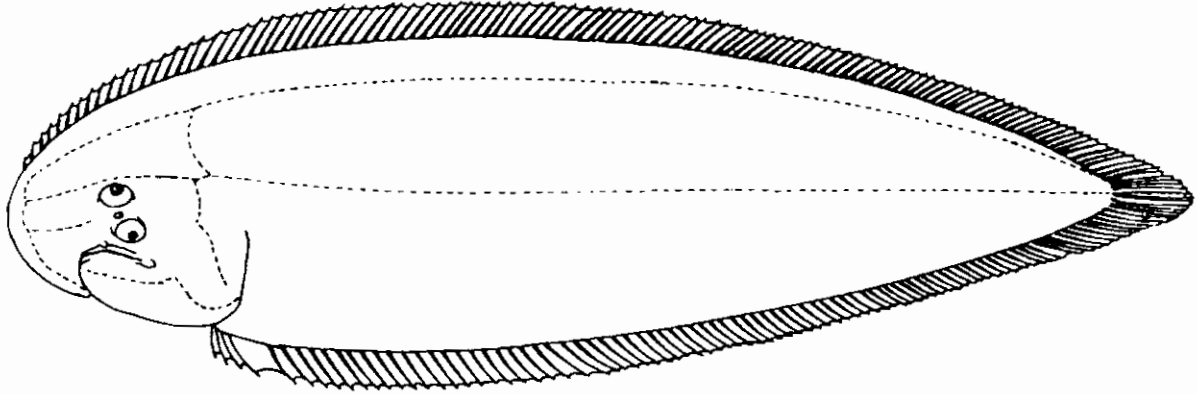
English Names: Threeband tonguesole.

This small species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

FLATFISHES

Family Cynoglossidae

Cynoglossus bilineatus (Lacepede, 1802)



Cynoglossus bilineatus KUKUR JIV

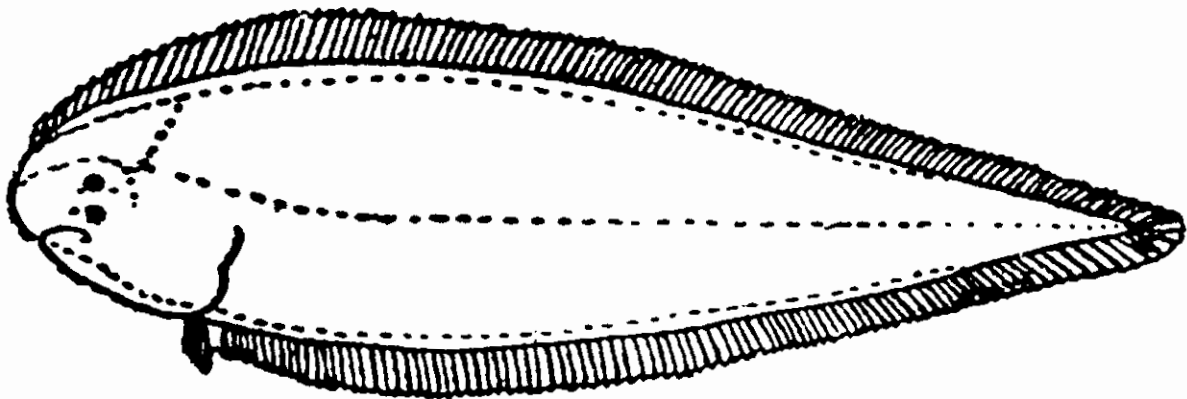
Local Names: Kukur jiv.

English Names: Fourlined tonguesole.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Cynoglossidae

Cynoglossus cynoglossus (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Cynoglossus cynoglossus KUKUR JIV

Local Names: Kukur jiv. English Names: Gangetic tonguesole, Bengal tonguesole.

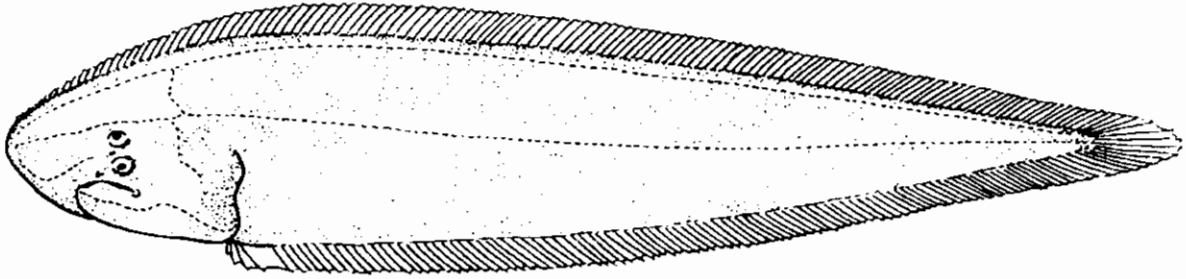
Synonyms: *Cynoglossus bengalensis*.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

FLATFISHES

Family Cynoglossidae

Cynoglossus lingua Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822

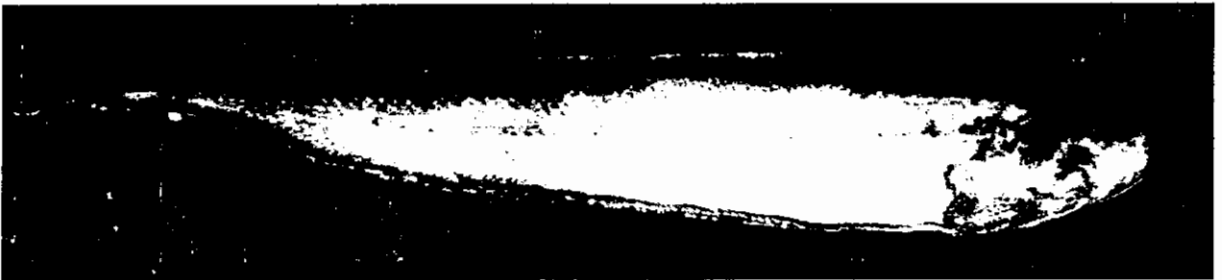
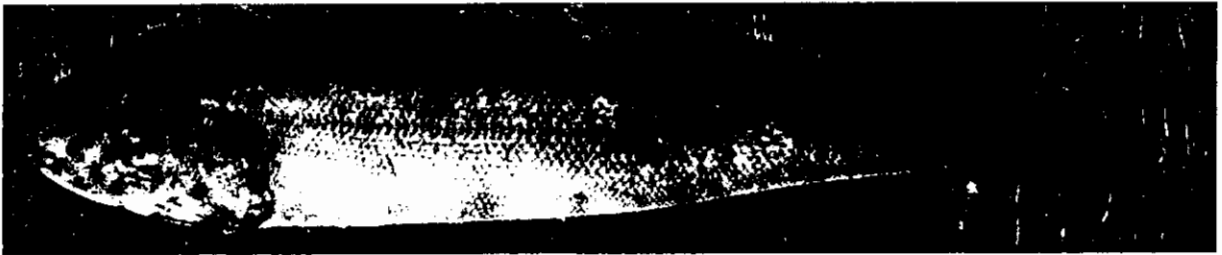


Cynoglossus lingua KUKUR JIV

Local Names: Kukur jiv, kukur jib.

English Names: Long tonguesole.

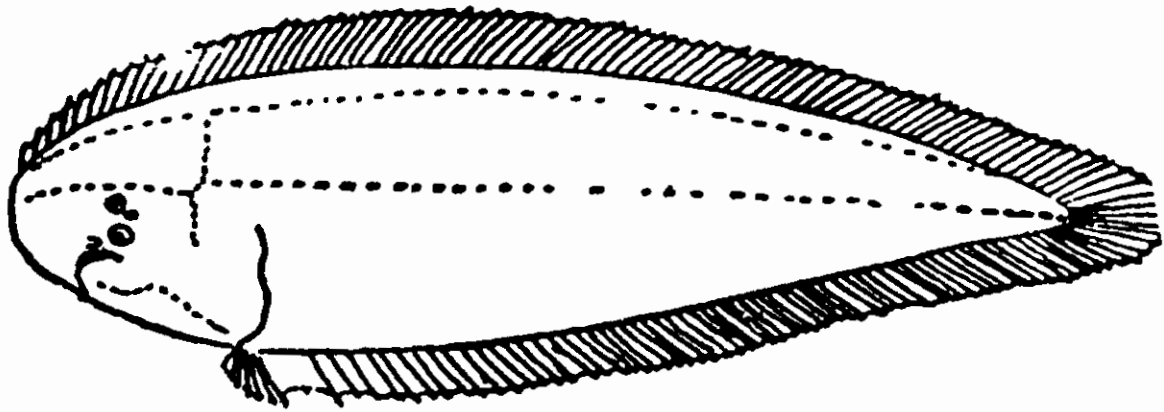
This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author. Several specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char and in the Sundarbans forest in December 2000.



FLATFISHES

Family Cynoglossidae

Cynoglossus versicolor Alcock, 1890



Cynoglossus versicolor KUKUR JIV

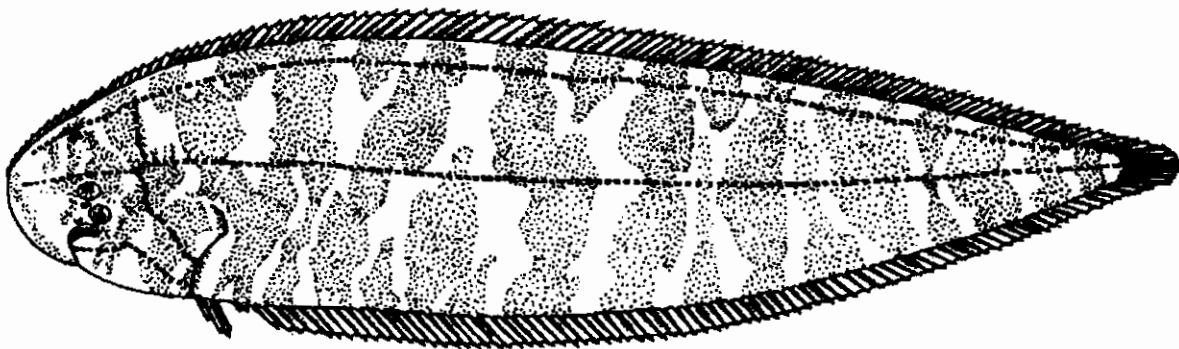
Local Names: Kukur jiv.

English Names: Tonguesole.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Cynoglossidae

Cynoglossus puncticeps (Richardson, 1846)



Cynoglossus puncticeps

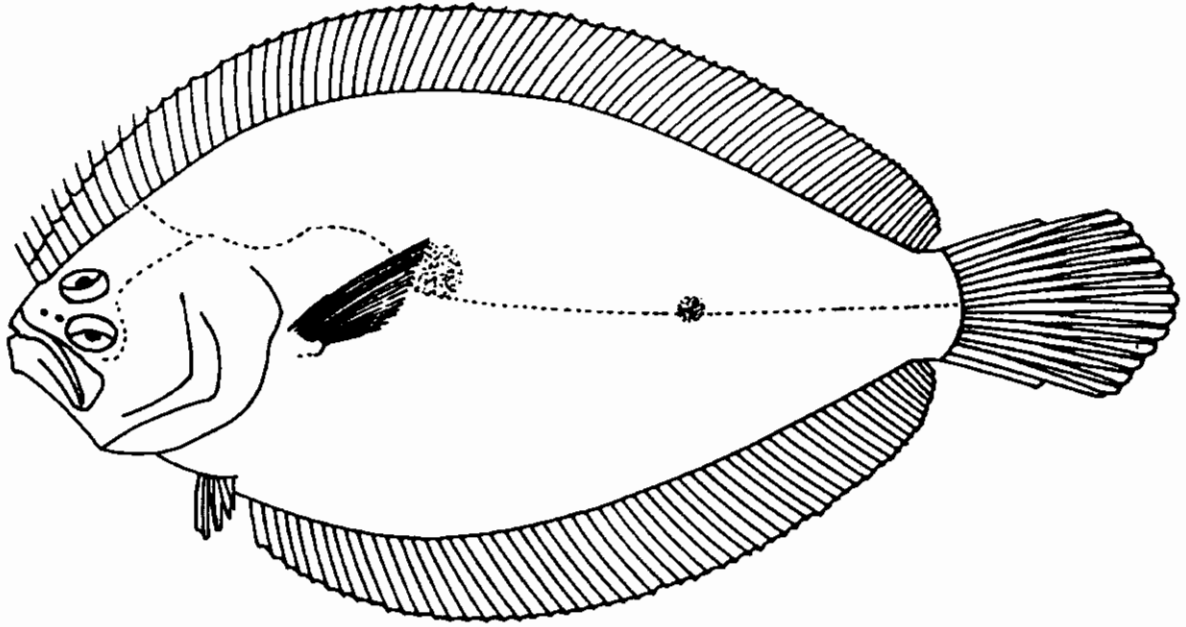
English Names: Speckled tonguesole.

This small species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

FLATFISHES

Family Paralichthyidae

Pseudorhombus arsius (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Pseudorhombus arsius **SERBOTI**

Local Names: Serboti, serbati.

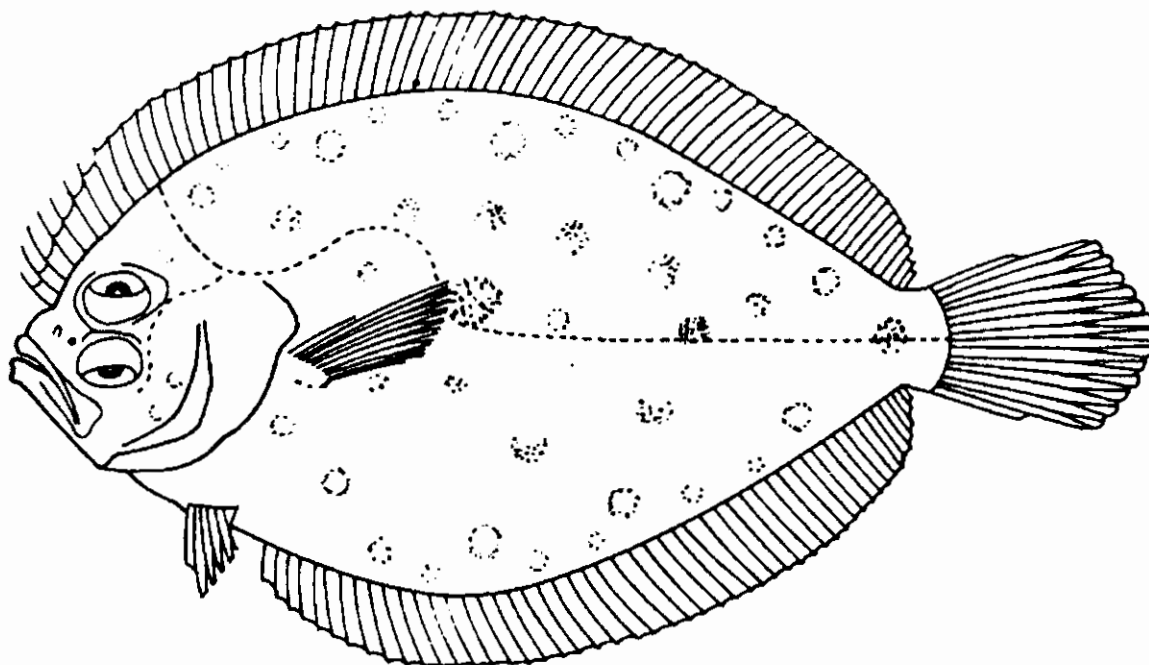
English Names: Largetooth sand flounder.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

FLATFISHES

Family Paralichthyidae

Pseudorhombus elevatus Ogilby, 1912



Pseudorhombus elevatus SERBOTI

Local Names: Serboti, serbati.

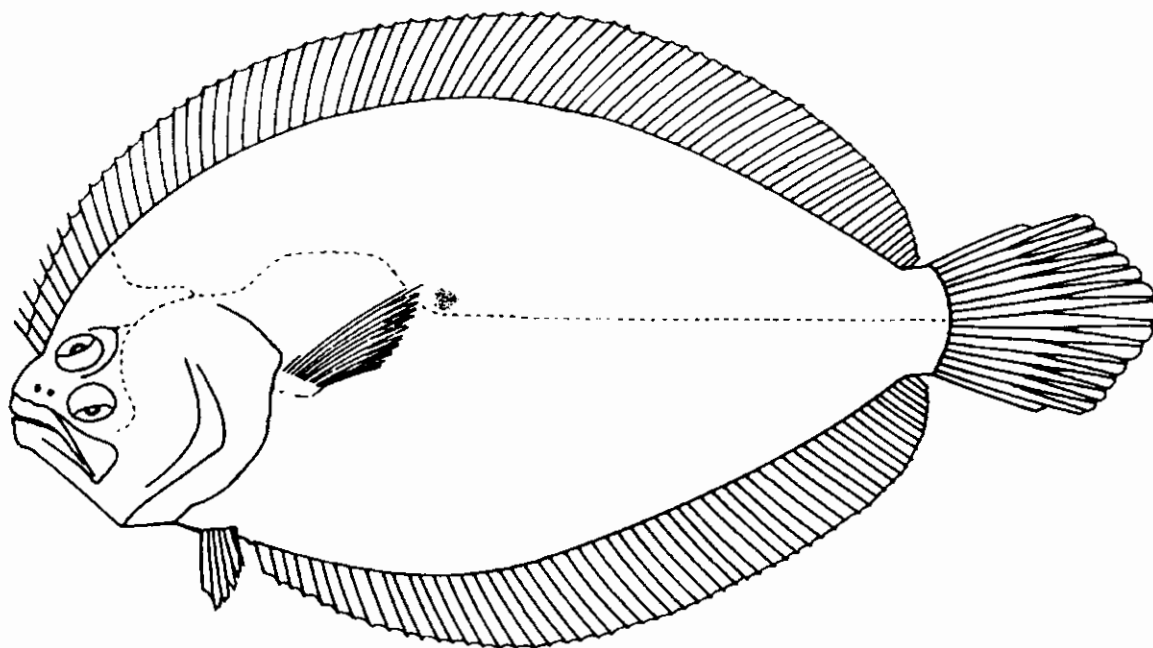
English Names: Deep sand flounder.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

FLATFISHES

Family **Paralichthyidae**

Pseudorhombus malayanus Bleeker, 1866



***Pseudorhombus malayanus* SERBOTI**

Local Names: Serboti, serbati.

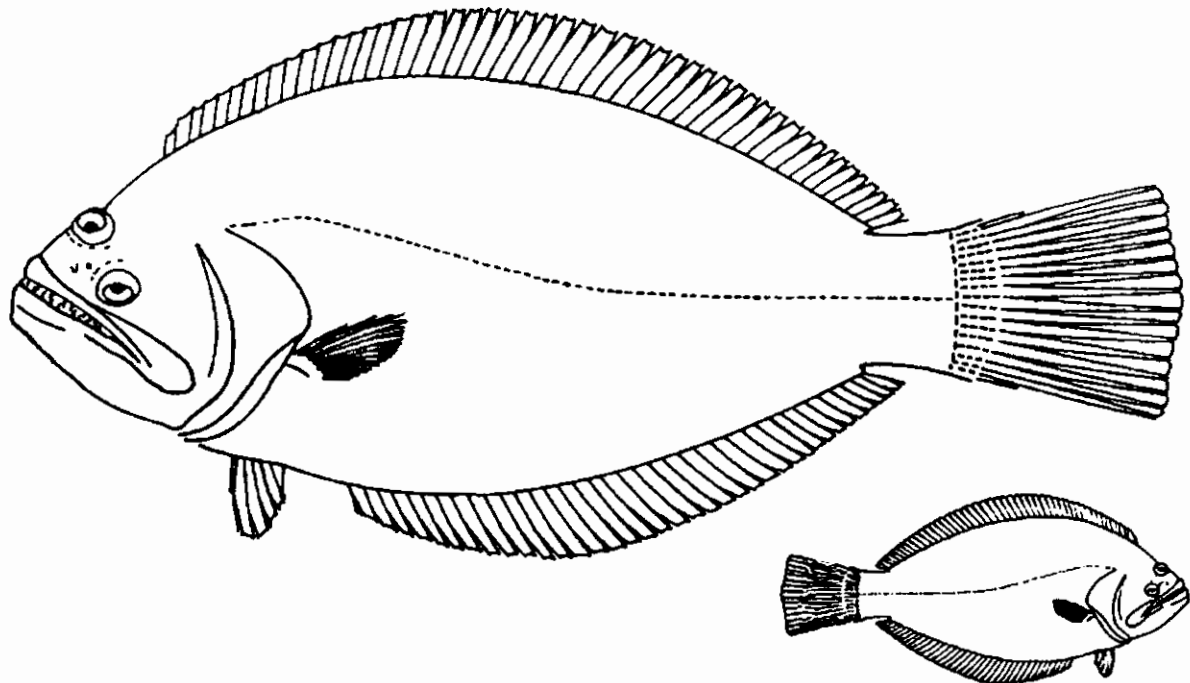
English Names: Malayan sand flounder.

This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

FLATFISHES

Family Psettodidae

Psettodes erumei (Schneider, 1801)



Psettodes erumei SAMUDRA SERBOTI

Local Names: Samudra serboti, seraboti.

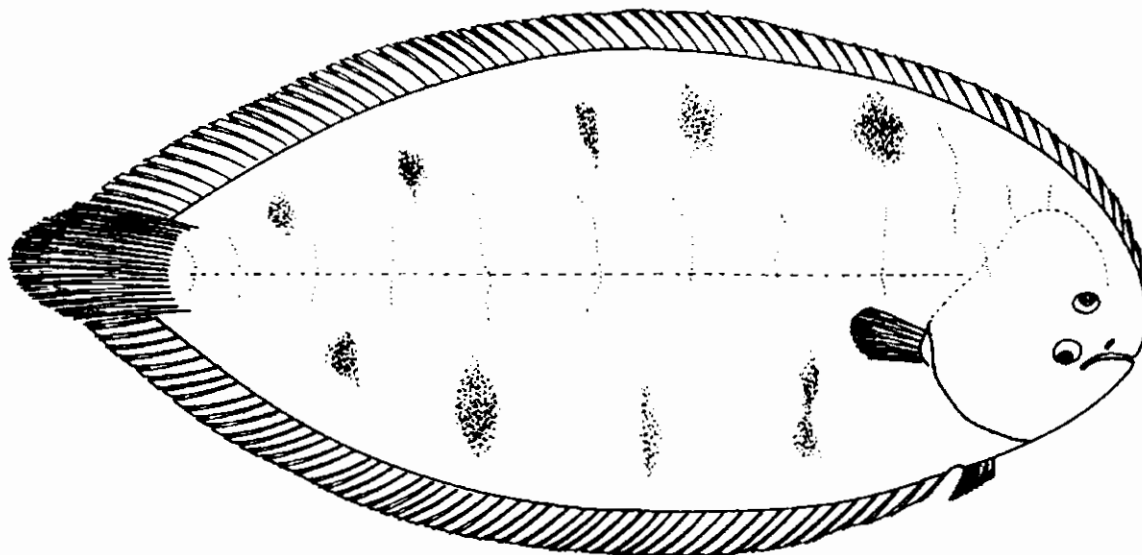
English Names: Indian halibut.

This large species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

FLATFISHES

Family Soleidae

Euryglossa orientalis (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)



Euryglossa orientalis KATAL PATA

Local Names: Katal pata, serboti.

English Names: Oriental sole.

Synonyms: *Brachirus orientalis*, *Synaptura orientalis*.

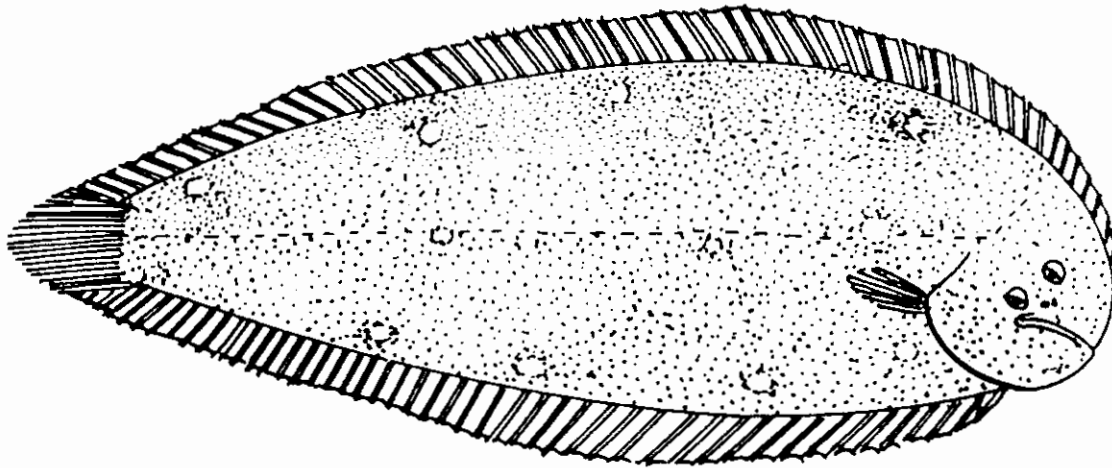
This medium size species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). One fingerling specimen was seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in November 2001.



FLATFISHES

Family Soleidae

Euryglossa pan (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Euryglossa pan KATAL PATA

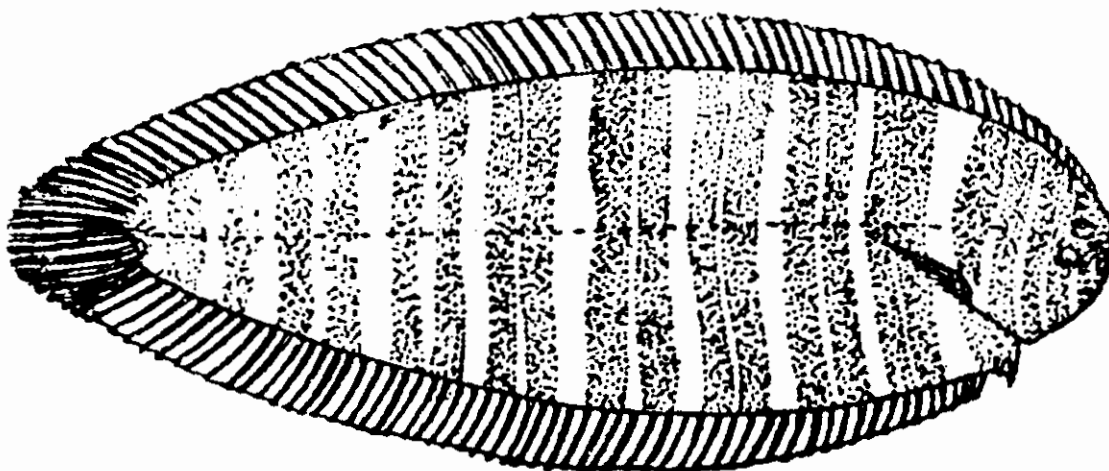
Local Names: Katal pata. English Names: Pan sole.

Synonyms: *Synaptura pan*.

This small species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

Family Soleidae

Zebrias altipinnis Alcock, 1890



Zebrias altipinnis

English Names: Zebra sole.

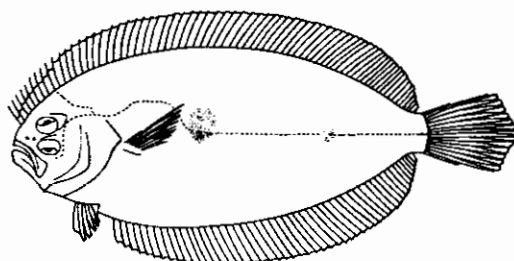
This species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

FLATFISHES

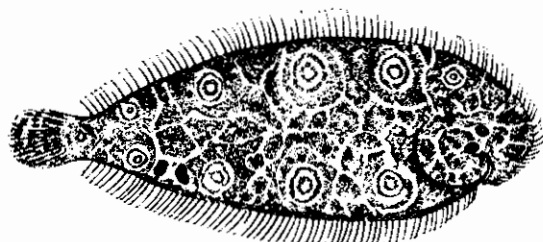
Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

Several other species of flatfishes have been recorded from the region of the northern Bay of Bengal, some of which may eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Family Cynoglossidae | <i>Cynoglossus arel</i> (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) |
| | <i>Cynoglossus deltae</i> Jenkins, 1910 |
| | <i>Cynoglossus macrolepidotus</i> Bleeker, 1851 Largescale tonguesole |
| | <i>Cynoglossus macrostomus</i> Norman 1928 Malabar tonguesole |
| Family Paralichthyidae | <i>Pseudorhombus javanicus</i> (Bleeker, 1853) Javan sand flounder |
| Family Soleidae | <i>Aesopia cornuta</i> Kamp, 1858 |
| | <i>Heteromycteris oculus</i> (Alcock, 1889) Eyed sole |
| | <i>Synaptura albomaculata</i> Kaup, 1858 Kaup's sole |
| | <i>Synaptura commersoniana</i> (Lacepede, 1802) Commerson's sole |
| | <i>Zebrias synapteroides</i> (Jenkins, 1910) Zebra sole |
| Family Pleuronectidae | <i>Brachypleura novaezeelandiae</i> Gunther, 1862 New Zealand righteye flounder |



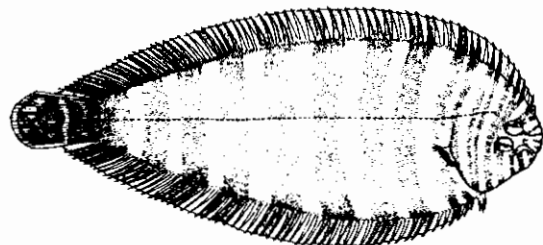
Pseudorhombus javanicus Javan sand flounder



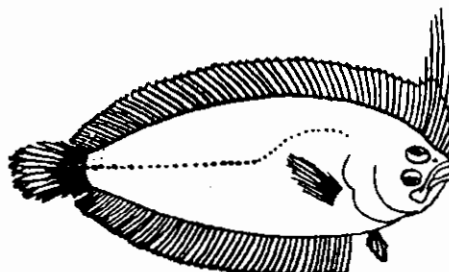
Heteromycteris oculus Eyed sole



Synaptura commersoniana Commerson's sole



Zebrias synapteroides Zebra sole



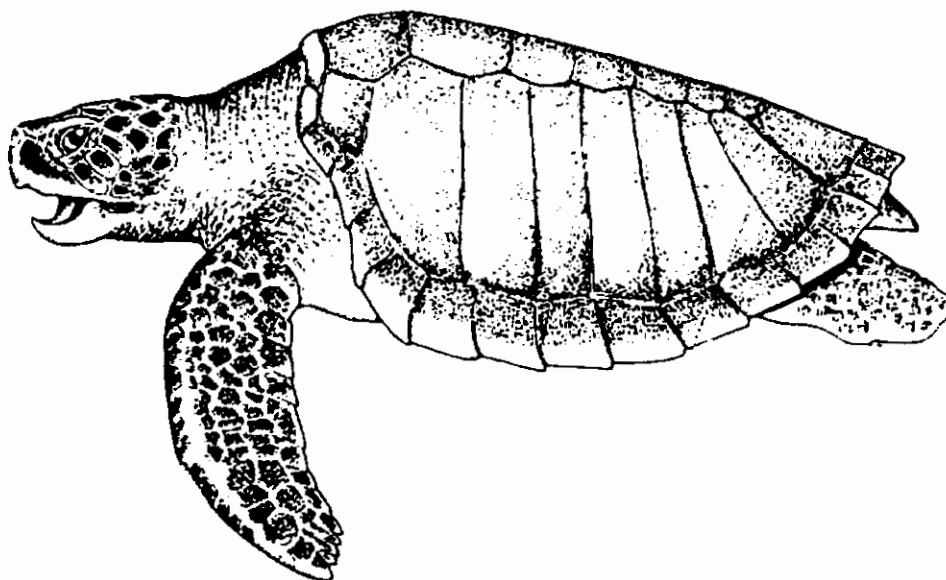
Brachypleura novaezeelandiae
New Zealand righteye flounder



DOL (jellyfish) caught in large numbers in winter



SHAMUDRIK Granulated File Snake
Acrochordus granulatus
A non-venemous sea snake



KACHAP Olive Ridley sea turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*

NON-TARGET SPECIES WHICH SUFFER BY-CATCH MORTALITY IN BEHUNDI NETS

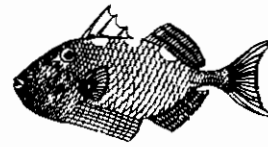
TRIGGERFISHES & TRIPODFISHES

TRIGGERFISHES & TRIPODFISHES

List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Balistidae
Triggerfishes

Abalistes stellaris



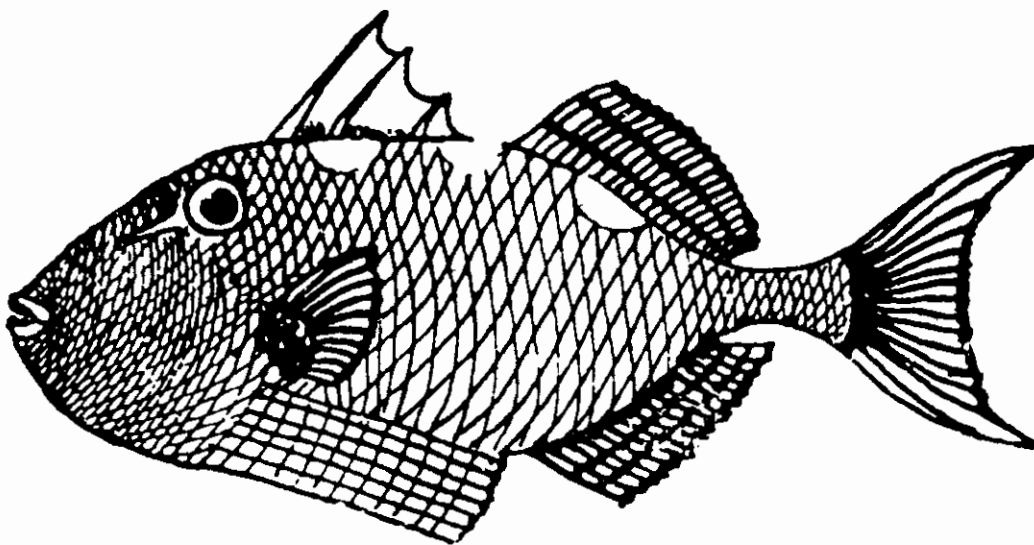
Triacanthidae
Tripodfishes

Pseudotriacanthus strigifer



Family Balistidae

Abalistes stellaris (Block and Schneider, 1801)



Abalistes stellaris SAGAR POTKA

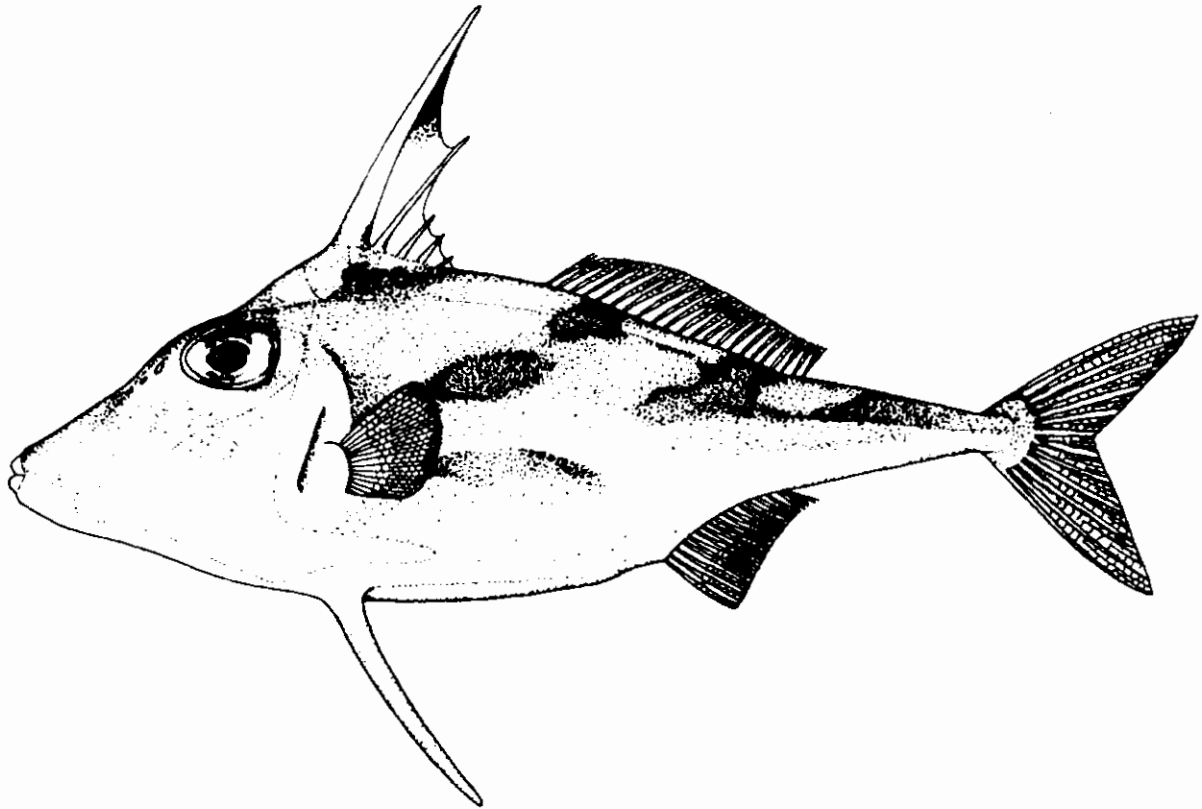
Local Names: Sagar potka. English Names: Starry triggerfish.

This species was recorded by Chantarasri (1994) from the Sundarbans. No specimen were seen by the author.

TRIGGERFISHES & TRIPODFISHES

Family Triacanthidae

Pseudotriacanthus striglifer (Cantor, 1849)

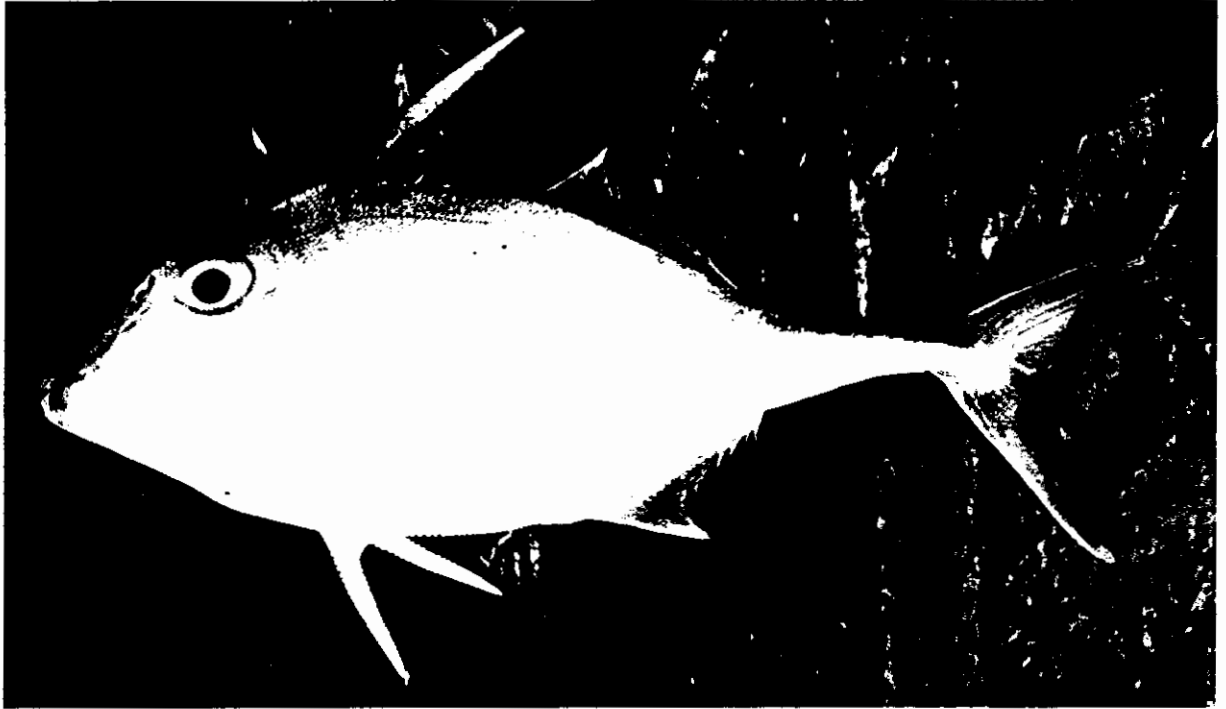


Pseudotriacanthus striglifer **SUKURA**

Local Names: Sukura. **English Names:** Longspinned tripodfish.

This medium size species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. Several dozen specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and November 2001.

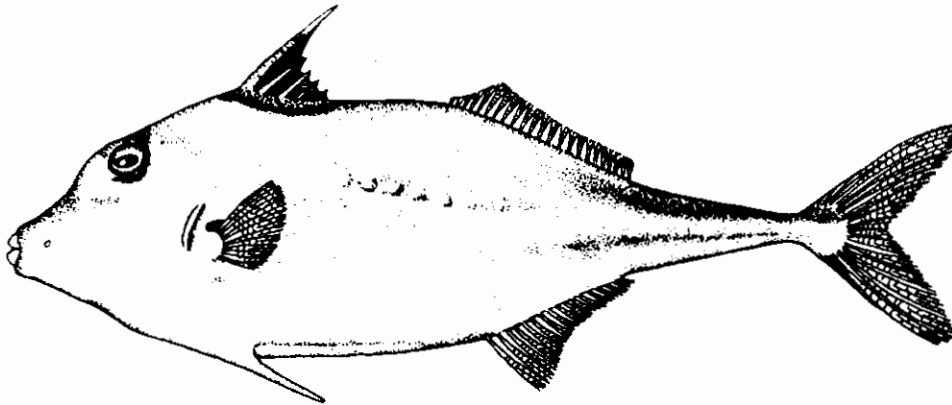
TRIGGERFISHES & TRIPODFISHES



TRIGGERFISHES & TRIPODFISHES

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

The following tripodfish species has been recorded from Bangladesh marine waters and may eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans:



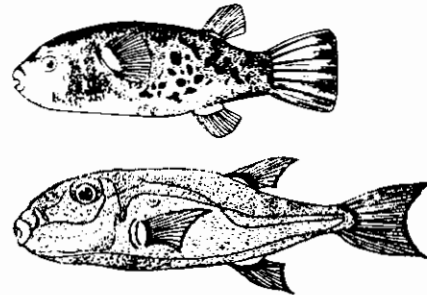
Family Triacanthidae *Triacanthus biaculeatus* (Bloch, 1786) Sukura. Shortnose tripodfish
(Synonym: *Triacanthus brevirostris*)

PUFFERS

PUFFERS

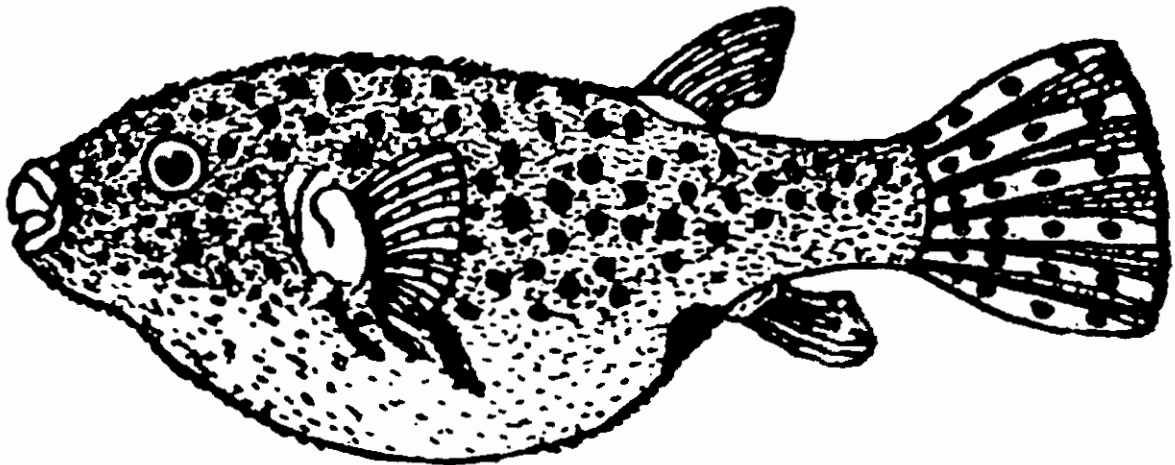
List of Species Recorded in Sundarbans:

Tetraodontidae
(Puffers)
Arothron stellatus
Chelonodon fluviatilis
Chelonodon patoca
Tetraodon cutcutia
Tetraodon travancoricus
Gastrophysus lunaris
Takifugu oblongus



Family Tetraodontidae

Arothron stellatus (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)



Arothron stellatus POTKA

Local Names: Potka.

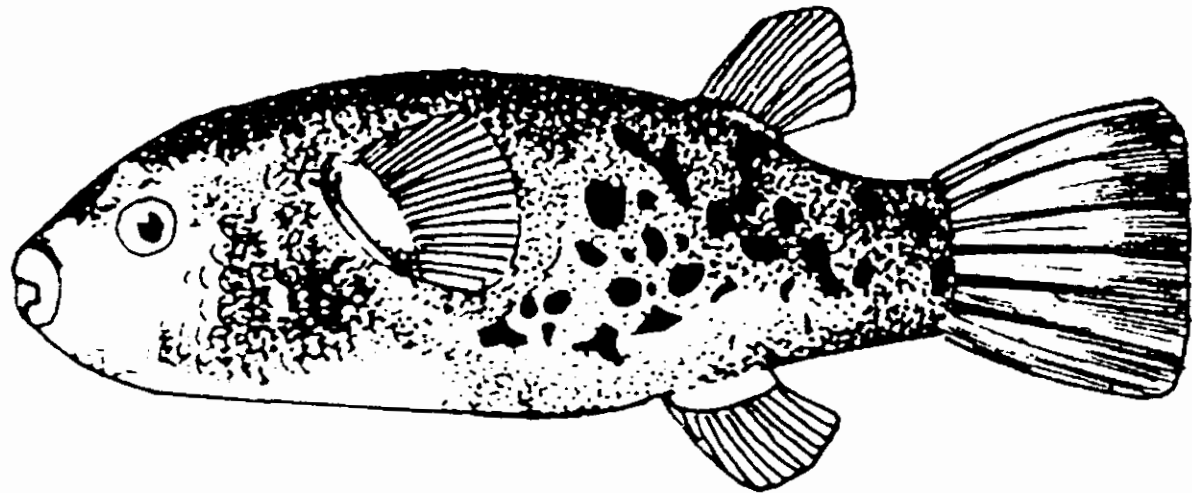
English Names: Star puffer.

This species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.

PUFFERS

Family Tetraodontidae

Chelonodon fluviatilis (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



Chelonodon fluviatilis **POTKA**

Local Names: Potka.

English Names: Green puffer.

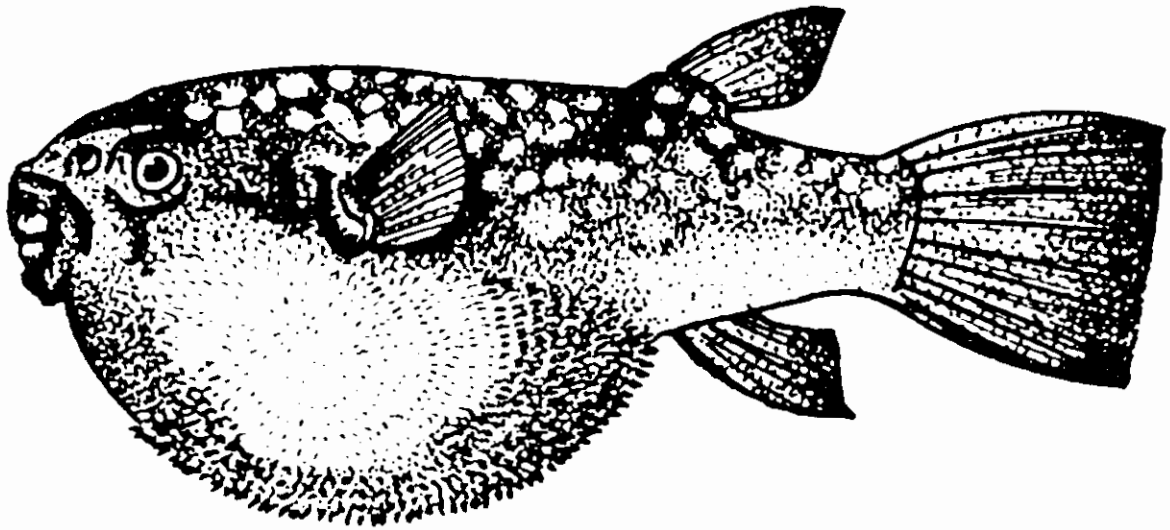
This small and highly poisonous species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). One specimen was seen by the author in the Sundarbans forest in November 2001.



PUFFERS

Family Tetraodontidae

Chelonodon patoca (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)

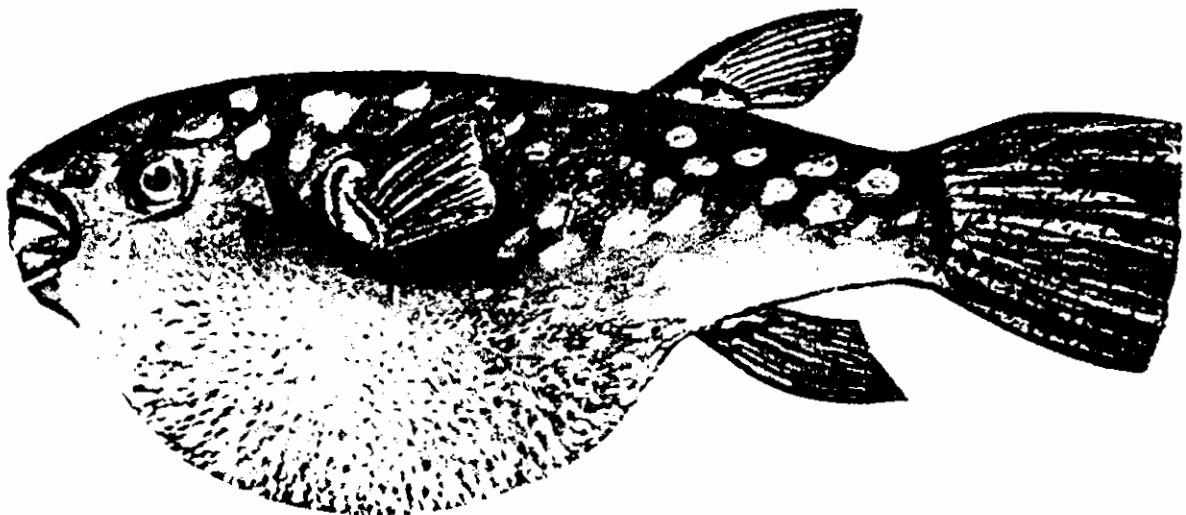


Chelonodon patoca SADA POTKA

Local Names: Sada potka.

English Names: Gangetic puffer.

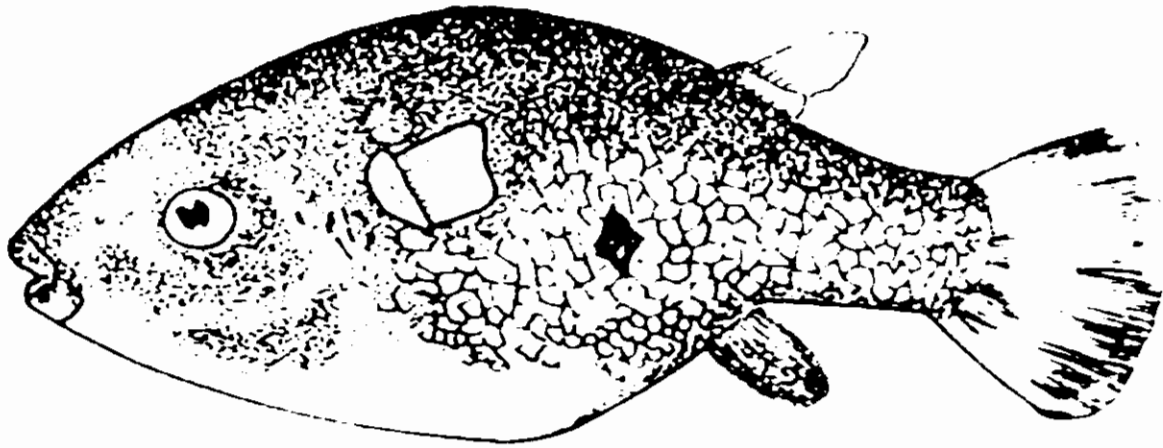
This species was recorded from the Sundarbans by Chantarasri (1994). No specimens were seen by the author.



PUFFERS

Family Tetraodontidae

Tetraodon cutcutia (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)



***Tetraodon cutcutia* POTKA**

Local Names: Potka, tepa, kutkuitta.

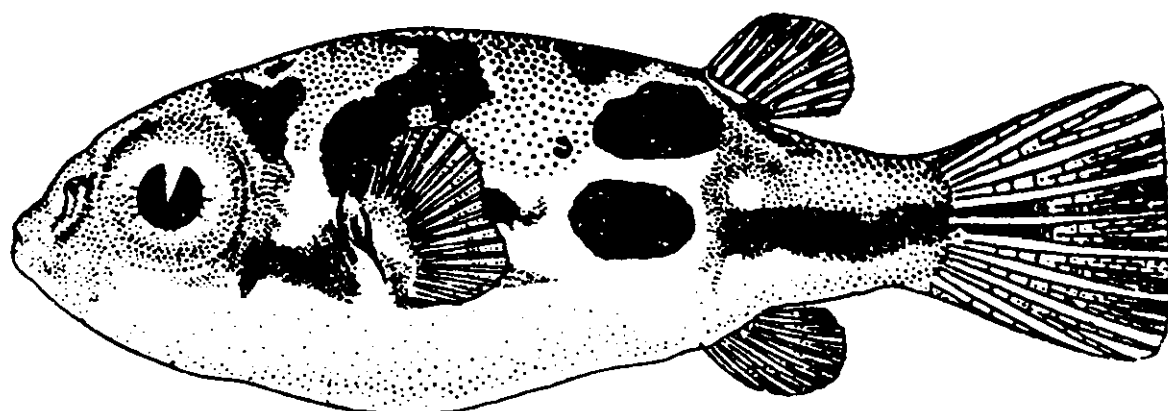
English Names: Ocellated puffer.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

PUFFERS

Family Tetraodontidae

Tetraodon travancoricus Hora and Nair, 1941



Tetraodon travancoricus POTKA

Local Names: Potka.

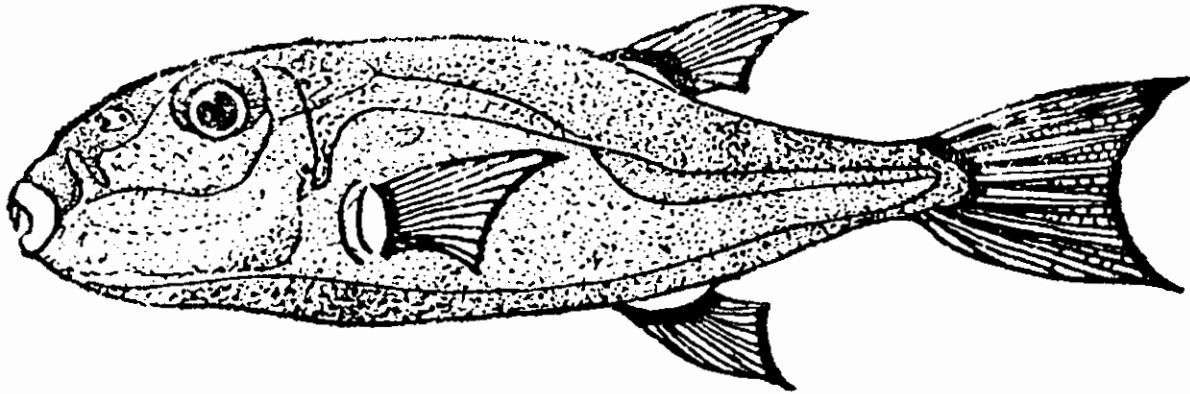
English Names: Malabar puffer.

This species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. It was observed by the contracted Khulna University field study in 2001.

PUFFERS

Family Tetraodontidae

Gastrophysus lunaris (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)



Gastrophysus lunaris

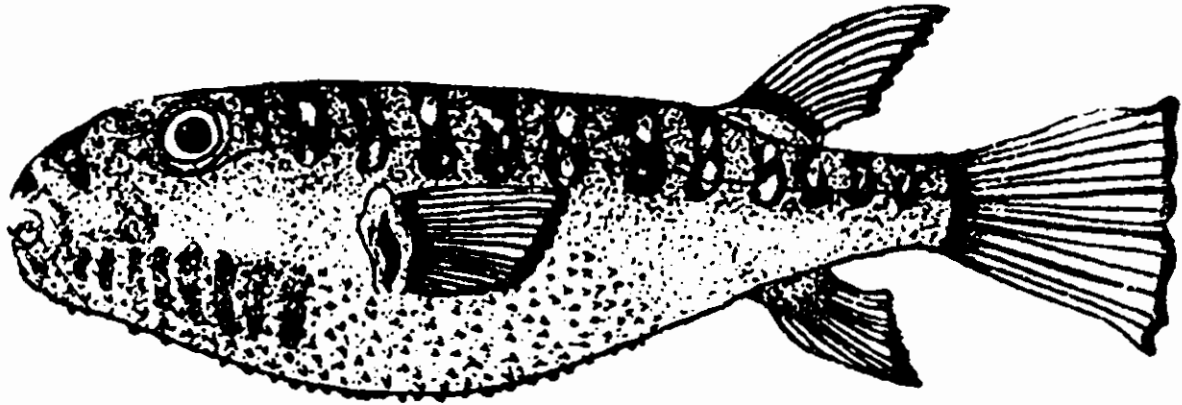
English Names: Moontail puffer.

This medium size species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. A few specimens were seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and January 2001.



PUFFERS

Family Tetraodontidae
Takifugu oblongus (Bloch, 1786)

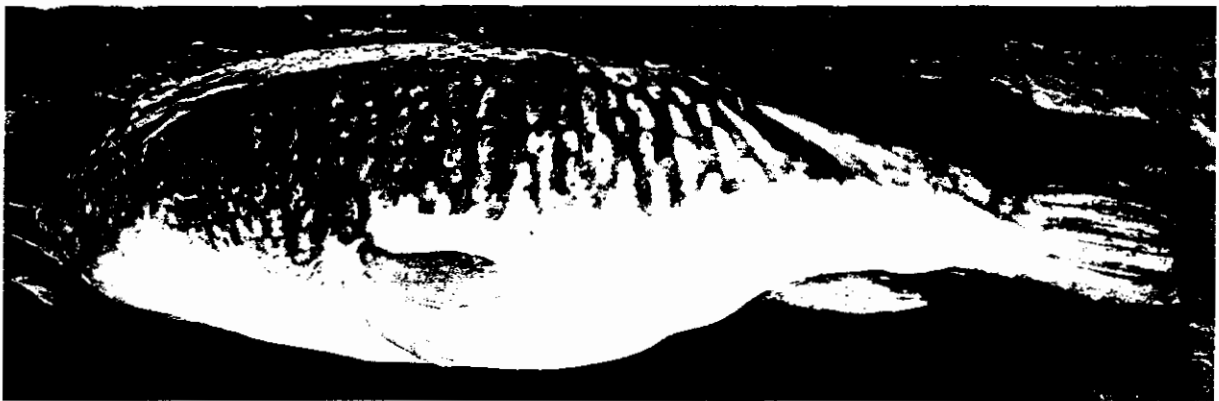


Takifugu oblongus

English Names: Lattice puffer.

Synonyms: *Torquigener oblongus*.

This medium size species has not previously been recorded from the Sundarbans. A single specimen was seen by the author at Dubla Char in December 2000 and is provisionally identified as *Takifugu oblongus*.



PUFFERS

Species of Uncertain Occurrence in Sundarbans

Several other species of puffer and related fishes have been recorded from the Bay of Bengal region, and some of these may eventually be found to occur in the Sundarbans:

Family Tetraodontidae

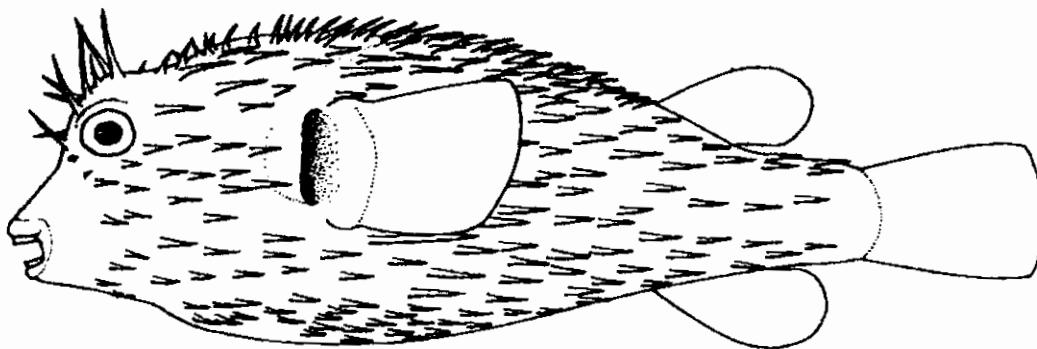
Arothron reticularis (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) Reticulated puffer

Chelonodon nigroviridis (Proce, 1822) Burmese puffer

Gastrophysus lunaris (Richardson, 1845) Chinese puffer

Xenopterus naritus (Richardson, 1848) Borneo puffer

Family Diodontidae *Diodon hystrix* Linnaeus, 1758 Porcupinefish (below)



Appendix

The Finfishes of the Indian Sundarbans

The finfishes of the Sundarbans respect no political boundaries. They are a biodiversity resource shared by Bangladesh and India, and they migrate freely across the eastern and western Bengali territories. It is interesting to compare the list of finfishes of the Indian Sundarbans presented below² with that of the Bangladesh Sundarbans, as there are both similarities and some differences. The latter may be in part due to zoogeographic discontinuities based on ecological conditions, in part due to sampling bias, and in part due to differing effects of fishing mortality between the fisheries two countries. Some 138 species have been recorded from the Indian Sundarbans, compared to 222 species from the Bangladesh Sundarbans.

Family & Species	Mangrove Forest	Reclaimed Areas	Family & Species	Mangrove Forest	Reclaimed Areas
CLASS: CHNDRICHTHYES			<i>Raonda russeliana</i>		
ORDER: LAMNIFORMES			ENGRAULIDAE		
ORECTOLOBIDAE			<i>Coilia dussumieri</i>		
<i>Chillosctoma gasciatum</i>			-		
CARCHINIDAE			<i>C. neglecta</i>		
<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>			+		
<i>C. melanopterus</i>			+		
<i>Glyphis gangeticus</i>			+		
SPHYRIDAE			<i>C. ramcaruti</i>		
<i>Sphyrna blochii</i>			+		
ORDER: RAJIFORMES			<i>C. raynaldi</i>		
PRISTIDAE			<i>Setipinna phasa</i>		
<i>Pristis microdon</i>			-		
RHINOBATIDAE			<i>S. taty</i>		
<i>Rhinobatos annandalei</i>			+		
TORPEDINIDAE			<i>Thryssa hamiltoni</i>		
<i>Narcine brunnea</i>			-		
DASYATIDAE			<i>T. purava</i>		
<i>Dasyatis (Amphotistius) zagei</i>			-		
<i>D. (Himantura) bleekeri</i>			+		
<i>D. (Himantura) marginatus</i>			+		
<i>D. (Himantura) uarnak</i>			+		
<i>D. (Pastinachus) sephen</i>			+		
MYLIOBATIDAE			ORDER: ELOPIFORMES		
<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>			MEGALOPIDAE		
			<i>Megalops cyprinoides</i>		
			+		
			ORDER: ANHUILLIFORMES		
			ANGUILLIDAE		
			<i>Anguilla bengalensis</i>		
			-		
			Family:		
			<i>Moringua raitaborua</i>		
			-		
			MURAENIDAE		
			<i>Lycondontis sathere</i>		
			-		
			<i>L. tile</i>		
			-		
			MURAENESOCIDAE		
			<i>Muraenesox bagio</i>		
			-		
			<i>M. cinereus</i>		
			-		
			OPHICHTHYIDAE		
			<i>Pisodonophis horo</i>		
			-		
			ORDER: GONORYNCHIFORMES		
			CHANIDAE		
			<i>Chanos chanos</i>		
			+		
			ORDER: SILURIFORMES		
			BAGRIDAE		
			<i>Aorichthys aor</i>		
			-		
			<i>Mystus cavasius</i>		
			+		
			<i>M. gulio</i>		
			+		
			<i>M. vittatus</i>		
			+		
			SCHILBEIDAE		
			<i>Silonia silonia</i>		
			-		
			PANGASIIDAE		
			<i>Pangasius pangasius</i>		
			-		
			ARIIDAE		
			<i>Arius urtus</i>		
			+		
			+		

² From: Chaudhuri, A B and A Choudhury. 1994. Mangroves of the Sundarbans, Volume One: India. IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Gland, 247 pp.

	Lowland Forest	Peatland Forest
<i>A. caelatus</i>	+	-
<i>A. gagora</i>	+	+
<i>A. jella</i>	-	+
<i>A. platystomus</i>	+	-
<i>A. sona</i>	-	+
<i>Hemipimelodus jotius</i>	-	+
<i>Osteogomphus militaris</i>	-	-
PLOTOSIDAE		
<i>Plotosus cantus</i>	-	-
HARPACTONTIDAE		
<i>Harpadon nehercus</i>	-	-
ORDER: BACTRACHOIDIFORMES		
BATRACHOIDAE		
<i>Batrachichthys grammens</i>	-	-
ORDER: ARTERIFORMES		
HEMIRAMPHIDAE		
<i>Rhynchorhamphus geogii</i>	+	-
<i>Zenarchopterus brachyopterus</i>	+	-
<i>Z. striga</i>	+	-
BELONIDAE		
<i>Strongylura leiura</i>	+	+
<i>S. strongylura</i>	+	-
<i>Xenontodon cancala</i>	+	-
CYPRINODONTIDAE		
<i>Oryzias melanostigma</i>	+	-
<i>Aplocheilichthys punctatus</i>	+	-
ORDER: SYNBRANCHIFORMES		
SYNBRANCHIDAE		
<i>Monopterus albus</i>	+	-
ORDER: PERCIFORMES		
CENTROPOMIDAE		
<i>Lates calarifer</i>	+	+
AMBASSIDAE		
<i>Chanda nama</i>	+	+
<i>Parambassis baculis</i>	+	+
<i>P. ranga</i>	+	+
TERAPONIDAE		
<i>Terapon jarburua</i>	+	+
SILLAGINIDAE		
<i>Sillaginopsis panijus</i>	+	+

	Marang Forest	Reclaimed Area
<i>Sillago sihama</i>	+	+
CARANGIDAE		
<i>Caranx carangus</i>	-	+
<i>Megalaspis cordyla</i>	-	+
LEIOGNATHIDAE		
<i>Leiognathus blochii</i>	-	-
<i>L. equulus</i>	-	+
LUTJANIDAE		
<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>	-	-
<i>L. johni</i>	-	-
LOBOTIDAE		
<i>Datnioides quadrijasciatus</i>	-	-
GERRIDAE		
<i>Gerrus ovata</i>	-	-
<i>Gerruomorpha setifer</i>	-	-
POMADASYIDAE		
<i>Pomadasyus argenteus</i>	-	-
<i>P. nasa</i>	-	-
SCIAENIDAE		
<i>Dysciaena albida</i>	+	-
<i>Johnius belangeri</i>	+	+
<i>J. coitor</i>	+	+
<i>J. sina</i>	+	+
<i>J. vogleri</i>	+	-
<i>Nibea soldado</i>	+	+
<i>Otolithoides biauritus</i>	+	-
<i>Pama pama</i>	+	-
EPHIPPIDAE		
<i>Drepane punctata</i>	+	-
SCATOPHAGIDAE		
<i>Scatophagus argus</i>	+	+
NANDIDAE		
<i>Nandus naudus</i>	-	+
CICHLIDAE		
<i>Epiplatys surattensis</i>	-	-
MUGILIDAE		
<i>Liza microlepis</i>	+	-
<i>L. parsia</i>	+	+
<i>L. subviridis</i>	+	+
<i>L. tade</i>	+	+
<i>Muqil cephalus</i>	+	+
<i>Rhinomugil corsula</i>	+	+

<i>Valamugil cunnesius</i>	+	+
<i>V. speigleri</i>	+	+
POLYNEMIDAE		
<i>Eleutheronema tetradactylum</i>	+	+
<i>Polydoctylus indicus</i>	+	+
<i>Polynemus paradiseus</i>	+	+
GOBIIDAE		
<i>Apocryptes bato</i>	+	-
<i>Awaouichthys menoni</i>	+	+
<i>Boleophthalmus boddarti</i>	-	+
<i>Brachygobius nanus</i>	-	-
<i>Glassogobius giurus</i>	-	-
<i>Gobiopterus chuno</i>	-	+
<i>Periophthalmodon schlosseri</i>	+	+
<i>Periophthalmus koelreuteri</i>	+	+
<i>P. pearsei</i>	-	-
<i>Pseudapocryptes lanceolatus</i>	-	+
<i>Scartelaos histophorus</i>	-	+
GOBIODIDAE		
<i>Odontamblypus rubicundus</i>	+	+
TRYPACHENIDAE		
<i>Amblyotrypauchen arcyocephalus</i>	+	+
<i>Trypauchen vagina</i>	+	+
KURTIDAE		
<i>Kurtus indicus</i>	+	-
TRICHIURIDAE		
<i>Enpleurogrammus muticus</i>	+	-
<i>Lepturacanthus pantulai</i>	+	+
<i>L. savala</i>	+	+
<i>Trichiurus gangeticus</i>	+	+
STROMATEIDAE		
<i>Pampus argenteus</i>	+	-
<i>P. chinensis</i>	+	-
<i>Stromateus sinensis</i>	+	-
ORDER: PLEURONECTIFORMES		
SOLEIDAE		
<i>Euryglossa pan</i>	+	-
CYNOGLOSSIDAE		
<i>Cynoglossus cynoglossus</i>	+	+
<i>C. lingua</i>	+	+

Family & Species	Mangrove Forest	Reclaimed Areas
ORDER: TETRAODONTIFORMES		
TRIACANTHIDAE		
<i>Triacanthus brevirostris</i>	+	-
TETRAODONTIDAE		
<i>Chelonodon cutcutia</i>	+	-
<i>C. patoca</i>	+	-
<i>Fugu oblongus</i>	+	-
<i>Lagocephalus lunaris</i>	+	-