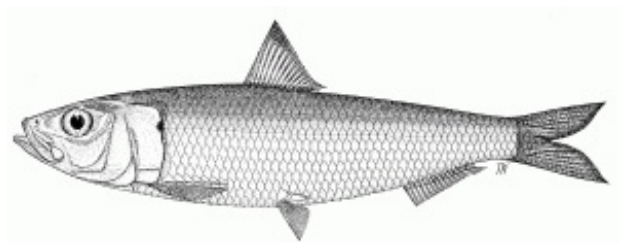




Species Fact Sheets

Sardinella longiceps (Valenciennes, 1847)



Black and white drawing: [\(click for more\)](#)

Synonyms

- *Sardinella longiceps* Whitehead, 1965
- *Sardinella neohowii* Valenciennes, 1847, Hist.nat.poiss., 20:274 (Cannanore).
- *Alausa scombrina* Valenciennes, , Hist.nat. poiss., 20:442 (Cannanore).

FAO Names

En - Indian oil sardine, Fr - Sardinelle indienne, Sp - Sardinela aceitera.

3Alpha Code: IOS Taxonomic Code: 1210501204

Scientific Name with Original Description

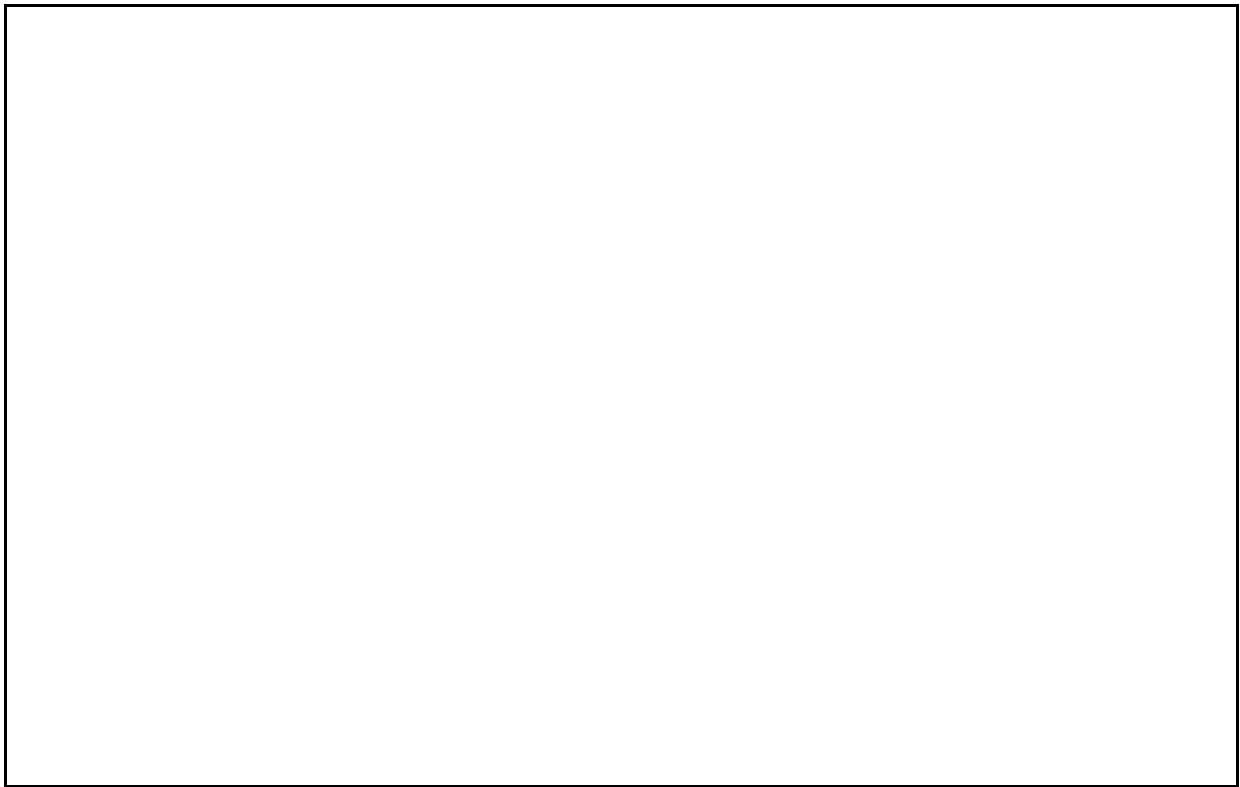
Sardinella longiceps Valenciennes, 1847, Hist.nat.poiss., 20:273 (Pondicherry).

Diagnostic Features

Body elongate, subcylindrical, its depth less than 30% of standard length, belly rounded. The pelvic finray count of i 8 distinguishes *S. longiceps* from all other clupeids in the northern Indian Ocean. Very closely resembles *Sardinella neglecta* of East African coasts, but head longer (29 tp 35% of standard length; cf. 26 to 29% in *S. neglecta*) and more lower gillrakers (150 to 253 in fishes of 8 to 15.5 cm standard length, usually more than 180; cf. 143 to 188 in *S. neglecta* of 9.5 to 13 cm standard length, usually less than 185).

Distinguished in the same way from *Sardinella lemuru* (whose range it may overlap in the Andaman Sea), but the latter has even fewer gillrakers (77 to 188 in *S. lemuru* of 6.5 to 22 cm standard length). A faint golden spot behind gill opening, followed by a faint golden midlateral line; a distinct black spot at hind border of gill cover (absence of pigment).

Geographical Distribution



**Launch the Aquatic Species Distribution
map viewer**

Indian Ocean (northern and western parts only, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, but apparently not Red Sea or the "Gulf", eastward to southern part of India, on eastern coast to Andhra; possibly to Andamans).

Habitat and Biology

Coastal, pelagic, schooling, strongly migratory. Feeds mainly on phytoplankton (especially diatoms), both as juveniles and adults, but also on zooplankton (especially copepods by the juveniles).

Breeds once a year, the spawners arriving off western coasts of India in June-July when temperatures and salinity are low during the southwest monsoon months; extended spawning season, but most intense in August-September; exact spawning grounds not located (Nair, 1973:18 - who summarized the biology of the species).

Size

Perhaps to 23 cm standard length, usually to 20 cm.

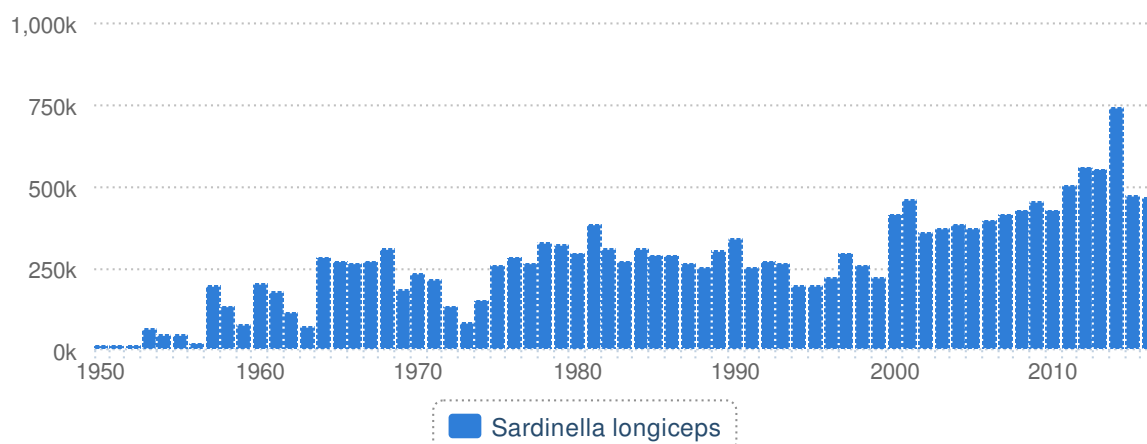
Interest to Fisheries

The most important and abundant clupeoid in Indian waters (up to 30% of all marine fishes), although with considerable variations catches from year to year, e.g. 7 400 t in 1956, but 189 000 t in 1960 (Jhingran, 1982:527). The total catch reported for this species to FAO for 1999 was 209 806 t. The countries with the largest catches were India (148 683 t) and Pakistan (30 629 t).

[➔ Additional information on Introduced Species \(DIAS\)](#)

Global Capture Production for species (tonnes)

Source: FAO FishStat



Local Names

INDIA : Mathi (Malayalam), Boothai (Kannada), Taralai , Haid (Marathi).

Source of Information

FAO Species catalogue Vol. 7. Clupeoid fishes of the world. (Suborder CLUPEOIDEI) An annotated and illustrated catalogue of the herrings, sardines, pilchards, sprats, anchovies and wolf-herrings. Part 1. Chirocentridae, Clupeidae and Pristigasteridae. Whitehead, P.J.P. 1985. FAO Fish. Synop., (125) Vol.7 Pt. 1:303 p.

Bibliography

Nair, (1960, 1973 - the best summary of biological data)

other references to biological studies summarized by Whitehead, (1973b:178)

