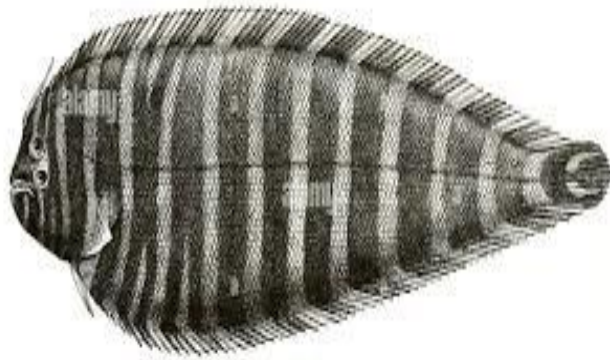


Synaptura (Flat fish)

Classification

Kingdom : Animalia
Phylum : Chordata
Class : Actinopterygii
Order : Carangiformes
Family : Soleidae
Genus : Synaptura



Characteristics:

- Synaptura is a genus of flatfish belonging to the family Soleidae (soles), characterized by its laterally compressed body and the migration of one eye to the upper side of the head to facilitate camouflage on the seafloor.
- **Flatfish Morphology:** Like all flatfish, Synaptura have a deeply compressed, laterally flattened body and both eyes are located on the upper side of the head.
- **Size:** The largest species in the genus can reach a length of about 50 cm.
- **Camouflage:** They possess excellent camouflage, allowing them to blend in with the seabed, which helps them avoid predators and ambush prey.
- **Diet:** As ambush predators, they feed on smaller fish, crustaceans, and other benthic organisms found on the seafloor.

Habitat and Distribution

- **Marine and Brackish Waters:** Most species are found in saltwater and brackish water environments.
- **Geographic Range:** They inhabit the Indo-Pacific region, extending to the tropical East Atlantic, with some species found as far as the Red Sea and parts of Africa.
- **Freshwater Species:** At least one species, *Synaptura salinarum*, is restricted to freshwater environments in Australia.

Important Facts

- **Fisheries:** Synaptura species, along with other flatfish, are important for commercial and recreational fisheries in many regions.
- **Taxonomic Revisions:** The genus has undergone taxonomic changes, and some species previously assigned to Synaptura are now classified in other genera, such as Dagetichthys.

Unique Facts

- **Active Camouflage:** The ability to bury themselves under rubble and their effective camouflage make them difficult to spot.
- **Genus Confusion:** The Synaptura genus itself has faced taxonomic challenges. Paul Chabanaud initially retained the genus Synaptura, but this was later found to be incorrect according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.
- According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, its type species designation was initially incorrect, leading to some workers assigning its species to other genera, like Dagetichthys.
- **Market Value:** They are commercially important and marketed in various forms, including fresh, frozen, and dried-salted.