

by Alan R. Everson

Valid name *Pristipomoides sieboldii* (Bleeker 1857) (Fig. 65)
Synonymy *Chaetopterus sieboldii* Bleeker 1857
Chaetopterus dubius Günther 1859
Bowersia ulaula Jordan and Evermann 1905
Pristipomoides sieboldii Jordan and Thompson 1911
Ulaula sieboldii Jordan and Jordan 1927
Pristipomoides filamentosus Fowler 1931
 (from Kami 1973)

Common and vernacular names Pink snapper; von Siebold's snapper; ulaula, koae, kalekale; kalikali

Distribution

Commonly taken around the main islands and banks. In the NWHI, taken on or near the bottom at depths between 91 and 219 m from Nihoa to Ladd Seamount.

Distinguishing characteristics

D. X, 11; A. III, 8; Gr. 21+5. Body long, slender, head bluntly conic, with rather short snout; moderate, somewhat oblique mouth; jaws about equal, with bands of villiform teeth on vomer, palatines, and tongue; eye rather large, its lower border in line with the axis of the body. Dorsal fin continuous without a notch; caudal fin densely scaled, widely forked, with equal lobes; pectoral fin slightly hooked (Jordan and Evermann 1905).

Kalekale is often confused with opakapaka. Distinguishing characteristics to separate species are: vomerines form an elongate diamond-shaped patch, with the blunt end of the diamond facing forward versus a triangular vomerine patch in opakapaka; kalekale generally smaller, eye larger, and more scales on the lateral line (Gosline and Brock 1960).

Kalekale silvery red with faint longitudinal blue lines in life. Dorsal and pectoral fins yellowish, ventral and anal fins clear, and tail fin reddish (Tinker 1978).

Life history

Life history information on kalekale is limited. It is an opportunistic bottom feeder and eats a variety of small fishes, crustaceans, larval squids, and tunicates (Kami 1973). The sex ratio is 78:22 (N = 162) in favor of females. The functional length-weight relationship for 128 kalekale ranging from 24.5 to 43.5 cm FL is:

$$W = 2.06 \times 10^{-9} L^{3.3702},$$

where W = weight (kg) and L = fork length (mm) (Uchiyama et al. 1984).

Gear and catch

Kalekale is taken mainly with deep-sea handline and occasionally by trap. Historically, kalekale has been a fairly important commercial species in Hawaii (Uchida et al. 1979). During 1961-63, annual catches rose slightly from about 8,300 to 11,000 kg, then declined steadily until 1970 when only 2,000 kg were landed. Since then, the catch has fluctuated within a narrow range from 2,600 to 4,400 kg. The average annual catch during 1961-79 was 4,700 kg.

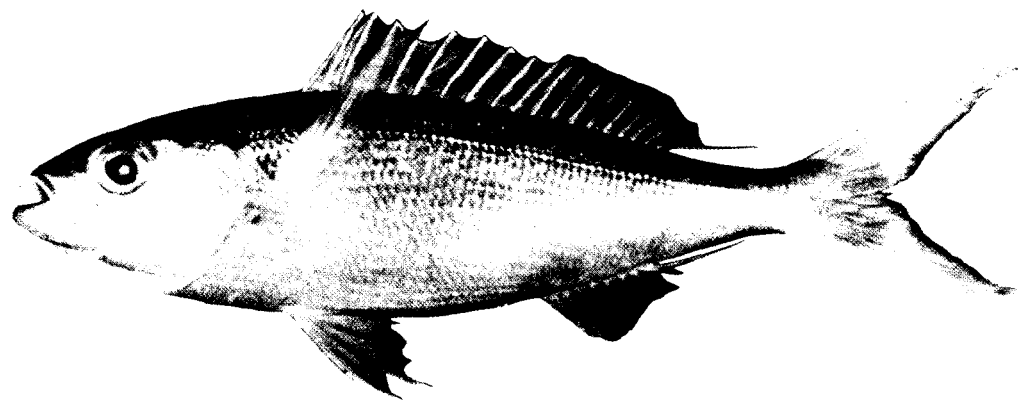


Figure 65.—*Pristipomoides sieboldii*.