

# How to identify *Rastrelliger* sp. larvae



## Description of the *Rastrelliger* sp. larvae

The *Rastrelliger* sp. has been used for human consumption since ancient times and generally found in the coastal region of Thailand.

There were many studies about fish larvae in the Gulf of Thailand, there was Niracha *et al.* (2014) studied about *Rastrelliger* sp. larvae in the Southern Gulf of Thailand. The result showed that the average abundance of *Rastrelliger* sp. larvae was 4.66 larvae/1000 m<sup>3</sup> and Temvichakorn (1999) conducted in the Gulf of Thailand and East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia, the result showed *Rastrelliger* sp. larvae 163 and 365 individuals.

The *Rastrelliger* sp. larvae are unlike the larvae of tunas and other scombroids, the *Rastrelliger* sp. larvae lack preopercular spines. They are also characterized by having about 31 myomeres. The intestine short and the larvae have characteristics pigmentation

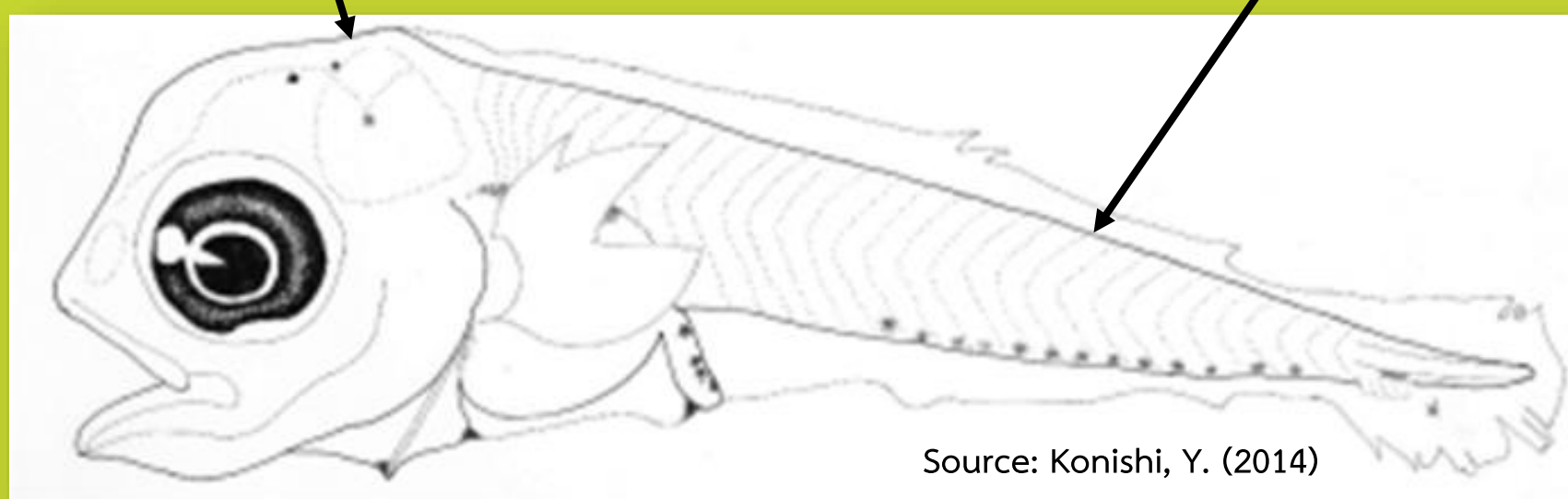
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To facilitates identification, the diagnostic characters of *Rastrelliger* sp. larvae are given here:

1. No preopercular spines. Round head and mouth are relatively small. Ventral margin of tail pigmented 31 myomeres.
2. Pigment over brain sparse and pigment on ventral gut and preanus distinct. The anterior tip of both jaws nearly meets.

Pigment over brain poor

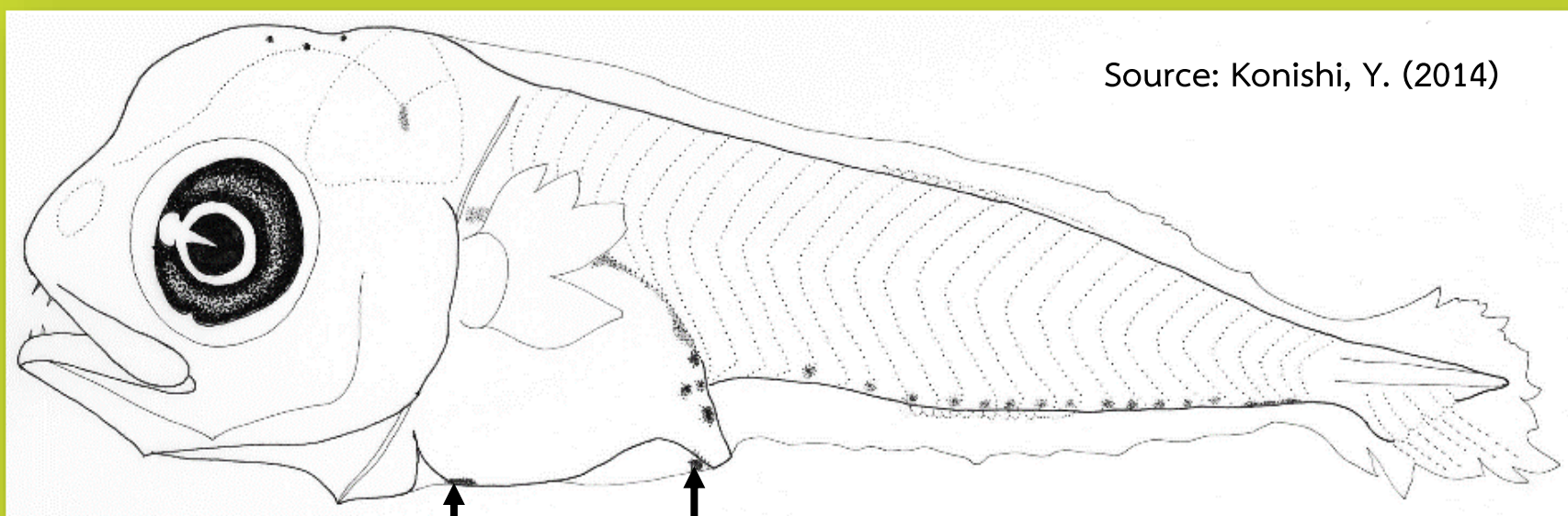
31 myomeres



size 3.7 mm. NL.

(a.)

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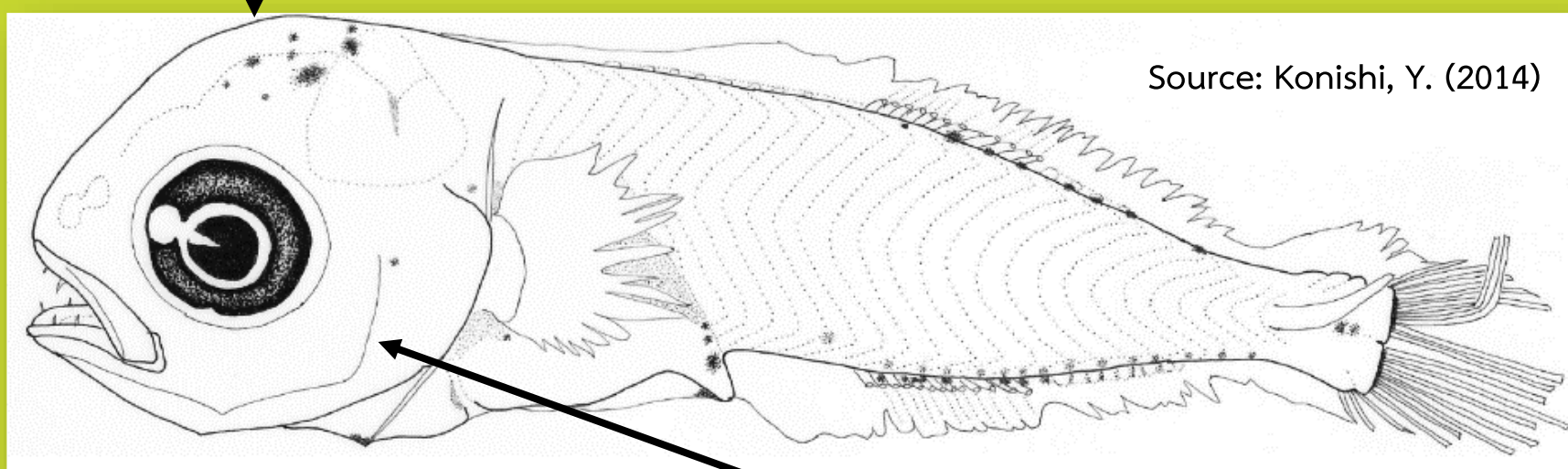
Source: Konishi, Y. (2014)

size 4.2 mm. NL.

(b.)

Pigment on preanus and ventral gut distinct

Head and snout round



Source: Konishi, Y. (2014)

size 5.3 mm. NL.

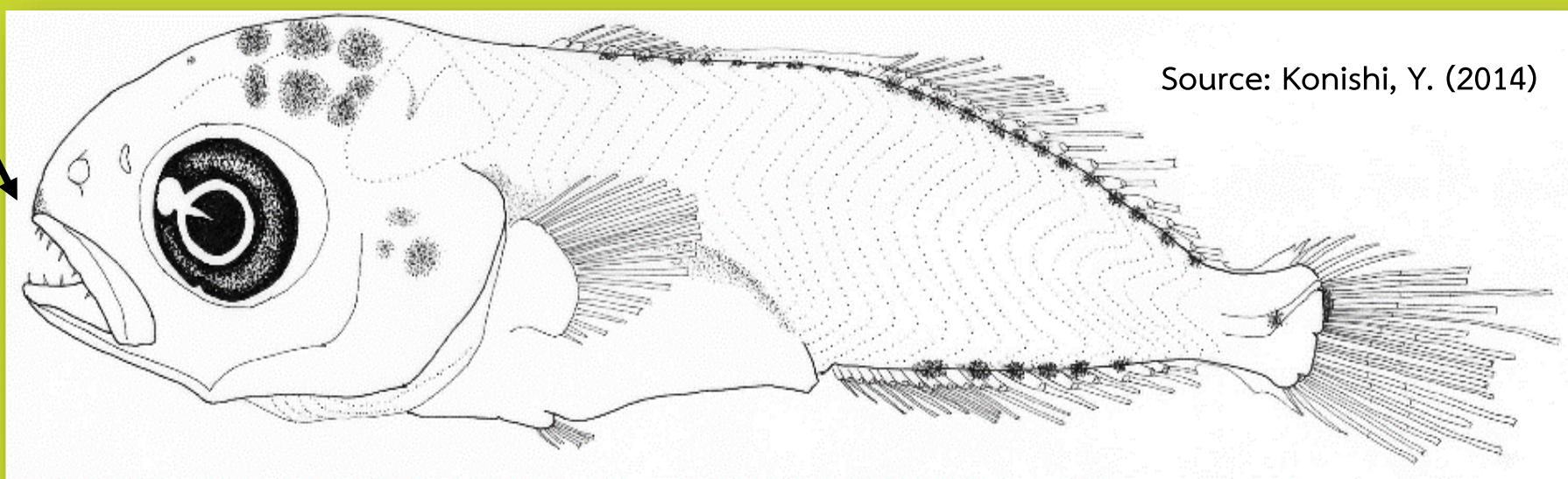
(c.)

No spine

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Both jaw tip nearly join



18.7 mm. NL.

(d.)

## References

Niracha S., Thidarat K., Utit C. and Srivita C. (2014). Abundance and Distribution of *Rastrelliger* Larvae in the Southern Gulf of Thailand, Technical Paper No.11/2014. Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation.

Konishi, Y. (2014). *Rastrelliger kanagurta*. In Okiyama, M. (ed.), An atlas of early stage fishes in Japan (Second Edition). Tokai Univ. Press, Hadano, pp. 1391-1392. (in Japanese).

Termvidchakorn A. (1999). Kinds, Abundance and Distribution of the Fish Larvae in The South China Sea, Area I: Gulf of Thailand and East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Proceedings of The First Technical Seminar on Marine Fishery Resources Survey in The South China Sea Area I Gulf of Thailand And East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), pp.241-255.