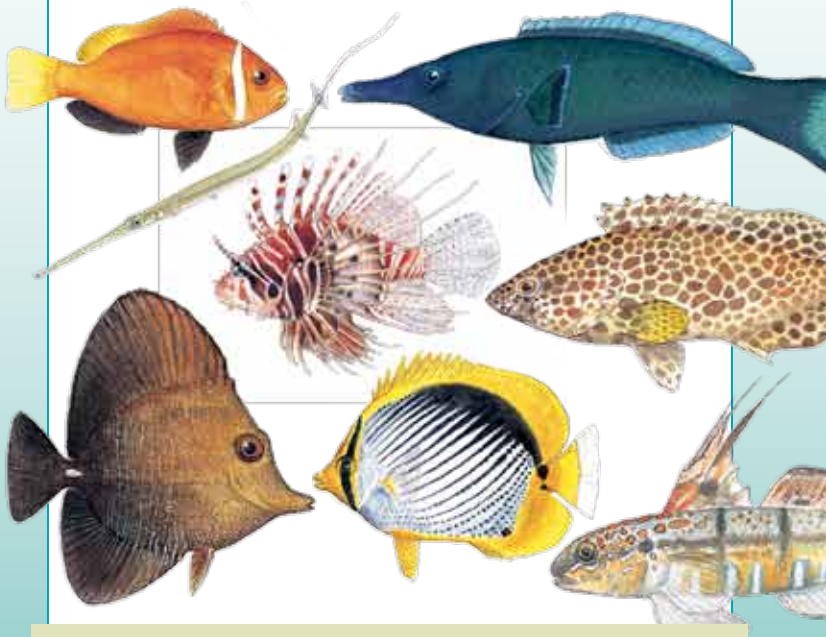
Mangroves for the Future
INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Field Guide to

Reef Fishes

of Sri Lanka



Arjan Rajasuriya

Illustrations by Shantha Jayaweera

UNDP IUCN care FAO UNEP WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL DANIDA Norad SWEDEN

Field Guide to

Reef Fishes

of Sri Lanka

Arjan Rajasuriya

Illustrations by Shantha Jayaweera

Volume 1

This publication is produced by Mangroves for the Future with financial support of Danida, Norad and Sida.

Published by: IUCN, Sri Lanka Country Office

Citation: Rajasuriya, Arjan (2013). *Field Guide to Reef Fishes of Sri Lanka*. Colombo: IUCN Sri Lanka Office. xxix+ 104 pages

ISBN: 978-955-0205-25-7

Design by: Nisansala Karunaratne Rajapaksa

Printed by: Karunaratne & Sons Ltd.
67, Industrial Estate,
Katuwana Road, Homagama, Sri Lanka.

Available from: IUCN, Sri Lanka Country Office
53, Horton Place
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka
Tel: ++94-011-2694094, 2682418
Fax: 2682470
http:// iucn.org/srilanka

Contents

Foreword

Using his marine experience of nearly four decades, the author — Arjan Rajasuriya — has provided accurate descriptions of selected reef fishes, with precise illustrations by Shantha Jayaweera in this 'Field Guide to Reef Fishes of Sri Lanka'. This book fills a long felt gap, as country-specific field guides for Sri Lanka have not been readily available for marine enthusiasts to learn about reef fishes in our waters. This publication will be immensely useful for those who are interested to learn about reef fishes and may also help officials in the identification of some of the species of reef fishes protected by law. This is the first in the series of field guides describing 158 species of reef fishes in Sri Lankan coastal waters. Subsequent volumes will cover the rest of the species.

We believe this Field Guide to Reef Fishes of Sri Lanka will enhance awareness about these wonderful animals and their habitats for better conservation action.

Shamen Vidanage
Acting Country Representative
IUCN, Sri Lanka

Preface

Ever since I first looked underwater more than 40 years ago, I have been fascinated by the diversity and number of fish on our reefs. Reef fish add colour and movement to a reef and fish watching is a fascinating and rewarding activity for snorkelers and divers. Knowing the names of fish adds to one's enjoyment, especially in later discussions of what was observed underwater or to identify a fish from an underwater photograph. Identifying fish is equally important for a student or a naturalist who wants to record the diversity of reef fish at a location. Reef fish identification guides were not readily available in Sri Lanka forty years ago, and I often used the names commonly used by local fishermen. Even today, there is a dearth of readily available, well-illustrated field guides for the informed layperson to identify accurately the reef fish found in Sri Lanka.

This field guide has been developed to fulfil this gap and assist both serious fish observers and informed layperson to identify reef fish found on our reefs. This book contains 169 illustrations of 158 reef fish species that can be seen both on coastal and offshore reefs. It provides basic information on each species based on published information and from my own experience of observing most of them underwater.

Today, reefs are under threat from several human activities — including destructive fishing, pollution and uncontrolled resource exploitation. Therefore, it is hoped that this field guide will spark an interest among the readers to play an active role in the conservation of these beautiful but vulnerable fishes.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the Mangroves for the Future Initiative (MFF) for providing financial resources for the production of this publication. This publication is produced by Mangroves for the Future with financial support of Danida, Norad and Sida.

Special thanks are directed to Mr. Shamen Vidanage, Acting Country Representative of IUCN Sri Lanka Country Office. This publication would not have been possible without his support and encouragement. I wish to thank Mr. Shantha Jayaweera for the beautiful and accurate illustrations of reef fish that are so critical for their identification. I extend my thanks also to Ms. Kumudini Ekaratne, MFF National Coordinator for Sri Lanka, for the support given during this assignment, as well to Dr. Sriyanie Miththapala for editing this publication in a very short time and for providing additional information to make the publication more useful to the readers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the experience received at the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency of Sri Lanka (NARA), where I was involved in conducting reef surveys for more than 25 years, during which time I had the opportunity to observe most of these fishes in their natural environment and the luxury of countless hours of diving among these beautiful denizens of our reefs.

Introduction

There is no official count of the number of reef fish species that are found in Sri Lanka. A comprehensive survey of reef fish inhabiting coastal and offshore reefs is lacking. Lieske and Myers (1994) estimate that more than 900 species of reef fish may be found in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Reef fish surveys conducted at several locations indicate that a single location may support between 300 to 500 species.

This field guide contains descriptions of 158 species of reef fish divided among 37 families. It has 169 illustrations to assist non-specialist observers to identify reef fish, while snorkelling or scuba diving. Information provided for each species is based on published literature and knowledge of the author since early 1970's.

Habitats of reef fishes in Sri Lanka

The continental shelf of Sri Lanka supports many reef habitats. Reef habitats are patches of hard ground separated by areas of sand or mud, and are located at various distances from the shore.

Reefs that are close to shore are called **fringing reefs**. They occur as a narrow belt around the coast. They may or may not contain a reef lagoon, which is a narrow body of water between the fringing reef and the shore. Examples of fringing reefs can be seen at Hikkaduwa, Unawatuna and Weligama in the South, and along the coast of the Jaffna Peninsula in the North.

Reefs that are located beyond the immediate vicinity of the coastline are called **offshore reefs**. In this document, the term 'offshore' is used to describe reefs that are located approximately two kilometres beyond the shoreline and up to the edge of the continental shelf.

Fringing and offshore reefs have been divided into three habitat types; coral, sandstone and rock reefs, based on the type of substrate visible to an observer.

Coral reef habitats are typically made up of living hard corals. Examples of coral habitats can be seen at Hikkaduwa and at Pigeon Island (Figure 1). Extensive coral reefs are located offshore in the Gulf of Mannar, at Vankalai, Silavaturai, Arrippu and Bar Reef. Other major coral reef areas are from Akurala to Tangalle in the South, Kutchchaveli to Kalmunai in the East and around the Jaffna Peninsula.

Figure 1. Coral reef Habitat

Sandstone reefs are widespread and are found nearshore, as well as offshore, up to the edge of the continental shelf. They support small patches of hard and soft corals. The majority are located along bathymetric gradients on the continental shelf, and are, therefore, approximately parallel to the coast (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Sandstone reef habitat

Rock reef habitats are of hard rock, which is granite or a similar hard substrate and are part of the bedrock. Examples of rock reefs can be found along the coast in the south and in Trincomalee (Figure 3). Some can be seen nearshore, as well as offshore, when sections are above the water. Sometimes they form islands such as Pigeon Island in the East. Rock reef structures occur as patches or ridges on the continental shelf and beyond.

The depths of reef habitats vary from a about a metres in the intertidal zone to more than 100 metres near the edge of the continental shelf. The continental shelf is widest in the Gulf of Mannar and in the northeast, where reef habitats at a depth of about 50 metres can be found at a distance of about 35 kilometres offshore. The continental shelf is narrower in the South, therefore reef habitats at a depth of 50 metres are only about 10 kilometres offshore.

Figure 3. Rock reef habitat

Reef habitats are often linked to seagrass meadows, mangroves and estuaries through transfer of nutrients and the migration of species. Some groups of reef fish — such as rabbit fish (Siganidae) — live among seagrass meadows and in mangrove areas during their juvenile stage and migrate to reef habitats as they mature.

Distribution of species

Many reef fish described in this publication are distributed widely in the Indo-Pacific region, stretching from the Red Sea and East African coast, to islands of Polynesia in the Central Pacific. Some are found only in the Indian Ocean. The Sri Lanka sweetlips (*Plectorhinchus ceylonensis*) is endemic to Sri Lanka. Many reef fishes have a pelagic larval stage and are, therefore, distributed by ocean currents. However, some have a limited distribution even within a country. The Eight-banded butterflyfish (*Chaetodon octofasciatus*) is an example. This species is found in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay and Palk Strait in Sri Lanka, but is extremely rare or absent on other reef areas of the country.

The maximum depth given for a species in Sri Lanka is based on the observed or reported depth for each species. As a result, the maximum depth reported in this publication may differ from the maximum depth given for a species throughout its range.

Inshore and offshore habitats or areas are terms used in this field guide to describe whether a species is found close to the shore or far from the shore.

Threats to reef fishes

Coral reefs support human life and livelihoods and are important economically. Nearly 500 million people depend — directly and indirectly — on coral reefs for their livelihoods, food and other resources. Further, it is estimated that nearly 30 million of the poorest human populations in the world depend entirely on coral reefs for their food.

Despite their immense ecological, economical and aesthetic values, it is estimated that 20% of the world's coral reefs have been destroyed. Another 24% are at high risk of collapse, and yet another 26% at risk from long-term collapse as a result of human activities.

Sri Lanka is no exception. Here too coral reefs are under threat. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) identified five major drivers of biodiversity loss: overexploitation, habitat loss and degradation, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change, and this section of threats will be discussed under these categories.

Overexploitation

Many coral reef species are exploited commercially. Widespread use of destructive fishing methods — such as bottom-set nets and blast fishing — have damaged reefs and over-harvesting has reduced fish populations. Although netting on reefs is prohibited in Sri Lanka, fishermen continue to do so in the absence of offshore policing. Large reef fish — such as groupers — are vulnerable to overexploitation, especially when they are targeted by spear fishermen using scuba. The removal of the Tomato hind (*Cephalopholis sonnerati*) is an example of the damage caused by spear fishing. This species, among others of the same family, is responsible in the maintenance of holes in the reef structures in deep water reefs by fanning sand out of holes to create hiding places. This behaviour creates space for other species — such as the Scarlet shrimp (*Lysmata debelius*) — that is highly sought-after by the aquarium trade. The removal of the Tomato hind by divers has resulted in the holes becoming covered by sand and the loss of habitat for the Scarlet shrimp.

A few species of uncommon or rare reef fish species are protected under the Fauna and Flora Protection Act No. 2 of 1937 and its amendments and the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996 and its amendments and export is prohibited. However, these species are not protected locally from fishing activities, and are thus, highly vulnerable, even if they are not exported.

Habitat degradation due to fishing activities

Habitat degradation is occurring because of collection of reef fishes for the aquarium trade. Inexperienced fish collectors often disturb the habitat to drive the fish out of hiding places, thus causing much damage to the structure of the reef. Blast fishing also damages the reef. The use of bottom-set nets to catch spiny lobsters and reef fish is widespread in Sri Lanka. Corals, sponges, gorgonians and other organisms on the reef get entangled with these nets and are discarded on the beach when the nets are cleaned. Habitat degradation caused by this destructive fishing method is widespread especially in the Gulf of Mannar. Using nets on reefs is prohibited under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996.

Pollution

Coastal water pollution is increasing rapidly due the development of coastal cities and industrialization. The impact of pollution on reef fishes has not been studied in Sri Lanka, although the quality of reef habitats has been degrading steadily.

Invasive alien species

Very little is known about marine invasive alien species in this region.

Climate change

In 1998, coral bleaching that occurred because of ocean warming triggered by climate change, was responsible for extensive damage to coral reefs in the Indian Ocean. Most coral reef habitats were destroyed completely during this event and many have not recovered. Reef fishes — such as species of butterfly fish — that depend on corals for food were not sighted on these damaged reefs for several years after the

bleaching event. However, with the recovery of corals, these species have begun to recolonise some damaged coral reefs.

Crown-of-Thorns starfish

Coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar and in the East were severely damaged in the 1970's because of a population explosion of the crown-of-thorns starfish *(Acanthaster planci)* which is a predator of live corals. Since then, there have been fluctuations in its population. There was a marked decline in the population after they lost their food source in 1998 during the coral bleaching event in the Indian Ocean. The causes of a population explosion of the crown-of -thorns starfish is not known. Even studies conducted for more than 20 years on the Great Barrier Reef have not provided the answers to this problem.

An explanation of the details given in the species descriptions in this book

Family : The name of the family to which the species belong.

Scientific name : Includes the Genus and Species name, followed by the name of the author who first described the species.

Common name : Common English name. (As given in Fishbase, the Redlist, Lieske and Myers, 1994 and Bruin et al., 1995).

Length : Maximum size (in cm) indicated throughout its range.

Distribution	:	Geographical extent of the distribution of the species with a comment, if applicable, on its distribution in Sri Lanka.
Habitats	:	The habitats occupied by the species in Sri Lanka.
Depth range	:	Observed or reported depth range for the species in Sri Lanka (may be found deeper than this depth).
Behaviour	:	Observed behaviour in Sri Lanka.
Diet	:	Diet of the species according to published information.
Economic importance	:	Commercial use in Sri Lanka.
Threats	:	Direct drivers of population loss of the species, specific to Sri Lanka.
IUCN Red List Status	:	Conservation status given in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. (See box below)
Protected status in Sri Lanka	:	Legal protection afforded to the species in Sri Lanka.

The IUCN Red List provides the conservation status and information about plants and animals that are facing a high risk of extinction. The process of Red Listing includes a rigorous scientific assessment, centred around a set framework, that examines the change in the status of plants and animals. These assessments identify and document those species which need the most focused conservation attention. Red Listing is carried out at a global level by the IUCN's Global Species Programme working with some 7,500 volunteer experts from the Species Survival Commission.

Red Listing is also carried out at the national level. In Sri Lanka, Red Listing has been a part of species conservation for the last two decades. It is one of few Asian countries to have three Red Lists, published in 2012, 2007 and 1999. In Sri Lanka too, the work has been collaborative, involving IUCN Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy and a suite of local experts.

Depending on the degree of threat, the IUCN Red List recognises several categories of status for species, depending on the severity of the risk.

- At the highest end of the scale is Extinct.
- In between are five other categories:
    - Extinct in the Wild;
    - Critically Endangered;
    - Endangered;
    - Vulnerable; and
    - Near Threatened.
- At the lowest end of the scale, is Least Concern.
- Data Deficient: A taxon is Data Deficient when there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status.
- Not Evaluated: A taxon is Not Evaluated when it has not yet been evaluated against the Redlist criteria.

Description of the families

Family: Acanthuridae (Surgeonfishes, tangs and unicornfishes)

Surgeonfish derive their common name from the sharp scalpel-like blades located at the base of their tails. These blades may be used for attack or defence. When not in use, the blades can be folded back against the bodies of these fish. Unicornfish — as indicated by their common name — are characterized by a horn-like extension on the head or a raised bump on the forehead. They also possess two non-foldable spines on either side of the tail base. Both groups are primarily herbivores, which browse on macro algae. A few species feed on plankton. Most species exhibit schooling behaviour. They are economically important as food fish, as well as aquarium fish.

Family: Apogonidae (Cardinalfishes)

Cardinalfishes are small, nocturnal fish that live close to caves, crevices and overhanging ledges during daytime. They are carnivores and become active during the night. Most species of cardinalfish feed on zoobenthos. Some species like the Large toothed cardinalfish (*Cheilodipterus macrodon*) feed on small finfish such as blennies (Blenniidae).The male cardinal fish incubates eggs inside its mouth until they hatch. Cardinalfish have no economic importance.

Family: Aulostomidae (Trumpetfishes)

Trumpetfishes have long, laterally compressed bodies. This is a predator that usually stays motionless against the habitat, and ambushes its prey — such as small fish and crustaceans. There are three colour forms; brown, green or yellow.

Family: Balistidae (Triggerfishes)

Triggerfishes possess a large, first dorsal spine that can be locked in an erect position with the use of the second dorsal spine. Using these spines, triggerfish lock themselves inside holes and crevices in the reef when threatened or resting. They have very rough skins and have strong jaws and teeth.

Most species feed on benthic organisms, such as crabs, shells, starfish and sea urchins, while a few species feed on plankton. Triggerfish lay their eggs in a nest near the base of a reef and aggressively guard this nest.

Family: Caesionidae (Fusiliers)

Fusiliers are primarily plankton feeders that are found in large schools in mid water over reefs. They are important food fish and some species are used as baitfish to catch tuna.

Family: Carangidae (Jacks and trevallys)

Jacks and trevallys belong to a large family of fishes. Most species have silver colouration and are well-camouflaged when swimming in open water. All species are carnivorous and feed on a variety of prey, including fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other invertebrates. All are important food fishes. A few have coloured juveniles, suitable for aquariums.

Family: Carcharhinidae (Sharks)

This family has many species. Some live in the open ocean, while others are associated with reefs. All are carnivorous and feed on a variety of prey, including fish, cephalopods, molluscs and crustaceans. Sharks are important food fish and the juveniles of some species are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Chaetodontidae (Butterflyfishes)

Butterflyfishes are brightly coloured. Their swimming behaviour among coral heads resembles butterflies, hence their common name. Most species in this family are used as aquarium fish. Many species form pairs, while some are solitary or form schools. The majority are omnivorous, while a few species feed on the tentacles of coral polyps. Their presence on a reef is used as an indicator of the health of corals.

Family: Cirrhitidae (Hawkfishes)

Hawkfishes are ambush predators and derive their common name from their behaviour of staying motionless on a branch of coral, gorgonians or raised locations on the reef, to capture small fish and crustaceans. Several species are colourful and are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Dasyatidae (Stingrays)

Stingrays are usually found in sandy areas adjacent to reefs and seagrass meadows. They feed on molluscs and fish that live on the sand bottom. Some species are found close to shore, and feed on molluscs buried in the sand. The Eagle ray (*Aetobatus narinari*) does not rest on the sand like other sting rays. It is often seen in mid water over offshore reefs and over areas of sand. All species of stingrays have a venomous spine on their tails and a sting from a large ray can be fatal. Stingrays are edible and are used as food fish.

Family: Diodontidae (Porcupinefishes/ Burrfishes)

Porcupine fishes are covered with spines that can be erected, when threatened, making it impossible for a predator to eat it. They feed on molluscs and other hard shelled invertebrates. Juveniles of some species are used as aquarium fishes.

Family: Ephippidae (Batfishes)

Batfishes have compressed bodies and are found solitary or schooling in mid water over reefs. They feed on algae, invertebrates and small fish. Juveniles are coloured differently and are sometimes found in estuaries. Juveniles of some species resemble a dry leaf floating under the surface. They are popular aquarium fish.

Family: Fistulariidae (Cornetfishes/ Flutemouths)

Cornetfishes or flutemouths have a long snout and trailing thin filament on the tail. They have a snake-like body movement when they move. These fish are usually solitary and they feed on small fish and crustaceans. They are difficult to spot, when over the sand bottom due to their pale body colour. Cornetfish are food fish.

Family: Gobiidae (Gobies)

Gobies are a large family of small fish. Gobies live in a burrow in the sand. Most species live in pairs. Some species live with a shrimp in the burrow. They are carnivores or plankton feeders. Gobies are difficult to approach and dart into the burrow at the first sign of danger. A number of species are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Haemulidae (Sweetlips)

Sweetlips derive their common name because of their thickened lips. They usually form schools and can be seen resting under ledges or coral heads during daytime. They feed at night on invertebrates on the sand bottom. Juveniles of most species are brightly coloured and are popular aquarium fish. Adults are food fish.

Family: Hemiscylliidae (Bamboo sharks)

Bamboo sharks live close to the reef substrate. They hide during the day under ledges and rocks, and roam on the reef and adjacent sandy areas to feed at night on small fish and invertebrates. Juveniles of bamboo sharks are attractively marked with stripes and spots and are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Holocentridae (Squirrelfishes and soldierfishes)

Squirrelfishes and soldierfishes are nocturnal predators. Because of their nocturnal behaviour all the species have large eyes. Almost all species are red in colour and hide during the day under ledges or in caves. They come out at dusk to feed on small fish and invertebrates. Juveniles are occasionally used as aquarium fish. They are also occasionally used as food fish but are not popular because of their bony heads and large scales.

Family: Kyphosidae (Sea chubs/ rudderfishes)

Sea chubs/ rudderfishes can be seen in the surge zone on the reef crest; rarely deeper than two metres. Very little is known about rudderfish. They are omnivorous, feed on algae and benthic invertebrates. Juveniles are found far offshore under floating debris. Used as a food fish.

Family: Labridae (Wrasses)

Wrasses belong to a very large family of reef fish. The largest of the family is the Humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), which is about two metres in length, while the smaller species are only a few centimetres long. Juveniles of many species are differently coloured from adults. They gradually change colour as they grow into adult fish. Most species live in groups dominated by a large male. If the male is removed the largest female will become the next dominant male by changing sex. Juveniles of several wrasse species feed on parasites living on the skin of larger fish. However, they lose this behaviour when they grow into adult fish, except the genus *Labroides* (Cleaner wrasses), that remain as cleaners throughout their lives. Species that have colourful juveniles are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Lethrinidae (Emperor fishes)

Emperor fishes are predators, which are active mainly at night. They feed on invertebrates and fish and are found close to sandy areas adjacent to reef habitats. Most species are capable of changing colour rapidly, depending on the substrate and their moods. They are important food fish. Juveniles of some species are on inshore reefs; adults are usually below three metres and some species are found deeper than 100 metres. They are important food fish.

Family: Lutjanidae (Snappers)

Snappers are a common group of fishes on reef habitats. They are important commercially. Juveniles of some species are on inshore reefs and among seagrass meadows. Some species are found on deep reef habitats over 90 metres. Snappers feed on small fish, crustaceans, cephalopods and other benthic invertebrates. Most species are active at night. Juveniles of about three species are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Monodactylidae (Monos/ moonies)

Monos are abundant on coastal reefs near rivers and in estuaries. They can also live in freshwater. They occur in schools. Juveniles are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Mugilidae (Mullets)

Mullets are abundant in coastal waters, usually close to rivers, and also in estuaries. They can tolerate a wide range in salinities. They feed on detritus and algae. Mullets are important food fish and some species are used in aquaculture.

Family: Mullidae (Goatfishes)

Goatfishes derive their common name from to a pair of barbels located under the lower jaw. When not in use the barbels can be folded back. These barbels are highly sensitive and they are used to locate food in the sand and in holes on the reef. Some species are active at night and form large inactive aggregations during daytime and hover over reefs. Others are solitary and forage on the sand bottom during the day. Other fish, especially the Thumbprint emperor (*Lethrinus harak*), follow goatfish to feed on prey unearthed by the feeding behaviour of the goatfish. Goatfish are important food fish and juveniles of some species are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Muraenidae (Moray eels)

Moray eels are elongated fish. The larger species grow to about three metres and can be highly aggressive. All are carnivorous and feed on a variety of prey including fish, crustaceans, cephalopods and other benthic invertebrates. Several species are used as food fish in some countries but not in Sri Lanka. Juveniles and adults of several species are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Nemipteridae (Monocle breams)

Monocle breams are common reef fish on coastal and offshore reefs. They are closely associated with the bottom of the sea bed and rarely swim more than one metre above the sea bed. Some species are found on relatively deep reefs at 30 to 50 metres. They have a typical swimming behavior: the fish starts to move and then stops after a short distance and stays in mid water just above the bottom for a short while, before moving on and repeating the same behaviour. This behaviour appears to be a method to scan the surrounding area to locate their food that includes a variety of invertebrates such as bristleworms, isopods, small crabs and other benthic organisms. They are important food fish.

Family: Ostraciidae (Boxfishes/ Trunkfishes)

Boxfishes also called trunkfishes. They derive their common name from the shape of their bodies. The body is made up of bony plates with openings for the mouth, anus, tail and fins. They hover and manoeuvre over the bottom using the pectoral, soft dorsal and anal fins. The tail is used for short bursts of speed, to escape when threatened. Large males have territories up to 500 square metres. Boxfish feed on worms, sponges, tunicates and algae. In most species, the males and females are coloured differently. Juveniles and sub adults are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Pinguipedidae (Sandperches)

Sandperches are well-camouflaged bottom dwellers on reef habitats. They perch on corals or rocks close to sandy areas and wait for an opportunity to ambush their prey — small fish and invertebrates. They are mainly solitary or are found in small groups of three to four individuals.

Family: Pomacanthidae (Angelfishes)

Angelfishes can be divided into three groups, namely large (*Pomacanthus*), medium (*Apolemichthys*) and small, also called pygmy angelfish (*Centropyge*). Large adults of the genus *Pomacanthus* are highly territorial. When alarmed, the Emperor angelfish (*Pomacanthus imperator*) is capable of making a sound that can be heard up to a distance exceeding 10 metres. Angelfish feed on sponges, tunicates and algae. The colour of juveniles of the genus *Pomacanthus* is very different from their adult colouration. All species of angelfish are used as aquarium fish. The Regal angelfish (*Pygoplites diacanthus*) and the Dusky Angelfish (*Centropyge bispinosa*) are protected in Sri Lanka under the Fauna and Flora Protection Act and the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act.

Family: Pomacentridae (Damselfish and Clown fish)

Damselfish are a large and diverse group of relatively small-sized fish. They live close to the substrate for protection and to obtain food. Damselfish also occupy many different niches on the reef habitat. Some species prefer branching corals, while others occupy only the tabulate coral species. Several

species prefer holes in the reef structure or are found among coral rubble at the base of the reef. Their food preferences are equally diverse: from zooplankton to macro algae. Species that feed on plankton can be seen hovering over corals in schools of more than 100 individuals. There are some species that feed exclusively on algae and they maintain patches of algae within the territory of each fish and allow only the required species of algae to grow and weed out all other species of algae. These species are known as farmer fish. They are also highly territorial and attack all intruders, including humans. Most damselfish species form small groups or schools.

Clownfish that live with sea anemones belong to the family Pomacentridae. There are three species in Sri Lanka. All species of clown fish and several species of damselfish are used as aquarium fish. The Kuiter's damselfish (*Chrysiptera kuiteri*) is protected in Sri Lanka under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act.

Family: Scaridae (Parrotfishes)

Parrotfish derive their common name from their fused teeth that resemble the beak of a parrot. They feed by scraping algae growing on the reef. Some species may eat the tips of branching corals or scrape the surface of boulder corals. Juveniles occupy coral rubble areas and are in mixed species groups making it very difficult to identify, as most species have similar colouration. However, adults of most species are very brightly coloured and conspicuous on the reef. Usually, parrotfish are seen in groups dominated by a large male. Parrotfish rest at night within a mucous cocoon, to protect themselves from crabs and other nocturnal reef dwellers. Many species are important food fish. Juveniles of some highly attractive species are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Scorpaenidae (Scorpionfishes/ Lionfishes/ Stonefishes)

Scorpion fishes are venomous. Some species are conspicuous with large pectoral fins, while others are well-camouflaged and appear to be part of the reef. Species that are used in the aquarium trade are often called lionfish. The stonefish, which is highly venomous, is common on reefs but cannot be spotted easily because its colouration matches reef surfaces

with coralline algae. All scorpion fish are carnivorous and feed on small fish and shrimps. The Clearfin lionfish (*Pterois radiata*) is protected in Sri Lanka under the Fauna and Flora Protection Act and the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act.

Family: Serranidae (Sea basses and groupers)

Groupers belong to a commercially important group of fishes. They are common on coastal and offshore reef habitats. The largest in the family, the Giant grouper, grows to about two metres in length. Most species are ambush predators and rest near crevices and ledges of the reef. All large groupers are carnivorous and feed on fish, crustaceans and cephalopods. The smallest in the family are Anthias, that are also known as Fairy basslets. Anthias feed on plankton and aggregate over coral heads on offshore reefs in clear water. Several species of groupers are important food fish; some are also used as aquarium fish. The Giant grouper (*Epinephelus lanceolatus*) and Blue-and-yellow grouper (*Epinephelus flavocaeruleus*) are protected in Sri Lanka under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act.

Family: Siganidae (Rabbitfishes)

Rabbitfishes are common on reef habitats and on seagrass meadows. Some species are adapted to live in brackish water and can be found in coastal lagoons and estuaries. Rabbitfish occur in large schools or in small groups. Rabbitfish feed on algae and are important food fish.

Family: Synodontidae (Lizardfishes)

Lizard fishes are inconspicuous on the reef, as they are well camouflaged and do not swim about. They lie on the reef or on patches of coral rubble, and wait to ambush small fish and shrimps. They are voracious predators that possess rows of fine teeth in both jaws and tongue. Lizardfish are not economically important.

Family: Tetraodontidae (Puffers)

Puffers derive their common name from their ability to inflate themselves with water. They have a rather tough, prickly skin that is poisonous in several species. They are usually found in pairs. Puffers feed on algae, benthic invertebrates and sometimes on corals. Several species are used as aquarium fish.

Family: Zanclidae (Moorish idol)

The Moorish idol is a conspicuous fish on the reef and is found in small groups. It is related to surgeonfish, but lacks the scalpels or spines that are found at the base of the tail in the family Acanthuridae. This species feeds primarily on sponges. It is used as an aquarium fish but difficult to rear in captivity.

1 *Acanthurus bariene* Lesson – Black-spot surgeonfish/ Roundspot surgeonfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 50 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Acanthurus dussumieri* Valenciennes – Eyestripe surgeonfish

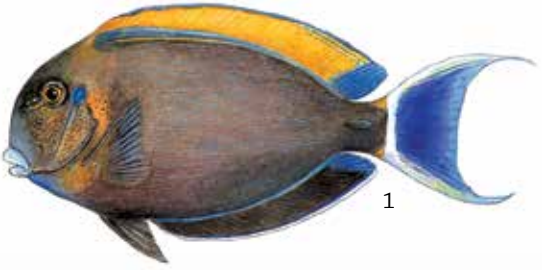
LENGTH: Maximum up to 54 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-40 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Acanthurus leucosternon* Bennett – Powder blue surgeonfish

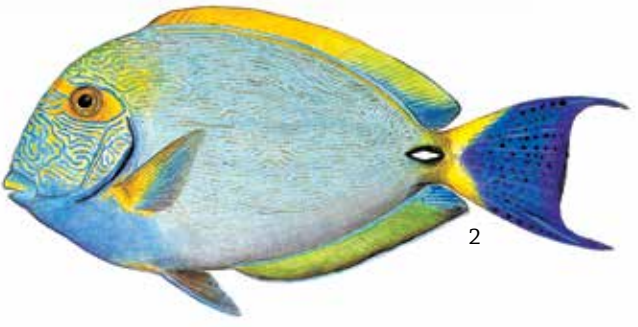
LENGTH: Maximum up to 54 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indian Ocean and up to Bali, Indonesia in the Western Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-25 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or groups. DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

4 *Acanthurus lineatus* (Linnaeus) – Lined surgeonfish

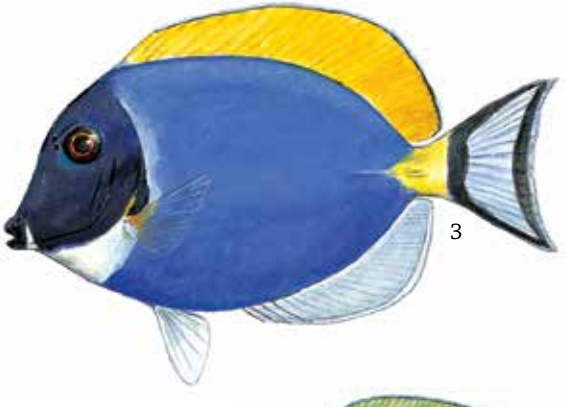
LENGTH: Maximum up to 38 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone, rock and coral rubble; especially on reef flats and surge zones of fringing reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-8 m. BEHAVIOUR: Forms groups, is highly territorial. Large males control a group of females and chase competitors. DIET: Herbivorous. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.



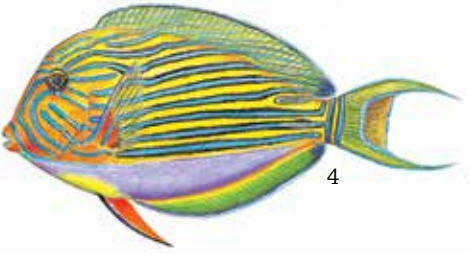
1



2



3



4

1 *Acanthurus mata* (Cuvier) – Elongate surgeonfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 50 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-25 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on plankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Acanthurus triostegus* (Linnaeus) – Convict surgeonfish

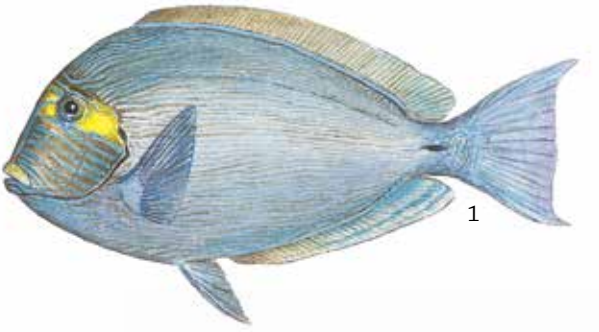
LENGTH: Maximum up to 27 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific, except around Arabian Peninsula. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone, rock and coral rubble; especially in reef lagoons and reef flats of fringing reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on filamentous algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Acanthurus xanthopterus* Valenciennes – Yellowfin surgeonfish

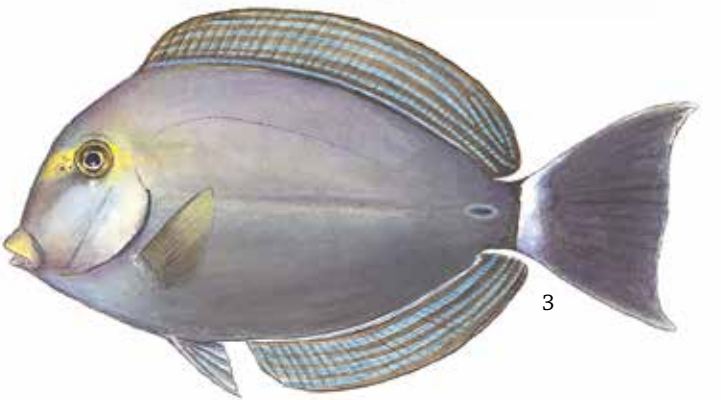
LENGTH: Maximum up to 70 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-40 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on algae, diatoms, detritus, hydroids. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

4 *Ctenochaetus striatus* (Quoy & Gaimard) – Striated surgeonfish/ Striped bristletooth

LENGTH: Maximum up to 26 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; common on shallow coastal reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on algae and plankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Naso annulatus* (Quoy & Gaimard) – Whitemargin unicornfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 100 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; usually along seaward margin of fringing reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on zooplankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Naso brevirostris* (Cuvier) – Spotted unicornfish/ Palefin unicornfish

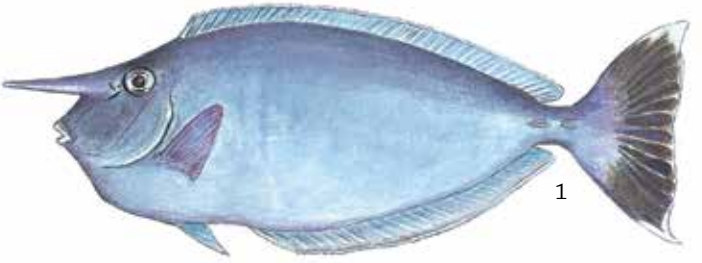
LENGTH: Maximum up to 60 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; juveniles on shallow coral reefs, adults on offshore reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Juveniles solitary; adults schooling. DIET: Juveniles feed on benthic algae; adults feed on zooplankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

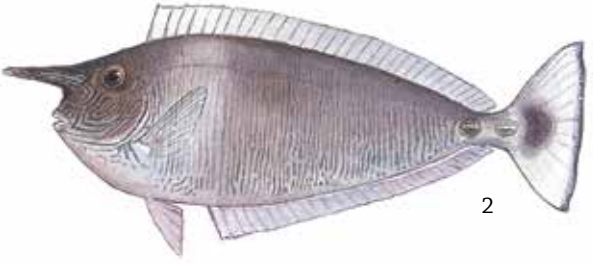
3 *Naso elegans* (Rüppell) – Elegant unicornfish

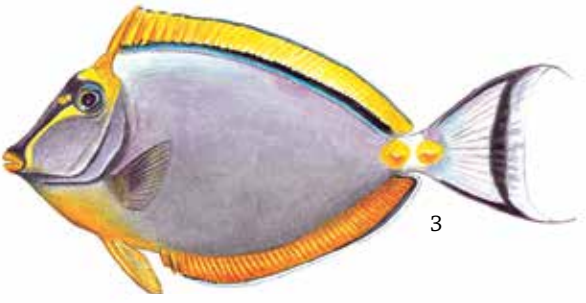
LENGTH: Maximum up to 45 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indian Ocean. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-15 m. BEHAVIOUR: Juveniles solitary; adults in pairs or groups. DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium and food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

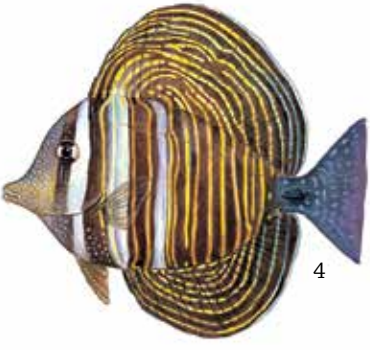
4 *Zebrasoma desjardinii* (Bennett) – Indian sailfin tang

LENGTH: Maximum up to 40 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indian Ocean. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; commonly on coral rich habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 1-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Juveniles solitary; adults in pairs or groups. DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Zebrasoma scopas* (Cuvier) – Two-tone tang/ Brushtail tang

LENGTH: Maximum up to 40 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; commonly on coral rich habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 1-15 m. BEHAVIOUR: Juveniles solitary; adults in pairs or groups. DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

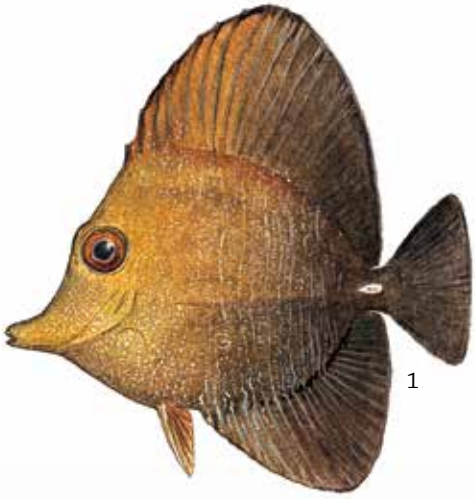
FAMILY: APOGONIDAE (CARDINALFISH)

2 *Cheilodipterus macrodon* (Lacepède) – Large toothed cardinalfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 25 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in pairs; usually in caves and under ledges. DIET: Feeds on fish. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: None. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

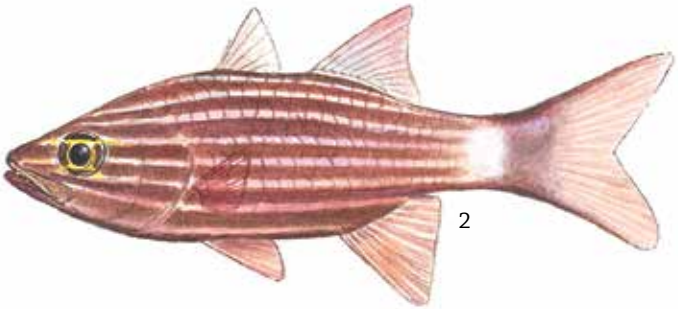
3 *Ostorhinchus aureus* (Lacepède) – Ring-tailed cardinalfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 14 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-40 m. BEHAVIOUR: In small groups; found usually near crevices and under ledges. DIET: Feeds on zoobenthos. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: None. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

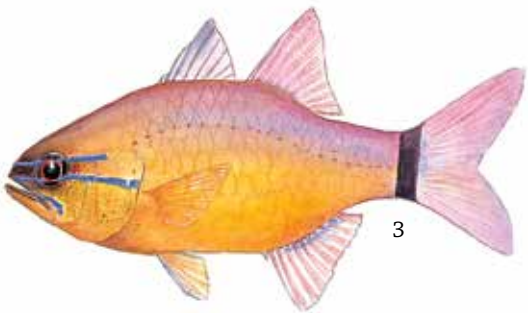


1

Family: Apogonidae (Cardinalfish)



2



3

1 *Aulostomus chinensis* (Linnaeus) – Trumpetfish

Length: Maximum up to 80 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 1-20 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on fish and crustaceans. Economic importance: None. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Balistidae (Triggerfish)

2 *Balistoides conspicillum* (Bloch & Schneider) – Clown triggerfish

Length: Maximum up to 50 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific, but not recorded from Palk Bay and Palk Strait in Sri Lanka. Habitats: Offshore coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 10-35 m. Behaviour: In pairs; territorial. Diet: Feeds on echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, sponges, hydrozoans. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Balistapus undulatus* (Park) – Orange-lined triggerfish

Length: Maximum up to 30 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone, rock reefs; common in reef lagoons of fringing reefs. Depth range: 2-20 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs; territorial. Diet: Feeds on echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, sponges, hydrozoans. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

1

Family: Balistidae (Triggerfish)

2

3

1 *Balistoides viridescens* (Bloch & Schneider) – Titan triggerfish

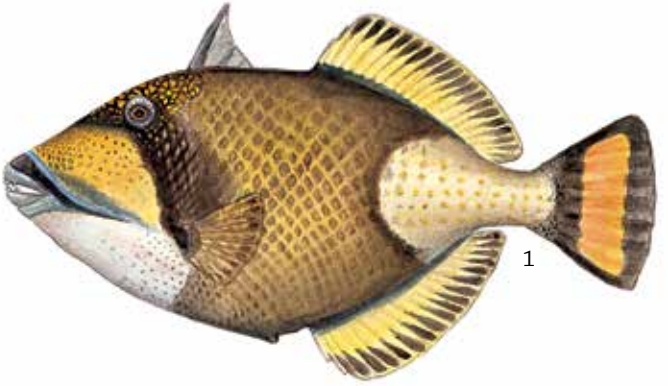
Length: Maximum up to 75 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone, rock reefs. Depth range: 5-10 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs; highly territorial and aggressive during nest guarding. Diet: Feeds on echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, sponges, hydrozoans. Economic importance: None; juveniles may be used in the aquarium trade. Threats: Habitat degradation due to human activities. IUCN Red List Status: Not evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Odonus niger* (Rüppell) – Red-toothed triggerfish

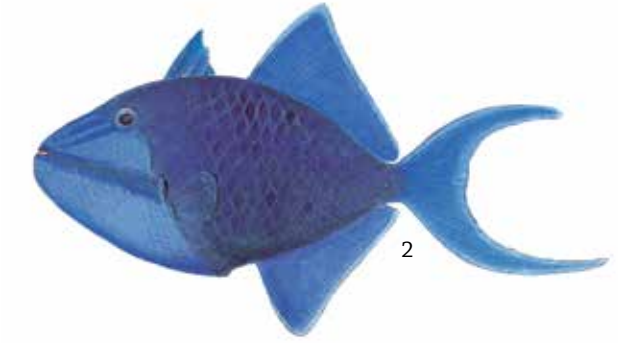
Length: Maximum up to 30 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific, but not recorded from Palk Bay and Palk Strait in Sri Lanka. Habitats: Offshore coral, sandstone and rock reefs exposed to strong currents. Depth range: 8-50 m. Behaviour: Forms large schools. Diet: Feeds primarily on plankton; small benthic invertebrates. Economic importance: None. Threats: Occasionally, large scale mortality has been reported from Sri Lanka and the Maldives; however, causes are unknown. IUCN Red List Status: Not evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Rhinecanthus aculeatus* (Linnaeus) – White-banded triggerfish

Length: Maximum up to 30 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; common in reef lagoons of fringing reefs. Depth range: 2-6 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs; territorial. Diet: Feeds on echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, sponges, hydrozoans. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.



1



2

3

1 *Rhinecanthus rectangulus* (Bloch & Schneider) – Wedge-tail triggerfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 30 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; common in reef lagoons of fringing reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-6 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in pairs; territorial. DIET: Feeds on echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, sponges, hydrozoans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

FAMILY: CAESIONIDAE (FUSILIERS)

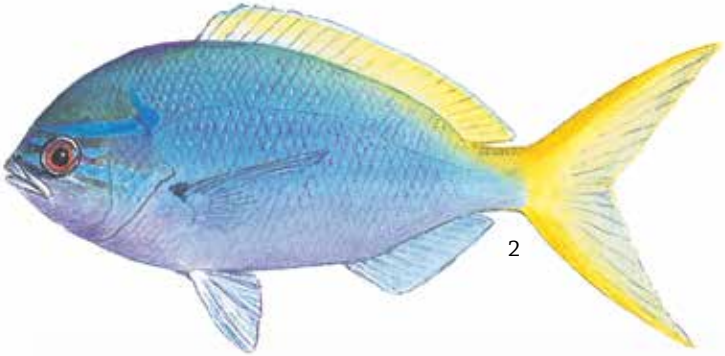
2 *Caesio cuning* (Bloch) – Redbelly yellowtail fusilier

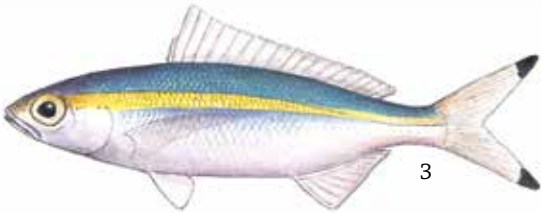
LENGTH: Maximum up to 60 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: In small groups or schools. DIET: Feeds on zooplankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Pterocaesio chrysozona* (Cuvier) – Goldband fusilier

LENGTH: Maximum up to 21 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: In schools. DIET: Feeds on zooplankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish and used as bait fish to catch tuna. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

Family: Caesionidae (Fusiliers)





1 *Caranx heberi* (Bennett) – Blacktip trevally

LENGTH: Maximum up to 90 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in groups. DIET: Feeds on fish and crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Caranx ignobilis* (Forsskål) – Giant trevally

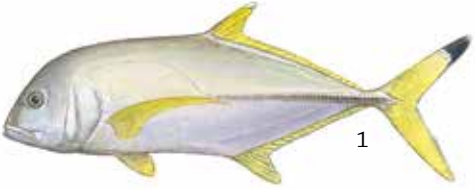
LENGTH: Maximum up to 170 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fish and crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

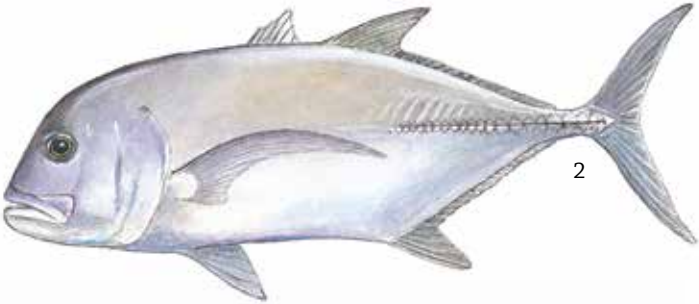
3 *Caranx melampygus* Cuvier – Bluefin trevally

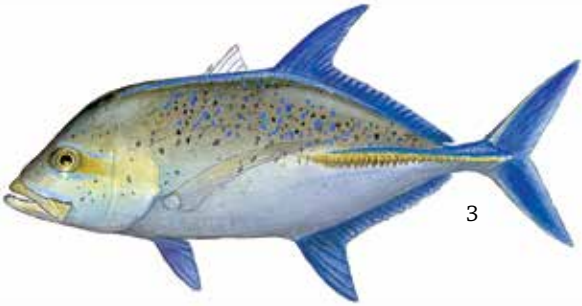
LENGTH: Maximum up to 117 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fish and crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

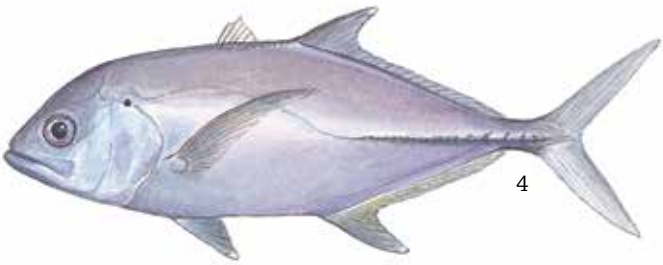
4 *Caranx sexfasciatus* Quoy & Gaimard – Bigeye trevally

LENGTH: Maximum up to 120 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Forms schools during daytime and disperses at night to feed. DIET: Feeds on fish, cephalopods and crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Gnathanodon speciosus* (Forsskål) – Golden trevally

LENGTH: Maximum up to 120 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Forms schools. Juveniles are found in association with large fish, such as whale sharks, or among the tentacles of large jellyfish. DIET: Feeds on crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. Juveniles used as aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Trachinotus blochii* (Lacepède) – Snubnose pompano

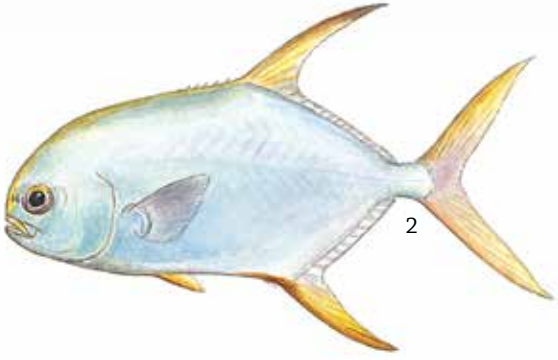
LENGTH: Maximum up to 110 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Juveniles are in shallow water near the coast. DEPTH RANGE: 1-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Juveniles in groups; adults solitary. DIET: Feeds on molluscs. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

FAMILY: CARCHARHINIDAE (SHARKS)

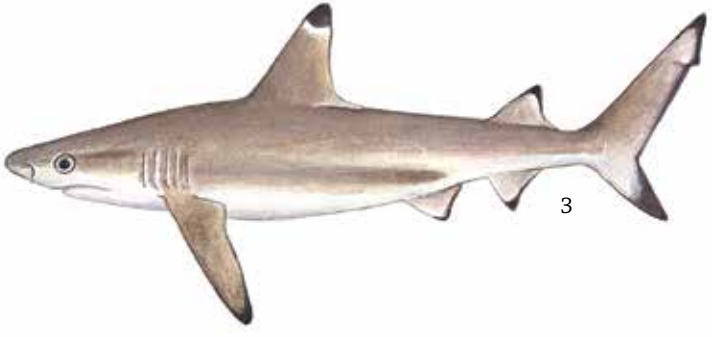
3 *Carcharhinus melanopterus* (Quoy & Gaimard) – Blacktip reef shark

LENGTH: Maximum up to 200 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; juveniles on shallow coral reefs, adults on offshore reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 3-75 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups. DIET: Feeds on fish, crustaceans, cephalopods and molluscs. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. Juveniles used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Near Threatened. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2

Family: Carcharhinidae (Sharks)


3

1 *Chaetodon auriga* Forsskål – Threadfin butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 23 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Mainly on coral reefs; also on sandstone, rock and coral rubble with sea weeds. Juveniles may occur in estuaries. Depth range: 1-20 m. Behaviour: Solitary, in pairs or small groups. Diet: Omnivorous; includes coral polyps, polychaetes, crustaceans, plankton and algae. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

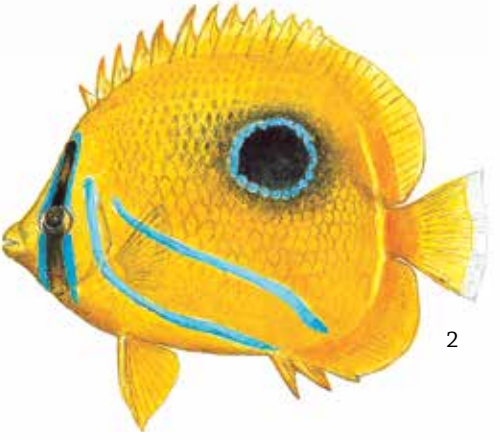
2 *Chaetodon bennetti* Cuvier – Bennett's butterflyfish/ Bluelashed butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 18 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Rare in Sri Lanka, and occurs mainly in the Gulf of Mannar; occasionally on eastern coastal reefs. Habitats: Coral reefs with high coral cover. Depth range: 1-8 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs. Diet: Feeds primarily on coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Data Deficient. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

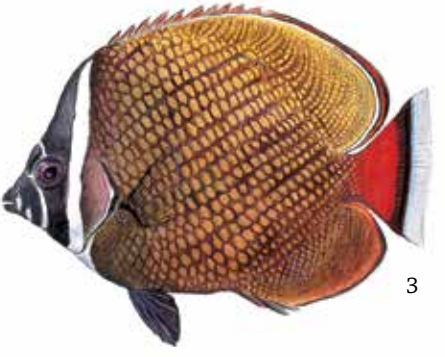
3 *Chaetodon collare* Bloch – Collare butterflyfish/ Red-tailed butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 16 cm. Distribution: Indian Ocean to Bali, Indonesia. Habitats: Coral reefs with high coral cover; also on sandstone and rock reefs. Juveniles may occur in estuaries. Depth range: 1-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs. Where abundant, this species forms large groups of more than 50 individuals, especially on shallow offshore coral reefs in the Gulf of Mannar; common elsewhere. Diet: Feeds primarily on coral polyps and small invertebrates. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

1



2



3

1 *Chaetodon decussatus* Cuvier – Indian vagabond butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 20 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats in Sri Lanka: Coral, sandstone, rock reefs, coral rubble with sea weeds. Juveniles may occur in estuaries. Depth range: 1-30 m. Behaviour: Juveniles solitary; adults in pairs. Diet: Omnivorous; feeds mainly on algae, invertebrates and coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Chaetodon falcula* Bloch – Saddleback butterflyfish/ Indian Double-saddle butterflyfish

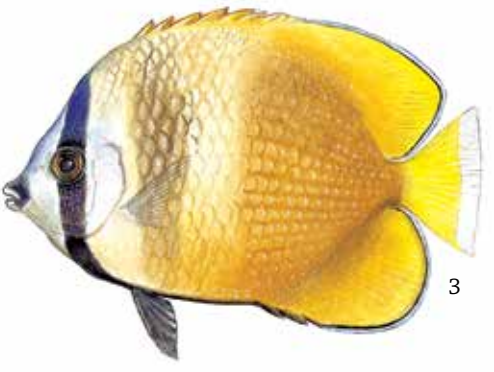
Length: Maximum up to 20 cm. Distribution: Indian Ocean. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 1-10 m. Behaviour: Usually in pairs or in small groups. Diet: Feeds on invertebrates, including coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Chaetodon kleinii* Bloch – Sunburst butterflyfish/ Whitespotted butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 15 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Offshore sandstone and rock reefs. Usually absent on reefs dominated by hard corals. Depth range: 8-50 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs. Diet: Feeds on soft corals, algae and zooplankton. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

1

2



3

1 *Chaetodon lineolatus* Cuvier – Lined butterflyfish

Length: Maximum to 30 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 1 to 15 m. Behaviour: Juveniles solitary or in small groups; adults in pairs. Diet: Coral polyps and other invertebrates. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Chaetodon lunula* Lacepède – Racoon butterflyfish/ Redstriped butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 20 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 1-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs. Diet: Omnivorous. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Chaetodon melannotus* Bloch & Schneider – Black-backed butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 15 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly on coral rich habitats. Depth range: 1-12 m. Behaviour: Juveniles and adults in small groups, found among branching and tabulate corals. Diet: Feeds mainly on coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

4 *Chaetodon meyeri* Bloch & Schneider – Meyer's butterflyfish/ Scrawled butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 18 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly on coral rich habitats. Juveniles among branching corals. Depth range: 1-20 m. Behaviour: Adults in pairs. Diet: Feeds mainly coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Chaetodon octofasciatus* Bloch – Eight-banded butterflyfish/ Eight-striped butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 12 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. In Sri Lanka, found mainly in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay and Palk Strait; rare or absent in other areas. Habitats: Coral reefs with high coral cover. Depth range: 1-10 m. Behaviour: Juveniles and adults in small groups, among branching and tabulate corals. Diet: Feeds on coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Chaetodon plebeius* Cuvier – Bluespot butterflyfish/ Blueblotch butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 15 cm. Distribution: Eastern Indian Ocean to western Pacific. Habitats: Coral reefs with high coral cover. Depth range: 1-10 m. Behaviour: Juveniles in small groups, among branching corals; adults in pairs. Diet: Feeds on coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Chaetodon trifascialis* Quoy & Gaimard – Chevron butterflyfish/ Triangulate butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 18 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral reefs with high coral cover; mainly among tabulate corals. Depth range: 1-10 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs, among tabulate corals. Diet: Feeds on coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.


1


2


3

1 *Chaetodon trifasciatus* Park – Redfin butterflyfish/ Pinstriped butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 15 cm. Distribution: Indian Ocean. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly on coral rich habitats. Depth range: 1-15 m. Behaviour: In pairs or in groups among branching and tabulate corals. Diet: Feeds on coral polyps. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Chaetodon vagabundus* Linnaeus – Vagabond butterflyfish/ Criss-cross butterflyfish

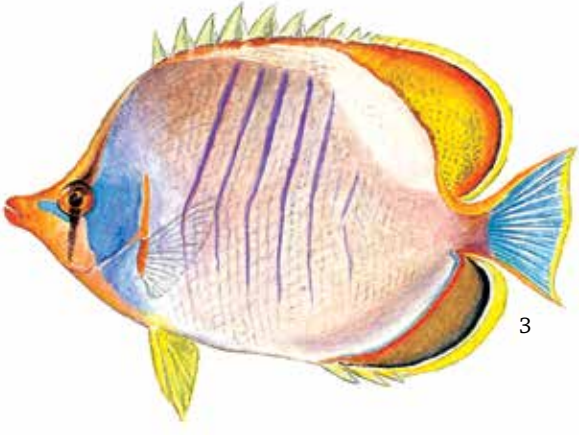
Length: Maximum up to 23 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 1-20 m. Behaviour: Juveniles solitary; adults in pairs. Diet: Omnivorous. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation due to human activities, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Chaetodon xanthocephalus* Bennett – Yellow-head butterflyfish

Length: Maximum up to 20 cm. Distribution: Western Indian Ocean to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Habitats: Coral reefs with high coral cover. Depth range: 1-15 m. Behaviour: In pairs or in groups, among branching and tabulate corals. Diet: Omnivorous. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

1

2



3

1 *Forcipiger flavissimus* Jordan & McGregor – Longnose butterflyfish

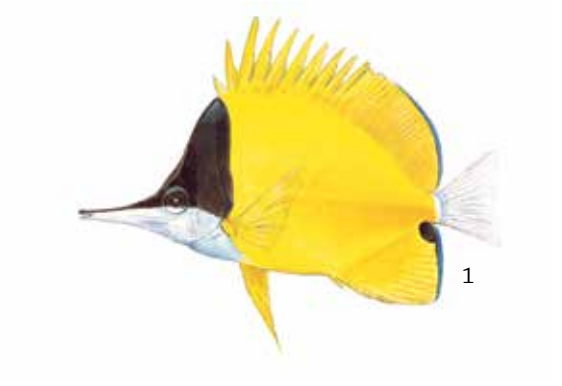
Length: Maximum to 22 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 8-30 m. Behaviour: Juveniles solitary; adults in pairs. Diet: Variety of organisms including fish eggs, small crustaceans, tentacles of polychaete worms, hydroids and tube feet of echinoderms. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Heniochus acuminatus* Linnaeus – Longfin bannerfish/ Featherfin coralfish

Length: Maximum up to 25 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; juveniles occur in estuaries. Depth range: 2-30 m. Behaviour: Juveniles solitary or in small groups; adults in pairs. Diet: Feeds on a variety of invertebrates and plankton. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Heniochus monoceros* Cuvier – Masked bannerfish/ Unicorn pennant coralfish

Length: Maximum up to 23 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 2-20 m. Behaviour: Juveniles solitary; adults in pairs. Diet: Feeds on invertebrates. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.


1


2


3

1 *Cirrhitichthys oxycephalus* (Bleeker) – Coral hawkfish/ Pixy hawkfish

Length: Maximum up to 10 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly on inshore coral reef habitats. Depth range: 1-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Ambushes prey by perching on corals or other prominences on the reef. Diet: Feeds on benthic invertebrates and small fish. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Cirrhitus pinnulatus* (Bloch & Schneider) – Stocky hawkfish

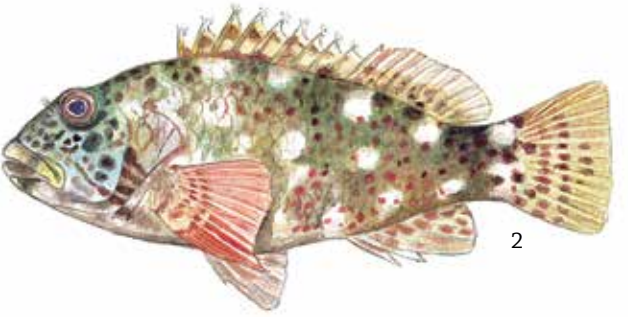
Length: Maximum up to 30 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly on fringing reefs. Depth range: 1-4 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Ambushes prey by perching on corals or other prominences on the reef. Diet: Feeds on benthic invertebrates and small fish. Economic importance: None. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Dasyatidae (Stingrays)

3 *Aetobatus narinari* (Euphrasen) – Spotted eagle ray

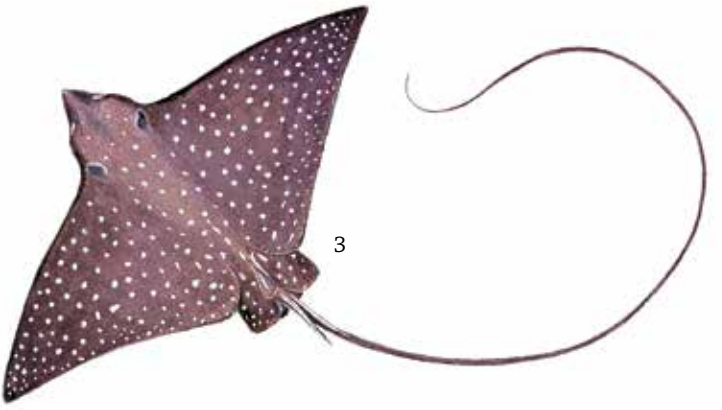
Disc width: Maximum up to 330 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific and Western Atlantic. Habitats: Coastal, offshore areas; occasionally near reefs. Depth range: 1-50 m. Behaviour: Forms small groups or large schools; sometimes solitary. Occasionally leaps out of the water. Diet: Feeds on molluscs, worms and small fish. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

1



2

Family: Dasyatidae (Stingrays)



3

1 *Taeniura lymma* (Forsskål) – Bluespotted ribbontail ray/ Ribbontailed stingray

Disc width: Maximum up to 95 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Sandy areas adjacent to coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 2-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary; sometimes in groups. Diet: Feeds on molluscs, worms and crustaceans. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

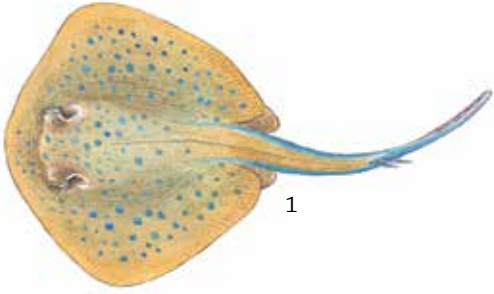
2 *Taeniura meyeni* Müller & Henle – Blotched fantail ray/ Round ribbontail ray/ Black-blotched stingray

Disc width: Maximum up to 180 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Sandy areas adjacent to coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 6-50 m. Behaviour: Solitary; occasionally in small groups. Often buries in the sand. Diet: Feeds on molluscs and crustaceans. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

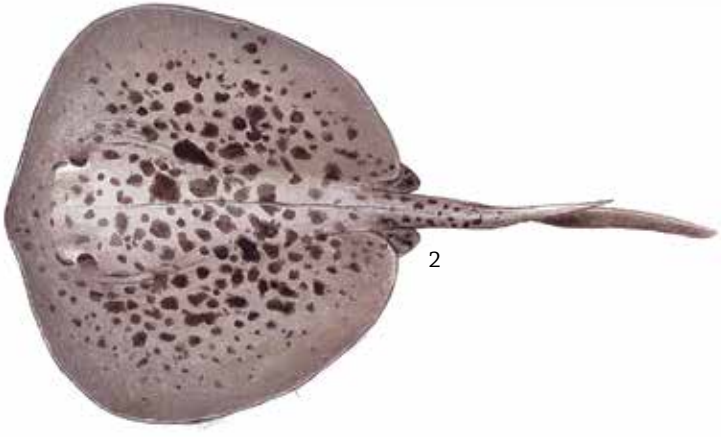
Family: Diodontidae (Porcupinefishes/ Burrfishes)

3 *Diodon hystrix* Linnaeus – Spot-fin porcupinefish

Length: Maximum up to 91 cm. Distribution: Circumtropical. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 2-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary; forages at night. Diet: Feeds primarily on gastropods and hermit crabs. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and collection for the aquarium trade. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.



1



2

Family: Diodontidae (Porcupinefishes/ Burrfishes)

3

1 *Diodon liturosus* Shaw – Black-blotched porcupinefish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 65 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-15 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary; forages at night. DIET: Feeds on crustaceans and molluscs. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and collection for the aquarium trade. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

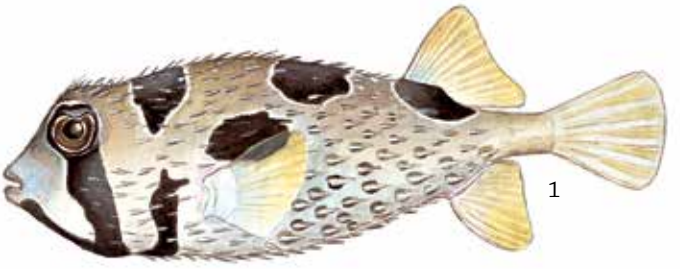
FAMILY: EPHIPPIDAE (BATFISHES)

2 *Platax orbicularis* (Forsskål) – Orbicular batfish

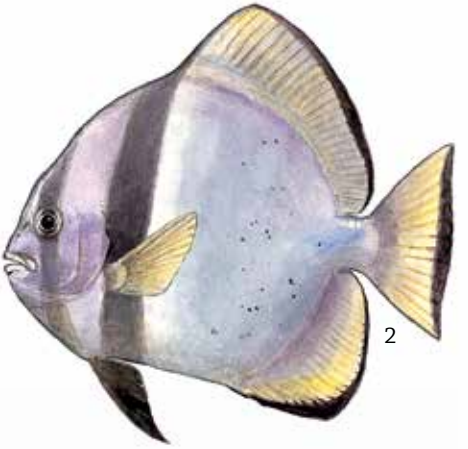
LENGTH: Maximum up to 60 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; juveniles inshore, sometimes in estuaries. Large adults on offshore reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on algae, invertebrates, small fish and zooplankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Juveniles used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Platax teira* (Forsskål) – Longfin batfish/ Tiera batfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 70 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; juveniles inshore. Large adults on offshore reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: In schools or solitary; juveniles found around floating objects. DIET: Feeds on algae, invertebrates, small fish and zooplankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Juveniles used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.



Family: Ephippidae (Batfishes)



1 *Fistularia commersonii* Rüppell – Bluespotted cornetfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 150 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on crustaceans and small fish. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

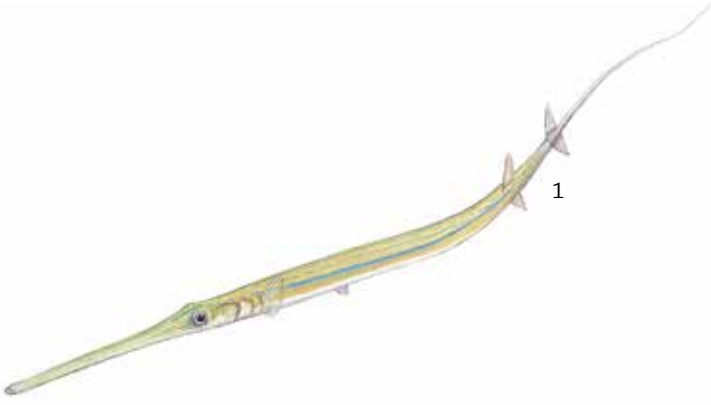
FAMILY: GOBIIDAE (GOBIES)

2 *Amblygobius semicinctus* (Bennett) – Halfbarred goby

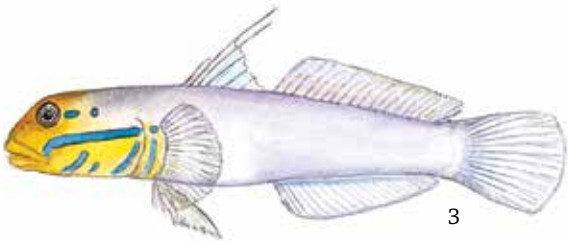
LENGTH: Maximum up to 11 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Western Indian Ocean, including Sri Lanka and the Maldives. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; also on coral rubble habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 2-8 m. BEHAVIOUR: Pairs live in burrows. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Valenciennea strigata* (Broussonet) – Blueband goby/ Blue-streak goby

LENGTH: Maximum up to 18 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; also on coral rubble habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 2-25 m. BEHAVIOUR: Pairs live in burrows. Juveniles form small groups. DIET: Feeds on small benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.



Family: Gobiidae (Gobies)



1 *Plectorhinchus ceylonensis* (Smith) – Sri Lanka sweetlips

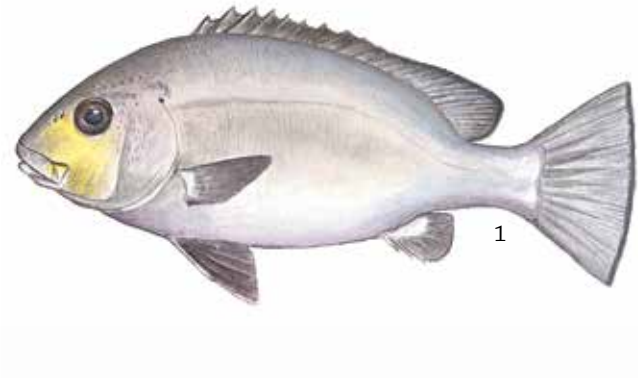
LENGTH: Maximum up to 44 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Western Indian Ocean; endemic to Sri Lanka. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-25 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in groups. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

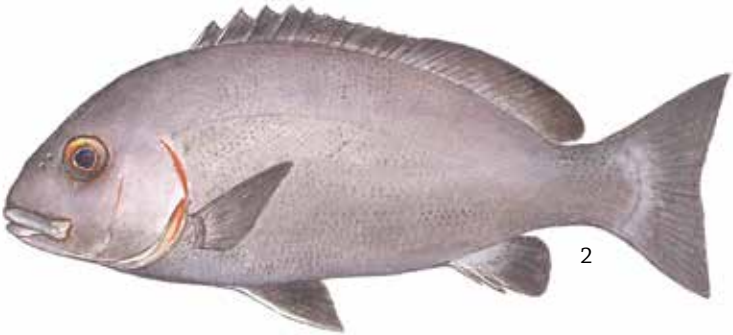
2 *Plectorhinchus schotaf* (Forsskål) – Minstrel sweetlips

LENGTH: Maximum up to 80 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-25 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in groups. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Plectorhinchus vittatus* (Linnaeus) – Indian Ocean oriental sweetlips

LENGTH: Maximum up to 45 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in groups. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


3 juv

1 *Chiloscyllium griseum* Müller & Henle – Grey bamboo shark

Length: Maximum up to 77 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. Depth range: 2-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. Economic importance: Food fish; juveniles used by the aquarium trade. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Near Threatened. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Holocentridae (Squirrelfishes and soldierfishes)

2 *Myripristis adusta* Bleeker – Shadowfin soldierfish/ Bronze soldierfish

Length: Maximum up to 35 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly on inshore reef habitats. Depth range: 1-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in groups. Nocturnal: hides under ledges and caves by day, and feeds at night. Diet: Feeds on plankton, especially crab larvae. Economic importance: None; occasionally juveniles are used as aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Sargocentron caudimaculatum* (Rüppell) – Silverspot squirrelfish/ Tailspot squirrelfish

Length: Maximum up to 25 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. Depth range: 2-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in small groups. Nocturnal: hides under ledges and caves by day, and feeds at night. Diet: Feeds on small crabs and shrimps. Economic importance: None; occasionally juveniles are used as aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Holocentridae (Squirrelfishes and soldierfishes)

1 *Sargocentron diadema* (Lacepède) – Crown squirrelfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 17 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 1-15 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. Nocturnal: hides under ledges and caves by day, and feeds at night. DIET: Feeds on isopods, polychaetes, small crabs and other benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: None; occasionally juveniles are used as aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

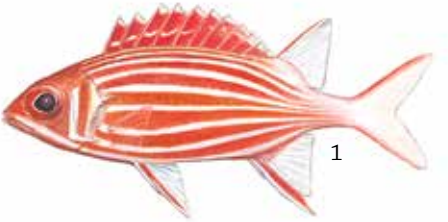
2 *Sargocentron spiniferum* (Forsskål) – Sabre squirrelfish/ Long-jawed squirrelfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 45 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 1-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. Nocturnal: hides under ledges and caves by day, and feeds at night. DIET: Feeds on shrimps, crabs and small fish. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: None; occasionally juveniles are used as aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

FAMILY: KYPHOSIDAE
(SEA CHUBS/ RUDDERFISHES)

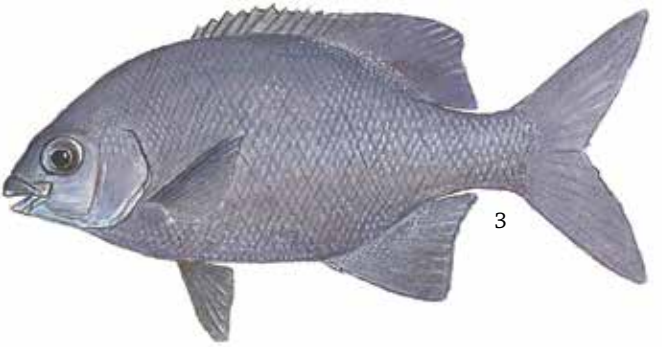
3 *Kyphosus cinerascens* (Forsskål) – Blue sea chub/ Highfin rudderfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 50 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly on surf-swept reef crests of fringing reef. DEPTH RANGE: 1-3 m. BEHAVIOUR: Found in groups. DIET: Feeds on algae and invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2

Family: Kyphosidae
(Sea chubs/ rudderfishes)


3

1 *Anampses lineatus* Randall – Lined wrasse/ White-dashes wrasse

LENGTH: Maximum up to 13 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 10-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Juveniles solitary; adults in small groups. DIET: Feeds on small invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Data Deficient. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

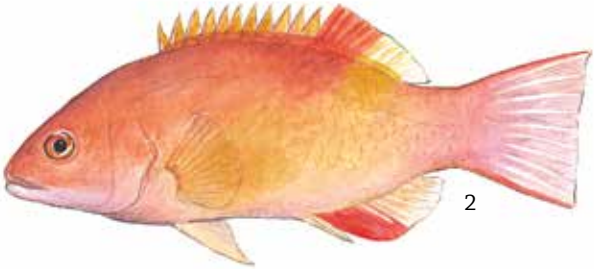
2 *Bodianus neilli* (Day) – Bay of Bengal hogfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 20 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indian Ocean but restricted to India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and the Andaman Sea. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. JUVENILE COLOURATION: Distinctly different from adult, with small white dots on a black background. DIET: Feeds on small invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Cheilinus chlorourus* (Bloch) – Floral wrasse/ White-dotted maori wrasse

LENGTH: Maximum up to 45 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Occasionally used as an aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

1



2

3

1 *Cheilinus undulatus* Rüppell – Humphead wrasse

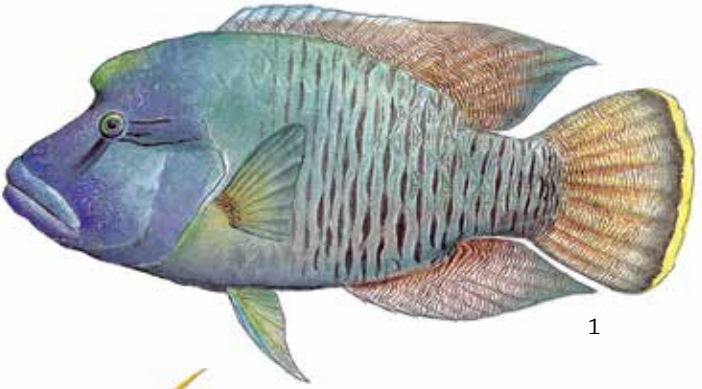
LENGTH: Maximum up to 229 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific; uncommon to rare in Sri Lanka. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups; juveniles in coral-rich areas. DIET: Feeds on molluscs, echinoderms, and other invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, spear fishing and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Endangered. CITES: Appendix II. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Coris formosa* (Bennett) – Queen coris

LENGTH: Maximum up to 60 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Western Indian Ocean. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary, occasionally in pairs; juveniles in shallow reef lagoons. JUVENILE COLOURATION: Body bright orange, with white bars and black spot on dorsal fin. DIET: Feeds on molluscs, echinoderms, and other invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Gomphosus caeruleus* Lacepède – Green bird-mouth wrasse/ Indian Ocean bird wrasse

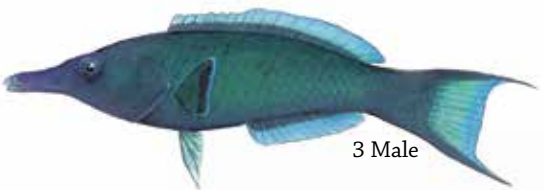
LENGTH: Maximum up to 32 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indian Ocean. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on small invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.



1

2

2 juv



3 Male

3 Female

1 *Halichoeres hortulanus*, (Lacepède) – Checkerboard wrasse

Length: Maximum up to 27 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 2-20 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Juvenile colouration: White irregular blotches, on a brown background; an ocellus present on the dorsal fin. Diet: Feeds on molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

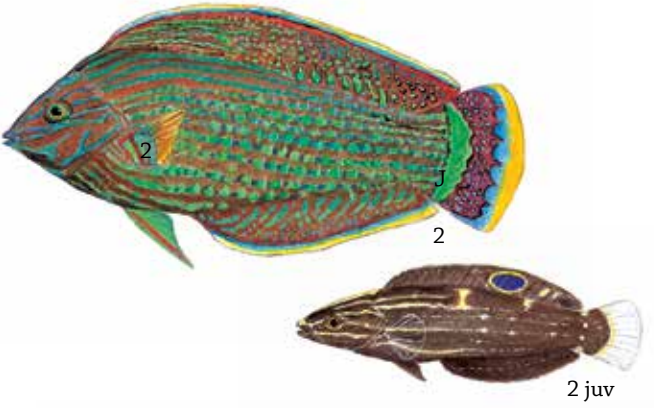
2 *Halichoeres marginatus*, Rüppell – Dusky wrasse/ Splendid rainbow wrasse

Length: Maximum up to 18 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 2-25 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in small groups. Juvenile colouration: Dark background, with yellow lines and an ocellus on the dorsal fin. Diet: Feeds on small invertebrates. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Halichoeres nebulosus* (Valenciennes) – Nebulous wrasse/ Clouded rainbow fish

Length: Maximum up to 12 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 1-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in small groups. Diet: Feeds on small invertebrates. Economic importance: Occasionally used by the aquarium trade. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.


1
1 juv


2
J
2
2 juv


3

1 *Halichoeres scapularis* (Bennett) – Zigzag wrasse/ Brownbanded wrasse

LENGTH: Maximum up to 20 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone, rock reefs, over rubble, sand and seagrass. DEPTH RANGE: 1-8 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups. DIET: Feeds on small invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Occasionally used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

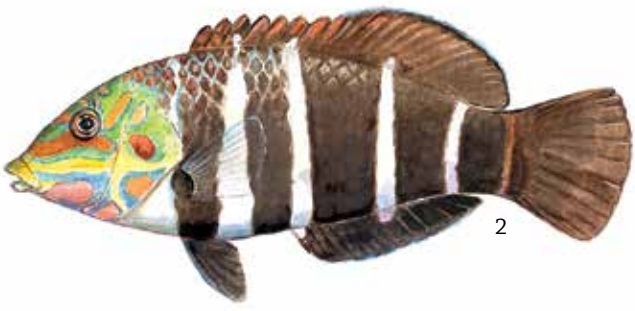
2 *Hemigymnus fasciatus* (Bloch) – Barred thicklip wrasse

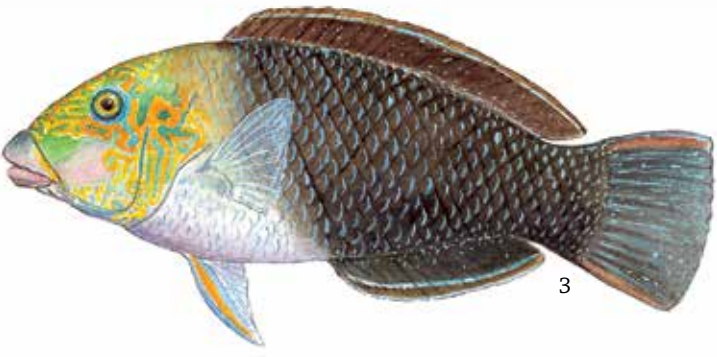
LENGTH: Maximum up to 80 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; juveniles among branching corals. DEPTH RANGE: 1-15 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or small groups. DIET: Feeds on small crustaceans, echinoderms and molluscs. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Hemigymnus melapterus* (Bloch) – Blackedge thicklip wrasse

LENGTH: Maximum up to 90 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; juveniles among branching corals. DEPTH RANGE: 1-15 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or small groups. DIET: Feeds on small crustaceans, echinoderms and molluscs. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3

1 *Labroides bicolor,* Fowler & Bean – Bicolor cleaner wrasse/ Two-colour cleaner wrasse

LENGTH: Maximum up to 15 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific; rare in Sri Lanka. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-25 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary; establishes territories around cleaning stations at prominent locations on reefs. DIET: Feeds on parasites living on other fishes. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation due to human activities and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: Protected (under the Fauna and Flora Protection Act and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act).

2 *Labroides dimidiatus* (Valenciennes) – Bluestreak cleaner wrasse

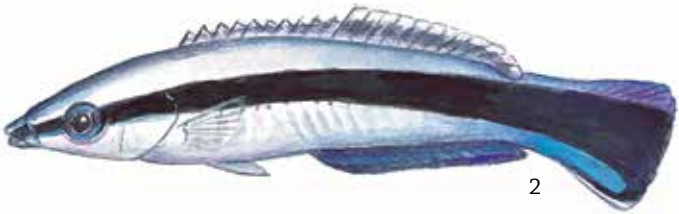
LENGTH: Maximum up to 14 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups; establishes territories around cleaning stations at prominent locations on reefs. DIET: Feeds on parasites living on other fishes. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Stethojulis trilineata* (Bloch & Schneider) – Three-lined rainbowfish

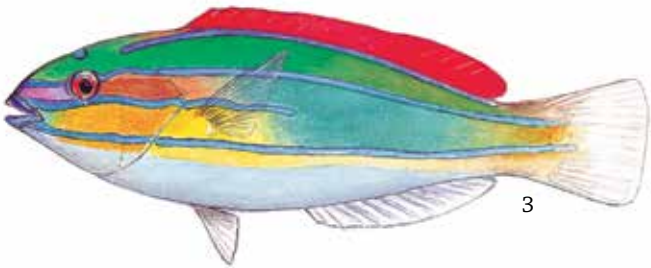
LENGTH: Maximum up to 15 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 3-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary, pairs or in small groups. DIET: Feeds on small invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Occasionally used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

1

1 juv



2



3

1 *Thalassoma hardwicke* (Bennett) – Sixbar wrasse/ Six-banded wrasse

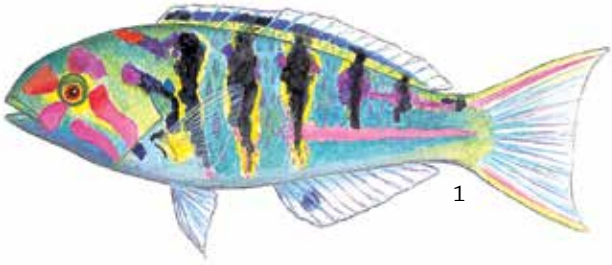
LENGTH: Maximum up to 20 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups, usually dominated by a large male. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Occasionally used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Thalassoma jansenii* (Bleeker) –Jansen's wrasse

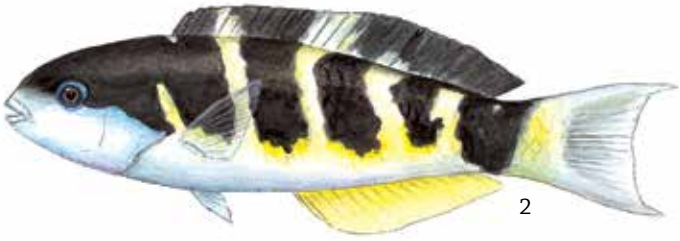
LENGTH: Maximum up to 20 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly in reef lagoons. DEPTH RANGE: 1-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups, usually dominated by a large male. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Occasionally used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Thalassoma lunare* (Linnaeus) – Moon wrasse/ Crescent-tail wrasse

LENGTH: Maximum up to 45 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly in reef lagoons. DEPTH RANGE: 1-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups, usually dominated by a large male. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Occasionally used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.



1



2

3

1 *Lethrinus harak* (Forsskål) – Thumbprint emperor

Length: Maximum up to 50 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; also on seagrass meadows and areas of coral rubble. Depth range: 5-20 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs. Diet: Feeds on fish and small crustaceans. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

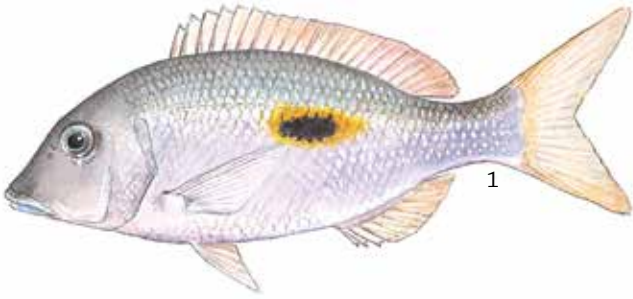
2 *Lethrinus nebulosus* (Forsskål) – Spangled emperor

Length: Maximum up to 87 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone, and rock reefs; also on seagrass meadows. Juveniles enter estuaries. Depth range: 8-75 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in groups. Diet: Feeds on echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans and fish. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Lutjanidae (Snappers)

3 *Lutjanus argentimaculatus* (Forsskål) – Mangrove red snapper

Length: Maximum up to 120 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; juveniles in estuaries. Depth range: 1-30 m. Behaviour: Forms small groups. Diet: Feeds on fish and crustaceans. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.



Family: Lutjanidae (Snappers)

1 *Lutjanus biguttatus* (Valenciennes) – Two-spot banded snapper

Length: Maximum up to 25 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 3-30 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in groups. Diet: Feeds on fish and crustaceans. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Lutjanus decussatus* (Cuvier) – Checkered snapper/ Crossbanded snapper

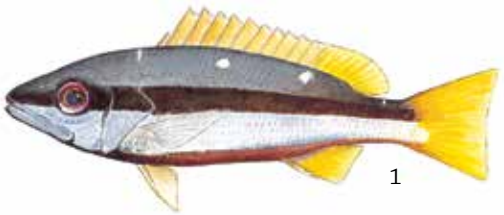
Length: Maximum up to 35 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 2-30 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on fish and invertebrates. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

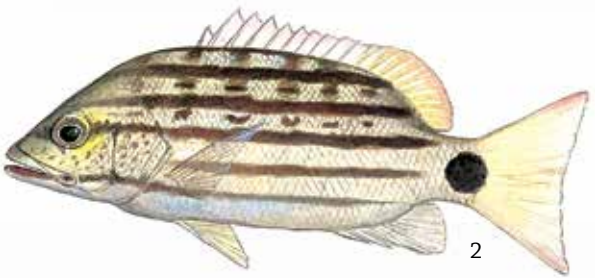
3 *Lutjanus kasmira* (Forsskål) – Common bluestripe snapper

Length: Maximum up to 40 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; abundant on shipwrecks and deep reefs. Depth range: 5-50 m. Behaviour: Forms large aggregations. Diet: Feeds on fish and invertebrates. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

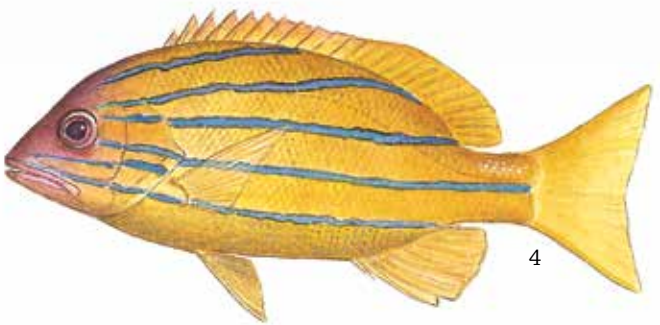
4 *Lutjanus quinquelineatus* (Bloch) – Five-lined snapper

Length: Maximum up to 38 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; abundant on shipwrecks and deep reefs. Depth range: 5-50 m. Behaviour: Forms large aggregations. Diet: Feeds on fish and invertebrates. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Lutjanus rivulatus* (Cuvier) – Blubberlip snapper/ Scribbled snapper

Length: Maximum up to 80 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone, and rock reefs. Depth range: 5-50 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in small groups. Diet: Feeds on fish, cephalopods and invertebrates. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Monodactylidae (Monos/ moonies)

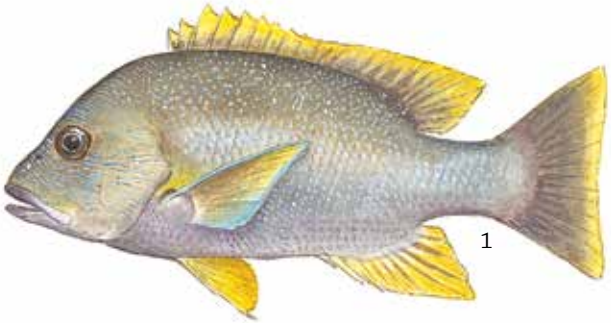
2 *Monodactylus argenteus* (Linnaeus) – Silver moony/ Silver mono

Length: Maximum up to 25 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats; juveniles in estuaries. Depth range: 1-3 m. Behaviour: Schooling. Diet: Feeds on plankton and detritus. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

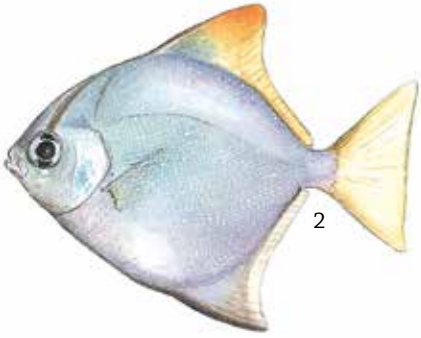
Family: Mugilidae (Mullets)

3 *Mugil cephalus* Linnaeus – Flathead grey mullet/ Flathead mullet

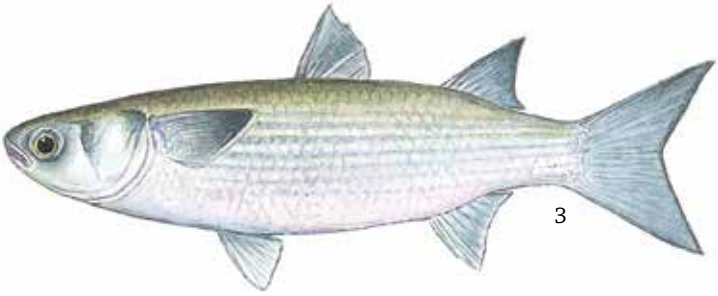
Length: Maximum up to 90 cm. Distribution: Coastal waters of tropical, sub-tropical and temperate zones of all seas. Habitats: Sand and mud bottoms in coastal waters and estuaries; also on reef habitats. Depth range: 1-10 m. Behaviour: Schooling. Diet: Feeds on detritus, micro-algae and benthic organisms. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.



Family: Monodactylidae (Monos/ moonies)



Family: Mugilidae (Mullets)



1 *Mulloidichthys flavolineatus* (Lacepède) – Yellowstripe goatfish

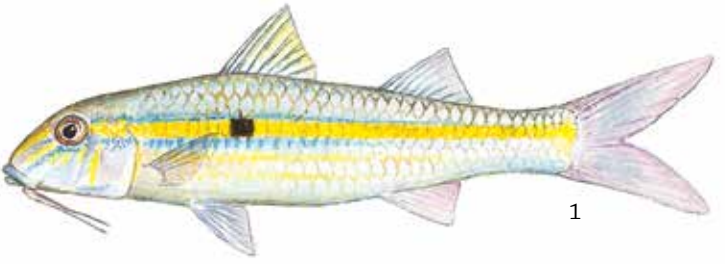
Length: Maximum up to 43 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; occasionally on seagrass meadows. Depth range: 2-20 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in groups. Diet: Feeds on benthic invertebrates on sandy areas adjacent to reefs. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Parupeneus forsskali* (Fourmanoir & Guézé) – Red Sea goatfish

Length: Maximum up to 28 cm. Distribution: Indian Ocean. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 3-10 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in groups. Diet: Feeds on benthic invertebrates on sandy areas adjacent to reefs. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Parupeneus indicus* (Shaw) – Indian goatfish

Length: Maximum up to 45 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; also on seagrass meadows. Depth range: 1-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in schools. Diet: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.



1

2

3

1 *Echidna nebulosa* (Ahl) – Snowflake moray

Length: Maximum up to 100 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs inshore. Depth range: 1-3 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on crustaceans. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Gymnomuraena zebra* (Shaw) – Zebra moray

Length: Maximum up to 150 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs inshore. Depth range: 1-10 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on crustaceans, molluscs and sea urchins. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Gymnothorax favagineus* Bloch & Schneider – Laced moray/ Honeycomb moray

Length: Maximum up to 300 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 1-30 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on fish, cephalopods and crustaceans. Economic importance: None. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

4 *Gymnothorax javanicus* (Bleeker) – Giant moray

Length: Maximum up to 300 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 1-30 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on fish and crustaceans. Economic importance: None. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

1

2

3

4

1 *Scolopsis bilineata* (Bloch) – Two-lined monocle bream/ Twoline spinecheek

LENGTH: Maximum up to 25 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary, in pairs or in small groups. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates and small fish. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

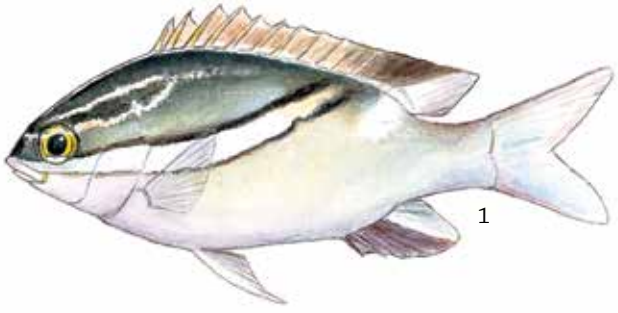
2 *Scolopsis vosmeri* (Bloch) –Whitecheek monocle bream

LENGTH: Maximum up to 25 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

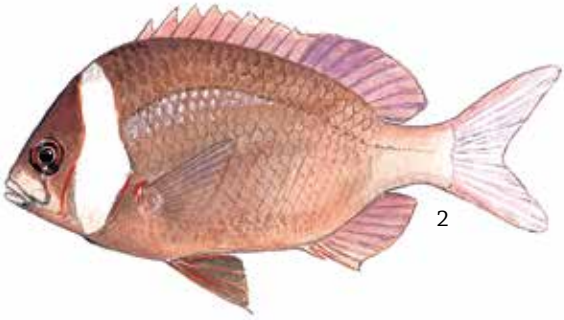
FAMILY: OSTRACIIDAE
(BOXFISHES/ TRUNKFISHES)

3 *Ostracion cubicus* Linnaeus – Yellow boxfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 45 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 2-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on algae, sponges and molluscs. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Juveniles used as aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

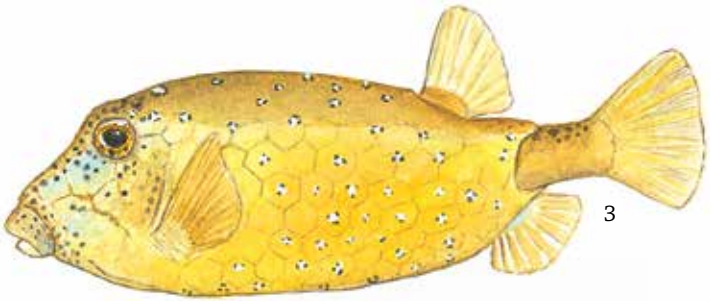


1



2

Family: Ostraciidae
(Boxfishes/ Trunkfishes)



3

3 juv

1 *Ostracion meleagris* Shaw – Whitespotted boxfish/ Spotted trunkfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 25 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific and Eastern Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 2-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: Found in pairs. DIET: Feeds on tunicates, sponges, molluscs, copepods and algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

FAMILY: PINGUIPEDIDAE (SANDPERCHES)

2 *Parapercis clathrata* Ogilby – Latticed sandperch

LENGTH: Maximum up to 24 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-25 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or small groups. DIET: Feeds on small fish and benthic invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: None. THREATS: Habitat degradation. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

FAMILY: POMACANTHIDAE (ANGELFISHES)

3 *Apolemichthys xanthurus* (Bennett) – Yellowtail angelfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 15 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Western Indian Ocean. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 8-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: In pairs or in small groups. DIET: Feeds on sponges and algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

1 Male

1 Female

Family: Pinguipedidae
(Sandperches)

2

Family: Pomacanthidae (Angelfishes)

3

1 *Centropyge eibli* Klausewitz – Blacktail angelfish/ Eibl's angelfish

Length: Maximum up to 15 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 10-20 m. Behaviour: In pairs or in small groups. Diet: Feeds on algae. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Centropyge flavipectoralis* Randall &Klausewitz – Yellowfin angelfish

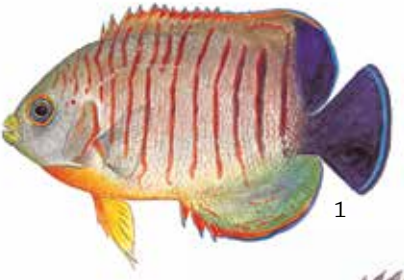
Length: Maximum up to 10 cm. Distribution: Western Indian Ocean. Habitats: Sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 6-35 m. Behaviour: In pairs or in small groups. Diet: Feeds on algae. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Centropyge multispinis* (Playfair) – Dusky angelfish/ Multispined angelfish

Length: Maximum up to 14 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; also among coral rubble. Depth range: 3-35 m. Behaviour: In pairs or small groups. Diet: Feeds on algae. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

4 *Pomacanthus annularis* (Bloch) – Bluering angelfish

Length: Maximum up to 45 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Mainly on silty sandstone reefs on the west coast of Sri Lanka. Depth range: 5-30 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs. Diet: Feeds on sponges, tunicates and algae. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.



1

2

3

4

4 juv

1 *Pomacanthus imperator* (Bloch) – Emperor angelfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 40 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-35 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in pairs. DIET: Feeds on sponges, tunicates and algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

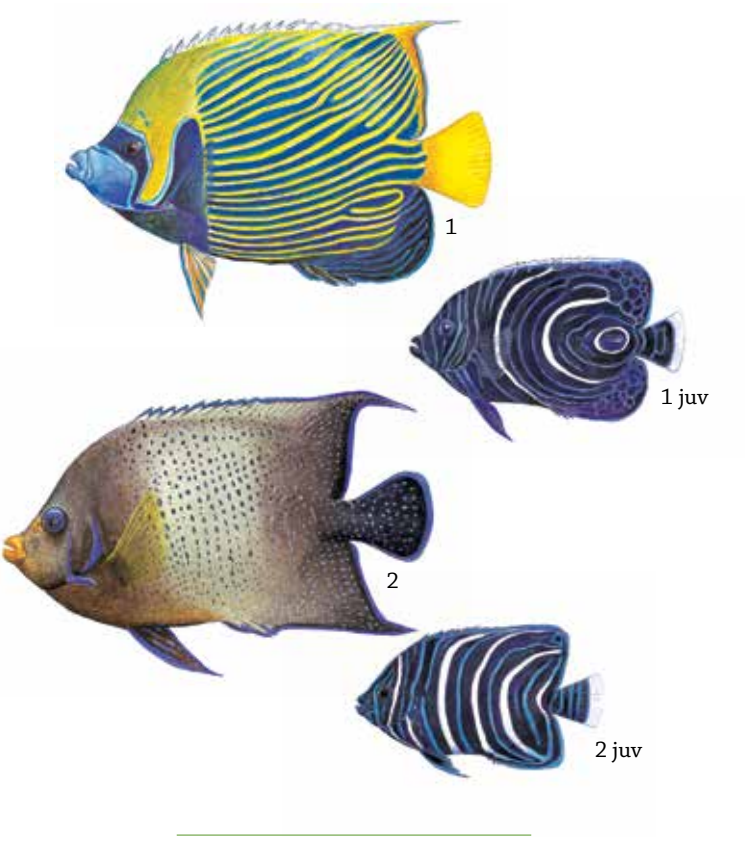
2 *Pomacanthus semicirculatus* (Cuvier) – Semicircle angelfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 40 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Mainly on silty reef habitats; juveniles on nearshore reefs and in estuaries. DEPTH RANGE: 1-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in pairs. DIET: Feeds on sponges, tunicates and algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

FAMILY: POMACENTRIDAE (DAMSELFISH AND CLOWN FISH)

3 *Abudefduf sordidus* (Forsskål) – Blackspot sergeant

LENGTH: Maximum up to 24 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; common in reef lagoons of fringing reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-4 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in groups; territorial. DIET: Feeds on algae and small invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: None. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.



Family: Pomacentridae (Damselfish and Clown fish)

1 *Abudefduf vaigiensis* (Quoy & Gaimard) – Indo-Pacific sergeant

LENGTH: Maximum up to 20 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone, rock reefs; common in reef lagoons of fringing reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-12 m. BEHAVIOUR: Usually in small groups, but forms large aggregations during spawning. DIET: Feeds on algae, plankton and small invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

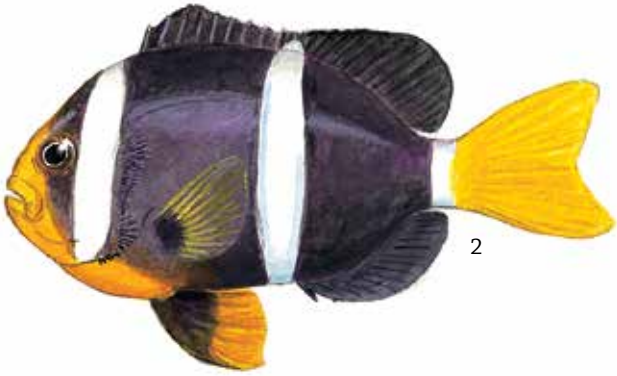
2 *Amphiprion clarkii* (Bennett) – Clark's anemonefish

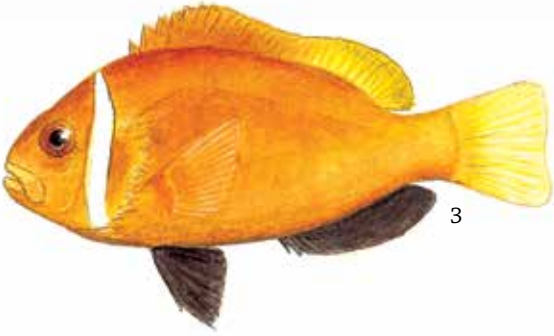
LENGTH: Maximum up to 15 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: With sea anemones on coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Pair or a small group on each anemone. DIET: Omnivorous. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection, including removal of sea anemones for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Amphiprion nigripes* Regan – Maldives anemonefish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 11 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Western Indian Ocean; the Maldives, Lakshadweep (formerly the Laccadives) and Sri Lanka. HABITATS: With sea anemones on coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Pair or a small group on each anemone. DIET: Omnivorous. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection, including removal of sea anemones for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3

1 *Amphiprion sebae* Bleeker – Sebae anemonefish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 16 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indian Ocean. HABITATS: With sea anemones on coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Pair or a small group on each anemone. DIET: Omnivorous. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection, including removal of sea anemones for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Chromis ternatensis* (Bleeker) – Ternate chromis

LENGTH: Maximum up to 10 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral reefs with rich growth of branching corals. DEPTH RANGE: 1-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on plankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

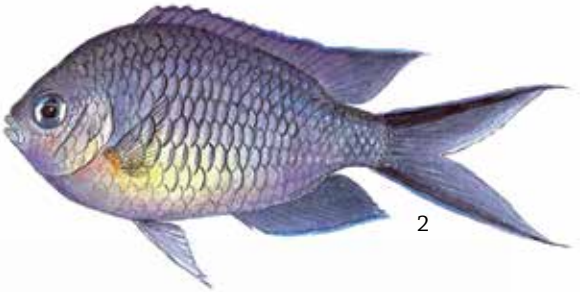
3 *Chromis viridis* (Cuvier) – Blue-green damselfish

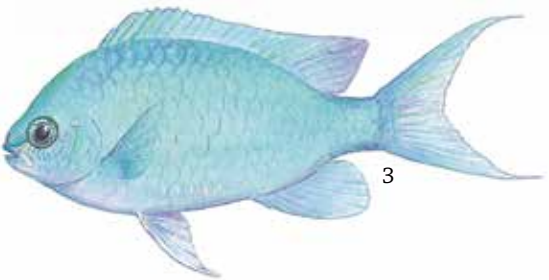
LENGTH: Maximum up 10 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral reefs with rich growth of branching corals. DEPTH RANGE: 1-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling. DIET: Feeds on plankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

4 *Chrysiptera brownriggii* (Bennett) – Surge damsel

LENGTH: Maximum up to 8 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Fringing coral reefs; mainly on reef flat and surge zones. DEPTH RANGE: 0.5-2 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups. DIET: Feeds on algae and small crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Dascyllus aruanus* (Linnaeus) – Humbug dascyllus

LENGTH: Maximum up to 10 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral reefs with rich growth of branching and tabulate corals. DEPTH RANGE: 1-12 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary, in small groups or large aggregations. DIET: Feeds on algae, plankton and small crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None

2 *Dascyllus trimaculatus* (Rüppell) – Three-spot dascyllus

LENGTH: Maximum up to 11 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs with rich growth of branching and tabulate corals; also in association with large sea anemones. DEPTH RANGE: 1-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary, in small groups or large aggregations. DIET: Feeds on algae, plankton and small crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Neopomacentrus azysron (Bleeker)* – Yellowtail demoiselle

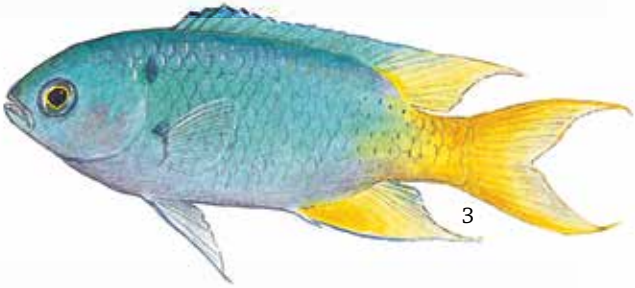
LENGTH: Maximum up to 7.5 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1 - 12 m. BEHAVIOUR: In small groups or large aggregations. DIET: Feeds on zooplankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None

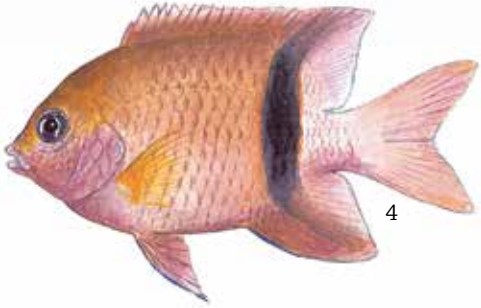
4 *Plectroglyphidodon dickii* (Liénard) – Dick's damsel

LENGTH: Maximum up to 11 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Shallow coral reefs with branching corals. DEPTH RANGE: 1-8 m. BEHAVIOUR: In groups, highly territorial. DIET: Feeds on algae, plankton and small crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Plectroglyphidodon lacrymatus* (Quoy & Gaimard) – Jewel damsel

LENGTH: Maximum up to 10 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral reefs with coral rubble and dead coral. DEPTH RANGE: 1-8 m. BEHAVIOUR: In groups, highly territorial. DIET: Feeds on algae, plankton and small crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Pomacentrus chrysurus* Cuvier – Whitetail damsel

LENGTH: Maximum up to 9 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Indian Ocean, including Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and the Western Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone, rock reefs and coral rubble. DEPTH RANGE: 1-3 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary or in small groups. DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: None. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Pomacentrus similis* Allen – Similar damsel

LENGTH: Maximum up to 7 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indian Ocean: Sri Lanka and Andaman Sea. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone, rock reefs and coral rubble. DEPTH RANGE: 1-30 m. BEHAVIOUR: In small groups. DIET: Feeds on algae, plankton and small crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, collection for the aquarium trade and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

4 *Stegastes nigricans* (Lacepède) – Dusky farmerfish

LENGTH: Maximum up to 14 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral reefs with extensive branching corals; common in reef lagoons of fringing reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 1-10 m. BEHAVIOUR: In large colonies; highly territorial and aggressive. DIET: Feeds on algae, molluscs, sponges and plankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: None. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Chlorurus rhakoura* Randall & Anderson – Raggedfin parrotfish

Length: Maximum up to 45 cm. Distribution: Eastern Indian Ocean. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 3-15 m. Behaviour: In small schools. Diet: Feeds on algae. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Chlorurus sordidus* (Forsskål) – Daisy parrotfish/ Bullethead parrotfish

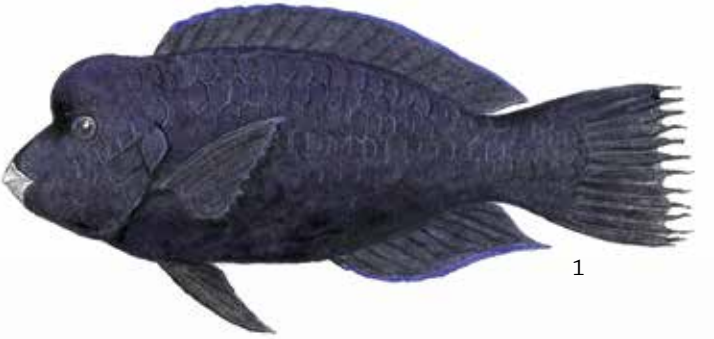
Length: Maximum up to 40 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Juveniles on coral rubble areas. Depth range: 2-15 m. Behaviour: In schools. Diet: Feeds on algae. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

3 *Scarus rubroviolaceus* Bleeker – Ember parrotfish/ Redlip parrotfish

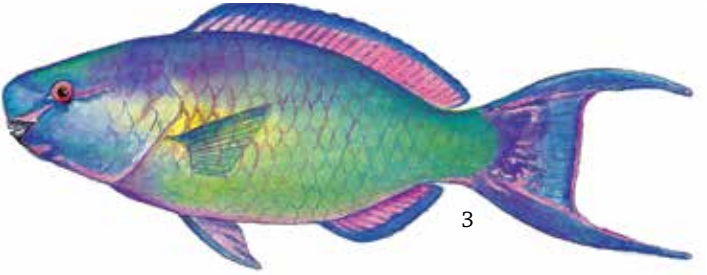
Length: Maximum up to 70 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. Depth range: 1-20 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in groups. Diet: Feeds on algae. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

4 *Scarus scaber* Valenciennes – Fivesaddle parrotfish/ Dusky-capped parrotfish

Length: Maximum up to 37 cm. Distribution: Western Indian Ocean. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Juveniles on coral rubble areas. Depth range: 1-20 m. Behaviour: In schools. Diet: Feeds on algae. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Pterois antennata* (Bloch) – Broadbarred firefish/ Spotfin lionfish

Length: Maximum up to 20 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 10-35 m. Behaviour: Mainly solitary; also in small groups. Diet: Feeds primarily on crustaceans; also on small fish. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: No known threats. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

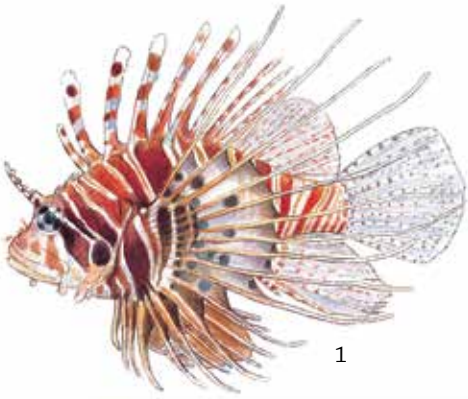
2 *Pterois miles* (Bennett) – Devil firefish

Length: Maximum up to 35 cm. Distribution: Indian Ocean. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Juveniles among nearshore reef habitats and in estuaries. Depth range: 1-25 m. Behaviour: Mainly solitary; sometimes in small groups. Diet: Feeds on small fish, shrimps and crabs. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Serranidae (Sea basses and groupers)

3 *Cephalopholis argus* Schneider – Peacock hind/ Peacock grouper

Length: Maximum up to 60 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 3-30 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on fishes and crustaceans. Economic importance: Food fish. Juveniles used by the aquarium trade. Threats: Habitat degradation, spear fishing and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.



1

2

Family: Serranidae (Sea basses and groupers)

3

1 *Cephalopholis formosa* (Shaw) – Bluelined hind

LENGTH: Maximum up to 34 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 3-12 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fishes and crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. Juveniles used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Cephalopholis miniata* (Forsskål) – Coral hind

LENGTH: Maximum up to 50 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. Not recorded from Palk Bay and Palk Strait in Sri Lanka. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; usually on clear seaward reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 5-25 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fishes and crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. Juveniles used by the aquarium trade. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

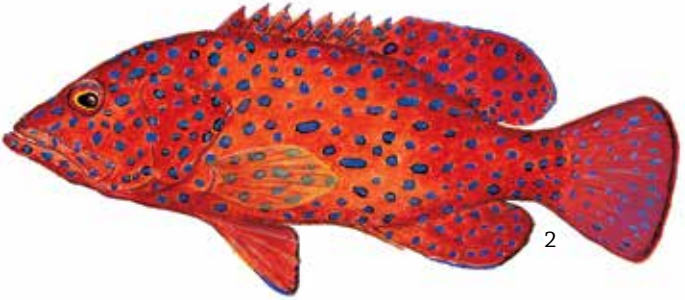
3 *Cephalopholis sonnerati* (Valenciennes) – Tomato hind

LENGTH: Maximum up to 57 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; usually on clear seaward reefs. Lives in holes in the reef with cleaner shrimps and helps maintain the hiding places by fanning out sand. DEPTH RANGE: 10-50 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fishes and crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, spear fishing and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

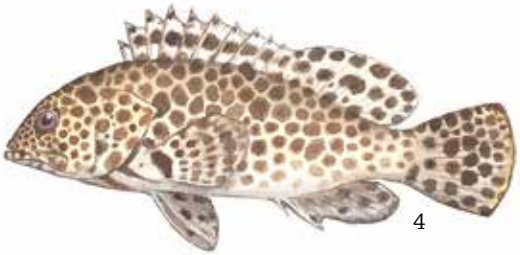
4 *Epinephelus faveatus* (Valenciennes) – Barred-chest grouper

LENGTH: Maximum up to 32 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Eastern Indian Ocean including India, Sri Lanka and Southern Indonesia. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fishes and invertebrates. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Data Deficient. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* (Forsskål) – Brown-marbled grouper

LENGTH: Maximum up to 120 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Offshore sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 10-50 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, spear fishing and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Near Threatened. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

2 *Epinephelus malabaricus* (Bloch & Schneider) –Malabar grouper

LENGTH: Maximum up to 234 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; also in estuaries. DEPTH RANGE: 2-60 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, spear fishing and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Near Threatened. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Epinephelus merra* Bloch – Honeycomb grouper

LENGTH: Maximum up to 32 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fishes and crustaceans. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Least Concern. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

4 *Epinephelus polyphekadion* (Bleeker) – Camouflage grouper

LENGTH: Maximum up to 90 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. DEPTH RANGE: 2-40 m. BEHAVIOUR: Solitary. DIET: Feeds on fishes, crustaceans and cephalopods. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation, spear fishing and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Near Threatened. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.


1


2


3


4

1 *Pseudanthias squamipinnis* (Peters) – Sea goldie/ Lyretail anthias

LENGTH: Maximum up to 15 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly offshore reef habitats. DEPTH RANGE: 10-40 m. BEHAVIOUR: Found in large groups. DIET: Feeds on zooplankton. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Aquarium fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

FAMILY: SIGANIDAE (RABBITFISHES)

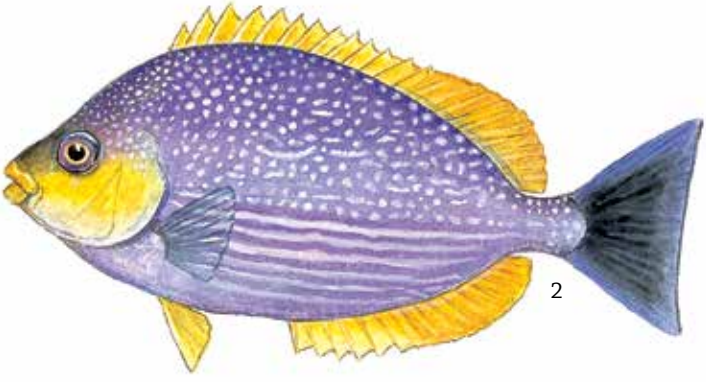
2 *Siganus javus* (Linnaeus) – Streaked spinefoot

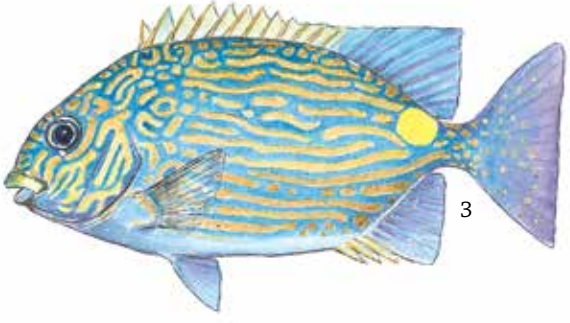
LENGTH: Maximum up to 53 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; also on seagrass meadows, mangrove areas and brackish water lagoons. DEPTH RANGE: 1-20 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling**.** DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

3 *Siganus lineatus* (Valenciennes) – Golden-lined spinefoot

LENGTH: Maximum up to 43 cm. DISTRIBUTION: Indo-West Pacific. HABITATS: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; also on seagrass meadows, mangrove areas and brackish water lagoons. DEPTH RANGE: 1-15 m. BEHAVIOUR: Schooling**.** DIET: Feeds on algae. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Food fish. THREATS: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Not Evaluated. PROTECTED STATUS IN SRI LANKA: None.

Family: Siganidae (Rabbitfishes)





1 *Siganus virgatus* (Valenciennes) – Barhead spinefoot/ Double barred spinefoot

Length: Maximum up to 30 cm. Distribution: Indo-West Pacific. Uncommon in Sri Lanka; recorded only on eastern coastal reefs. Habitats: Coral, sandstone, and rock reefs. Depth range: 5-8 m. Behaviour: In pairs. Diet: Feeds on algae. Economic importance: Food fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Synodontidae (Lizardfishes)

2 *Synodus variegatus* (Lacepède) – Variegated lizardfish

Length: Maximum up to 20 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 3-25 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in pairs. Diet: Feeds on small fish. Economic importance: None. Threats: Habitat degradation. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

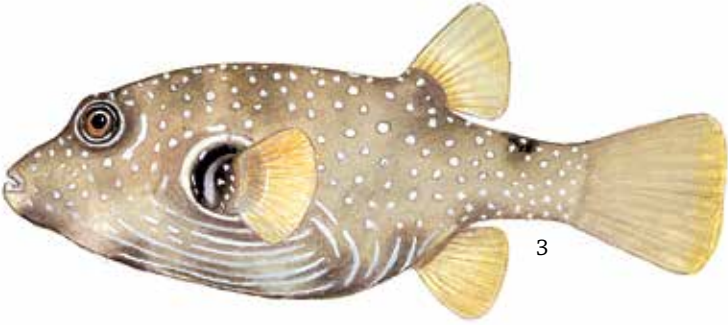
Family: Tetraodontidae (Puffers)

3 *Arothron hispidus* (Linnaeus) – White-spotted puffer

Length: Maximum up to 50 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. Depth range: 2-8 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on molluscs, sponges, tunicates, anemones, crabs, echinoderms, worms and algae. Economic importance: None. Threats: Habitat degradation. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Synodontidae (Lizardfishes)

Family: Tetraodontidae (Puffers)



1 *Arothron meleagris* (Lacepède) – Guineafowl puffer

Length: Maximum up to 50 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. Depth range: 2-5 m. Behaviour: Solitary. Diet: Feeds on tips of branching corals, sponges, molluscs, tunicates, worms and algae. Economic importance: None. Threats: Habitat degradation. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

2 *Canthigaster solandri* (Richardson) – Spotted sharpnose/ Spotted toby

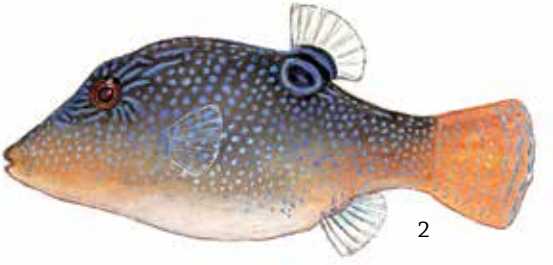
Length: Maximum up to 11 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs. Depth range: 2-25 m. Behaviour: In pairs. Diet: Feeds on tunicates, molluscs, polychaetes, crustaceans, bryozoans and algae. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

Family: Zanclidae (Moorish idol)

3 *Zanclus cornutus* (Linnaeus) – Moorish idol

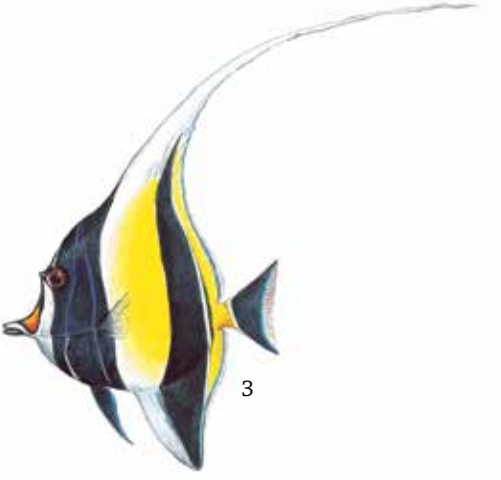
Length: Maximum up to 16 cm. Distribution: Indo-Pacific. Habitats: Coral, sandstone and rock reefs; mainly inshore reef habitats. Depth range: 2-15 m. Behaviour: Solitary or in small groups. Diet: Feeds primarily on sponges; also on small invertebrates. Economic importance: Aquarium fish. Threats: Habitat degradation and destructive fishing. IUCN Red List Status: Not Evaluated. Protected status in Sri Lanka: None.

1



2

Family: Zanclidae (Moorish idol)



3

Allen, G. R. (1985). *Butterfly and Angelfishes of the World. Vol 2.* 3rd edition. Melle, Germany: Mergus Publishers. 44 pp.

Allen, G (1999). *Marine Fishes of South-East Asia*. Perth: Western Australian Museum. 292 pp.

Anderson, C (1996). *Common reef fishes of Sri Lanka*. Colombo:The World Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka. 80 p.

De Bruin, G. H. P (1972). The 'Crown of Thorns' Starfish *Acanthaster planci* (L.) in Ceylon. *Bulletin of Fisheries Research Station, Sri Lanka (Ceylon)* 23: 37-41.

De Bruin, G. H. P., Russell, B.C. and A. Bogush (1995). *The Marine Fishery Resources of Sri Lanka.* Rome: FAO. 400 p., 32 colour plates.

Froese, R. and D. Pauly. (editors). (2013). FishBase. www.fishbase.org, version (10/2013). Accessed December 2013

IUCN (2013). IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2. www.iucnredlist.org. Accessed December 2013

Long, B. G., Amarasiri, C., Rajasuriya, A., Dissanayake, D. C. T., Liyanage, U. S. P. K. , Jayasinghe, R. P. P. K. , Athukoorala, A. A. S. H. , Karunathileke, K. M. B. C. , Fernando, H. S. G. and W. V. A. T. D. Fernando (2010). *Sri Lanka Fisheries Atlas — Volume 1 - Status of Resources, fisheries management initiatives on sea cucumber, chank, lobster, shrimp and marine aquarium fish in the northwest, south and east coast of Sri Lanka.* Colombo, Sri Lanka: Department of National Aquatic Resources Research and Development.

Lieske, E. and Myers, R (1994). *Collins Pocket Guide, Coral Reef Fishes, Indo-Pacific and Caribbean*. First Edition. London: HarperCollins. 400 pp.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005). *Ecosystems and Well-being Synthesis report*. Washington DC: Island Press. v+86 pp.

Myers, R.F. (1999). Micronesian Reef Fishes. A Comprehensive Guide to the Coral Reef Fishes of Micronesia. Coral Graphics. Territory of Guam, USA. 330 pp.

Ohman, M. C., Rajasuriya, A. and E. Olafsson (1997). Coral reef fish assemblages in northwestern Sri Lanka: Distribution patterns and influences of fishing practices. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 49: 45-61.

Ohman, M. C., and A. Rajasuriya (1998). Relationship between habitat structure and fish communities on coral and sandstone reefs. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 53: 19 -31.

Ohman, M. C., Rajasuriya, A. and S. Svensson (1998). The Use of Butterflyfishes (Chaetodontidae) as Bio-indicators of Habitat Structure and Human Disturbance. *AMBIO* 27(8): 708-716.

Rajasuriya, A (2005). *Status of coral reefs in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the 1998 coral bleaching event and 2004 tsunami.* Pages 83-96 in D. Souter and O. Linden, eds. *Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean: Status Report 2005.* CORDIO, Department of Biology and Environmental Science, University of Kalmar, Sweden, University of Kalmar, Sweden.

Rajasuriya, A (2008). *Status of Coral Reefs in the Northern, Western and Southern Coastal Waters of Sri Lanka.* Pages 11-22 in D. Obura, J. Tamelander, and O. Linden, eds. *Ten Years after bleaching — facing the consequences of climate change in the Indian Ocean. CORDIO Status Report 2008.* CORDIO/Sida — SAREC, Mombasa.

Swan, B (1983). *An introduction to the Coastal Geomorphology of Sri Lanka*. Colombo: National Museums of Sri Lanka. 182 pp.

Spalding, M., C. Ravilious, and E. Green (2001). *World Atlas of Coral Reefs*. Cambridge: UNEP-WCMC. 424 pp.

Wilkinson, C. (2004). *Status of Coral Reefs of the World, 2004* (Vol. 1). Townsville, Australia: Australian Institute of Marine Science. xiv + 301 pp.

Wilkinson, C. 2008. *Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008.* Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and Reef and Rainforest Research Centre. Townsville, Australia. 296 pp.

Notes:

Notes:

Notes:

Mangroves for the Future
INVESTING IN COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

About Mangroves for the Future

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. It provides a collaborative platform among the many different agencies, sectors and countries who are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues, to work towards a common goal.

MFF builds on a history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, especially the call to continue the momentum and partnerships generated by the immediate post-tsunami response. It initially focused on the countries worstaffected by the tsunami; India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. MFF has expanded to include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan and Viet Nam. MFF will continue to reach out other countries of the region that face similar issues, with an overall aim to promote an integrated ocean wide approach to coastal zone management.

The initiative uses mangroves as a flagship ecosystem, but MFF is inclusive of all coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, sandy beaches, sea grasses and wetlands. Its long-term management strategy is based on identified needs and priorities for long-term sustainable coastal ecosystem management. These priorities emerged from extensive consultations with over 200 individuals and 160 institutions involved in coastal management.

MFF seeks to achieve demonstrable results in influencing regional cooperation, national programme support, private sector engagement and community action. This will be achieved using a strategy of generating knowledge, empowering institutions and individuals to promote good governance in coastal ecosystem management.

Learn more at: www.mangrovesforthefuture.org