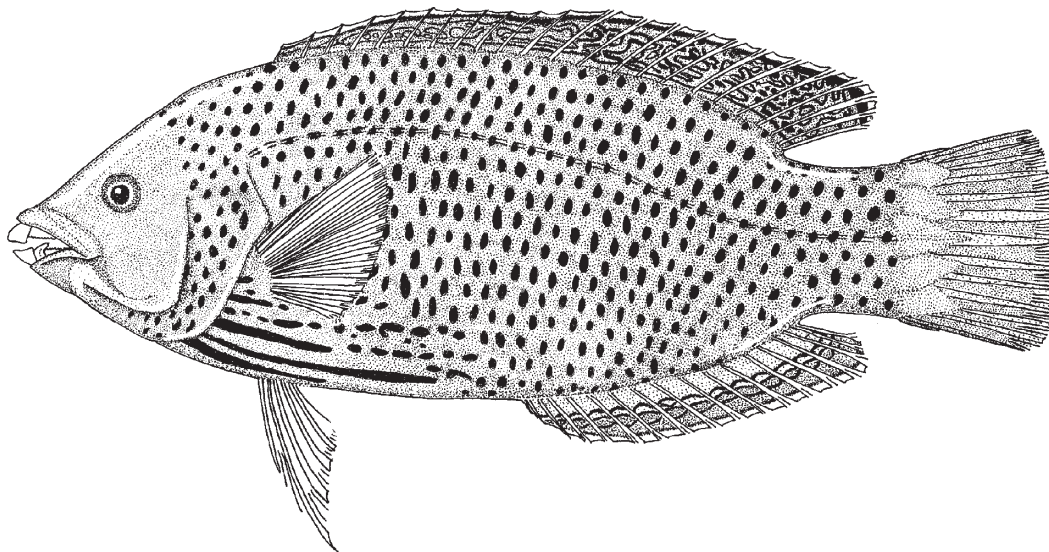


***Pseudodax moluccanus*** (Valenciennes, 1839)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Chiseltooth wrasse; Fr - Vielle ciseau; Sp - Vieja cuchilla.

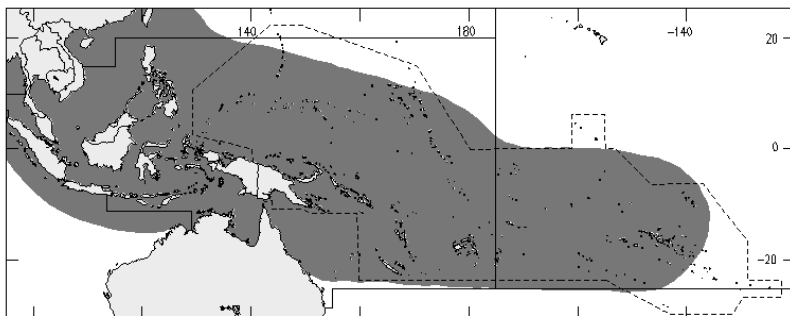


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, 2.5 to 2.9 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head only slightly curved convexly; head forming an acute angle; jaws prominent; **2 prominent spatulate incisors anteriorly in both upper and lower jaws, those of lower jaw followed by a second smaller pair, remaining teeth in jaws meet in a cutting ridge; teeth blue**; no canine at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin with XI spines and 12 soft rays, the spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with III spines and 14 soft rays; pectoral fins with 15 rays; pelvic fins slightly filamentous in large individuals; caudal fin slightly rounded. **Lateral line continuous with no sharp bend, with 30 or 31 pored scales.** Head scaly except for interorbital, snout, and chin. **Colour: body grey-brown to deep purple blue**; reddish brown forward on back and rear of head; upper lip yellow with a blue streak above it which crosses lower cheek; teeth blue; **dorsal fin orange**; anal, pectoral, and pelvic fins yellowish; **caudal fin dark with a broad yellow bar at base.** Juveniles dark brown with 2 iridescent blue stripes, 1 dorsal, 1 ventral.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 25 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Found on rock and coral reefs to a depth of about 60 m. Adults are solitary in habit, feeding upon small invertebrates scraped from the substrate. Juveniles are known to pick parasites from other species. Taken with spear by divers and occasionally marketed. Occasionally seen in the aquarium trade.

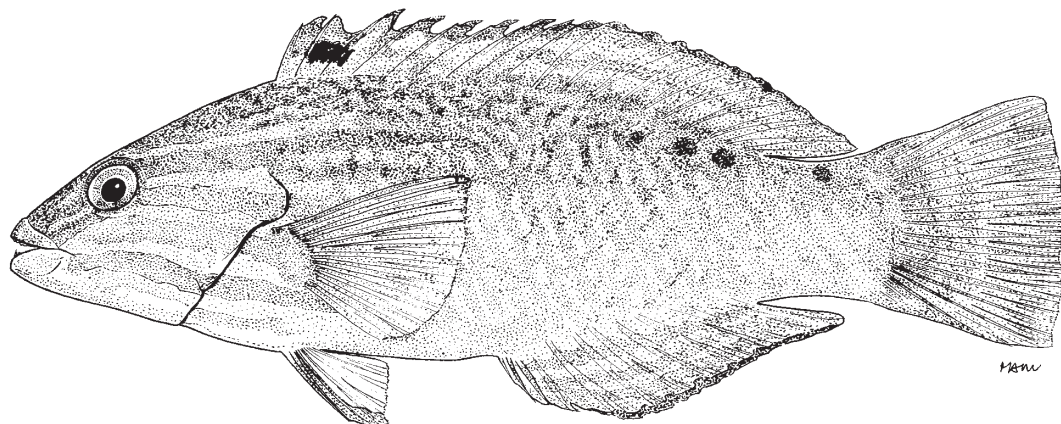
**Distribution:** Broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific, including Japan, the Philippines, and Australia, and into Oceania as far east as Tahiti.



***Pseudolabrus guentheri* Bleeker, 1862**

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Pseudolabrus dorsalis* (Macleay, 1881) / None.

**FAO names:** En - Günther's wrasse.

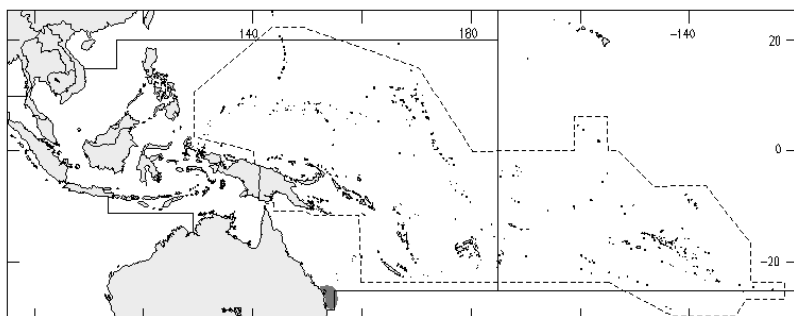


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, its depth 2.6 to 3.6 times in total length. Dorsal profile of head straight or slightly convex; mouth small, terminal; lips moderately fleshy; **single pair of large canine teeth on each side at front of upper jaw**; a row of progressively smaller teeth in jaw; lower jaw with 2 pairs of large canines anteriorly, the second pair larger than the first; an inner row of smaller canines continuing as a single row along side of jaw. Branchiostegal rays 6. Dorsal fin with IX spines and 11 soft rays, anal fin with III spines and 10 soft rays, pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 11 branched rays; caudal fin rounded, branched caudal-fin rays 12. **Lateral line complete, turning abruptly downward below posterior dorsal fin, with 25 or 26 pored scales.** Head naked except for 2 rows of moderately large scales behind eye on cheek and 4 to 6 scale rows below eye; predorsal scales 5. **Colour: initial phase reddish brown to green; 5 clusters of 1 to 3 small black spots evenly spaced along dorsum from below posterior dorsal-fin spines to caudal peduncle; 5 to 7 faint dark bars on body in some specimens; head darker above, paler below; 2 narrow horizontal lines on head pale orange to red, interspaces reddish brown to green; fins reddish orange, anterior part of anal fin sometimes greenish; spot anteriorly on dorsal fin black, bright red above to margin of fin; 3 faint narrow reddish stripes on soft part of dorsal and anal fins; first stripe along margin of fins, second midlaterally, and third at base of fin; dark wedge-shaped bar at base of pectoral fins.** Terminal-phase male usually dark green; lines on head and anterior part of body reddish brown; fins reddish; dark spot on dorsal-fin spines pronounced.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 15 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs on rocky and coral reefs generally in shallow water, in depths to 20 m. Feeds on molluscs and crustaceans. Sexual dichromatism in this species is not as marked as in some other members of the genus. Transformation from initial phase to terminal phase colour pattern occurs at about 7 to 10 cm standard length, and is accompanied mainly by a loss of spots on the dorsum and a general intensification of colour. Not often marketed.

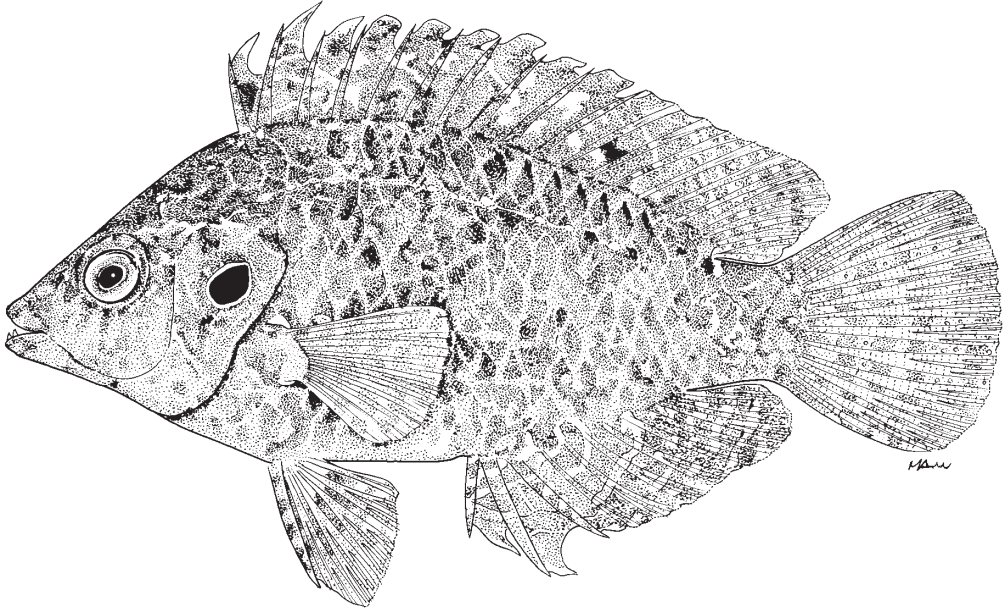
**Distribution:** Known only from subtropical eastern Australia, occurring in Queensland as far north as Lindeman Island, and in New South Wales as far south as Botany Bay.



*Pteragogus cryptus* Randall, 1981

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Pteragogus guttatus* (Fowler and Bean, 1828).

**FAO names:** En - Cryptic wrasse.

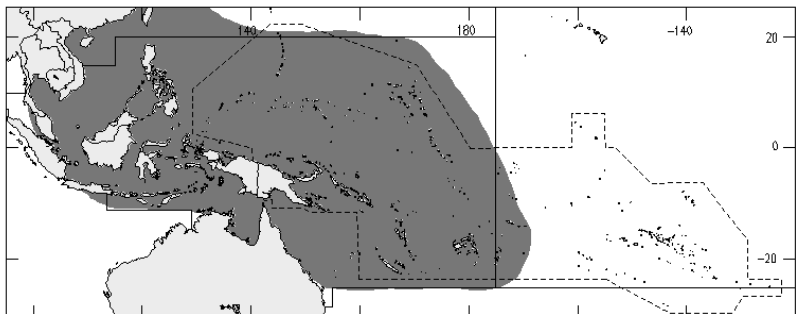


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, its depth 2.3 to 2.6 times in total length; dorsal profile of head straight; snout pointed, moderately long, 2.8 to 3.3 times in head length; **2 pairs of large, recurved canine teeth in jaws, the anterior pairs projecting, the posterior pairs outcurved;** a double row of small conical teeth anteriorly in jaws medial to canines, becoming a single row along sides of jaws. Branchiostegal rays 5. **Dorsal fin with X spines and 10 soft rays, terminal phase with long filaments extending from first 4 dorsal-fin spines;** anal fin with III spines and 9 soft rays, pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 11 branched rays; pelvic fins short; caudal fin rounded, branched caudal-fin rays 10. **Eye with modified scleral cornea forming a double pupil;** head with large scales except on snout, interorbital, and chin; predorsal scales 4; **lateral line continuous, with 24 pored scales.** **Colour:** body light red to brown, paler on ventral part of head, thorax, and abdomen; **edges of scales whitish;** a few scattered whitish spots, especially on lateral line; **a yellow-edged dark spot on opercle; a dark spot behind eye and 1 enclosing anterior nostril;** 2 blue-edged lines passing ventrally from orbit; short blue lines behind eye, on thorax and abdomen; dorsal and anal fins light red with irregular diagonal white markings and some dark-edged pale blue lines on membranes of soft portion of both fins; caudal fin with pink rays and yellowish membranes containing small blue spots; pectoral fins with clear membranes and whitish, red-edged rays; pelvic fins whitish with a broad region of light red basally and laterally; iris pale yellow.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 9.5 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** a secretive species inhabiting coral reefs where it hides among soft corals and benthic algae. Feeds on benthic invertebrates. Not marketed for food, and only rarely seen in the aquarium trade.

**Distribution:** Broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific.

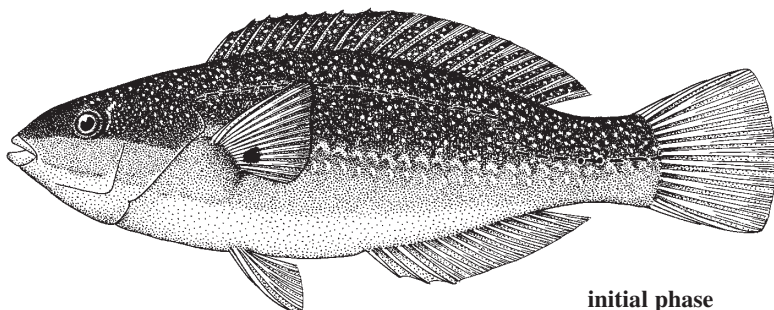




***Stethojulis bandanensis*** (Bleeker, 1851) (Plate V, 36)

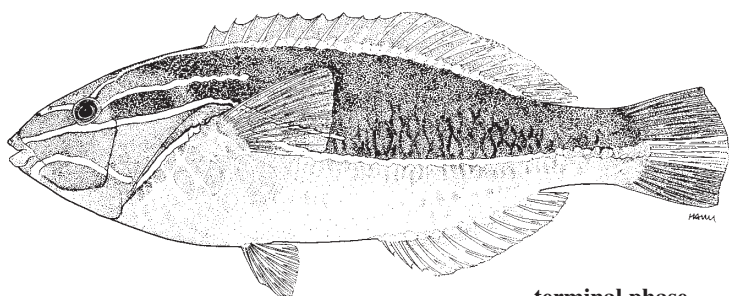
**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Stethojulis rubromacula* Scott, 1959; *S. linearis* Schultz, 1960 / *Stethojulis balteata* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1824).

**FAO names:** En - Bluelined wrasse.



initial phase

**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately slender, its depth 2.9 to 3.3 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head convex; anterior tip of head forming an acute angle; jaws and mouth small; **teeth small and incisiform, none notably enlarged**; canine tooth present at rear of upper jaw. **Dorsal fin continuous, with IX spines and 11 soft rays**; spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with III spines and 11 soft rays; **pectoral fins long, the fin base aligned at about a 30° angle to long axis**, with ii unbranched and 12 or 13 branched rays; caudal fin truncate to slightly rounded. **Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal-fin base, with 25 pored scales**. Scales reaching slightly onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; **scales on thorax about 1/2 the size of those on body**; head without scales.



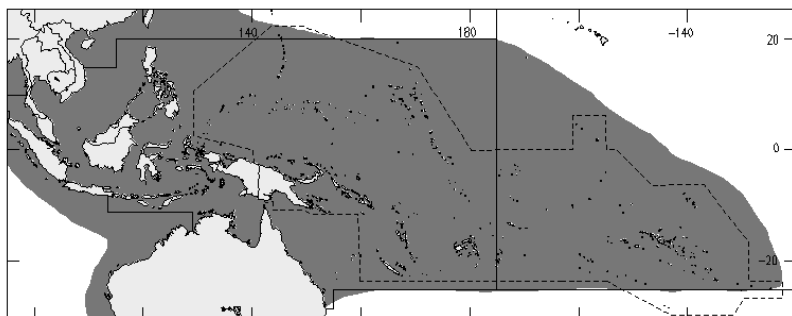
terminal phase

**Colour:** initial phase dark grey with upper half of body finely dotted with white speckles, lower half of body with basal portion of scales a darker grey; a bright red spot above upper base of pectoral fins; 1 to 3 (usually 2) small, blue-edged black spots midlaterally at rear of caudal peduncle. **Body of terminal male blue-grey to green dorsally, abruptly pale blue ventrally, the 2 zones separated by a blue line running the length of body; a crescent-shaped bright red spot above pectoral-fin base**; 4 blue lines on head, the uppermost passing along base of dorsal fin, the second stopping on nape, the third rimming upper edge of red spot and continuing onto front third of body, the fourth on lower head, then angling upward to join lateral blue line of body.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 12.5 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs in small aggregations over shallow reefs and on reef flats. One of the most maneuverable and rapid swimmers of the Labridae, using rapid beats of the pectoral fins for propulsion. Not often found in markets, rarely seen in the aquarium trade.

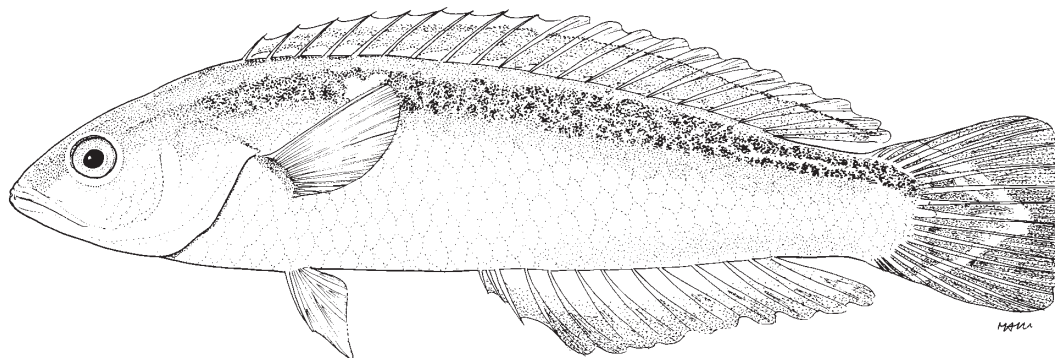
**Distribution:** Tropical eastern Pacific, Oceania (except Hawaii), and western Pacific.



*Suezichthys gracilis* (Steindachner and Döderlein, 1887)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / *Suezichthys soelae* (Russell, 1985).

**FAO names:** En - Slender wrasse.

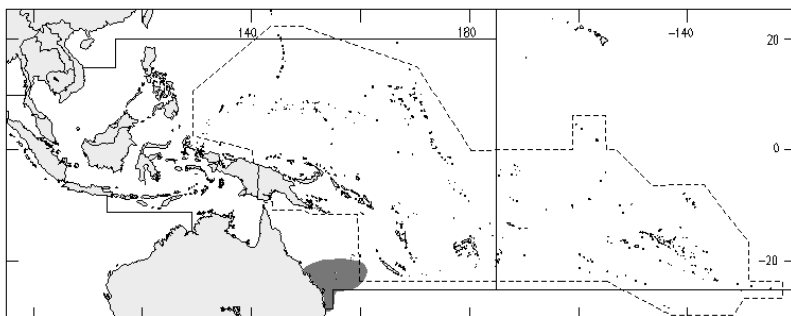


**Diagnostic characters:** Body elongate, its depth 4 to 4.8 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head slightly convex; head forming an acute angle; jaws prominent though mouth small; **a single pair of prominent canines anteriorly in each jaw; second pair of teeth moderately enlarged and recurved; a large curved canine present on each side at rear of upper jaw.** Dorsal fin continuous, with IX spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 10 soft rays; 13 or 14 pectoral-fin rays; caudal fin slightly rounded. Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior region of dorsal-fin base, with 25 or 26 pored scales, predorsal scales 4 or 5. **Body scales large, including those on opercle;** scales not reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; forehead, snout, and ventral head naked, 3 rows of small scales below eye; subopercle without scales. **Colour:** initial phase whitish, with a broad reddish stripe from middle of upper lip through eye to upper margin of preopercle and along body beneath lateral line to base of caudal fin, this stripe bisects an iridescent blue blotch above pectoral fins; a black spot at posterior end of stripe, a second narrower red stripe from upper edge of orbit onto nape, along dorsal fin to upper edge of caudal peduncle. **Terminal phase pale yellow-white, dusky greenish yellow on back; an olive green stripe on back and upper part of sides,** this stripe bisected by an iridescent blue blotch above pectoral fins; a dark yellowish green stripe from upper lip through eye to upper margin of opercle; cheeks and lower jaw yellowish; thorax light pink; **a black spot anteriorly on dorsal fin between first 2 spines;** outer margin of dorsal fin pink; anal fin pale yellow with a blue margin; 2 arc-like bands on caudal fin, 1 dusky olive and 1 yellow and blue; pectoral-fin axis and upper base of pectoral fins black.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 10 cm.

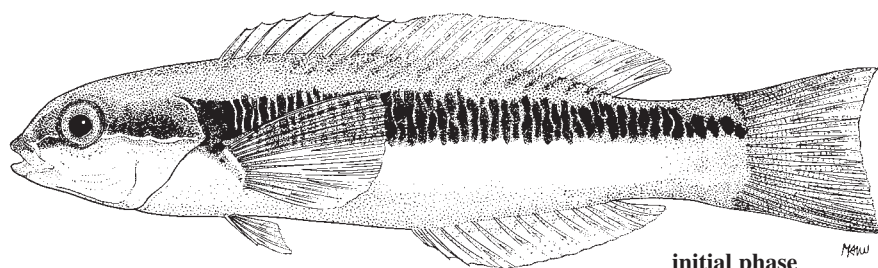
**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Feeds primarily on amphipods, crustaceans, and polychaete worms. Occasionally seen in the aquarium trade.

**Distribution:** Antitropical, New South Wales and southern Great Barrier Reef in the south, Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan Province of China, and Japan to the north.

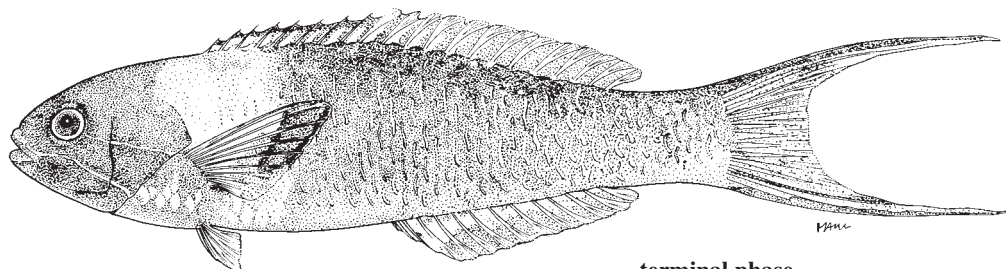


***Thalassoma amblycephalum*** (Bleeker, 1856)

(Plate V, 37)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Thalassoma melanochir* Fowler, 1904 / None.**FAO names:** En - Bluntheaded wrasse.

initial phase



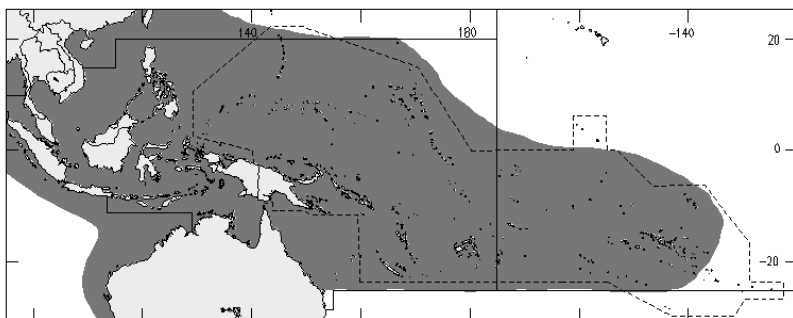
terminal phase

**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately slender, its depth 3.8 to 4.2 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head slightly convex; anterior tip of head forming an acute angle; jaws prominent, though mouth small; 2 prominent canines anteriorly in each jaw; no enlarged tooth at rear of upper jaw. **Dorsal fin continuous, with VIII spines and 13 soft rays**, spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with III spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 13 branched rays; pelvic fins pointed but not filamentous in large individuals; caudal fin truncate to slightly emarginate, becoming lunate in large males. Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal-fin base, with 26 or 27 pored scales. Scales reaching slightly onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; **scales on thorax about 1/2 the size of those on body**; scales in front of dorsal fin extending forward to about midpoint between origin of fin and eye; a small patch of scales on upper end of opercle; head otherwise without scales. **Colour: initial phase with pale ground colour and a broad blackish stripe from snout through eye to upper caudal-fin base**; body above stripe greenish, below white; caudal fin orange tinged; **terminal males mostly deep blue to blue-green, with many thin vertical pink lines on sides**; nape and anterior body below first 5 dorsal-fin spines yellow-green, this area often spreading onto thorax; head green with 2 golden lines; pectoral fins yellow with a large elongate black-edged blue spot on outer part of fin.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 16 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Occurs in aggregations over shallow reefs and on reef flats where it feeds on zooplankton. Rarely found in markets, but common in the aquarium trade.

**Distribution:** Broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific.

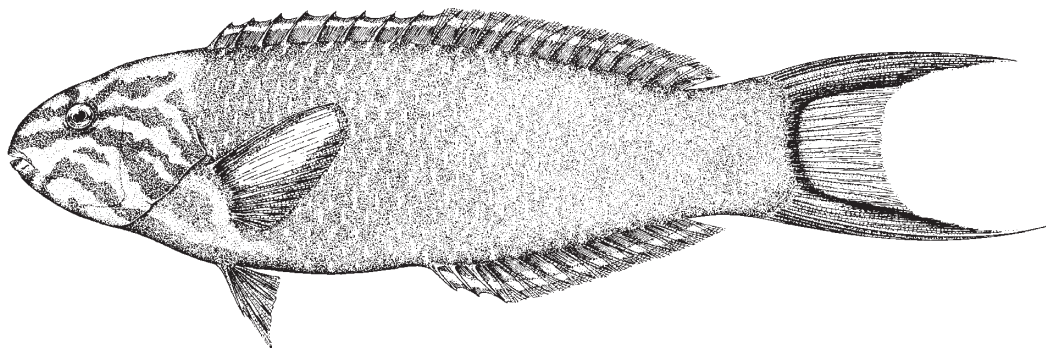


*Thalassoma lunare* (Linnaeus, 1758)

(Plate V, 39)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** None / None.

**FAO names:** En - Moon wrasse; Fr - Girelle verte; Sp - Doncella verde.

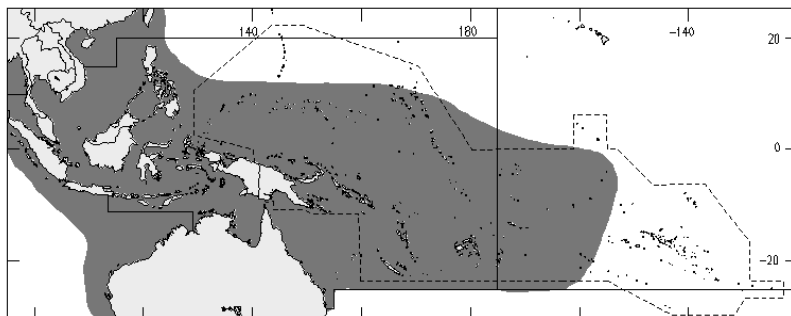


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately slender, its depth 3.1 to 3.7 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head slightly convex; anterior tip of head forming an acute angle; jaws prominent, though mouth small; 2 prominent canines anteriorly in each jaw; no enlarged tooth at rear of upper jaw. **Dorsal fin continuous, with VIII spines and 13 soft rays**, spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with III spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 13 branched rays; pelvic fins pointed but not filamentous in large individuals; caudal fin varying from truncate in small individuals to highly lunate with upper and lower corners produced into filaments in large individuals. Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal-fin base, with 25 pored scales. Scales reaching slightly onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; **scales on thorax about 1/2 the size of those on body**; scales in front of dorsal fin extending forward to about midpoint between origin of fin and eye; a small patch of scales on upper end of opercle, head otherwise without scales. **Colour:** bright green to blue with a vertical red band on each scale and several, mostly horizontal, prominent, red or purple lines on head; dorsal and anal fins green to blue basally and with pink, blue and yellow horizontal stripes successively; caudal fin green to blue basally and extending along upper and lower edges with a pink stripe directed toward each corner; midposterior portion of fin clear to yellow; pectoral fins blue with a prominent pink stripe directed from base to tip just below upper edge. **Small individuals olive green on upper half of body, blue-white below**; head with 1 or 2 horizontal red lines; **dorsal fin vermiculated with green and pink and bearing a large black spot midway along it**; anal fin red basally and blue to green toward edge; caudal fin light blue with a large black spot at its base; black spots associated with dorsal and caudal fins persisting in larger individuals.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 25 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Found on coral and rock reefs at depths of 1 to 20 m. Bold aggressive species, that feeds primarily on small bottom-dwelling invertebrates and fish eggs. Taken in fish traps, or hook-and-line. Only occasionally found in markets, but common in the aquarium trade.

**Distribution:** Broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific.

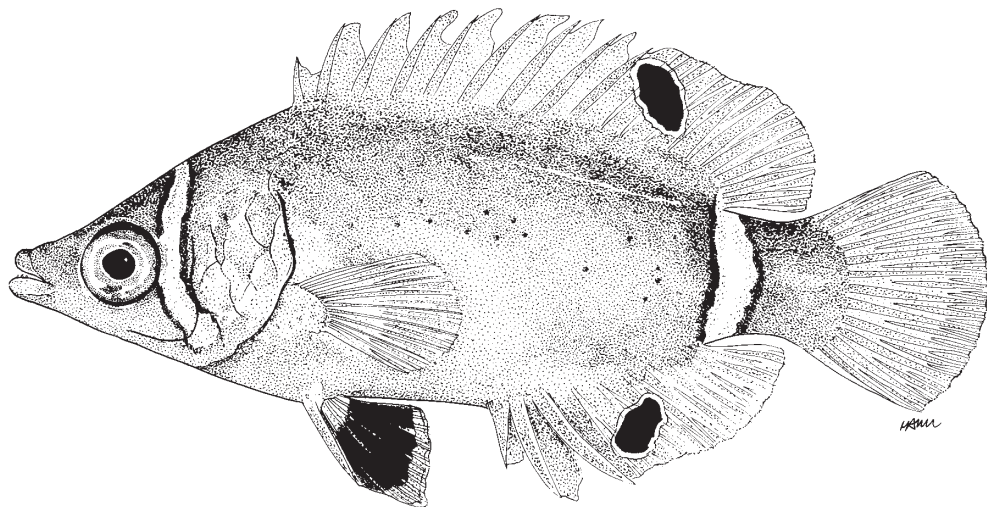




***Wetmorella nigropinnata*** (Seale, 1901)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Wetmorella philippina* Fowler and Bean, 1928 / *Wetmorella albofasciata* Schultz and Marshall, 1954.

**FAO names:** En - Sharpnose wrasse.



**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, its depth 2.5 to 3.2 times in total length. Dorsal profile of head straight; snout pointed, moderately long, 2.9 to 3.35 times in head length; mouth terminal, **no large, recurved canine teeth in jaws, 13 to 22 teeth in jaws that become gradually longer anteriorly**; no canine at corner of jaws. Branchiostegal rays 5. **Dorsal fin with IX spines and 10 soft rays**; anal fin with III spines and 8 soft rays; pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 10 branched rays; caudal fin rounded, branched caudal-fin rays 11. **Lateral line interrupted, with 13 to 15 pored scales in anterior portion and 5 to 7 in peduncular part.** Head with large scales except front and side of snout; large scales basally on median fins; predorsal scales 5. **Colour:** body grey-brown to red-brown; a dark-edged light yellow bar on head behind eye; a second similar bar anteriorly on caudal peduncle; a black spot midventrally on abdomen beneath pelvic fins; iris red and yellow; posterior edge of orbit narrowly brown; dorsal and anal fins brown; **an oval black spot, edged in pale blue, anteriorly in soft portion of dorsal and anal fins**; caudal fin brownish yellow with red rays, and 1 to several black spots in central region of fin; pelvic fins black except for whitish at base and posterior margin. **Juveniles with 2 broad pale bars on body**, one just behind head which extends into anterior part of dorsal fin and the other in middle of body, extending into posterior part of spinous portion of dorsal fin.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 6 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A secretive species inhabiting caves in coral reefs where it feeds on benthic invertebrates. Not marketed for food, and only rarely seen in the aquarium trade.

**Distribution:** Broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific.

