Atherinomorus lacunosus  (Forster, 1801)

English Name: Hardyhead silverside  
Order: Atheriniformes
Local Name: Hithiboa
Family: Atherinidae
Size: Max. 15 cm
Specimen: MRS/0486/97


Colour: Greenish-grey on back, the scale edges dusky. A silvery stripe on side, its upper edge with an iridescent blue line. Live fish translucent.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in large stationery schools near the shore during the day. Feeds mostly at night on planktonic eggs, crustaceans and small fish.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: Atherinomorus lacunosus is one of the two silverside species that are sometimes used as live bait by Maldivian tuna fishermen. Although it gives a good initial chumming response, the tunas soon stop feeding. The reason for this appears to be the silversides tough scales and bony body, which the tunas find indigestible. As a result, many tuna fishermen oppose the used of silversides as bait.
Hypoatherina temminckii  (Bleeker, 1853)

**English** Name: Samoan silverside  
**Family**: Atherinidae  
**Local Name**: Thaavalha  
**Order**: Atherinoformes  
**Size**: Common to 7 cm; max. 11 cm  
**Specimen**: MRS/0026/86


**Colour**: Greenish above, thin midlateral stripe and abdomen silvery. Usually upper surface of head dark. Fin bases dusky.

**Habitat and Biology**: Occurs in large schools near the shore during the day, moving out to open water to feed at night.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

**Remarks**: Hypoatherina temminckii is occasionally used as bait. The Dhivehi name ‘Keravalha’ is sometimes used by fishermen for small atherinids. Previously recorded as Allenetta harnesi in the Catalogue of Fishes of the Maldives Vol. 1, page 24.