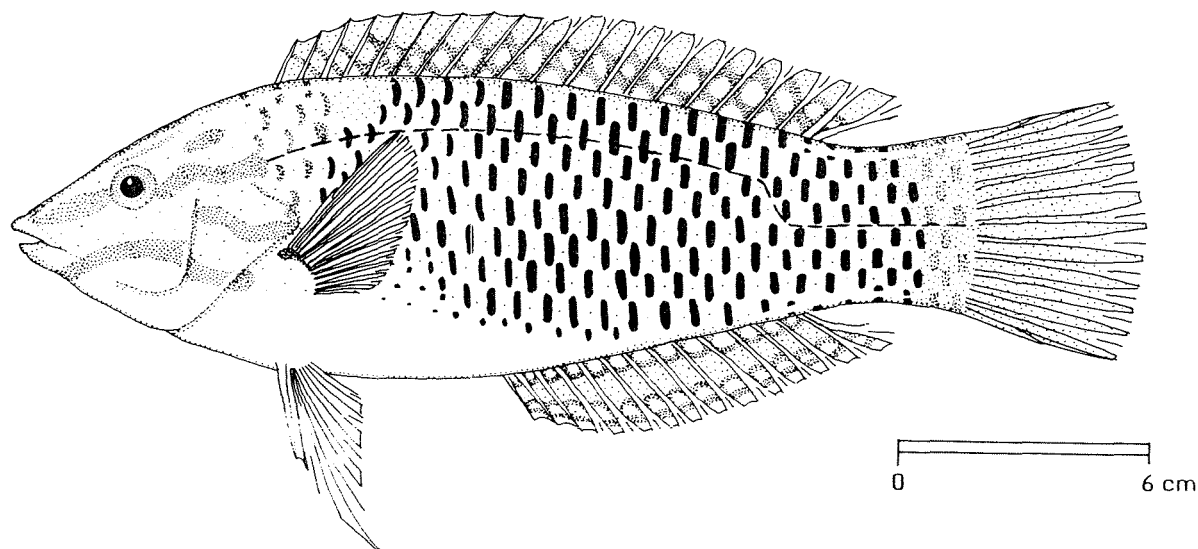


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

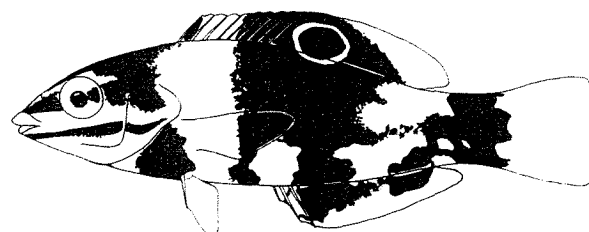
FAMILY: LABRIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Halichoeres hortulanus centiquadrus (Lacepède, 1801)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Halichoeres centiquadrus (Lacepède, 1801)

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Checkerboard wrasse  
                   Fr - Lalo damier  
                   Sp - Lalo ajeorezado

NATIONAL:



(juvenile)

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

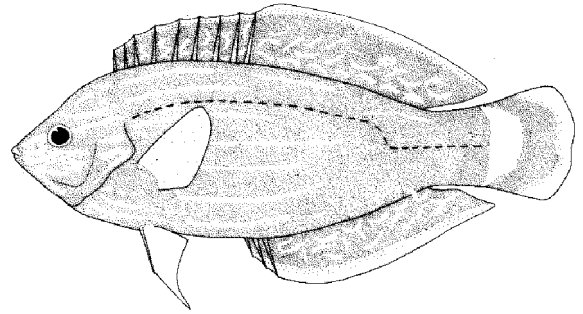
Body of moderate depth, greatest depth about equal to length of head. Dorsal profile of head only slightly curved convexly; head forming an acute angle; jaws prominent though mouth small; 4 prominent canines situated anteriorly in each jaw; a large curved canine present on each side at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 11 soft rays; the spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with 3 spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 unbranched and 12 branched rays; pelvic fins filamentous in adults; caudal fin slightly rounded to squared off. Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal fin base, with 26 pored scales. Scales not reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; scales in front of dorsal fin extending forward to above rear edge of eye; small patches of scales present high on opercle, behind eye and high on cheek; lower jaw without scales.

Colour: each scale on side with a vertical black bar providing an overall black and white checkered pattern; a prominent yellow and black patch on dorsal edge of body and dorsal fin between bases of fourth to eighth spines; head bluish grey, with prominent red horizontal wavy stripes and spots; fins yellow to orange with ocellated yellow spots on dorsal and anal fins. Large individuals with a bluish hue in pale areas. Very small individuals with 3 irregular broad black vertical bands across body, bands separated by broad white interspaces; a large black spot encircled with yellow located at centre of dorsal fin.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

All other species of Halichoeres: colour pattern on sides, other than black and white-checked sometimes striped, lacking a prominent yellow, then black spot on the upper edge of body and lower portion of dorsal fin between fourth and eighth spines, at least in large individuals.

Other labrid genera: with one or more of the following characters: lateral line interrupted below posterior portion of dorsal fin or smoothly curved; lateral line with 50 to 108 pored scales (26 in H. hortulanus); opercle with scales; dorsal fin with 8, or 10 to 13 spines; jaw teeth flattened, incisiform; lips very prominent, the lower often split along midline to form 2 pendulous lobes; dorsal fin origin above midpoint between eye and pectoral fin base.



H. marginatus

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 25.5 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:**

Occurs throughout most of this fishing area. This subspecies is confined to the Indian Ocean, being replaced by Halichoeres hortulanus hortulanus in the Western and Central Pacific.

Found mostly un and about coral reefs at depths of 1 to at least 20 m.

Feeds primarily on hard-shelled prey, including molluscs, crustaceans and sea urchins.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

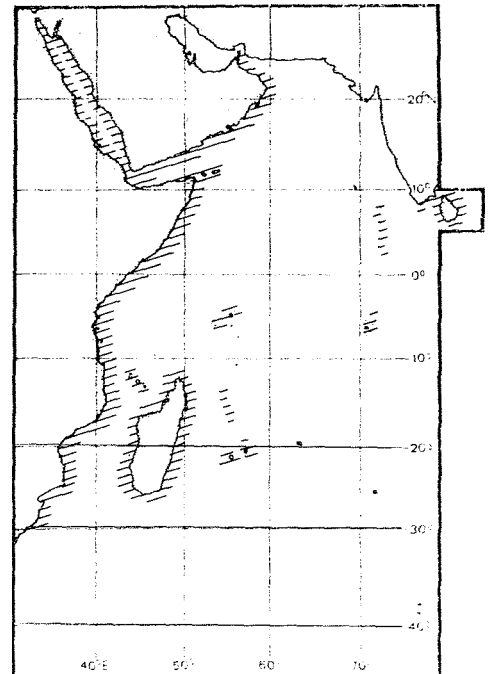
No special fishery. This is one of the few members of the speciose genus Halichoeres that reaches a sufficiently large size; to enter the market readily when taken. It is not individually sought.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken with fish traps, with spears by divers and occasionally by handline.

Marketed fresh.

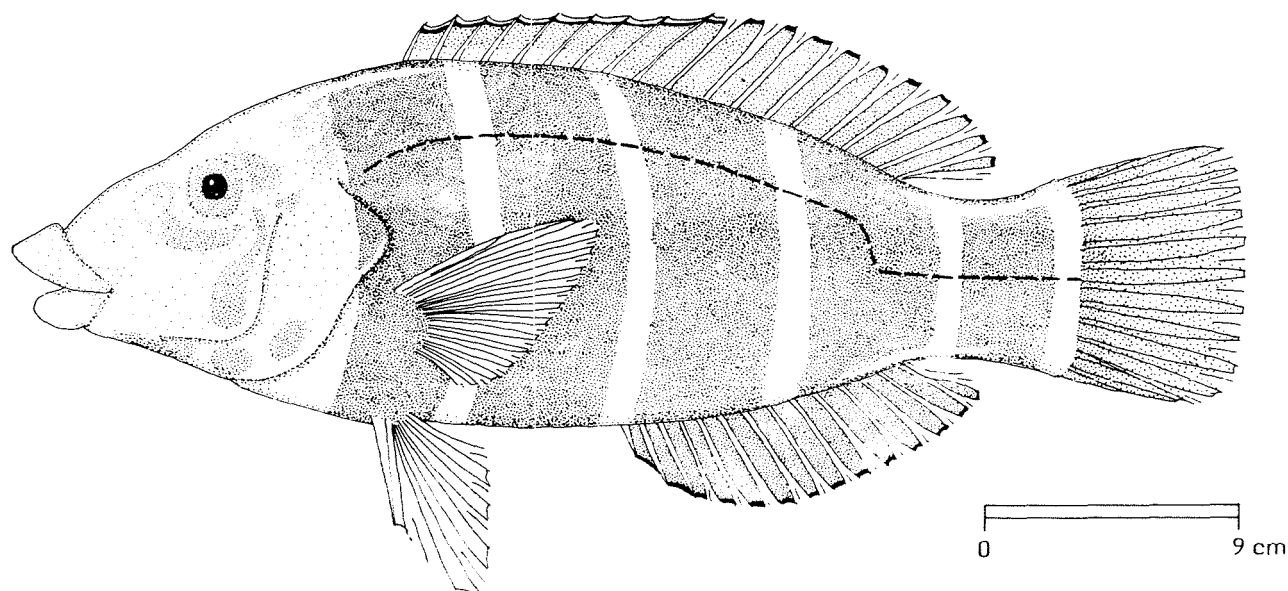


## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LABRIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)*Hemigymnus fasciatus* (Bloch, 1792)

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Barred thicklip  
                   Fr - Tamarin à bandes noires  
                   Sp - Tamarin anillado

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

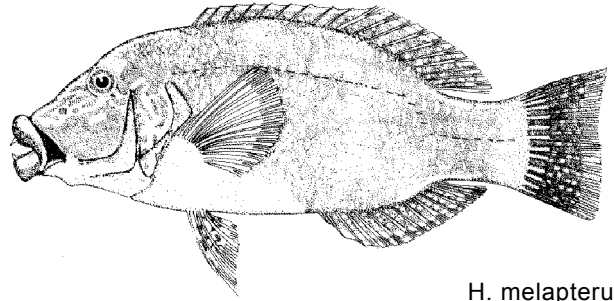
Body moderately deep, greatest depth about equal to length of head. Dorsal profile of head only slightly curved convexly; head forming an acute angle; jaws prominent though mouth small; lips extremely large and fleshy in adults, the lower split on the midline forming 2 pendant lobes; 2 large forward-directed canines situated anteriorly in each jaw; a broad canine present on each side at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 10 soft rays; the spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with 3 spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 unbranched and 12 branched rays; pelvic fins not filamentous; caudal fin slightly rounded to squared off. Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal fin base, with a total of 28 pored scales. Scales barely reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; scales in front of dorsal fin extending forward to above centre of eye at most, with forwardmost scales small and embedded; cheek with a narrow band of scales below and behind eye; opercle and lower jaw without scales.

Colour: sides black, with 4 or 5 narrow, white, vertical bands; head greenish above, yellowish below, with several blue-edged bronze stripes, especially around eyes; dorsal fin yellowish brown with bluish stripes and spots; anal fin black, with several bluish stripes; caudal fin yellowish brown. Small individuals similar with yellowish bands on body continued as yellow bands on blackish head.

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Hemigymnus melapterus: rear half of body dark, front half mostly pale; small individuals with a single vertical pale band traversing side between origins of dorsal and anal fins.

Other labrid genera: lips less fleshy, the lower not split forming 2 pendant lobes or if fleshy, greatest depth of body less than length of head or lateral line interrupted.



H. melapterus

## SIZE:

Maximum: 40 cm.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Occurs throughout most of this fishing area. Elsewhere, it ranges into the Western Pacific, reaching Tahiti to the east.

Found mostly on coral reefs and reef flats at depths of 1 to at least 20 m.

Feeds primarily on small crustaceans, molluscs and echinoderms.

## PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

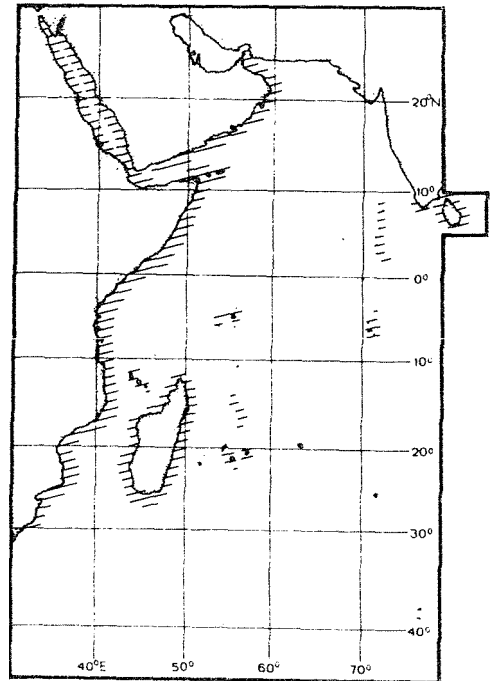
No special fishery. Although this species is not commercially sought, it reaches a sufficiently large size to be marketed when taken.

## CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Taken almost exclusively with spear by divers.

Marketed fresh.



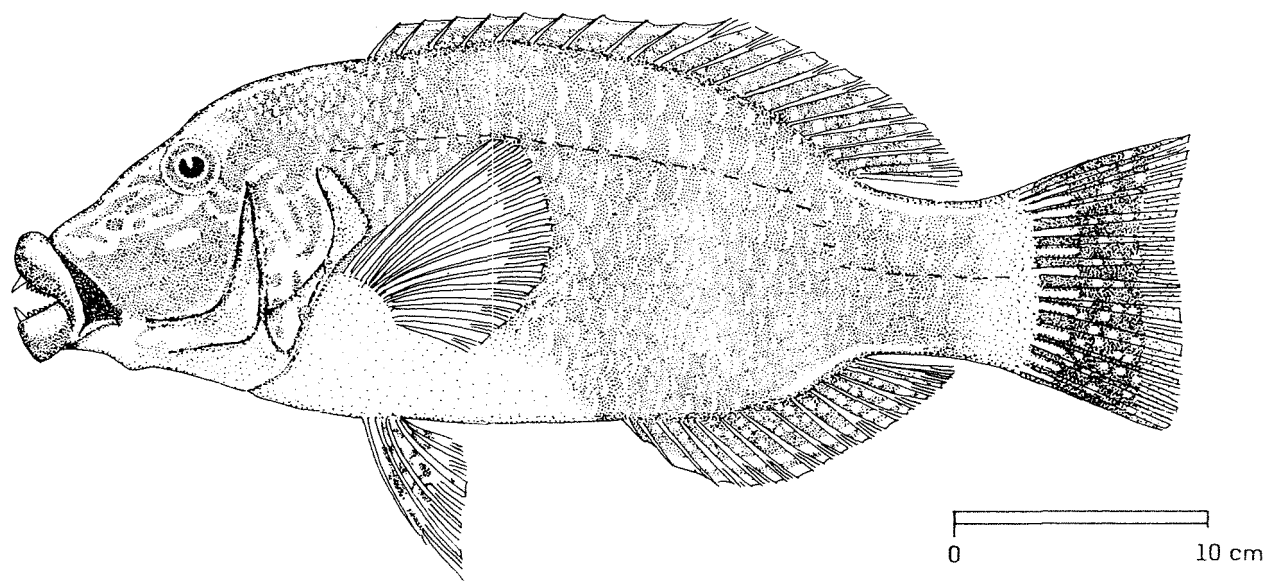
## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LABRIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)

<i>Hemigymnus melapterus</i> (Bloch, 1791)
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OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: None



## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Blackeye thicklip  
                   Fr - Tamarin vert  
                   Sp - Tamarín verde

NATIONAL:

## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

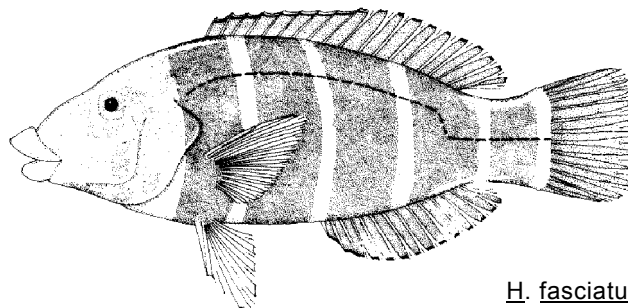
Body moderately deep, greatest depth about equal to length of head. Dorsal profile of head only slightly curved convexly; head forming an acute angle; jaws prominent though mouth small; lips extremely large and fleshy in adults, the lower split on midline forming 2 pendulant lobes; 2 large forward-directed canines situated anteriorly in each jaw; a broad canine present on each side at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 10 soft rays; the spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with 3 spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 unbranched and 12 branched rays; pelvic fins not filamentous; caudal fin slightly rounded to squared off. Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal fin base, with a total of 28 pored scales. Scales barely reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; scales in front of dorsal fin extending forward to above centre of eye at most, with forwardmost scales small and embedded; cheek with a narrow band of scales below and behind eye; opercle and lower jaw without scales.

Colour: whitish forward of a line between origins of dorsal and anal fins dark behind. In large individuals, the darker area (including those on dorsal, anal and caudal fins dark blue to green; head light blue above, greenish below with reddish spots and stripes around eyes; dorsal and anal fins with blue lines and with pink edges; pink edges also on caudal fin. In smaller individuals, rear portion of sides and dorsal and anal fins dark brown, caudal peduncle and caudal fin yellowish brown; each scale with a blue spot; head greenish grey above, greenish white below, with reddish brown spots and stripes above level of eyes; dorsal and anal fins with a blue stripe and reddish brown margin. Very small individuals with white area confined to a vertical band traversing body between origins of dorsal and anal fins.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:**

Hemigymnus fasciatus: sides traversed by 4 or 5 narrow white vertical bands; small individuals with yellowish bands that continue onto head and tail.

Other labrid genera: lips less fleshy, the lower not split forming 2 pendant lobes or if fleshy, greatest depth of body less than length of head or lateral line interrupted.



H. fasciatus

**SIZE:**

Maximum: 50 cm.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR**

Occurs throughout most of this fishing area, but not in the Red Sea. Elsewhere, it ranges into the Western and Central Pacific, reaching Polynesia to the east.

Found mostly on coral reefs and reef flats at depths of 1 to at least 20 m.

Feeds primarily by taking in mouthfuls of sand, sorting out small invertebrates (especially crustaceans, polychaete worms, molluscs and brittle stars) and then expelling the sand.

**PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:**

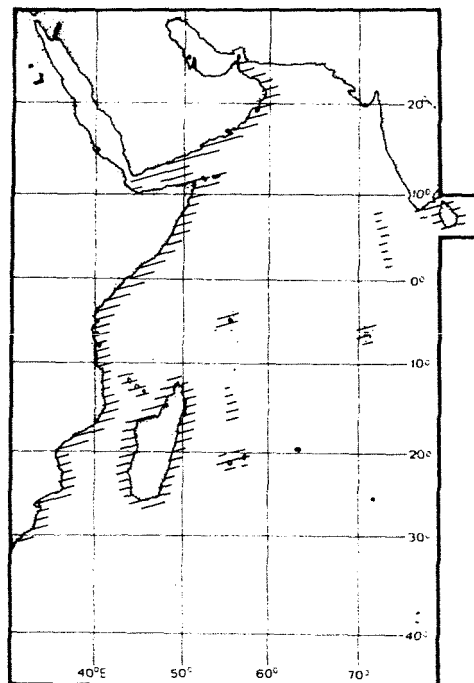
No special fishery. Although this species is not commercially sought, it reaches a sufficiently large size to be marketed when taken.

**CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:**

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

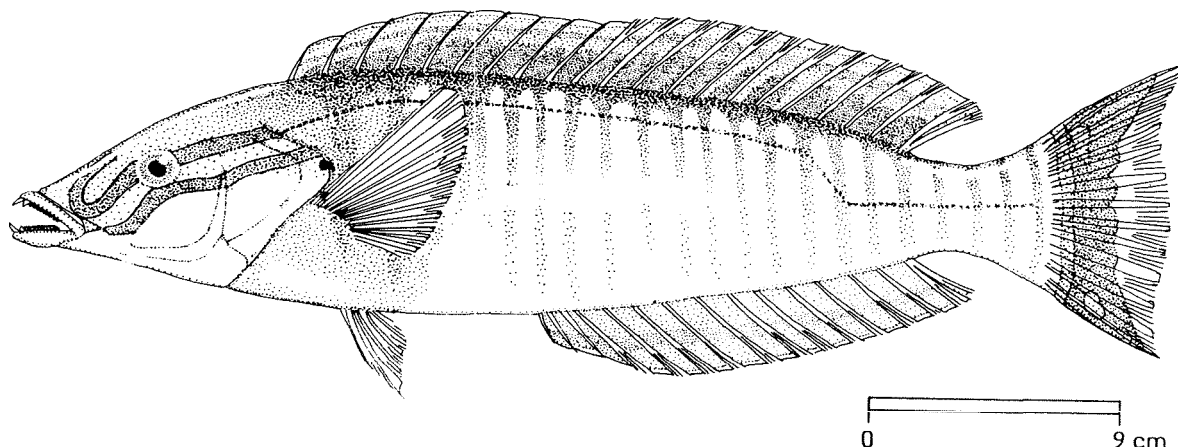
Taken almost exclusively with spear by divers.

Marketed fresh. Its flesh is of high quality.



## FAO SPECIES IDENTIFICATION SHEETS

FAMILY: LABRIDAE

FISHING AREA 51  
(W. Indian Ocean)Hologymnosus annulatus (Lacepède, 1801)OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES STILL IN USE: Hologymnosus semidiscus

## VERNACULAR NAMES:

FAO :           En - Ring wrasse  
                   Fr - Colombine annelée  
                   Sp - Colombina anillada

NATIONAL:

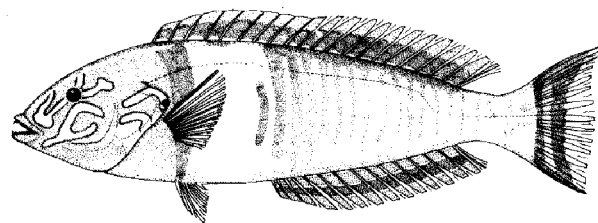
## DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS:

Body elongate, the depth 3.3 to 5.1 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head nearly straight (convex on large individuals), becoming curved on nape; front of head forming an acute angle; jaws prominent, though mouth small; 4 prominent canines anteriorly in each jaw; no enlarged tooth at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin continuous, with 9 spines and 12 soft rays; the spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with 3 spines and 12 soft rays; pectoral fins with 2 unbranched and 11 branched rays; pectoral fin not short, 1.65 to 1.9 times in head; caudal fin slightly rounded in juveniles, emarginate in adults, the caudal concavity about 5 times in head in large males. Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal fin base, with 100 to 118 pored scales. Scales not extending onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; head scaleless, except for nape.

Colour: juveniles greenish yellow to yellow with a broad black stripe on lower side of head and body, extending onto caudal fin, and a narrow reddish stripe dorsally on body. Initial phase brown to olive-brown with 17 to 19 dark brown bars on side of body; a black smudge on opercular flap preceded by blue; caudal fin brown with a large whitish crescentic area posteriorly, the upper and lower edges narrowly light blue. Terminal male phase green, shading to blue-green ventrally, with about 17 purplish red bars on side of body; head purplish with broad irregular bands of iridescent blue-green; caudal fin blue, with a large crescentic green region posteriorly, the lobes with a broad band of rose-purple.

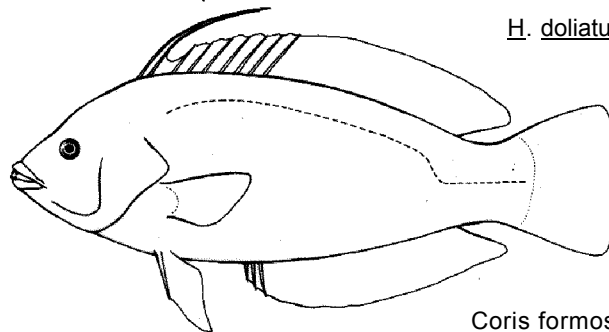
### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERS OF SIMILAR SPECIES OCCURRING IN THE AREA:

Hologymnosus doliatus: pectoral fins short, 1.9 to 2.1 times in head (1.65 to 1.9 times in H. annulatus); juveniles whitish with 3 narrow orange-red stripes; initial phase pale greenish, bluish, or pinkish with 20 to 23 orangish brown bars; no pale crescent posteriorly in caudal fin; terminal male phase with a dark purple to deep blue bar anteriorly on body, followed by a broad zone of light red and then a long region of light red, shading to pale blue-green ventrally, with about 14 lavender-blue bars; caudal fin without a green crescent posteriorly.



H. doliatus

Coris species: pored lateral line scales 48 to 86 (93 to 118 for Hologymnosus); body generally not as elongate with a shorter and less pointed head; enlarged molariform pharyngeal teeth present.



Coris formosa

### SIZE:

Maximum: 37.5 cm.

### GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND BEHAVIOUR:

Occurs throughout much of the tropical Indo-West Pacific from the Red Sea and East Africa to French Polynesia and the Pitcairn Group (absent from some areas such as the "Gulf" and Hawaiian Islands).

A species of coral reefs and rocky substrata to depths of at least 30 m. In a sample of 12 mature initial phase fish, all were females, but it is expected that primary males occur.

Feeds mainly on fishes.

### PRESENT FISHING GROUNDS:

No special fishery. Although this species is not commercially sought, it reaches a sufficiently large size to be marketed when taken.

### CATCHES, FISHING GEAR AND FORMS OF UTILIZATION:

Separate statistics are not reported for this species.

Usually taken with hook and line.

Marketed fresh.

