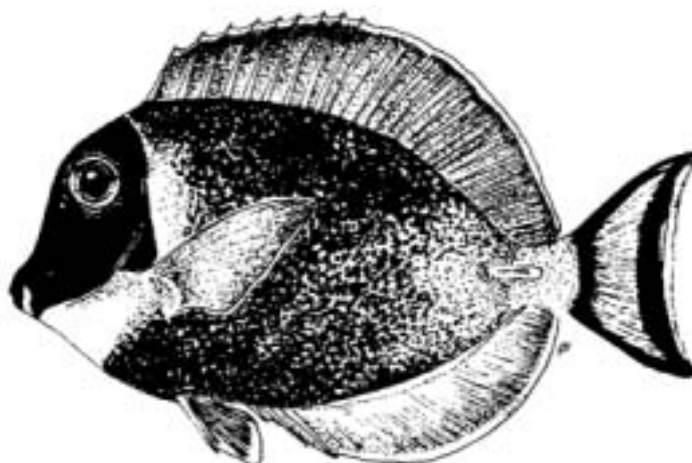


***Acanthurus leucosternon* Bennett. 1832**



English Name: Blue surgeonfish
Local Name: Noo kaalhu
Size: Max. 23 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0058/86

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 spines and 30 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 28 rays. Pectoral fin with 2 spines and 14 rays. Pelvic fin with 1 spine and 5 rays. Strongly compressed oval shaped body. First dorsal fin and anal spine very short. Mouth small. Caudal fin emarginate.

Colour: Body blue with a black head and a white chin. Dorsal fin yellow with a black sub-marginal line. Caudal fin with two dark cross bands. Upper and lower edges of caudal fin white. Pectoral translucent yellow.

Habitat and Biology: A shallow-water outer reef species found to a depth of 10 m. Occasionally found in large feeding aggregations. These schools overwhelm territorial damselfishes guarding their private pastures of algae.

Distribution: Indian Ocean.

Remarks: *Acanthurus leucosternon* is atypical surgeonfish for the Indian Ocean. It is a very popular species among the aquarists, mainly due to its pleasing colour patterns.

333

تقریباً ۲۳ سانتی میٹر دراز و ۱۰ سانتی میٹر بلندی دارد. بدن آن بسیار فشرده و بیضی شکل است. سر آن سیاه و چانه آن سفید است. خط سفیدی از چانه شروع شده و از پشت سر تا انتهای بدن ادامه می‌دهد. پاره‌های بالایی و پایینی دم دو نوار سیاه عرضی دارد. بالایی و پایینی دم سفید است. پره‌ها شفاف زردی است. پاره‌های بالایی و پایینی دم دو نوار سیاه عرضی دارد. بالایی و پایینی دم سفید است. پره‌ها شفاف زردی است.

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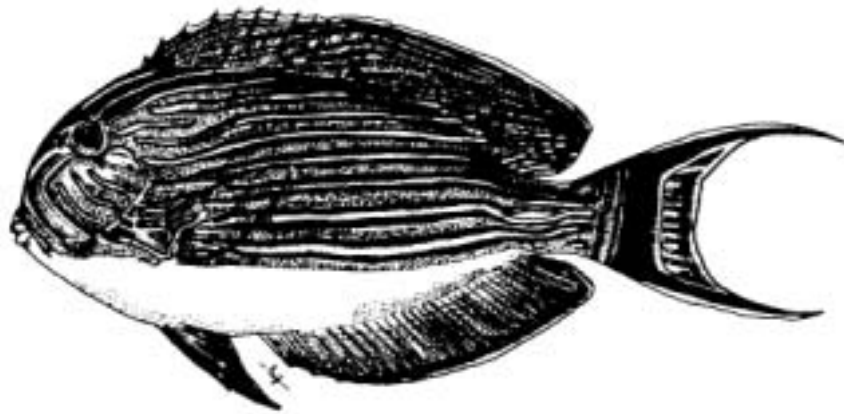
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Acanthurus lineatus (Linnaeus, 1758)



English Name: Lined surgeonfish
Local Name: Fashuvi libaas
Size: Max. 38 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0410/92

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 spines and 27-29 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 25-28 rays. Pectoral rays 16. Adult body depth about 2.2 in standard length. Caudal peduncle spine very long. Caudal fin lunate.

Colour: Distinctly and beautifully coloured, with alternate black edged yellow and blue stripes.

Habitat and Biology: An inshore species of coral reefs or rocky substrates exposed to wave action. Feeds on benthic algae. Territorial and very aggressive.

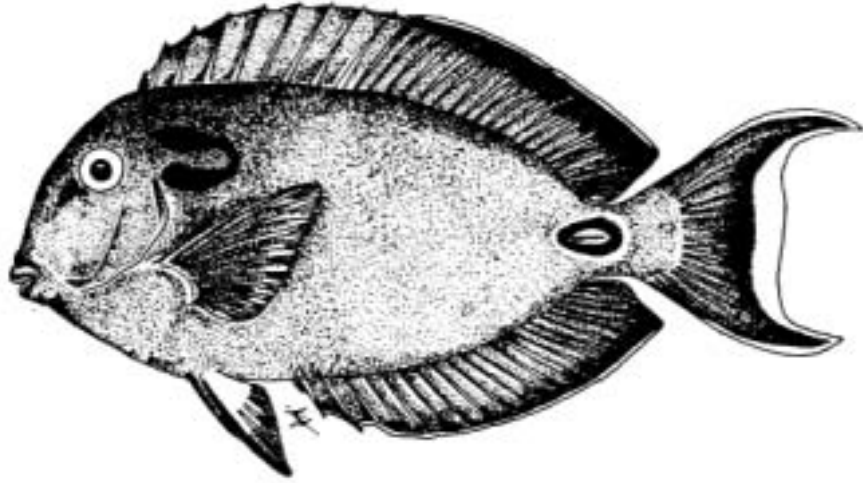
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Acanthurus lineatus* is a very common inhabitant of shallow reef flats. This beautifully marked surgeonfish is very popular among aquarists and divers. The caudal spine is apparently venomous.

وَرُفُوحٌ

[illegible]

Acanthurus tennenti Gunther, 1861



English Name: Lieutenant surgeonfish
Local Name: Dhefah kaalhu
Size: Max. 31 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0382/92

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 spines and 23-24 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 22-23 rays. Pectoral rays 16. Body depth 1.9-2.2 in standard length. Body becoming more elongate with increasing size.

Colour: Brown. Black marks behind eye: horseshoe-shaped in juveniles but becoming two separate stripes in adults. Caudal fin with white margin. Black area around caudal spine edged with pale blue.

Habitat and Biology: Found on coral reefs at depths up to 20 m. Forms small schools. Grazes on benthic algae.

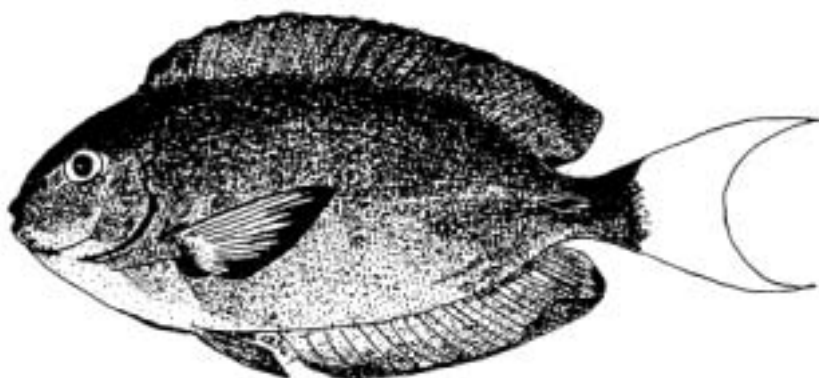
Distribution: Western Indian Ocean.

Remarks: *Acanthurus tennenti* is a fairly common shallow water surgeonfish. The colour of the sides can be changed from very pale brown (when the black 'ear-stripes' stand out very clearly) to a very dark brown (when they are almost invisible).

قُرْآنِ سَدَّادِ

[illegible]

Acanthurus thompsoni (Fowler, 1923)



English Name: Thompson's surgeonfish
Local Name: Nigoo hudhu kaalhu
Size: Max. 27 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0340/89

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 spines and 23-26 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 23-26 rays. Pectoral rays 17. Body depth about 2.3, snout 7.9-8.2 in standard length. Body moderately elongate. Mouth small. Caudal fin lunate.

Colour: Uniform chocolate brown; caudal fin white. A dark spot present at rear base of dorsal fin and another below axial of pectoral fin.

Habitat and Biology: Generally found on outer reef areas at depths up to 70 in. Occurs in loose aggregations. Feeds on zooplankton well above the substratum.

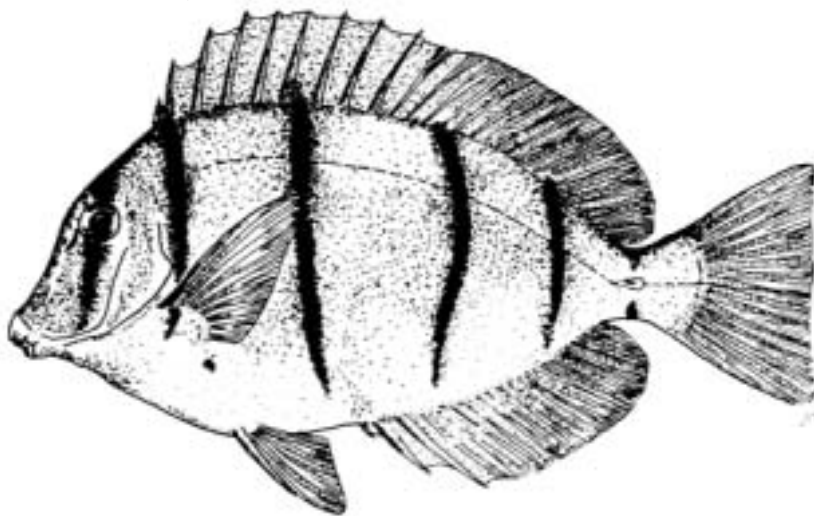
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Acanthurus rhomponi* occurs in schools and is very common on current-swept reefs. *A. phillippinus* Herre is a synonym.

سر کی سرفرازی

[illegible]

Acanthurus triostegus (Linnaeus, 1758)



English Name: Convict surgeonfish
Local Name: Raabulhaa
Size: Max. 27 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0025/86

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 spines and 23 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 20 rays. Pectoral fin with 2 spines and 13 rays. A compressed body with a small mouth. First dorsal spine short, about one third of second dorsal spine. First anal spine short. Pectoral fin shorter than head. A lancet-like spine on caudal peduncle which folds into a deep horizontal groove.

Colour: Greenish grey dorsally, shading to white below, with six narrow black bars on head and body.

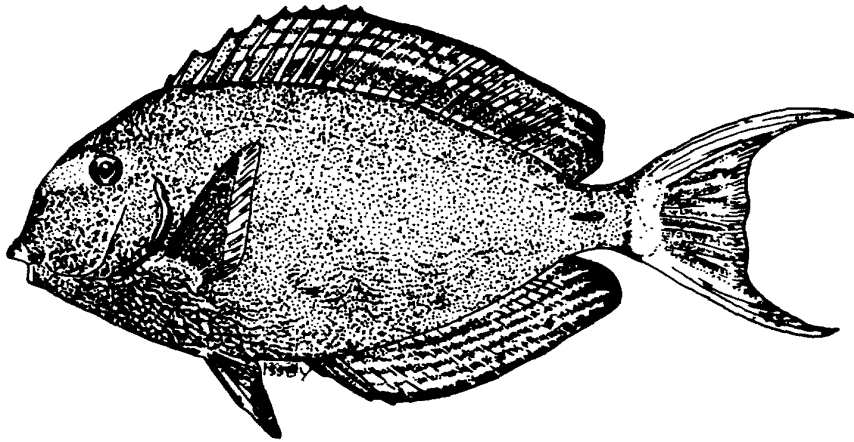
Habitat and Biology: An abundant inshore reef species which feeds on filamentous algae. Often seen in large feeding schools; young common in tidepools.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific and Eastern Pacific.

Remarks: *Acanthurus triostegus* is a very common species in the Maldives. This species is of little interest among aquarists.

[illegible]

Acanthurus xanthopterus Valenciennes, 1835



English Name: Yellowfin surgeonfish, Ringtail surgeonfish
Local Name: Vilu kaalhu
Size: Max. 65 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P0342/89

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 spines and 25-27 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 23-25 rays. Pectoral rays 16 or 17. Body depth 2.0-2.3 in standard length. Caudal spine 4.5-5.5 in head length. Caudal fin lunate. Gill rakers 16-22.

Colour: Pale grey; dull yellow around eye; dorsal and anal fins dull yellow with four longitudinal broad blue bands; outer third of pectoral fin yellow; base of caudal fin often dull white.

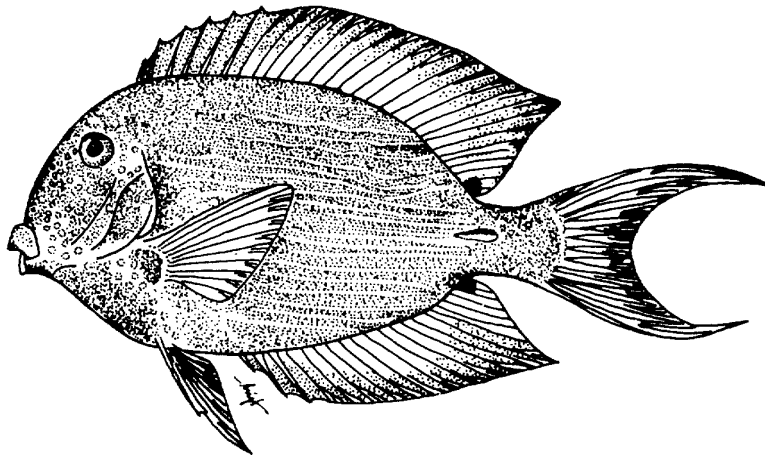
Habitat and Biology: Usually observed in deeper lagoons dominated by sand, generally at depths greater than 10 m. Feeds on benthic algae.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific and Tropical Eastern Pacific.

Remarks: *Acanthurus xanopterus* is perhaps the largest of the surgeonfishes. Occurs in schools and is very common in deep lagoons ('vilu'). This species has been previously called as *A. matoides*.

[illegible]

Ctenochaetus binotatus Randall. 1955



English Name: Two-spot surgeonfish

Local Name: Lah jehi kaalhu

Size: Max. 22 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0225/89

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 8 spines and 24-27 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 22-25 rays. Pectoral rays 15-16. Body depth 1.9-2.2 in standard length. Teeth movable. Caudal fin lunate.

Colour: Orangish brown with longitudinal lines on body and blue dots on head and chest; two black spots at the base of soft dorsal and anal fin.

Habitat and Biology: Found in a variety of reef habitats.

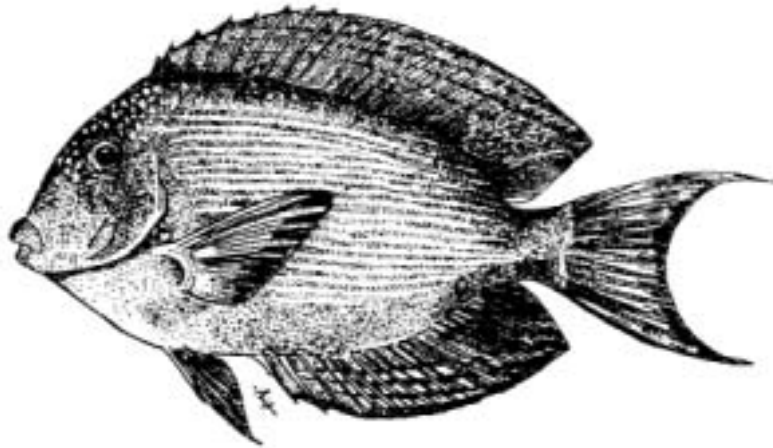
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: There are three rather similar dull brown species of *Ctenochaetus* found in the Maldives, but *C. hinotatus* is easily distinguished from others by its two dark spots. Differs from *Acanthurus* spp. by having movable teeth and less spines on the dorsal fin.

خروج راجع

[illegible]

Ctenochaetus striatus (Quoy and Gaimard, 1825)



English Name: Striated surgeonfish
Local Name: Rongu dhemi kaalhu
Size: Max. 26 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0341/89

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 8 spines and 27-31 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 24-28 rays. Pectoral rays 16-17. Body depth 1.9-2.3 in standard length. Teeth movable. Caudal fin lunate.

Colour: Dark brown with blue longitudinal lines on body and orange dots on head. Dark blue bands on dorsal and anal fins.

Habitat and Biology: Ubiquitous, in various habitats, from protected lagoons to ocean reefs. Occur singly or in small to very large aggregations at depths up to 30 m. Detritus feeder with comb-like teeth.

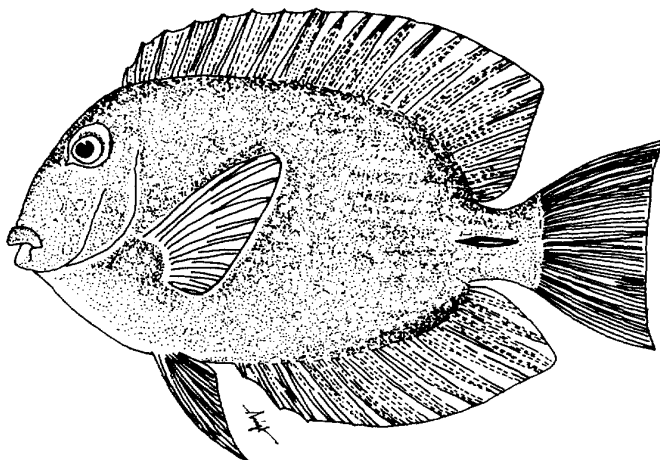
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Ctenochaetus striatus* is one of the commonest reef fishes, but because of its dull colouration can easily be overlooked. It is rather similar to *C. strigosus* (next page) but can be distinguished on the basis of colouration, caudal fin shape and fin counts.

مدرسہ اسلامیہ

[illegible]

Ctenochaetus strigosus (Bennett. 1828)



English Name: Spotted surgeonfish

Local Name: Thijehi kaalhu

Size: Max. 18.5 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0097/87

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 8 spines and 25-27 rays.. Anal fin with 3 spines and 22-25 rays. Pectoral rays 15-16. Body depth 1.7-2.0 in standard length. Teeth movable. Caudal fin slightly emarginate.

Colour: Dark brown with pale blue dots on head and body, the dots sometimes join to form irregular lines; eye rimmed with yellow. Juveniles bright yellow.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs on coral reefs to depths of 50 m. Found in large aggregations.

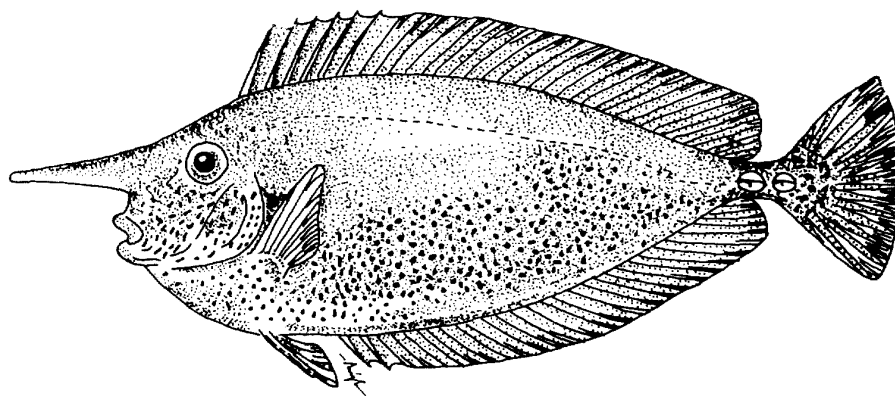
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Ctenochaetus strigosus* is very similar to *C. striatus* (previous page), but the two are easily distinguished in the field on the basis of tail shape. Colour and caudal fin shape varies with locality.

میں نے اسے دیکھا تھا

[illegible]

Naso brevirostris (Valenciennes, 1835)



English Name: Spotted unicornfish

Local Name: Thunbi

Size: Max. 55 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0381/92

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 6 spines and 27-29 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 27-29 rays. Pectoral rays 16-17. Body depth varying from 2.0 in standard length of subadults to 2.7 in adults. Adults with long bony projection in front of the eyes extending well in front of the mouth. Profile of snout between base of horn and mouth almost vertical. Caudal fin truncate to slightly rounded.

Colour: Dark brown with pale blue dots on head and body, the dots sometimes join to form irregular lines. Eye rimmed with yellow. Juveniles bright yellow.

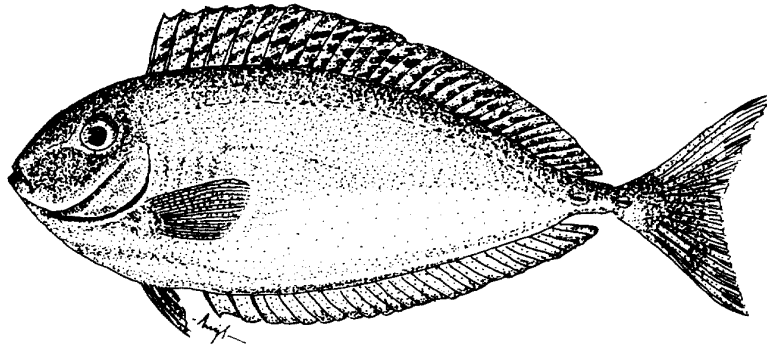
Habitat and Biology: Common on coral reefs up to depths of 40 m. Feeds on benthic algae when young, shifting principally to zooplankton when adult.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Naso brevirostris* is a common and distinctive member of the Maldivian reef fish fauna. Its scientific name (“short rostrum”) is based on a small specimen with a short horn.

[illegible]

Naso hexacanthus (Bleeker, 1855)



English Name: Sleek unicomfish
Local Name: Dhalhu neiy thunbi
Size: Max. 75 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0365/91

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 6 spines and 26-29 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 27-30 rays. Pectoral rays 17-18. Body depth varying from 2.0 in standard length of subadults to 2.75 in adults. Dorsal profile of head sloping and smoothly convex. Caudal fin emarginate in young, truncate in adults.

Colour: Dark brown to pale bluish grey dorsally, yellow brown ventrally. Edges of opercle and preopercle often dark.

Habitat and Biology: Common on deeper waters up to depths of 150 m; often in large aggregations. Feeds on larger components of the zooplankton such as crab larvae, arrow-worms and pelagic tunicates.

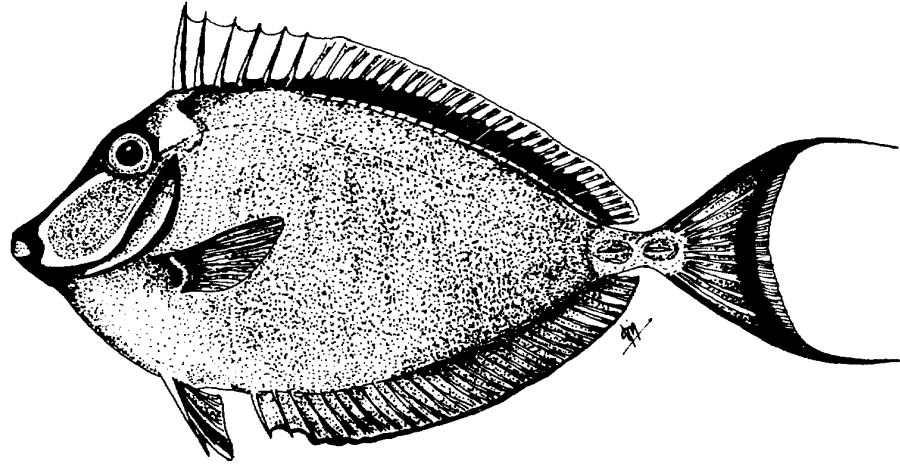
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: Males of *Naso hexacanthus* show a large pale blue area on upper head and dorsoanterior body and some pale blue vertical lines and spots anteriorly on sides of body during courtship.

قَرَعُوا ثَمْرَهُمْ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ

[illegible]

Naso lituratus (Schneider, 1801)



English Name: Orange spine unicornfish

Local Name: Ran geri

Size: Max. 45 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0096/87

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 6 spines and 27-30 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 28-30 rays. Pectoral rays 16-17. Body depth 2.0-2.4 in standard length (subadults deeper-bodied). No bumps or protuberances on snout or forehead. Two pairs of sharp keels on slender caudal peduncle.

Colour: Brown with a curved yellow band on snout, bright orange caudal spines and a large orange-yellow dorsal fin.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in shallow water and is closely tied to coral reefs. Usually solitary. Feeds primarily on benthic algae.

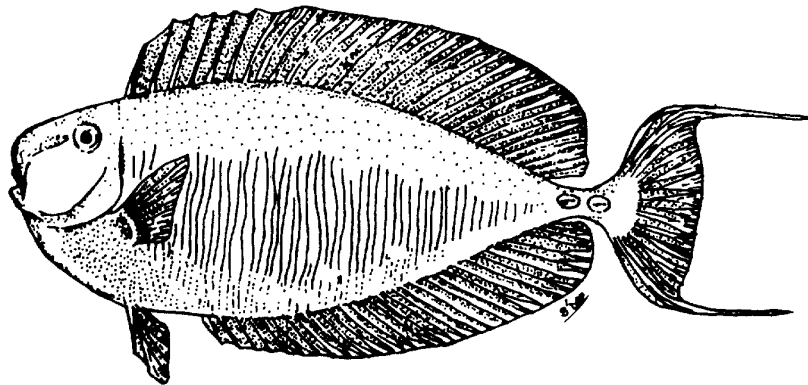
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Naso lituratus* is one of the most beautiful of Maldivian reef fishes, with its very smart grey and orange colouration. The presence of a large orange-yellow dorsal fin and a black band in caudal fin is typical for Indian Ocean specimens. Of great interest among aquarists and divers.

مکتبہ اعلیٰ

[illegible]

Naso vlamingii (Valenciennes, 1835)



English Name: Viaming's unicomfish
Local Name: Vaalan mas
Size: **Max. 60 cm**

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0409/92

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 6 spines and 26-27 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 26-29 rays. Pectoral rays 17-19. Body depth varying from 2.1 in standard length of young to 2.6 in adults. Both dorsal and anal fins elevated. In adults, bump on snout overhanging mouth, and filaments extending from caudal fin corners.

Colour: Dark purple brown with vertical blue lines on sides, and blue dots above and below. A broad irregular deep violet band extending forward from the eye. Colour can change dramatically with mood.

Habitat and Biology: Found in a variety of reef habitats, but most often seen in outer reef areas in open water near drop-offs at depths up to 50 m. Feeds on midwater zooplankton.

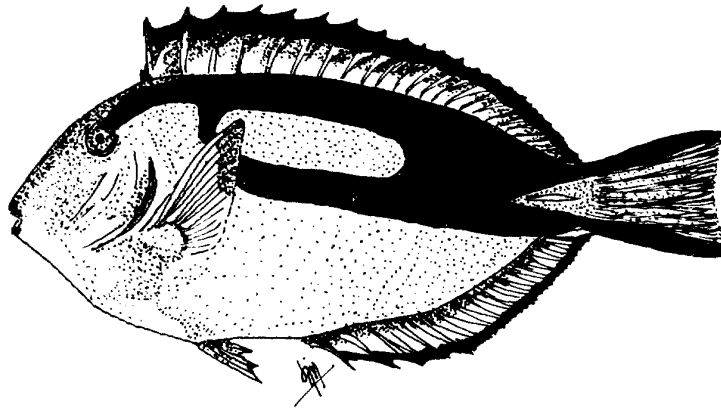
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Naso vlamingii* is a very common inhabitant of Maldivian reefs. Although it feeds on zooplankton, it readily takes bread from divers and snorkellers. Often plays in divers' bubbles.

مَوْحُوْشٌ

[illegible][illegible]

Paracanthurus hepatus (Linnaeus, 1766)



English Name:	Palette surgeonfish, Wedge-tail surgeon	Family:	ACANTHURIDAE
Local Name:	Dhon noo kaalhu	Order:	Perciformes
Size:	Max. 31 cm	Specimen:	MRS/0093/87

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 spines and 19-20 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 18-19 rays. Pectoral rays 16. Pelvic fins with 1 spine and 3 rays. Body depth of adults about 2.3 in standard length; caudal spine about 4.0 in head length. Caudal fin of juveniles slightly rounded; of adults truncate with lobe tips slightly projecting.

Colour: Body bright blue. Tail yellow, and black markings on sides.

Habitat and Biology: Typically found on the reef edge in clear outer reefs or channels where there is substantial current. Feeds on zooplankton. Groups of small individuals are usually associated with heads of branching corals.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Paracanthurus heparus* is one of the most beautiful of all reeffishes. It is not common in the Maldives. Being a rare but beautiful species, it is advised not to catch it.

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دۇنۇ ھەسەنەيىدىكى تەخمىنەن 9 رەقەتلىك 19 شۇئە 20 نەسەتلىك، ھەسەتلىك شۇئە
تەخمىنەن 3 رەقەتلىك 18 شۇئە 19 نەسەتلىك، دۇنۇ ھەسەتلىك شۇئە تەخمىنەن 3 رەقەتلىك، دۇنۇ
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Zebrasoma desjardinii (Bennett. 1835)



English Name: Desjardin's sailfin tang
Local Name: Dhunfaiy mas
Size: **Max.** 40 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perèiformes
Specimen: **MRS/0089/86**

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 4 spines and 27-31 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 22-24 rays. Pectoral rays 15-17. Body depth 1.8-2.0 in standard length. Dorsal and anal fins strongly elevated. No bristles on anterior to caudal spine.

Colour: A pattern of dark bars, the two most prominent on head (obscure on dark fish), yellow vertical lines on upperbody, breaking into spots below, and small whitish spots on head and chest. Juveniles with yellow and white bars except for black ones posteriorly and two on head.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in coral reefs and rocky bottoms, generally in depths of less than 20 m. Often seen in pairs roaming on reefs and lagoons. Feeds on benthic algae.

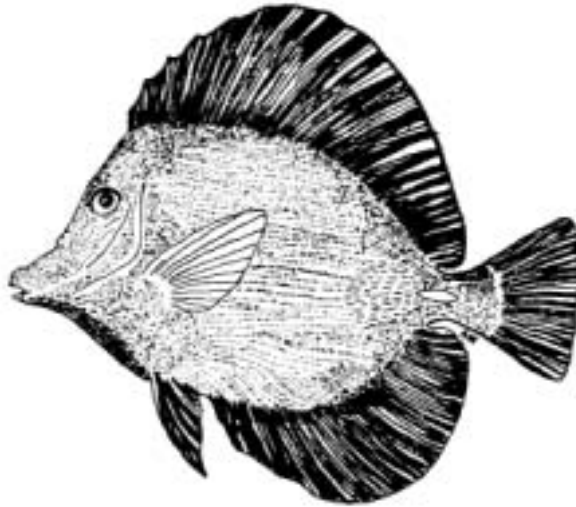
Distribution: Indian Ocean.

Remarks: *Zehrasoma desjardini* is unique to Indian Ocean. This species is very closely related to *Z. veliferum* of the Pacific. Some authors consider both as the same species. Of interest to aquarists.

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Zebrasoma scopas (Cuvier, 1829)



English Name: Brown tang, Brushtail tang
Local Name: Kaihu dhunfaiy mas
Size: Max. 18.5 cm

Family: ACANTHURIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0224/88

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 4-5 spines and 23-25 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 19-21 rays. Pectoral rays 14-17. Body depth 1.5-1.7 in standard length. Dorsal and anal fins elevated. Adults with an oval patch of brush-like setae posteriorly on side of the body.

Colour: Dark olive brown with very fine longitudinal wavy pale lines breaking into dots on nape, chest and head. Sheath of caudal spine white.

Habitat and Biology: A common reef species occurring more on protected than exposed reefs at depths up to 20 m. Occurs singly or in small groups. Feeds on benthic algae.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Zehrasoma scopas* is one of the commonest of Maldivian reef fishes, but it is easily overlooked because of its rather sombre colouration. Of little interest to aquarists.

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[illegible]