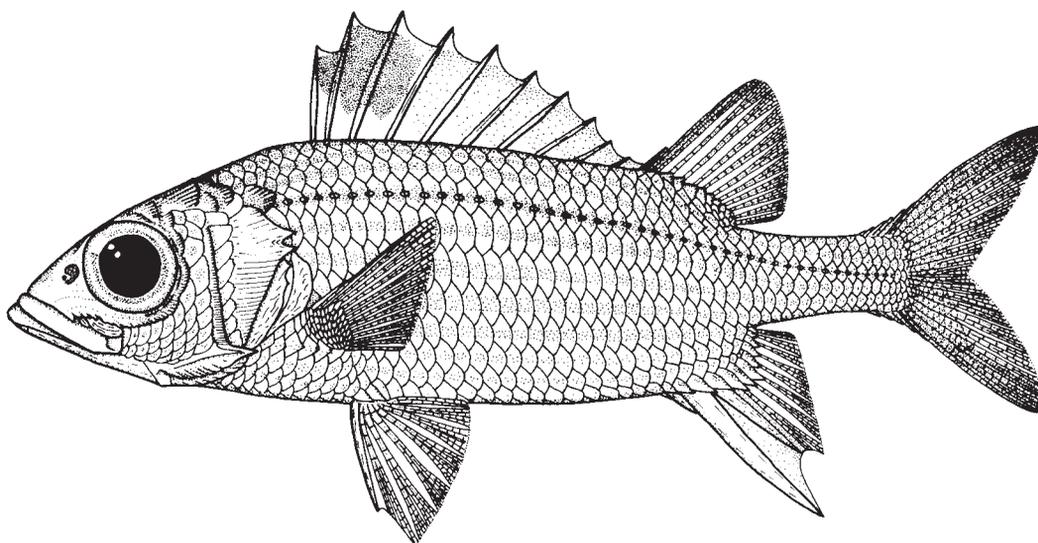


***Neoniphon sammara*** (Forsskål, 1775)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Flammeo sammara* (Forsskål, 1775); *Holocentrus sammara* Smith and Smith, 1963; *Kutaflammeo sammara* Carcasson, 1977 / None.

**FAO names:** En - Sammara squirrelfish; Fr - Marnigan tacheté; Sp - Candil samara.

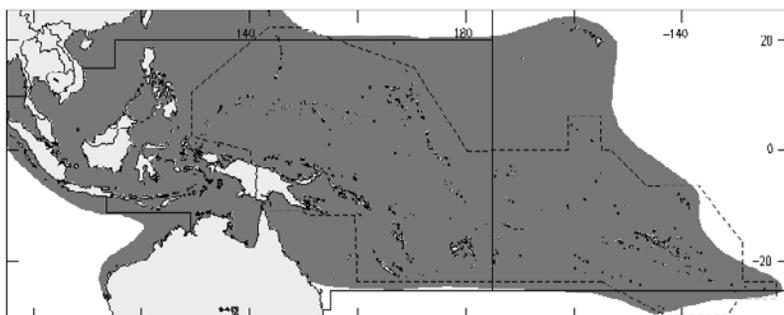


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately elongate, its depth 3 to 3.6 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head slightly convex; snout pointed; **lower jaw projecting when mouth closed**; preopercular spine short, about 1/3 eye diameter. Nasal fossa large, without spinules. **Dorsal fin with XI spines, the last longer than the penultimate and close to first soft ray, the soft rays 11 or 12 (usually 12); anal fin with IV spines and 7 or 8 (mostly 8) soft rays**; pectoral-fin rays 13 or 14. **Lateral-line scales 39 to 43**; scales above lateral line to middle of spinous portion of dorsal fin 2 ½. **Colour:** silvery, each scale with a horizontally elongate dark reddish brown spot, thus forming **longitudinal dark lines on body**; a reddish stripe following lateral line; snout and top of head light red; **spinous portion of dorsal fin with a large black spot tinged with red on membranes between first and fourth spines**; caudal fin yellowish with a broad red band at margins of lobes; a reddish streak anteriorly in soft dorsal and anal fins.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 28 cm, commonly to 23 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Associated with coral reefs; most often seen in shallow water of protected bays and lagoons. Among the first to leave shelter with the advent of darkness for feeding. About 67% of the diet consists of crabs and about 15% small fishes. Taken by hook-and-line and in traps. Marketed fresh.

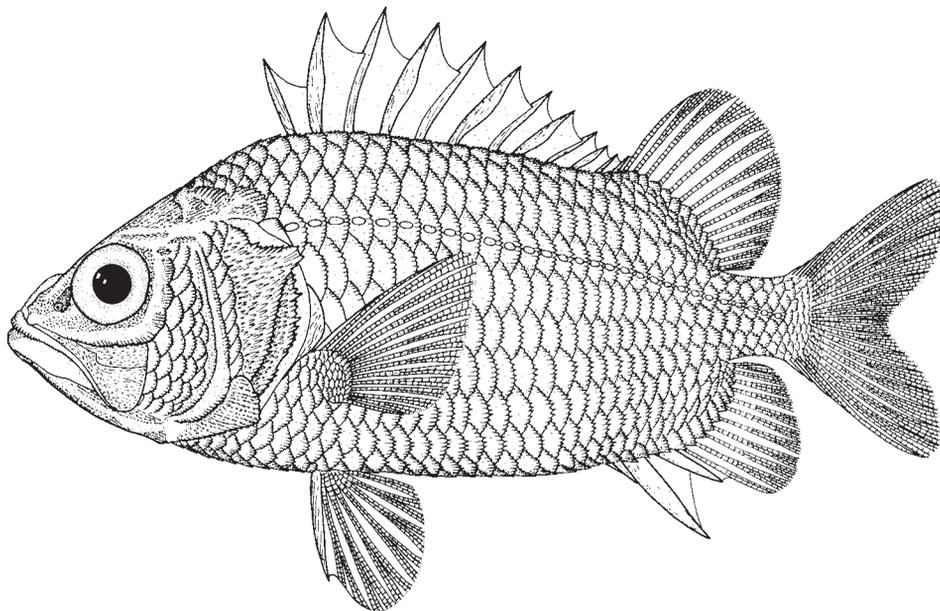
**Distribution:** Widespread throughout the Indo-Pacific region, including the Red Sea and Hawaii; in the western Pacific from Japan (the young ranging as far north as southern Honshu) to the southern Great Barrier Reef.



*Ostichthys archiepiscopus* (Valenciennes, 1862)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Ostichthys pillwaxii* (Steindachner, 1893) / None.

**FAO names:** En - Straighthead soldierfish; Fr - Marignan cuirassé; Sp - Candil acorazado.

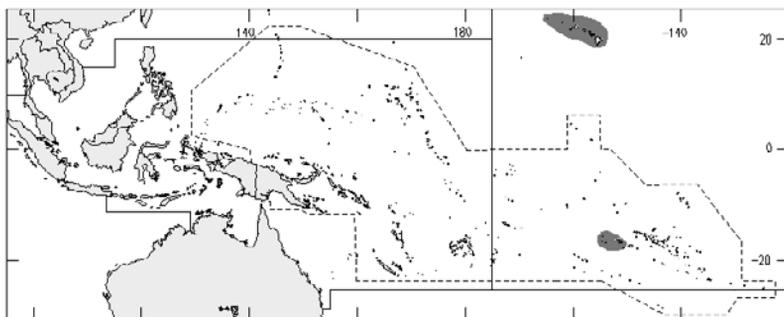


**Diagnostic characters:** Body oblong, its depth 2.1 to 2.35 times in standard length; caudal peduncle slender, its least depth 3.8 to 4.7 times in head length. **Dorsal profile of head straight;** head length 2.45 to 2.6 times in standard length; snout 3.7 to 4.3 times in head length; **no anteriorly directed spine on nasal bone of adults and no large spine at corner of preopercle.** Premaxillary groove broadly V-shaped; vomerine teeth in a V-shaped patch. First gill arch with 7 to 9 gill rakers on upper limb, 13 to 15 on lower limb. Dorsal fin continuous though deeply notched between spinous and soft portions; **dorsal fin with XII spines (last spine shortest and close to soft portion of fin)** and 13 or 14 soft rays; anal fin with IV spines (the third much stronger and larger) and 11 soft fin rays; **pectoral fins with 15 rays. Lateral-line scales 28 to 30 (usually 29); rows of scales above lateral line to middle of spinous portion of dorsal fin 2 ½; a half scale directly anterior to upper half of first lateral-line scale.** **Colour:** light red, the centres of the scales paler, thus forming faint longitudinal bands.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 28 cm, commonly to 24 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A benthic species, probably occurring mainly over hard substratum; known from its depth range of 146 to 400 m. Usually caught by hook-and-line, rarely by trawling.

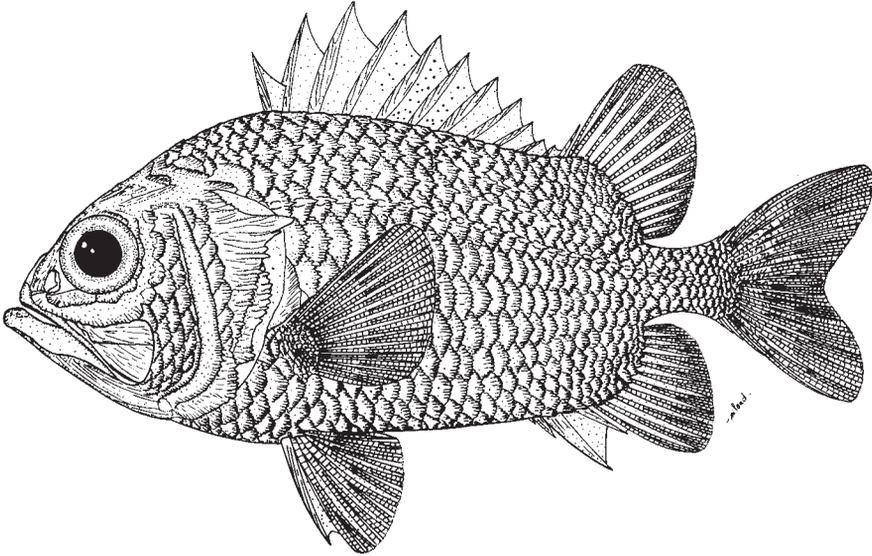
**Distribution:** Reported only from Réunion in the south-western Indian Ocean (type locality), the Ryukyu Islands, Hawaii, and Society Islands, thus suggesting an antiequatorial distribution.



***Ostichthys japonicus*** (Cuvier, 1829)

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

**FAO names:** En - Japanese soldierfish.

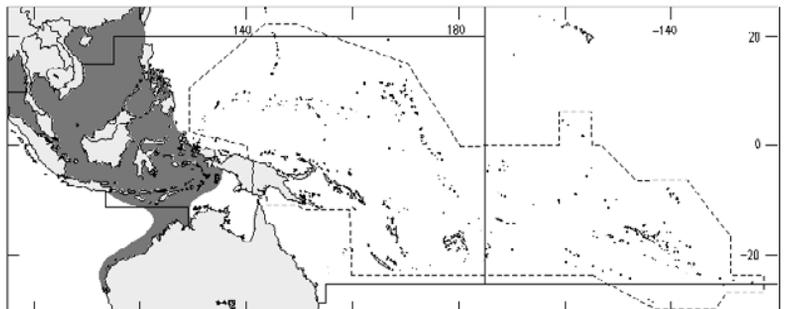


**Diagnostic characters:** Body oblong, its depth 2.05 to 2.2 times in standard length; caudal peduncle slender, its least depth 4 to 4.5 times in head length. **Dorsal profile of head convex**; head length 2.35 to 2.5 times in standard length; snout short, 4.65 to 5.6 times in head length; **height of second suborbital bone (measured vertically below eye centre) about 1/2 orbit diameter. No anteriorly directed spine on nasal bone of adults or subadults**; no spine at corner of preopercle of adults (subadults may have a small spine at angle). Premaxillary groove broadly V-shaped. Vomerine teeth in a V-shaped patch. First gill arch with 7 to 10 gill rakers on upper limb, 12 to 14 on lower limb. Dorsal fin continuous, though deeply notched between spinous and soft portions; **dorsal fin with XII spines, the last distinctly longer than penultimate spine**, and 12 to 14 (usually 13) soft rays; **space between last spine and first ray of dorsal fin much less than space between last 2 dorsal-fin spines**; anal fin with IV spines (the third longest and stoutest) and 10 to 12 (usually 11) soft rays; **pectoral fins with 16 or 17 (usually 17) rays**. Lateral-line scales 28 to 30 (modally 28); **rows of scales above lateral line to middle of spinous portion of dorsal fin 3 1/2; no half scale anterior to first lateral-line scale. Colour:** edges of scales red, the centres silvery pink; spinous portion of dorsal fin mottled light red and whitish; remaining fins with light red rays and pale membranes; iris red.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 41 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Most specimens have come from fish markets with little or no information on type of bottom or depth of capture. Those for which the depth is known were taken in 90 to 194 m. Caught mostly by hook-and-line and marketed fresh.

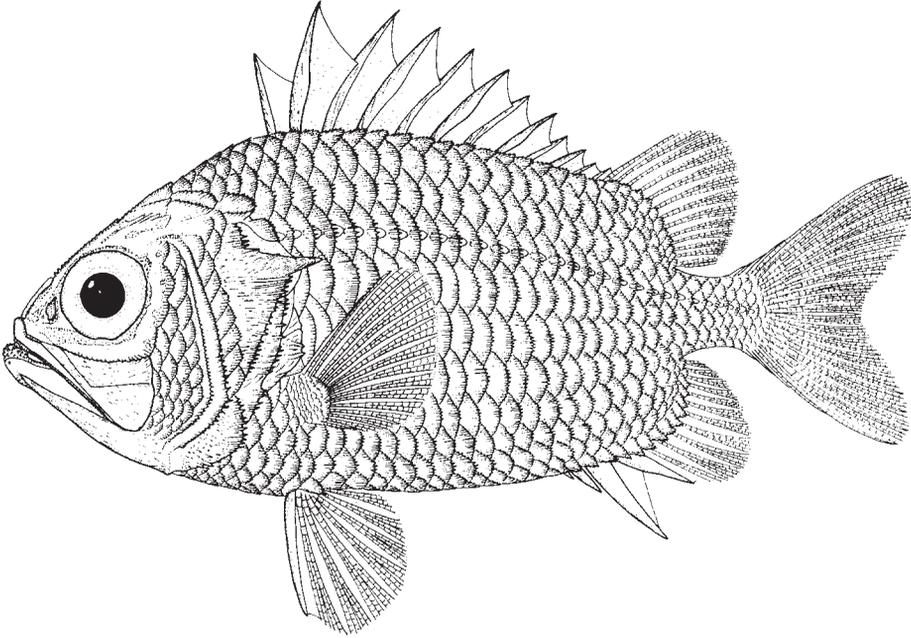
**Distribution:** Reported in Japan (type locality) from the Ryukyu Islands to Honshu at 31°31'N; Korea; China off Shanghai and Hong Kong; South China Sea; Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia; northwestern Australia; New South Wales at 34°26'S (where named *Holotrachys major* Whitley), and the Andaman Sea.



***Ostichthys kaianus*** (Günther, 1880)

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

**FAO names:** En - Kai soldierfish.



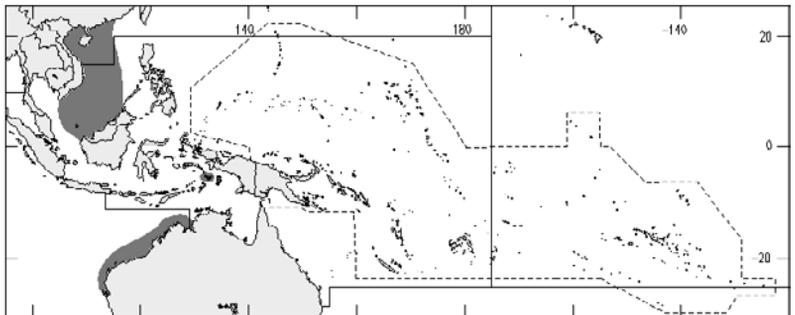
**Diagnostic characters:** Body oblong, its depth 2.05 to 2.2 times in standard length; caudal peduncle slender, its least depth 3.8 to 4.6 times in head length. **Dorsal profile of head slightly convex**; head length 2.15 to 2.4 times in standard length; snout moderately short, 4.2 to 4.9 times in head length. **No anteriorly directed spine on nasal bone of adults or subadults**; no spine at corner of preopercle of adults (subadults may have a small spine at angle). Premaxillary groove broadly V-shaped. Vomerine teeth in a V-shaped patch. First gill arch with 7 to 9 gill rakers on upper limb, 14 to 16 on lower limb. Dorsal fin continuous, though deeply notched between spinous and soft portions; **dorsal fin with XII spines, the last 2 spines subequal**, and 12 or 13 (usually 13) soft rays; **space between last spine and first ray of dorsal fin about 1/2 as broad as space between last 2 dorsal-fin spines**; anal fin with IV spines (the third longest and stoutest) and 11 soft rays; **pectoral fins with 15 to 17 (usually 16) rays**. Lateral-line scales 28 to 30 (modally 28); **rows of scales above lateral line to middle of spinous portion of dorsal fin 2 1/2**; **no half scale anterior to first lateral-line scale**. **Colour:** red with a series of silvery white dashes (1 on each scale for nearly its full exposed width) forming longitudinal bands on body; fins pale red; iris red.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 36 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:**

Obtained by hook-and-line and by trawling in the depth range of 310 to 640 m.

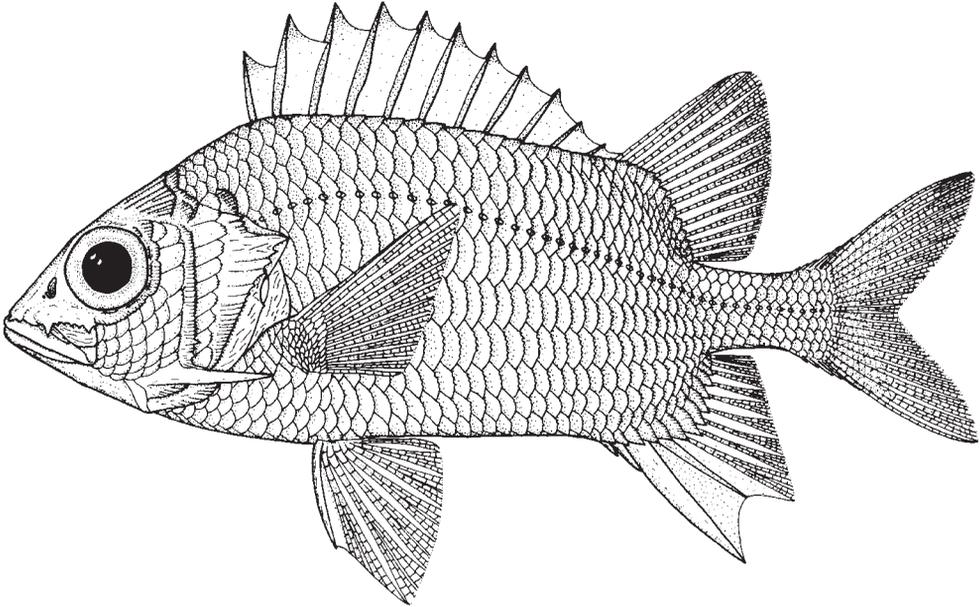
**Distribution:** Reported from Kai Island, eastern Banda Sea (type locality), South China Sea, the Ryukyu Islands, northwestern Australia, and Réunion (locality of *Myripristis (Holotrachys) guezeti* Postel).



***Sargocentron caudimaculatum*** (Rüppell, 1838)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Adioryx caudimaculatus* (Rüppell, 1838); *Holocentrus caudimaculatus* Smith and Smith, 1963; *Holocentrum andamanense* Day, 1870 / None.

**FAO names:** En - Silverspot squirrelfish; Fr - Marignan rouge et argent; Sp - Candil platero.

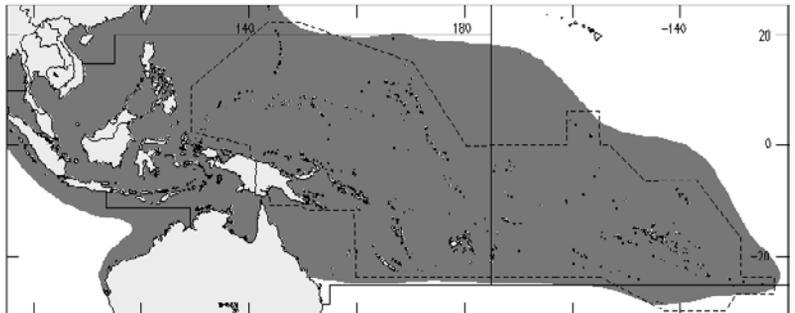


**Diagnostic characters:** Body depth 2.3 to 2.7 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head slightly convex; preopercular spine long, its length about 1 eye diameter. **Nasal fossa with 1 or 2 spinules on anterior margin. Dorsal fin with XI spines (last spine shortest)** and 13 to 15 (usually 14) soft rays; anal fin with IV spines and 8 to 10 (usually 9) soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 13 to 15 (usually 14). **Lateral-line scales 38 to 43**; scale rows above lateral line to middle of spinous portion of dorsal fin 2 ½. **Colour:** red, the scales rimmed posteriorly with silvery white; **a saddle-like silvery white spot dorsally on caudal peduncle**; spinous dorsal fin light red to whitish, the outer triangular part of each membrane deep red; **no blackish markings; in life, posterior third of body may be silvery white.**

**Size:** Maximum total length about 24 cm, commonly to 18 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A reef species which may be locally abundant. Caught by hook-and-line and in traps. Marketed fresh.

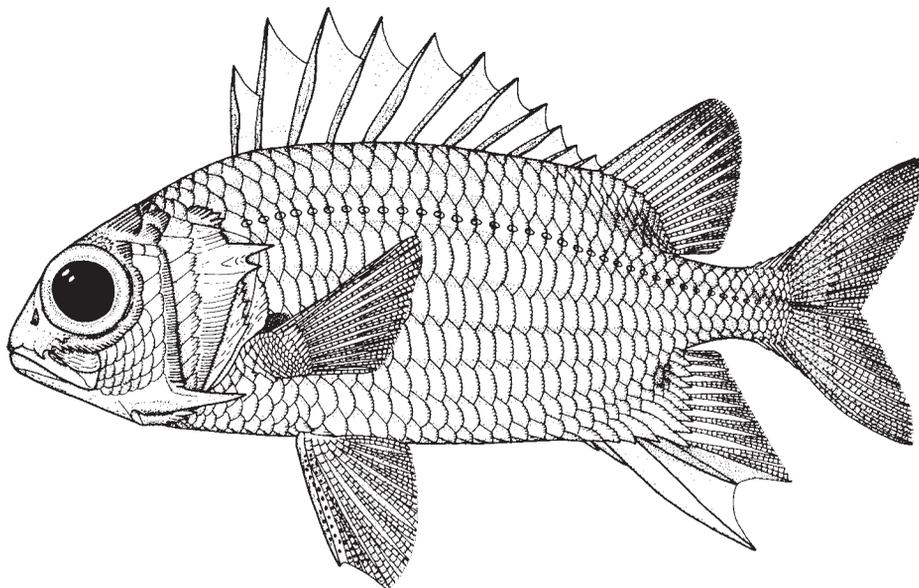
**Distribution:** Wide-ranging in the Indo-Pacific, from the Red Sea south to Transkei, South Africa, east to the Marshall Islands and Society Islands; in the western Pacific from the Ryukyu Islands to the southern Great Barrier Reef.



*Sargocentron praslin* (Lacepède, 1802)

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

**FAO names:** En - Brownsport squirrelfish; Fr - Marignan chocolat; Sp - Candil chocolate.

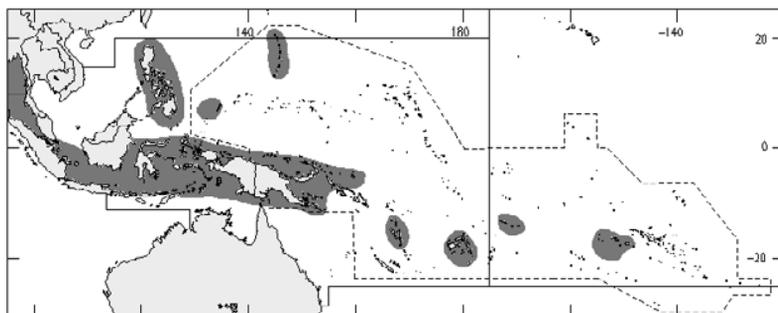


**Diagnostic characters:** Body deep, its depth 2.5 to 2.8 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head convex; preopercular spine about 3/4 eye diameter; first suborbital bone with 1 or 2 short lateral spines near upper margin. Nasal fossa without spinules. Dorsal fin with XI spines (last spine shortest) and 12 or 13 (usually 13) soft rays; anal fin with IV spines and 8 or 9 (rarely 8) soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 13 to 15 (usually 14). **Lateral-line scales 33 to 36; scale rows above lateral line to middle of spinous portion of dorsal fin 2 1/2; cheek with 4 diagonal rows of scales.** **Colour:** body with alternate stripes of silvery white and reddish brown; a triangular streak of brownish red on cheek, from eye to corner of preopercle; often a concentration of pigment forming **an elongate brown spot beneath soft portion of dorsal fin and a roundish blotch above base of soft portion of anal fin**, spinous portion of dorsal fin red with a median band of cojoined whitish spots, the membranes tipped with white; **a large dark brown spot in axil of pectoral fins; front edge of pelvic fins dark.**

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A shallow-water species, more often found in a coral reef environment than the closely related *Sargocentron rubrum*.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 32 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

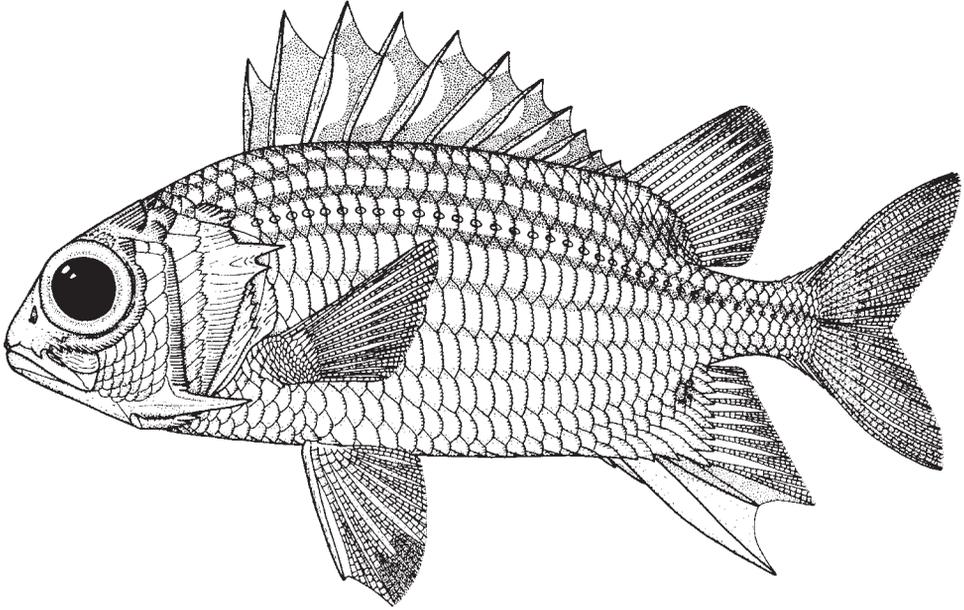
**Distribution:** Indo-Pacific, but exact distribution not known due to confusion with *S. rubrum*. Definite records from Kenya, Mozambique (15°S), Aldabra, Comoro Islands, Chesterfield Islands (Madagascar), Indonesia, New Guinea, New Britain (type locality), Solomon Islands (locality of neotype), Fiji, Vanuatu, Palau, Philippines, Ryukyu Islands, Mariana Islands, Samoa Islands, and Society Islands.



***Sargocentron rubrum*** (Forsskål, 1775)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Adioryx ruber* (Forsskål, 1775); *Holocentrus ruber* Smith and Smith, 1963 / None.

**FAO names:** En - Redcoat; Fr - Marignan rouget; Sp - Candil rubí.

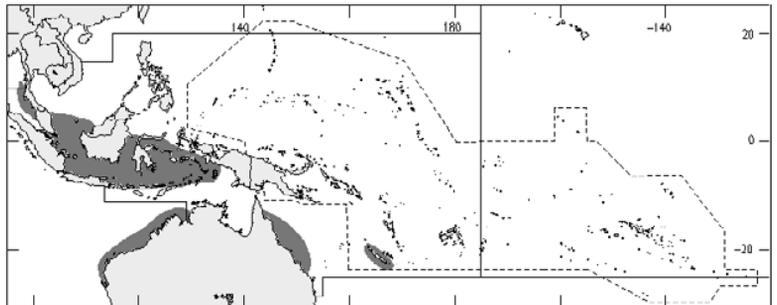


**Diagnostic characters:** Body deep, its depth 2.5 to 2.8 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head convex, preopercular spine about 3/4 eye diameter; first suborbital bone with 1 or 2 short lateral spines near upper margin. **Nasal fossa without spinules. Dorsal fin with XI spines (last spine shortest)** and 12 to 14 (usually 13) soft rays; anal fin with IV spines and 8 to 10 (rarely 10) soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 13 to 15 (usually 14). **Lateral-line scales 34 to 38; scale rows above lateral line to middle of spinous portion of dorsal fin 2 ½; cheek with 5 diagonal rows of scales.** **Colour:** body with alternate stripes of silvery white and brownish red; a triangular streak of brownish red on cheek from eye to corner of preopercle; often a concentration of pigment forming an **elongate brown spot beneath soft portion of dorsal fin and a roundish blotch above base of soft portion of anal fin**; spinous portion of dorsal fin red with a median band of cojoined whitish spots, the membranes tipped with white; **no dark spot in pectoral-fin axil; tips of second to fourth soft pelvic-fin rays darker**; upper and lower edges of caudal fin brownish red; rest of caudal fin and soft portions of dorsal and anal fins yellowish.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 32 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A shallow-water species usually found in protected habitats such as bays and lagoons, but less often around coral reefs than the closely related *Sargocentron praslin*.

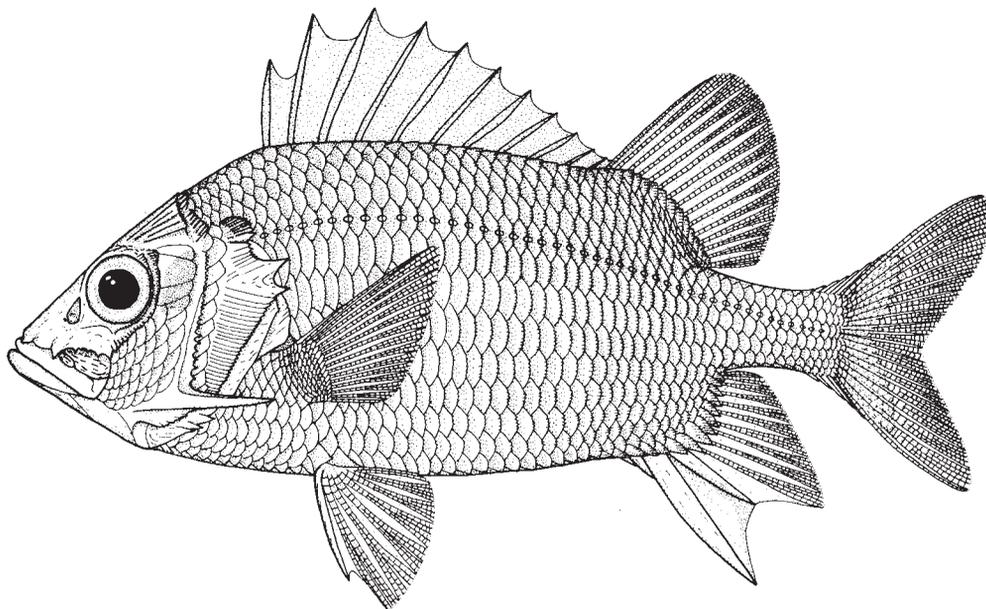
**Distribution:** Known from the Red Sea (type locality), Mediterranean Sea (an immigrant via the Suez Canal), Gulf of Oman, India, Sri Lanka, Andaman Sea (off Thailand), and northwestern Australia, but remains unreported from the coast of East Africa or any islands of the western Indian Ocean; definite records in the Pacific include Indonesia, Malaysia, Great Barrier Reef, New Caledonia, and southern Japan.



*Sargocentron spiniferum* (Forsskål, 1775)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Holocentrus spiniferus*: Smith and Smith, 1963 / None.

**FAO names:** En - Sabre squirrelfish; Fr - Marignan sabre; Sp - Candil sable.

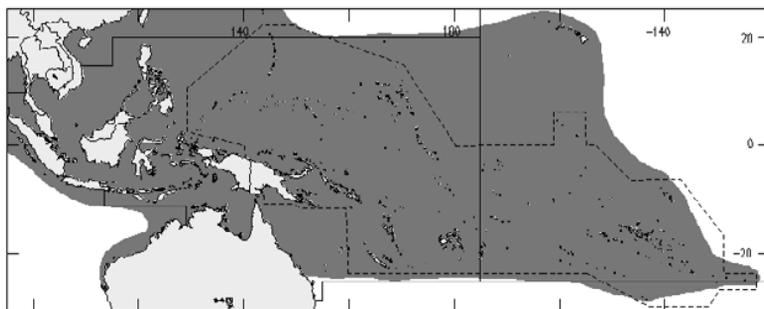


**Diagnostic characters:** Body deep, its depth 2.4 to 2.6 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head straight; **lower jaw protruding when mouth closed**; **preopercular spine long, slightly longer than eye diameter**. **Nasal fossa without spinules**. **Dorsal fin with XI spines (last spine shortest)** and 14 to 16 soft rays, the membranes of spinous portion only slightly incised; anal fin with IV spines and 9 or 10 (usually 10) soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 14 to 16 (usually 15). **Lateral-line scales 41 to 46; scale rows above lateral line to middle of soft portion of dorsal fin 3 ½**. **Colour:** head and body red, darker dorsally than ventrally, the scales rimmed with silvery white; **a large vertically elongate deep red spot behind eye**; pectoral-fin axil and region above pectoral-fin base deep red; **spinous portion of dorsal fin solid deep red**; remaining fins yellowish.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 45 cm, commonly to 35 cm.

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** Largest of holocentrid fishes. Associated with coral reefs. Like other squirrelfishes, it tends to hide in caves by day and emerges for foraging with the onset of darkness. Feeds mainly on crustaceans, especially crabs, but occasionally ingests small fishes. Caught by hook-and-line, in traps and by spearing. Marketed fresh. Has been implicated in ciguatera poisoning.

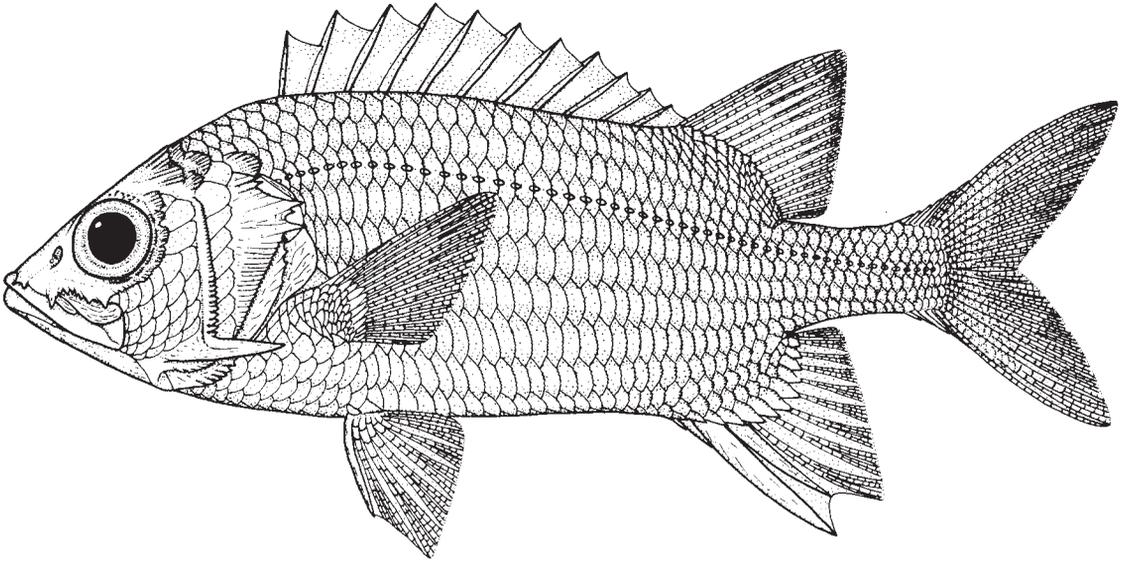
**Distribution:** Widespread in the Indo-Pacific from the Red Sea (type locality) and coast of East Africa south to Natal and east to Hawaii and Pitcairn Group in Oceania; in the western Pacific from the Ruykyu Islands to the southern Great Barrier Reef.



***Sargocentron tiera*** (Cuvier, 1829)

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

**FAO names:** En - Tahitian squirrelfish.

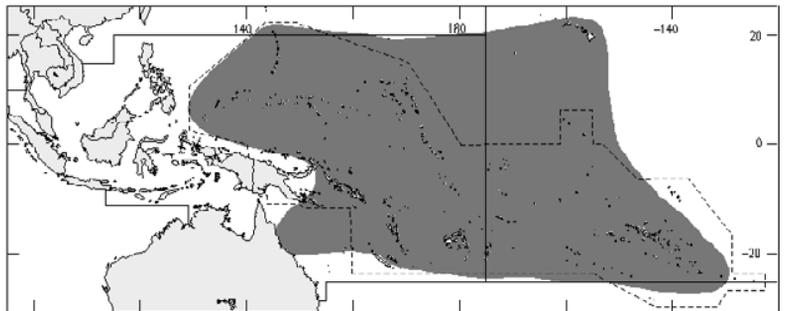


**Diagnostic characters:** Body moderately deep, its depth 2.6 to 2.95 times in standard length; dorsal profile of head straight to slightly convex; mouth terminal; preopercular spine nearly as long as orbit diameter in adults; no lateral spinules on first suborbital bone; **nasal fossa without spinules at edges**. First gill arch with 7 to 9 gill rakers on upper limb, 13 to 16 on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with XI spines and 13 to 15 (usually 14) soft rays**; anal fin with IV spines and 9 (rarely 10) soft rays; **dorsal-fin spines short, the longest 2.6 to 3.5 times in head length**; membranes of spinous portion of dorsal fin slightly incised; pectoral-fin rays 13 to 15. **Lateral-line scales 45 to 52; scale rows above lateral line to middle of spinous portion of dorsal fin 2 ½.** **Colour:** red, the sides and ventral part of body with faint silvery red stripes overlaid with blue iridescence (particularly the ventral stripes); fins red except white tips of dorsal-fin spines and a white spot in middle of each interspinous membrane of dorsal fin except first 2 membranes where near the fin base; leading edge of anal and pelvic fins white.

**Size:** Maximum total length about 35 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

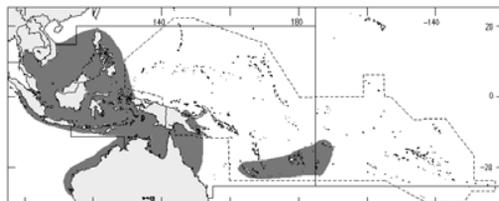
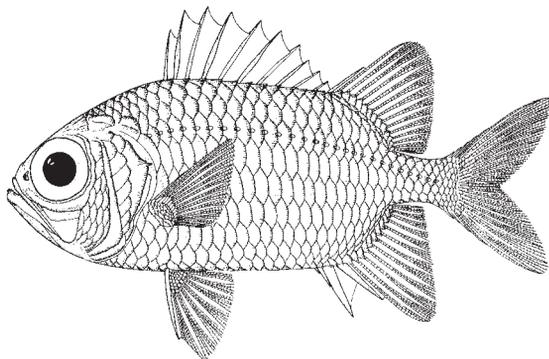
**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** A coral-reef species occurring more often on exposed than sheltered reefs. It may be seen in as little as 1 to 2 m, but is found at least as deep as 20 m. Feeds at night, mainly on crabs. At night it displays 2 prominent white bars on its otherwise bright red body.

**Distribution:** Ranges from the Pitcairn Group and Hawaii to islands of the western Indian Ocean. It is primarily a species of oceanic islands, rather than continental waters. It remains unknown from the Red Sea, the coasts of Africa and Asia, and the islands of Indonesia. In the western Pacific it is reported from the Great Barrier Reef, Solomon Islands, Palau Islands, and the Ryukyu Islands.

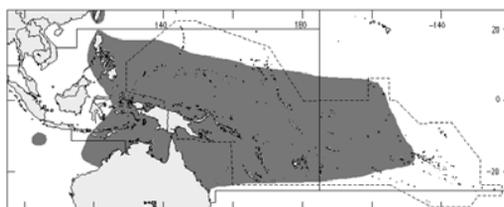
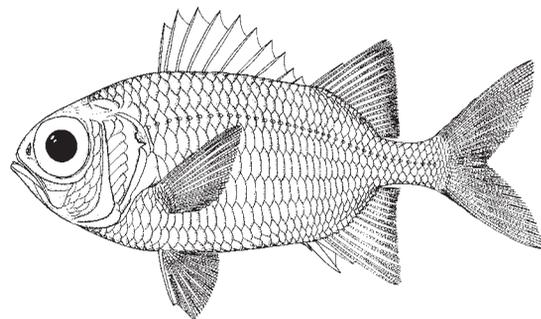


***Myripristis hexagona*** (Lacepède, 1802)**En** - Doubletooth soldierfish.

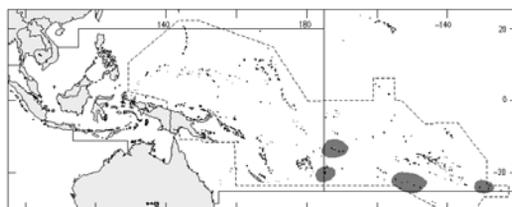
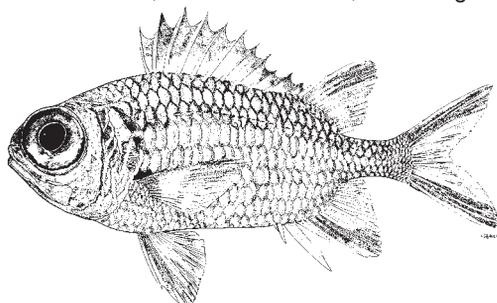
Maximum standard length about 16 cm. Distributed from Samoa to East Africa; in the western Pacific it ranges from the Ryukyu Islands in the north to the Great Barrier Reef and New Caledonia in the south.

***Myripristis pralinia*** Cuvier, 1829**En** - Scarlet soldierfish.

Maximum standard length about 16 cm. Generally found in moderately shallow water on coral reefs in depths of 1 to 30 m. Distributed from the Tuamotu Archipelago and Line Islands to East Africa; in the western Pacific it ranges from the Ryukyu Islands in the north to the southern Great Barrier Reef in the south.

***Myripristis randalli*** Greenfield, 1974**En** - Randall's soldierfish.

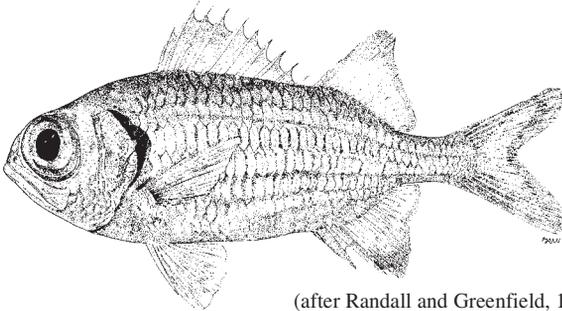
Maximum standard length about 15 cm. Found at depths of 15 to 53 m. Known from Pitcairn Island, Austral Islands, American Samoa, and Tonga.



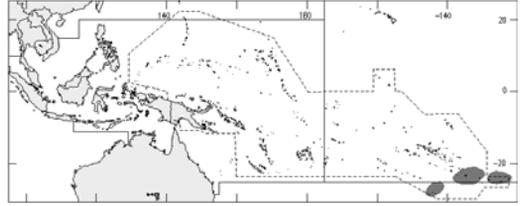
(after Randall and Greenfield, 1996)

***Myripristis tiki* Greenfield, 1974****En** - Tiki soldierfish.

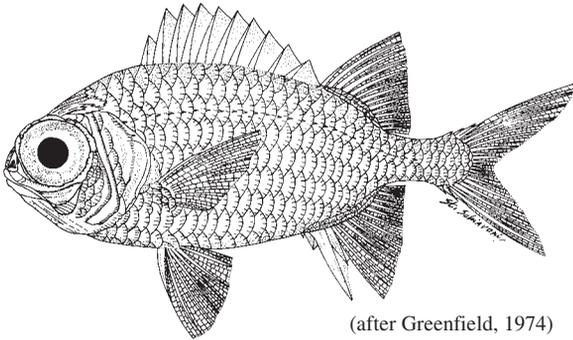
Maximum standard length about 21 cm. Found at depths of 1.5 to 15 m. Known only from the Easter Islands, Pitcairn Group, and Rapa.



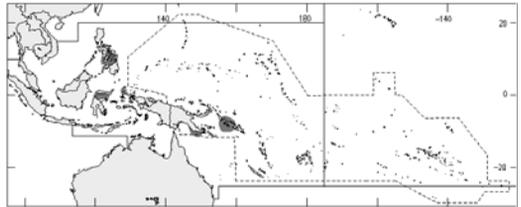
(after Randall and Greenfield, 1996)

***Myripristis trachyacron* Bleeker, 1863****En** - Roughskull soldierfish.

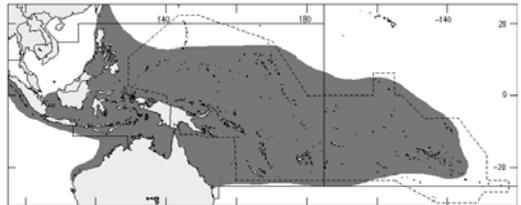
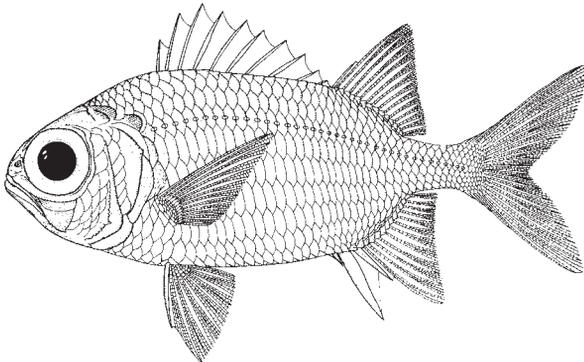
Maximum standard length about 12 cm. Apparently occurs in deep water, but was also reported from shallower waters. Known only from the Indo-Australian Archipelago (Philippines, Indonesia, and Solomon Islands).



(after Greenfield, 1974)

***Myripristis vittata* Cuvier, 1831****En** - Whitetip soldierfish.

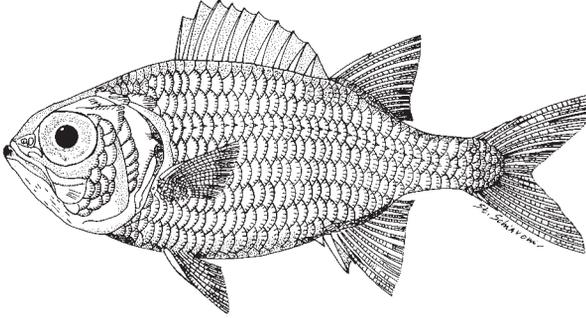
Maximum standard length about 16 cm. Generally found in depths of more than 20 m, but a single specimen was collected at 3 m; most likely will be found in other locations. Distributed from the Marquesas Islands, and Hawaii westward to the Mascarene Islands and Seychelles.



***Myripristis woodsi*** Greenfield, 1974

**En** - Wood's soldierfish.

Maximum standard length about 21 cm. A shallow-water species typically found on exposed outer-reef areas, more often at low islands and atolls than high islands. Western Central Pacific. Confirmed records from the Marquesas Islands, Line Islands, Phoenix Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Minami tori shima (Marcus Island), and Mariana Islands.



(after Greenfield, 1974)

