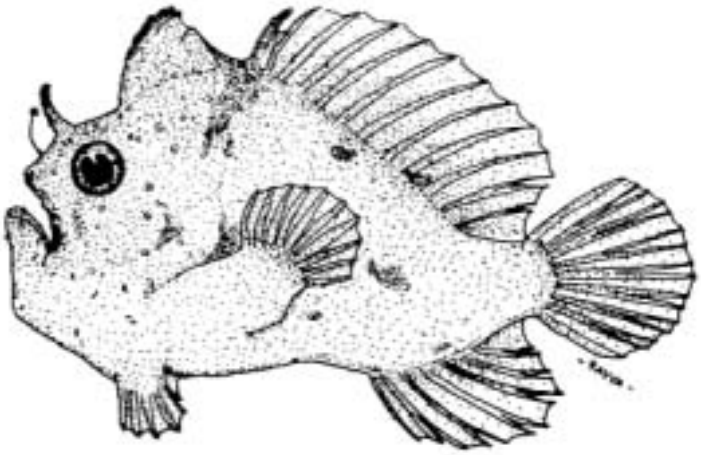
Antennarius coccineus (Cuvier, 1831)



English Name:	Scarlet frogfish, Freckled angler	**Family:**	**ANTENNARIIDAE**
Local Name:	**Kula bohmas**	**Order:**	Lophiiformes
Size:	Max. 13 cm	Specimen:	MRS/U 188/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin spine free and modified as a lure. Second and third dorsal fin also free from the rest of the fins, well developed and covered by skin. Dorsal rays 12-13. Pectoral fin lobe elongate, leg-like. Gill opening restricted to a small pore located behind and below pectoral fin base, Caudal peduncle absent (dorsal and anal fin joined to base of caudal fin).

Colour: Highly variable. Often red or yellowish brown mottled and spotted with different colours.

Habitat and Biology: Mostly benthic, coastal and surface waters to a depth of 100 m. Use their luring apparatus to attract fish and crustaceans on which they feed.

Distribution: lndo-Pacific eastward to the Americas.

Remarks: *Antennarius coccineus* is one of the masters of camouflage. Although it is not rare, divers can rarely see it because of its camouflage and infrequent movements.

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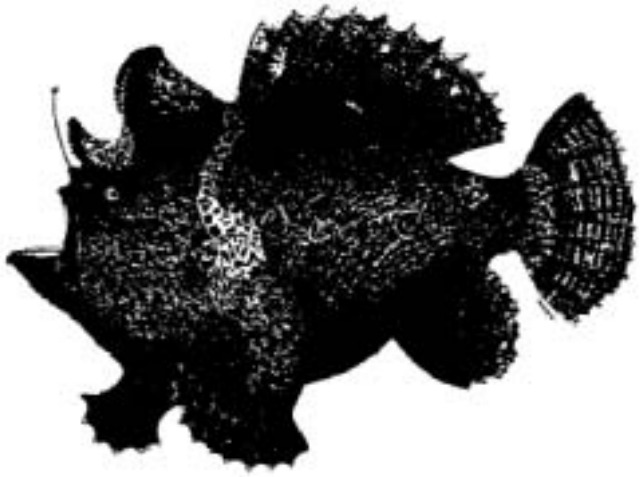
Antennarius commersonii (Latreille, 1804)



English Name:	Commerson's frogfish, Giant angler	Family:	ANTENNARIIDAE
Local Name:	Maa hohmas	**Order:**	Lophiiformes
Size:	Max, 38 cm	Specimen:	MRS/U 180/88

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fiti with 3 spines (which are well separated from one another), and 12 - 13 rays. First dorsal spine considerably longer than the second which is curved posteriorly. Anal fin with 8 rays. Pectoral fin 10-1 l rays. Skin joining second dorsal spine to head thick and densely spinulose. Gill opening restricted to a pore. Caudal peduncle distinct.

Colour: Highly variable. Ground colour maybe red, orange, yellow, greenish, brown or black. A yellow one can change to red in three weeks.

Habitat and Biology: Mostly benthic, coastal and surface waters to a depth of lOOm. Lures its prey (usually fishes) nea novements of its specialized first dorsal spine.

Distribution: Indo-Pac ific and Eastern Pacific.

Remarks: *Antennarius commersonu,* like other frogfishes (or allolers) is highly camaflouged. It is larger than most other frogfishes.

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Histrio histrio (Linnaeus, 1758)

English Name:	Sargassum frogfish	**Family:**	**ANTENNARIIDAE**
Local Name:	Huifathu bohmas	**Order:**	Lophiiformes
Size:	**Max. 19 cm**	**Specimen:**	**MRS/U 179/88**

Distinctive **Characters: Dorsal fin with three spines** which are separated from one another. Anal fin with 7-8 rays. Pectoral rays 9-Il, Skin naked (smooth), often with membranous filaments or flaps. Pectoral fin with narrow limb-like base.

Colour: Colour and colour patterns highly variable. Generally mottled green, brown, effectively blending with the floating *Sargassam* weed.

Habitat and Biology: Pelagic. Usually found clinging on floating *Sargassani* weed.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific and tropical Atlantic.

Remarks: Unlike other frogfishes, *Histrio histrio* is a pelagic species. In the Maldives, periods patches of floating sargassum can be found off the eastern coast during the calm weather of the northeast monsoon. Close inspection of such weeds will often reveal one or two tiny *histrio.*

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