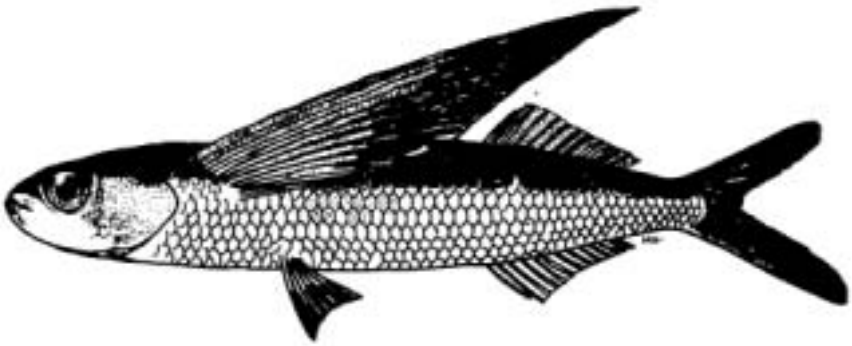
Exocoetus monocirrhus Richardson, 1846



English Name:	**Barbel** flyingfish	**Family:**	EXOCOETIDAE
Local **Name:**	Naruvaa **fuihangi**	**Order:**	**Beloniformes**
Size:	**Max. 20cm**	**Specimen:**	*MRS/0018/86*

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 13 or 14 rays. Anal fin with 12-14 rays. Their bases opposite to each other. Pelvic fins short, closer to the pectoral fin origin than to anal fin origin. Pectoral fin strikingly long, wing-like. Gill rakers on the first gill arch 21-29. Elongated body, its depth usually greater than 20% of standard length. Usually 7 transverse rows of scales between dorsal fin origin and lateral line. Juveniles humpbacked with a single chin barbel and with black pelvic fins.

Colour: Dark bluish above, silvery-white below. Dorsal and pelvic fins greyish.

Habitat and Biology: Pelagic; open ocean waters. Feeds mainly on planktonic organisms.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: Like other flying fishes, *Exocoetus nionocirrhus* is capable of leaping out of the water and gliding for long distances above the surface. It does this to escape from predators such as tunas and dolphin fishes. In this and other species, the lower lobe of caudal fin is elongated and strengthened; it can be dropped down in to the sea surface when flying, and beaten to given an extra boost of flight.

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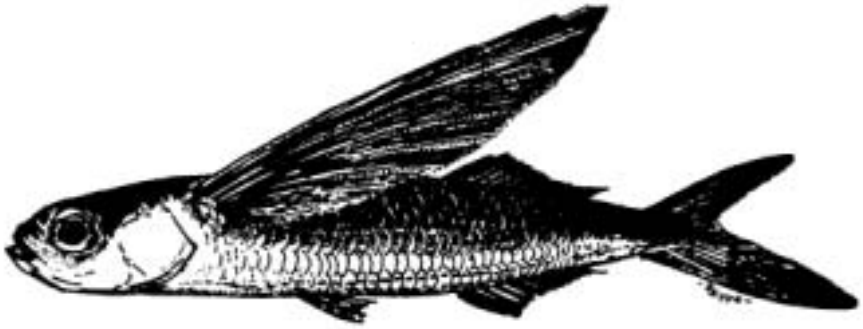
Exocoetus volitans Linnaeus, 1758



English Name:	**Tropical** two-wing flyingfish	**Family:**	EXOCOETIDAE
Local Name:	Hiki fuihangi	**Order:**	**Beloniformes**
Size:	**Max.** 18cm	**Specimen:**	MRS/0434/93

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 13-15 rays. Anal fin with 13 or 14 rays. Their bases opposite. Pelvic fins short. Pectoral fin strikingly long, *70-75%* of standard length. Gill rakers on the first gill arch 29-37. Body elongate, thick and somewhat flattened ventrally; its depth usually less than 19% of standard length. Usually 6 transverse rows of scales between dorsal fin origin and lateral line.

Colour: Body dark, iridescent blue dorsally, silvery white ventrally. Pectoral and caudal fins greyish, other fins unpigmented. Juveniles sometimes with black bars.

Habitat and Biology: Pelagic, open ocean waters. Feeds mainly on planktonic organisms.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: Like other flying fishes, *Exocoetus vo/itans* is capable of leaping out of the water and gliding for long distances above the surface. The seasonal distribution of flying fishes in the Maldivian waters are not well known. However, this species in known to occur in huge numbers off Foah Mulaku every year in November - December, when they are preyed upon by yellowfin tunas and frigate birds.

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ڤَرُڪُ ڪَڪَرُڪَڪَڊِ ڪَڦَڪَڪَڊِڤَرِ 13 ڦُڊِ 15 ڦُ ڤُڤَسِرِوُ ڦَڦَڦَرُڪَڪَ ڤَڪَڪَڦَڪَڦُڪُ. ڪَسڦَڪَرُڪَڪَڊِ ڪَڦَڦَڪَڪَڊِڤَرِ 13 ڪَڦَڦَڪَ 14 ڤَڪَڪَڦَڪَڦُڪُ. ڊِ ڤُڪَڪَڦَڪَڪَڪُ ڪَڪَڪَڦِرِ ڤَرُڪُ ڤُرَڤَڪَڦَڪَ ڦَڦَڦِرِڤَڦَڦُڪُ. ڤَرُڪُ ڪَڪَرَڤَرُڪَڪُ ڤِرَڤَرَڪَڦَڦَڪَ ڦِرَڤَڪَڪُ. ڦَڦِرِ ڪَسڦَڪَرِڦَرِڦُ ڦَڦَڪَڪُڦُڪُ ڀِڪَڪَرُڪَڦُڪُ ڪَڪَڦَڪَڦُڪُ. ڤَرُڪُ ڪَڪَرَڪَڦِرِڤُ ڪَڦَڦَڪُ ڤَرَڪَڪَڪَڦُڪُ. ڪَسڦَڪَرُڪَڪَڪُ ڪَڪَڪَڦِرِ ڦِرِڦَڪَڪُ ڪَڦَڦَڪُڦُڪُ. ڤَرُڪُ ڪَڪَڦَڦَڪَڦُڪُ ڪَڦَڦَڪَڦُڪُ. ڤَرُڪُ ڪَڪَڦَڦُ ڤَرِ ڤَرِڤَرُڪَڪُڦُڪُ. ڊِڪَڪُ ڦَڦَڪُ ڪَڪَڪَڦَڪَڦُڪُ 18 ڪَڪَڪَڦِرِڦَڪَڦُڪُ.