

Corythoichthys haematopterus (Bleeker, 1851)



English Name: Redtailed pipefish
Local Name: Venu bandeyri
Size: Max. 20 cm

Family: SYNGNATHIDAE
Order: Gasterosteiformes
Specimen: MRS/0022/86

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 23-33 rays. Trunk rings 16-18; tail rings 32-37. Usually about 14 bars formed by groups of stripes or reticulations. Superior trunk and tail ridges discontinuous. Lateral trunk ridges straight, ending near anal ring. Inferior trunk and tail ridges continuous.

Colour: Light yellowish grey. Body with dark bands comprising small longitudinal lines, sometimes spreading on to dorsal surface. Caudal fin usually light red.

Habitat and Biology: Common on sandy reef slopes. Often in small groups.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: *Corythoichthys haematopterus* is of little interest among the aquarists. This species was previously recorded as *C. intestina/is* in the Catalogue of Fishes of Maldives, Vol.1, page 144.

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Doryrhamphus excisus excisus Kaup, 1856



English Name: Bluestripe pipefish
Local Name: Noorongu venu bandeyri
Size: Max. 8 cm

Family: SYNGNATHIDAE
Order: Gasterosteiformes
Specimen: MRS/0244/88

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 21-29 rays. Body rings 17-19. Tail rings 13-17. Subdorsal trunk rings 3-5. Superior trunk and tail ridges discontinuous; inferior trunk ridge ending on anal ring; lateral trunk ridge continuous with inferior tail ridge.

Colour: Bluish midlateral stripe on orange to reddish background and small fan like tail.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in reef crevices.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *D. excisus ahhreviatus* is the Red Sea subspecies. The closely related *Doryrhamphus bicarinatus* has recently been recorded from the Maldives.

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Dunckerocampus multiannulatus (Regan, 1903)



English Name: Many-banded pipefish
Local Name: Galhi kendi venu bandeyri
Size: Max. 17.5 cm

Family: SYNGNATHIDAE
Order: Gasterosteiformes
Specimen: MRS/0243/88

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 20-23 rays. Pectoral fin with 18-22 rays. Trunk rings 16. Tail rings 19-20.

Colour: Numerous narrow brownish red bars present on body. 4-6 dark bands on opercie.

Habitat and Biology: Often found in caves, on the reef slope.

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean.

Remarks: *Dunckerocampus multiannulatus* is sometimes classified in the genus *Doryrhamphus*. It is fairly common in the Maldives, but easily overlooked by divers because it lives in small dark caves.

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