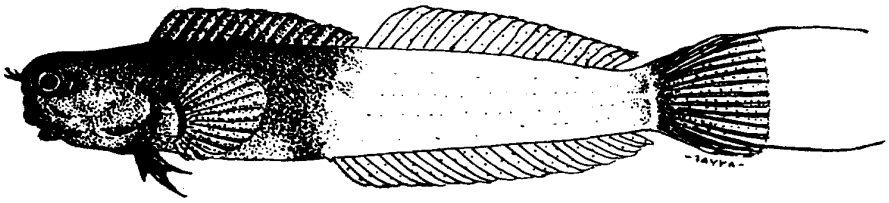
## *Ecsenius bicolor* (Day, 1888)



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| **English Name:** | **Bicolor blenny** | **Family:** | **BLENNIIDAE** |
| **Local Name:** | **Dheburi dhekula venfunna** | **Order:** | **Perciformes** |
| **Size:** | **Max. 11 cm** | **Specimen:** | **MRS/0249/89** |

**Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with** 12 spines and 16-18 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 18-20 rays. Caudal fin segmented with 14 rays. A cirrus from both anterior and posterior rim of nostril.

**Colour: Variable. The common pattern is** bluish black on head and anterior half of body, yellow behind.

**Habitat and Biology:** Commonly found resting on corals and rocks in crevices at depths to 21 m.

**Distribution: Central-Pacific to Maldives.**

**Remarks: The** multiple colour phases (3 phases) of *Ecsenius bicolor,* makes it a favourite with aquarists. The blennies are a large family (over 300 species) of small, agile, bottom-dwelling fishes. The majority of tropical blennies are herbivores. Those for which the reproductive habits are known lay demersal eggs which are guarded by male parent.

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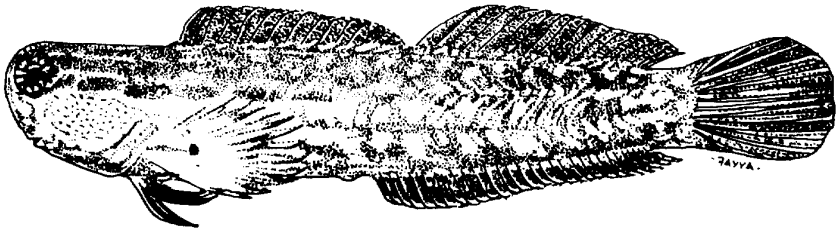
## *Ecsenius minutus* Klausewitz, 1963



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| **English Name:** | **Maldives blenny** | **Family:** | **BLENNIIDAE** |
| **Local Name:** | **Dhivehi venfunna** | **Order:** | Perciformes |
| **Size:** | **Max.** 5 cm | Specimen: | MRS/0248/88 |

**Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 12-13 spines and 13-14 rays. Anal** fin with 2 spines and 15-16 rays. Pectoral rays 12-14. Segmented caudal rays 13. Snout over-hanging mouth.

**Colour:** Light brown with diffuse white spots posteriorly and dark blotches anteriorly. Cheek with yellow dots. Dark brown curving line on opercle. Eye with white ring and radiating spokes.

**Habitat and Biology: A common reef** species. Feed on filamentous algae, and the tiny animals associated with it.

**Distribution: Maldives.**

**Remarks:** *Ecsenius minutus* is one of the very few fishes known only from the Maldives. As the scientific name suggests this is a small species, which is believed to reach less than about 5 cm in total length.

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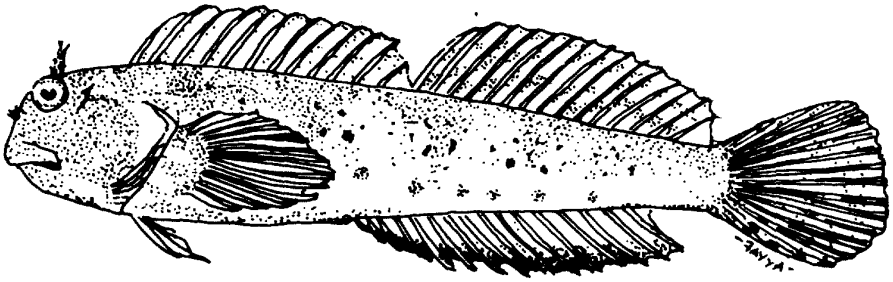
## *Entomacrodus striatus* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1836)



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| **English Name:** | **Pearly rockskipper** | **Family:** | **BLENNIIDAE** |
| **Local Name:** | **Haluvi venfunna** | **Order:** | **Perciformes** |
| Size: | Max. 9 cm | Specimen: | MRS/0250/88 |

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin deeply incised with 12-14 spines and 14-16 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 15-18 rays. Margin of upper lip usually fully crenulate. Nape with one cirrus on each side (occasionally absent). Supraorbital cirrus with many branches.

Colour: Whitish with numerous small irregular black spots on body which may group to form about 4 indistinct large blotches on upper side. An irregular black line behind the eye.

**Habitat and Biology: Found mostly** in the shallow inter-tidal zones of both protected lagoons and wave-swept outer reefs. It feeds on algae.

**Distribution: Indo Pacific.**

**Remarks:** *Entomacrodus striatus* is the most common and wide spread species of the genus. It is an active species, as the name rockskipper suggests. The blennies tend to take refuge in small holes in the reef into which they back tail first with the approach of danger.

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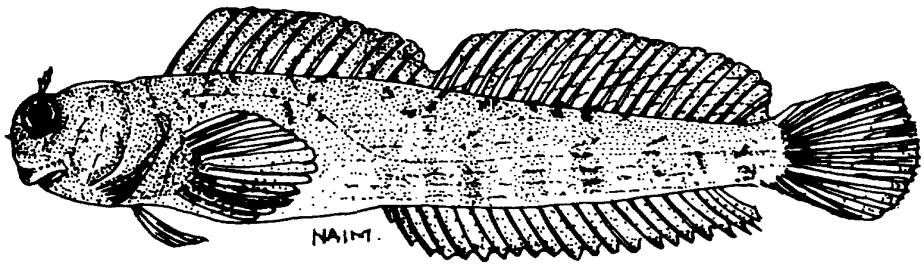
## *Istiblennius lineatus* (Valenciennes, 1836)

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| English Name: | Lined rockskipper | Family: | BLENNIIDAE |
| Local Name: | Rongudhemi venfunna | Order: | Perciformes |
| Size: | Max. 14 cm | Specimen: | MRS/0252/88 |

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 13 spines, and 21-25 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines, and 22-24 rays. Pectoral rays 14. Pelvic fin with 1 spine and 3 rays. Margin of upper lip crenulate, of lower lip smooth. Males with a crest on head. Cirrus over eye short and triangle, at right angle to surface of eye, finged on edges. No cirri on nape.

Colour: Pale grey with dark brown longitudinal lines, some interconnecting, breaking into short lines and spots on caudal peduncle. Some vertical to slightly diagonal dark lines on cheek and behind the eye. 6 pairs of small dark brown spots along base of dorsal fin; dorsal fin with diagonal whitish lines.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs along rocky shores, often in tide pools.

Distribution: Maldives to Polynesia.

**Remarks:** *Istibiennius lineatus* is only of several relatively small blenny species that inhabit shallow reef flats in the Maldives. Some blennies are adapted to the surf-swept intertidal zones. These blennies are able to leap from one pool to another.

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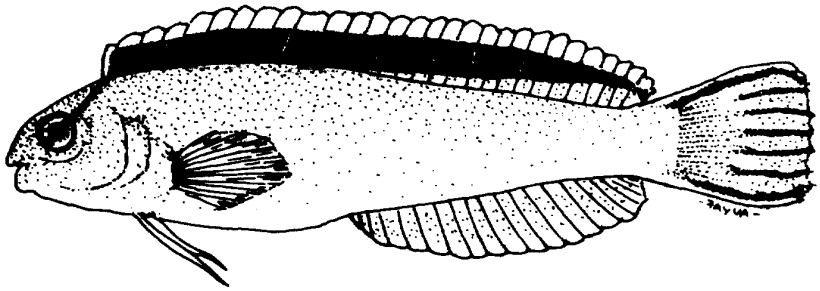
## *Meiacanthus smithi* (Klausewitz, 1962)



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| English Name: | Smith's sabretooth blenny | Family: | BLENNIIDAE |
| Local Name: | Dhaiythoonu funna | Order: | Perciformes |
| Size: | Max. 8cm | Specimen: | MRS/0258/88 |

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 3-5 spines and 24-26 soft rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 15-17 soft rays. Pectoral fin with 13-15 rays. Lateral line present. Middle rays of caudal fin longest.

Colour: Pale greeny cream. Black bar from eye to origin of dorsal fin, which itself has a thick black stripe along its length.

Habitat and Biology: Thought to feed on small worms and crustaceans.

**Distribution: Maldives to Indonesia.**

**Remarks:** *Meiacanthus sinithi* was first discovered by scientists during Dr. Hans Hass' 'Xarifa' expedition to the Maldives. Blennies of the genus *Meiacanthus* are unique among fishes in having poison glands associated with a greatly enlarged and grooved pair of lower canine teeth.

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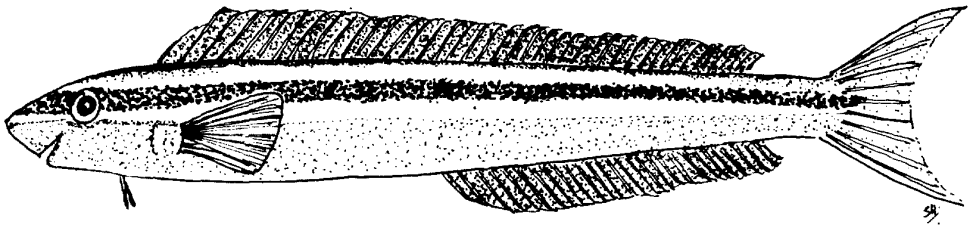
## *Plagiotremus rhinorhynchos* (Bleeker, 1852)



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| **English Name:** | **Bluestriped fangblenny** | **Family:** | **BLENNIIDAE** |
| **Local Name:** | Fansooru **mas** | **Order:** | **Perciformes** |
| Size: | Max. 11 cm | Specimen: | MRS/0030/86 |

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 10-12 spines and 32-36 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 29-33 rays. Pectoral rays 11-13. Segmented caudal rays 11. Body depth 6.6-8.0 in standard length. Snout conical. Mouth ventral. Lower jaw with a pair of long curved canines. Dorsal fin originates above hind margin of preopercle. Pelvic fin small, usually longer than eye diameter. Caudal fin emarginate.

**Colour:** Variable. Dark brown, yellowish brown, or yellow with two narrow bright blue stripes. Juveniles have a single upper blue stripe. Median fins yellowish in both forms.

Habitat and Biology: Inhabits reef edge and slope. Feeds by rapid attacks on other fishes, renloving dermal tissue, mucus, and sometimes scales.

**Distribution: Indo-Pacific except Hawaii.**

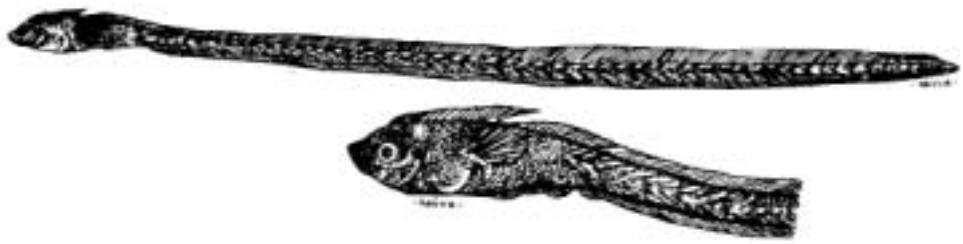
**Remarks:** *Plagiotremus rhinorhynchos,* in the blue black-stripe phase mimics the cleaner wrasse, *Labroides dimidiarus.* In the yellow phase it approximates the colour of common, harmless scalefin anthias, *Pseudanthias squamipinnis.* In this disguise it get closer enough to attack other fishes. Previously recorded under the genus *Runula.*

### ؤرشسوڤرؤسو

ؤمِ ؤرشؤرشر ثمِرڤؤرؤرشؤ، ترؤؤسو ؤمرؤؤرشؤرشرثمِ ؤرڤؤرش ؤڤؤرش ثمؤمِ ؤرشرؤؤ ثثرڤؤمِؤ ؤرڤؤمِ ؤرشرثمرؤؤ ؤرثمرڤؤؤ، ؤڤؤرش ثؤرڤؤمِرش ثمِؤمِرش ثمِؤمِ ثرشرش ؤمِسثؤثمرؤؤمِؤسو ثمؤؤؤ، ؤمِ ثرؤؤؤش ؤسثؤؤمِرش ثمِرؤؤمِرش ثمؤؤؤثؤؤمِ ؤرثؤرشؤمِؤ ثؤؤرثؤؤ. ؤمِ ثمؤؤرش ثثرشرثرثمؤؤ ثؤؤرثؤثرثؤ. ؤرؤؤ ثمسؤؤمِؤمِ ؤرثرش ؤرثؤرثمرش ثمؤمِرؤمِ ثرشرش ثرثؤثمرثمؤرشرؤؤ. ؤمِرثؤثرؤرش ؤرثرش ثؤرش ثرؤمِؤرش ثرشؤؤ. ؤرؤؤ ؤمِ ثثؤمِرثؤمِ ؤرؤؤ ثرشؤرثؤؤؤؤ ؤرشؤرشؤمِرؤش ثمِؤؤرش ثمِؤؤرش ؤرؤؤ ثمِؤؤمِ ؤرثرش ثؤمِرثرش ثرشؤؤ. ؤرؤؤ ثمِرؤؤمِؤمِ ثرشرثؤمِرؤ ؤؤؤ ثرثرثمرؤرشرؤؤ. ؤمِؤثمرؤ ثؤؤرثؤؤ ثرثؤمِرؤ ثرثؤمِرثرؤؤ. ثثؤمِرثؤؤ ثرثؤمِرؤ ؤسؤؤثمرثؤؤ ثرثؤمِرؤ ثرثؤمِرثرؤؤ.

ؤرؤؤ ثؤرشؤمِرثؤمِ ثثؤمِرثؤمِؤمِ 10 ثمِؤمِ 12 ثؤ ؤرؤرؤؤ ثرؤرؤرش ؤؤثؤمِرشؤؤ. ثمسؤؤرشؤرؤرش ثثؤمِرثؤمِؤمِ 2 ثرشؤرشؤؤؤؤ 29 ثمِؤمِ 33 ثؤ ؤرؤرؤؤ ثرؤرؤرش ؤؤثؤمِرشؤؤ. ؤرؤسو ثمِؤمِرؤمِ ثمِسثؤؤ ؤرؤؤرؤرش ثمِؤمِؤمِ ؤسثؤؤرؤؤمِ ؤمِؤمِرؤرشؤرؤ. ؤرثؤرش ؤمِؤمِرؤرشؤمِؤ ؤؤثمرشؤؤسو ثؤؤؤمِؤمِرش ثمِؤمِرثؤرشؤؤؤ. ؤرؤسو ثمِرؤؤ ثثؤؤمِ 11 سثؤرثؤؤؤرش.

## *Xiphasia matsubarai* Okada and Suzuki, 1952



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| **English Name:** | **Japanese** snakeblenny | Family: | BLENNIIDAE |
| **Local** Name: | Harufa funna | **Order:** | Perciformes |
| Size: | Max. 30 cm | Specimen: | MRS/P0334/88 |

Distinctive Characters: Extremely long and thin. Dorsal fin with 11 spines and 99-104 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 97-104 rays. Pectoral fin with 10-1 I rays. Pelvic fin with 1 spine and 3 rays.

**Colour:** Brown. Front part of anal fin white distally.

**Habitat and** Biology: Lives in tubes on sandy bottoms.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

**Remarks:** *Xiphasia matsuharai* is a very unusual blenny, superficially more like an eel than a blenny. The specimen on which this record is based was caught by hand net in Male harbour in July 1988.

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