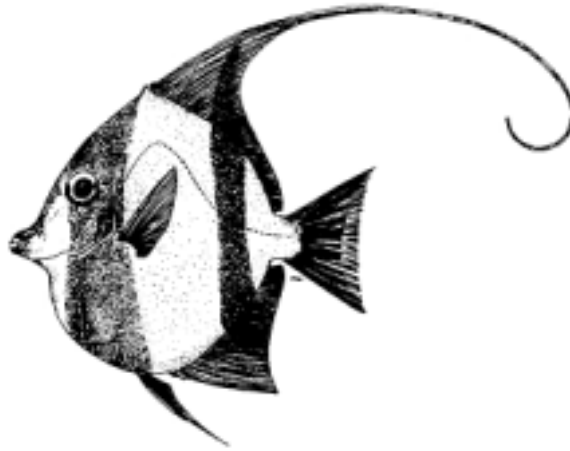


Zanclus cornutus (Linnaeus, 1758)



English Name: Moorish idol

Local Name: Dhidha mas

Size: Max. 22 cm

Family: ZANCLIDAE

Order: Perciformes

Specimen: MRS/0063/86

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 7 spines and 40-43 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 33-35 rays. Pectoral fin with 19 rays. Body depth 1.0-1.4 in standard length. Body compressed. Third dorsal spine extremely long and filamentous. Snout slender and projecting.

Colour: White anteriorly, yellow posteriorly. Two broad black bars, one from nape to thorax and abdomen (enclosing eye) and the other curving across posterior body and entering dorsal and anal fins. A black-edged orange saddle on snout. Caudal fin largely black.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs on coral reefs over a large depth range, from the shallows to at least 180 m. Omnivorous, but feeds more on benthic animal material, such as sponges more than algae.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific and Eastern Pacific.

Remarks: *Zanclus cornutus* is the only species in the family. It is often favoured by aquarists. *Z. canescens* (Linnaeus) is a synonym based on the postlarval stage (to 8 cm).

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