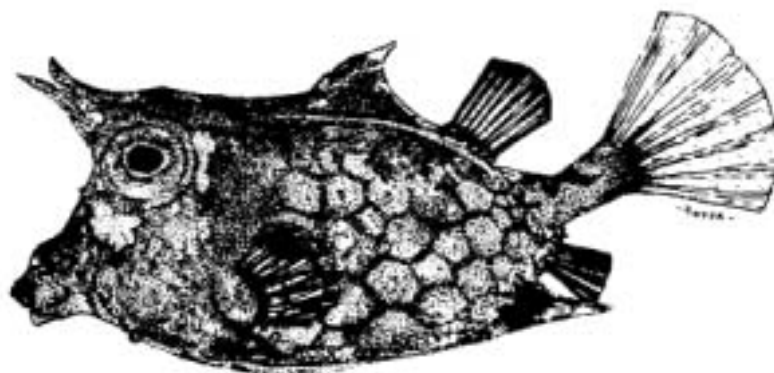


Lactoria fornasini (Bianconi, 1846)



English Name: Backspine cowfish

Local Name: Kashi gonu

Size: Max. 23 cm

Family: OSTRACIIDAE

Order: Tetraodontiformes

Specimen: MRS/0437/94

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 rays. Anal fin with 9 rays. Pectoral fin with 11-12 rays. Carapace quadrangular in cross section, hut with a median ridge and large thorn-like spine in the middle of back. Bottom of carapace slightly convex. A pair of sharp horns anteriorly from head at level with upper edge of eye. A second short pair posteriorly. Caudal fin rounded.

Colour: Light brown with blue spots or narrow irregular blue bands. Fins pale.

Habitat and Biology: Commonly seen on sand, rubble or weedy areas with patchy corals, to depths of about 30 m. Occurs singly or in pairs.

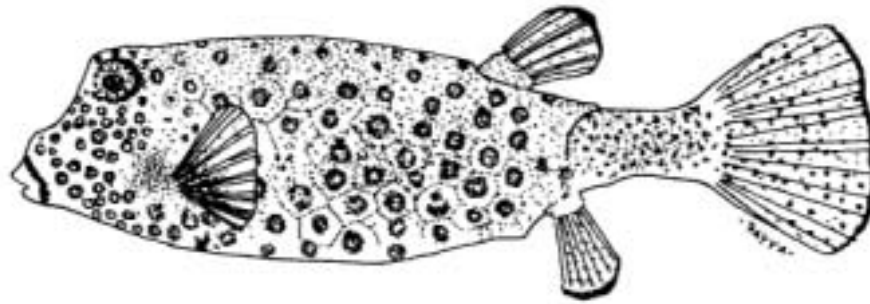
Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Lactoriafornasini*, like other cowfishes and boxfishes, is a slow swimmer. They propel themselves by a sculling action of the dorsal and anal fins; the caudal fin is brought into action when they want to move faster. Appears to be rare in Maldives.

کتابخانه

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***Ostracion cubicus* Linnaeus, 1758**



English Name: Yellow boxfish

Local Name: Gonu

Size: Max. 40 cm

Family: OSTRACIIDAE

Order: Tetraodontiformes

Specimen: MRS/0040/86

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 9 rays. Anal fin with 9 rays. Pectoral fin with 11 rays. Carapace quadrangular in cross section, the sides concave. Body becoming more elongate with growth. Large adults with a bump anteriorly on snout. Caudal fin rounded.

Colour: Small juveniles bright yellow with small black spots. Larger fish brownish yellow with one white spot edged in black or rimmed with small black spots on each polygonal plate. Largest fish purplish brown, spots on carapace faint or absent, the grooves between polygonal plates yellow, specially ventrally on cheek. Fins with small dark spots on rays.

Habitat and Biology: Common on reefedge and slope to depths of about 35 m. Solitary and shy species, always seek shelter below overhangs in the reef. Omnivorous.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Ostracion cubicus*, like other boxfishes produce a skin toxin when alarmed. Previously, recorded as *O. tuberculatus* Linnaeus, in the Catalogue of Fishes of the Maldives, Vol.1, page 102.

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