

ON SOME FISHES FROM THE MALDIVES. PART I: SPECIES KNOWN  
FROM THE LACCADIVE ARCHIPELAGO IN THE COLLECTIONS

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ABSTRACT

The list of 413 species of fishes in the collections examined from the Maldives is given in this paper.

INTRODUCTION

THE MALDIVES consist of a chain of coral atolls\* in the Indian Ocean with over a thousand islands covering a total land area of about 288 sq. km (115 sq. m) lying between 01° latitude south and 08° latitude north and 72° and 74° longitudes east (Figs. 1 & 2). These rise from a contiguous submarine bank situated at a depth of 1500 to 4000 fathoms with the Lakshadweep in the north and the Chagos in the south. The distance covered by the Maldivian group of islands alone is about 800 km out of a total of about 1800 km by the three archipelagos which constitute the most intricate and unique land formation in the Indian Ocean. It has a complex environment with hardly a parallel, having varying types of niche harbouring a rich variety of fishes from reef and lagoon dwellers to the oceanic and bathybial forms apart from other kinds of animal and plant life.

\*The word "atoll" is derived from Divehi (Maldivian) language and as such according to Bell (1940) and Maloney (1980) it should be spelt "atol" and not "atoll". This is followed here. The above cited publications may be referred to for detailed information about the Maldivian Islands.

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The attention of the readers is drawn to the "*Fishes of the Laccadive Archipelago*" by Jones and Kumaran (1980) so as to serve as a background of this paper to avoid any repetition. The present paper is essentially a continuation of the above work and as stated therein the idea of working on the fishes of the Maldives was conceived by the first author half a century ago when he was working in 1937 in the Marine Biologist's Laboratory in the Colombo Museum. However, about two decades later opportunity arose for him to work on the fishes of the Laccadives culminating in the publication of the book cited above which gave considerable preparatory experience for this account.

In this para the first author would like to state briefly the series of events leading to this publication. From the time of initiation of the work on the fishes of the Laccadives in 1954, when he managed to send there Mr. V. Balan, one of his junior colleagues on a collection trip in a sailing vessel, as he himself would not get permission to go over there, efforts were being made by him to get collections of fishes from the Maldives also, but with no success. However, it so happened that in 1979 Dr. Nils Finn Munch-Petersen,

a Danish scientist working under the DANIDA project in the Maldives visited the author in Trivandrum for some discussions and the latter took advantage of this opportunity

Petersen, an ichthyology scholar from the University of Copenhagen, who joined him subsequently. In the meanwhile Mr. M. Ali Manikfan, the third author who was respon-

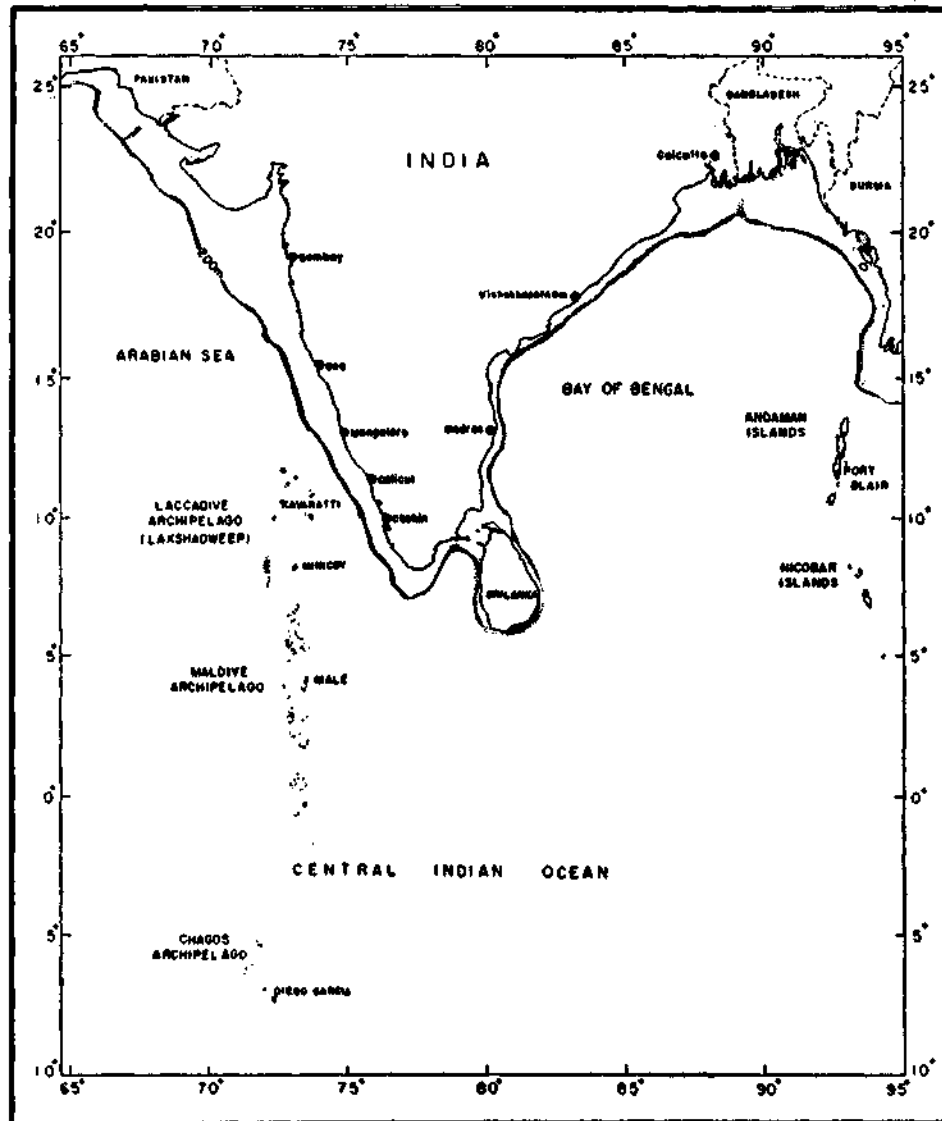


Fig. 1. The Maldives in relation to the Laccadive and Chagos Archipelagos in the Indian Ocean.

to request his help for fish collections from there to which he readily agreed. Several collections of fishes were made by him and also by a relative of his, Mr. Sten Munch-

sible for most of the collections from the Laccadives had recovered from his indisposition after his voluntary retirement. He undertook a trip as far as Addu Atol lying south of the

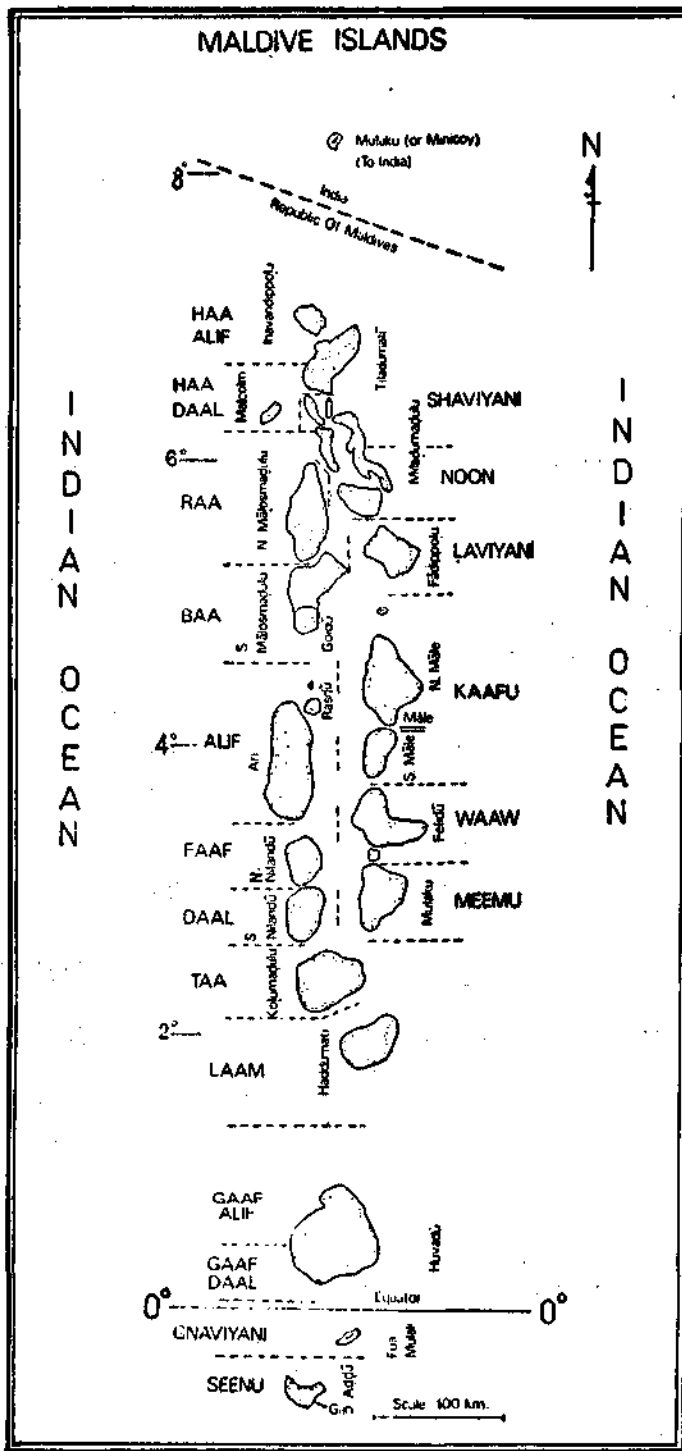


Fig. 2. Maldivian Islands (Names of the administrative zones are given in capital letters and the geographical names in small letters).

Equator at the special request of the first author and made extensive collections consisting of over 400 species of fishes. His capacity for thoroughness in this regard is unparalleled and can perhaps be understood from the fact that after the collections made by him from the Laccadives in 1969 hardly half a dozen species more have been recorded by all the others working in this area!

Our knowledge about the fishes of the Maldives begins with the reports by Regan (1903, 1908) on the collections made during the Cambridge Expedition under the leadership of J. Stanley Gardiner. These were followed by the contribution of Norman (1939) who worked on the collections made by the John Murray Expedition to the Indian Ocean. Thereafter, Deraniyagala (1956) and Palmer (1958, 1962) recorded the fishes they had collected from the Maldives. The German Xarifa Expedition and International Indian Ocean Expedition operated by a number of countries in the early sixties opened a new chapter in the study of fishes of the Maldives resulting in a number of contributions, the most remarkable being those of Dr. W. Klausewitz of the Senkenburg Museum, Frankfurt. To avoid repetition these references will be listed in the second part of the paper to be published in a subsequent issue of this journal.

The account on the fishes of the Maldives is being brought out in two parts. The first part lists 413 species of fishes in the collections examined by us which are known from the Laccadives also and were recorded and described by Jones and Kumaran (1980). To avoid repetition only the concerned species are referred to and those interested may refer to the descriptions and figures in the above book.

For the convenience of the readers, the serial number of the species listed in this paper is followed by the serial number of the species described in "*Fishes of the Laccadive*

*Archipelago*" by Jones and Kumaran (1980) in parenthesis in bold numerals with the scientific name and the corresponding page number.

We wish to express our deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Nils Finn Much-Petersen of Copenhagen for the great interest, trouble and initiative he had taken in making collections of fishes from the Maldives and sending them to us at his own expense to be worked out by us. We are also grateful to him for helping to send to us the collections made by one of us (M. Ali Manikfan) which, but for him, in all probability, would never have reached India. It is therefore a great pleasure to make a special record here of the scientific spirit of cooperation of the highest order displayed by him. We thank Dr. P.S.B.R. James, Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin for the personal interest he had taken in this work and for permitting the same to be carried out on a cooperative basis.

**FISHES HITHERTO RECORDED FROM  
THE LACCADIVES COLLECTED FROM  
THE MALDIVES**

Class ELASMOBRANCHII

Subclass SELACHII

Order LAMNIFORMES

Family *ORECTOLOBIDAE*

1. (1)<sup>\*</sup>: *Nebrius concolor* Rüppell, p. 17.
2. (2) : *Stegostoma varium* (Seba), p. 18.

Family *ISURIDAE*

3. (4) : *Isurus glaucus* (Müller and Henle), p. 19.

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\*The numbers in parentheses are the serial numbers of the description of species from the book *Fishes of the Laccadive Archipelago* by Jones and Kumaran (1980).

- Family *SPHYRNIDAE*
4. (12): *Sphyrna zygaena* (Linnaeus), p. 27.
- Order RAJIFORMES
- Family *DASYATIDAE*
5. (15): *Urogymnus africanus* (Bloch and Schneider), p. 30.
- Class TELEOSTOMI
- Subclass ACTINOPTERYGII
- Order CLUPEIFORMES
- Family *ALBULIDAE*
6. (24): *Albula vulpes* (Linnaeus), p. 436.
- Family *CHANIDAE*
7. (25): *Chanos chanos* (Forskål), p. 44.
- Family *DUSSUMIERIIDAE*
8. (27): *Spratelloides delicatulus* (Bennett), p. 46.
9. (28): *Spratelloides japonicus* (Houttuyn), p. 47.
- Family *CLUPEIDAE*
10. (31): *Sardinella melanura* (Cuvier), p. 50.
- Family *ENGRAULIDAE*
11. (33): *Anchoviella indica* (van Hasselt), p. 52.
- Order SCOPELIFORMES
- Family *SYNODONTIDAE*
12. (45): *Saurida gracilis* (Quoy and Gaimard), p. 63.
13. (46): *Synodus variegatus* (Lacépède), p. 64.
- Order ANGUILLIFORMES
- Family *MURAENIDAE*
14. (62): *Echidna zebra* (Shaw), p. 86.
15. (63): *Echidna polyzona* (Richardson), p. 87.
16. (64): *Echidna nebulosa* (Ahl), p. 88.
17. (65): *Echidna delicatula* (Kaup), p. 89.
18. (69): *Gymnothorax richardsoni* (Bleeker), p. 93.
19. (70): *Gymnothorax pictus* (Ahl), p. 93.
20. (72): *Gymnothorax pseudothyrsoides* (Bleeker), p. 96.
21. (73): *Gymnothorax monochrous* Bleeker, p. 96.
22. (74): *Gymnothorax javanicus* (Bleeker), p. 97.
23. (77): *Gymnothorax ruppelli* (McClelland), p. 100.
24. (78): *Gymnothorax petelli* (Bleeker), p. 101.
25. (79): *Gymnothorax undulatus* (Lacépède), p. 102.
- Family *OPHICHTHYIDAE*
26. (96): *Myrichthys maculosus* (Cuvier), p. 118.
27. (97): *Myrichthys colubrinus* (Boddaert), p. 119.
28. (98): *Leiuranus semicinctus* (Lay and Bennett), p. 120.

## Family ECHELIDAE

29. (101): *Muraenichthys macropterus* Bleeker, p. 122.

## Order BELONIFORMES

## Family BELONIDAE

30. (106): *Belone platyura* Bennett, p. 129.  
 31. (107): *Thalassosteus appendiculatus* (Klunzinger), p. 130.  
 32. (108): *Ablennes hians* (Valenciennes), p. 130.  
 33. (112): *Strongylura melanota* (Bleeker), p. 134.

## Family HEMIRAMPHIDAE

34. (113): *Hemiramphus marginatus* (Forskål), p. 135.  
 35. (117): *Hyporhamphus dussumieri* (Valenciennes), p. 139.

## Family EXOCOETIDAE

36. (118): *Prognichthys gibbifrons* (Valenciennes), p. 140.  
 37. (119): *Parexocoetus brachypterus* (Richardson), p. 141.  
 38. (120): *Oxyporhamphus micropterus micropterus* (Valenciennes), p. 142.  
 39. (122): *Cypselurus spilopterus* (Valenciennes), p. 144.  
 40. (124): *Cypselurus oligolepis* (Bleeker), p. 146.  
 41. (125): *Cypselurus cyanopterus* (Valenciennes), p. 147.

## Order SYNGNATHIFORMES

## Family AULOSTOMIDAE

42. (134): *Aulostomus chinensis* (Linnaeus), p. 157.

## Family FISTULARIIDAE

43. (135): *Fistularia petimba* Lacépède, p. 159.

## Family SOLENOSTOMIDAE

44. (136): *Solenostoma cyanopterus* Bleeker, p. 160.

## Family SYNGNATHIDAE

45. (137): *Ichthyocampus belcheri* Kaup, p. 162.  
 46. (141): *Syngnathus cyanospilus* Bleeker, p. 165.  
 47. (142): *Corythoichthys intestinalis intestinalis* (Ramsay), p. 165.  
 48. (143): *Syngnathoides biaculeatus* (Bloch), p. 166.  
 49. (144): *Hippocampus kuda* (Bleeker), p. 167.  
 50. (145): *Hippocampus histrix* Kaup, p. 168.

## Order BERYCIFORMES

## Family HOLOCENTRIDAE

51. (148): *Holocentrus sammara* (Forskål), p. 172.  
 52. (149): *Holocentrus laevis* Günther, p. 173.  
 53. (150): *Holocentrus spinifer* Forskål, p. 174.  
 54. (151): *Holocentrus diadema* Lacépède, p. 175.  
 55. (152): *Holocentrus lacteoguttatus* Cuvier, p. 176.  
 56. (153): *Holocentrus violaceus* Bleeker, p. 178.  
 57. (154): *Holocentrus caudimaculatus* Rüppell, p. 179.  
 58. (155): *Myripristis murdjan* (Forskål), p. 180.  
 59. (156): *Myripristis adustus* Bleeker, p. 181.

## Order MUGILIFORMES

## Family SPHYRAENIDAE

60. (160): *Sphyraena chrysotaenia* Klunzinger, p. 186.  
 61. (161): *Sphyraena barracuda* (Walbaum), p. 187.  
 62. (162): *Sphyraena forsteri* Cuvier, p. 188.

## Family MUGILIDAE

63. (163): *Crenimugil crenilabis* (Forskål), p. 190.  
 64. (164): *Plicomugil labiosus* Valenciennes, p. 191.  
 65. (165): *Chelon sehell* (Forskål), p. 192.

## Family ATHERINIDAE

66. (166): *Atherion africanus* Smith, p. 194.  
 67. (167): *Stenatherina temmincki* (Bleeker), p. 195.  
 68. (168): *Allanetta barnesi* (Schultz), p. 196.  
 69. (169): *Pranesus pinguis* (Lacépède), p. 197.

## Order POLYNEMIFORMES

## Family POLYNEMIDAE

70. (170): *Polynemus plebeius* Broussonet, p. 199.  
 71. (171): *Polynemus sexfilis* Valenciennes, p. 200.  
 72. (172): *Polynemus heptadactylus* Cuvier, p. 201.

## Order PERCIFORMES

## Suborder PERCOIDEI

## Family SERRANIDAE

73. (173): *Grammistes sexlineatus* (Thunberg), p. 208.  
 74. (174): *Plectropomus maculatus* (Bloch), p. 209.

75. (175): *Variola louti* (Forskål), p. 210.

76. (176): *Cephalopholis boenack* (Bloch), p. 211.

77. (177): *Cephalopholis pachycentron* (Valenciennes), p. 212.

78. (178): *Cephalopholis rogae* (Forskål), p. 213.

79. (179): *Cephalopholis sonnerati* (Valenciennes), p. 214.

80. (180): *Cephalopholis argus* Bloch and Schneider, p. 215.

81. (181): *Cephalopholis miniatus* (Forskål), p. 216.

82. (182): *Epinephelus flavocaeruleus* (Lacépède), p. 217.

83. (183): *Epinephelus morrhua* (Valenciennes), p. 218.

84. (184): *Epinephelus corallicola* (Valenciennes), p. 219.

85. (185): *Epinephelus fasciatus* (Forskål), p. 220.

86. (186): *Epinephelus tauvina* (Forskål), p. 221.

87. (187): *Epinephelus fuscoguttatus* (Forskål), p. 222.

88. (188): *Epinephelus hexagonatus* (Bloch and Schneider), p. 224.

89. (189): *Epinephelus caeruleopunctatus* (Bloch), p. 225.

90. (190): *Epinephelus fario* (Thunberg), p. 226.

91. (191): *Epinephelus merra* Bloch, p. 227.

92. (192): *Epinephelus elongatus* Schultz, p. 228.

93. (193): *Epinephelus melanostigma* Schultz, p. 229.

## Family PSEUDOGRAMMIDAE

94. (194): *Pseudogramma polyacanthus* (Bleeker), p. 230.

- Family *PSEUDOCROMIDAE*
95. (196): *Pseudochromis tapeinosoma* Bleeker, p. 232.
- Family *PLESIOPIDAE*
96. (197): *Plesiops caeruleolineatus* Rüppell, p. 233.
- Family *ANTHIIDAE*
97. (198): *Anthias cooperi* Regan, p. 235.
98. (199): *Anthias squamipinnis* (Peters), p. 237.
99. (200): *Anthias cichlops* (Bleeker), p. 238.
- Family *THERAPONIDAE*
100. (201): *Therapon puta* Cuvier, p. 239.
101. (202): *Therapon theraps* Cuvier, p. 240.
102. (203): *Therapon jarbua* (Forskål), p. 241.
- Family *KUHLIIDAE*
103. (204): *Kuhlia taeniura* (Cuvier), p. 242.
- Family *PRIACANTHIDAE*
104. (205): *Priacanthus hamrur* (Forskål), p. 244.
- Family *APOGONIDAE*
105. (207): *Rhabdamia cypselurus* Weber, p. 248.
106. (209): *Archamia fucata* (Cantor), p. 250.
107. (210): *Fowleria aurita* (Valenciennes), p. 251.
108. (211): *Foa brachygramma* (Jenkins), p. 252.
109. (212): *Apogon leptacanthus* Bleeker, p. 253.
110. (213): *Apogon sangiensis* Bleeker, p. 254.
111. (214): *Apogon coccineus* Rüppell, p. 255.
112. (215): *Pristiapogon raenatus* (Valenciennes), p. 256.
113. (216): *Pristiapogon snyderi* (Jordan and Evermann), p. 257.
114. (217): *Apogonichthys ocellatus* (Weber), p. 258.
115. (218): *Ostorhynchus nubilus* (Garman), p. 259.
116. (219): *Ostorhynchus savayensis* (Günther), p. 260.
117. (221): *Ostorhynchus endekataenia* (Bleeker), p. 262.
118. (222): *Ostorhynchus novemfasciatus* (Cuvier), p. 264.
119. (223): *Ostorhynchus apogonides* (Bleeker), p. 265.
120. (224): *Ostorhynchus moluccensis* (Valenciennes), p. 226.
121. (227): *Paramia quinquelineata* (Cuvier), p. 269.
122. (228): *Cheilodipterus lachneri* Klausewitz, p. 270.
- Family *MALACANTHIDAE*
123. (229): *Malacanthus latovittatus* (Lacépède), p. 271.
- Family *CARANGIDAE*
124. (230): *Decapterus russelli* (Rüppell) p. 273.
125. (231): *Alectis ciliaris* (Bloch), p. 274.
126. (232): *Caranx leptolepis* Cuvier, p. 275.
127. (233): *Caranx crumenophthalmus* (Bloch), p. 276.
128. (234): *Caranx compressus* Day, p. 277.



129. (235): *Caranx ferdau* (Forskål), p. 278.  
 130. (236): *Caranx ignobilis* (Forskål), p. 279.  
 131. (237): *Caranx melampygus* Cuvier, p. 280.  
 132. (239): *Caranx lugubris* Poey, p. 282.  
 133. (240): *Caranx sexfasciatus* Quoy and Gaimard, p. 284.  
 134. (241): *Elagatis bipinnulatus* (Quoy and Gaimard), p. 285.  
 135. (242): *Naucrates ductor* (Linnaeus), p. 286.  
 136. (243): *Scomberoides sancti-petri* (Cuvier), p. 286.  
 137. (244): *Scomberoides tol* (Cuvier), p. 288.  
 138. (245): *Trachinotus blochi* (Lacépède), p. 289.  
 139. (246): *Trachinotus bailloni* (Lacépède), p. 290.

## Family CORYPHAENIDAE

140. (247): *Coryphaena hippurus* Linnaeus, p. 291.

## Family EMMELICHTHYIDAE

141. (248): *Dipterygonotus leucogrammicus* Bleeker, p. 292.

## Family LUTIANIDAE

142. (250): *Lutianus argentimaculatus* (Forskål), p. 295.  
 143. (251): *Lutianus kasmira* (Forskål), p. 296.  
 144. (252): *Lutianus gibbus* (Forskål), p. 298.  
 145. (253): *Lutianus fulviflamma* (Forskål), p. 299.  
 146. (254): *Lutianus russelli* (Bleeker), p. 300.  
 147. (255): *Lutianus bohar* (Forskål), p. 301.  
 148. (256): *Lutianus vaigiensis* (Quoy and Gaimard), p. 302.

149. (257): *Aprion virescens* Valenciennes, p. 303.  
 150. (258): *Aphareus furcatus* (Lacépède), p. 304.

## Family CAESIODIDAE

151. (259): *Gymnocaesio argenteus* (Bloch), p. 306.  
 152. (260): *Caesio tile* Cuvier, p. 307.  
 153. (261): *Caesio pisang* Bleeker, p. 308.  
 154. (262): *Caesio chrysozona* Cuvier, p. 309.  
 155. (263): *Caesio coeruleus* Lacépède, p. 310.  
 156. (264): *Caesio xanthonotus* Bleeker, p. 311.

## Family LOBOTIDAE

157. (265): *Lobotes surinamensis* (Bloch), p. 312.

## Family GERRIDAE

158. (266): *Gerres filamentosus* Cuvier, p. 314.  
 159. (267): *Gerres oblongus* Cuvier, p. 315.  
 160. (268): *Gerres lucidus* Cuvier, p. 316.  
 161. (269): *Gerres oyena* Forskål, p. 317.

## Family LEIOGNATHIDAE

162. (270): *Leiognathus fasciatus* (Lacépède), p. 318.

## Family GATERINIDAE

163. (275): *Gaterin nigrus* (Cuvier), p. 324.  
 164. (276): *Gaterin orientalis* (Bloch), p. 325.  
 165. (277): *Gaterin albovittatus* (Rüppell), p. 326.

166. (280): *Lethrinus harak* (Forskål), p. 330.  
 167. (281): *Lethrinus mahsena* (Forskål), p. 331.  
 168. (282): *Lethrinus obsoletus* (Forskål),  
 p. 332.  
 169. (283): *Lethrinella miniatus* (Forster-  
 Schneider), p. 333.  
 170. (284): *Lethrinella xanthocheilus* (Klun-  
 zinger), p. 334.  
 171. (285): *Lethrinella microdon* (Valenciennes),  
 p. 335.

## Family PENTAPODIDAE

172. (286): *Monotaxis grandoculis* (Forskål),  
 p. 336.  
 173. (287): *Gnathodentex aurolineatus*  
 (Lacépède), p. 337.

## Family LETHRINIDAE

174. (288): *Gymnocranius griseus* (Schlegel),  
 p. 338.

## Family MULLIDAE

175. (289): *Upeneus tragula* Richardson, p. 341.  
 176. (290): *Upeneus vittatus* (Forskål), p. 342.  
 177. (291): *Upeneus sundaicus* (Bleeker), p. 343.  
 178. (292): *Upeneus arge* Jordan and Ever-  
 mann, p. 344.  
 179. (293): *Mulloidichthys samoensis* (Gün-  
 ther), p. 345.  
 180. (294): *Mulloidichthys auriflamma* (Fors-  
 kål), p. 346.  
 181. (295): *Praupeneus barberinus* (Lacépède),  
 p. 347.  
 182. (296): *Parupeneus indicus* (Shaw), p. 348.

183. (297): *Parupeneus pleurostigma* (Bennett)  
 p. 349.  
 184. (298): *Parupeneus chryserydros* (Lacé-  
 pède), p. 350.  
 185. (299): *Parupeneus luteus* (Valenciennes),  
 p. 351.  
 186. (300): *Parupeneus macronemus* Lacépède,  
 p. 352.  
 187. (301): *Parupeneus trifasciatus* (Lacépède),  
 p. 354.  
 188. (302): *Parupeneus bifasciatus* (Lacépède)  
 p. 355.

## Family PEMPHERIDAE

189. (303): *Pempheris oualensis* Cuvier, p. 356.

## Family KYPHOSIDAE

190. (305): *Kyphosus cinerascens* (Forskål),  
 p. 358.  
 191. (306): *Kyphosus vaigiensis* (Quoy and  
 Gaimard), p. 359.

## Family PLATACIDAE

192. (307): *Platax orbicularis* (Forskål), p. 361.  
 193. (308): *Platax teira* (Forskål), p. 362.

## Family MONODACTYLIDAE

194. (309): *Monadactylus argenteus* (Linnaeus),  
 p. 363.

## Family CHAETODONTIDAE

195. (310): *Hemitaurichthys zoster* (Bennett),  
 p. 367.  
 196. (311): *Heniochus acuminatus* (Linnaeus),  
 p. 368.

197. (312): *Heniochus monoceros* Cuvier, p. 370.
198. (313): *Megaprotodon strigangulus* (Gmelin), p. 371.
199. (314): *Chaetodon meyeri* Bloch and Schneider, p. 372.
200. (315): *Chaetodon lunula* (Lacépède), p. 374.
201. (316): *Chaetodon melanotus* Bloch and Schneider, p. 375.
202. (317): *Chaetodon collare* Bloch, p. 376.
203. (318): *Chaetodon citrinellus* Cuvier, p. 378.
204. (319): *Chaetodon bennetti* Cuvier, p. 379.
205. (320): *Chaetodon trifasciatus* Mungo Park, p. 380.
206. (321): *Chaetodon xanthocephalus* Bennett, p. 381.
207. (322): *Chaetodon falcula* Bloch, p. 382.
208. (323): *Chaetodon auriga* Forskål, p. 384.
209. (324): *Chaetodon vagabundus* Linnaeus, p. 385.
210. (325): *Chaetodon kleini* Bloch, p. 386.
- Family *POMACANTHIDAE*
211. (326): *Centropyge multispinis* (Playfair), p. 388.
212. (327): *Pomacanthodes imperator* (Bloch), p. 389.
- Family *CICHLIDAE*
213. (329): *Sarotherodon mossambicus* (Peters), p. 391.  
= *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Peters)
- Family *POMACENTRIDAE*
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