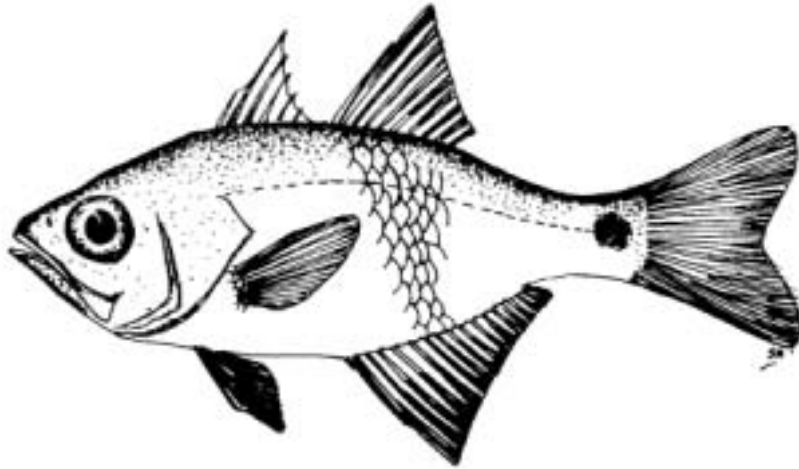








*Archamia fucata* (Cantor, 1850)



English Name: Redharred cardinalfish  
 Local Name: Lah fathaa  
 Size: Max.9cm

Family: APOGONIDAE  
 Order: Perciformes  
 Specimen: MRS/0035/86

**Distinctive Characters:** First dorsal fin 6-7 spines and second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 7-8 rays. Anal fin with 2 spines and 15-18 rays. Pectoral fin with 14 rays. Body depth 2.7 in standard length. Small, robust fish. Hind margin of preoperculum finely serrated. Pectoral fin shorter than head length. Mouth relatively large to capture big prey.

**Colour:** Iridescent silvery with about twenty five vertical orange lines which curve forward as they pass ventrally on body. Dark spots apparent on the cheek. A distinct black spot on either side of the caudal peduncle. Fins yellow.

**Habitat and Biology:** Usually seen in aggregations in the shelter of reefs or rock substrata particularly in lagoons to depths of 60 m. Forms schools among branching corals.

**Distribution:** Indo-Pacific.

**Remarks:** *Archamia fucata* is sometimes used by Maldivian fishermen for bait, although it is not a major bait species.

Archamia fucata

Archamia fucata (Cantor, 1850) is a species of fish in the family Apogonidae. It is a small, robust fish with a deep body and a large mouth. The fish is characterized by its iridescent silvery color and about twenty five vertical orange lines which curve forward as they pass ventrally on body. Dark spots are apparent on the cheek, and a distinct black spot is located on either side of the caudal peduncle. The fins are yellow. This species is typically found in aggregations in the shelter of reefs or rock substrata, particularly in lagoons, reaching depths of up to 60 meters. It forms schools among branching corals. In the Maldives, it is sometimes used by fishermen as bait, though it is not a major bait species. The illustration shows a lateral view of the fish, highlighting its deep body, dorsal fin with two parts, and deeply forked tail.





