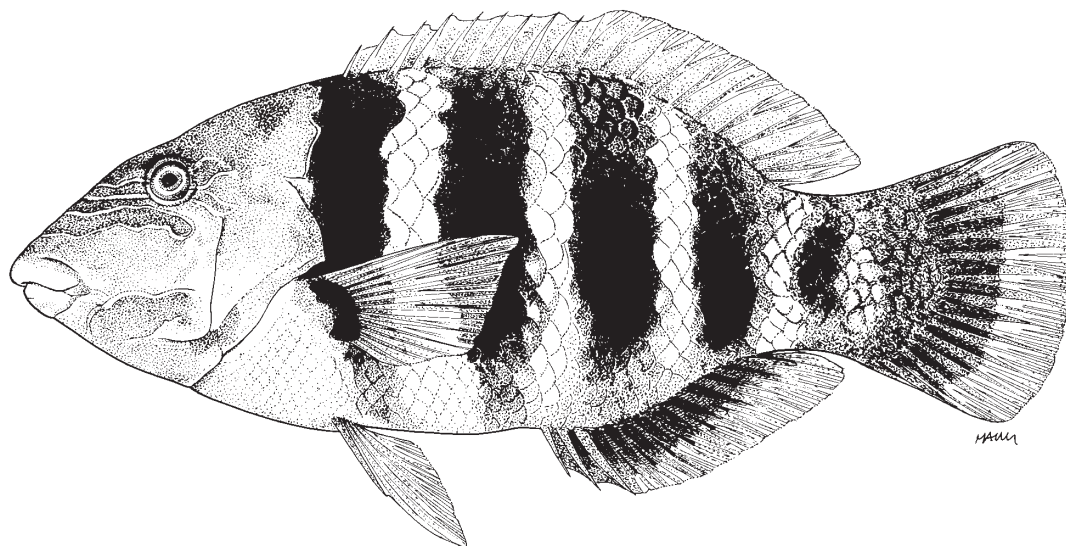


Hemigymnus fasciatus (Bloch, 1792)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Barred thicklip; Fr - Tamarin à bandes noires; Sp - Tamarín anillado.

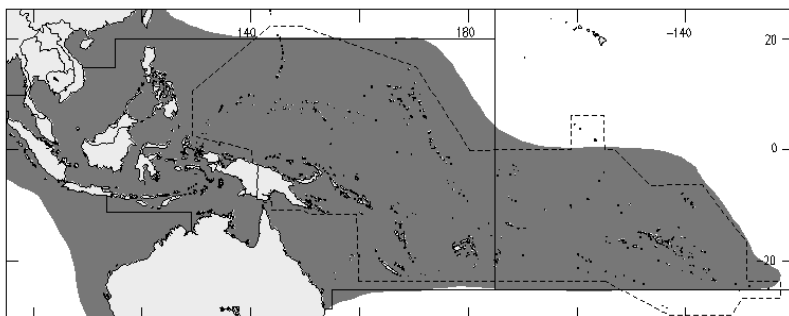


Diagnostic characters: **Body deep**, its depth 2.3 to 2.6 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head only slightly convex; head forming an acute angle; **jaws prominent though mouth small, with a pair of protruding canine teeth in jaws; lips large and fleshy, the lower lips split on the midline forming 2 lobes**; a broad canine present at each side at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin continuous with IX spines and 10 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 13; caudal fin slightly rounded to truncate. **Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal-fin base, with 27 or 28 scales.** Scales barely reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; scales in front of dorsal fin extending forward to above centre of eye at most; cheek with a narrow band of scales below eye; opercle and lower jaw without scales. **Colour:** **body with 5 large, broad black vertical bars with narrow white interspaces**; head greenish above, yellowish below, with several blue-edged pink to orange bands; dorsal fin brown with bluish stripes and spots; anal fin black, with several blue stripes; caudal fin brown. Small individuals similar with yellow bars on body continued as yellow bars on dark head.

Size: Maximum total length about 50 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found mostly on coral reefs and reef flats at depths of 1 to at least 20 m. Feeds primarily on small crustaceans, molluscs, and echinoderms. Caught by hook-and-line and by spearing, occasionally found in markets. It is occasional in the aquarium trade.

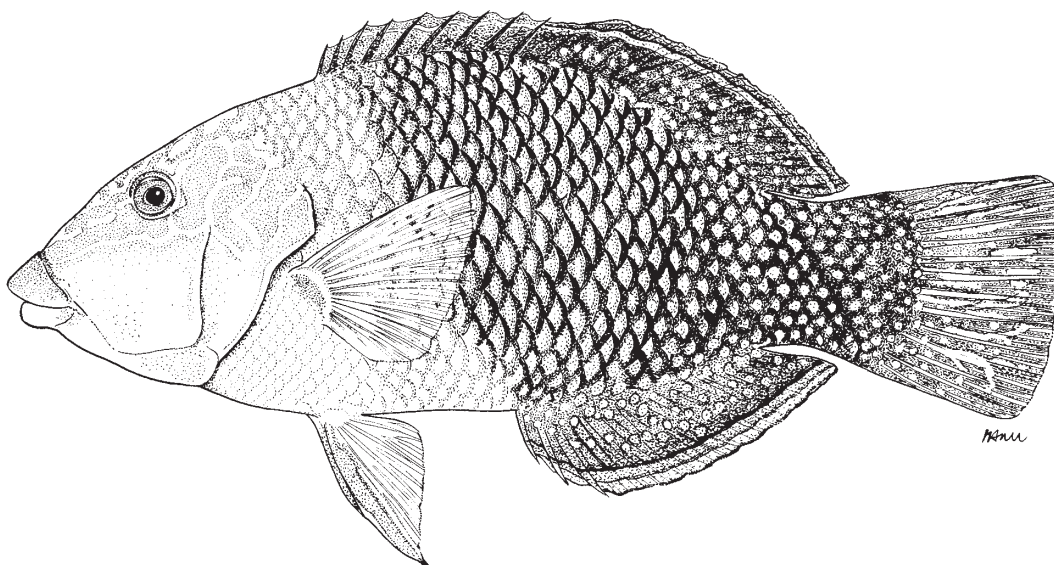
Distribution: Found throughout the Indo-Pacific, except Hawaii.



Hemigymnus melapterus (Bloch, 1792) (Plate IV, 26)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Blackeye thicklip; Fr - Tamarin vert; Sp - Tamarín verde.

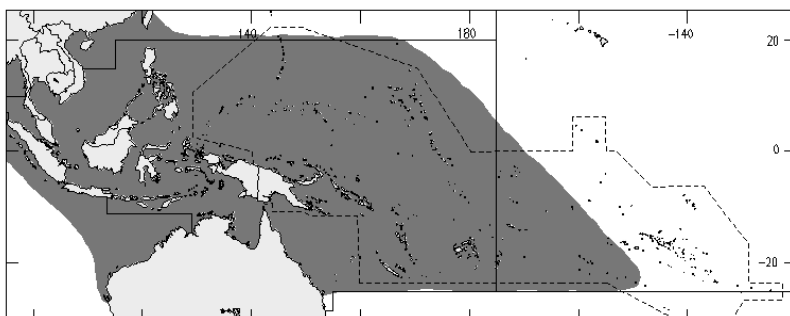


Diagnostic characters: **Body deep**, 2.3 to 2.6 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head only slightly convex; head forming an acute angle; **jaws prominent though mouth small, with a pair of protruding canine teeth in jaws; lips large and fleshy, the lower lips split on the midline forming 2 lobes.** A broad canine present at each side at rear of upper jaw. Dorsal fin continuous with IX spines and 10 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 13; caudal fin slightly rounded to truncate. **Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal-fin base, with 27 or 28 scales.** Scales barely reaching onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; scales in front of dorsal fin extending forward to above centre of eye at most, with forwardmost scales small and embedded; cheek with a narrow band of scales below and behind eye; opercle and lower jaw without scales. **Colour: white forward of a line between origins of dorsal and anal fins, dark behind.** In large individuals, the darker area (including those on dorsal, anal, and caudal fins) dark blue to green; **head light blue above, greenish below with red spots and stripes around eyes;** dorsal and anal fins with blue lines and with pink edges; pink edges also on caudal fin. In smaller individuals, rear portion of sides and dorsal and anal fins dark brown, caudal peduncle and caudal fin yellow-brown; each scale with a blue spot; head greenish grey above, greenish white below, with reddish brown spots and stripes above level of eyes; dorsal and anal fins with a blue stripe and reddish brown margin. Very small individuals with white area confined to a vertical band traversing body between origins of dorsal and anal fins.

Size: Maximum total length about 50 cm.

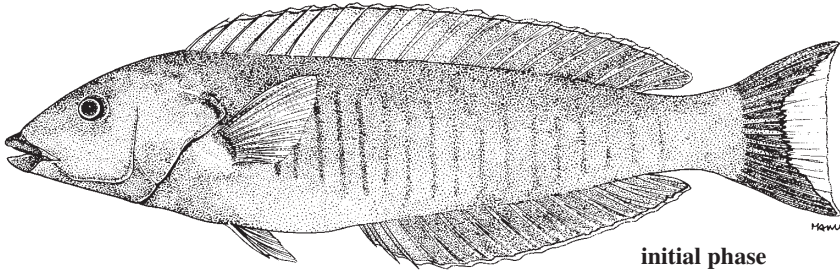
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found mostly on coral reefs and reef flats at depths of 1 to at least 20 m. Feeds primarily by taking in mouthfuls of sand, sorting out small invertebrates (especially crustaceans, polychaete worms, molluscs, and brittle stars) and then expelling the sand. This species is found in markets, and is often taken with spear by divers. Juveniles are occasional in the aquarium trade.

Distribution: Wide-ranging in the Indo-Pacific.



Hologymnosus annulatus (Lacepède, 1801)

(Plate IV, 27)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Hologymnosus semidiscus* (Lacepède, 1801) / None.**FAO names:** En - Ring wrasse; Fr - Colombine annelée; Sp - Colombina anillada.**Diagnostic characters:**

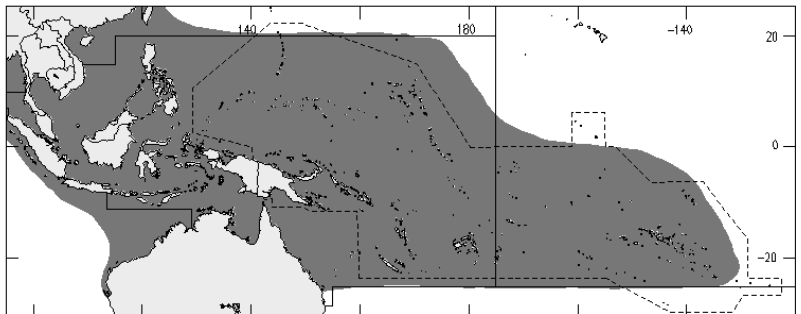
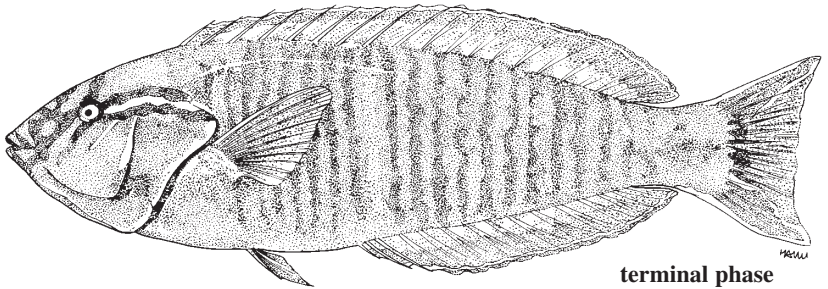
Body elongate, its depth 3.3 to 5.1 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head nearly straight (convex on large individuals), becoming curved on nape; front of head forming an acute angle; **snout long**, 2.4 to 2.6 times in

head length; jaws prominent, jaws with 2 pairs of canine teeth anteriorly, the first pair largest and more projecting; sides of jaws with 14 to 21 small, slightly compressed, bluntly conical teeth; small nodular teeth in irregular rows medial to outer row of teeth in jaws; no canine tooth at corner of mouth. Branchiostegal rays 6. Gill rakers 18 to 23. Dorsal fin continuous, with IX spines and 12 soft rays; the spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with III spines and 12 soft rays; pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 11 branched rays; pectoral fins long, 1.6 to 1.9 times in head length; caudal fin slightly rounded in juveniles, emarginate in adults. **Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal-fin base, with 100 to 118 pored scales.** Scales not extending onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; head scaleless except for nape. **Colour:** initial phase brown to olive brown with 17 to 19 dark brown bars on side of body; a black smudge on opercular flap preceded by blue; caudal fin brown with a large whitish crescentic area posteriorly, the upper and lower edges narrowly light blue. **Terminal male phase green with about 17 purplish red bars on side of body;** head purplish with broad irregular bands of iridescent blue-green; caudal fin blue, with a large crescentic green region posteriorly, the lobes with a broad band of rose-purple. **Juveniles greyish yellow to yellow with a broad black stripe on lower side of head and body,** extending onto caudal fin, and a narrow reddish stripe dorsally on body.

Size: Maximum total length about 37.5 cm.

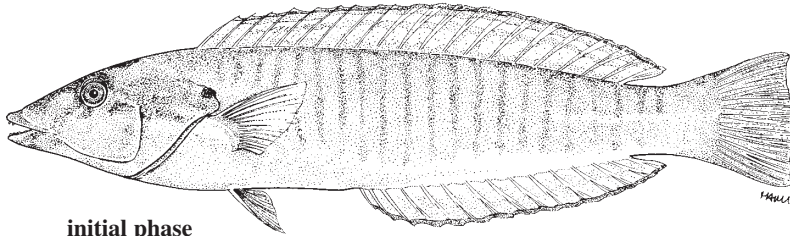
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: A species found on coral reefs and rocky substrata to depths of at least 30 m. Feeds mainly on fishes, shrimps, and other crustaceans. Caught with hook-and-line; this fish can be found in markets. Occasionally seen in the aquarium trade.

Distribution: Philippines, Great Barrier Reef, Fiji Islands, Cook Islands, Society Islands, and Indian Ocean.

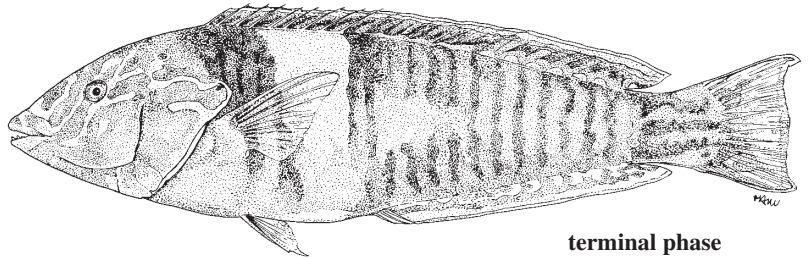


Hologymnosus doliatus (Lacepède, 1801)

(Plate IV, 28)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** En - Pastel ringwrasse; Fr - Colombine pastel; Sp - Colombina pastel.

initial phase



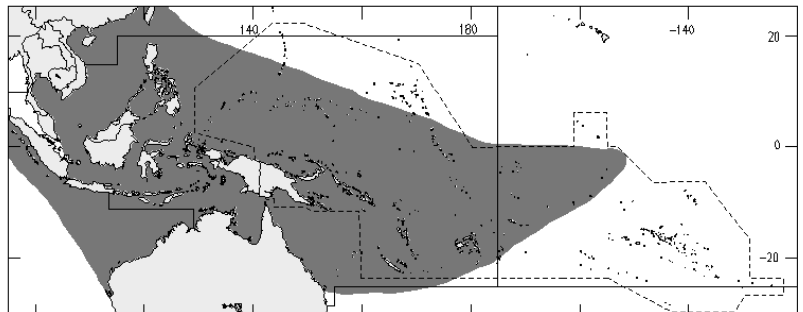
terminal phase

Diagnostic characters:**Body elongate, its depth 3.8 to 5.3 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head nearly straight, though slightly convex in large individuals; head forming an acute angle; snout long, 2.4 to 2.6 times in head length; jaws prominent; jaws with 2 pairs of canine teeth anteriorly, the first pair largest and more projecting; sides of jaws with 14 to 21 small, slightly compressed, bluntly conical teeth; small nodular teeth in irregular rows medial to outer row of teeth in jaws; no canine tooth at corner of mouth. Dorsal fin continuous, with IX spines and 12 soft rays; the spines and anterior soft rays of similar length; anal fin with III spines and 12 soft rays; pectoral fins with ii unbranched and 11 branched rays; caudal fin double emarginate. Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal-fin base, with 97 to 112 pored scales. Scales not extending onto bases of dorsal and anal fins; head scaleless, except for nape. Colour: juveniles whitish with 3 narrow orange-red stripes. Initial phase pale greenish, bluish, or pinkish with 20 to 23 orangish brown bars on side of body; a bluish black spot on opercular flap; caudal fin pinkish to yellowish with a narrow pale blue upper and lower edge and light orange submarginal band. Terminal male phase with a deep blue to purple bar passing from origin of dorsal fin beneath pectoral fins onto abdomen, followed by a broad light red bar; body posterior to this light red, shading to pale blue-green ventrally, with about 14 lavender blue bars and 2 or 3 longitudinal bands of same colour on caudal peduncle; head blue to blue-green with a coarse network of narrow orange to pink bands; a small blackish spot on opercular flap followed by a pale yellow zone; caudal fin green with narrow light blue upper and lower margins, a broad submarginal violet band in each lobe, and narrow longitudinal violet streaks in central and posterior part of fin.**

Size: Maximum total length about 37 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: A species of coral reefs and rocky substrata to depths of at least 30 m. Initial phase fish may be male or female, but more often the latter. Feeds mainly on small fishes and crustaceans. Not abundant, but due to its moderately large size, it has commercial value. Usually taken with hook-and-line. Also found occasionally in the aquarium trade.

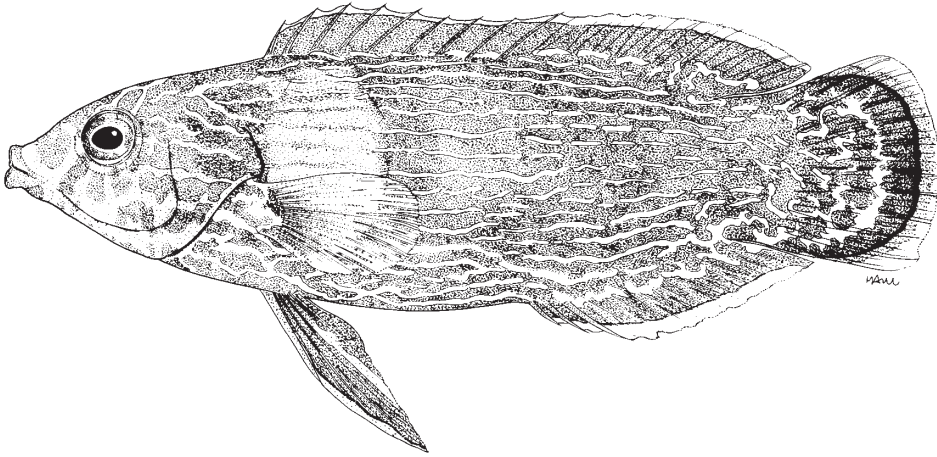
Distribution: Line Islands, Samoa, and the Mariana Islands. Occurs throughout most of the western Indian Ocean, except for the Red Sea, and probably much of the west coast of India.



Labrichthys unilineatus (Guichenot, 1847)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Labrichthys cyanotaenia* Bleeker, 1854 / None.

FAO names: En - Tubelip wrasse.

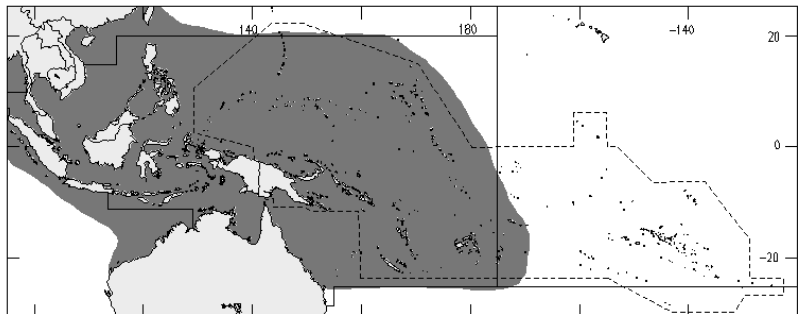


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately slender, its depth 2.6 to 3.2 times in total length, and compressed, its width 2.2 to 2.7 times in its depth. Dorsal profile of head convex, profile of snout of terminal phase usually markedly convex, thus forming an indentation with the horizontally projecting lips. Mouth terminal, small (maxilla not reaching a vertical at anterior margin of orbit), the gape horizontal or slightly oblique, **the lips very thick and fleshy, plicate externally and internally, forming a short tubular structure when closed.** Upper jaw with 2 pairs of large recurved canines anteriorly, the second pair about 1/2 as large as the first, and a canine posteriorly on jaw (extending forward from corner of mouth); lower jaw with a pair of recurved anterior canines followed by 3 to 5 smaller teeth on each side. Branchiostegal rays 5. Gill rakers 9 or 10. Dorsal fin with IX spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 10 soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 14 or 15; caudal fin rounded, principal caudal-fin rays 14 (rarely 15); pectoral fins short, 1.8 to 2.2 times in head length. **Lateral line complete, angling sharply downward beneath posterior part of dorsal fin to straight peduncular portion, with 26 pored scales** (plus 2 pored scales on caudal-fin base). Head entirely scaly except for sheath over base of upper lip, preorbital, and chin. **Colour: juveniles brown**, with light blue iridescent markings on scales, especially on head, anterior body, thorax, and abdomen; **2 narrow blue-white stripes on body**, the major stripe passing from snout through lower edge of eye and ending in centre of caudal fin, the second stripe from chin across thorax below pectoral fins to ventral caudal-fin base; median fins edged in light blue; mouth region yellowish; caudal fin yellowish at base. **Adults with midlateral stripe fainter or absent and yellowish, lower stripe absent; large yellow area evident beneath and above pectoral fins**, in large males expanded into a broad, diffuse yellow bar; median and pelvic fins edged in bright blue.

Size: Maximum total length about 17.5 cm.

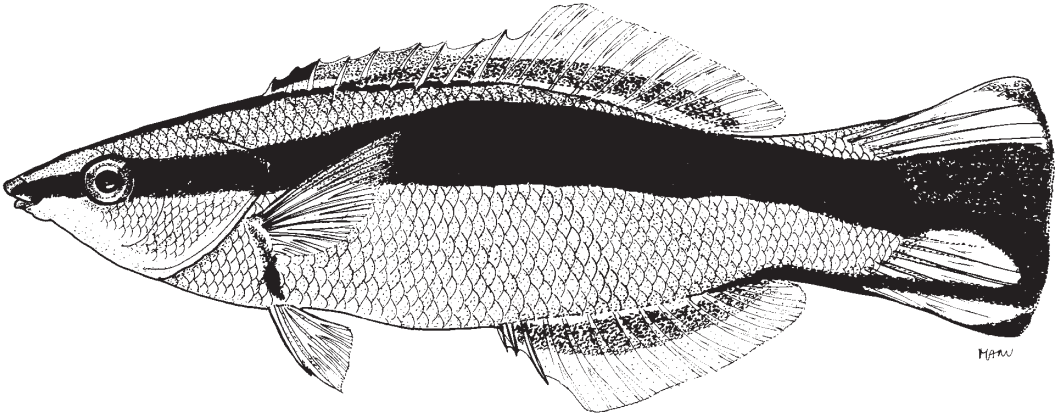
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found in shallow lagoon reefs with high coral cover, in waters in depths of 0.5 to 10 m. Feeds on coral polyps, particularly staghorn *Acropora*. Occasionally found in the aquarium trade, but rarely survives due to diet.

Distribution: Micronesia to East Africa, including Ryukyu Islands, Mariana Islands, New Guinea, Caroline Islands, Gilbert Islands, Palau Islands, Marshall Islands, Indonesia, and Philippines.



Labroides dimidiatus (Valenciennes, 1839)

(Plate IV, 29)

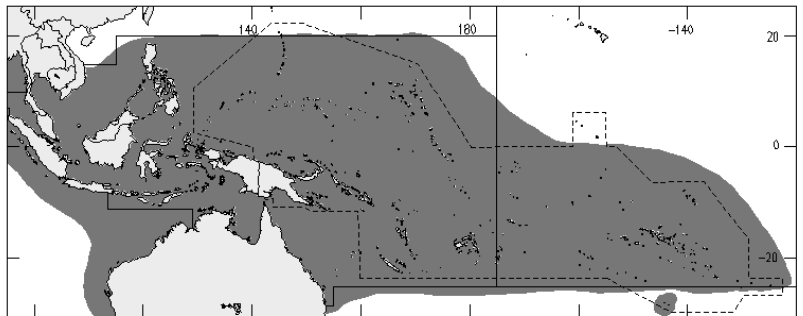
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.**FAO names:** En - Cleaner wrasse.

Diagnostic characters: Body slender, its depth 4.1 to 4.7 times in total length. Dorsal profile of head convex, mouth terminal, small, the gape horizontal or slightly oblique, **lips thick, the lower strongly bilobed, the 2 halves separated by a u-shaped notch**. Jaws with 1 pair of recurved canines anteriorly and a canine posteriorly extending forward from corner of mouth, side of jaws with several rows of small teeth. Dorsal fin with IX spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 10 soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 14 or 15; caudal fin rounded, principal caudal-fin rays 13. **Lateral line complete, angling sharply downward beneath posterior part of dorsal fin to straight peduncular portion, with 26 pored scales** (plus 2 pored scales on caudal-fin base). Head scaly except for ventral portion. **Colour: juveniles black with a bright blue stripe on back and dorsally on head; adults light blue shading to pale yellow or white anteriorly, with a black stripe from snout through eye to rear edge of caudal fin, this stripe progressively broader posteriorly.**

Size: Maximum total length about 11.5 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabitant of coral reefs, this species feeds on crustacean ectoparasites and mucus of other fishes. It establishes cleaning sites on the reef where other fishes come to be cleaned. Often seen entering into the mouth or gill chamber of larger fishes. Not found in markets, but a popular fish in the aquarium trade.

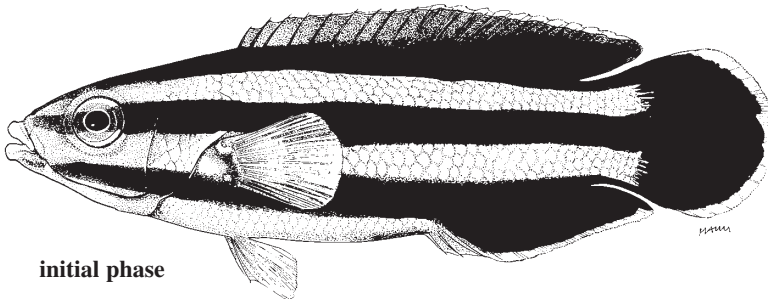
Distribution: Broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific.



Labropsis australis Randall, 1981

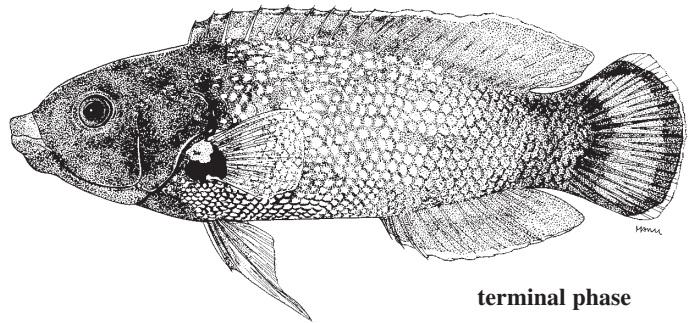
Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Labropsis manabei* Schmidt, 1930.

FAO names: En - Southern tubelip.



initial phase

Diagnostic characters: Body moderately slender, its depth 3.2 to 3.5 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head convex, profile of snout of terminal males usually markedly convex, thus forming an indentation with the horizontally projecting lips. Mouth terminal, small (maxilla not reaching a vertical at anterior margin of orbit), the gape horizontal or slightly oblique; **lips very thick and fleshy, plicate externally and internally, forming a short tubular structure when closed** (truncate anteriorly with a round opening). Upper jaw with 2 pairs of large recurved canines anteriorly, the second pair about 1/2 as large as the first, and a canine (rarely 2) posteriorly on jaw (extending forward from corner of mouth); lower jaw with a pair of recurved anterior canines followed by 2 or 3 lesser recurved canines on each side. Branchiostegal rays 5. Gill rakers 8. Dorsal fin with IX spines and 12 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 11 soft rays; pectoral-fin rays 14; caudal fin rounded, principal caudal-fin rays 14 (rarely 15); pectoral fins short, 1.8 to 2.2 times in head length. **Lateral line complete, angling sharply downward beneath posterior part of dorsal fin to straight peduncular portion, with 35 to 40 pored scales** (plus 2 pored scales on caudal-fin base). Head with small scales on operculum, nape, and partially on suborbital. **Colour:** initial phase body yellowish with 3 blotchy dark brown stripes; an indistinct reddish area anterior to eye; scales with brown edges; dorsal, caudal, and anal fins brownish with a pale blue margin; dorsal fin with narrow dark spot on second spine; pectoral fins pale with a large black spot at base rimmed with orange spots dorsally and ventrally; pelvic fins dark; inside of mouth blue. **Males brown, centres of scales orange, particularly in centre of body**, the lips, chin, and throat dark brown to purple; median fins dark brown with blue distal margins; a black spot usually present anteriorly on dorsal fin; pectoral fins pale with a large round black spot with yellow centre at base and extending anterior to base; pelvic fins blue with an orange band on first 2 soft rays. Small females and juveniles have 3 broad dark stripes on head and body separated by narrower pale yellow stripes.

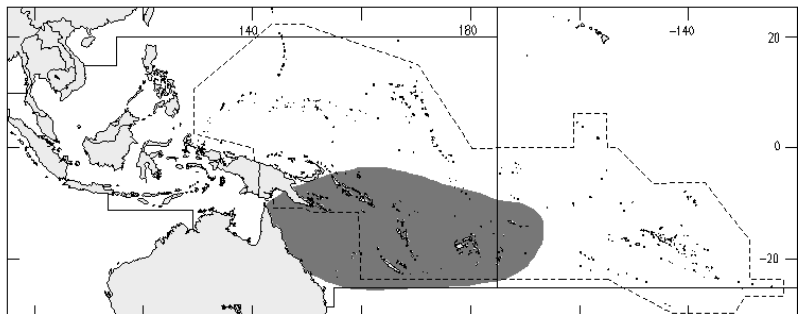


terminal phase

Size: Maximum total length about 10 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: *Labropsis* species are closely associated with high coral cover on shallow reef areas. The thick plicate lips and tubular mouths are used in feeding upon coral polyps. The young are often seen picking at the fins and bodies of other reef fishes, ostensibly to feed on their ectoparasites and possibly mucus as well.

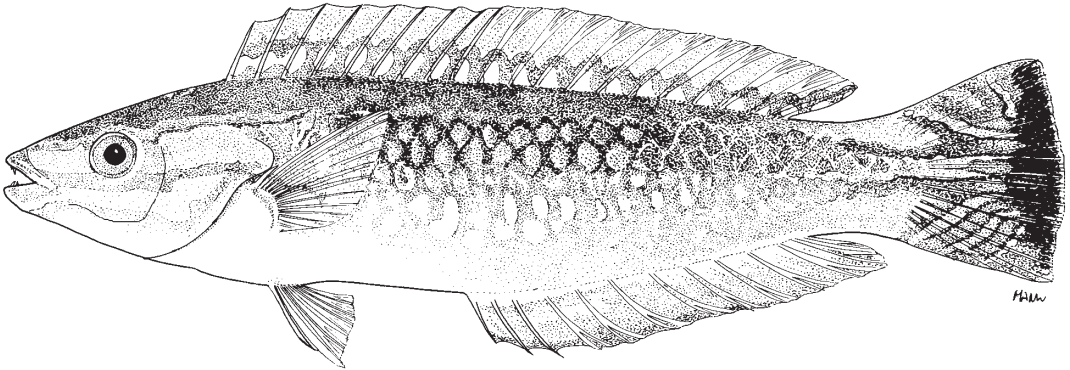
Distribution: Solomon Islands, Samoa Islands, Fiji, Loyalty Islands, Tonga, and Great Barrier Reef.



Leptojulius cyanopleura (Bleeker, 1853)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Leptojulius chrysotaenia* Randall and Ferraris, 1981.

FAO names: En - Shoulderspot wrasse.

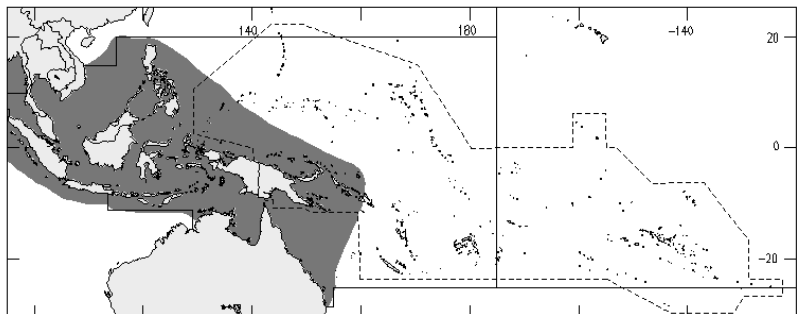


Diagnostic characters: Body slender, its depth 4 to 4.5 times in standard length. Dorsal profile of head slightly convex to straight, head forming an acute angle; jaws with 2 pairs of large canine teeth, the second pair in both jaws outflaring and strongly recurved; second pair of upper canines nearly as large as first pair; second pair of lower canines larger than first; side of upper jaw with a row of 6 to 10 conical teeth; side of lower jaw with a row of 14 to 18 teeth; a prominent canine tooth (occasionally 2) posteriorly on upper jaw at corner of mouth); small nodular teeth in irregular rows medial to larger lateral teeth. Branchiostegal rays 5. First gill arch with 19 to 22 gill rakers. Dorsal fin continuous, with IX flexible spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 11 or 12 soft rays; pectoral fins with 13 rays; caudal fin varying from slightly rounded in initial phase to very slightly double emarginate in large terminal males. **Lateral line abruptly curved below posterior portion of dorsal-fin base, with 27 pored scales.** **Colour:** initial phase pale with 2 orange-brown stripes on upper half of head and body, the first (narrower than orbit) from upper lip through eye to end of scaly basal part of caudal fin, the second, slightly narrower, beginning middorsally on snout just anterior to interorbital space, passing along nape and back near base of dorsal fin, and ending dorsally on caudal peduncle, the interspace between lines light grey to pinkish grey, with a longitudinal row of brownish orange spots just above lower stripe; a second less distinct row of spots following lateral line. **Terminal phase bluish grey with a blue-edged, orange-yellow stripe passing from front of snout through eye to caudal-fin base; an irregular dark blotch on upper side between lateral line and and outer middle part of pectoral fins**, where each scale is orange-yellow, rimmed with blue, and the whole stripe overlaid with blackish; a faint yellow stripe across cheek beginning behind corner of mouth; caudal peduncle above and below lateral stripe largely yellow; dorsal fin pale red with a broad basal band of bright blue containing a reddish edged, orange-yellow spot on each ray and adjacent posterior membrane; caudal fin blue, becoming dark purplish posteriorly, with 3 diagonal purple-edged, orange-yellow bands in upper half of fin, and 3 in lower, pectoral fins transparent except for narrow dark edges on rays; pelvic fins pale yellow.

Size: Maximum total length about 13 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: This species occurs in aggregations on reefs or near reefs, usually where the water is somewhat turbid and rich in zooplankton, on which it feeds. Rare in the aquarium trade.

Distribution: Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Great Barrier Reef.

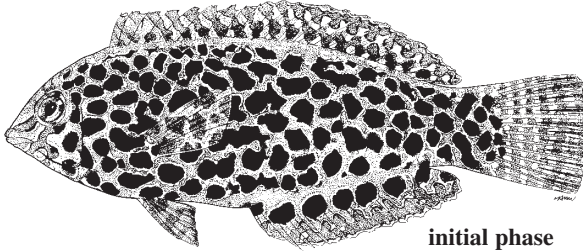


Macropharyngodon meleagris (Valenciennes, 1839)

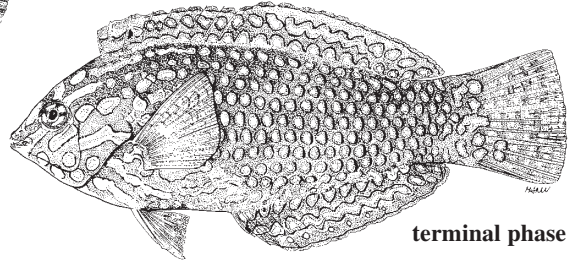
(Plate IV, 30 and 31)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Leptojulius pardalis* Kner, 1867 / *Macropharyngodon negrosensis* Herre, 1932.

FAO names: En - Blackspotted wrasse.



initial phase



terminal phase

Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep, its depth 2.5 to 3 times in standard length, and compressed, its width posterior to head 2.4 to 3.1 times in its depth. Mouth terminal, horizontal, not large, the maxilla ending anterior to a vertical at front edge of eye; lips not very fleshy; teeth conical, projecting diagonally forward in jaws, **the upper jaw with 2 pairs of enlarged canines anteriorly, the first pair nearly straight and strongly projecting, the second markedly recurved;** teeth on sides of jaws in 1 row, progressively smaller posteriorly, except for a **large canine at rear of upper jaw** which projects diagonally forward and downward from corner of mouth; 6 branchiostegal rays. Gill rakers short, 15 to 19 on first gill arch. Dorsal fin with IX spines and 11 soft rays; anal fin with III spines and 11 soft rays; caudal fin slightly rounded, principal caudal-fin rays 14, the median 12 branched; pectoral fins with 12 rays, **pelvic fins short, usually not reaching anus.** Lateral line complete, angling downward to straight peduncular portion beneath last 3 or 4 dorsal-fin rays, the pored scales 27 to caudal-fin base. **Head naked; no median predorsal scales,** fins naked except for small scales on base of caudal fin and 1 midventral scale at base of pelvic fins. **Colour:** **initial phase whitish to pale green; a middorsal band free of black spots running from snout along back at base of dorsal fin to caudal peduncle;** red bands on snout, chin, across interorbital space, and on nape; dorsal and anal fins with a row of large dark spots along base; a row of dark-edged pale spots in outer part of dorsal and anal fins which are joined distally on soft portions of fins to form a continuous band; dorsal and anal fins yellow, spots on caudal-fin rays red; pelvic fins yellow with 3 dark red cross bands. **Males orange-red with a green spot on each scale faintly rimmed in blue-black; a blackish spot usually present above basal part of pectoral fins at level of upper end of gill opening;** an intense black spot on isthmus bordered posteriorly by a pale band, continuing forward to form a midventral stripe on head; median fins with dark-edged pale spots, these joined to form an irregular band in middle of soft portions of dorsal and anal fins; a black spot on lower part of first 2 dorsal interspinous membranes, a narrow light blue margin on dorsal and anal fins; pectoral fins pale without a dark bar at base; pelvic fins whitish, blotched with pink. **Juvenile light green with faint orange edges on scales and black spots on head and approximately lower two-thirds of body** (upper third and caudal peduncle nearly free of spots); dorsal and anal fins with irregular diagonal bands of orange-red; posteriorly in each of these fins a large black spot with a double rim of yellow (inner) and red.

Size: Maximum total length about 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Found on coral reef flats and slopes at depths of 1 to 20 m. Feeds primarily on gastropod molluscs and other hard-shelled prey that it crushes between the heavy pharyngeal jaws for which it is named. Members of this genus are rare in fish markets but their bright colours make them popular in the aquarium trade.

Distribution: The most common and widespread species of the genus, found throughout the western Central Pacific and extends into the Indian Ocean.

