Pseudanthias squamipinnis (Peters, 1855)

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IDENTIFICATION

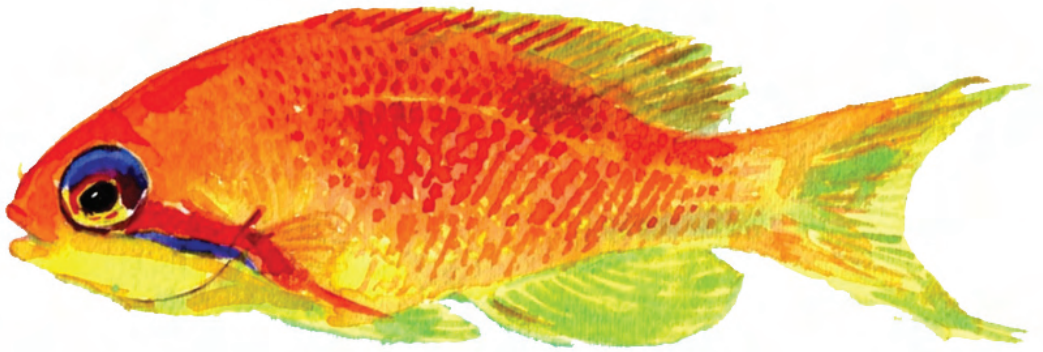
Order	:	**Perciformes**
Family	:	**Serranidae**
Common/FAO Name (English)	:	**Sea goldie**

Local names: Not available

MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

Dorsal spines (total): 10; dorsal soft rays (total): 15-17; anal spines: 3; anal soft rays: 6-7. Females characterized by violet-edged orange stripe behind eye and prolonged third dorsal spine. In males, the fleshy protuberance at front of upper lip is absent. Males are with elongated third dorsal spine and lunate caudal fin.

Source of image : CMFRI, Kochi



PROFILE

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The species is distributed in the Indo-West Pacific region from Red Sea and Natal, South Africa to Niue, north to southern Japan and south to western Australia, New Caledonia, Lord Howe Island and Tonga.

HABITAT AND BIOLOGY

Adults form large aggregations and are found above coral outcrops or patch reefs of clear lagoons, channels, or outer reef slopes. The fish is known to be active in coral reefs during daytime and going into hiding in rocky crevices during night. The species is known to form stable social groups with a sex ratio of eight adult females to a single adult male. The sea goldie is a protogynous hermaphrodite and females can be made to convert to males by removal of male fish from the species aggregation. Removing a male from the social group induces the largest female fish to change into a male. Males are territorial and tend to stay within the same social group. Colour patterns of male and female fish are

quite different. Female fish is orange-gold in colour with a violet strip running from eye to base of pectoral fins. Male fish on the other hand, are more reddish, with a dark reddish-brown strip running from eye to pectoral fin base. On sexual transformation from female to male, the fish also changes colour. It feeds on zooplankton. The fish is known to spawn daily during 9-10 months of the year. The eggs and larvae are planktonic which settle on to coral reefs on metamorphosis. This species is known to colonize artificial coral reef systems.

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

BREEDING IN CAPTIVE CONDITIONS

Information not available

LARVAL REARING

Information not available

FOOD AND FEEDING

Information not available

GROWTH RATE

Information not available

DISEASES AND CONTROL MEASURES

Information not available

PRODUCTION, MARKET AND TRADE

PRODUCTION

Information not available

MARKET AND TRADE

Serranidae family contributes 2 % of the global marine ornamental fish trade. Maldives and Saudi Arabia are the major exporters of *Pseudanthias squamipinnis*. Globally 10,892 fishes were exported and 23,134 fishes were imported during 1997-2002. The European Union is the major importer of this species.

CHALLENGES TO MARICULTURE

Trade is mostly dependent on wild stocks. Breeding in captive conditions has not been reported so far. Hence, breeding, larval rearing and nursery rearing need to be standardized.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

This species is known to colonize artificial reefs. Hence such areas can become good grounds for broodstock retrieval till captive breeding is standardized. Being a high-frequency spawner, this species has good prospects of being cultured in captive conditions.

SUGGESTED READING

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