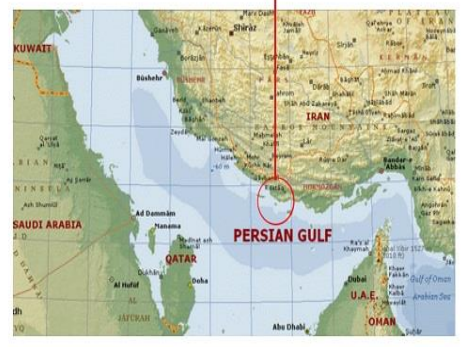


# *Apogonichthyoides taeniatus* (Cuvier, 1828)



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**Kingdom:** Animalia  
**Phylum:** Chordata      **Family:** Apogonidae  
**Class:** Actinopterygii    **Genus:** *Apogonichthyoides*  
**Order:** Perciformes      **Species:** *A. taeniatus*

*Apogonichthyoides taeniatus* also known as **Twobelt cardinal** and **striped cardinalfish**, this species was named: *Apogon taeniatus* and *Apogon bifasciatus*, but *Apogonichthyoides taeniatus* accepted now. It is a marine fish of subtropical climate and associated coastal reefs and mangroves. *A. taeniatus* is an extremely cryptic species. It is virtually never seen during the day. *A. taeniatus* also appears to be a very shallow water species. *A. taeniatus* is found in seagrass beds or areas with heavy algal growth. *A. taeniatus* is easily confused with *A. pseudotaeniatus*, which has a similar color pattern. *A. taeniatus* inhabits coastal shallow silty and mangrove areas and usually found at depths between 5–20 m. It can grow up to 5 cm maximum. We report for the **first time from Iranian Waters (Persian Gulf, Kish Island)**, we found it at depth from 3 m, and Maximum length is 4 cm in **Kish Island (Iranian Waters)**. Males incubate eggs in buccal cavity. Embryos do not feed externally in the buccal cavity. Distinct pairing during courtship and spawning. Internal fertilization and paternal care by mouth brooding is found to be a rare combination of reproductive strategy.

**Food:** *Apogonichthyoides taeniatus* feeds on small fishes and crustaceans, zooplankton during evening hours.

**Distribution:** *Apogonichthyoides taeniatus* is located in the Indian Ocean west, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea: Mozambique, Aldabra, Madagascar, Hong Kong, Bahrain, the Comoros, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Oman, the Seychelles, the Sudan and Tanzania. It has colonized the Mediterranean oriental through the Suez Canal.