

Pomacentrus tripunctatus (Cuvier, 1830)



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Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Actinopterygii
Order: Perciformes

Family: Pomacentridae
Genus: *Pomacentrus*
Species: *P. tripunctatus*

Pomacentrus tripunctatus or Threespot Damsel is a small tropical species that occurs in shallow coral reef waters. A shallow water species, solitary, in holes of small rocks on sandy bottom with coral rubbles, usually alone. *P. tripunctatus* is found in shallow bays and silty coastal reefs and other 'dead' areas, up to 3m deep. We report for the **first time from Persian Gulf (Kish Island, Iran)**. Maximum length is 7 cm in Persian Gulf. They found at depths of from 2 to 6 m (in Kish Island, Iran). Adults inhabit shallow bays, silty coastal reefs and harbors with sparse coral and algal growth. Adults are brownish with darker scale margins. They have a large dark spot on the upper caudal peduncle. Juveniles are lighter in color and have a large, blue-margined black spot on the dorsal fin. *P. tripunctatus* is Oviparous, distinct pairing during breeding. Eggs are demersal and adhere to the substrate. Males guard and aerate the eggs.

Food: *Pomacentrus tripunctatus* feeds mainly on benthic algae.

Distribution: *Pomacentrus tripunctatus* distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from Sri Lanka, Andaman Sea (Phuket), Persian Gulf (Iranian Waters), and Indo-Australian Archipelago eastward to New Britain, Solomon Islands, Santa Cruz Islands, and Vanuatu, north to Japan. It is a common species in Taiwan except western part.

