

Enneapterygius ventermaculus (Holleman, 1887)

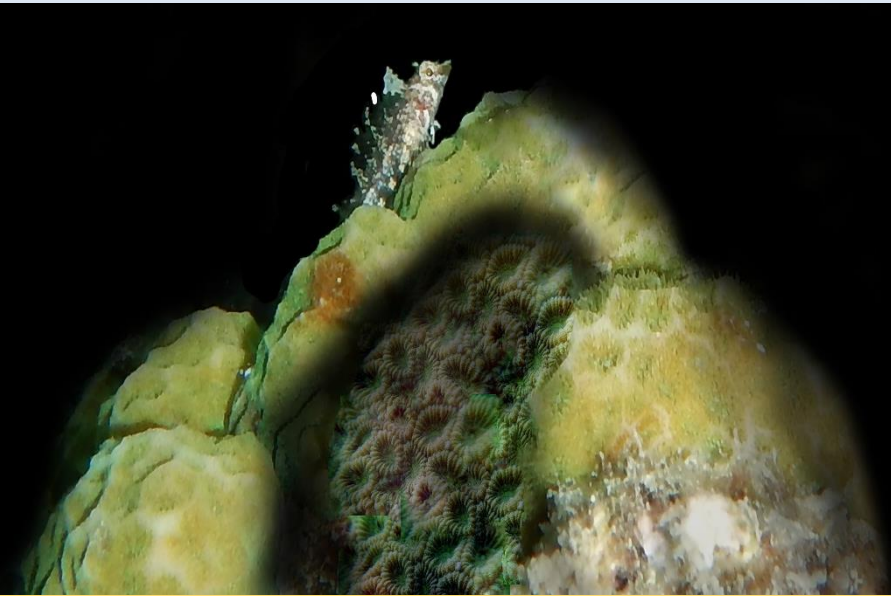


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Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Actinopterygii
Order: Perciformes

Family: Tripterygiidae
Genus: *Enneapterygius*
Species: *E. ventermaculus*

Enneapterygius ventermaculus, known commonly as the **Blotched triplefin**, is a species of triplefin blenny. They are generally coral reef inhabitants, their colouring and small size rendering them cryptic. *E. ventermaculus* is a demersal, marine species that occurs in subtropical climates and has a depth range of 0-12 m. **New record** is given from **Iranian Waters of Persian Gulf (Kish Island)**. Maximum length is 4 cm in **Kish Island** male/unsexes. This is a cryptic species, found on rocky and coral reefs with encrusting algae and invertebrates. Triplefin blennies are small, large-eyed fish that live in shallow coastal waters around the world. They are residents of rocky shore communities. *E. ventermaculus* show sexual dichromatism. Males are more brightly and/or darkly colored than females, during spawning male tripterygiids generally develop some combination of black and/or red on the head, body and caudal fin. Female members of the *E. ventermaculus* have eggs that are hemispherical and covered with numerous sticky threads that anchor them in the algae on the nesting sites. Larvae are planktonic which occur primarily in shallow, nearshore waters.

Food: *Enneapterygius ventermaculus* feeds on zooplankton a short distance from the bottom.

Distribution: *Enneapterygius ventermaculus* has been seen in **Iranian Waters Persian Gulf (Iran, Kish Island)**. *E. ventermaculus* has a widespread distribution throughout the western Indian Ocean, including South Africa (Transkei and Natal), East Africa, north to the southern Red Sea, and east to the Pakistan, including the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and the **Persian Gulf**.

