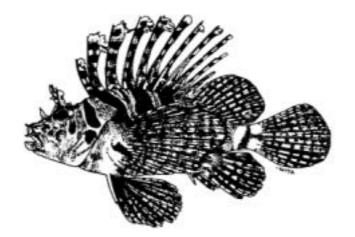
Dendrochirus zebra (Cuvier, 1829)



English Name:Zebra lionfishFamily:SCORPAENIDAELocal Name:Kanfaiykuda fanhaamasOrder:ScorpaeniformesSize:Max. 20 cmSpecimen:MRS/0106/87

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 13 spines and 10-11 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 6-7 rays. Pectoral fin with 17 rays. Pectoral fins only slightly longer than head; rays joined by membrane except for short tips; no filamentous rays on pectoral fin. Tentacles usually present above eyes.

Colour: Head and body with red brown bars alternating with narrower pink to whitish bars; most fins prominently striped or spotted. A dark brown or blackish blotch on lower edge of operculum.

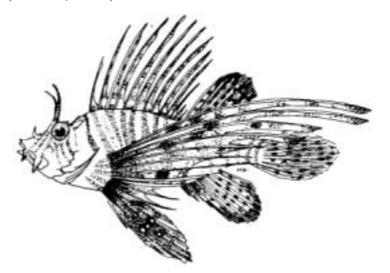
Habitat and Biology: Usually seen in shallow waters particularly in lagoons down to depths of 35 m.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: The genus *I)endrochirus* differs from *Pterois* by having the pectoral rays connected to each other almost to tips. Favoured by aquarists. Dorsal fin spines extremely venomous.

ماشرؤه مناؤكا وشرروب

Pterois miles (Bennett, 1828)



English Name: Indian lionfish, Soldier turkeyfish

Local Name: Fanhaamas Order: Scorpaeniiformes
Size: Max. 35 cm Specimen: MRS/0057/86

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 13 spines and 9-11 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 6 rays. Pectoral fin with 13-15 rays. Pectoral fins extending well beyond caudal fin base, the upper rays plume-like. Scales cycloid and small. In adults, many spinules on bones below eye.

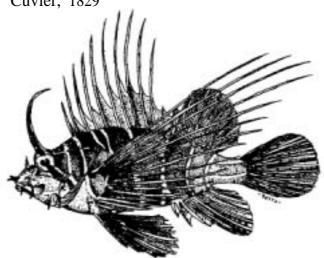
Colour: Reddish ortan grey, with numerous thin dark bars on body and head. Tentacle above eye occasionally faintly banded. Dark spots on fins.

Habitat and Biology: Benthic, to about 60 m.

Distribution: Indian Ocean.

Remarks: *Pterois miles* was identified as *P. rolitans* (Linnaeus) in the Catalogue of Fishes of the Maldives Vol.1, page 136. Most ichthyologists now consider *P. miles* and *P. volitans* to be sibling species, the former limited to the Indian Ocean, the latter found in the Pacific. However, this distinction is currently under review.

 Pterois radiata Cuvier, 1829



English Name: Clearfin lionfish, Clearfin turkeyfish
Local Name: Hulhu fanhaamas
Size: Max. 20 cm
Family: SCORPAENIDAE
Order: Scorpaeniiformes
Specimen: MRS/0099/87

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 12-13 spines and 11 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 5-6 rays. Pectoral fin with 16 rays. Pectoral fin rays very long, reaching well beyond caudal fin base, more than half their length free of membrane. Tentacle over eye without frills or dark cross bands.

Colour: Reddish to brownish, with about 5-6 broad dark bars on body, separated by pale lines. No dark spots on fins.

Habitat and Biology: Benthic, in shallow waters to a depth of about 30 m. A shy and nocturnal species. Feeds mainly on crabs and shrimps.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: *Pterois radiata* is easily recognised by the pair of horizontal white lines along the caudal peduncle. As with other lionfishes, the dorsal fin spines extremely venomous. A popular aquarium fish.

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