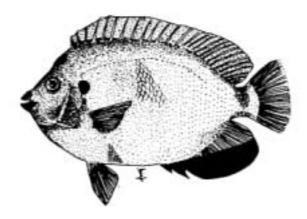
#### PLATE 6f



English Name: Threespot angelfish
Local Name: Dhon kokaamas
Size: Max. 21 cm
Family: POMACANTHIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0092/87

**Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with** 14 spines and 16-18 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 17-19 rays. **Pectoral fin with** 17 rays. Body depth 1.6-1.8 in standard length.

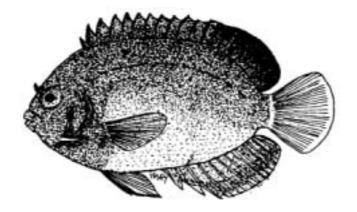
Colour: Bright yellow; blue lips; black spot on nape above eye. Broad black margin to anal fin. Young with a black spot at base of soft dorsal fin and a dark bar through eye.

**Habitat and Biology: Frequently** seen on outer reef edge and reef slopes at depths of 15 m. Feeds mainly on sponges and sea squirts.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

**Remarks:** The bright yellow *Apoiemichthy's trimacuiatus* is fairly common on Maldivian reefs. It is a popular aquarium fish. The similar, but much rarer, *A. armitagei* is dull yellow and lacks the spot behind the eye. Instead it has a black posterior tip on the dorsal fin.

# Centropyge flavicauda Fraser-Brunner, 1933



English Name: White-tail angelfish Family: POMACANTHIDAE

Local Name:Nigoo hudhu kokaamasOrder:PerciformesSize:Max. 7 cmSpecimen:MRS/0336/89

**Distinctive Characters:** Dorsal fin with 14 spines and 15 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 17 rays. Scales on longitudinal series from upper edge of gill opening to caudal fin base 40-45.

Colour: Body dark. Head orangish. Caudal fin white or yellow.

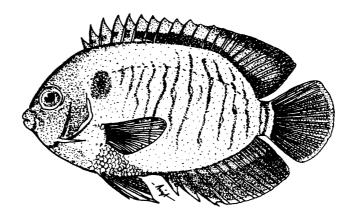
Habitat and Biology: Usually seen on rubble bottoms in 20-50 in.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

**Remarks:** Centropyge flavicauda is one of the smallest of the angelfishes. It is not seen very often in Maldives. It is closely related to and perhaps not distinct from C. fisheri (Synder, 1904) from Hawaii.

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### Centropyge multispinis (Playfair and Gunther, 1867)



English Name: Many-spined angelfish Family: POMACANTHIDAE

Local Name: Kashi kokaamas Order: Perciformes
Size: Max. 12 cm Specimen: MRS/0154/87

**Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 14 spines and** 15-17 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 16-17 rays. Pectoral fin rays 17. Body depth 1.6-2.0 in standard length. Preorbital edge with small, subequal spines. Front of snout with a U-shaped notch over upper jaw.

Colour: Dark brown, almost black. Black blotch just behind upper end of gill opening. Lips, opercular spine and edges of fins brilliant, neon blue.

**Habitat and Biology:** Usually seen on reef edges and slopes. A shy omnivorous species feeding on algae. and associated invertebrates.

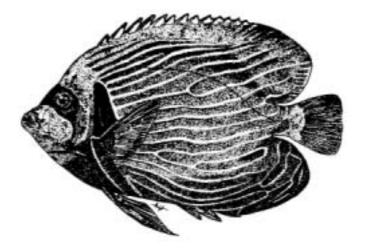
Distribution: Indian Ocean.

**Remarks:** Centropyge muirispinis is a very common fish on Maldivian reefs, but its dark colouration and retiring habits mean that it is easily overlooked.

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# Pomacanthus imperator (Bloch, 1787)

PLATE 6g



English Name: Emperor angelfish
Local Name: Ras kokaamas
Size: Max. 40 cm

Family: POMACANTHIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/U 125/87

**Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 13-14** spines and 18-21 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 18-21 rays. Pectoral fin rays 19-20. Body depth 1.6-1.8 in standard length. Soft dorsal fin develops a point with growth. Posterior margin of preopercle finely serrate. Caudal fin rounded.

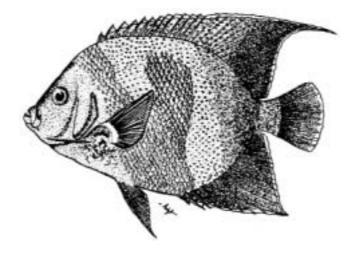
**Colour:** Sides with alternate blue and yellow stripes. Dorsal fin mainly yellow, caudal yellow, and anal blue and black. Black face mask with blue edge. Juveniles deep blue with curved circular white bands.

**Habitat and Biology:** Solitary. Usually seen on exposed outer reefareas near edges and caves in rich coral areas up to 25 m. Feeds primarily on sponges.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

**Remarks:** Adults of *Pomacanthus imperator* forms territories which they defend vigorously against other members of the same species. Even individuals of the two sexes come together only to breed.

# Pomacanthus semicirculatus (Cuvier. 1831)



English Name:Semicircular angelfishFamily:POMACANTHIDAELocal Name:Baiburu kokaamasOrder:PerciformesSize:Max. 38 cmSpecimen:MRS/P0335/88

**Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin** with 13 spines and 20-23 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 18-21 rays. Pectoral *fin* rays 19-21. A filament posteriorly on dorsal and anal fins.

**Colour:** Greenish body with dark flecks. Bright blue streaks on cheek, and the posterior part of the body with a blue outline. Lips yellow. Juveniles dark blue with white and pale blue crescents on their sides.

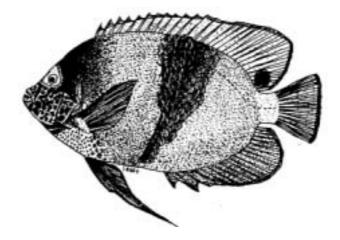
**Habitat and Biology:** Adults occur in coastal reefs with heavy coral growth to depths of 30 m. Generally solitary, but sometimes seen in pairs. Feeds on sponges, tunicates and algae.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

**Remarks:** *Pomacanthus semicirculatus* is rare in the Maldives. However, one pair lived on the wreck of 'Maldive Victory' near Hulhule for several years.

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# Pomacanthus xanthometopon (Bleeker, 1853)



English Name: Blue-faced angelfish
Local Name: Boa reendhoo kokaamas
Size: Max. 45 cm
Family: POMACANTHIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/P0395/92

**Distinctive Characters:** Dorsal fin with 13-14 spines and 16-18 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 16-18 rays. 46-52 lateral line scales.

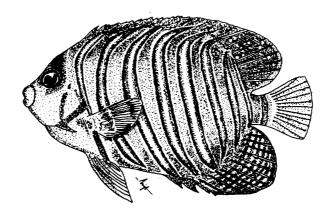
**Colour:** Face blue with dark spots. Broad yellow band between eyes (giving rise to alternate English name, Yellow-mask angelfish). Body scales dark with yellow edges giving a somewhat greeny appearance overall. Pectoral, dorsal and caudal fins yellow. All fins blue edged. Juveniles black with narrow white bars and blue lines which are curved posteriorly at upper and lower ends.

**Habitat and Biology:** Adults usually found adjacent to steep drop-offs or in protected lagoons at depths of 5-25 m. Solitary in habit. Feeds on soft corals and sponges.

Distribution: Maldives to Western Pacific.

**Remarks:** *Pomacanthus xanthometopon* is one of the most spectacular of Maldivian reef fishes. Juveniles are exported as aquarium fish, but its large adult size means that it is only really suitable for big public aquaria.

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English Name:Regal angelfishFamily:POMACANTHIDAELocal Name:Kula kokaamasOrder:PerciformesSize:Max. 25 cmSpecimen:MRS/0223/88

**Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin** with 13-14 spines and 18-19 rays. Anal fin with 3 spines and 18-19 rays. Pectoral fin rays 16-17. Body not as deep as *Pornacanthus* spp. Lateral line terminates below end of dorsal fin. About 8 rows of scales on operculum.

**Colour:** Brilliant orange with about 8 black-edged white bars on sides between nape and caudal peduncle. Blue lines on head and anal fin. Juveniles with large black spot on base of dorsal **fin, becoming** diffused blue patch in adults.

**Habitat and** Biology: Usually seen swimming from one coral crevice to another in depths up to 20m. Feeds on sponges and tunicates.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

**Remarks:** The superb colouration of *Pygoplites diacanthus* makes this a favourite with aquarists and divers alike. **The** specimens from the Maldives and the Indian Ocean are if anything more beautiful than those from the Pacific Ocean, which have a rather dull blue-grey (instead of bright orange) chin.

- 52× 32