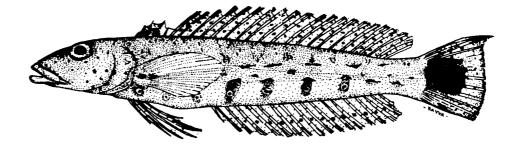
Parapercis hexophthalma (Ehrenberg, 1829)



English Name: Spot-tail sandperch Family: PINGUIPEDIDAE Local Name: Lah nigoo alathandu **Order:** Perciformes Size: Common to 18 cm; max. 26cm **Specimen:** MRS/0158/87

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 5 spines and 21-22 rays. Anal fin with 1 spine and 17 rays. Pectoral fin with 17-18 rays. 8 canines at front of lower jaw. Membrane from last dorsal spine joins first dorsal ray opposite tip of spine. Snout narrow, the lower jaw length greater than its width.

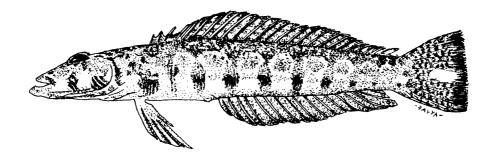
Colour: Light greenish-brown dorsally, speckled with brown; white ventrally. A horizontal row of small yellow-edged black spots on lower side. A large black spot in caudal fin with a white area behind it. Females with small black spots on head, males with diagonal dark brown lines on cheek.

Habitat and Biology: Usually found on coral reefs and sandy areas near reefs and rocky outcrops, from the shoreline to moderate depths over the continental shelf. Carnivorous.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: Parapercis hexophthalrna is a fairly common inhabitant on Maldivian reef flats. It is usually seen propped up on its pelvic fins. P. polyphtha!ma is a synonym based on the female form.

Parapercis millepunctata (Gunther, 1806)



English Name:Brown-spotted sandperchFamily:PINGUIPEDIDAELocal Name:Mushi thiki alathanduOrder:PerciformesSize:Max. 20 cmSpecimen:MRS/0279/88

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 4 spines and 21 rays. Anal fin with I spine and 17 rays. Pectoral fin with 17 rays. 4 canines at front of lower jaw. Palatine teeth absent. Second and third dorsal spine longest.

Colour: Body whitish with 4 close-set longitudinal series of brown spots, those of lower row largest and vertically elongate, covering all of lower side. A white spot midposteriorly in caudal fin. Males with thin diagonal pale lines on cheek.

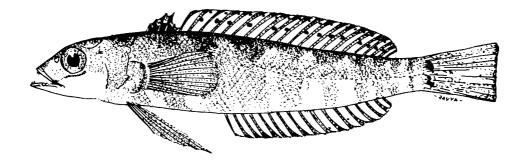
Habitat and Biology: Usually found on patches of rubble or pavement between corals. Feeds on benthic crustaceans and occasionally on fish.

Distribution: Maldives to Central Pacific.

Remarks: Parapercis millepunctata is the most common species of the genus at many localities. It is usually identified as P. cephalopunctata (Seale), but P. millepunctara is the valid earlier name.

كرموم مكرمان ده دارد در المعالم المعا

Parapercis schauinslandi (Steindachner, 1900)



English Name: Red-spotted sandperch
Local Name: Raiy thiki alathandu
Size: Max. 14cm

Family: PINGUIPEDIDAE
Order: Perciformes
Specimen: MRS/0276/88

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 5 spines and 21 rays. Anal fin with 1 spine and 17 rays. Pectoral fin with 16 rays. 6 canines at front of lower jaw. Palatine teeth absent. Middle dorsal spine longest. Caudal fin emarginate.

Colour: White with 2 longitudinal series of squarish red spots on body, | along back (these spots often faint, but may contain a few dark red spots) and the other mid-lateral. 2 red lines at base of pectoral fin. Spinous portion of dorsal fin red with a large black spot in centre. Caudal fin pale with 2 red spots.

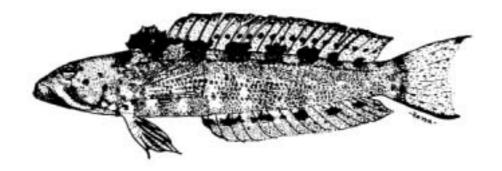
Habitat and Biology: Usually found on rubble near reefs at depths greater than 20 m. Carnivorous, feeding on crustaceans and small fish.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: Parapercis schauinslandi is a moderately deep dwelling species. The colour pattern of this species slightly varies with major localities.

مرهم مرحمه مرحمه المراد المراد المستخدم المداود المدا

Parapercis signata Randall, 1984



English Name: Blackflag sandperch Family: PINGUIPEDIDAE Local Name: Kalhu kothari alathandu Order: Perciformes Size: Max. 13 cm Specimen: MRS/0278/88

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 5 spines and 21 rays. Anal fin with 1 spine and 14-22 rays. Pelvic fins well separated.

Colour: Spinous portion black with a deep red margin. A series of 8 short dusky bars on back, six of which are linked to black spots basally in soft dorsal fin. A series of 9 broad orange bars on lower side.

Habitat and Biology: Common on lower reef slopes and sandy areas at depths of 30-35 m. Feeds on small shrimps and fishes.

Distribution: Maldives.

Remarks: *Parapercis signata*, is not commonly seen by divers due to its rather deep dwelling habit. Many species of *Parapercis* shows at least some colour difference with sex. The sandperches were previously recorded under the family Parapercidae or more often Mugiloididae (in old literature).

שלשת הלתיעו