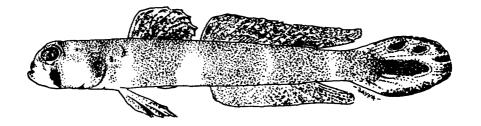
Amblyeleotris aurora Polunin and Lubbock, 1977



English Name:Dawn gobyFamily:GOBIIDAELocal Name:Dingaa funnaOrder:PerciformesSize:Max. 11cmSpecimen:MRS/0353/91

Distinctive **Characters: First dorsal** fin with 6 spines. Second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 13 rays. Anal fin with 1 spine and 14 rays. Pectoral fin with 18-19 rays. Breast and pectoral fin base scaled. Pelvic fin connected at base only. Middle of nape naked, sides scaled forward to above end of operculum.

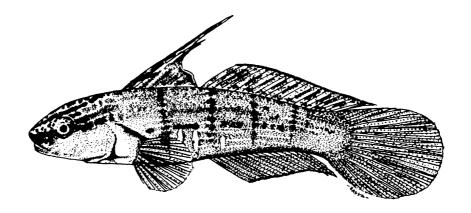
Colour: White with five light red bars and a bright red diagonal band on cheek. Caudal fin yellow with 3-9 large red spots.

Habita and Biology: Inhabits mixed sand and rubble bottoms at depths between 5-15 in. Shares a burrow with a snapping shrimp.

Distribution: Known only from islands of Western Indian Ocean, including Seychelles and Maldives.

Remarks: Amblyeleotris aurora, does not dig a hole for itself if there is a snapping shrimp already occupying one nearby, but instead seeks contact with the shrimp. The goby makes sure that its resting position is so arranged that its tail always remain in contact with its partner.

Amblygobius semicinctus (Bennett, 1883)



English Name:Half barred gobyFamily:GOB IIDAELocal Name:Baigalhi funnaOrder:PerciformesSize:Common to 9 cm; max. 15 cmSpecimen:MRS/0288/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 6 spines, second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 13-15 rays. Anal fin with 1 spine and 12-16 rays. Pectoral fin with 18-22 rays. Gill arch with finger like projections. 10-15 short vertical papillae rows under eye. Operculum with several scales dorsally.

Colour: Brown with pale blue-green spots and dull red spots on dorsal fins and top of head. A dark spot above gill opening and one at upper caudal base. Females with pale bars on abdomen. Males often with pale spots on anal fin.

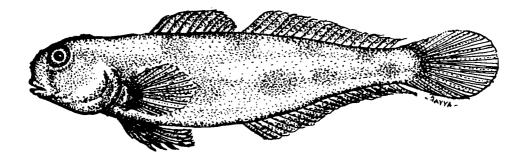
Habitat and Biology: Commonly found in sheltered, shallow lagoons. Excavates its own burrow. Usually in pairs. Feeds on filamentous algae, small crustaceans and other tiny animals.

Distribution: West Indian Ocean.

Remarks: Amblygobius semicinctus is very common in the sheltered lagoons of Maldivian islands and ring reefs. The family Gobiidae is the largest family of marine fishes in the world, with about 220 genera and 1600 species, of which about 160 genera and 1200 species inhabit the Indo-Pacific region.

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Gnatholepis anjerensis (Bleeker, 1850)



English Name: Weeping sand goby Family: GOBIIDAE

Local Name: Veli funna Order: Perciformes

Size: Max. 8 cm Specimen: MRS/0292/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 6 spines. Second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 11 rays. Anal fin with 1 spine and 11 rays. Pectoral fin with 15-17 rays. Mouth horizontal and interior. Lower jaw not projecting. Snout blunt. Cheek with large scales.

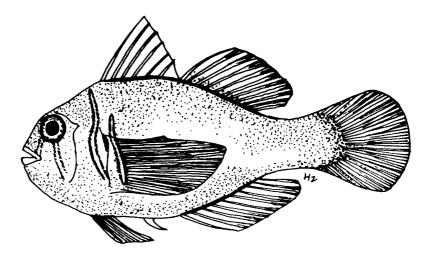
Colour: A prominent black bar extending down from eyes.

Habitat and Biology: Common from shallow waterdown to 25 m. Usually seen sitting on sandy bottoms at the base of coral heads.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific (uncertain).

Remarks: *Gnathoepis anjerenisis* is very common in the Maldives, but easily overlooked because of its small size and cryptic colouration. The genus *Gnatholepsis* is in need of revision, so there is considerable confusion over the correct name of this species. and its true distribution.

Gobiodon citrinus (RUppell, 1830)



English Name: Fourbar coralgoby

Local Name: Muraka funna

Order: Perciformes

Size: Max. 6 cm

Specimen: MRS/0046/86

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 5-6 spines. Second dorsal fin with I spine and 10-I | rays. Anal fin with | spine and 8-9 rays. Pectoral fin with 17-19 rays. No scales.

Colour: Bright yellow with a pair of vertical blue lines below eyes. Two additional blue lines, one from forehead to edge gill cover and the other across base of pectoral fin. Small black spot just above pectoral fin base.

Habitat and Biology: Usually seen in small groups perched in the branches of live coral to depths of 25 m. Produces a toxic mucus.

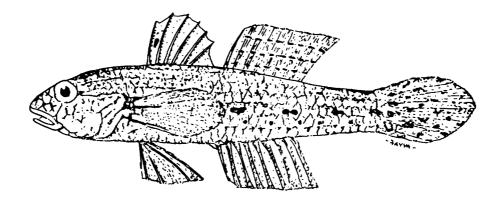
Distribution: Indo-West Pacific.

Remarks: Gohiodon citrinus is one of the most commonly exported aquarium fish in the Maldives. It can easily be recognised from other gobies by its colour pattern.

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Istigobius decoratus (Herre, 1927)



English Name: Decorated goby Family: GOBIIDAE

Local Name: Nala funna Order: Perciformes

Size: Max. 13 cm Specimen: MRS/0289/88

Distinctive Characters: First dorsal fin with 6 spines. Second dorsal fin with 1 spine and 10-I I rays. Anal fin with I **spine and 9-10 rays. Pectoral fin with 17-19 rays. Unbranched caudal rays usually 14. Cheek** scaleless. Head length 24-30% of standard length.

Colour: Light brown with rows of white and black spots, the most evident midlateral row of double black spots. A semi-circular dark mark above corner of mouth.

Habitat and Biology: Common on coralline sand near clean coral reefs, at depths to 18 m. Usually seen solitary.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific.

Remarks: The colouration of *Istigobius decoratus* is highly variable with localities. Some species extremely pale while others very dusky. It is sometimes confused with *I. ornatus*.

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