

The ETYFish Project

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COMMENTS: 

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Division ACANTHOPTERYGII

acanthus, spine; *pteron*, fin or wing, representing the ray-finned fishes, referring to the sharp, bony rays in their fins

Subdivision HOLOCENTRIMORPHACEAE

-morpha, form or shape, i.e., having the form of a holocentrid; *-aceae*, terminal ending for subdivisions in zoology

Order HOLOCENTRIFORMES

Family HOLOCENTRIDAE Squirrelfishes and Soldierfishes

8 genera · 91 species

Subfamily Holocentrinae Squirrelfishes

***Holocentrus* Scopoli 1777**

holos, whole; *centron*, thorn or spine, referring to sharp spines almost everywhere on body

***Holocentrus adscensionis* (Osbeck 1765)**

-is, genitive singular of: Ascension Island, South Atlantic, type locality (Osbeck consistently spelled it with a “d”)

***Holocentrus rufus* (Walbaum 1792)**

reddish, referring to its silvery red coloration

***Neoniphon* Castelnau 1875**

neo-, new, described as “nearly allied” in general form to *Niphon* (Perciformes: Percoidae: Niphonidae), i.e., a new *Niphon*

***Neoniphon argenteus* (Valenciennes 1831)**

silvery, referring to brilliant silver reflections on “whitish” (translation) sides (silvery in life, “whitish” may refer to its color in spirits)

***Neoniphon aurolineatus* (Liénard 1839)**

aureus, gold; *lineatus*, lined, referring to yellow or golden stripes following scale rows

***Neoniphon marianus* (Cuvier 1829)**

latinization of *Marian*, a Caribbean name for this species, meaning tough and lean, i.e., a fish of much bone and little flesh

***Neoniphon opercularis* (Valenciennes 1831)**

presumably referring to the smallness of its opercular and preopercular spines (“la petitesse des épines du préopercule et de l’opercule”)

***Neoniphon pencei* Copus, Pyle & Earle 2015**

in honor of David F. Pence, Dive Safety Officer for the University of Hawai‘i, a member of the deep-diving team that discovered this species, for his efforts to collect the type specimens

***Neoniphon sammara* (Forsskål 1775)**

Arabic name for this species, derived from *Msammer* or *M’sammer*

***Neoniphon vexillarium* (Poey 1860)**

pertaining to a banner, presumably referring to spinous dorsal fin, with a black vertical bar behind each ray

***Sargocentron* Fowler 1904**

sargos, Greek name of White Seabream, *Diplodus sargus* (Acanthuriformes: Sparidae), allusion not explained, perhaps reflecting fact that squirrelfishes are sometimes called porgies (as are sparids); *centron*, thorn or spine, presumably referring to coarsely serrated preopercular spine of *S. spiniferum*

***Sargocentron borodinoense* Kotlyar 2017**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Borodino submarine elevation, Philippine Sea, type locality

***Sargocentron bullisi* (Woods 1955)**

in honor of marine biologist Harvey R. Bullis, Jr. (1924–1992), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who collected type

***Sargocentron caudimaculatum* (Rüppell 1838)**

caudus, tail; *maculatum*, spotted, referring to silvery white spot (often disappearing after death) dorsally on caudal peduncle at end of dorsal-fin base

***Sargocentron cornutum* (Bleeker 1854)**

horned, referring to “outwardly turned thorn of the eye socket” (translation), i.e., preopercular spine

***Sargocentron coruscum* (Poey 1860)**

sparkling, presumably referring to bright steel-blue reflections on edges of scales

***Sargocentron diadema* (Lacepède 1802)**

a cloth headband, sometimes adorned with jewels, formerly worn by monarchs in Asia Minor and other parts of the East, referring to black and white bands on anterior part of dorsal fin

***Sargocentron dorsomaculatum* (Shimizu & Yamakawa 1979)**

dorso-, dorsal; *maculatum*, spotted, referring to black blotch on dorsal-fin membranes between first and third spines

***Sargocentron ensifer* (Jordan & Evermann 1903)**

ensis, sword; *fero-*, to bear, referring to a “long, strong, dagger-like spine,” one each above opercle and below preopercle

***Sargocentron hastatum* (Cuvier 1829)**

armed with a spear, referring to its strong preopercular spine

***Sargocentron hormion* Randall 1998**

Greek for necklace or string of things, referring to conspicuous series of six white spots anteriorly in red spinous part of dorsal fin

***Sargocentron inaequale* Randall & Heemstra 1985**

unequal, referring to variable lengths of small spines on posterior margin of preopercle

***Sargocentron iota* Randall 1998**

smallest letter of Greek alphabet and hence often referring to anything small; one of the smallest members of the genus, not exceeding 80 mm SL

***Sargocentron ittodai* (Jordan & Fowler 1902)**

Japanese name for this species, from *itto*, number one among many, presumably referring to its beauty, and *tai*, porgie, a common name sometimes applied to members of this genus

***Sargocentron lepros* (Allen & Cross 1983)**

scaly or rough, referring to rough body texture imparted by strongly serrate scale margins

***Sargocentron macrosquamis* Golani 1984**

macro-, large; *squamis*, scale, referring to large scales on posterior portion of operculum

***Sargocentron marisrubri* Randall, Golani & Diamant 1989**

maris, sea; *rubrus*, red, referring to the Red Sea, where it is endemic

***Sargocentron megalops* Randall 1998**

mega-, large; *ops*, eye, referring to its “exceptionally large” eyes

***Sargocentron melanospilos* (Bleeker 1858)**

melanos, black; *spilos*, stain or spot, referring to large oval black spot on scaled basal part of soft portion of dorsal fin and adjacent back



Sargocentron lepros. From: Allen, G. R. and N. J. Cross. 1983. A new species and two new records of squirrelfishes (Holocentridae) from the eastern Indian Ocean and Australia. *Revue française d'Aquariologie Herpétologie* v. 10 (no. 1): 5-8.

***Sargocentron microstoma* (Günther 1859)**

micro-, small; *stoma*, mouth, referring to small mouth compared to most congeners then placed in *Holocentrus*

***Sargocentron poco* (Woods 1965)**

in honor of Mary Ann “Poco” Holloway, who prepared illustrations for many species of squirrelfishes [presumably a noun in apposition without the matronymic “*ae*”]

***Sargocentron praslin* (Lacepède 1802)**

named for Port Praslin, New Britain, Bismarck Archipelago, Papua New Guinea, type locality [apparently different from but near the Port Praslin for which *Myripristis pralinia* (see below) is named]

***Sargocentron punctatissimum* (Cuvier 1829)**

very spotted, referring to very fine purplish dots on scales, “similar to the stings of flies” (translation)

***Sargocentron rubrum* (Forsskål 1775)**

red, referring to dark-red body and dorsal surface with eight longitudinal white-red bands on sides and two longitudinal red bands on first dorsal fin

***Sargocentron seychellense* (Smith & Smith 1963)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Seychelles, type locality and where it commonly occurs

***Sargocentron shimizu* Randall 1998**

in honor of Takeshi Shimizu, Hokkaido University (Japan), for his systematic research on the Holocentridae and for providing the illustrations used in Randall’s monograph

***Sargocentron spiniferum* (Forsskål 1775)**

spinus, spine; *ferum*, bearer, referring to its very long preopercular spine

***Sargocentron spinosissimum* (Temminck & Schlegel 1843)**

very spiny, referring to numerous small spines on head

***Sargocentron suborbitale* (Gill 1863)**

suborbital (below the eye), referring to a curved streak from tip of snout below eye and around it, “bright silvery and immaculate”

***Sargocentron tiere* (Cuvier 1829)**

local name for this species in Tahiti (type locality)

***Sargocentron tiereoides* (Bleeker 1853)**

-oides, having the form of: referring to similarity and/or close relationship to *S. tiere*

***Sargocentron violaceum* (Bleeker 1853)**

violet-colored, referring to purplish-red color in life, with purplish cheek scales, light purplish-red dorsal-fin spine, and light purplish-red rays on remaining fins

***Sargocentron wilhelmi* (de Buen 1963)**

in honor of Chilean biologist Ottmar E. Wilhelm (1898-1974), who collected many fishes at Easter Island (including specimens of this species) and provided good color photographs of them

***Sargocentron xantherythrum* (Jordan & Evermann 1903)**

xanthos, yellow and *erythrum*, red; Jordan & Jordan (1922) acknowledged name is a misnomer since species has white (not yellow) stripes across a bright-red body

Subfamily Myripristinae Soldierfishes***Corniger Agassiz 1831***

horn-bearing, presumably referring to three large, backward-pointing spines below each eye

Corniger spinosus Agassiz 1831

spiny, presumably referring to any or all of the following: three backward-pointing spines under each eye, spines on snout, strong spines on preopercle and opercle, and strong dorsal- and anal-fin spines

Myripristis Cuvier 1829

myrios, ten thousand and *pristis*, saw; according to Cuvier and Valenciennes (1829): “We give this genus the name of *Myripristis*, which means ten-thousand saws, because of all the pieces that cover the cheek and operculum, and all the scales with their serrated edges, for that is what strikes one most as the primary character of these singular fishes” (translation)

Myripristis adusta Bleeker 1853

swarthy, presumably referring to black outer border of dorsal, anal and caudal fins

***Myripristis amaena* (Castelnau 1873)**

pleasant or agreeable, presumably referring to its colors in life, which Castelnau (working from preserved juveniles) surmised were “very brilliant”

***Myripristis astakhovi* Kotlyar 1997**

in honor of Dmitry Alekseevich Astakhov, friend and colleague in the Laboratory of Oceanic Ichthyofauna, Institute of Oceanology, Russian Academy of Sciences, who collected and provided holocentrid fishes from Viêt Nam

***Myripristis aulacodes* Randall & Greenfield 1996**

Greek for furrowed, referring to narrow but deep mucous channels on top of head

***Myripristis berndti* Jordan & Evermann 1903**

in honor of Louis E. (or E. Louis) Berndt (1851-?), superintendent of the Honolulu (type locality) fish market

***Myripristis botche* Cuvier 1829**

Botche, its local name at Vizagapatam on the Coromandel Coast of India, as reported by Russell (1803)

***Myripristis chryseres* Jordan & Evermann 1903**

golden, referring to its golden (or yellow) dorsal, caudal and anal fins

***Myripristis clarionensis* Gilbert 1897**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Clarion Island, one of the Revillagigedo Islands off western Mexico, where type was “captured by a booby bird, but was still in good condition when taken by us”

***Myripristis earlei* Randall, Allen & Robertson 2003**

in honor of John L. Earle, Association for Marine Exploration, who first suspected this species differed from *M. berndti*, collected a specimen of the latter in the Marquesas, and provided an underwater photograph used in the description

***Myripristis formosa* Randall & Greenfield 1996**

Latin for beautiful, described as “beautifully colored”; also named for Formosa, or Taiwan, type locality

***Myripristis gildi* Greenfield 1965**

in honor of Greenfield's wife, Gildi, “whose efforts in translating numerous foreign publications have added considerably” to his revision of the genus [presumably a noun in apposition, without the matronymic “ae”]

***Myripristis greenfieldi* Randall & Yamakawa 1996**

in honor of ichthyologist David W. Greenfield (b. 1940), for his published and current research on the genus

***Myripristis hexagona* (Lacepède 1802)**

referring to its body shape, which Lacepède said resembled that of an elongate hexagon

***Myripristis jacobus* Cuvier 1829**

latinization of *James*, referring to its local name *Frère-Jacques* (Brother Jim) in Martinique (type locality)

***Myripristis kochiensis* Randall & Yamakawa 1996**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Kochi Prefecture, Japan, type locality (where fishermen caught them with gill nets)

***Myripristis kuntee* Valenciennes 1831**

from *Sullanaroo-kuntee*, a local name for *M. murdjan* (which Valenciennes confused with this species) at Vizagapatam on the Coromandel Coast of India, as reported by Russell (1803)

***Myripristis leiognathus* Valenciennes 1846**

leios, smooth; *gnathus*, jaw, referring to lack of serrations at angle of maxilla

***Myripristis murdjan* (Forsskål 1775)**

murdjân, Arabic name for this species

***Myripristis pralinia* Cuvier 1829**

-ia, belonging to: presumably a latinized, variant or incorrect spelling of Praslin, referring to Port Praslin (correctly spelled by Cuvier), New Ireland Island, Bismarck Archipelago, Papua New Guinea, type locality [apparently different from but near the Port Praslin for which *Sargocentron praslin* (see above) is named]

***Myripristis randalli* Greenfield 1974**

in honor of ichthyologist John E. Randall (1924-2020), Bishop Museum (Honolulu), who furnished type material and recognized it as a distinctive species; his “continued interest in holocentrids has resulted in many series of valuable specimens of *Myripristis* from the Pacific which he has collected as well as excellent color transparencies of many species”

***Myripristis robusta* Randall & Greenfield 1996**

named for its robust shape, both deep- and thick-bodied

***Myripristis seychellensis* Cuvier 1829**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Seychelles, western Indian Ocean, type locality

***Myripristis tiki* Greenfield 1974**

Maori word for image, commonly used for wooden or stone carvings in humanoid form, in this case referring to the Mo'ai monolithic human figures on Easter Island, type locality (David W. Greenfield, pers. comm.)

***Myripristis trachyacron* Bleeker 1863**

trachys, rough; *akron*, top or summit, referring to the roughness of its skull

***Myripristis violacea* Bleeker 1851**

violet-colored, referring to upper-body coloration

***Myripristis vittata* Valenciennes 1831**

banded, referring (per Valenciennes) to 5–6 blackish longitudinal bands on sides; however, species is a nearly uniform red or orange-red in life with only faint stripes on body due to slightly paler scale centers

***Myripristis woodsi* Greenfield 1974**

in honor of Loren P. Woods (1914–1979), Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), who first recognized that this species comprised a distinctive species group; Woods “laid the foundations” for Greenfield’s revision, while his “extensive knowledge of the holocentrids, combined with his many helpful suggestions, made [Greenfield’s] task a much lighter one”

***Myripristis xanthacra* Randall & Guézé 1981**

xanthos, yellow; *akros*, tip or at the end, referring to distal yellow areas on soft dorsal fin, anal fin and caudal-fin lobes

***Ostichthys* Cuvier 1829**

osteo-, bone; *ichthys*, fish, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to well-developed nasal bones of adult *O. japonicus* (and congeners) [manuscript name coined by Georg Heinrich von Langsdorff [1774–1852], Prussian naturalist and diplomat in Japan, who collected type; mentioned in passing by Cuvier, resurrected by Jordan & Evermann (1896), who are often credited as its authors]

***Ostichthys acanthorhinus* Randall, Shimizu & Yamakawa 1982**

acanthos, thorn or spine; *rhinus*, nose, referring to sharp spine on each nasal bone

***Ostichthys alamai* Matsunuma, Fukui & Motomura 2018**

in honor of Ulysses B. Alama, University of the Philippines Visayas, for his “great” contributions to the authors’ and other collaborators’ surveys at Iloilo (Panay Island, Philippines) during 2013–2017, when this species was collected

***Ostichthys archiepiscopus* (Valenciennes 1862)**

archbishop, presumably alluding to *Cardinal*, its French vernacular name on Bourbon Island (type locality, now known as Réunion, east of Madagascar)

***Ostichthys brachygnathus* Randall & Myers 1993**

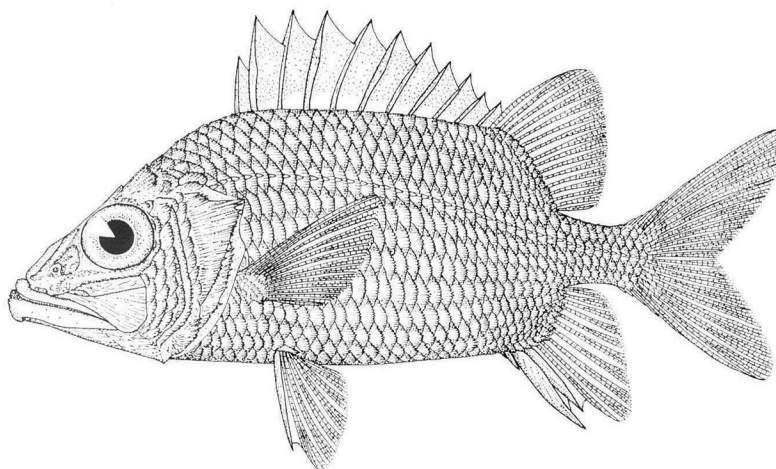
brachy, short; *gnathus*, jaw, referring to short upper jaw compared to congeners

***Ostichthys convexus* Greenfield, Randall & Psomadakis 2017**

convex, referring to convex front of head

***Ostichthys daniela* Greenfield, Randall & Psomadakis 2017**

named for Daniela Basili, the third author’s wife [a noun in apposition, without the matronymic “*ae*”]



Ostichthys ovaloculus. From: Randall, J. E. and L. Wrobel. 1988. A new species of soldierfish of the genus *Ostichthys* and records of *O. archiepiscopus* and *O. sandix* from Tahiti. *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology* v. 35 (no. 3): 243–246.

***Ostichthys delta* Randall, Shimizu & Yamakawa 1982**

fourth letter of Greek alphabet (Δ), referring to near-triangular shape of vomerine tooth patch

***Ostichthys hypsipterygion* Randall, Shimizu & Yamakawa 1982**

hypselos, high; *pterygion*, diminutive of *pteryx*, fin, referring to high spinous dorsal fin

***Ostichthys japonicus* (Cuvier 1829)**

Japanese, referring to country where Langsdorff (see genus) first encountered the species

***Ostichthys kaianus* (Günther 1880)**

-anus, belonging to: Kai Islands, Indonesia, eastern Indian Ocean, type locality

***Ostichthys kinchi* Fricke 2017**

in honor of Jeff Kinch (b. 1965), Principal of the National Fisheries College in Kavieng, Papua New Guinea, and founder of the Nago Island Mariculture and Research Facility, which hosted the 2014 Kavieng marine biodiversity expedition; he was instrumental in the success of the expedition, which discovered several new fish and numerous new invertebrate species, including this one

***Ostichthys ovaloculus* Randall & Wrobel 1988**

ovalis, egg-shaped or oval; *oculus*, eye, referring to distinctive oval-to-elliptical shape of eye

***Ostichthys sandix* Randall, Shimizu & Yamakawa 1982**

vermilion or red, referring to light-red coloration in life

***Ostichthys sheni* Chen, Shao & Mok 1990**

in honor of Shih (or Shieh)-Chieh Shen, National Taiwan University, for his contribution to fish taxonomy in Taiwan; he also gave “precious opinions about undetermined species”

***Ostichthys spiniger* Fricke 2017**

spinus, spine; *-iger*, to bear, i.e., spiny, a very spiny fish overall but especially referring to forward-directed spine on nasal bone, which it shares with *O. acanthorhinus* but no other species of the genus (Ronald Fricke, pers. comm.)

***Ostichthys sufensis* Golani 1984**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Yam Suf (Sea of Reeds), Hebrew name for Red Sea, where it is endemic

***Ostichthys trachypoma* (Günther 1859)**

trachys, rough; *poma*, lid or covering, referring to spines covering opercle and a “rather strong spinous prominence” on operculum

***Plectrypops* Gill 1862**

plectrum, spur; *ops*, eye, referring to preopercle armed with three strong teeth curved forward

***Plectrypops lima* (Valenciennes 1831)**

file or rasp; “the fish is like a rasp” (translation), referring to its coarsely ctenoid scales

***Plectrypops retrospinis* (Guichenot 1843)**

retro, backward; *spina*, spine, referring to preopercle armed with three strong teeth curved *forward* (hence making name a misnomer) [often incorrectly dated to 1853 French translation of original Spanish text]

***Pristilepis* Randall, Shimizu & Yamakawa 1982**

pristis, saw; *lepis*, scale, referring to its coarsely ctenoid scales

***Pristilepis oligolepis* (Whitley 1941)**

oligo-, few; *lepis*, scales, referring to fewer scales compared to presumed congeners in *Holotrachys* (= *Plectrypops*)