

***Chaetodon lunula* (Lacepède 1802)**
Raccoon Butterflyfish



Photo by J. Randall, Bishop Museum

Identification: The body is primarily yellow with a dusky dorsum and thin, brownish diagonal bars. There is a broad black bar on the head through the eye, followed by an equally broad white bar. These two bars together give the appearance of a raccoon's mask. There is a black blotch at the caudal peduncle. The dorsal, caudal, and anal fins are edged in black. Juveniles have a black blotch at the posterior base of the caudal fin. The pectoral fins are rounded, not elongated. The snout is only slightly pronounced and the head profile is steep. Maximum size is approximately 20 cm TL. Also called the Moon Butterflyfish. Dorsal fin XI-XIII (22-25), anal fin III (17-19). Pectoral rays 15 or 16. From Randall et al. (1996), Pyle (2001a), Allen et al. (2003), and Randall (2005).

Similar Species: Reef Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon sedentarius*) lacks white markings on head and has wide dark wedge on rear dorsal and body.

Native Range: The species is native to most of the Indo-Pacific, including East and South Africa, Hawai'i, southern Japan, Western Australia and throughout Micronesia. It also occurs around the Cape of Good Hope reaching narrowly into the southeastern Atlantic along the South African coast. It is absent from the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf, and

Arabian Sea. In the eastern Pacific, single individuals have been seen at Cocos Island and the Galápagos Islands. From Randall et al. (1996), Pyle (2001a), Robertson et al. (2004), and Randall (2005).

Ecology: In the native range, the species typically inhabits coral reefs from 1 to 60 m in depth where it occurs as single individuals, pairs, or small groups. The Raccoon Butterflyfish is an omnivore, feeding on a variety of benthic prey, including polychaetes, scleractinians (hard corals), hydroids, gastropods, mollusk eggs, and algae. From Harmelin-Vivien (1989), Hourigan (1989), Randall et al. (1996), Pyle (2001a), Allen et al. (2003) and Pratchett (2005).

Nonindigenous Occurrences: Raccoon Butterflyfishes have been observed on reefs off Boca Raton (2000-2002), Deerfield Beach (2004), and Delray Beach (2008).

Chaetodontidae (butterflyfishes)

