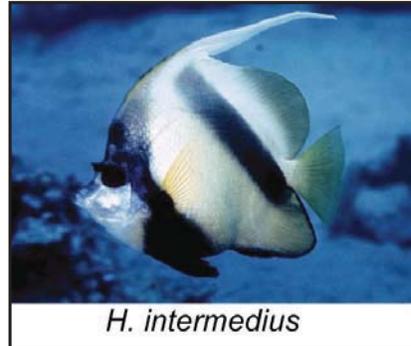
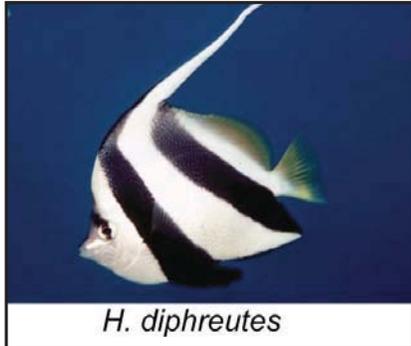


*Heniochus diphreutes* Jordan 1903  
Schooling Bannerfish

*Heniochus intermedius* Steindachner 1893  
Red Sea Bannerfish

*Heniochus monoceros* Cuvier 1831  
Masked Bannerfish



Photos by J. Randall, Bishop Museum

**Identification:** All three species have an elongate white dorsal filament and black pelvic fins. The Schooling Bannerfish has a white body with two broad black stripes, yellow soft-dorsal and caudal fins and dark marks above the eye and top of snout. The Red Sea Bannerfish has a body color that is whitish dorsally and grades to yellow ventrally, two black bands along the side (the most anterior band passes just behind the head and encompasses the eye) and yellow soft-dorsal, pectoral, anal, and caudal fins. The Masked Bannerfish has a white body background color with a central broad black band that tapers dorsally, a black face with pale stripes between the eyes and on the forehead, and yellow dorsal, caudal, and anal fins. All three species typically grow to about 20 cm TL. Common names for *H. diphreutes* include: Bannerfish, False Moorish Idol, Pennant Bannerfish, Poor Man's Moorish Idol (no additional common names for *H. intermedius* and *H. monoceros*). From Allen et al. (1998) and Randall (2005).

**Similar Species:** Atlantic butterflyfishes lack the long dorsal filament of bannerfishes. Angelfishes and spadefishes have both dorsal and anal filaments.

**Native Range:** The Red Sea Bannerfish has the most restricted native distribution of the three, occurring in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The Schooling Bannerfish and Masked Bannerfish are widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific and central Pacific. From Allen et al. (1998).

**Ecology:** The Schooling Bannerfish is usually encountered in large shoals (thus its common name), while the other two species are generally found alone or in pairs. Juvenile Schooling Bannerfish have been seen cleaning parasites from other fishes; otherwise, the species feeds on zooplankton. The diet of the Red Sea Bannerfish includes zooplankton and benthic invertebrates. Masked Bannerfish also eat benthic invertebrates (e.g., polychaete worms). From Allen et al. (1998).

**Nonindigenous Occurrences:** Several bannerfish have been seen off West Palm Beach; however, it is unclear which of the three species was observed.

