

***Pomacanthus annularis* (Bloch 1787)**
Bluering Angelfish



Photo by J. Randall, Bishop Museum

Identification: Juveniles are dark blue to black with alternating thin white and light-blue, well-spaced stripes on the sides. The stripes curve backward slightly, creating shallow crescents. The caudal fin is transparent. Adults are golden-brown with horizontal stripes radiating from the pectoral-fin base area, running along the sides towards the posterior portion of the dorsal fin. The stripes along the flanks are well-spaced, curved slightly towards the belly, and brilliant blue in color. Two similar blue stripes run horizontally across the face, one running through the eye, from above the snout to the edge of the operculum. The blue stripes continue onto the soft parts of the dorsal and anal fins. A distinct blue ring is behind and slightly above the edge of the operculum. Caudal fin is white with bright yellow margin. Grows to 34 cm TL. Also called the Blue-ringed Angelfish. From Allen et al. (1998 and 2003).

Similar Species: Juvenile Queen Angelfish (*Holacanthus ciliaris*) and Blue Angelfish (*Holacanthus bermudensis*) have vertical blue body bars. No other Atlantic angelfish has blue body markings.

Native Range: Widespread throughout the Indo-West Pacific, including East Africa (north of Natal), Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Indonesia east to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands and north to southern Japan (Allen et al. 1998).

Ecology: The species inhabits coastal reefs at depths of one to 60 m, where it may occur singly or in pairs. It feeds on zooplankton, tunicates and sponges. From Allen et al. (1998 and 2003).

Nonindigenous Occurrences: The species was sighted off Pompano Beach in 2001.



Pomacanthidae (angelfishes)