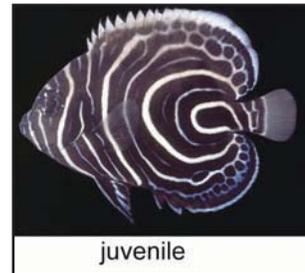
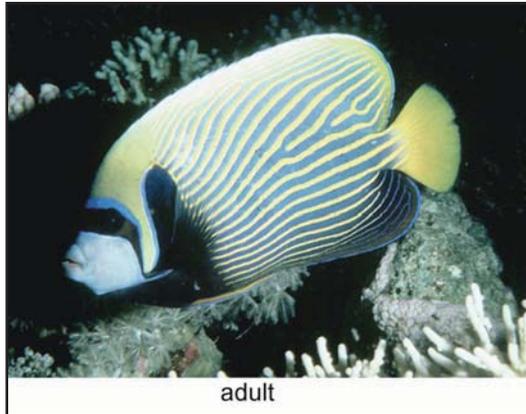


***Pomacanthus imperator* (Bloch 1787)**  
**Emperor Angelfish**



Photos by J. Randall, Bishop Museum

**Identification:** Juvenile Emperor Angelfish are blue-black with concentric white circles, a white dorsal-fin margin and a transparent caudal fin. Adults have alternating thin yellow and blue stripes along the flanks, a greenish-yellow nape, a dark “mask” over the eyes and a light-blue snout. The dorsal fin is edged in white; caudal fin is yellow; anal fin has light-blue stripes along a dark blue background. Transformation from the juvenile to the adult color-pattern occurs at 8 to 12 cm TL. Grows to 38 cm TL. Also known as the Imperial Angelfish. Dorsal fin XII-XIV (17-21), anal fin III (18-21); pectoral rays 19 to 20. From Randall (1983 and 2005), Allen et al. (1998 and 2003), Myers (1999) and Pyle (2001b).

**Similar Species:** No Atlantic angelfish has horizontal stripes of any color. Juvenile Queen Angelfish (*Holacanthus ciliaris*) and Blue Angelfish (*Holacanthus bermudensis*) have bright blue body bars. Juvenile French Angelfish (*Holacanthus paru*) and Gray Angelfish (*Holacanthus arcuatus*) have bright yellow body bars on black body.

**Native Range:** Throughout the Indo-West and Central Pacific region, excluding Easter Island, Rapa, and the Marquesas Islands. Ranges from the East African coast and Red Sea to the Tuamotu, Line and (rarely) Hawaiian Islands southward to New Caledonia and north to southern Japan. From Allen et al. (1998) and Pyle (2001b).

**Ecology:** The Emperor Angelfish inhabits patch reefs and reef flats (often with rich coral growth) at depths from six to 60 m. When disturbed, the species emits a peculiar knocking sound. Juveniles are solitary, but as adults the species forms harems. The species feeds on sponges and tunicates. From Allen et al. (1998 and 2003), Randall et al. (1996), Myers (1999) and Pyle (2001b).

**Nonindigenous Occurrences:** In Florida, the species has been observed off Pompano Beach, Deerfield Beach and Hillsboro Beach between 2001 to 2006. The species was also observed in the marine waters off Puerto Rico in 2007.



Pomacanthidae (angelfishes)