

***Pomacanthus maculosus* (Forsskål 1775)**
Yellowband Angelfish



Photos by J. Randall, Bishop Museum

Identification: Adults are violet-blue with a large yellow blotch on the middle of the body. Scales on the forehead and nape have dark edges. Dorsal and caudal fins have yellow patches with light-blue markings. Dorsal and anal fins end in filaments. Juveniles have a dark blue body color with several white and pale blue bars along the sides (similar to *P. asfur*). The caudal fin is transparent. Yellow markings along the sides of juveniles generally appear around the size of 6 cm, while full transformation to adult coloration occurs at a size from 10 to 15 cm TL. Can grow to 40 cm TL. Also known as the Halfmoon Angelfish or Yellowbar Angelfish. From Allen et al. (1998).

Similar Species: The Rock Beauty (*Holacanthus tricolor*) has a black body with yellow head and tail. 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: Western Pacific around the Arabian Peninsula, including the Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Gulf. Ranges south to Kenya (Allen et al. 1998).

Ecology: The species has been noted as curious and not shy around divers (Allen et al. 1998).

Nonindigenous Occurrences: The species has been observed off Pompano Beach (2000 – 2002), West Palm Beach (2003, 2005, 2007), Boynton Beach (2003) and Juno Beach (2004).



Pomacanthidae (angelfishes)