Neoglyphidodon oxyodon (Bleeker, 1858)

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IDENTIFICATION

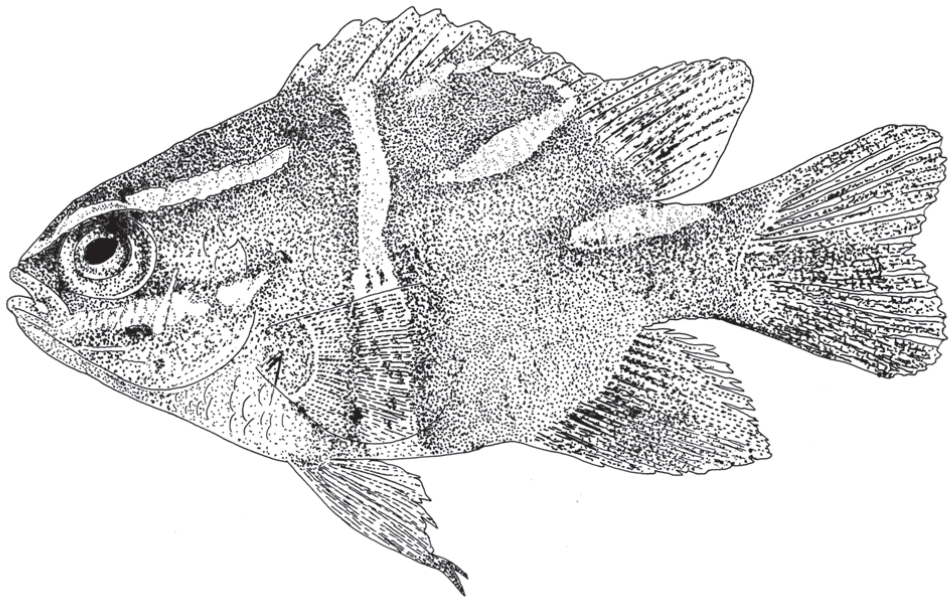
Order	:	**Perciformes**
Family	:	**Pomacentridae**
Common/FAO Name (English)	:	**Bluestreak damselfish**

Local names: Not available

MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

Bluestreak damselfish has an elongated oval shape and the body colour is black. There are two neon blue stripes starting from the snout, one strip below the eye and the other above it. Two more neon blue stripes are seen below the dorsal fin. There is also a large whitish vertical bar behind its head. Usually the tips of the fins have a neon blue tinge. It often loses its vibrant colouration as it matures, fading towards brown and black. There are 13 dorsal spines and 13-14 soft rays. There are 2 anal spines and 13-14 soft anal fin rays.

Source of image : www.biolib.cz



PROFILE

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

It is found in the Indo-Australian Archipelago around the Philippines, Indonesia and Timor Sea. In India it is reported from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

HABITAT AND BIOLOGY

The species is marine, reef-associated and non-migratory. It inhabits inshore reefs and lagoons in shallow depths ranging from 0 to 4 m. It is generally seen associated with *Acropora* coral heads used by the fish for shelter. Adults form pairs for spawning but otherwise form loose shoals of varying sizes. Juveniles are solitary in nature. Females are oviparous and exhibit distinct pairing during breeding. A female may lay as many as 20,000 eggs. Eggs are demersal and adhesive in nature. Males guard and aerate the eggs.

Males are territorial with active chasing of other males. The nest site is usually a coral surface or rocky ledge that is kept clean by the male fish. The male lures a female through a short courtship to the nest

where she lays eggs. The male will fertilize these eggs immediately. Males can mate up to 5 females in a single spawning event and females use the same nest for egg laying. The eggs hatch out in 3 to 7 days, depending on water temperature, followed by about a 3 week larval period. The fry feed on plankton. It generally lives up to 6 years in the wild and up to 15 years in captivity with proper care.

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

BREEDING IN CAPTIVE CONDITIONS

Bluestreak damselfish has not yet been bred in captivity, probably because of the aggressiveness of the male fish. Successful breeding would require a large, non-predatory aquarium which would also increase the cost of the breeding system. It would optimally spawn between 26 °C to 28 °C. The eggs and larvae are much smaller than those of clownfish. There are reports that Annamalai University, India has developed the broodstock of this species. However, detailed information is lacking.

LARVAL REARING

Information not available

FOOD AND FEEDING

It is an omnivore feeding on algae, weeds, zooplankton and planktonic invertebrates in the wild. It can additionally feed on freeze dried, frozen, pellets, flakes or fresh meaty foods in aquariums. It needs to be fed occasionally and in small quantities throughout, to reduce its aggression.

GROWTH RATE

Information not available

DISEASES AND CONTROL MEASURES

The species is very sturdy and strong, even as juveniles. However, it is victim to a "sudden death" phenomenon, wherein the fish suddenly dies without any signs. It is also susceptible to various other diseases, namely, Marine Itch caused by *Cryptocaryon irritans* (White Spot Disease or Crypt), Marine Velvet or Velvet Disease caused by *Oodinium ocellatum* (*Amyloodinium* ocellatum) and Uronema disease caused by *Uronema marinum*. All these are curable if noticed on time. Diseases are most often contracted when the salinity is lowered for long periods. Properly cleaned or quarantined live rocks and corals helps to prevent diseases.

PRODUCTION, MARKET AND TRADE

PRODUCTION

Information not available

MARKET AND TRADE

Information not available

CHALLENGES TO MARICULTURE

This species is considered as the costliest of all damsel fish, although getting enough numbers from the wild is problematic. Hence getting enough numbers for captive breeding will be a challenge in itself. Domestication, broodstock development, breeding and larval rearing also needs to be carried out successfully.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The young ones are with very beautiful coloration and gets along with large angelfish, butterflies, tangs and surgeonfish. It is one of the most hardiest and expensive fishes. Provided that there is regular supply from mariculture of this species, it has great scope for the domestic ornamental fish industry.

SUGGESTED READING

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