

Fish Identification Report

Common Name: Cinnabar Goatfish

Scientific Name: *Parupeneus heptacanthus*

Family: Mullidae

Confidence: 90%

Measurements

Length: 18-25 cm

Weight: 150-300 g

Body Depth: Moderately deep, about 3.5 times in standard length

Habitat

Inhabits sandy, rubble, or muddy bottoms near coral reefs in lagoons and seaward reef slopes at depths of 10-80 meters.

Characteristics

- Elongated, moderately compressed body.
- Pair of long chemosensory barbels under the chin used to probe for food.
- Reddish-pink to orange coloration, fading to white or silvery on the belly.
- Large, conspicuous scales.
- Forked tail (caudal fin), often with a yellowish tint.

Distribution

Widespread throughout the Indo-Pacific region, from the Red Sea and East Africa to the Hawaiian and Tuamotu islands, north to southern Japan, and south to Australia.

Conservation Status

Least Concern (LC)

Commercial Value

High commercial value. It is a popular food fish, commonly found in local markets and often caught by trawling or with traps.

Similar Species

- Yellowsaddle Goatfish (*Parupeneus cyclostomus*) (75%)
- Longbarbel Goatfish (*Parupeneus macronemus*) (70%)