

***Abudefduf bengalensis* (Pomacentridae) and *Acanthurus guttatus* (Acanthuridae): two species of reef fish, new records for Sri Lanka.**

Arjan Rajasuriya

Marine Biological Resources Division. National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, Crow Island Colombo 15

Key words: new records, reef fish, coral reefs

Abstract

Two species of reef fish *Abudefduf bengalensis* (Bloch, 1787) and *Acanthurus guttatus* (Forster, 1801) that have not been previously recorded for Sri Lanka are reported for the first time in Sri Lanka from the northern and southern fringing coral reefs respectively.

Abudefduf bengalensis was recorded for the first time in Sri Lanka from the shallow fringing reefs along the northern coast of the Jaffna Peninsula. It was recorded during a reef survey carried out in the Palk Strait and Palk Bay in 2005. Its distribution is from Pakistan to Papua New Guinea. Although this species is one of the common damselfishes in the north it has not been recorded from any other reef area in Sri Lanka. *Acanthurus guttatus* was recorded for the first time in Sri Lanka on a fringing coral reef at Aranwala in the southern coast in 2006. A relatively large group of 19 adult fishes were present on the seaward reef slope at a depth of 4 meters. This species has not been recorded from any other location in Sri Lanka. The known distribution of this species is from Mauritius to Hawaiian Islands.

Correspondence : *arjan@nara.ac.lk*