

by Victor A. Honda

- Valid name** *Acanthurus olivaceus* (Bloch and Schneider 1801) (Fig. 69)
- Synonymy** *Acanthurus nigricans* var. *olivaceus* Bloch and Schneider 1801
Acanthurus eparei Lesson 1830
Acanthurus humeralis Cuvier and Valenciennes 1835
Ctenodon erythromelas Swainson 1839 (error or emendation for *Acanthurus eparei* Lesson)
Harpurus paroticus Forster 1844
Acanthurus chryosoma Bleeker 1857
(?) *Rhombotides xanthosoma* Bleeker 1865
Rhombotides olivaceus Bleeker 1865
Teuthis olivaceus Seale 1901
Hepatus olivaceus Jordan and Evermann 1905
Hepatus chryosoma Fowler 1928
(from Randall 1956)
- Common and vernacular names** Surgeonfish; orange spot tang; naenae

Distribution

Inhabits the main islands. Occurs at Middle Bank, Nihoa, and Necker Island in waters from 33 to 77 m (NMFS survey). Present inshore as far northwest as Maro Reef (Okamoto and Kawamoto 1980). Inhabits deeper waters of the subsurge zone (about 4-128 m), usually over sandy areas interspersed with coral or basalt structures (Jones 1968).

Distinguishing characteristics

D. IX, 23-25; A. III, 22-24; P1. 16-27; Gr. 24-28 (Masuda et al. 1975). Body rather deeply ovoid, greatest depth at middle of pectoral; head deep, compressed, with steep, convex upper profile; jaws slightly produced, lower jaw inferior; mouth small, oblique; teeth broad with sharp cutting edge; margin of opercle oblique, angle below anterior margin of eye; nostrils round, close together, anterior to eye. Last dorsal spine longest; pectoral pointed, equal to head; caudal deep, broad, rays long, pointed; caudal spine depressible in a groove; scales ctenoid, small; lateral line arched following dorsal profile of back (Jordan and Evermann 1905).

In life purplish black, breast bluish, black edged orange bar on shoulder region running posteriorly from upper angle of opercle to area below sixth dorsal spine; dorsal nearly black, membranes slightly bluish; caudal nearly black, same as dorsal, posterior one-third white edged with black; anal same as ventrals edged with black, membranes mottled with blue; pectoral same as ventrals except posterior third dirty-white; iris black, inside edge bright yellow. Orange bar lacking in young specimens but solid orange-yellow in life (Jordan and Evermann 1905; Gosline and Brock 1960).

Life history

The orange-yellow young metamorphose and assume the adult coloration at about 29-55 mm SL (Randall 1956). The species is considered a grazer, picking up large quantities of the substratum while feeding, irrespective of whether the material is rasped away from rock or picked up as loose sand (Jones 1968). As a result, the gut contents include considerable inorganic sediments (Gosline and Brock 1960). Coralline algae, gastropods, and foraminiferans are found in stomachs of fishes in the Marshall Islands, but their presence may be due to accidental ingestion while feeding (Hiatt and Strasburg 1960).

Gear and catch

Naenae is caught mainly in traps although the species is also taken in gill nets. The annual commercial catch in 1976-79 varied from 385 to 963 kg and averaged 556 kg.

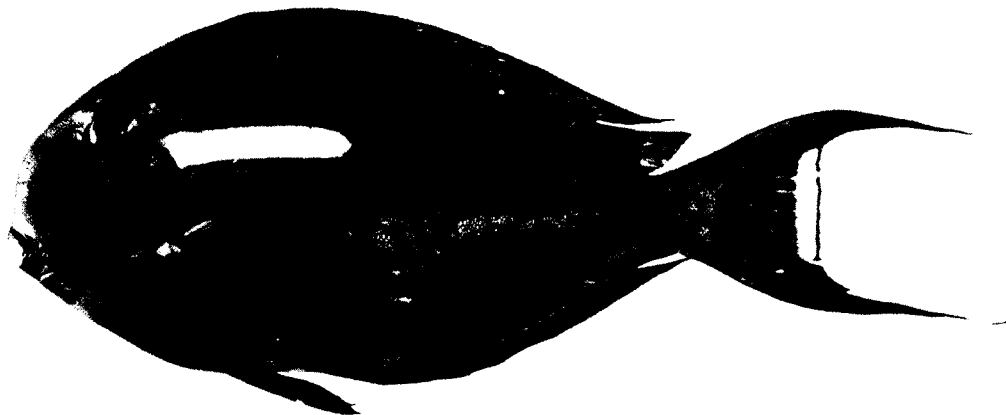


Figure 69.—*Acanthurus olivaceus*.