

Project Update: January 2015

1. Status survey on marine ornamental fishes and invertebrates

Marine ornamental fishes and invertebrates (species wise) is being collected daily from the marine ornamental fish collectors of Gulf of Mannar region, Tamil Nadu from August 2014. Data sheet has been prepared and provided to them. Nearly 68 species of coral reef fishes and 15 species of invertebrates, excluding ornamental gastropods (Shrimps – 5 species; Starfish – 4 species; Hermit crab – 1 species; Sea anemone – 3 species; Worms – 1 species and nudibranch – 1 species) are regularly exploited from Gulf of Mannar regions.

2. Understanding the perception and attitude of fishermen towards the conservation of coral reef fishes

Semi-structured questionnaire survey is being conducted at the Gulf of Mannar regions (from Tuticorin to Rameswaram). A set of 15 questions with many subheadings includes socio-economic status, threats and ecological benefits of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, the perception and attitudes of fishermen towards the conservation of coral reef fishes and their associated habitats.

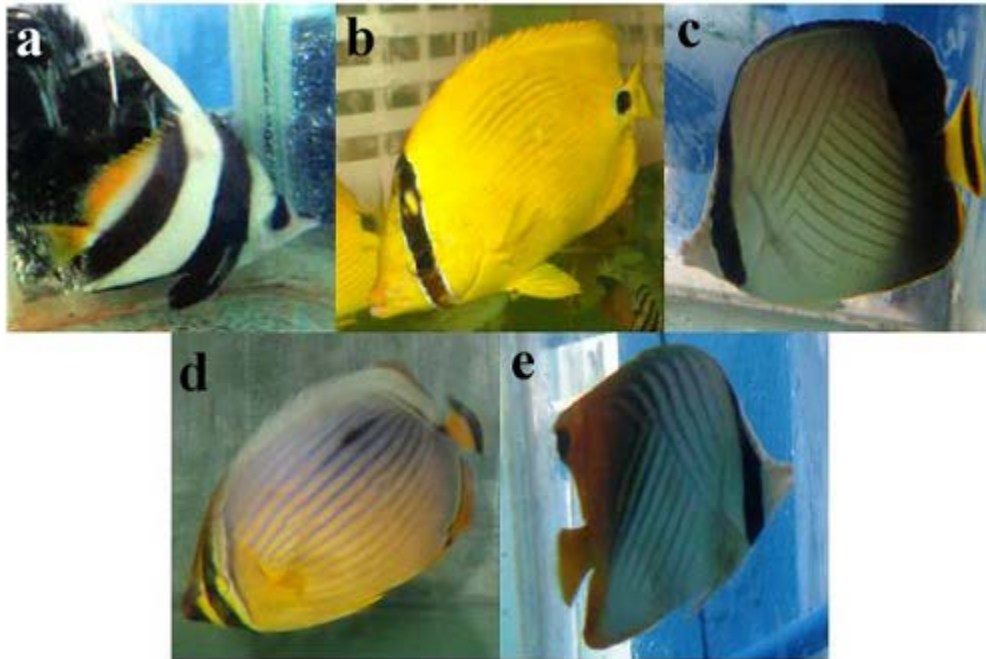
3. Import data on marine ornamental fishes and invertebrates

Data on the import of marine ornamental fishes and invertebrates is being collected from the commercial entrepreneurs located in and around Chennai (Major hub for the marine ornamental import) regularly (weekly or bimonthly) procure marine ornamental fishes and invertebrates for the domestic aquarium trade. The major countries responsible for the supply of marine ornamentals to India (particularly Tamil Nadu) include Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia etc.

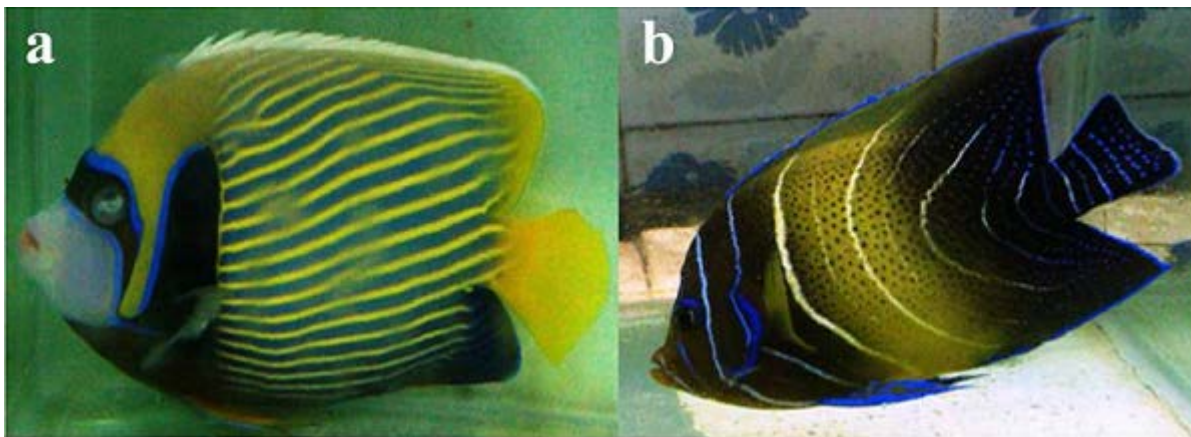
4. Trade value of marine ornamental fishes and invertebrates

Cost of single fish species (for all the 68 species and 15 invertebrates) is being acquired from the marine ornamental fish collectors, whole sale and retail entrepreneurs and finally at the hobbyist level.

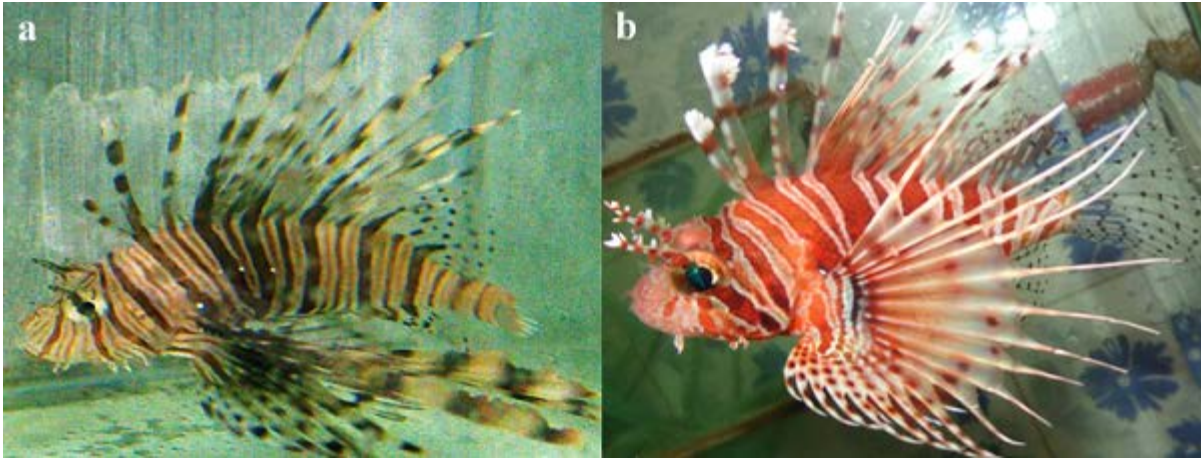
MARINE ORNAMENTAL FISHES AND INVERTEBRATES



Butterflyfish: a, *Heniochus acuminatus*; b, *Chaetodon plebius*; c, *C. decussatus*; d, *C. trifasciatus*; e, *C. auriga*



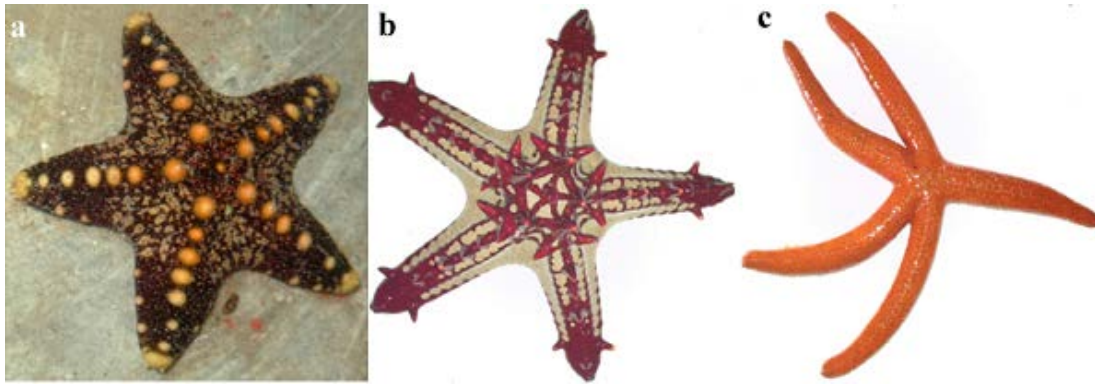
Angelfish: a, *Pomacanthus imperator*; b, *P. semicirculatus*



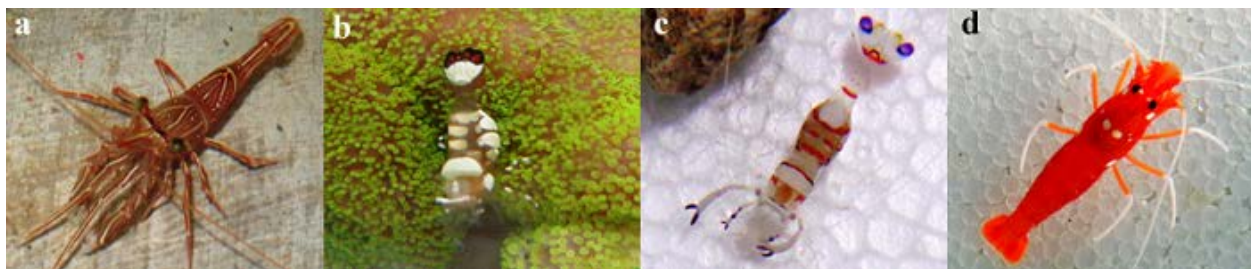
Lionfish: a, *Pterois volitans*; b, *P. antennata*



Sea anemones: a, *Stichodactyla haddoni*; b, *Heteractis magnifica*; c, *Entacmaea quadricolor*; d, unidentified species



Starfish: a, *Protoreaster* sp.; b, *Protoreaster* sp.; c, *Linckia* sp.



Ornamental caridean shrimps: a, *Rhynchocinetes durbanensis*; b, *Periclimenes brevicarpalis*; c, *Ancylomenes magnificus*; d, *Lysmata debelius*

Group of Fishes and Invertebrates ready for packaging

a, Blue damsel - *Pomacentrus caeruleus*; b, Smoke angel - *Apolemichthys xanthurus*; c, Sabellid worms, d, Carpet anemone – *Stichodactyla haddoni*; e, unidentified sea anemone; f, finger star – *Linckia* sp.

