

# GEORGIA AQUARIUM ANIMAL FACT SHEET

## **Bartlett's anthias**

*Pseudanthias bartlettorum*

### **Range/Habitat**

- The bartlett's anthias is found in the western Pacific.
- It is usually found on coral reefs.
- It can be found in depths from 13-98 feet (4-30 meters).

### **Diet/Feeding**

- It feeds on zooplankton.

### **Conservation Status**

- It is not in IUCN Red List

### **Additional Information**

- The maximum size is 3.5 inches (9 centimeters)
- The bartlett's anthias lives in large groups, with few males and several dozen females and juveniles.
- The numbers in a single school can be in the thousands.
- These groups are found in areas of branching corals where they are able to find shelter as well as a place to rest at night.
- The schools are made up of smaller groups which are called harems. Each harem has one male and approximately six to twenty females
- It is active during the day and spends most of its time swimming above the coral reef and feeding on plankton.
- It can be found in a variety of colors. These colors are apart of their territorial display features and aid in camouflage.
- Like other sea basses, anthias are sequential hermaphrodites, meaning they can change sex from female to male. They all begin life as females. The female is not as colorful as the male of the species. Due to environmental or social factors, such as the male dying, some of the females can become males. This sex-change ensures that there will always be a male and a female to reproduce. When the sex change occurs, the female that replaces the dominant male in a harem's hierarchy is capable of changing her sex to male in a period of 2-3 weeks.
- Anthias form huge schools that are actually made up of small coexisting social harem. Each harem is usually led by the largest, most colorful male, several smaller, less dominant males, a group of females and juvenile fish. The dominant male constantly defends its place in the group's hierarchy by challenging the lesser males as well as other males from neighboring harems. At dusk, the dominant male anthias from each harem participate in "courtship dances" that entail frenzied, zig zag swimming patterns that attract the females from their group and lead to coinciding spawning in the aggregation.

**Sources**

Reef Fish Identification- Tropical Pacific. Allen, Gerald, et.al., pg. 138

[www.fishbase.org](http://www.fishbase.org)