

GEORGIA AQUARIUM ANIMAL FACT SHEET

Squarespot anthias

Pseudanthias pleurotaenia

Range/Habitat

- The squarespot anthias is found throughout the Pacific Ocean from Indonesia to Samoa, north to Ryukyu Islands, south to Rowley Shoals and New Caledonia, as well as throughout Micronesia.
- It is usually found around reefs in depths ranging between 33-591 feet (10 - 180 m).

Physical Characteristics

- The squarespot anthias comes in a variety of colors including red, pink, orange, yellow and purple.
- The maximum size of the squarespot anthias is 7.8 inches (20 cm).
- These fish are bullet-shaped and can swim quickly when feeding or defending territory.

Diet/Feeding

- It feeds on zooplankton.

Conservation Status

- It is not listed on the IUCN Red List.

Additional Information

- The squarespot anthias lives in large groups. 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 6-20 females
- It is active during the day and spends most of its time swimming above the coral reef and feeding on plankton.
- The squarespot anthias is also called the square-spot fairy basslet.
- The juvenile squarespot anthias is solitary and will remain close to shelter.
- 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.

Sources

[Reef Fish Identification- Tropical Pacific](#). Allen, Gerald, et.al., pg. 138, 143

www.masla.com/anthias.html

www.fishbase.org