



Those Darn Damsels- REBOOT!

Fishinar 9/1/2015, Jonathan Lavan – Instructor

Questions? Feel free to contact me at jonathan@REEF.org

Damselfish 101- Small/Med. oval shape, 1st- Standard size: Genus; *Stegastes* (Cocoa, Dusky, Longfin, Threespot most aggressive, Beaugregory & Bicolor less so)

2nd- Larger size: *Microspathodon* (Yellowtail) &

***Abudefduf*: (Sergeant Major & Night Sergeant)**

3rd- *Chromis*- (Yellowtail Reeffish, Sunshinefish, Purple Reeffish)

All photos courtesy of Reef Net unless otherwise indicated

	<p>Bicolor Damselfish- 4 in. Black fore-body, white rear-body. Juvenile: tri-color (yellow to orange) varies greatly. Inhabit patch reefs and low profile reef tops; Depth 20- 80 ft. Common throughout range.</p>
	<p>Yellowtail Damselfish – 7 ½ in. Large black body with yellow tail. Juvenile (Jewelfish); blue with bright blue iridescent dots- tail, clear to yellow. Inhabit reef tops where they maintain a small territory; Depth 10- 40 ft. Common throughout range.</p>
	<p>Longfin vs. Dusky Damselfish – 2 to 4 in., max 6 in.</p> <p>Longfin- Dorsal and anal fins extend beyond base of tail. Thin bright blue line on edge of anal fin. Juvenile- Brilliant blue lines run from snout to back usually under dusky color. (Cocoa/Beaugregory has blue under color). Depth- 2- 80 ft.</p>
	<p>Dusky- Dorsal and anal fins do not extend beyond base of tail. Narrow black edge on anal fin. Juvenile- Brilliant orange wash extends from snout across nape to end of spinous dorsal fin. Depth 1- 25 ft.</p>



Paul Humann

Cocoa vs. Beaugregory– 3 to 4 in, max 5 in.
Live Coral/Dead Coral.

Cocoa- usually has a black spot on tail base (coco puff). Scales more defined (as if cocoa is running between scales). Juvenile- black spot ringed in blue on dorsal extends slightly on to back.
Depth- 5- 100 ft.

Beaugregory- Blue dots on head and gill fades horizontal rows on upper body (scales undefined). Juvenile- black spot ringed in blue does not extend slightly on to back from dorsal.
Depth 3- 40 ft.



Threespot Damselfish– 5 in.

Spot 1; yellow gold crescent above eye, or Spot 1 & 2; dark spot on base of pectoral fin (both sides), Spot 3; Black saddle on base of tail.

Juvenile; yellow with spot on back and lower dorsal and second spot on saddle of tail. Inhabit reef tops particularly Staghorn coral;
Depth 0-130 ft. Abundant to common throughout range.



Sergeant Major- 7 in.

5 black body bars; "stripes" like stripes on a Sergeant Major's uniform; black with yellow wash. Upper lip does not overhang lower. Male guarding eggs- blue body wash overall. Swim in all habitats most often in mid-water;
Depth 1-40 ft. Abundant throughout range; N to R.I., S. to Uruguay.





Night Sergeant- 10 in.

5 dark body bars, little to no yellow. Upper lip slightly overhangs lower. Shy & elusive. Prefer shallow, rocky inshore surge areas often around wave cuts;
Depth 1- 15 ft. Occasional throughout range.



Yellowtail Reef fish- 4 in.

Yellow to clear tail. Bright, iridescent blue "V" on snout continues across upper eye. Inhabit deep reef tops, artificial reefs and nearby sand patches;
Depth 80- 160 ft. Occasional Florida, uncommon in the remainder of range.

		<p>Sunshinefish – 2 to 3 in, max 4 in. Yellow or transparent rear soft dorsal fin and wide margin on tail. Juvenile- Brilliant yellow to chartreuse upper body; brilliant blue to purple, lavender or dull olive below.</p>
		<p>Purple Reeffish – 4 in. Slate blue to navy blue. Bright blue crescent around upper part of eyes (disappears with age). Juvenile; brilliant blue. Prefers deep reefs; Depth 80- 160 ft. Occasional Florida; uncommon remainder of range, not reported Bahamas.</p>

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