



Butterflyfishes of the Tropical Pacific, Part 1

REEF Fishinar February 8th, 2017, Amy Lee - Instructor

Questions? Feel free to contact amy@REEF.org

A photograph of a Black-backed Butterflyfish, showing its white body with numerous diagonal black bands and a prominent black saddle on the base of its tail.	<p>Black-backed Butterflyfish (<i>Chaetodon melannotus</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• White body with many diagonal black bands• Black area on upper back• Black saddle on base of tail <p>Photo by: Paddy Ryan Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean, Red Sea</p>
A photograph of a Spot-tail Butterflyfish, characterized by its white body with diagonal black bands and a distinct black spot on the tail fin.	<p>Spot-tail Butterflyfish (<i>Chaetodon ocellicaudus</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• White body with many diagonal black bands• Black dots scattered at base of dorsal and anal fins• Black spot on tail fin (distinguishes from Black-backed) <p>Photo by: Paddy Ryan Regions: CIP, SOP</p>
A photograph of a Lined Butterflyfish, featuring a white body with vertical black bars and a broad black band along the rear edge of its body.	<p>Lined Butterflyfish (<i>Chaetodon lineolatus</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• White body with vertical black bars• Broad black band edged in yellow along rear edge of body• Wide black bar through eye enclosing a white spot on nape White spot within black eye bar on face – <i>color inside the lines</i> <p>Photo by: Ian V. Shaw – Reef Life Survey Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean, Red Sea</p>
A photograph of a Spot-nape Butterflyfish, showing its white body with vertical black bars and an isolated black spot on the nape above the black eye bar.	<p>Spot-nape Butterflyfish (<i>Chaetodon oxycephalus</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• White body with vertical black bars• Broad black band along rear of body• Isolated black spot on nape above black eye bar <p>Photo by: Florent Charpin Regions: CIP, SOP, Indian Ocean</p>



Pacific Double-saddle Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon ulietensis*)

- White body with vertical black bars; yellow rear body
- Two broad, dark, diffuse saddles across back
- Black spot on tail base

Photo by: Paddy Ryan

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP



Vagabond Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon vagabundus*)

- White body with chevron-like markings
- Broad black bar on rear edge of body (*Vagabond wears a backpack*)
- Yellow dorsal, anal, and tail fins
- Horizontal yellow stripes on snout

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean



Threadfin Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon auriga*)

- White body with chevron-like pattern
- Black spot on edge of dorsal fin
- Dorsal fin has long, trailing filament (*looks like a loose thread*)

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean, Red Sea



Chevroned Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon trifascialis*)

- White body with black chevron markings on sides
- Black tail fin with yellow margin
- Body profile is more rectangular than other butterflies – flattened and “delicate” looking
- Often lives among branching corals

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean, Red Sea



Panda Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon adiergastos*)

- White to pale body with faint diagonal bands
- Large black patch-like marking surrounding eye
- Small black spot on nape
- No black bar through eye

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Regions: CIP, SOP, Eastern Indian Ocean



Pyramid Butterflyfish (*Hemitaurichthys polylepis*)

- White body color forms pyramid shape between two sections of yellow on upper body
- Dark head and white pelvic, pectoral and tail fins
- Typically seen off walls schooling
- Form large feeding groups in water column, plankton eater

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Eastern Indian Ocean



Teardrop Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon unimaculatus*)

- White body with yellow on back
- Black edging along rear of body
- Large, black "drop-like" spot on upper back, think of running mascara

Photo by: Paddy Ryan

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean



Speckled Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon citrinellus*)

- Body color can vary – white to yellow
- Many rows of faint blue spots/speckles
- Black edge on bottom part of anal fin
- Used to be called Lemon Butterflyfish

Photo by: Florent Charpin

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean



Ornate Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon ornatissimus*)

- Bluish-white body with six bright orange horizontal bands
- Black margin on tail fin with thicker bar running through middle of fin
- Yellow-edged black eye bar

Photo by: Paddy Ryan

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean



Meyer's Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon meyeri*)

- Bluish-white body with black horizontal bands
- Bands converge near pectoral fin
- Yellow-edged black eye bar

*Note labeling error in 2nd ed. Reef Fish Identification book: Pg. 24 – Images for Spot-Banded and Meyer's Butterfly should be switched

Photo by: Mark Rosenstein - iNaturalist.org

Regions: CIP, HAW, SOP, Indian Ocean