



TWA Red Goby Cheat Sheet

Priolepis, Risor, and Lythrypnus Gobies of the Tropical Western Atlantic

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Priolepis

- More common family
- Big heads and larger mouths, more stout
- Eyes wider apart – have more of a forehead than Lythrypnus
- Have wider orange bars

Lythrypnus

- Look very similar to one another
- Smaller heads, mouths, and forehead
- Often distinguished by the pattern under the eye

Priolepis Genus



Rusty Goby (*Priolepis hipoliti*)

Found throughout the TWA

- Lacks wide midbody white bar
- Large head and mouth
- Eyes wide with a large forehead
- Orange spot on dorsal/anal fins
- Wide orange bars separated by narrow paler bars along the side of the body

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Risor Genus



Tusked Goby (*Risor ruber*)

Found throughout the TWA

- Head and body a translucent dark grey or brown, sometimes almost purple in color with small dark spots.
- Often 4-5 irregular brown bars with elongate white spots along spine
- Found in association with large sponges
- 3 Tusklike teeth coming out of mouth

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Lythrypnus Genus



Pygmy Goby (*Lythrypnus minimus*)

Found from the Bahamas to the southern Caribbean

- Body translucent red or orange with narrow pale bars
- 2-4 darker bars or rows of spots below eye
- Often a white spot on upper pectoral fin

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Diphasic Goby (*Lythrypnus heterochroma*)

Found from the Bahamas to the southern Caribbean

- Body red orange lacking distinguished bars
- Whitish bars, almost like saddles along spine
- Very distinct compared to the other species

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Island Goby (*Lythrypnus nesiotes*)

Found throughout the TWA up into Georgia

- Body with alternating red- brown bars with thin paler bars
- 3-4 rows of spots on cheek radiating from below the eye
- Pectoral fin has a large spot in the center near the base

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Dwarf Goby (*Lythrypnus elasson*)

Found in the Gulf of Mexico to the Southern Caribbean

- 3-4 rows of orange spots radiating downward from the eye
- 2 orange spots on the base of the pectoral fin
- Often large wide bar on mid-body
- No bar pattern

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Bluegold Goby (*Lythrypnus spilus*)

Found throughout the TWA

- Roughly 13 orange bars on head and body alternating with blue bars
- Bars are distinct and clear
- Blue bars have a lighter center line
- Usually on the larger side compared to others

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