

Ecsenius pulcher (Murray, 1887)



Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Actinopterygii
Order: Perciformes

Family: Blenniidae
Genus: *Ecsenius*
Species: *E. pulcher*

Ecsenius pulcher is an almost exclusively benthic species that inhabits tropical, marine waters. *E. pulcher* is found on rocky shores where it hides in crevices. Maximum standard length is 4.4 cm male/unsexed. Maximum length is 7 cm in **Persian Gulf (Iran, Kish Island)**. Larvae are planktonic, often found in shallow coastal waters. *E. pulcher* can have different color patterns. Dark brown dorsally on head and body and (abruptly) white below or dark brown and posterior part of the body is orange-yellow with narrow dark bars. *E. pulcher* has a solid color form and one in which the melanophores have been suppressed in portions of the posterior region of the body, thus forming vertical dark and pale stripes. This form is somewhat similar to the albicaudatus form in which the melanophores on the caudal peduncle have been suppressed. The two banded syntypes of *E. pulcher* comprise one male and one female. *E. pulcher* inhabits shallow rocky and coral reefs and usually found at depths between 1 – 25 m where it feeds mostly on algae. Typically this species is found to a depth of 10 m. *E. pulcher* has an oviparous life cycle, exhibits distinct pairing, and produces demersal, adhesive eggs; Oviparous, distinct pairing. Eggs are demersal, adhesive and are attached to the substrate.

Food: It feeds mainly on benthic algae and weeds.

Distribution : Western Indian Ocean: known only from the **Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman**, coast of Oman, and northwestern coast of the Indian subcontinent as far south as the Gulf of Kutch.

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