

Antennablennius variopunctatus (Jatzow & Lenz, 1898)



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

Family: Blenniidae
Genus: *Antennablennius*
Species: *A. variopunctatus*

Antennablennius variopunctatus, the **Orange-dotted blenny**, is a species of combtooth blenny found in coral reefs in the western Indian Ocean. *A. variopunctatus* is unique to the intertidal area and would be overlooked in conventional reef surveys. Maximum length is 8 cm in **Persian Gulf (Iran, Kish Island)**. There are insufficient algae on the rocks, it is important to feed more frequently and supplement with algae rich food. *A. variopunctatus* is oviparous, their eggs are demersal and adhesive, and are attached to the substrate via a filamentous, adhesive pad or pedestal. Larvae are planktonic, often found in shallow, coastal waters. *A. variopunctatus* use the intertidal zone to varying degrees, at different times of tide and/or life cycle. Usage of the intertidal zone can be divided into three main categories: permanent residents - those that spend their entire life history (from juvenile through adult) in the intertidal; temporary (opportunistic/secondary) residents - those that spend only part of their lives in the intertidal (often as juveniles); transients - those that are only occasionally present in low-tide pools (likely trapped by an outgoing tide while foraging). **FOOD:** *Antennablennius variopunctatus* feeds microalgae. They food marine and blue-green algae.

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: Mozambique to Pakistan, including the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf, East Africa; Djibouti, Gulf of Aden.

