CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Moorish idol

Zanclus cornutus

Zanclus cornutus is the sole living member of its family, Zanclidae, and it is one of the great cautionary tales of the marine aquarium trade: it is beautiful, it is common on Indo-Pacific reefs from…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Zanclidae
Habitat: Coral reefs and lagoons
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 4-7 years in the wild
Weight: 200-230 grams
Scientific name: Zanclus cornutus

Did you know?

- Unlike many reef fish, the Moorish idol is the sole extant species in its family, Zanclidae.
- The name comes from a belief among some Muslim coastal communities in the Indian Ocean that the fish was a bringer of happiness, and it was treated w…

What I learned

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