

## A review of the species in the *Apogon fasciatus* group with a description of a new species of cardinalfish from the Indo-West Pacific (Perciformes: Apogonidae)

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### Abstract

Nine nominal, Indo-West Pacific species are treated: *Apogon fasciatus* (White, 1790), *Apogon quadrifasciatus* Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1828, *Apogon monogramma* Günther, 1880, *Apogon septemstriatus* Günther, 1880, *Apogon evanidus* Fowler 1904, *Apogon elizabethae* (Jordan & Seale, 1905), *Apogon quinquestriatus* Regan, 1908, *Apogon kiensis* Jordan & Snyder, 1901 and *Apogon bryx* Fraser, 1998. Four species treated as valid have VII first-dorsal spines: *Apogon fasciatus* with two brownish stripes on each side of the head and body to caudal peduncle and a faint, variable stripe along a portion of the lateral-line, 16 (15) pectoral-fin rays, and 14–17 (12, 13 or 18) gill rakers, *Apogon quinquestriatus* with four brownish stripes on each side of head and body, two reaching the caudal peduncle, 15 pectoral-fin rays, and 15 gill rakers, *Apogon septemstriatus* with three brownish stripes on each side of head and body, three reaching the caudal peduncle, 14 (13) pectoral-fin rays, and 14–16 gill rakers, *Apogon pleuron*, new species, with two brownish stripes on each side of head and body reaching the caudal peduncle, ventral edge of midlateral stripe with vertical bars, 15 (14 or 16) pectoral-fin rays, and 17–20 (15, 16 or 21) gill rakers. Two species treated as valid have VI first-dorsal spines: *Apogon bryx* with three brownish stripes on each side of head and body, two reaching the caudal peduncle, 14–15 pectoral-fin rays, and 22–23 (21 or 24) gill rakers, *Apogon kiensis*, with two brownish stripes on each side of head and body reaching the caudal peduncle, 14–15 pectoral-fin rays, and 16–18 (15 or 19–20) gill rakers. The long recognized name, *Apogon quadrifasciatus*, is synonymous with *Apogon fasciatus*.

**Key words:** Apogonidae, cardinalfish, *Apogon*, *Apogon pleuron*, *Apogon bryx*, *Apogon fasciatus*, *Apogon kiensis*, *Apogon quinquestriatus*, *Apogon septemstriatus*, new species

### Introduction

Color patterns similarities in the large genus *Apogon* are used to group various species into smaller phenetic groups which may prove to be monophyletic through additional character analysis. General habitat fidelity may provide another clue to relationships. The *Apogon*