



Aquarium Creatures Past and Present

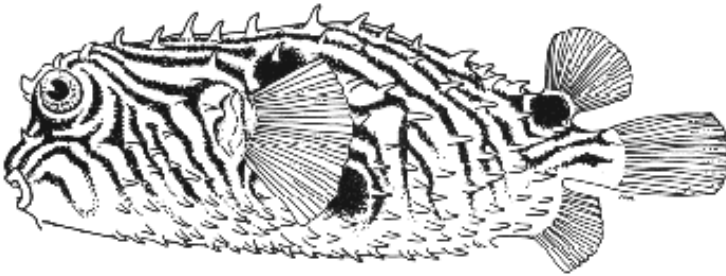
Archives



This month we feature the Striped Burrfish

Striped Burrfish

Chilomycterus schoepfi



Striped burrfish have large heads and somewhat bulging eyes that are spaced widely apart. They are yellow-brown to olive-brown with large dark splotches along their bodies. Their eyes are golden yellow with iridescent blue-green specks in the pupil.

Size: Burrfish usually grow to 10 inches (25 cm) long, although there are occasional reports of specimens reaching 12 inches (32 cm).

Range: Maine to Florida - although they are less common in the northern part of the range.

Habitat: Burrfish live in seagrass beds in bays and coastal lagoons and over shallow coastal reefs.

Feeding Habits: In the wild they use their powerful beak-like jaws to eat small fish, barnacles, snails, crabs, and clams.

FUN FACTS:

They have often been observed to swallow hermit crabs whole-shell and all.

Burrfish are covered with short, heavy spines that are always erect-unlike their cousins the porcupinefish,

which have movable spines.

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