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## A NEW *SIGANUS* FROM THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, AUSTRALIA

BY OTIS BARTON

While taking motion pictures on the Great Barrier Reef, I collected many species of coral reef fishes during the summer of 1947. They were taken on the leeward or northwest side of about a dozen keys in the Cairns-Cooktown region, by means of an improved model of the New York Zoological Society "bang-stick."

One of the most interesting is a small, aberrant, golden-colored, seemingly undescribed *Siganus*, with only 12 dorsal and six anal spines.

### ***Siganus hexacanthus*, new species**

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: No. 18888, the American Museum of Natural History, the only specimen, from Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, July, 1947, collected by Otis Barton.

Length to base of caudal, 53 (total, 66) mm. Dorsal rays, XII, 11; anal, VI, 10. Body oblong, compressed, depth 2.1 in standard length, head, 3.4. Profile from snout to dorsal slightly convex, from chin to ventrals concave. Eye 2.6 in head, 1.2 in snout; maxillary extending to below posterior nostril; width of preorbital at angle of mouth, 2 in snout. Anterior nostril with a triangular, tubular flap; opercle with a blunt spine superiorly. Least depth of caudal peduncle, 3.8 in head.

Head naked, scales beginning at occiput. First dorsal spine a little more than half second in length, third, fourth, and fifth subequal, 1.8 in head, twelfth and last two-thirds as long as first dorsal ray, and 2.7 in head. Middorsal rays longest and equal to longest anal spines. First anal spine two-thirds of second (which is scarcely shorter than third, 1.8 in head), the following five sub-

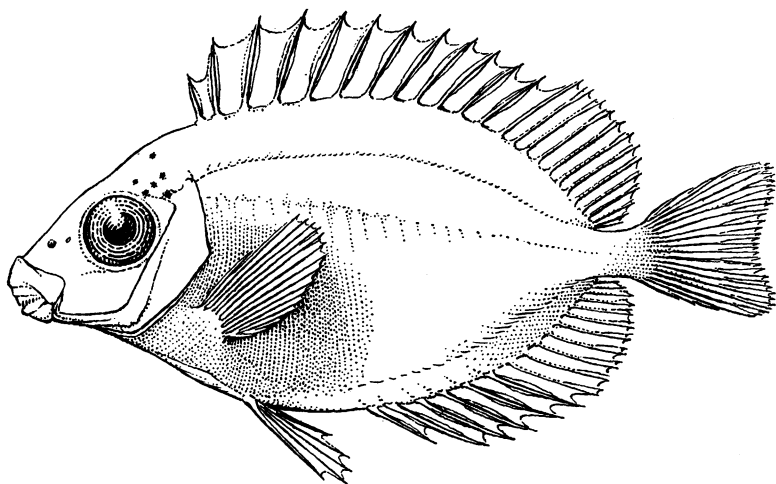


FIG. 1. *Siganus hexacanthus* Barton, type.

equal, 1.7 in head, and a little longer than the first nine anal rays, which are subequal. Caudal lunate, lobes subequal, 1.4 in head; pectorals, 1.3; ventrals, 1.6, and extending almost to first anal spine.

Color in alcohol uniform yellowish brown, fins hyaline; five dark spots about one-fifth the diameter of pupil, behind eye superiorly, above these another similar spot; very faint indications of a diagonal bar below eye; peritoneum dark. Color in life bright golden, without noticeable marking.

Distinguished by reduced number of dorsal and anal spines.