

MONKEYFACE PRICKLEBACK

Cebidichthys violaceus

Girard, 1854



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Actinopteri

Order: Perciformes

Family: Cebidichthyidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



NOT LISTED

Identification: Adults can reach 76 cm in length. Eel-like body with a round head and thick lips (goby-like). Coloration brownish with a slight violet tinge. Clear bands from eye to mouth and neck. Violet to white spots on flanks. Small crest on head.

Range: The species is found in eastern Pacific Ocean, from southern Oregon (USA) to Baja California peninsula.

Habitat : Shallow rocky areas near coastline, down to 24 m.

Behavior: Secretive, often hidden amongst rocks. Can survive out of the water by breathing air for up to 35 hours if kept moist. Feeds on crustaceans and algae. .

Status in the wild: The species has yet to be assessed but remains fairly common within its range. It's often captured for food but this isn't considered a threat.

In captivity: This species has probably never been displayed in captivity outside USA and maybe one or two collections in China or Japan (that remains to be verified and is highly unsure). Never bred in aquariums so far. Remains extremely rare in aquariums.