



# *Chelonodon pleurospilus*



PIERRE DE CHABANNES

**English:** Blaasop beauty

**French:** Pas de nom commun

**Description:** Regan, 1919

**Class:** Actinopteri

**Order:** Tetraodontiformes

**Family:** Tetraodontidae

No recognized subspecies

**Identification:** Elongated barrel-shaped body, large red eyes. Unmistakable. Flanks and back light brown with clear blue lines forming blotches. Underside white spotted with black and brown.

**Range and habitat:** Western Indian Ocean, along South-African coasts from Xora river mouth to Durban. Occurs in very shallow sea water near coasts.

**Conservation:** The species has a very small range and its habitat is being rapidly destroyed by the industrialization of South-African coasts. No conservation programs are in place at this time.



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