

DEDICATED, BY SPECIAL PERMISSION,  
TO  
HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY  
GEORGE IV.

KING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,  
AND KING OF HANOVER, &c. &c. &c.

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A  
SELECTION FROM THE MOST REMARKABLE AND INTERESTING  
OF THE  
**FISHES**  
FOUND ON THE

**COAST OF CEYLON.**

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FROM DRAWINGS MADE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THAT ISLAND,  
FROM THE LIVING SPECIMENS,

By JOHN WHITCHURCH BENNETT, Esq.  
FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES, AND MEMBER OF THE  
LITERARY AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF CEYLON.

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SECOND EDITION.

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## SCORPÆNA VOLITANS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  GINI-MAHA. *Gini*, Fire—*Maha*, Great.

S. VOLITANS. Pectoral fins longer than the body.

*Branchiostegous* rays 6. *Dorsal* 24, thirteen spinous, varied with black and reddish brown; the colours stronger on the spinous rays than on the others. *Pectoral* 14; the connecting membrane bluish and brown. *Ventral* 6, one spinous, bluish, spotted with white. *Anal* 10, three spinous. *Caudal* 12.

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THE Gini-Maha of the Cingalese accords with the description given by Bloch of the *Scorpæna volitans*, with the exception of the number of radii in the dorsal fin;—Bloch gives twelve only.

The native fishermen attribute to this fish the power of inflicting wounds, for which there is no cure yet known; but that, at present, is a mere hypothesis, and should be received as such.

Although the name given to this animal by Linnæus would justify the supposition that it possesses the power of flying, the membranes of the pectoral fins are not sufficiently united or proportioned to the body to admit of volitation; a position which the native fishers unanimously confirm.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.



## ACANTHURUS VITTATUS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  SEWEYAH.

A. VITTATUS. Armed near the caudal fin with a sharp curved spine.  
Body striated.

*Branchiostegous* rays 3. *Dorsal* 35, ten spinous. *Pectoral* 15. *Ventral* 6,  
one spinous. *Anal* 28, two spinous. *Caudal* 16.

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THE Seweyah is an extremely scarce fish on the southern coast of Ceylon : inhabits rocky situations, and is not in request but for the gratification of the Naturalist. It seldom exceeds sixteen or seventeen inches in length, and is well armed near the caudal fin with a sharp curved spine, which it raises or depresses at pleasure : the former is the case when the animal is in a state of excitement or rage. The spine, when depressed, is scarcely visible within the scabbard which Nature has assigned it, resembling in appearance a recent incision.

For the present figure, six or seven specimens were procured, no two of which were alike in the arrangement of the blue and yellow streaks near the caudal fin.

No lateral line visible to the naked eye.

*Figure*—Nearly the natural size of the Specimen.



## GOMPHOSUS FUSCUS.

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*Order, THORACIC.*

*Native Name,*  KOPPARA GIRAWAH.

*Koppura, Porpus—Girawah, Parrot.*

G. FUSCUS. Body brown. Gills, dorsal and anal fins brownish red.

*Branchiostegous rays 6. Dorsal 22, eight spinous. Pectoral 16. Ventral 6.*  
*Anal 14, two spinous. Caudal 14.*

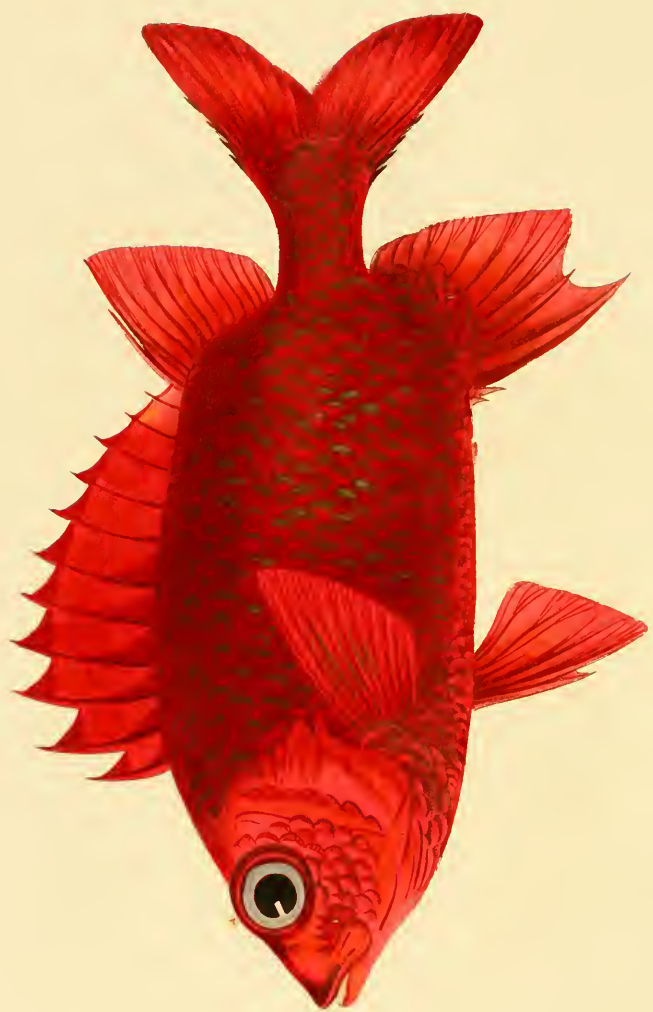
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THIS species of Gomphosus is very rarely to be met with on the southern coast of Ceylon. The Cingalese fishermen admit that it is wholesome; but that it has nothing to recommend it, whether for the purposes of sale, or to the natives as an article of food, which may be attributed, next to its scarcity, to its diminutive size.

The Koppara Girawah inhabits rocky situations.

*Figure* — The natural size of the Specimen.





## HOLOCENTRUS RUBER.

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*Order, THORACIC.*

*Native Name,* රතු පාහයා Ratoo PAHAYAH—RED PAHAYAH.

H. RUBER. Body, head, and fins, bright red. Scales partially tinged with gold.

*Branchiostegous rays 5. Dorsal 20, eleven spinous. Pectoral 12.*

*Ventral 6, one spinous. Anal 14, four spinous. Caudal 19.*

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THE Ratoo Pahayah is found, at certain seasons, in great abundance, on the southern coast of Ceylon, generally in deep water. Its flesh is white and solid, and in general estimation. It attains a considerable size, from eighteen inches to two feet in length. For splendour and beauty this fish, when small, may be considered to equal, if not surpass the gold fish (*Cyprinus auratus*) of China; but it loses the brilliancy of its colours as it increases in size.


*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.



## CHÆTODON VESPERTILIO.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  KOLA HONDAH—LEAF MOON.

C. VESPERTILIO. Dorsal spines 5. Dorsal and anal fins broad. Caudal fin with a brown band.

*Branchiostegous* rays 4. *Dorsal* 42, five spinous. *Pectoral* 15. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 13, three spinous. *Caudal* 16. Head without scales. Iris golden, mouth small, lips thick, lateral line arched.

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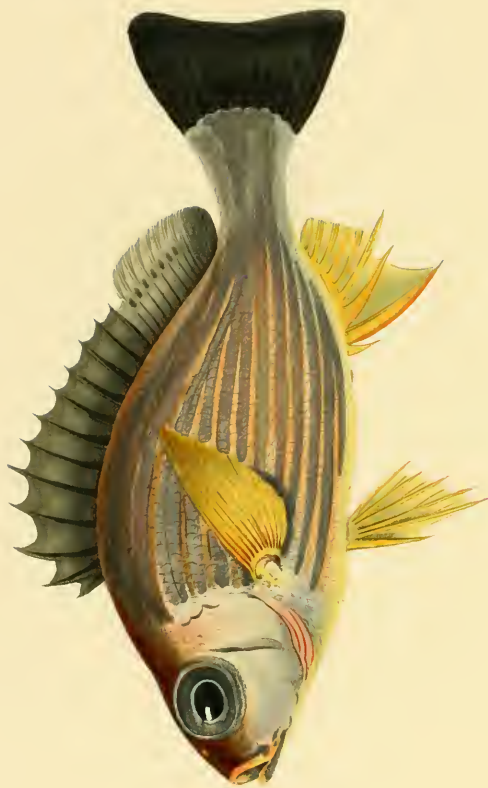
THIS species of *Chætodon* is very rare on the southern coast of Ceylon, and is considered by the native fishers so very unwholesome, from its peculiar food, that it is never made use of.

It attains a very large size, and is called by the Cingalese, Kola Hondah, from a supposed resemblance in the dorsal fin to the leaf of a marine plant; and in the shape of the body to that of the moon.

This fish is occasionally found in rocky situations, but most commonly in deep water.

This *Chætodon* corresponds, in every respect, with *C. vespertilio* of Bloch, except in colour, which might have occurred through that Naturalist's specimen having been coloured from one in spirits.

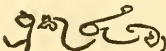
*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.



## HOLOCENTRUS ARGENTEUS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  POOKOOROWAH.

H. ARGENTEUS. Body silvery, with reddish-brown longitudinal lines.

*Branchiostegous* rays 6. *Dorsal* 25, twelve spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 10, three spinous. *Caudal* 16. Pectoral, ventral, and anal fins, yellow, tinged with red. Dorsal fin, neutral tint. Caudal fin, dark indigo, inclining to black.

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THE Pookoorowah of the Cingalese is a very delicious fish. It seldom exceeds twelve or thirteen inches in length, inhabits rocky situations, and abounds, at certain seasons, on the coasts of Ceylon.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.






## CHÆTODON VAGABUNDUS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  GAL-LELLAH—STONE PLANK

C. VAGABUNDUS. Tail entire. Dorsal spines 13. Body striate.  
Snout cylindrical.

*Branchiostegous* rays 3. *Dorsal* 38, thirteen spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 23, three spinous. *Caudal* 16. Body pale yellow, with brownish-purple lines; above the eyes a black band; another at the end of the trunk; and a third through the middle of the tail. Scales of the body large; of the head small. Flesh good.

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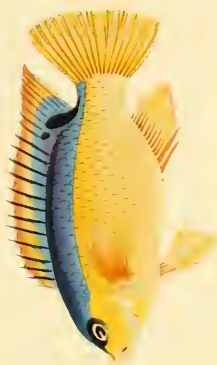
THIS fish is known to the native fishers in the districts of Galle and Matura, by the name of Gal-Lellah; but every maritime province in Ceylon has a peculiar name for its various fishes.

THIS species inhabits rocky situations, seldom exceeds twelve or thirteen inches in length, is eaten by the natives, but not sought after by the regular fisherman for the purposes of sale.

In some specimens, the purple lines on the body are straight; in others, nearly so, or partially curved.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.





## CHÆTODON BROWNRIGGII.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name, කහවර්තිකයා KAHA BARTIKYAH—YELLOW.

C. BROWNRIGGII. Tail entire. Dorsal spines 13. Body and fins yellow ;  
above the lateral line, bright smalt.

*Branchiostegous* rays 4. *Dorsal* 23, thirteen spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 4,  
one spinous. *Anal* 13, two spinous. *Caudal* 16. Body, beneath the lateral  
line, and fins, yellow ; a deep black spot at the extremity of the dorsal fin.  
Lateral line marked by the termination of the yellow and bright blue of the  
body.

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THE Kaha Bartikyah of the Cingalese is too insignificant in point  
of size—never having been known, by the local fishermen, to exceed  
two inches in length—to be much sought after as an article of food.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.



## SCORPÆNA MILES.

---

Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  RATOO GINI MAHA—GREAT RED FIRE.

S. MILES. Spines round the eyes, and partially on the lateral line near the head.

*Branchiostegous* rays 6. *Dorsal* 33, thirteen spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 9, three spinous. *Caudal* 12. Head large, with six cirri on the gills. Pectoral fin, with large irregular black spots. Ventral, anal, dorsal, and caudal fins, with small black spots.

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THE Ratoo Gini Maha of the Cingalese inhabits rocky situations, and is described as a most voracious animal. The native fishers differ in opinion with regard to its wholesomeness as an article of food.

THE Scorpæna Miles, independently of colour, differs from *S. volitans* (*plate 1*,) in the length of the pectoral fins, which, in the former, are not so long as the body,—in the cirri on the top of the head, and in the formation of the membranes of the pectoral fins, which, though in this animal they are more united, are certainly not sufficiently proportioned to the body to admit of volitation.

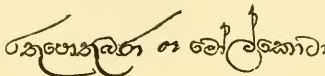
*Figure*—Two-thirds the natural size of the Specimen.



BALISTES ACULEATUS  $\beta$  VIRIDIS.

---

Order, BRANCHIOSTEGOUS.

Native Name,  RATOOPOTOBARAH, or

MOL-KOTAH—RED POTOBARAH, or RICE POUNDER.

*B. ACULEATUS*  $\beta$  *VIRIDIS*. First dorsal fin three-rayed. Tail entire, with two rows of recumbent spines at its base, three in each row.

*Dorsal* fins, 1st 3 spines; 2nd 27 rays. *Pectoral* 13. *Anal* 23. *Caudal* 12. Eyes round. Iris golden. Ventral spine strong, toothed. Fins short, first dorsal, very broad and serrate forwards.

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THE Ratoopotobarah, or Mol-Kotah of the Cingalese, inhabits rocky situations. It is eaten by the natives; but, owing to its insignificance as an article of food, and its almost impenetrable skin, is never sought after by the regular fisherman.

This fish seldom exceeds nine or ten inches in length; and when it attains that size, the green colour of the body gives place to a darker hue, and the fine orange colour of its lines and fins becomes of a dusky yellow.

*Figure*—Half the natural size of the Specimen.





## ACANTHURUS HIRUDO.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  KARA HAMOOWAH.

A. HIRUDO. Body strongly marked with five black stripes, three of them resembling leeches.

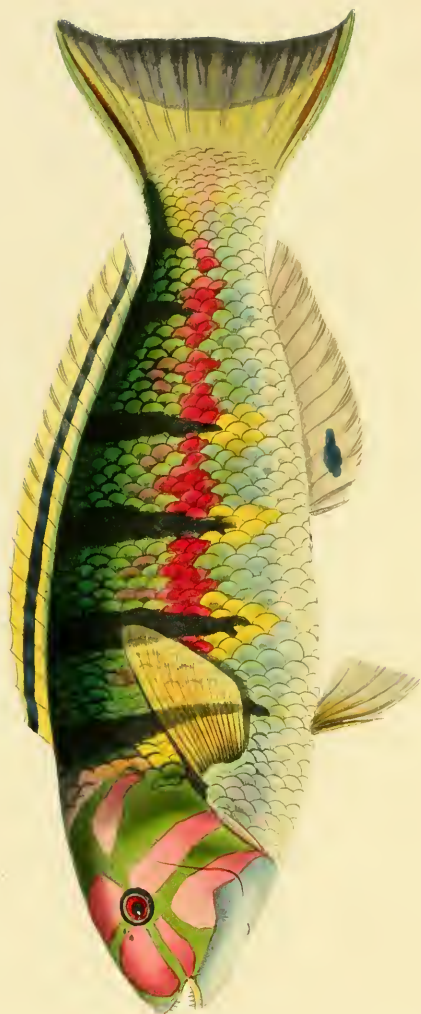
*Branchiostegous* rays 2. *Dorsal* 32, nine spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 23, three spinous. *Caudal* 16. Lateral line much curved, and armed near the caudal fin with a sharp spine.

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THE Kara Hamoowah of the Cingalese inhabits rocky situations. It seldom exceeds eleven or twelve inches in length, and is esteemed wholesome by the Cingalese. The sharp spine, horizontally situated near the caudal fin, and pointing towards the head of the animal, can be raised or depressed at pleasure; but, when recumbent, it is scarcely visible to the naked eye.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.

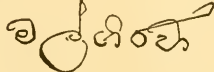




## SPARUS HARDWICKE.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  MAL-GIRAWAH—  
FLOWER PARROT.

S. HARDWICKE. The body marked with six perpendicular dark stripes, intersected with horizontal lines of purple, green, red, yellow, blue, and grey, in gaudy colours. The head is variegated with red and green marks, radiating from the eye.

*Branchiostegous* rays 6. *Dorsal* 20, eight spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 13, two spinous. *Caudal* 16.

---

THE Mal-Girawah of the Cingalese owes its name to the brilliant variety of its colours—*mal* signifying flower. This variety the Author is led thus to designate as a tribute of respect to his friend, General Hardwicke, of the Honourable East India Company's Bengal Artillery, alike distinguished in the pursuit of Botany and Natural history, for whose ready and able assistance in this work, the Author is desirous to record his gratitude.

The Mal-Girawah, though not particularly sought after by the fisherman, is not objected to as food. It has been known to attain the length of fourteen inches, but seldom, if ever, to exceed that size, and inhabits, like the rest of the Girawah tribe, rocky situations.

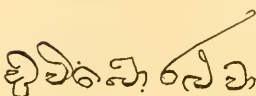
*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.



## BODIAN CUVIER.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  DEWEEBORALOOWAH.

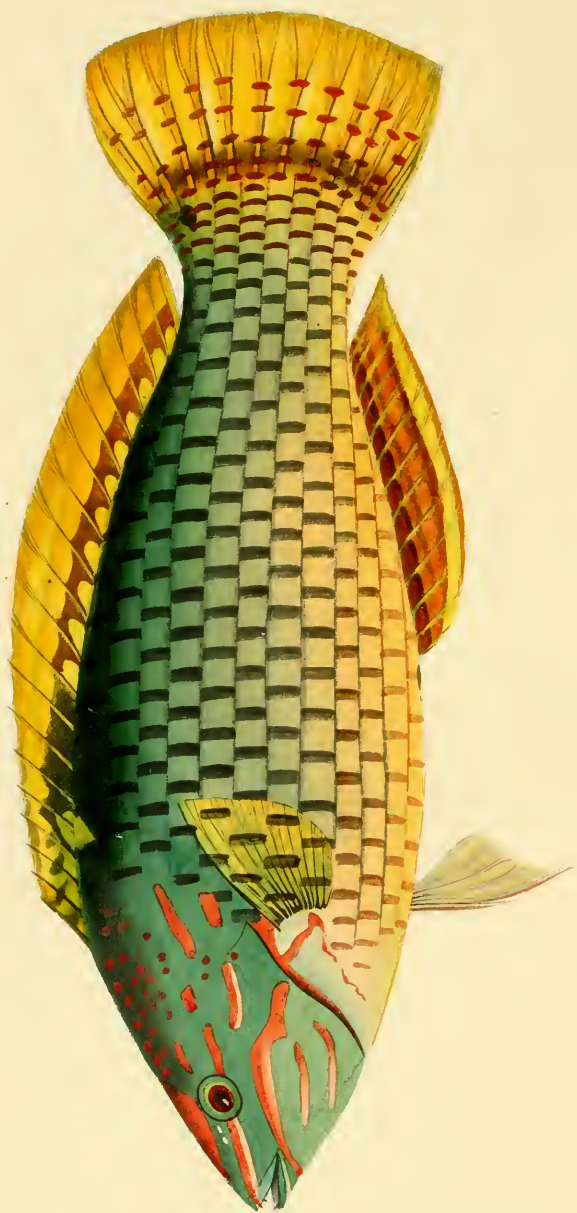
B. CUVIER. The body marked with strong brown longitudinal lines, the head, back, and tail, bright yellow, alternating with the brown stripes of the body.

*Branchiostegous rays 4. Dorsal 31, thirteen spinous. Pectoral 17. Ventral 6, one spinous. Anal 10, three spinous. Caudal 17.*

---

THE Deweeboraloowah of the Cingalese is a wholesome but very scarce fish on the Southern coast of Ceylon. It inhabits rocky situations, and seldom exceeds eighteen inches in length. The Author, during a period of two years, could only obtain one Specimen of this extraordinary fish, which he has named after the distinguished Perpetual Secretary of the Royal Institute of France, who has, both officially and privately, distinguished the First Part of this work by his approbation and encouragement, and conferred an honor on it which is best expressed in that celebrated Naturalist's own words:—"J'ai déjà eu occasion de le citer dans le troisième volume *Grande Ictyologie*."

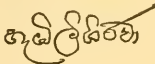
*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.



## SPARUS DECUSSATUS.

---

Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  HEMBILI-GIRAWAH—  
BASKET PARROT.

S. DECUSSATUS. The back green, gradually softening into a yellow tinge towards the lower fins; the body regularly marked, like wicker-work, by graduated purple and grey tints. The head green, ornamented with orange-coloured stripes and spots. The fins and tail yellow.

*Branchiostegous* rays 4. *Dorsal* 21, nine spinous. *Pectoral* 13. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 14, eleven spinous. *Caudal* 16.

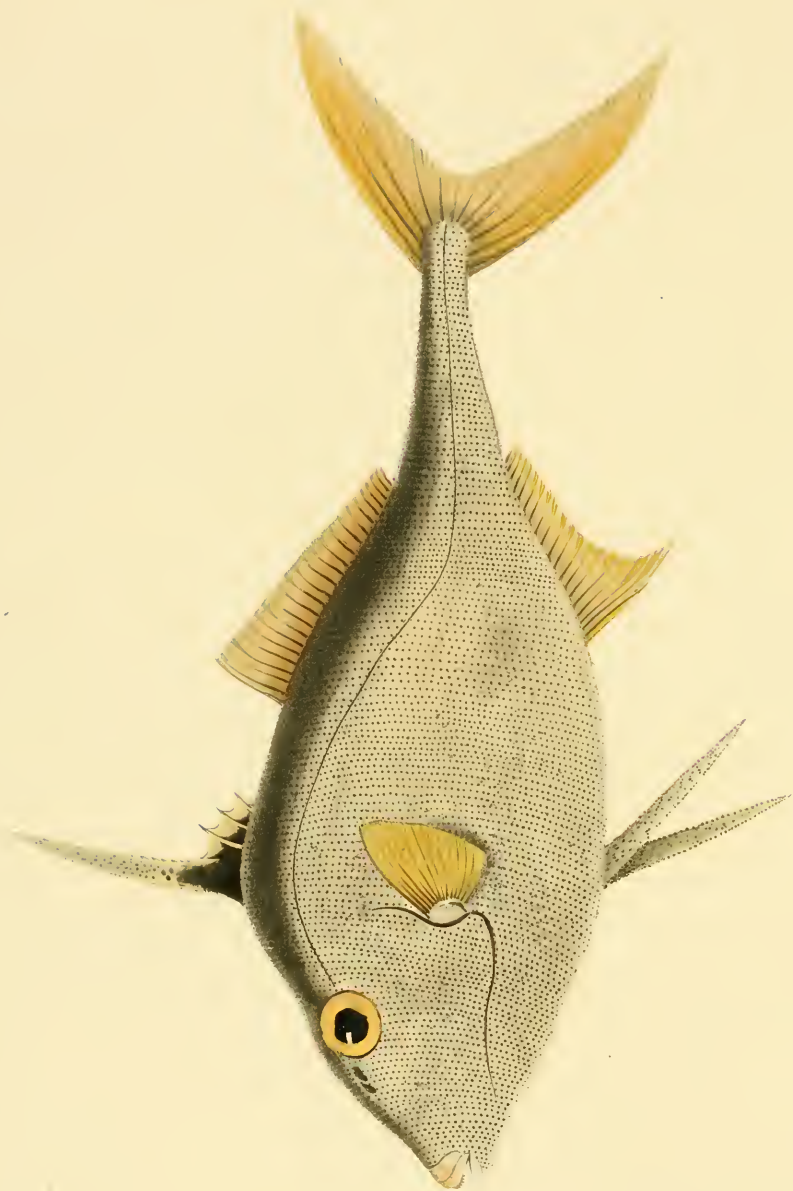
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THE Hembili-Girawah of the Cingalese derives its name from a sort of pouch or basket in which the natives carry their Betel-Leaf, (Piper Betel), Chunam, (Shell Lime), Tobacco, and Areka-Nut, (Areka Catechu), called Hembili. Girawah, the Cingalese name for Parrot, is a term indiscriminately applied by the natives to a variety of splendid fishes with which the coast of Ceylon abounds.

The Hembili-Girawah is edible, but is never sought after as an article of food. It inhabits rocky situations, and seldom exceeds fourteen or fifteen inches in length.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.

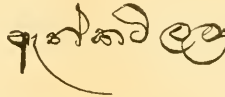




## BALISTES BIACULEATUS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  ANKATILLAH.

B. BIACULEATUS. Body silvery throughout. The fins of a dull yellow, except the first dorsal, which is black towards the base.

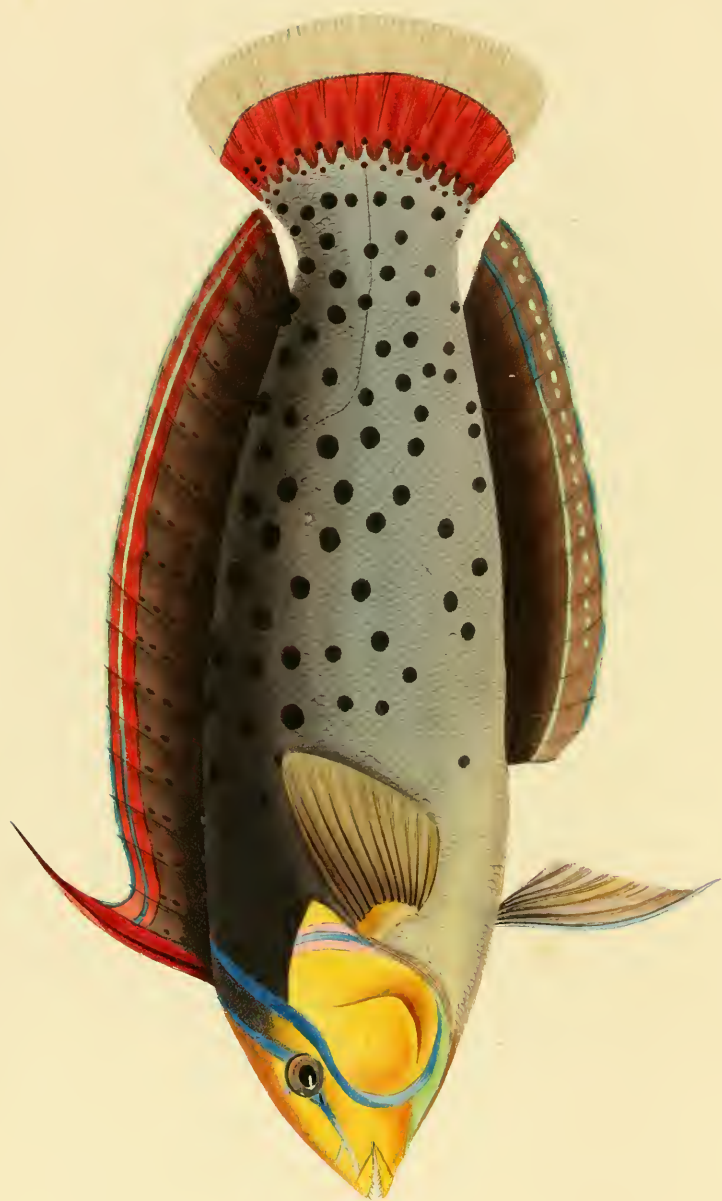
*Dorsal* rays, first four spinous, second 24. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 1. *Anal* 19. *Caudal* 12. Lateral line, from the head to near the extremity of the dorsal fin, arched.

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THIS Balistes derives its specific name from the peculiar structure of the ventral fin. The Ankatilla of the Cingalese is generally found in deep water, and rarely on the Southern Coast of Ceylon. It has a very tough outer skin without scales, seldom exceeds twelve or thirteen inches in length, and by the native Fishers is considered wholesome food.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.

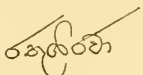




## LABRUS FORMOSUS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  RATTOO-GIRAWAH.

*L. FORMOSUS.* Body grey, irregularly marked with circular black spots. Head bright yellow, intersected by two beautiful diagonal lines of blue, verging towards sea green, one of which ranges with the eye. The first dorsal spine twice the length of the fin, and of a bright red color, which passes through the extremity of the fin, above and through the centre of which passes a greenish-blue line; the caudal fin is curiously adapted, having its radii circular at the base, and alternately ornamented with circular black dots; rather more than half of the fin is bright red, the remainder semi transparent white, inclining to a very pale yellow. Lateral line very visible, convexing towards the head, and also under the fifteenth ray, from the termination of which it proceeds in a direct line to the centre of the caudal fin.

*Branchiostegous* rays 5. *Dorsal* 21, nine spinous. *Pectoral* 12. *Ventral* 6.  
*Anal* 15, three spinous. *Caudal* 15.

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THE Rattoo-Girawah of the Cingalese is one of the most beautiful of its species. It is scarce, therefore not sought for the purposes of food, although occasionally for the gratification of the naturalist. Its flesh is firm, white, and nutritious, but such qualities are scarcely sufficient to produce a reconciliation to the destruction of such an interesting object of Nature. The Rattoo-Girawah is generally taken in rocky situations, and has been known to attain the length of twenty-four inches. It belongs to the genus *Julis* of Cuvier, and is allied to *Julis Ganymede* of Freycinet's Voyage, tab. 54.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.



## CHÆTODON ARANEUS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  GAL-HANDAH.

C. ARANEUS. Body very obtuse, perpendicularly striped with dark grey, approaching to black; the first stripe taking part of the dorsal fin, the shoulder, and the eye; the second, about one-third the centre of the dorsal fin, stretching forward to the pectoral, and terminating with the ventral fin; the third stripe takes a portion of the dorsal fin, crossing the body and terminating with the anal fin: the caudal fin is colored like the stripes, the intervals are white, tinged with blue. The iris silvery. Lateral line very visible and arched, convexing towards the eye.

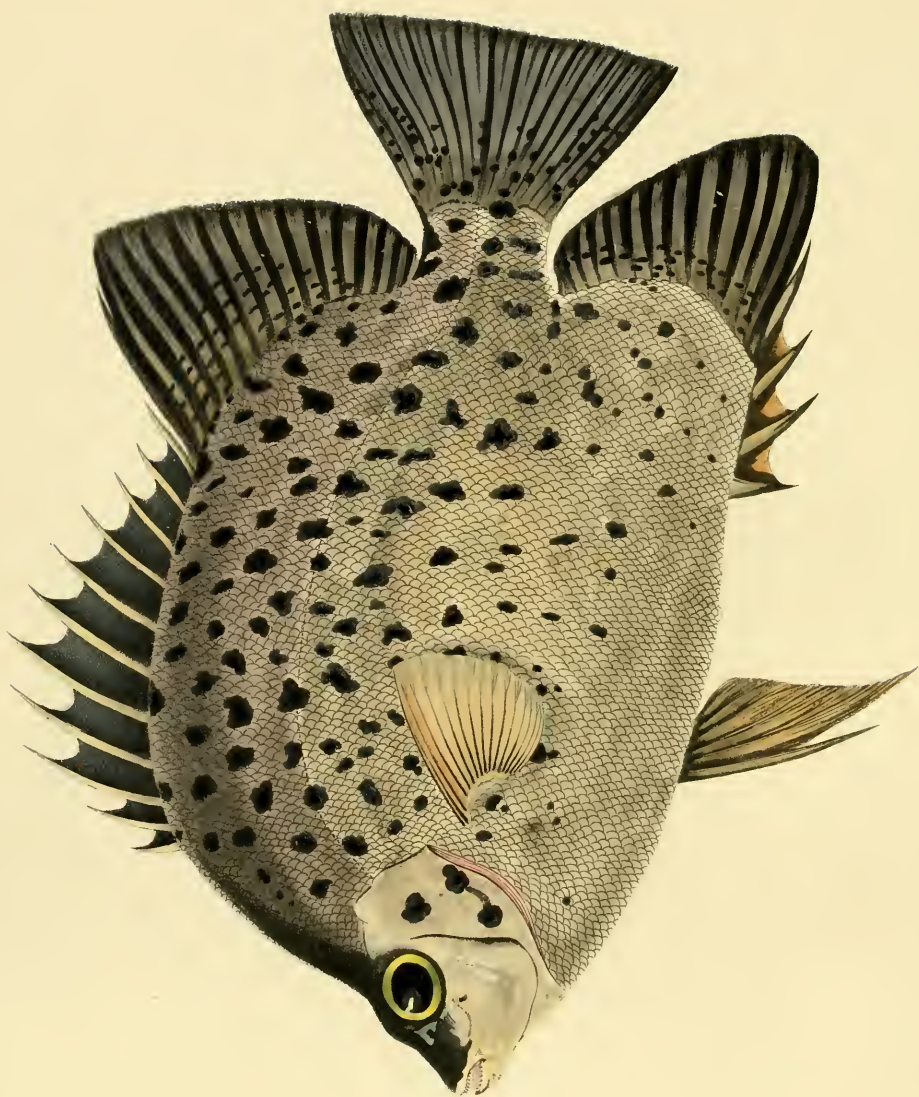
*Branchiostegous* rays 5. *Dorsal* 21, twelve spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 13, three spinous. *Caudal* 18.

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THE Gal-Handah of the Cingalese is a singular fish of its species, and therefore admired. It is found in rocky situations, which offer it protection from larger fish of prey. The flesh is delicate and white, and although so small, is much esteemed. It rarely exceeds three inches in length.

Block has given a bad figure of this fish, tab. 198, fig. 2, evidently taken from a specimen in spirits. It forms the genus *Dascyllus* of Cuvier.

Figure—The natural size of the Specimen.



## CHÆTODON ATRO-MACULATUS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name, දිව්‍යකොරළියා. DEWI KORALEYAH.

C. ATRO-MACULATUS. Body silvery, apparently shot with a lilac and pink hue above the lateral line, and irregularly marked with black spots of various forms. The fins remarkably prominent, and with radii strongly indicated; the spines on the dorsal and lower fins very powerful; the pectoral fin pale yellow. The general appearance inelegant and formidable. Lateral line very visible and arched.

*Branchiostegous rays 4. Dorsal 26, eleven spinous. Pectoral 16. Ventral 6, one spinous. Anal 18, four spinous. Caudal 18.*

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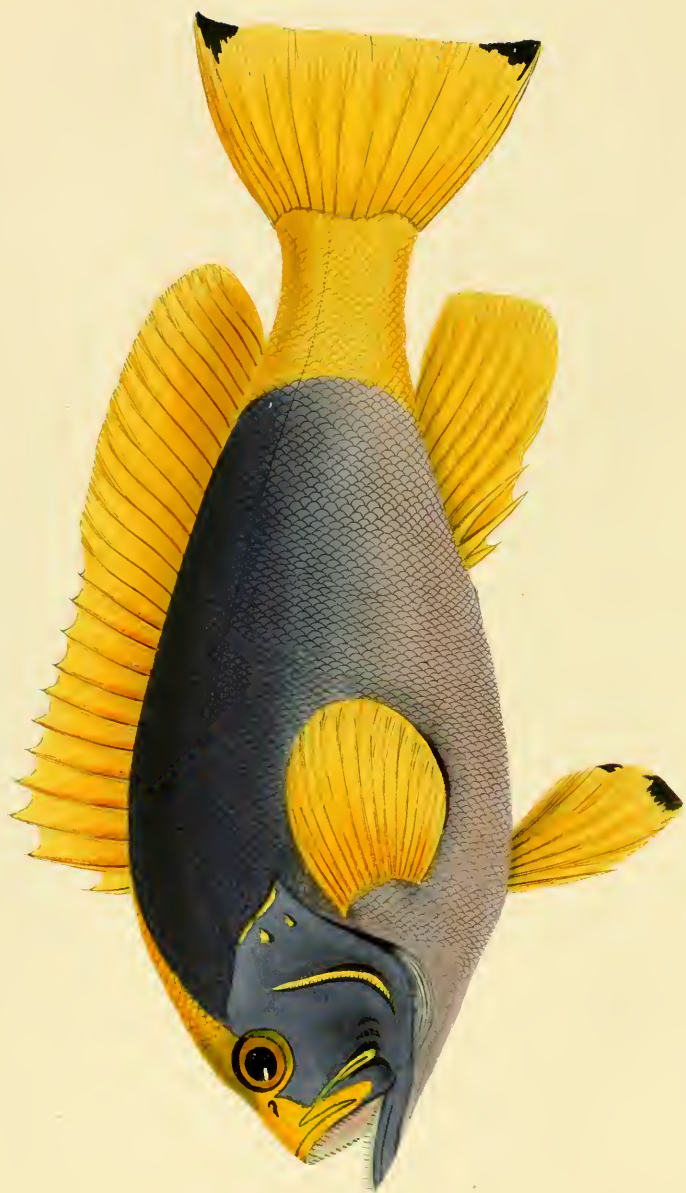
THE Dewi Koraleyah of the Cingalese inhabits rocky situations, is generally found at the mouths of rivers, and as high up as the flow of the tide. It is generally esteemed, its flesh partaking the flavor of trout. It is found wherever the sea-weed called by the Cingalese "Pendah," grows, of which it is particularly fond, and with this weed anglers bait their hooks for it.

Block, the German Historian, has described a fish which in many respects corresponds with this, under the Linnæan name "Chætodon Argus;" but in his colored figure the spots are represented as circular, with the dorsal, anal, and caudal fins, yellow; whereas the fins of the Dewi Koraleyah are never yellow until life has been for some time extinct, and the spots are of various forms.

This fish belongs to the genus Ehippus of Cuvier, and the Cavaliers of the French. Dr. Russel, in his fine work on Indian Fishes, t. 78, equally figures the spots as round, so that the shape of the spots may be liable to vary; the number of rays in the fins, given by Dr. Russel, agree well with our fish.

*Figure*—About two-thirds the size of the Specimen.





## PERCA FLAVA-PURPUREA.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name, කහ ලව්වයා KAHHA LAWEYAH.

**P. FLAVA-PURPUREA.** Body, from the eye to the dorsal and anal fins, purple; gradually lighter towards the lower part; the remainder of the body and all the fins bright yellow; the upper and lower extremity of the caudal fin touched with an irregular black spot; the ventral has also a large and a smaller spot, in conformity with the caudal fin. The iris of the eye is golden. The teeth are numerous. The general appearance of this fish is splendid and graceful.

*Branchiostegous* rays 7. *Dorsal* 28, nine spinous. *Pectoral* 17. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 11, three spinous. *Caudal* 17.

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THE Kaha Laweyah of the Cingalese is scarce on the southern coast of Ceylon, the Author, in the course of two years, having met with but one specimen. Its flesh is said to be excellent, and if more abundant, no doubt the fish would be in the highest request. It inhabits rocky situations, and probably the deepest water, which may prevent its being frequently taken by the fishermen. It was first described by Lacepede, from the short notes and unfinished drawings of Commerson, and has been since engraved in the fine work of Guinard, tab. 57, fig. 2, forming part of Freycinet's Voyage, under the name of Serran Bourgnon. It is fully described in Cuvier's History of Fish, vol. ii. p. 297, under the name of Gerranus flavo-cæruleus.

*Figure*—About three-fourths the natural size of the Specimen.





## LABRUS AUREO-MACULATUS.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  TIK-GIRAWAH.

**L. AUREO-MACULATUS.** Body light brown, inclining to yellow, a white line vertically passing from the back to the commencement of the anal fin: from this white division to the snout there are numerous black spots, those on the plates of the head surrounded by a circle of blue, and on the other side of the white division on the back there are three brilliant orange spots, diminishing towards the caudal fin, which, with the anal and dorsal fins, are variously spotted with black, and marked with a yellow band on their extremities. It is a beautiful species, and thence called in Ceylon the Spotted-parrot. Lateral line very visible, bow-shaped, convexing under the 16th ray of the dorsal fin, and thence extending in a slightly curved line to the sixth or seventh ray of the caudal fin.

*Branchiostegous* rays 5. *Dorsal* 21, nine spinous. *Pectoral* 13. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 15, three spinous. *Caudal* 15.

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THE Tik-Girawah of the Cingalese is so rarely taken on the southern coast of Ceylon, although it delights in rocky situations, that it is but occasionally eaten by the natives, and at particular seasons is considered unwholesome. It has been known to attain the length of eighteen inches. It belongs to the genus *Julis* of Cuvier, but is one of the section with the first ray of the dorsal fins short.

*Figure*—The size of the Specimen.

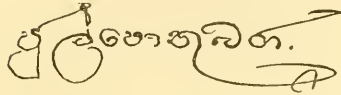


## TETRODON OCELLATUS.

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*Order, Apodal.*

Native Name,



JUL-POTOBARAH.

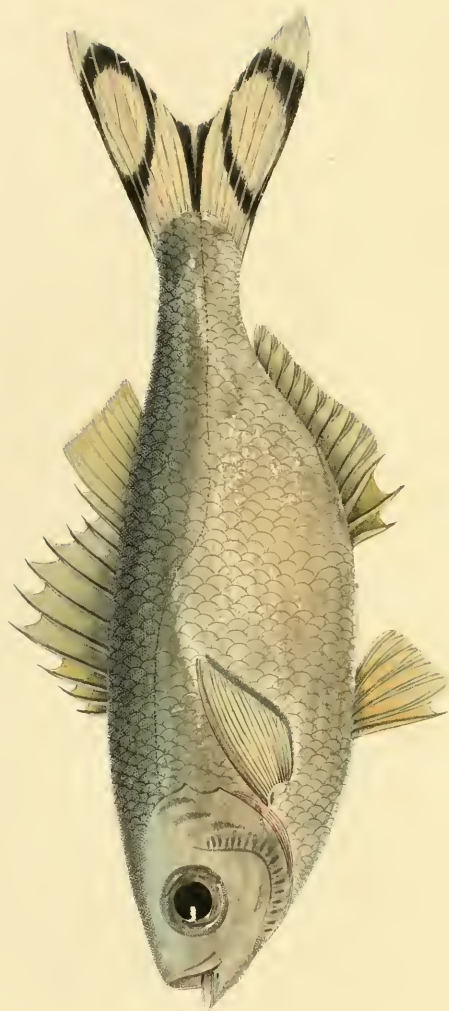
*T. ocellatus.* Body variously spotted; a large black mark at the base of the dorsal fin, surrounded by stripes and dots extending in regular elliptical forms toward the pectoral and caudal fins. The eye placed high and distant from the mouth; small blue and pink stripes intermingled with spots on either side of the mouth and eyes. No ventral fin.

*Branchiostegous rays none. Dorsal 10. Pectoral 14. Anal 8. Caudal 9.*

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THE Potobarah species is very extensive on the southern coast of Ceylon. The native fishers seldom agree together as to the distinguishing names of more than a very few of the commonest of the tribe to which they are most accustomed. From a supposed resemblance of the color of the belly to that of the rind of the "Jul," a fruit known to Europeans by the name originally given to it by the Dutch, namely, "Wood Appel," anglice Wood Apple, when ripe, the native imagination, naturally a fertile one, has affixed to this variety of the Tetrodon family the designation of "Jul-Potobarah." It seldom exceeds five or six inches in length, and is not eaten, being considered poisonous.

*Figure—The natural size of the Specimen.*



## PERCA ARGENTEA.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  SEPELĀWAH.

P. ARGENTEA. Body silvery, back bluish, graduating towards the lateral line, which is strongly marked. Fins pale yellow; the caudal singularly marked with five black longitudinal stripes. The lower plate of the head marked with radii. The iris large, black, and brilliant.

*Branchiostegous* rays 5. *Dorsal* 19, ten spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 13, three spinous. *Caudal* 16.

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THE Sepelāwah of the Cingalese inhabits the deep waters of the ocean, and is found on the shores of Ceylon at certain seasons, when driven into shallow water by larger fishes, of which it is the prey; during such periods, the fishers and other inhabitants take considerable quantities of the Sepelāwah within the shoal water of the coral banks, under the walls of the Fort at Point de Galle, with hats, hand-nets, baskets, &c. This fish rarely exceeds seven inches in length, and is excellent food. The native fishers can give no other reason for the name applied to it than that "it is called Sepelāwah."


Figure—The natural size of the Specimen.





## SCARUS QUINQUE-FASCIATUS.

Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  PANOO-GIRAWAH.  
WORM-PARROT.

*S. QUINQUE-FASCIATUS.* Body dark purple, approaching to black, with five perpendicular light stripes; three touching on the dorsal fin, the third also touches the anal fin, the other two near the caudal. The head beautifully variegated with pink, green, and yellow, interspersed with markings of black, somewhat representing a highly-colored map. Eye projecting, iris golden, surrounded by black, strongly marked on the upper part.

*Branchiostegous* rays 3. *Dorsal* 19, nine spinous. *Pectoral* 12. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 13, one spinous. *Caudal* 15.

THE Panoo-Girawah of the Cingalese is one of that splendid class of fishes on the coast of Ceylon which the natives denominate Parrot. This fish has been known to attain the length of thirty inches; its flesh is delicately white, firm, and wholesome. The Panoo-Girawah derives its name from a fancied resemblance of the vertical stripes of yellow and green on its body, to a species of Palm-worm.

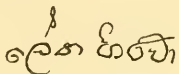
The Specimen, though small, is of the size of the most perfect Specimen the author could select.



## SCARUS GEORGII.

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*Order, THORACIC.*

*Native Name,*  LENA-GIRAWAH.  
SQUIRREL-PARROT.

S. GEORGII. Body green, with three longitudinal bright red lines, between which, on the green parts, are various irregularly placed touches of red; the form of each scale on the green portions is defined by an edging of blue. The dorsal and anal fins have each a stripe of red passing between their stripes of green, and each ray of the caudal fin is touched with red at its base, and terminates in a tinge of yellow, between the predominating green. Head irregularly marked with bright red; sharply defined.

*Branchiostegous rays 4. Dorsal 21, eight spinous. Pectoral 15. Ventral 6.*  
*Anal 13, two spinous. Caudal 16.*

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THE Lena-Girawah of the Cingalese is the most splendid of the class of fishes denominated Parrot found on the shores of Ceylon. It inhabits rocky situations, and is very scarce on the southern coast. It seldom exceeds eighteen inches in length, and is not sought after as an article of food. It derives its Cingalese denomination from the three longitudinal stripes which distinguish the beautiful although very common Lena or Squirrel of the Cingalese: but is classically named after the present August and Royal Protector of the Arts and Sciences—whom God long preserve!

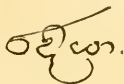
*Figure—The size of the Specimen.*



## CHÆTODON TYRWHITTI.

Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,



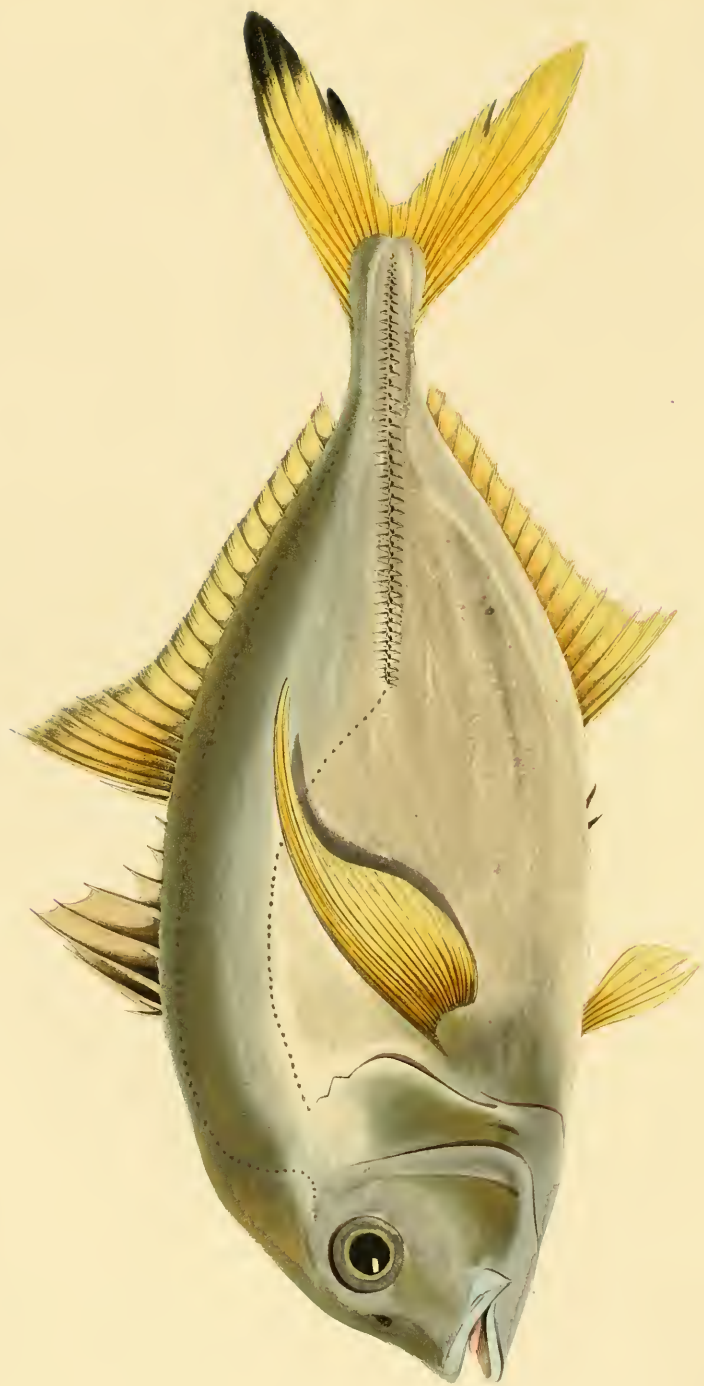
RADEYA.

C. TYRWHITTI. Body yellowish on the upper part, graduating to a pale gray beneath; five perpendicular equidistant dark stripes graduated below, dark spots intervening. Dorsal fin striated between each spine with grey on yellow, the upper parts terminating diagonally in bluish grey. Head of the prevailing grey, with a pink hue and dark mark on the chief plate. Eye near the mouth; iris silvery, but remarkably dull.

*Branchiostegous rays 4. Dorsal 23, thirteen spinous. Pectoral 14. Ventral 6, one spinous. Anal 13, two spinous. Caudal 16.*

THE Radeya of the Cingalese inhabits rocky situations, and although it rarely exceeds five inches in length, is sought after, and esteemed a wholesome food. It is occasionally found at a considerable distance from the mouths of fresh-water rivers, and beyond the influence of the tides. Radeya is one of those names given by the native fishers, the derivation of which cannot be discovered, but the classical denomination has been suggested by the sincerest feelings of grateful esteem and respect.

*Figure*—The natural size of the Specimen.

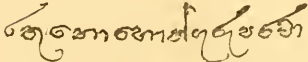




## SCOMBER HEBERI.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  RAT OF GOROO-PARAWAH.

S. HEBERI. Body smooth and silvery, shot with gold; a tinge of grey (probably caused by the removal of the silver by the hands of the fisherman,) graduated from the back to the lateral line, which is much curved above the pectoral fin, and thence passes in a straight line, strongly serrated, to the centre of the caudal fin. Pectoral fin elongated and curved; dorsal fin divided in two, with spines of various lengths; two spines detached in front of the anal fin, the extremity of the upper division nearly black. Head large; shoulders high; eye full and prominent. Fins different tinges of yellow.

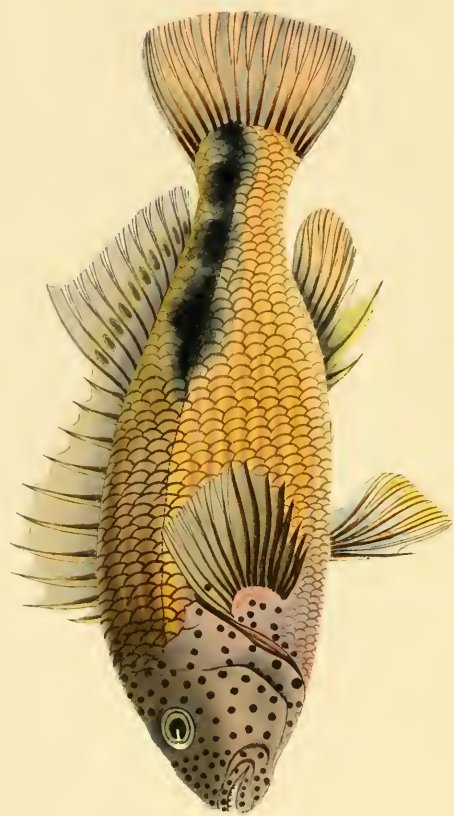
*Branchiostegous rays 7. First Dorsal Fin, 8 spines; Second Dorsal, 21, one spinous. Pectoral 18. Ventral 5. Anal 17, one spinous: two spines preceding. Caudal 22.*

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THE Rat or Goroo-Parawah of the Cingalese is found in deep water, and is in general estimation. It has been known to exceed two feet in length.

This fish is classically named as a tribute of respect to the memory of departed worth and excellence in the late Right Rev. Bishop Heber; who having an opportunity of comparing the MSS. with the fishes themselves, on his Lordship's visit to Point de Galle, in Ceylon, in 1805, honored it with his immediate patronage, and subsequently recommended it to his friends on the Indian Continent; where he, alas! too soon for humanity's sake, exchanged a career of every earthly good for the sublimer sphere of eternal felicity.

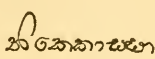




## GERRANUS TANKERVILLÆ.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,  TIK KOSSAH.

G. TANKERVILLÆ. Body yellow, with longitudinal streaks of pale red. A large irregularly formed stain, approaching to black, above the lateral line, and towards the caudal fin. Head of a dull purple hue, spotted with darker tones of purple. Fins various shades of yellow, with reddish rays.

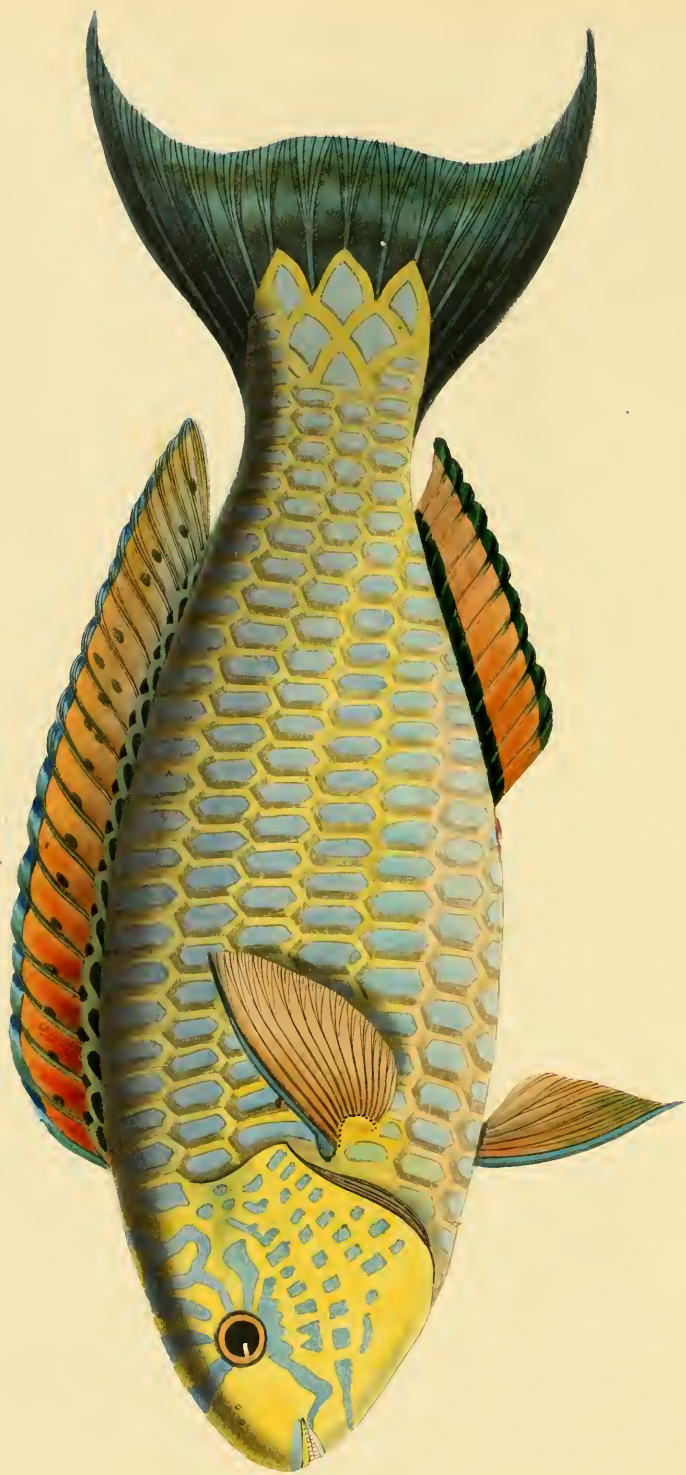
*Branchiostegous* rays 3. *Dorsal* 21, ten spinous. *Pectoral* 14. *Ventral* 6, one spinous. *Anal* 9, three spinous. *Caudal* 16.

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THE Tik Kossah of the Cingalese inhabits rocky situations, seldom exceeds eighteen inches in length, and is a firm-fleshed and wholesome fish.

Many of the fishes on the coast of Ceylon vary in their colors after having attained their utmost length; therefore the most brilliant specimens are those of medium size. Gratitude for kindnesses received, and favorable recommendations to the author's superiors in India, (however neglected by those to whom addressed,) have induced the denomination of this Gerranus, the only mode the author has of recording his deep sense of respect to the memory of the late Right Hon. Charles Augustus, Earl of Tankerville.

*Figure*—The size of the Specimen.



## SCARUS-PEPO.

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Order, THORACIC.

Native Name,



LABOO-GIRAWAH.

S.-PEPO. Body covered with scales, resembling a regularly marked net or trellis work, of yellow, on a blue ground, graduating towards the under parts. Head yellow, with various forms and spots of blue. Eye brilliant; iris golden. Caudal fin dark green, vertically tinged with reddish brown; dorsal and anal fins reddish brown, bordered with dark green. Pectoral and ventral fins yellowish brown, the front rays green; no spines.

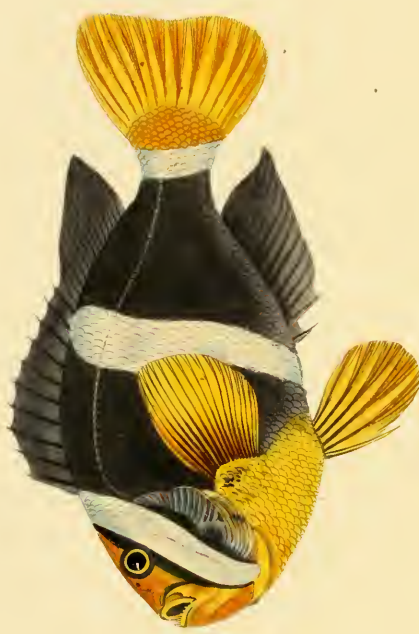
*Branchiostegous rays 5. Dorsal 20. Pectoral 14. Ventral 6. Anal 11.*  
*Caudal 15.*

---

THE Laboo-Girawah of the Cingalese is very scarce on the southern coast of Ceylon. It has been taken upwards of three feet in length; its flesh is white and firm; and, if more generally known, would be highly esteemed.


Girawah, or Parrot, is applied to those fishes which the natives consider beautiful; and this fish is not the least worthy of their consideration. Laboo is the name of a species of gourd or pumpkin, to which the marks and colors of the fish have some resemblance. It is somewhat allied to the *Scarus Viridis* of Block, table 233, but the scales are larger, and the color more distinctly marked.

*Figure—One-fourth the size of the original.*



## ANTHIAS CLARKII.

*Order, THORACIC.*

*Native Name,*        *POL-KITCHYAH.*

*A. CLARKII.* Body dark purple, approaching to black, divided by three white streaks ; the first curves from the front of the dorsal fin, near the eye, and terminates on the lower plate ; the second streak crosses the body from about the middle of the dorsal to the front spine of the anal fin ; the third streak curves inwards from the outer rays of the caudal fin. Part of the head, the body between the pectoral and ventral fins, and the caudal fin, are bright yellow, tinged with orange ; the dorsal and anal fins are purple. Mouth situated high ; the iris golden.

*Branchiostegous* rays 2.    *Dorsal* 25, ten spinous.    *Pectoral* 18.    *Ventral* 6, one spinous.    *Anal* 15, two spinous.    *Caudal* 16.

THE *Pol-Kitchyah* of the Cingalese is very scarce, few of the fishers in the neighbourhood of Galle having ever seen it. The name is derived from the beautiful Java Sparrow. It rarely exceeds four, or four and a half inches in length. It is a good, firm, and wholesome fish. *Pol* signifies Cocoa-nut !!!—so much for native derivations.

The *Anthias Clarkii* appears to differ from the Linnaean *Perca Polymna*, figured by Block, under the name of *Anthias Polymna*, t. 316, fig. 1, only by being figured from the living specimen ; and is named after the engraver, Mr. John Clark, who has not only done ample justice to, but laid the author under very great obligations to him for his able assistance in, the present work.





## GOMPHOSUS VIRIDIS.

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*Order, THORACIC.*

*Native Name,* නිල් තලපත් ගිහින NIL TALAPAT-GIRAWAH,  
 GREEN TALAPAT-PARROT.  
OR

G. VIRIDIS. Body dark green. Snout elongated. The pectoral fin marked with a black streak; the other fins of a paler green than the body. Eyes rather dim; iris golden.

*Branchiostegous rays 4. Dorsal 21, eight spinous. Pectoral 14. Ventral 6.*  
*Anal 12, one spinous. Caudal 14.*

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THE Nil Talapat Girawah of the Cingalese is very scarce on the southern coast of Ceylon: it is found in rocky situations, but never sought after by the fishermen as an article of food.

This fish is remarkable for the loss of its beautiful green color after exceeding the length of ten or twelve inches. It is considered by the native Cingalese that the dorsal fin of this fish resembles the young leaf of the Talapat tree, when spread.

*Figure—The size of the Specimen.*