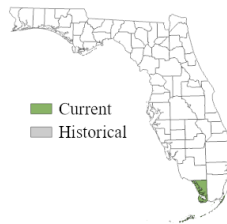


KEY BLENNY

Starksia starcki

Order: Perciformes
Family: Labrisomidae
FNAI Ranks: G1G3/S1
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: A small (.8 - 1.1 in. = 20 - 27 mm) fish with long dorsal and anal fins. Has a pattern of brown bars broken by a horizontal line with tan interspaces as broad as the bars; has single cirrus (fleshy appendage) above each eye and on the nape. Venter (belly) is fully scaled. There are 13 or 14 lateral line scales, 13 pectoral rays, II - 18 or 19 anal rays and XX - 8 or 9 dorsal rays.

Similar Species: In our area, most similar to checkered blenny (*Starksia ocellata*), which has a blotchy or spotted appearance and is slightly larger (average 1.5 in. = 38.1 mm).

Habitat: Little is known, but has been collected in surge channels between rows of coral in waters less than 25 ft (7.6 m) deep. Also collected at a depth of 50 ft. (15 m) in Honduras.

Seasonal Occurrence: Presumed to be present year round.

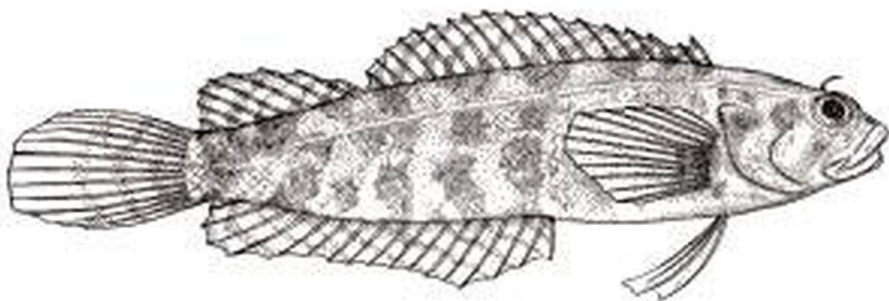
Florida Distribution: Known only from a single, isolated coral formation in the vicinity of Looe Key.

Range-wide Distribution: Few collections from Florida Keys, Honduras, and Belize.

Conservation Status: Status is undetermined; presumed to be protected by restrictions on coral collecting in Florida reefs.

Protection and Management: Maintain integrity of coral reef habitat; limit recreational use of reef by divers.

References: Gilbert (ed.) 1978, Page and Burr 1998.



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