

The Pier Aquarium presents the Celebrity Critter of the Week!



Lawnmower Blenny

Scientific Name: *Salaria fasciatus*

Description: Fairly drab with a long whitish body and gray to tan colored vertical bars on the sides. Small light-blue dots on the face and delicate projections (cirri) around the face.

Habitat: Indo-Pacific, East Africa to Micronesia and the Great Barrier Reef.

Top 10 Facts:

1. Lawnmower Blennies spend most of their day perched on rocks, but they get their name for their habit of “mowing down” or munching algae.
2. This species is primarily vegetarian and has teeth that are adept at scraping algae from the surface of rocks. They are frequently introduced into aquarium tanks to control hair algae.
3. This fish is also known as the algae blenny, jeweled rockskipper or jeweled blenny.
4. At night, this species may bury itself into the substrate leaving only its eyes visible. It may return to the same spot each night.
5. In captivity, this species has been known to nip at clam mantles and small polyp stony corals.
6. Lawnmower blennies grow 5-6” in length.
7. The Lawnmower Blenny’s skin coloration enables it to camouflage well with liverock.
8. Generally non-aggressive toward other species, the Lawnmower Blenny can become territorial with members of its own species.
9. Lawnmower Blennies have been recorded to live up to 10 years in captivity.
10. This species is oviparous or egg laying and lays eggs that are sticky and easily attach to hard surfaces.