

# MARINE AQUARIST® FREE

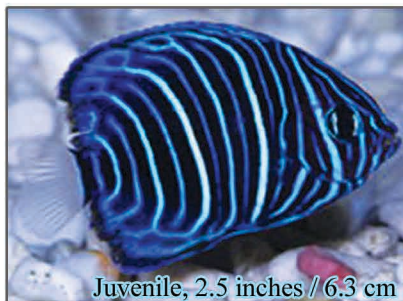
DEDICATED TO SUCCESSFUL SALTWATER AQUARIUM KEEPING

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Fall 2014



Juvenile, 2.5 inches / 6.3 cm



Subadult 4 inches / 10 cm



Adult, 7 inches / 17.5 cm  
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Blue Ring  
Angelfish

## Pomacanthus annularis

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### Geographic Range

*P. annularis* can be found in the Indo-Pacific region ranging from East Africa and Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean to the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean. It can be found in lesser numbers in the Philippines to the northern region of Australia. They are usually located in the range of 25° N to 25° S (Hemmstra 1986, Abayani 2002). Specimens collected in the early to mid 1970's for the aquarium trade were shipped to the USA from Thailand (Del Prete 1973).

### Habitat

*P. annularis* is a tropical marine fish that lives around coastal rocky coral reefs and other hard bottom coastal areas. In their natural habitat adults can be seen from 15-30 feet / 5-15 meters in depth.

They have been observed as deep as about 90 feet / 30 meters. Juveniles are found at the upper range of the adult water column and sometimes in shallower water.

Adult *P. annularis* are a dark orange to brown or golden color with a white caudal fin. They grow up to 12 inches / 300 cm. They are monomorphic between sexes.

### Reproduction

In nature, spawning normally starts with the onset of dusk. Adults have a mating ritual that ends when the male and female slowly swim towards the surface of the water and release eggs and sperm. This is similar behavior to the Mandarin fish, the *Synchiropus* species (Del Prete 1973).

### Development

*Pomacanthus annularis* larvae hatch at sunset, as with many other Pomacanthidae & Chaetodon (Del Prete 1980).

They swim with plankton for about 30-45 days prior to developing into juveniles. *Pomacanthus annularis* is considered a protogynous hermaphrodite. At the beginning of their life, all are females. *P. annularis* first coloration patterns start out with alternating, vertical blue and white stripes on a black body. This coloration is similar to the *P. chrysurus*. In about 60 days, white and blue bands appear on a now deep blue background body color.

Juvenile *P. annularis* (1-4 inches / 25-100 cm) have a beautiful dark blue body with vertical white bands. Adult coloration starts to form in adolescence, when they develop a golden body color with blue diagonal lines, starting just behind the gills and opening into a fan like pattern towards the rear portion of the fish's body (Del Prete 1974). --Cont'd. on next page.