

MARINE AQUARIST® FREE

DEDICATED TO SUCCESSFUL SALTWATER AQUARIUM KEEPING

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Conspicuous Angelfish

RANGE: One of the most sought after marine angel fish is *C. conspicillatus* (not only because of its bright colorful markings, but rather due to its rarity). *C. conspicillatus* was collected in very small numbers from New Caledonia in the late 1970's. At present, more numbers are being collected and shipped to No. America, Europe, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong; however the price is high. Some marine aquarium keepers refer to *C. conspicillatus* as the Holy Grail for all saltwater aquarium angelfish lovers.

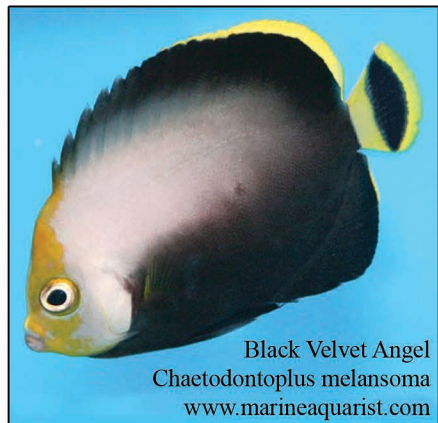
C. conspicillatus is found south of the Great Barrier Reef towards New Caledonia and Lord Howe Islands. Lord Howe is, however, a protected area and wildlife cannot be collected and removed. This exotic marine angel can be found near coral reefs and lagoons. Juvenile to adolescent *C. conspicillatus* can be found at 6 ft ~ about 60 feet (20 m ~ 200 m). Adults can be found at greater depths.

DESCRIPTION: *C. conspicillatus* belongs to the Pomacanthidae family of marine angel fish. It is one of the rarer members of the genus *Chaetodontoplus*. The easiest way to identify *Chaetodontoplus conspicillatus* is by looking for blueish circles around each eye over a yellow or orange colored face or mask.



Juvenile *C. conspicillatus* lack the blue circles around the eyes and yellow patch on the middle of the pectoral fin. The ventral fin is also black instead of white. *C. conspicillatus* can grow to about 10 inches ~ 12 inches (250 ~ 300 cm).

AQUARIUM CARE: In captivity, *C. conspicillatus* will accept and thrive when provided with high quality frozen foods. Foods such as mysis, scallop, prawns, premium pellets, flakes, and algae sheets are highly suggested. Depending on the temperament and nutritional requirements of each individual animal, many can be successfully kept with expert care in reef type aquariums. However some *C. conspicillatus* might nip at SPS corals or clams.



POOR MAN'S CONSPICILLATUS: *Chaetodontoplus melansoma*, the Black Velvet Angelfish, AKA the Grey Pomacanthus Angel, is commonly collected and shipped from the Philippines. They can also be found in various mid-water Indo-Pacific reefs. Juveniles are solid black except for the yellow trim, on the tail and fins, and a light patch located on the gill cover. Adults are black with a gray head and upper body, and a yellowish face. The tail and posterior end of the dorsal and anal fin are edged in yellow. Aquarium requirements are similar to the *Chaetodontoplus conspicillatus*. ♦

MARINE AQUARIST® is created for the benefit of amateur and professional marine aquarists, aqua culturists, and universities world wide.

Topics may include: water chemistry, system design, filtration, lighting, nutrition, mariculture, aquatic and chemical science, and the collecting, shipping, importing, selling, and keeping of many forms of marinelif in captivity.

MARINE AQUARIST® is published quarterly for free distribution through aquarium stores, hobby clubs, and educational marine programs.

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