

# MARINE AQUARIST® FREE

DEDICATED TO SUCCESSFUL SALTWATER AQUARIUM KEEPING

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## Golden Butterfly

*Chaetodon semilarvatus*

The Golden Butterflyfish is a brilliant gem that is found in the North and South of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden area in the Middle East. It is one of the world's most sought after aquarium pets. *C. semilarvatus* is distinctively marked with a golden coat of bright yellow to a rich gold, with vertical orange stripes and a gray patch on the eye area.

Juvenile coloration is similar to that of the adult. Juveniles have been collected at depths of two to six feet. Adults can be found from ten to forty feet deep.

*C. semilarvatus* is found in areas of abundant coral growth in groups of a dozen or more. Most other *Chaetodon* species are found in nature in two ways: as pairs and also sometimes in solitary as well.

Although *C. semilarvatus* is found in coral reefs, it can be a most welcome addition to the home marine aquarium, if properly acclimated and conditioned to accept a variety of prepared foods.



Golden Butterflyfish  
*Chaetodon semilarvatus*  
MARINE AQUARIST®

The Red Sea has a higher salinity or specific gravity than other oceans. Because of this, it can take from four to eight weeks to properly acclimate Red Sea fish from 42+ ppt. to 35 ppt. salinity or a specific gravity of 1.033+ to 1.026.

Once *C. semilarvatus* has been quarantined and properly acclimated it should be offered suitable foods. Once taking suitable foods it can be introduced into a "reef aquarium". Close observation is a



must. If your *C. semilarvatus* starts to pick at corals, remove it and place it in a "fish only" marine aquarium display.

There are few things better than a display of several *C. semilarvatus* in a simple marine fish display aquarium.

*C. semilarvatus* can live for years in captivity on a variety of natural foods. A mixture of scallop and prawn along with Nori algae mixed with a high quality commercially prepared food can be used to maintain captive *C. semilarvatus*. ♦

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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 marinelife in captivity.

MARINE AQUARIST® is published quarterly for free distribution through aquarium stores.

Dealers can receive copies of MARINE AQUARIST® at no cost for handout to their customers by emailing: [info@marineaquarist.com](mailto:info@marineaquarist.com).

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