

When collected in the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the fish's throat coloration is a pale pink. In contrast, when found in the Indian Ocean & the Red Sea, the throat area is a vibrant orange.

While diving in Palau, I have seen adult P. diacanthus swimming in only three to five feet of water. They were grazing among stag horn corals withbanner fish (Heniochus acuminatus) and powder brown tangs (Acanthurus glaucopareius).

Small specimens of P. diacanthus (under 3 inches. / 7.5 cm.) are as attractive as adults. Adults can reach 10 inches / 25 cm.

P. diacanthus (3 inches to 5 inches) can be kept in aquariums no less than 50+ US gallons or 190+ L. Large animals should be kept in aquariums no less than 100+ US gallons or 380+ L.

Smaller P. diacanthus appear to adjust better to aquarium life than their larger adult counterparts. Once acclimated into the proper marine aquarium conditions, P. diacanthus will accept a wide variety of frozen foods. However, frozen mysis, pellet and wafer foods from Hikari® are preferred.

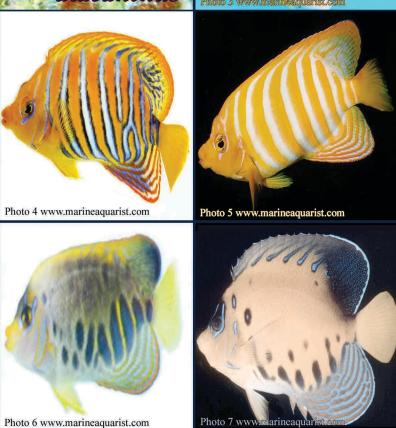


Photo #1 shows a 5 inch / 12.5 cm P. diacanthus with normal body markings and coloration.

Photo #2 shows a 6 1/2 inch / 16.25 cm P. diacanthus with unusual body bars.

Photo #3 shows a P. diacanthus about 4 inches / 10 cm with dramatic misbaring.

Photo #4 shows a 4 inch / 10 cm P. diacanthus with a near lack of blue body bar coloration.

Photo #5 shows a 9 inch / 22.5 cm P. diacanthus with a near total lack of body bar development and pale color.

Photo #6 shows a 3 inch / 7.5 cm P. diacanthus with a lack of traditional body bars and coloration.

Photo #7 shows a 2.5 inch / 6.25 cm P. diacanthus with a total lack of body bars and pale orange.