

Squirrelfish (Holocentridae)



squirrelfish, holocentrus
adscensionis

Squirrelfish are a group of colorful, nocturnal fish that are found in tropical and subtropical waters throughout the world. They are part of the family Holocentridae, which includes several species of fish that are known for their bright red, orange, or yellow coloration and their large, protruding eyes.

Squirrelfish are typically small to medium-sized fish, reaching a maximum length of about 30 cm (12 inches). They have a slender, elongated body with a small mouth and a pair of large, protruding eyes that help them see in low light conditions. Their body is typically bright red, orange, or yellow in color, with numerous black or dark blue spots, stripes, or markings.

Squirrelfish are generally non-aggressive and are not considered a threat to humans.



longspine squirrelfish, *holocentrus rufus*

The longspine squirrelfish (*Holocentrus rufus*) is native to the Western Atlantic Ocean. It is a member of the family Holocentridae, which also includes other squirrelfishes and soldierfishes. The longspine squirrelfish is a small fish that grows to a maximum length of about 8 inches (20 cm). It has a laterally compressed body and a distinctive, elongated first dorsal fin spine. The longspine squirrelfish is typically reddish-orange in color, with a yellow or white belly. It is found in coral reefs and lagoons, and feeds on small invertebrates. The longspine squirrelfish features bright coloration, a peaceful nature, and an active, graceful swimming style.