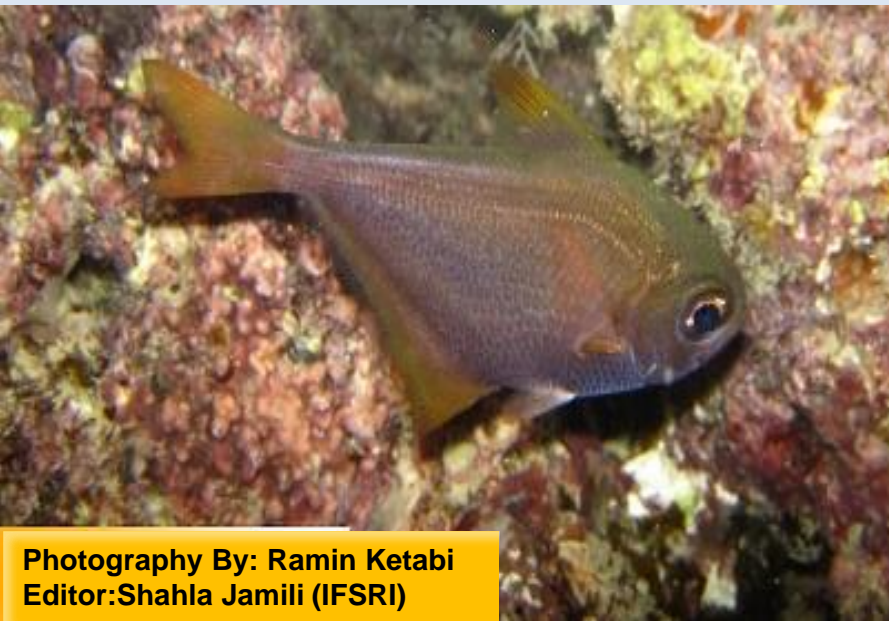


# *Pempheris vanicolensis* (Cuvier, 1831)



Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Actinopterygii  
Order: Perciformes

Family: Pempheridae  
Genus: *Pempheris*  
Species: *P. vanicolensis*

*Pempheris vanicolensis* has reported for the first time from **Persian Gulf (Kish Island)**. Various aspects of the biology of *P. vanicolensis* Cuvier & Valenciennes, a recent Lessepsian (Suez Canal) immigrant into the Mediterranean, are given. Red Sea and Mediterranean populations were compared, and the results indicate that the spawning season is shortened in the Mediterranean, continuing from April to September, as opposed to year-round in the Red Sea. Descriptions of a ripe ovary and post-larva from the Mediterranean are given. Individuals reach a mean size of 10.8 cm in their first year, and 14.4 cm in the second year. Little change has occurred in the diet of the immigrant population, and both populations feed nocturnally, chiefly on larval and adult stages of planktonic crustaceans. Direct underwater observations on the diurnal behavior of the species show that the fish leave their daytime cave shelter at sunset, congregate at a nearby site and then migrate inshore and disperse into small groups to feed. Before dawn, they reassemble at the cave's entrance, and finally enter it at sunrise, after the school has built up. Observations on **Persian Gulf** sweepers show that the fish are segregated into size groups, ranging 15–18 cm adults at depths of 3 m.

**Food:** *Pempheris vanicolensis* disperse at night to feed on crustaceans and polychaete worms.

**Habitat:** Found mainly in tropical and subtropical areas in shallow water (less than 100 m), common on coral reefs. This species widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific from Andaman Sea and western Pacific.

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