**Alticus kirkii** (Günther, 1868)

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Actinopterygii  
Order: Perciformes  
Family: Blenniidae  
Genus: Alticus  
Species: A. kirkii

The Kirk's blenny (*Alticus kirkii*) is a species of combtooth blenny (family Blenniidae) in the genus *Alticus*. It is a tropical blenny. Adults are found in the intertidal zone of exposed rocky shores, often out of the water and down to around 2 m and often spend time out of the water. They are able to breathe air when on land. Air-breathing *A. kirkii* utilize both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. They actively shuttle back and forth between rock pools and air (skipper). During the day it emerges from the water to feed upon the algae growing in the splash zone on the rocks. Water contact exists only from waves splashing over the rocks. *A. kirkii* exhibits an amphibian lifestyle and meets the most extreme environmental conditions in concern. They are oviparous, and form distinct pairs when mating; they also guard their eggs. Eggs are demersal and adhesive, and are attached to the substrate via a filamentous, adhesive pad or pedestal. Larvae are planktonic, often found in shallow, coastal waters. The maximum total length of this species is 11 or 12 cm male/unsexed.

**Food:** *Alticus kirkii* is herbivorous and feeding primarily off of benthic algae.

**Distribution:** *Alticus kirkii* has a wide distribution throughout the western Indian Ocean, including Reunion, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, and Somalia, north to the Red Sea, east to India. It found in Hormozgzan waters (Iran) in the Persian Gulf.