

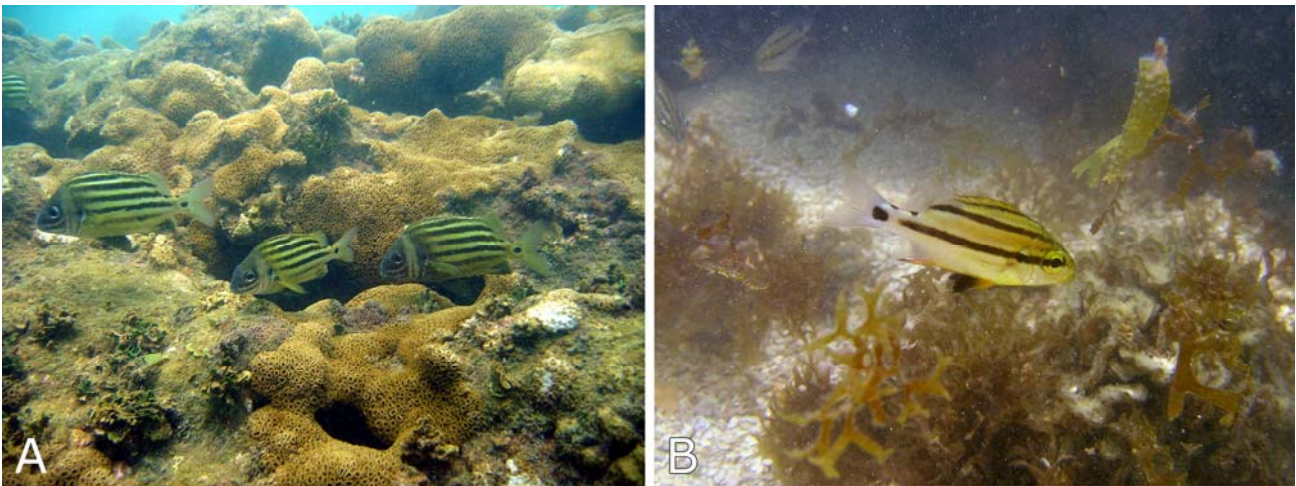


## Notes on the ecology of the poorly known Brownstriped grunt, *Anisotremus moricandi* (Ranzani, 1842), in the coastal reefs of the Northeastern region of Brazil

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The Brownstriped grunt, *Anisotremus moricandi* (Ranzani 1842) (Fig. A, adults and B, juvenile) belongs to the family Haemulidae, reaches about 18 cm and is distributed in the western Atlantic, from Panama to Espírito Santo, Brazil. It is considered a coastal solitary species with nocturnal activities living in rocky bottoms (Acero & Garzón 1982). From December 2004 to January 2007, three schools of *A. moricandi* (with 3, 5 and 8 fishes) were observed during six diurnal SCUBA dives in the Itacipanema reef (38° 57' 53" W - 16° 15' 46" S), South of Bahia and nine schools (with 3 - 11 fishes) during seventeen free diurnal dives in the Picãozinho reef (34° 48'45" W - 7° 06' 45" S), João Pessoa, Paraíba, both in NE Brazil.

Although it is pointed in the Red List of Threatened Species - IUCN (Acero 1996) and also under high fishing pressure by Floeter *et al.* (2006), authors' personal observations indicate that *A. moricandi* is not a main target, neither for commercial or artisanal fisheries in the states of Bahia and Paraíba. Underwater observations, however confirms that this species may present diurnal and gregarious habits, including mixing with other Haemulidae species, which indicates that strategies to conserve *A. moricandi* populations in NE Brazil should place strong emphasis on the conservation of their habitats, especially the biogenic coastal reefs, and no requires on fishing pressure reduction. Picture Characteristics: Canon PowerShot S40; Resolution of 4 megapixels; autofocus; automatic regulation; Waterproof Case Canon WP-DC300.

### References

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- Floeter, S. R., Halpern, B. S. & Ferreira, C. E. L. 2006. Effects of fishing and protection on Brazilian reef fishes. *Biological Conservation* 128, 391-402.

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