

## PINGUIPEDIDAE

### Sandperches

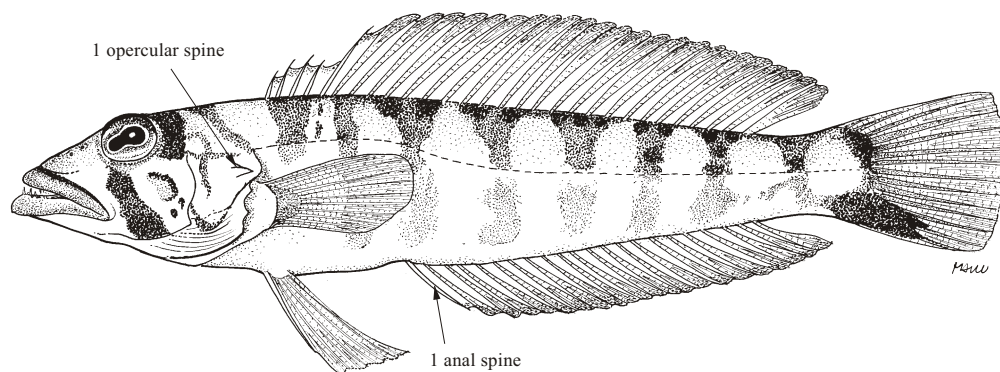
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**A single species occurring in the area.**

*Parapercis atlantica* (Vaillant, 1887)

**Frequent synonyms / misidentifications:** *Neopercis atlantica* Vaillant, 1887; *N. ledanoisi* Cadenat, 1937 / None.

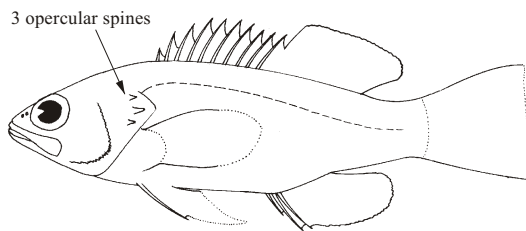
**FAO names:** En – Cape Verde sandperch.



**Diagnostic characters:** Elongate, slightly compressed, moderate sized (to at least 15 cm total length) perciform fishes. **Eyes small to moderate, protruding slightly above dorsal profile of head. Head pointed.** Mouth moderate, protractile and terminal; recurved canine teeth in an outer row at front of jaws; villiform teeth behind anterior canines; vomerine and palatine teeth present. **Single posteriorly-directed spine on opercle** and upper margin of subopercle; gill membranes united, free from isthmus except anteriorly; branchiostegal rays 6. **Continuous dorsal fin with 5 spines and 24 soft rays; anal fin with 1 spine and 20 soft rays;** caudal fin emarginated; 18 pectoral rays; pelvic fins with 1 spine and 5 soft rays, pelvics inserted below pectoral fins. Lateral line continuous with about 68 scales; scales absent on occiput, interorbital, snout, dorsal fin, and anal fin. **Colour:** light or white background with 8 to 9 dark bars on body; distinct bars behind and below eye.

### Similar families occurring in the area

Most elongate perciform fishes in the area can be distinguished from pinguipedids by the presence of 2 distinct dorsal fins and/or the lack of anal spines. Pinguipedids have a single dorsal fin and 1 anal spine. Some serranid species are particularly similar and can be further distinguished by the presence of 3 opercular spines (1 in pinguipedids).



**Serranidae**

**Habitat, biology, and fisheries:** The single species from this area is known only from type specimens that were taken at depths between 180 and 200 m. Sandperches are typically found on sedimentary or rubble bottoms. Many species have been shown to be protogynous hermaphrodites, but little is known about the habitat and biology of *Parapercis atlantica*.

**Remarks:** Recently, *Parapercis roseoviridis* (Gilbert, 1905) was collected from the southeast Atlantic Ocean around Valdivia Bank and Vema Seamount. This is the second pinguipedid known from the Atlantic, and it is quite similar to *Parapercis atlantica*, including the conspicuous banding pattern. However, it can readily be distinguished from *P. atlantica* by its lower lateral-line scale count (< 64 scales) and its lack of the diagnostic bars below and directly behind the eye.

**Distribution:** Only known from the Cape Verde Islands.



## References

- Quéro, J.-C. & Randall, J.E. 1990. Mugiloidiidae. In J.-C. Quéro, J.-C. Hureau, C. Karrer, A. Post & L. Saldanha, eds. *Check-list of the fishes of the eastern tropical Atlantic*. Paris, UNESCO, pp. 892.
- Randall, J.E. 2001. Pinguipedidae (= Parapercidae, Mugiloididae). In K.E. Carpenter & V.H. Niem, eds. *The living marine resources of the western central Pacific. Vol. 6: Bony fishes part 4 (Labridae to Latimeriidae), estuarine crocodiles, sea turtles, sea snakes and marine mammals*. FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes. Rome, FAO, pp. 3501–3510.