

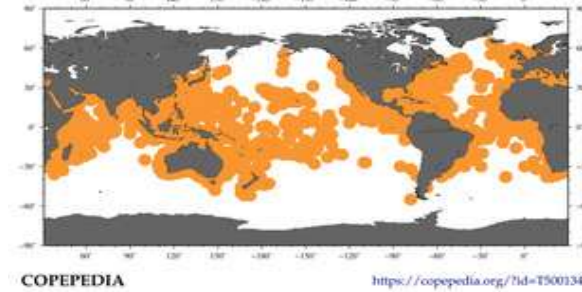
**Tetraodontiformes**

The hallmark for this order is that the bones of the jaw are modified and fused into a sort of "parrot's beak"; visible sutures divide the small beaks into "teeth". They have extremely small gill openings. Most are marine and dwell in and around tropical coral reefs, but a few species are found in freshwater streams and estuaries.

[FAO](#)

click on family name on map (Copepedia) to get access to higher resolution version and to maps at genus level

**Tetraodontiformes**



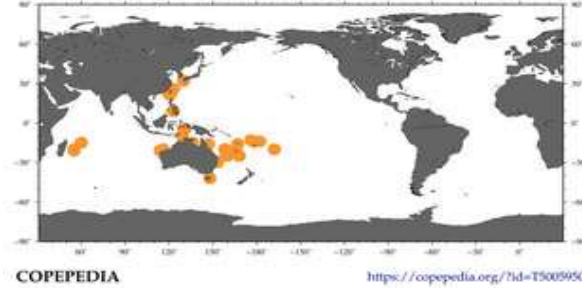
puffers and filefishes

shift + click on fish to get access to photos on Fishbase page

**Triodontidae**

The threetooth puffer reaches a maximum length of 54 cm. Its body is yellowish-brown with a white belly flap as large as or larger than its body which it inflates with seawater when threatened. In case of danger the flap is inflated by rotating the shaft-like pelvis downwards, exposing a black eyespot contoured with yellow. This makes the animal appear much larger to predators.

**Triodontidae**

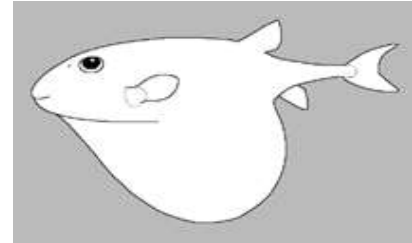


[WCA](#)

three-toothed puffer marine

[WCP](#)

54 cm

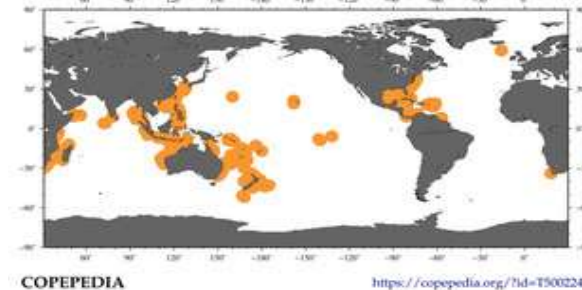


54 cm

**Triacanthodidae**

The spikefishes are quite variable in form, with some species having tubular snouts (greatly elongated in *Halimochirurgus* and *Macrorhamphosodes*), and others have spoon-like teeth for scraping the scales off other fishes. they can be characterized by their similarities of having a dense body with relatively thick skin, a large amount of tiny yet spiky scales, among other things.

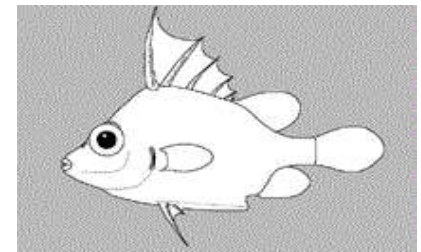
**Triacanthodidae**



[WCP](#)

spikefishes marine

4.4 cm

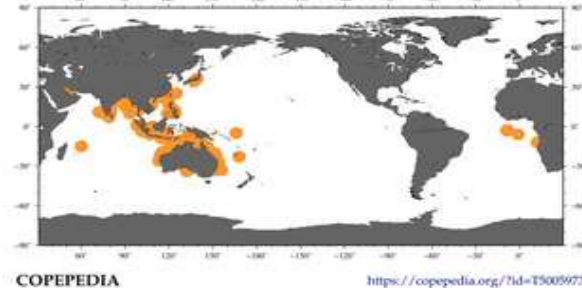


21.6 cm

**Triacanthidae**

The triplespines's first ray of the dorsal fin is formed to a spine. Further, they have two spines in place of their ventral fins. They have sharp and heavy teeth, which they use to eat hard-shelled molluscs and crustaceans. They also have the unique ability to see ultraviolet light. Their ability to see ultraviolet light is similar to the vision of Goldfish.

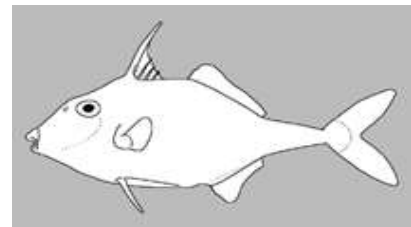
**Triacanthidae**



[WCP](#)

triplespines marine brackish

15 cm

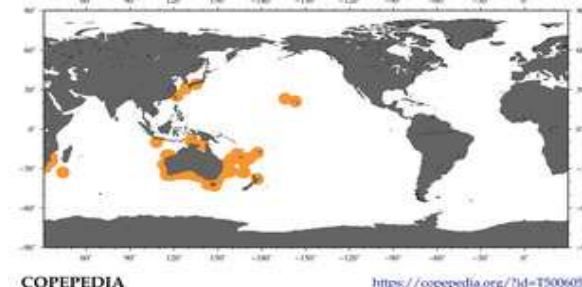


30 cm

**Aracanidae**

They are somewhat more primitive than the true boxfishes, but have a similar protective covering of thickened scale plates. They are found in the Indian Ocean and the west Pacific. Unlike the true boxfishes, they also inhabit deep waters, of over 200 m in depth. Separated from Ostraciidae in 2008 by Eschmeyer.

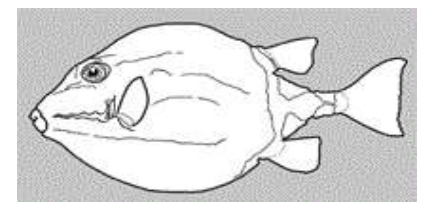
**Aracanidae**



[WCP](#)

deepwater boxfishes marine

10.4 cm

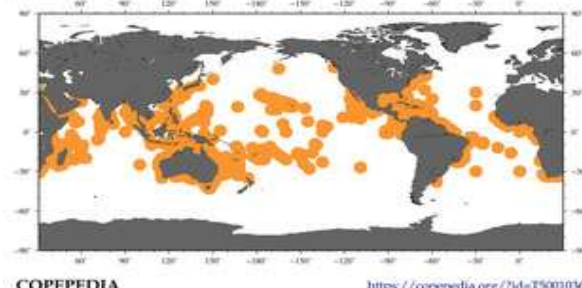


37 cm

**Ostraciidae**

Members of this family occur in a variety of different colors, and are notable for the hexagonal or "honeycomb" patterns on their skin. They swim in a rowing manner. Because of these heavy armoured scales, Ostraciidae are limited to slow movements, but few other fish are able to eat the adults.

**Ostraciidae**

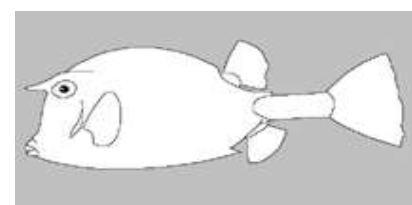


[WCA](#)

[WCP](#)

boxfishes marine brackish

11 cm

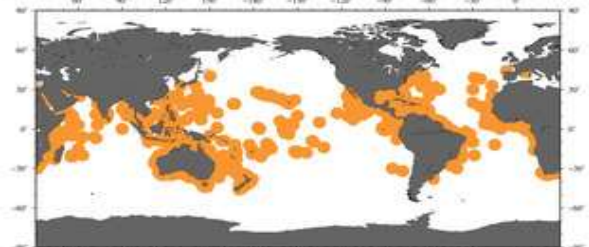


55 cm

Diodontidae

Porcupinefish are generally slow-moving. They have the ability to inflate their bodies by swallowing water or air, thereby becoming rounder. This increase in size (almost double vertically) reduces the range of potential predators to those with much bigger mouths. A second defense mechanism is provided by the sharp spines, which radiate outwards when the fish is inflated.

WCA  **Diodontidae**



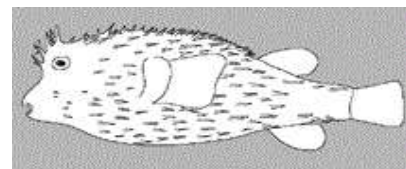
COPEPEDIA

<https://copepedia.org/?id=T5000501>

WCP

25 cm

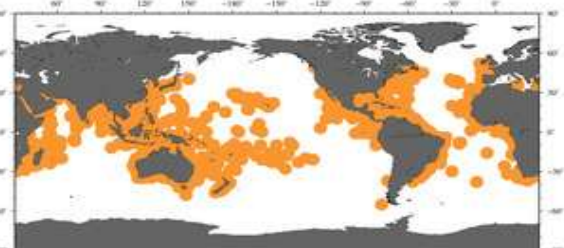
porcupinefishes (burrfishes)  
marine brackish



Tetraodontidae

The body shape of puffer fish differs greatly from the typical fish shape. Puffer fish have a round, stocky shape. Puffer fish can inflate themselves when in danger. To do this, they use their powerful muscles to force water from the mouth into a sack-like expansion of the stomach. The majority of pufferfish species are toxic.

 **Tetraodontidae**



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<https://copepedia.org/?id=T5001341>

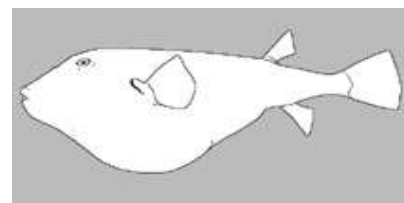
click here for locations in rivers/lakes (BOLD, Barcode of Life Data System)

WCA WCA

15 cm

WCP

puffers  
marine  
brackish fresh

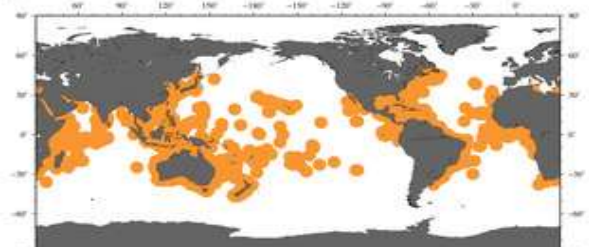


30 cm

Monacanthidae

Appearing very much like their close relatives the triggerfish, filefish are rhomboid-shaped, with beautifully elaborate cryptic patterns. Deeply keeled bodies give a false impression of size when the fish are viewed facing the flanks. Their body colour and pattern allow them to adapt to their surroundings and thus evade the gaze of their enemies.

WCA  **Monacanthidae**



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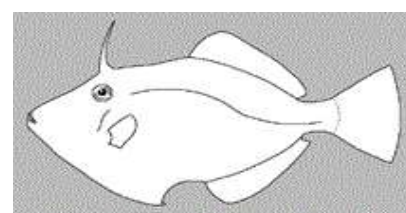
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WCP WCP

2.5 cm

WCP

filefishes  
marine brackish

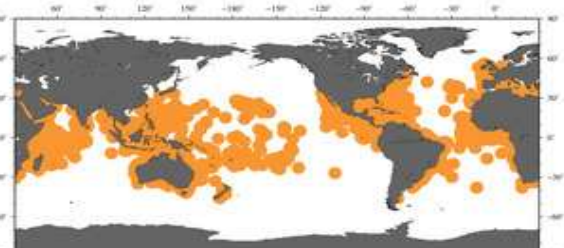


110 cm

Balistidae

Triggerfish have an oval-shaped, highly compressed body. The head is large, terminating in a small but strong-jawed mouth with teeth adapted for crushing shells. As a protection against predators, triggerfish can erect the first two dorsal spines: the first (anterior) spine is locked in place by erection of the short second spine, and can be unlocked only by depressing the second, "trigger" spine.

 **Balistidae**



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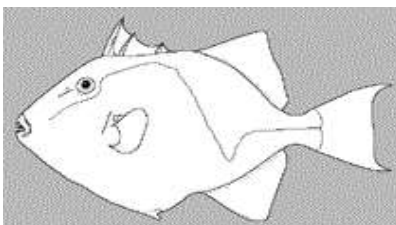
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WCP WCP

6.1 cm

WCP

triggerfishes  
marine brackish

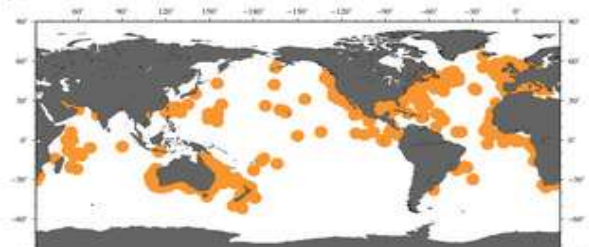


100 cm

Molidae

The Molidae comprise the family of the molas or ocean sunfishes, unusual fish whose bodies come to an end just behind the dorsal and anal fins, giving them a "half-fish" or "fishhead" appearance. They are also the largest of the ray-finned bony fish, with the southern sunfish, *Mola alexandrini*, recorded at 4.6 m in length and 2,744 kg in weight. Sometimes seen swimming lazily, or idling at the surface, often partially on their sides.

 **Molidae**



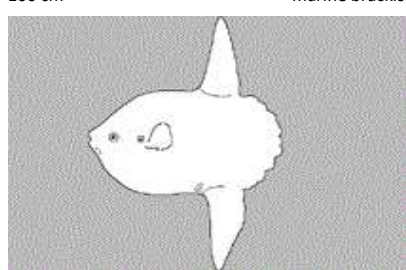
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WCP

100 cm

molas or ocean sunfishes  
marine brackish



460 cm