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Original Scientific Photographs

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The goldspotted eel *Myrichthys ocellatus* (Lesueur, 1825) is a bony fish typically found in shallow waters such as reef environments (Smith, 1997). Similarly, the king helmet *Cassia tuberosa* (Linnaeus, 1758) inhabits shallow waters to depths of 10 m, especially on sandy bottoms and among algae (Thomé et al., 2004). Both the goldspotted eel and the king helmet have been frequently observed during the day at low tide on the coastal reefs at Cabo Branco Beach, João Pessoa, Paraíba, northeastern Brazil (7°08'50"S, 34°47'51"W) at depths between 0.5 and 2 m. A casual interaction between these species was first recorded on Cabo Branco reef in January 6, 2007 during a field research in the area. On that occasion, I was following *M. ocellatus* to register its foraging behavior when the eel (about 35 cm in total length) had a chance encounter with *C. tuberosa* (18 cm in shell length). They remained "face to face" for approximately 30 seconds while the eel carefully observed the anterior end of the gastropod (Figure 1). Soon after, *M. ocellatus* changed its swimming direction and continued its search for prey along the rubble bottom. During the event, no aggressive behavior was observed, reinforcing the casual nature of the interaction. Interspecific interactions have previously been registered between *M. ocellatus* and other reef fish in Brazil, such as the grouper *Epinephelus marginatus* (Gerhardinger et al., 2006), but possible ecological associations between *M. ocellatus* and *C. tuberosa* need to be more closely investigated. Picture's characteristics: Digital Machine model Canon PowerShot S50, 5 megapixels resolution (180 dpi), diaphragm aperture 2.8, time of exposition 1/1000.

References

- Gerhardinger, L. R., Samagaia, R., Hostim-Silva, M. & Barreiros, J. P. 2006. A following association between juvenile *Epinephelus marginatus* (Lowe, 1834) and *Myrichthys ocellatus* (Lesueur, 1825). *Cybium*, 30: 82-84.
- Smith, C. L. 1997. **Tropical marine fishes**. Field Guide of the National Audubon Society, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 720p.
- Thomé, J. W., Bergonci, P. E. A. & Gil, G. M. 2004. **As conchas das nossas praias**. Manuais de Campo USEB. Editora USEB, Pelotas, 94p.

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