



FOOTBALLER SWEEP

NEATYPUS OBLIQUUS

DID YOU KNOW?

Footballer sweep have small thorn-like teeth which they use to filter their food from the water.

WHERE AT AQWA?

Watch footballer sweep zooming through the Perth Coast or circling in schools in our outdoor coral reef exhibit.

SIZE: <24 CM

DIET: ZOO PLANKTON, INVERTEBRATES

MAIN PREDATOR: FISH

HABITAT: ROCKY REEFS

FOUND: SOUTH & WESTERN AUSTRALIA ONLY

A TEAM PLAYER?

The footballer sweep is nick named for its bold striped pattern that looks like a football player's jersey. Its formal name also comes from its stripes as 'obliquus' means slanting.

These inquisitive fish are known to zoom over reefs in teams using their 'safety in numbers' to search for food, explore caves or follow divers!

As divers swim their fins stir up the sand, uncovering the tiny food footballer fish feast on.

CHUBBY AUSSIES

Footballer sweeps are only found in Australia! They were discovered relatively recently, in 1905, despite being part of a family of fish that has existed for 55 million years!

This family of thin, oval shaped fish are known as 'sea chubs'.

STEALTHY STRIPES

Having stripes all over the body breaks up a fish's outline. This is called 'confusion camouflage'. It makes it hard for a predator to know where one fish ends and the next begins, and also which is the front or back of the fish. This makes it more difficult for a predator to predict where the fish might move next.

BUILT FOR CITY LIVING

Footballer sweeps are found in reefs; these underwater cities are packed with caves, crevices and swim-throughs. The footballer's thin body and large, rounded fins allow it to quickly change direction and its angle to slip into these small spaces.