


Perciformes

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Yellow perch (<i>Perca flavescens</i>)	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Subphylum:	Vertebrata
Superclass:	Osteichthyes
Class:	Actinopterygii
Subclass:	Neopterygii
Infraclass:	Teleostei
Superorder:	Acanthopterygii
Order:	Perciformes Bleeker, 1859
Suborders	
<i>many, see text</i>	

Perciformes, also called the Percomorpha or Acanthopteri, are the largest order of vertebrates, containing about 40% of all bony fish. Perciformes means "perch-like". They belong to the class of ray-finned fish, and comprise over 10,000 species found in almost all aquatic environments.

The order contains about 160 families, which is the most of any order within the vertebrates. It is also the most variably sized order of vertebrates, ranging from the 7-mm (1/4-in) *Schindleria brevipinguis* to the marlins in the *Makaira* species and the heaviest of bony fish, *Mola mola*. They first appeared and diversified in the Late Cretaceous.

Among the well-known members of this group are cichlids, sunfish/bluegills, damselfish, bass, and perch.

Characteristics

Primitive perch *Palaeoperca proxima*

The dorsal and anal fins are divided into anterior spiny and posterior soft-rayed portions, which may be partially or completely separated. The pelvic fins usually have one spine and up to five soft rays, positioned unusually far forward under the chin or under the belly. Scales are usually ctenoid, although sometimes they are cycloid or otherwise modified.

Taxonomy

Classification is controversial. As traditionally Wikipedia:Vagueness defined, the Perciformes are almost certainly paraphyletic. Other orders that should possibly be included as suborders are the Scorpaeniformes, Tetraodontiformes, and Pleuronectiformes. Of the presently recognized suborders, several may be paraphyletic, as well. These are grouped by suborder/superfamily, generally following the text *Fishes of the World*.

- Suborder Percoidei
 - Superfamily Percoidea
 - Acropomatidae (temperate ocean-basses)
 - Ambassidae (Asiatic glassfishes)
 - Apogonidae (cardinalfishes)
 - Arripidae (Australasian salmon)
 - Badidae (chameleonfishes)
 - Banjosidae (banjofish)
 - Bathyclupeidae (deepsea herrings)
 - Bramidae (pomfrets)
 - Caesionidae (fusiliers)
 - Callanthiidae (splendid perches)
 - Carangidae (jacks, pompanos)
 - Caristiidae (manefishes)
 - Centracanthidae (picarels)
 - Centrarchidae (freshwater sunfishes)
 - Centrogenyidae (false scorpionfishes)
 - Centropomidae (snooks)
 - Chaetodontidae (butterflyfishes)
 - Coryphaenidae (dolphinfishes)
 - Datnioididae (tigerfishes)
 - Dichistiidae (galjoen fishes)
 - Dinolestidae (long-finned pike)
 - Dinopercidae (cavebass)
 - Drepaneidae (sicklefishes)
 - Echeneidae (remoras)
 - Emmelichthyidae (rovers)
 - Enoplosidae (old wife)
 - Epigonidae (deepwater cardinalfishes)
 - Gerreidae (mojarras)
 - Glaucosomatidae (pearl perches)
 - Grammatidae (basslets)
 - Haemulidae (grunts)
 - Howellidae (oceanic basslets)
 - Inermiidae (bonnetmouths)
 - Kuhliidae (flagtails)
 - Kyphosidae (sea chubs)
 - Lactariidae (false trevallies)
 - Lateolabracidae (Asian seaperches)
 - Latidae (lates, barramundi, Nile perch)
 - Leiognathidae (ponyfishes)



Perciformes display at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

- Leptobramidae (beachsalmon)
- Lethrinidae (emperor breams)
- Lobotidae (tripletails)
- Lutjanidae (snappers)
- Malacanthidae (tilefishes)
- Menidae (moonfish)
- Monodactylidae (moonyfishes)
- Moronidae (temperate basses)
- Mullidae (goatfishes)
- Nandidae (Asian leaffishes)
- Nematistiidae (roosterfish)
- Nemipteridae (threadfin breams)
- Opistognathidae (jawfishes)
- Oplegnathidae (knifejaws)
- Ostracoberycidae (shellskin alfonsinos)
- Pempheridae (sweepers)
- Pentacerotidae (armorheads)
- Percichthyidae (temperate perches)
- Percidae (perches and darters)
- Plesiopidae (roundheads)
- Polycentridae (leaffishes)
- Polynemidae (threadfins)
- Polyprionidae (wreckfishes)
- Pomacanthidae (marine angelfishes)
- Pomatomidae (bluefish)
- Priacanthidae (bigeyes)
- Pseudochromidae (dottybacks)
- Rachycentridae (cobia)
- Sciaenidae (drums)
- Scombroptidae (gnomefish)
- Serranidae (sea basses, groupers and relatives)
- Sillaginidae (whitings and relatives)
- Sparidae (sea breams and porgies)
- Symphysanodontidae (slopefishes)
- Terapontidae (grunters)
- Toxotidae (archerfishes)
- Superfamily Cirrhitioidea
 - Aplodactylidae (marblefishes)
 - Cheilodactylidae (morwongs)
 - Chironemidae (kelpfishes)
 - Cirrhitidae (hawkfishes)
 - Latridae (trumpeters)
- Superfamily Cepoloidea
 - Cepolidae (bandfishes)
- Suborder Elasmatoidei
 - Elasmomatidae (pygmy sunfishes)



Pomacanthus semicirculatus

- Suborder Labroidei
 - Cichlidae (cichlids)
 - Embiotocidae (surfperches)
 - Labridae (wrasses)
 - Odacidae (cales and weed whittings)
 - Pomacentridae (damsel-fishes)
 - Scaridae (parrotfishes)
 - Suborder Zoarcoidei
 - Anarhichadidae (wolffishes)
 - Bathymasteridae (ronquils)
 - Cryptacanthodidae (wrymouths)
 - Pholidae (gunnels)
 - Ptilichthyidae (quillfish)
 - Scytalinidae (graveldiver)
 - Stichaeidae (pricklebacks)
 - Zaproridae (prowfish)
 - Zoarcidae (eelpouts)
 - Suborder Notothenioidei (sometimes included in Percoidei)
 - Artedidraconidae (barbeled plunderfishes)
 - Bathydraconidae (Antarctic dragonfishes)
 - Bovichthyidae (thornfishes)
 - Channichthyidae (crocodile icefishes)
 - Eleginopsidae (Patagonian blennies)
 - Harpagiferidae (spiny plunderfishes)
 - Nototheniidae (cod icefishes)
 - Pseudaphritidae (catadromous icefishes)
 - Suborder Trachinoidei
 - Ammodytidae (sand lances)
 - Champsodontidae (crocodile toothfishes)
 - Cheimarrichthyidae (torrent fish)
 - Chiasmodontidae (snaketooth fishes)
 - Creediidae (sandburrowers)
 - Leptoscopidae (southern sandfishes)
 - Percophidae (duckbills)
 - Pholidichthyidae (convict blennies)
 - Pinguipedidae (sandperches)
 - Trachinidae (weeverfishes)
 - Trichodontidae (sandfishes)
 - Trichonotidae (sanddivers)
 - Uranoscopidae (stargazers)
 - Suborder Blennioidei
 - Blenniidae (combtooth blennies)
 - Chaenopsidae (pike-, tube- and flagblennies)
 - Clinidae (clinids)
 - Dactyloscopidae (sand stargazers)
 - Labrisomidae (labrisomids)
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- Tripterygiidae (threefin blennies)
 - Suborder Icosteoidei
 - Icosteidae (ragfish)
 - Suborder Callionymoidei
 - Callionymidae (dragonets)
 - Draconettidae (slope dragonets)
 - Suborder Gobioidi
 - Eleotridae (sleepers)
 - Gobiidae (gobies)
 - Kraemeriidae (sand darters)
 - Microdesmidae (wormfishes)
 - Odontobutidae (freshwater sleepers)
 - Ptereleotridae (dartfishes)
 - Rhyacichthyidae (loach gobies)
 - Schindleriidae (infantfishes)
 - Xenisthmidae (collared wrigglers)
 - Suborder Kurtoidei
 - Kurtidae (nurseryfishes)
 - Suborder Acanthuroidei
 - Acanthuridae (surgeonfishes)
 - Ephippidae (spadefishes)
 - Luvaridae (louvar)
 - Scatophagidae (scats)
 - Siganidae (rabbitfishes)
 - Zanclidae (Moorish idol)
 - Suborder Scombrobracoidei
 - Scombrobracidae (longfin escolar)
 - Suborder Scombroidei
 - Sphyraenidae (barracudas)
 - Gempylidae (snake mackerels)
 - Trichiuridae (cutlassfishes)
 - Scombridae (mackerels and tunas)
 - Xiphiidae (swordfish)
 - Istiophoridae (marlins)
 - Suborder Stromateoidei
 - Amarsipidae (bagless glassfish)
 - Ariommatidae (ariommatids)
 - Centrolophidae (medusafishes)
 - Nomeidae (driftfishes)
 - Tetragonuridae (squaretails)
 - Stromateidae (butterfishes)
 - Suborder Anabantoidei
 - Anabantidae (climbing gouramies)
 - Osphronemidae (gouramies)
 - Helostomatidae (kissing gourami)
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- Suborder Channoidei
 - Channidae (snakeheads)
- Suborder Caproidei
 - Caproidae (boarfishes)

References

- "Perciformes" (http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=167640). Integrated Taxonomic Information System. Retrieved 5 December 2004.

External links

- *Perciformes* (<http://www.eol.org/pages/5184>) at the Encyclopedia of Life

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