

Mixed-species Shoaling as a Behavioural Mechanism Facilitating the Redistribution of Tropical Fishes



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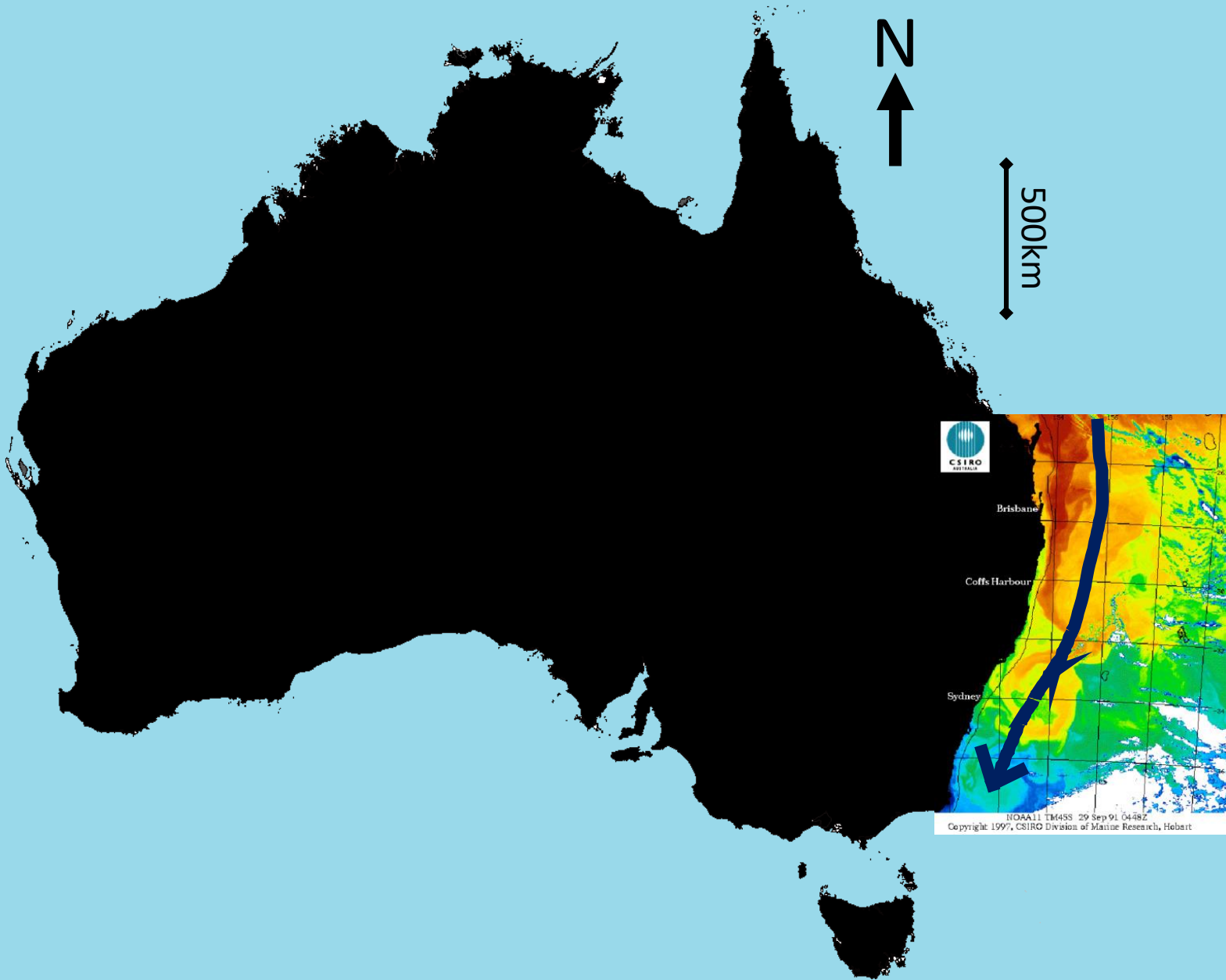
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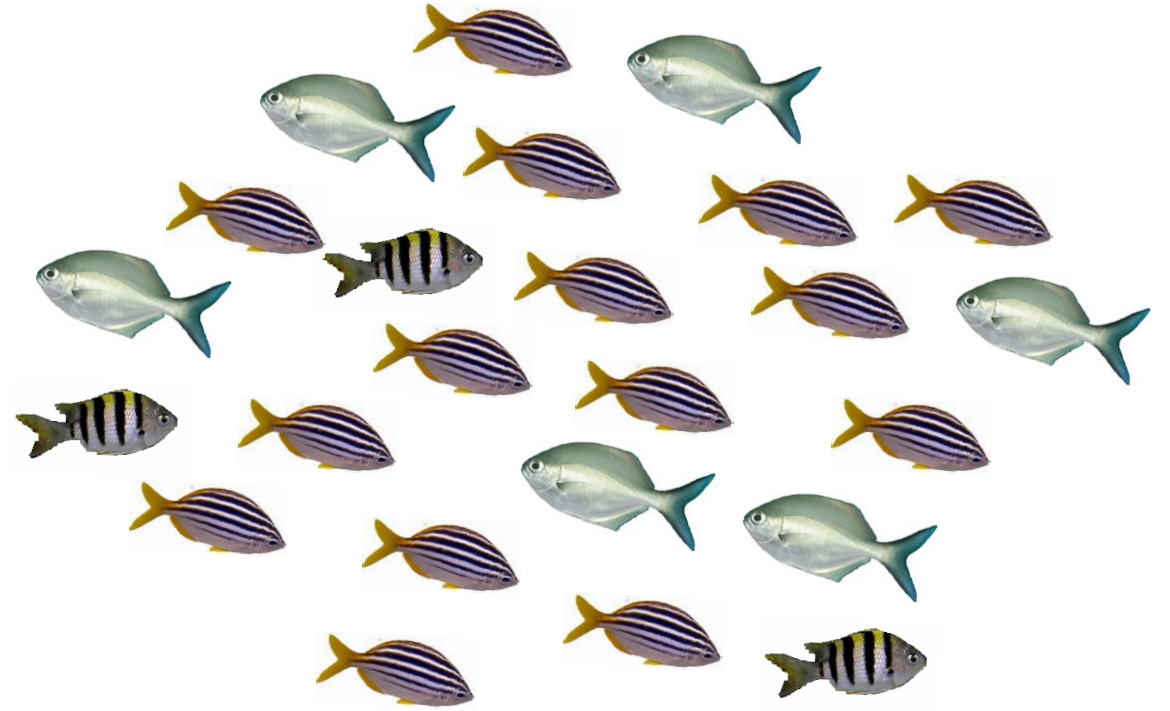


Abudefduf vaigiensis



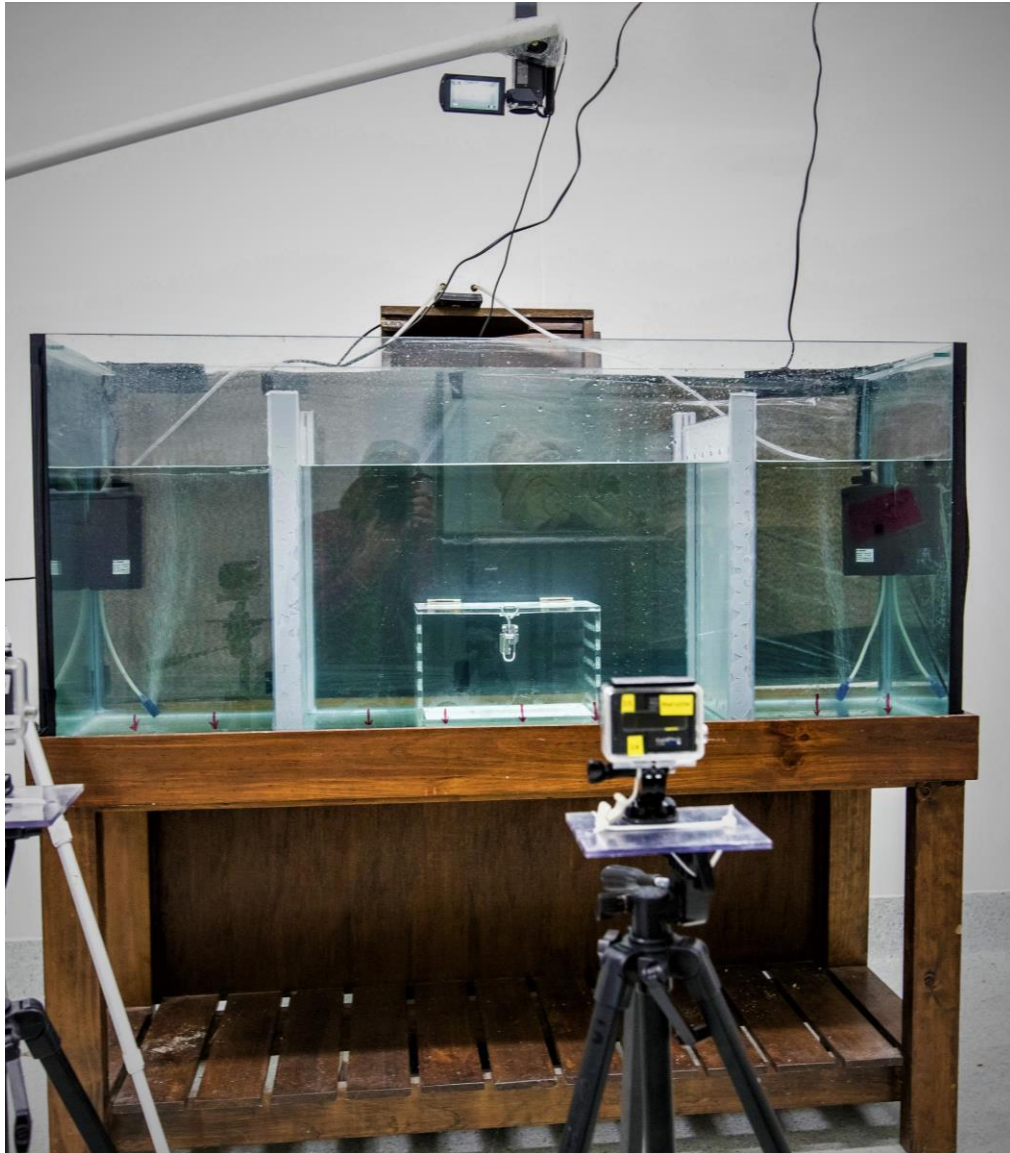
68% of shoals contained more than one species.

Mixed-species shoaling behaviour facilitates *A. vaigiensis* access to open water habitat.

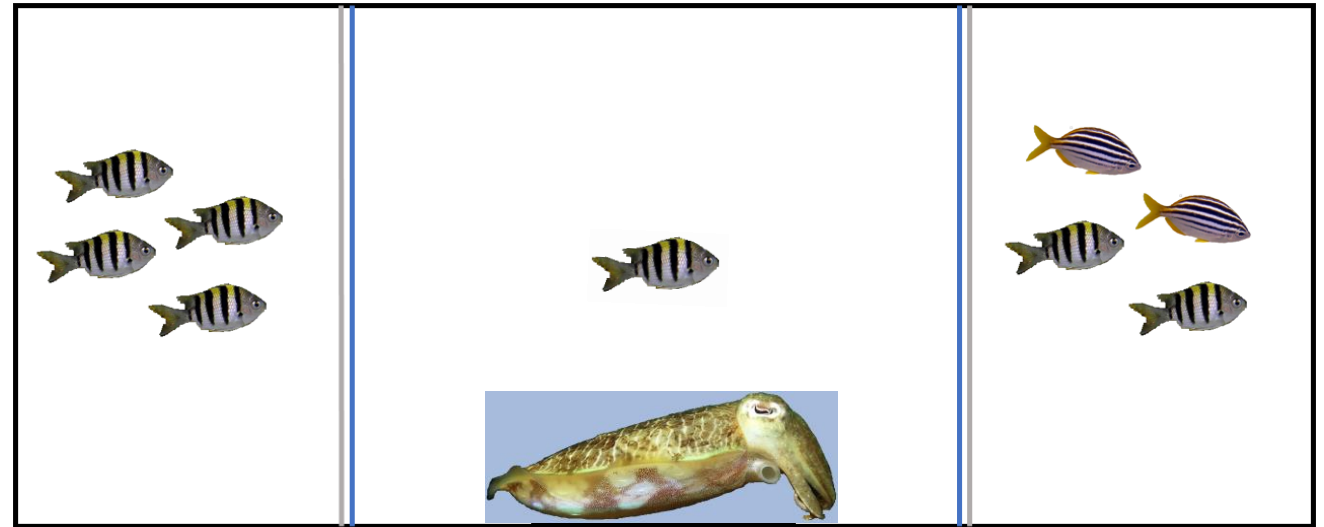


- Foraging efficiency
- Predation avoidance

Shoal choice experiment

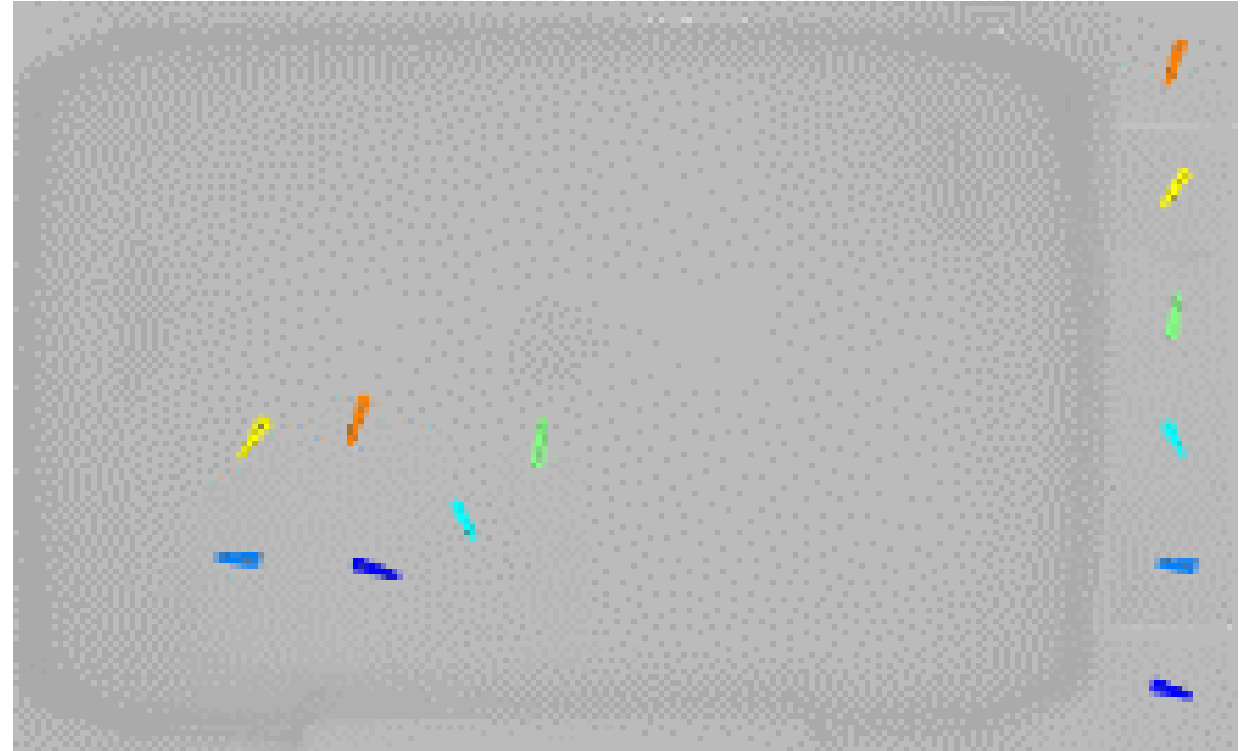


Hypothesis: Predation threat and species composition drives shoaling decisions



Shoal size rather than species composition explains observed shoaling behaviour

Shoal coordination



Hypothesis: Mixed-species shoals will provide comparable shoal coordination to single-species shoals

Conclusion

- Association with temperate species in shoals likely benefits tropical *A. vaigiensis* in temperate south-eastern Australia.

- Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment (Ecological Society of Australia)
- Australian Government Research Training Program
- SeaGIS
- Australian Coral Reef Society
- Australian Society for Fish Biology
- Maz Wong & Dave Booth



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