

On the presence of *Pomatoschistus minutus* (Pallas) in a Southern Tyrrhenian Coastal Lagoon (Pisces, Gobiidae)

M. IANNIBELLI* and G. SPEZIE**

*Istituto di Tecnologia della Pesca e del Pescato, C.N.R., Mazara del Vallo (Italia)

**Istituto di Meteorologia e Oceanografia, I.U.N., Napoli (Italia)

Pomatoschistus minutus (Pallas, 1770) is a benthonic, euryaline species whose young specimens are also possible to be found in estuarial areas (Miller, 1973; Miller, 1986).

From a zoogeographical point of view *P. minutus* was always considered as a goby included in the Mediterranean ichthyofauna, but lately, by recent authors its presence was assured only for some northern parts of the Mediterranean sea, like the Gulf of Genoa or the Venetian lagoon (Tortonese, 1975; Miller, 1986).

Indications of the presence of this goby in more meridional Mediterranean areas, Morocco and the opposite coasts of Spain, were previously given by Wiktor (1962). Moreau too (1891) pointed out the presence of this goby on French and Algerian coasts.

In the course of a research for determining the effects of meteomarine conditions on the fish fry migration in coastal lagoons (Iannibelli et al., 1988, 1989) some specimens of *P. minutus* were captured.

Species identification of specimens was carried out following Tortonese (1975).

It can be easily evidenced that *P. minutus* was always captured in entering flow conditions, with a velocity of stream exceeding 7 cm/sec. (from 7 to 9 cm/sec.). The salinity, in sampling cases, was always exceeding 35.30‰ (range from 35.30 to 37.13‰), while the water temperature was always higher than 12.53° C (from 12.53 to 13.75° C).

According to the above data *P. minutus* can be considered a marine species entering brackish environments not only in young stages (Miller, 1988) but also in adult forms.

Concerning the distribution of the species, *P. minutus* is a goby very well represented in northern seas, certainly present in the Mediterranean as far as the Gulf of Naples (40° 50' lat.N) southward.

More investigations are required to precise if *P. minutus* is present also in more meridional Mediterranean stations as Carus indicated (1889), always considering that this goby has a quite spotted distribution, very probably, as Miller (1976, 1986) suggested.

Common names of *P. minutus* in some Mediterranean countries (Bini, 1968): Bourgette (Fra.); Ghiozzetto minuto (Ita.); Glavčičić pješkuljaš (Yug.); Gobëtu longu (Mon.); Cabuxino (Spa.); Hurma kaiassi (Tur.).

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