

ACANTHURIDAE

surgeonfishes

Acanthurus chirurgus

Bloch, 1787



Photo: Massimo Boyer

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits shallow coral reefs and rocky substrate. Lives in small aggregations. Feeds mainly on algae. Observed as cleaner of parasites of turtles. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: photographed underwater from Elba Island, Italy in 2012 (Langeneck *et al.*, 2015) and recorded from Valletta, Malta (Evans *et al.*, 2016).

Original distribution: both sides of the Atlantic, from Massachusetts, USA to Brazil in the west and Senegal in the east.

KEY REFERENCES

- Evans J., Tonna R. and Schembri P.J. 2017. A bevy of surgeons: first record of *Acanthurus chirurgus* (Bloch, 1787) from the central Mediterranean, with notes on other Acanthuridae recorded in the region. *BioInvasions Records*, 6(2): 105-109.
- Langeneck J., Boyer M., De Cecco P.G., Luciani C., Marcelli M. and Vacchi M. 2015. First record of *Acanthurus chirurgus* (Perciformes: Acanthuridae) from the Mediterranean Sea, with some distributional notes on Mediterranean Acanthuridae. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 16: 427-431.

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Acanthurus sohal

Forsskål, 1775



Photo: A. Diamant

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

A common tropical reef species, particularly abundant in seaward edges of reefs exposed to surge, up to the depth of 20 m. Feeds on various kinds of algae.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: only one individual recorded from Kalymnos Island, Dodecanese, Greece (Giovos *et al.*, 2017). Probably a result of aquarium release.

Original distribution: western Indian Ocean, Red Sea to Persian Gulf.

KEY REFERENCE

- Giovos I., Bernardi G., Romanidis-Kyriakidis G., Marmara D. and Kleitou P. 2018. First records of the fish *Abudefduf sexfasciatus* (Lacepède, 1801) and *Acanthurus sohal* (Forsskål, 1775) in the Mediterranean Sea. *BioInvasions Records*, 7(2): 205-210.