

Acanthurus monroviae

Steindachner, 1876

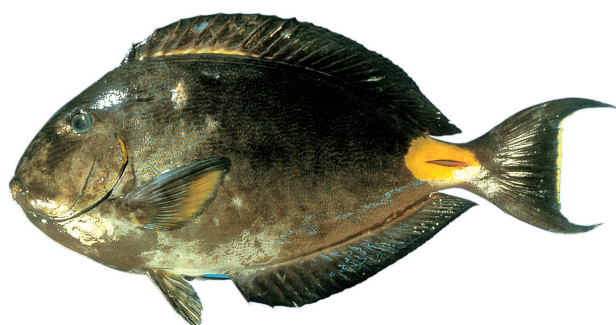


Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, IX+24 26; A, III+24 26; P, 17; V, I+5; GR, 16 17

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body ellipsoid deep and compressed. Caudal fin lunate. Dorsal profile of head gently curved. Small terminal mouth with a single row of closely-set teeth with denticulate edges. Small eyes situated high on head. A single groove starts at the anterior lower edge of eye and extends forward and slightly-downward. Body and head covered with small ctenoid scales. A single lancet-like spine on the caudal peduncle folds into a groove.

color: body dark brown. On the upper anterior third of the body 20 longitudinal, undulating blue and light-yellow lines. An elliptical bright yellow area on the caudal peduncle surrounds the orange caudal spine.

common size: 15-30cm (max. 45cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Body shape and large caudal spine distinguish this species from all other Mediterranean species.

- *Acanthurus coeruleus*, *A. chirurgus* and *Zebrasoma flavescens*: lack of a large, bright yellow oval area on the caudal peduncle; color of juveniles in life bright yellow.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Mainly herbivorous, but apparently supplements its diet with small benthic invertebrates. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: Commonly found in inshore waters less than 20 m deep, including lagoons and river mouths, on rocky and hard substrates.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: tropical eastern Atlantic Ocean from southern Morocco to Angola, common throughout the Gulf of Guinea and around the São Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde and Canary archipelagos.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Marbella, southern Spain (Crespo *et al.*, 1987); later in Haifa, Israel (Golani and Sonin, 1996), Algiers, Algeria (Hemida *et al.*, 2004), Piraeus, Greece (Batjakas *et al.*, 2015), Tunisia (Ben Souissi *et al.*, 2011) and Malta (Langeneck *et al.*, 2015; Darmanin *et al.*, 2016).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

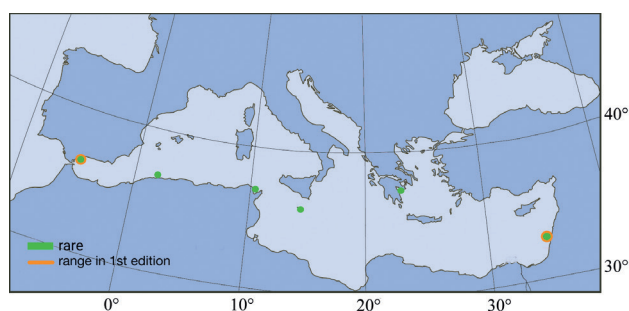
Via Gibraltar.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

Used in aquariums.



1st Med. record
Southern Spain,
1987.

KEY REFERENCES

- Batjakas I.E., Kampouris T.E. and Papadas A. 2015. First Record of the African Surgeonfish *Acanthurus monroviae* (Osteichthyes: Acanthuridae) In the Hellenic Waters. *Aquaculture and Marine Biology*, 2(6): 00047.
- Ben Souissi J., Diatta Y., Gargouri Ben Abdallah L. and Capapé C. 2011. Occurrence of the Monrovia surgeonfish *Acanthurus monroviae* off the coast of Tunisia (central Mediterranean). *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, 52(3): 331-335.
- Crespo J., Rey J.C. and García A. 1987. Primera cita de *Acanthurus monroviae* Steindachner, 1876 y de *Diodon eydouxi* Brissout de Barneville, 1846 para la ictiofauna europa. *Miscellània Zoològica*, 11: 271-275.
- Golani D. and Sonin O. 1996. The occurrence of the tropical west African marine fishes *Acanthurus monroviae* (Acanthuridae) and *Arius parkii* (Ariidae) in the Levant. *Aqua. Journal of Ichthyology and Aquatic Biology*, 2: 1-3.
- Hemida F., Diatta Y., Golani D., Ben Souissi J., Guélorget O. and Capapé C. 2004. On the occurrence of the Monrovia surgeonfish, *Acanthurus monroviae* Steindachner, 1876 (Osteichthyes: Acanthuridae) off the coast of Algeria (Southern Mediterranean). *Acta Adriatica*, 45: 181-185.