**Callionymus filamentosus**

Valenciennes, 1837

**SHORT DESCRIPTION**

Body elongated with depressed head, subcylindrical flank. In males, first dorsal spine filamentous and separate, other spines short. Second dorsal fin rays much longer, the last one elongated. Anal fin originates beneath 2-3 dorsal ray, last ray elongated. Caudal fin rounded (mostly in females) to lanceolate with two filamentous rays in males. Pectoral fin rounded. Pelvic fin thoracic, inserted before pectoral fin base, the outer rays much longer than inner and connected by membrane to pectoral fin base. Head triangular from dorsal view with pointed snout. Mouth small and protrusible directed downward. Dorso-lateral eyes with very small interorbital distance. Large preopercular spine with 4-7 upward antorose hook-like serrae. Gill opening small and located above the operculum. No scales.

**color:** brownish-fawn body with lateral series of dark brown to black blotches and dots. First dorsal of males black, only a black dot in females.

**common size:** 5-10 cm (max. 18 cm).

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

- *Diplogrammus randalli*: operculum with free flap of skin.
- *Synchiropus sechellensis*: snout shorter than eye. Red-orange body.

Other *Callionymids*: absence of 4-7 upward serrae on the opercular spine. Operculum without free flap skin.

*Tripterygiidae, Clinidae* and *Blennidae*: pelvic fin with 2-3 rays; head not depressed.

*Gobiidae*: pelvic fins unite to form a sucking disk.
**BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY**

Feeds on small benthic invertebrates. Clear sexual dimorphism (see description). Spawning season lasts from March to September. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

**Habitat:** benthic. Sandy and muddy substrate to 100 m.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Worldwide:** Indo-Pacific. Red Sea, east Africa including Madagascar and Mauritius to New Guinea and China.

**Mediterranean:** recorded first in Israel (Ben-Tuvia, 1953a; Tortonese, 1953); successively recorded from Lebanon (George et al., 1964), Turkey (Güçü et al., 1994). Recorded in Rhodes (Corsini et al., 2005) and Cyprus (Yokes et al., 2018).

**MODE OF INTRODUCTION**

Via the Suez Canal.

**ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS**

Very common on trawl grounds.

**IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS**

No commercial value due to its small size. The huge numbers of fish in the trawl nets with their serrated preopercular spine constitute a great nuisance to local fishermen.

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**KEY REFERENCES**