

SERRANIDAE

groupers

**Cephalopholis
hemistiktos**

Rüppell, 1830



Photo: Eric's

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Often found on patchy open reef areas. Feeds diurnally on fishes and crustaceans. Monogamous species, the pair jointly defends a common territory.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: an individual filmed in September 2009 and originally identified by Deidun et al. (2011) as *Cephalopholis taeniops*. It was recently re-identified by Evans and Schembri (2017) as *C. hemistiktos*. This observation represents so far the only authenticated record of this species, most likely transported by shipping or introduced as an aquarium escapee.

Original distribution: Western Indian Ocean from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf and coast of Pakistan.

KEY REFERENCES

- Deidun A., Castriota L. and Arrigo S. 2011. A tale of two Atlantic fish migrants: Records of the lesser amberjack *Seriola fasciata* and the African hind *Cephalopholis taeniops* from the Maltese Islands. *Journal of the Black Sea/ Mediterranean Environment*, 17(3): 223-233.
- Evans J. and Schembri P.J. 2017. On the occurrence of *Cephalopholis hemistiktos* and *C. Taeniops* (Actinopterygii, Perciformes, Serranidae) in Malta, with corrections of previous misidentifications. *Acta Ichthyologica Piscatoria*, 47: 197-200.

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**Cephalopholis
nigri**

Günther, 1859



Photo: N. Vella

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits rocky, muddy or sandy substrate to depth of 50 m. Feeds on fish and large invertebrates.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: a single specimen was recorded from Malta (Vella et al., 2016).

Original distribution: Eastern Atlantic from the Canary Islands to Angola.

KEY REFERENCE

- Vella A., Vella N. and Darmanin S.A. 2016. Morphological and genetics analysis of the first record of Niger Hind *Cephalopholis nigri* (Perciformes: Serranidae) in the Mediterranean Sea and the African Hind *Cephalopholis taeniops* in Malta. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 9(99): 1-5.