

Cephalopholis taeniops

(Valenciennes, 1828)



Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, IX+15-16 ;A, III+9-10; P, 18; V, I+5; LL,68-72

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body robust, slightly compressed. Continuous dorsal fin, its spines shorter than its soft rays. Posterior margin of dorsal and anal fins round. Caudal fin round. Large mouth with slightly projected lower jaw. Premaxilla reaches back to the hind edge of eye. Upper jaw with two large canine, a patch of sharp teeth on their base, followed by series of sharp teeth as an outer row and smaller teeth in the inner row. Lower jaw with 3-5 rows of small sharp teeth. Vomer and palatine patches with small sharp teeth. Preoperculum with fine serration on the lower edge. Three flat spines on the upper posterior corner of the operculum.

color: body bright red covered with many blue to brown spots. The edge of most fins slightly darker.

common size: 30-50 cm (max 70 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Cephalopholis hemistiktos: lighter bluish spots and no blue line below the eye.

Other **Serranids** - ten or more dorsal spines

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds, like other serranids, on fish and large invertebrates. Protogynous hermaphrodite. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: sandy or rocky substrate at depths of 20-300 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: West Africa from Morocco to Angola including Cape Verde, Principe Island and São Tomé Island.

Mediterranean: Libya (Ben Abdallah *et al.*, 2007), Malta (Deidun *et al.*, 2011), Pelagie Islands, Italy (Guidetti *et al.*, 2010), Israel (Salameh *et al.*, 2009), Lebanon (Gerovasileiou *et al.*, 2017), Aegean Sea (Engin *et al.*, 2011) and Sicily (Ragkousis *et al.*, 2020).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

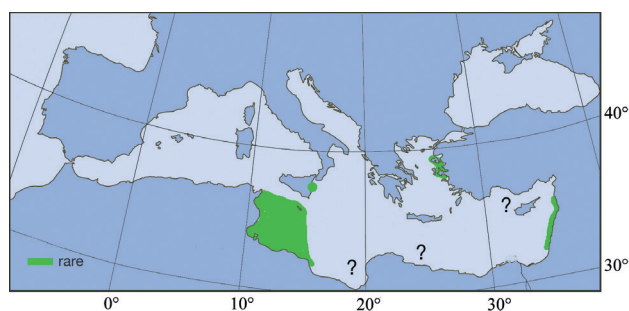
Probably via ships and/ or oil rigs.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Occasionally reported from the central and eastern Mediterranean.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

It is a highly esteemed commercial species in its native region.



1st Med. record
Libya, 2007.

KEY REFERENCES

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- Engin S., Irmak E. and Seyhan D. 2016. New record of the thermophilic *Cephalopholis taeniops* (Osteichthyes: Serranidae) in the Aegean Sea. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 62(2): 184-186.
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