

CHAETODONTIDAE

butterflyfishes

Chaetodon larvatus

Cuvier, 1831



Photo: Daniel Golani

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits coral reefs, rocky and open habitats at depths down to 40 m. Lives mainly in pairs in areas with poor coral reefs, such as in the Gulf of Suez. Otherwise forms aggregations of 40-50 fish. Feeds primary on coral polyps and benthic invertebrates in its native region. Eggs and larvae pelagic. The late post-larvae, often called tholichthys, bear large bony plates on the head and anterior part of the body.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: two specimens reported so far, one collected near Haifa, Israel (Salameh *et al.*, 2011) and another in Tartous harbour, Syria (Ali *et al.*, 2017).

Original distribution: considered endemic to the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and possibly also Gulf of Oman.

KEY REFERENCES

- Ali M., Saad A., Soliman A., Rafrafi-Nouires S. and Capapé C. 2017. Confirmed occurrence in the Mediterranean Sea of the Red Sea orangeface butterflyfish *Chaetodon larvatus* (Osteichthyes: Chaetodontidae) and first record from Syrian coast. *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, 58: 367-369.
- Salameh P., Sonin O., Edelis D. and Golani D. 2011. First record of the Red Sea Orangeface Butterflyfish *Chaetodon larvatus* Cuvier, 1831 in the Mediterranean. *Aquatic Invasions*, 6 (Suppl. 1): S53-S55.

POMACANTHIDAE

angelfishes

Holacanthus africanus

Cadenat, 1951



Photo: A. Deidun

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Reef-associated species. Live mainly in small groups from very shallow waters to depths of 50 m. Feeds chiefly on benthic algae. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: two individuals were recorded in the grand harbor of Malta in 2017 (Deidun *et al.*, 2017). The species was likely introduced with an oil platform or by ship transport.

Original distribution: Eastern Atlantic, from Senegal to Congo.

KEY REFERENCE

- Deidun A., Castriota L., Falautano M. and Maggio T. 2017. Yet another angelfish species for the Mediterranean - the first record of *Holacanthus africanus* Cadenat, 1951 from Maltese waters, central Mediterranean. *BioInvasions Records*, 6(4): 373-376.