

CHAMPSODONTIDAE

gapers, crocodile toothfishes

Champsodon nudivittis

(Ogilby, 1859)



Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: *Champsodon capensis*, *Champsodon vorax*

Meristic formula: D1, IV-VI; D2, 18-23; A, 16-21; P, 13-15

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Elongated and compressed body with large head (28.0-31.1% in SL). Large mouth, its jaws reaching back well beyond eye level. Lower jaw projected. Upper jaw with two rows of teeth, lower jaw with three rows. Eye in dorsal position. Body covered with small embedded scales in the skin, each scale with several minute spinules at the posterior margins. Area between pelvic fins with scales. Two dorsal fins, the first shorter than the second. The origin of the anal fin slightly behind the origin of second dorsal fin. Caudal fin forked. Small rounded pectoral fin, its origin slightly behind pelvic fin origin.

color: Body brownish-beige to grey with many brown speckles. Part of the head and the gill covered with silver tone.

common size: 5-11 cm (max. 18 cm SL).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Gobiidae: Pelvic fins united to form sucking disk.

Blennidae: A single dorsal fin (Note: in some species there is a deep notch between the spine and the ray parts).

Trachinidae: Black membrane on first dorsal fin. The pelvic fin origin well in front of pectoral fin origin.

Tripterygiidae: Three dorsal fins.

Callionymidae, Clinidae: Small mouth, not reaching back to the vertical of eye.

Platycephalidae: Flat dorso-ventral head.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY**DISTRIBUTION**

Worldwide: Indo-West Pacific including the Red Sea (Note: the distribution map given by Froese and Pauly (2020) is mistaken).

Mediterranean: Israel (Goren *et al.*, 2011; Stern *et al.*, 2019) to Greece (Kousteni and Christidis, 2019).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

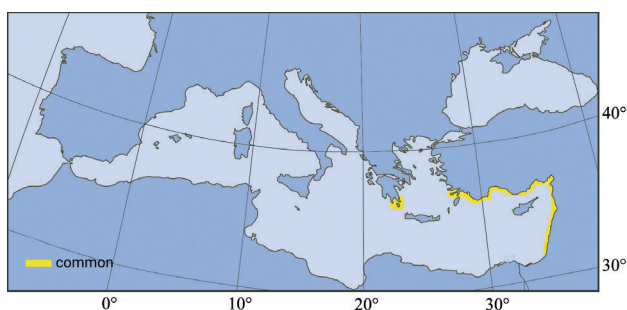
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Common in the eastern Mediterranean.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Turkey (Çiçek
and Bilecenoğlu
2009).

KEY REFERENCES

- Çiçek E. and Bilecenoğlu M. 2009. A new alien fish in the Mediterranean Sea: *Champsodon nudivittis* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Champsodontidae). *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 39(1): 67-69.
- Goren M., Stern N., Galil B.S. and Diamant A. 2011. On the occurrence of the Indo-Pacific *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) (Perciformes, Champsodontidae) from the Mediterranean coast of Israel, and presence of the species in the Red Sea. *Aquatic Invasions*, 6 (Suppl. 1): 115-117.
- Kousteni V. and Christidis G. 2019. Westward range expansion of the Indo-Pacific nakedband gaper *Champsodon nudivittis* (Ogilby, 1895) in Saronikos Gulf, Greece. *BiolInvasions Records*, 8(1):167-174.
- Nemeth D. 1994. Systematics and distribution of fishes of the family Champsodontidae (Teleostei: Perciformes), with descriptions of three new species. *Copeia*, 2: 347-371.
- Stern N., Gouws G., Golani D., Goren M. and Gon O. 2019. Champsodontidae (Pisces: Trachinoidei) in the Eastern Mediterranean: how many species are there? *Journal of Natural History*, 53(47-48): 2869-2881.