

CHANIDAE

milkfishes

Chanos chanos

Forskål, 1775



Photo: Y. Özvarol

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inshore-pelagic species. Lives in small or large schools. Juveniles feed on diatoms and small benthic invertebrates, mainly copepods. Adults feed chiefly on planktonic crustaceans and small fishes. Eggs and larvae pelagic for 2-3 weeks and then drift to coastal lagoons and mangrove swamps.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: a single record from Gazipaşa, Turkey (Özvarol and Gökoğlu 2012).

Original distribution: Wide Indo-Pacific including eastern Pacific.

KEY REFERENCE

- Özvarol Y. and Gökoğlu M. 2012. First record of the Indo-Pacific milkfish, *Chanos chanos* (Forskål, 1775), in the Turkish Mediterranean Sea. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 55: 135-136.

GADIDAE

cods

Gadus morhua

Linnaeus, 1758



Photo: F. Riera

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits the continental shelf, mainly close to the substrate but often off the bottom. Euryhaline and eurytherm schooling migratory fish. Feeds mainly on schooling fishes, such as herring, capelin, haddock and to a lesser extent on crustaceans. Reaches maturity at age of 2-4 years. Mainly gonochoristic species but some hermaphrodite specimens have been observed. Eggs and larvae planktonic. Postlarvae settle near the sea bottom after 2.5 months.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: a single specimen from Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain (Morey *et al.*, 2012).

Original distribution: North Atlantic from the Bay of Biscay to Spitzbergen and Iceland in the east through Greenland to Canada and the U.S. in the west.

KEY REFERENCE

- Morey G., Morales-Nin B., Riera F., Grau A., Geffen A.J., Perez-Mayol S., Chang M.-Y. and Grau M. 2012. Atlantic cod *Gadus morhua* in the Mediterranean: a surprising immigrant. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 467: 277-280.