

## SPARIDAE

seabreams, porgies

### *Crenidens crenidens*

(Forsskål, 1775)



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: None  
 Misidentification: None  
 Meristic formula: D, XI + 11; A, III + 10; P, 13-14; V, I + 5;  
 LL, 52-60; GR, 15-18.

#### SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body oblong to oval. Dorsal profile of head in juveniles and subadults convex with pit-like indentation to produce a "nose" (this indentation is absent in specimens larger than 17 cm). Jaws extend back to vertical of anterior nostril. Three rows of teeth in each jaw, upper front with 8-9 brown-tipped incisors, each tooth bearing five denticulations (the three median more distinct) giving the teeth edge a wavy appearance). The inner rows with a few similar shaped teeth, other teeth granular. Scales finely ctenoid. Scaly cheeks. Interorbital scaleless.

**color:** silvery (large specimens) to yellow-silvery with somewhat darker spots on the scales, giving it a striped look.

**common size:** 10-16 cm, max. 30 cm (in Mediterranean 20 cm).

#### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- Species of *Diplodus*, *Sparus*, *Pagrus*, *Rhabdosargus*, *Acanthopagrus* and *Lithognathus*: lateral teeth molarform.
- Species of *Dentex*, *Oblada*, *Boops* and *Spondyliosoma*: lack of incisor teeth.
- *Sarpa salpa*: a single row of incisors; 10-11 fine, very distinct, longitudinal yellow lines.

**BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY**

Feeds mainly on algae and, to a much lesser extent, on small invertebrates. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

**habitat:** shallow coastal water, above sandy substrate, often covered with sea grass.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Worldwide:** two subspecies are recognized as coexisting in the Red Sea. *Crenidens crenidens crenidens* occurs also in eastern Africa and the second subspecies, *Crenidens crenidens indicus*, extends to the Arabian Gulf and Nicobar Islands.

**Mediterranean:** recorded first in Bardawil Lagoon, northern Sinai, Egypt (Lourie and Ben-Tuvia, 1970) ; successively recorded in Israel (Golani, 1992) and Libya (Al-Hassan and El-Silini, 1999; Shakman and Kinzelbach., 2007).

**MODE OF INTRODUCTION**

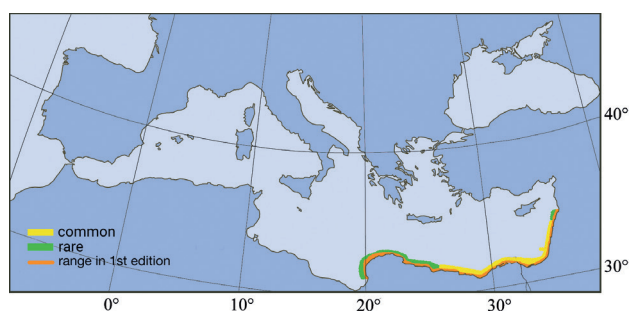
Via the Suez Canal.

**ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS**

Rare.

**IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS**

Caught in small quantities in Bardawil Lagoon (northern Sinai) by purse seine and trammel net. Rare elsewhere in the Mediterranean.



1<sup>st</sup> Med. record  
Bardawil Lagoon,  
Northern Sinai,  
Egypt, 1970.

**KEY REFERENCES**

- Al-Hassan L.A.J. and El-Silini O.A. 1999. Check-list of bony fishes collected from the Mediterranean coast of Benghazi, Libya. *Revista de Biología Marina y Oceanografía*, 20(1): 90-105.
- Lourie A. and Ben-Tuvia A. 1970. Two Red Sea fishes, *Pelates quadrilineatus* (Bloch) and *Crenidens crenidens* (Forsskål) in the eastern Mediterranean. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 19: 203-207.
- Shakman E.A. and Kinzelbach R. 2007. Distribution and characterization of Lessepsian migrant fishes along the coast of Libya. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 37: 7-15.