

Cryptocentrus caeruleopunctatus

(Rüppell, 1830)

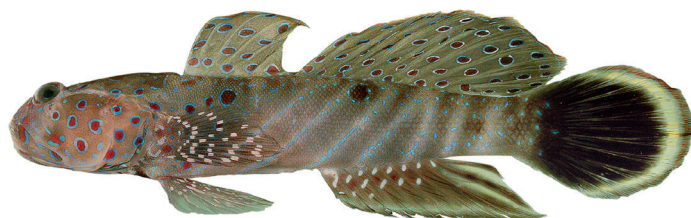


Photo : John E. Randall

Relevant synonyms: None
Misidentification: None
Meristic formula: D1, VI; D2, I+10; A, I + 9; P, 16-17

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body moderately elongated, its depth 4.7-5.5 times in SL. Large head with blunt snout. Jaws reach back slightly behind the eye. Conical teeth in several rows with slender teeth in the outer row. Two dorsal fins, the first with shorter base than second dorsal fin. The rays of second dorsal fin longer than the spines in the first dorsal fin. Anal fin below second dorsal fin. Caudal fin round. Pectoral fin round. Pelvic fins united forming a sucking disk.

color: Body light olive-green to grey with 8-9 diagonal light blue bands. Red to black spots surrounded by light blue rings on the head and the anterior part of the body.

common size: 7-10 cm (max 13 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Other gobies : different color pattern.

Other Mediterranean spp. : lack sucking disk made from the pelvic fins.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Live in symbiotic association with shrimps. In the Mediterranean were observed living in colonies, at depths of 1-10 m between the burrows.

habitat: In the Mediterranean on soft bottom at depths of 20-30 m. In the Red Sea they inhabit depth of 0.5-10 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Endemic to the Red Sea.

Mediterranean: Large populations were observed along the Israeli coast (Rothman, pers. comm.).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

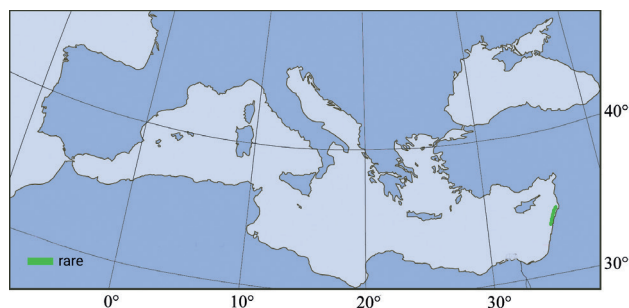
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Large colonies observed in Israel.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Israel (2015)
(Rothman and
Goren 2015).

KEY REFERENCES

- Goren M. 1979. The Gobiinae of the Red Sea (Pisces: Gobiidae). *Senckenbergiana biologica*, 60(1-2), 13-64.
- Rothman S.B.S. and Goren M. 2015. First record of the Red Sea shrimp-goby *Cryptocentrus caeruleopunctatus* in the Mediterranean Sea. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 8: e157.