

DIODONTIDAE

porcupinefishes

Cylichthys spilostylus

(Leis and Randall, 1982)



Photo : John E. Randall

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, 13-14; A, 10-12; P, 20-22

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Capable of inflating its body. When not inflated, wide and round. Dorsal and anal fins rounded, extremely posterior in position. Dorsal fin slightly in front of anal fin. Caudal fin rounded. Pectoral fin wide with vertical margin. Pelvic fin absent. Snout short. Large terminal mouth, wide beak-like upper and lower dental plates, without median suture. Large eyes extending the contour of dorsal profile. Gill opening slit-like and located just before pectoral fin base. Body and head bear three-rooted and four-rooted stout spines fixed in an erect position. No spines on the caudal peduncle.

color: back-brown-grey to olive-green with white belly. Yellow-orange spots at the base of spines on the back and upper flank. Black spots at the base of spines on belly.

common size: 12-25 cm (max. 35 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Diodon hystrix*: spines two-rooted and flat when not inflated.

Tetraodontidae: teeth in each jaw fused, with median suture.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on hard covered invertebrates, which it crushes with its massive dental plate. Probably nocturnal. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: benthic and rocky in coastal waters (but also recorded at 90 m).

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: wide Indo-Pacific. A single record from the Galapagos Islands.

Mediterranean: first collected in Ashdod, Israel (Golani, 1993) then in Haifa (Golani *et al.*, 2010) and later in Turkey (Erguden *et al.*, 2012).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

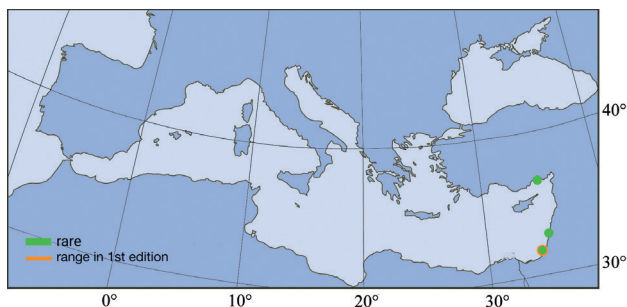
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Ashdod, Israel,
1993

KEY REFERENCES

- Erguden D., Bayhan Y.K. and Turan C. 2012. First record of spotbase burrfish, *Cylichthys spilostilus* (Actinopterygii: Tetraodontiformes: Diodontidae), from the marine waters of Turkey. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 42(2): 137-140.
- Golani D. 1993. Trophic adaption of Red Sea fishes to the eastern Mediterranean environment - Review and new data. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 39: 391-402.
- Golani D., Salameh P. and Sonin O. 2010 - First record of the Emperor angelfish, *Pomacanthus imperator* (Teleostei: Pomacanthidae) and the second record of the spotbase burrfish *Cylichthys spilostylus* (Teleostei: Diodontidae) in the Mediterranean. *Aquatic Invasions*, (Suppl.) 5(1): S41-S43.