

**SOLEIDAE**

soles

**Dagetichthys lusitanicus**

(de Brito Capello, 1868)



Drawing : Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: *Synaptura lusitanica*

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, 73-83; A, 57-67; P, 6-10; LL, 100-123.

**SHORT DESCRIPTION**

Both eyes on right side. Body oval with hind part tapering. Head 15-20% of standard length, with upper eye its own diameter or more from dorsal profile of head. Nostril tube on eye side has tube pointing backwards. Anterior nostril on blind side small. The anterior part of the lateral line smoothly curved. Caudal fin confluent with dorsal and anal fins.

**color:** eyed side greyish-brown, with large dusky blotches (largest along the lateral line), irregular in shape and forming rows along the body. Blind side rosy white or yellowish. Pectoral pale or blackish terminally.

**common size:** in the Atlantic 15-35 cm (max. 48 cm); in the Mediterranean, 20-25 cm.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

Other **Soleidae** species: dorsal and anal fin rays totally separated from caudal fin or joined by a thin membrane.

**Pleuronectidae:** free preoperculum margin.

Other flatfish families: eyes on the left side.

**BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY**

No data.

**habitat:** demersal in shallow waters, on mud and sandy bottom up to 60 m depth.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Worldwide:** Eastern Atlantic, from Portugal to Angola.

**Mediterranean:** recorded first off Vinaroz, central Iberian Peninsula (Lozano-Rey, 1960); successive records from captures off Tarragona and Malgrat (Barcelona) in the north-eastern Iberian Peninsula (Matallanas, 1984a), and Libya (Al-Hassan, 1999). This species is probably confused with other soleids, which could explain its few records in the Mediterranean (Matallanas, 1984b).

**MODE OF INTRODUCTION**

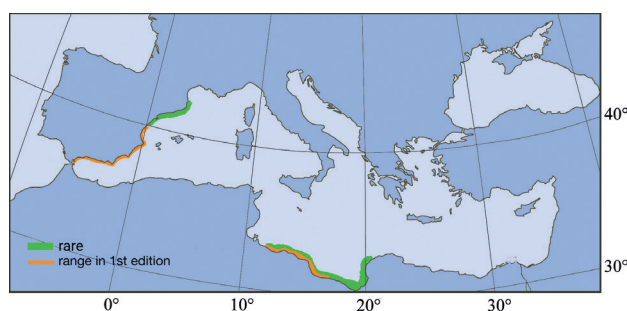
Via Gibraltar.

**ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS**

Unknown.

**IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS**

None in the Mediterranean. In the Atlantic, it is captured with bottom trawl and marketed fresh.



1<sup>st</sup> Med. record  
Off Vinaroz,  
central Iberian  
Peninsula, 1960.

**KEY REFERENCES**

- Al-Hassan L.A.J. 1999. First record of some fishes from Libyan waters. *Indian Journal of Fisheries*, Ernakulam, 46(2): 195-198.
- Lozano-Rey L. 1960. Peces Fisoclistos. Tercera Parte. Subseries Torácicos (Órdenes Equeneiformes y Gobiformes), Pediculados y Asimétricos. *Memórias de la Real Academia de Ciencias Exactas, Fisicas y Naturales de Madrid, Series de Ciencias Naturales*, 14: 613 pp.
- Matallanas J. 1984a. *Lionurus carapinus* (Goode et Bean, 1883) (Pisces, Macrouridae) et *Synaptura lusitana* Capello, 1868 (Pisces, Soleidae) en Méditerranée. *Vie et Milieu*, 34(2/3): 139-140.
- Matallanas J. 1984b. Consideraciones sobre algunos Pleuronectiformes (Pisces, Teleostei) nuevos o de dudosa presencia en las costas Orientales Iberica. *Miscellània Zoològica*, 8: 197-202.