

**CARANGIDAE**

jacks, scads, runners

**Decapterus russelli**

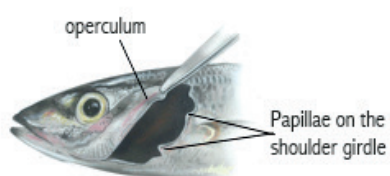
(Rüppell, 1830)



Photo : Daniel Golani / Drawing : Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D1, VIII; D2, I + 31-32; A, II + I + 24-26;  
P, 20-22; V, I + 5; LL, 77-102**SHORT DESCRIPTION**

Body elongated and only slightly compressed. Two dorsal fins, the first triangular and short based, second much longer. Anal fin with two separate spines. Both dorsal and anal fins with a single separate finlet behind them. Caudal fin forked. Acute pectoral fin, its origin slightly

in front of pelvic fin origin. Terminal mouth. Upper jaw reaches back almost to the vertical of eye. Eye covered with transparent eyelid, covering most of the eye except for the center of the pupil. Anterior part of lateral line with 44-52 small scales, posterior part with 34-36 scutes. The margin of the shoulder girdle (behind the gill filaments) with two distinct papillae.

**color:** dorsal surface bluish-green to metallic grey with silvery-white belly.

**common size:** 30-50 cm (max. 65 cm).

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

- *Trachurus* spp.: distinctive scutes on the entire lateral line; no papillae on the shoulder girdle.
- *Caranx* spp. and *Alepes djedaba*: no papillae on the shoulder girdle.

### BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Schooling species. Feeds on small invertebrates. In its native Indo-Pacific it reaches sexual maturity at 12 cm at the age of one year.

**habitat:** coastal water, no deeper than 100 m.

### DISTRIBUTION

**Worldwide:** Wide Indo-west Pacific distribution from the Red Sea, Indian Ocean to Japan and Australia.

**Mediterranean:** recorded in Israel and Turkey (probably has wider distribution, but overlooked due to external similarity to indigenous species) (Golani, 2006, Akamca *et al.*, 2010).

### MODE OF INTRODUCTION

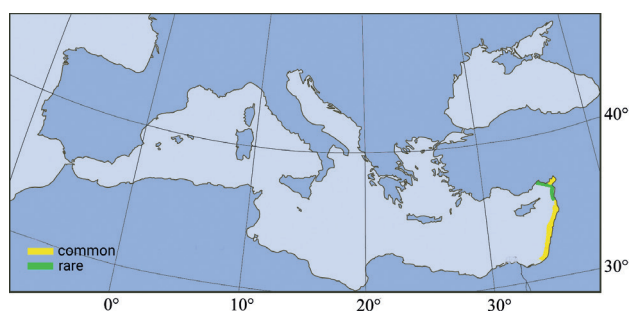
Via the Suez Canal.

### ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very common along the Israeli-Lebanese coast.

### IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

An important target species in fishery throughout its distribution including in the Mediterranean (Israel and Lebanon), caught by purse seine and to a lesser extent by trammel nets and trawl.



1<sup>st</sup> Med. record  
Israel, 2006.

### KEY REFERENCES

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- Golani D. 2006. The Indian scad (*Decapterus russelli*), (Osteichthyes: Carangidae), a new Indo-Pacific fish invader of the eastern Mediterranean. *Scientia Marina*, 70: 603-605.
- Norman J.R. 1935. The carangid fishes of the genus *Decapterus* Bleeker. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 10(16): 252-264.
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