

DIODONTIDAE

porcupinefishes

Diodon hystrix

Linnaeus, 1758



Photo: Bernard Dupont

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Bentho-pelagic species. Juveniles (to about 20 cm) are pelagic; adults are benthic and associated with reef or shelf waters to 100 m, where they feed on molluscs, crabs and sea urchins. They have nocturnal habits, usually hiding in small caves during the day.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: first recorded in the Gulf of Taranto (Torchio, 1963) and recently in the Balearic Islands, Spain in 2016 (Ordines *et al.*, 2018).

Original distribution: circumtropical.

KEY REFERENCES

- Ordines F., Deudero S., Sintès-Vila J., Sbragalia V., Fricke R. and Azzurro E. 2018. A new record of *Diodon hystrix* (Actinopterygii: Diodontidae) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 48(4): 403-407.
- Torchio M. 1963. Accertata presenza di un rappresentante della famiglia Diodontidae in Mediterraneo. *Atti della Società Italiana della Scienze Naturali*, 102(3) : 277-281.

TETRAODONTIDAE

pufferfishes

Arothron hispidus

Linnaeus, 1758



Photo: Eduard

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Lives in the vicinity of coral reefs down to 50 m. Feeds on a large variety of benthic invertebrates that it crushes with its massive teeth. Pelagic eggs and larvae. Juveniles inhabit estuaries and shallow sandy beaches (Golani and Lerner, 2007).

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: the only confirmed record is based on an underwater photograph from Cyprus. Previous records were unreliable or misidentifications (Bariche *et al.*, 2018).

Original distribution: Indo-Pacific, including the Red Sea to the eastern Pacific Ocean from California to Panama.

KEY REFERENCE

- Bariche M., Constantinou C. and Sayar N. 2018. First confirmed record of the white-spotted puffer *Arothron hispidus* (Linnaeus, 1758) in the Mediterranean. *BioInvasions Records* 7(4): 433-436.