CAESIONIDAE
fusiliers

Caesio varilineata

Carpenter, 1987

Photo: K.E Carpenter

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inshore-pelagic and reef-associated species, lives in schools with other caesionids and inhabits seaward reefs until a depth of 25 m. Both juveniles and adults feed on zooplankton. Oviparous, with numerous, small pelagic eggs.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: a single observation of several dozen of individuals was realized at two fish landing sites in Alexandria, suggesting that this species might be present in the Mediterranean coasts of Egypt (Bos and Ogwang, 2018). Further evidence is needed to attest its presence and establishment in Mediterranean waters.

Original distribution: Indian Ocean, including the Red Sea: from East Africa to to western Indonesia.

KEY REFERENCE

• Bos A. and Ogwang J. 2018. *Caesio varilineata* Carpenter, 1987 (Osteichthyes: Caesionidae) a new alien fish in the southeastern Mediterranean Sea. *BioInvasions Records,* 7(4): 441-445.

CAESIONIDAE
fusiliers

Dipterygonotus balteatus

Valenciennes, 1830

Photo: Michel Bariche

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Primarily a near-shore pelagic species, but swims mainly in open water away from reefs at depths between 35 and 90 m. Forms dense aggregations and feeds on zooplankton. Oviparous, with numerous, small pelagic eggs.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: in 2017, individuals of *Dipterygonotus balteatus* were captured from northern Lebanon, off the coast of Al Abdeh (Bariche and Fricke, 2018). Because of the proximity to the Suez canal, Lessepsian migration is the likely mode of entry but transport by ballast water is another possible pathway.

Original distribution: East Africa, not including the Red Sea or Arabian (Persian) Gulf, to the Solomon Islands.

KEY REFERENCE

• Bariche M. and Fricke R. 2018. *Dipterygonotus balteatus* (Valenciennes, 1830) (Teleostei: Caesionidae), a new alien fish in the Mediterranean Sea. *BioInvasions Records*, 7(1): 79-82.