

## SERRANIDAE

groupers

### Epinephelus geoffroyi

Klunzinger, 1870



Photo: Daniel Golani

#### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits rocky substrate or coral reef to depth of 280 m. Feeds, like other serranids, on fish and large invertebrates. Protogynous hermaphrodite, female matures at 25 cm and changes to male at 34-56 cm. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

#### DISTRIBUTION

**Mediterranean record:** a single specimen has been recorded from Israel in 2015 (Golani *et al.*, 2015).

**Original distribution:** endemic to the Red Sea.

#### KEY REFERENCE

- Golani D., Askarov G. and Dashevsky Y. 2015. First record of the Red Sea spotted grouper, *Epinephelus geoffroyi* (Serranidae) in the Mediterranean. *BioInvasion Records*, 4(2): 143-145.

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### Epinephelus merra

Bloch, 1793



Photo: P. Lelong

#### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits shallow waters, coral reefs and lagoons. Usually found down to 20 m, very rarely down to 50 m. Young individuals feed mainly on crustaceans and to a lesser extent on fishes; adults feed chiefly on fish. Protogynous hermaphrodite changing from female to male when reaching 15-16 cm. Adults display a high site fidelity and spawning occurs during full moon. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

#### DISTRIBUTION

**Mediterranean record:** only a single specimen was collected in France (Lelong, 2005).

**Original distribution:** Indo-Pacific distribution but not in the Red Sea.

#### KEY REFERENCE

- Lelong P. 2005. Capture d'un macabite, *Epinephelus merra* Bloch, 1793 (Poisson, Serranidae), en Méditerranée nord-occidentale. *Marine Life*, 15: 63-66.