

LEIOGNATHIDAE

ponyfishes

Equulites popei

(Whitley, 1932)



Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: None
 Misidentification: *Equulites elongatus*
 Meristic formula: D, VII-IX+15-17; A, III+13-15; P, 14-15;
 V, I+5; LL, 42-43

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongated and slightly compressed. Pointed snout. Jaws strongly protractile. Upper profile of head straight or slightly concave. The ventral profile of head from mouth tip to below the eye slightly concave. A single continuous dorsal fin, its first spine minute, the second is the largest. The first anal spine small and the 2nd is the largest. Caudal fin deeply forked. Cheek and breast covered with small scales.

color: body silver-grey, darker on the back becoming light on the belly. Dark-grey to black irregular spots on the back and flanks.

common size: 6-10 cm (max. 12 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Equulites klunzingeri*: body depth less than three times in Standard length (SL).

Carangidae: jaws not strongly protractile; two detached anal fin spines.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Lives in schools or small groups. Feeds on benthic invertebrates, mainly crustaceans, polychaetes and to a lesser extent on algae. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: soft substrate in coastal waters but found down to 130 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Indo-Pacific.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Israel (Golani *et al.*, 2011), then in Turkey (Yokes, 2015) and in Lebanon (Crocetta and Bariche, 2017).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

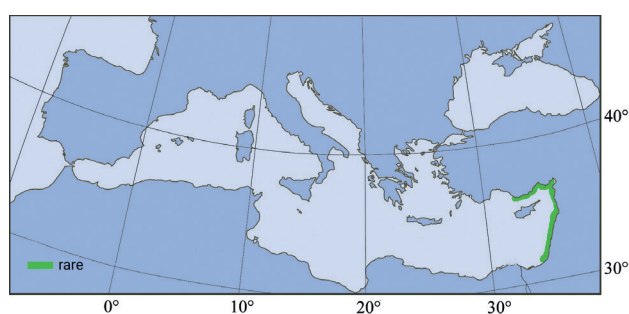
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None in the Mediterranean.



1st Med. record
Israel, 2011

KEY REFERENCES

- Crocetta F. and Bariche M. 2017. Four marine fishes of different origin in Lebanon. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 18(2): 377-379.
- Golani D., Fricke R. and Appelbaum-Golani B. 2011. First record of the Indo-Pacific slender ponyfish *Equulites elongatus* (Günther, 1874) in the Mediterranean (Perciformes: Leiognathidae). *Aquatic Invasions*, 6 (Suppl. 1): s75-s77.
- Suzuki H., Kimura S. 2017. Taxonomic revision of the *Equulites elongatus* (Günther 1874) species group (Perciformes: Leiognathidae) with the description of a new species. *Ichthyological Research*, 64(3): 339-52.
- Yokes M.B. 2015. First record of the Indo-Pacific slender ponyfish *Equulites elongatus* (Günther, 1874) (Perciformes: Leiognathidae) from Turkey. *BiolInvasions Records*, 4(4): 305-308.