

CHAETODONTIDAE

butterflyfishes

Heniochus intermedius

Steindachner, 1893



Photo : Michel Bariche

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, XI + 25-26; A, III + 17-18; P, 15-16; V, I + 5

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body deep and highly compressed. The first three dorsal spines are isolated, the fourth extremely elongated. Pelvic fin and the posterior part of the dorsal and anal fins are round. Caudal fin truncated or slightly rounded. Snout pointed; small mouth. Two outwardly angling bony tubercles ("horns") above the eyes.

color: Body off-white to yellowish with two broad black bands, the first band extending from the dorsal fin origin through head to pelvic fin while the second band runs from the 4th dorsal spine to the rear of the anal fin. Pectoral, caudal and posterior part of dorsal fin are yellow. Pelvic fin black.

common size: 10-18 cm (max. 20 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Body shape and color pattern do not resemble that of any other species (indigenous or exotic) in the Mediterranean.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Generally live in pairs in distinct territory but occasionally form large aggregations. Juveniles live in large groups. Feeds on zooplankton and benthic invertebrates. May also feed on algae. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: coral reefs to depths of 50 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Mediterranean: a pair was sighted, one of which was consequently collected in the Gulf of Antalya, Turkey (Gökoglu *et al.*, 2003). More recently recorded in Lebanon, Israel and Malta.

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

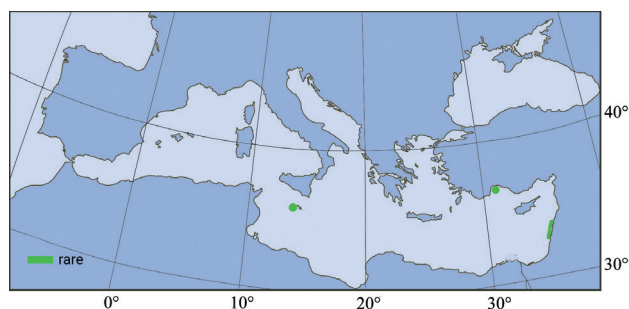
Probably via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Gulf of Antalya,
Turkey, 2002

KEY REFERENCES

- Allen G.R., Steene R. and Allen M. 1998. A Guide to Angelfishes and Butterflyfishes. Perth: Odyssey Publishing / Tropical Reef Research. 250 pp.
- Gökoglu M., Bodur T. and Kaya Y. 2003. First record of the Red Sea bannerfish (*Heniochus intermedius* Steindachner, 1893) from the Mediterranean Sea. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 49: 324-325.
- Randall J.E. 1983. Red Sea Reef Fishes. IMMEL Publishing. London. 192 pp.