

HEMIRAMPHIDAE

halfbeaks

Hyporhamphus affinis

(Günther, 1866)



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: *Hemiraphus affinis*
 Misidentification: *Hyporhamphus dussumieri*
 Meristic formula: D, 14-17; A, 15-19; P, 11-13; V, 6; GR, 31-36

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongated with a greatly prolonged beak-like lower jaw. The upper jaw short and triangular. Dorsal and anal fins posterior in position. Anal fin origin below the first 1/3 of dorsal fin base. Caudal fin forked, lower lobe larger than upper. Pelvic fin abdominal situated behind midpoint of flank. Pectoral fin short. Body covered with relatively large cycloid scales. Small scales on the upper jaw.

color: back dark bluish green with silvery white belly.

common size: 20-26 cm (max. 38 cm SL).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Hemiramphus far*: upper jaw naked (scaled in *H.affinis*).
- *Hyporhamphus picarti*: caudal fin only slightly forked, the inner rays more than half the length of the outer rays.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on zooplankton and floating matter. Eggs covered with adhesive filaments that attach to floating and benthic objects.

habitat: epipelagic, inshore.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: wide Indo-Pacific from the Red Sea and eastern Africa throughout the Indian Ocean to the Islands of Oceania.

Mediterranean: occasional captures have been reported in the coastal waters of Lebanon, misidentified as *Hyporhamphus dussumieri* by George *et al.*, (1964), Syrian coast (Saad, 2005), Iskenderun bay, Turkey (Turan *et al.*, 2007) and Tunisia (Kinzelbach, 2007).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

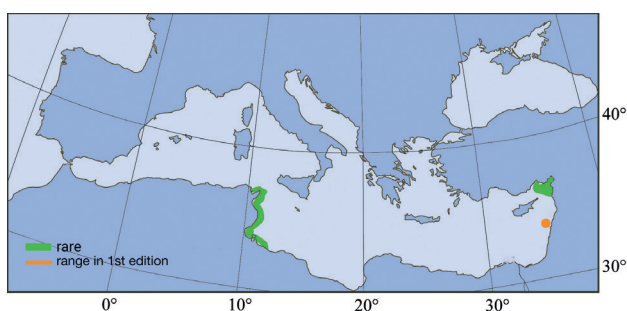
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Lebanon, 1964.

KEY REFERENCES

- George C.J., Athanassiou V.A. and Boulos I. 1964. The fishes of the coastal waters of Lebanon. *Miscellaneous Papers in the Natural Sciences, The American University of Beirut*, 4: 1-24.
- Kinzelbach R. 2007. First record of the tropical halfbeak *Hyporhamphus affinis* (Günther, 1866) in Tunisia (Teleostei: Hemirhamphidae). *Rostocker Meeresbiologische Beiträge*, 18:82-83.
- Turan C., Ergüden D., Mürlek M., Yaglıoğlu D. and Keskin Ç. 2007. Lessepsian Fishes of Turkey. In C. Turan. *Atlas and Systematic of Marine Bony Fishes of Turkey*. Nobel Publishing House. 524pp.