

**APOGONIDAE**

cardinalfishes

**Jaydia queketti**

Gilchrist, 1903



Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: *Apogon queketti*

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D1, VII; D2, I + 9; A, II + 8; P, 13-17; V, I + 5;  
LL, 24 + 3**SHORT DESCRIPTION**

Body oblong and compressed. Two dorsal fins, the first with 7 spines, the 3rd and 4th the largest. The soft dorsal rays longer than dorsal spines. Anal fin origin at the vertical of 2nd dorsal fin origin. Caudal fin round.

Pelvic fin origin under pectoral fin origin. Mouth slightly oblique reaching back beyond eye. Large eye, its diameter 3.3-4.0 times in head length. Preopercle edge smooth. Large scales.

**color:** body grey to off-white, slightly darker on the back. Dark grey to brown spots on the body forming longitudinal irregular lines. Large black spot on the posterior edge of first dorsal fin. Posterior edge of caudal fin and lower of anal fin dark grey to black. Pectoral and pelvic fins transparent to white.

**common size:** 3-12 cm (max 15 cm).

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

- *Apogon*, *Jaydia* and *Ostorhinchus* spp. : no longitudinal irregular lines on the body, no large black spot on the posterior edge of first dorsal fin.

**Serranidae**, **Teraponidae**, **Haemulidae**, **Sparidae** and **Labridae** : A single dorsal fin.

**BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY**

Nocturnal species. Feeds on zooplankton during the night. The males presumably incubate the eggs in the mouth.

**habitat:** during the day hide in rocky habitat, while at night prey in open water close to the substrate to depth of 90 m.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Worldwide:** western Indian Ocean from South Africa to the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and India.

**Mediterranean:** Israel to Dodecanese, Turkey (Akyol and Ünal, 2015).

**MODE OF INTRODUCTION**

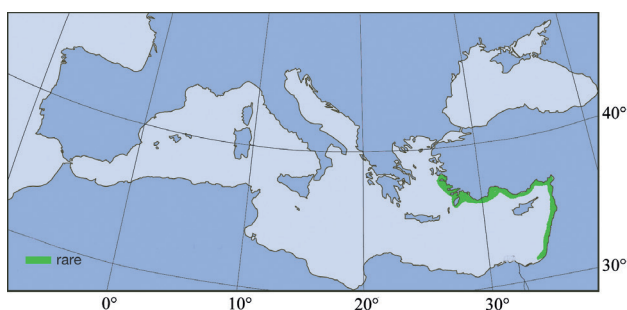
Via the Suez Canal.

**ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS**

Rare, only several specimens collected to date in the Mediterranean.

**IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS**

None.



1<sup>st</sup> Med. record  
Turkey, Iskenderun  
Bay, 2006.

**KEY REFERENCES**

- Akyol O. and Ünal V. 2015. Additional record of the Lessepsian *Apogon queketti* Gilchrist, 1903 (Osteichthyes: Apogonidae) from the Aegean Sea (Gökova Bay, Turkey). *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 31(3): 536-537.
- Ben-Eliahu M.N. and Golani D. 2008. First records of alien Red Sea fishes, Lessepsian migrants, along the Mediterranean coast of Israel. *Haasiana, a biannual newsletter of the biological collections of the Hebrew University 4, Jerusalem*. p.79.
- Eryilmaz L. and Dalyan C. 2006. First record of *Apogon queketti* Gilchrist (Osteichthyes: Apogonidae) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 69: 1251-1254.
- Gon O. 1996. Revision of the cardinalfish subgenus *Jaydia* (Perciformes, Apogonidae, Apogon). *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa*, 51: 147-194.
- Gon O. and Randall J.E. 2003. A review of the cardinalfishes (Perciformes: Apogonidae) of the Red Sea. *Smithiana Bulletin*, 1: 1-48.