

LUTJANIDAE

snappers

Lutjanus argentimaculatus

(Forsskål, 1775)



Photo : John E. Randall

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, X + 13-14; A, III + 8; P, 16-17; V, I + 5; LL, 44-48; GR, 26-31

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body moderately elongated, somewhat compressed. Dorsal fin continuous, third to fifth spines longest. Posterior edge of dorsal fin round. Caudal fin truncated. Pelvic fin origin slightly behind pectoral base. Terminal large mouth. Maxilla slips under preorbital bone when mouth closed. No supramaxilla. A few rows of conical sharp teeth with several distinct large canines. Vomerine teeth in V- shaped band. Operculum edge serrated. A shallow notch in the lower preoperculum. Ctenoid scales. Snout and preorbital area scaled.

color: red-brown-bronze with silvery-grey patch on scales.

common size: 40-80 cm (max. 120 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Lutjanidae: body with strips, spots or blotches.

Serranidae: three flat spines on the operculum.

Sparidae: forked caudal fin; preoperculum smooth.

Carangidae: forked caudal fin; no canine teeth.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds mainly on fishes and crustaceans. Eggs and larvae are pelagic.

habitat: young in shallow-sandy shores often entering estuaries. Adults in deeper rocky or open areas to depths of 80 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: wide Indo-Pacific. Red Sea to eastern Africa, including Madagascar to Ryukyu Islands, northern Australia and Samoa.

Mediterranean: First record Lebanon (Mouneimne, 1979), and second record, Lebanon (Crocetta and Bariche, 2016). Other records from Turkey (Akyol, 2019), Israel (Sonin *et al.*, 2019) and Greece (Tiralongo *et al.*, (2019).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

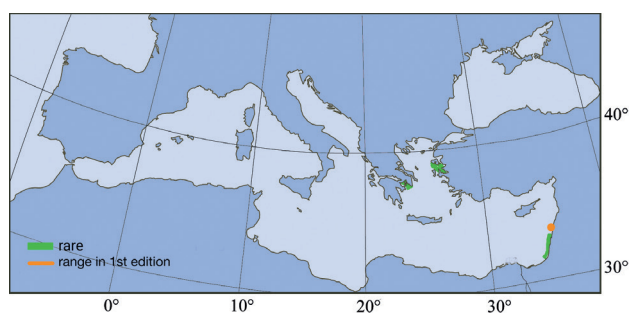
Via the Suez Canal. Ship transport or mariculture escapee are also possible vectors.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None in the Mediterranean. Commercially important in fishery throughout its distribution. It was tested in several countries as potential species for mariculture.



1st Med. record
Lebanon, 1979.

KEY REFERENCES

- Akyol O. 2019. First record of a mangrove red snapper *Lutjanus argentimaculatus* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Lutjanidae) from the Aegean Sea (Izmir bay, Turkey). *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 49(2): 209-211.
- Crocetta F. and Bariche M. 2016. Citizen scientists contribute to better knowledge of the Mediterranean marine biota: records of five alien and native species from Lebanon. *Mediterranean Marine Science* 17(2): 620-623.
- Mouneimne N. 1979. Poissons nouveaux pour les côtes Libanaises. *Cybiu*, 6: 105-110.
- Sonin O., Edelist D. and Golani D. 2019. The occurrence of the Lessepsian migrant *Lutjanus argentimaculatus* in the Mediterranean, (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Lutjanidae) first record from the coast of Israel. *Acta Adriatica*, 60(1): 99-102.
- Tiralongo F., Giovos I., Doumpas M., Langeneck J., P. and Crocetta F. 2019. Is the mangrove red snapper *Lutjanus argentimaculatus* (Forsskal, 1775) established in the eastern Mediterranean Sea? First records from Greece through a citizen science project. *Biodiversity records*, 8: 5 pp.