Nemipterus randalli

Russell, 1986

Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: None
Misidentification: Nemipterus japonicus
Meristic formula: D, X + 9; A, III + 7; P, 15-17; V, I + 5; LL, 47-49

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body ellipsoid and slightly compressed. A continuous dorsal fin, its membrane not incised. Anal fin slightly pointed posteriorly. Caudal fin forked with a long filament extending from the upper edge of the upper lobe (this typical filament is often missing). Pectoral fin long and pointed reaching back to the anus. First ray of pelvic fin elongated reaching at least anal fin origin. Terminal mouth. A single row of conical teeth on both jaws. 5-6 canine teeth on premaxilla and the dentary. No molar teeth. Body covered with scales including on the upper surface of the head reaching the center of eye level. Three rows of scales on the preoperculum.

color: body pinkish, darker on the back becoming pinkish-silvery on the belly. Four pale yellow to golden –yellow stripes along the flank, the upper start at eye level and run to caudal peduncle. The other three close to each other. Yellow spots on the cheek and the operculum.

common size: 5-20 cm (max. 30 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Pagellus* spp. *and Pagrus* spp.: Presence of molar teeth; 11-13 dorsal spines and 10-11 dorsal rays.
- *Dentex* spp.: No filament in caudal fin.
- *Apogon imberbis*: Two dorsal fins.
- *Anthias anthias* and *Callanthias ruber*: Three flat spines on the upper posterior corner of the operculum.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on various invertebrates and small fishes. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

habitat: inhabits open sandy and muddy substrate at depths 20-200 m in its original area of distribution. In the Mediterranean it is caught mainly at 30-80 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Western Indian Ocean from Durban, South Africa, Red Sea to the Arabian Gulf, India.

Mediterranean: Israel (Golani and Sonin, 2006); Mersin Bay to Gokova Bay, Turkey (Gulüşahin and Kara, 2013), Lebanon, Syria and Egypt (Halim and Rizkalla, 2011; Katsanevakis *et al.*, 2020).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

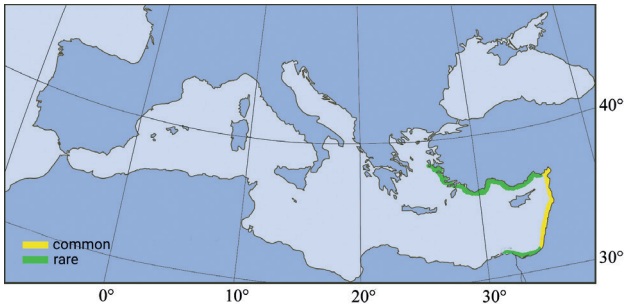
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very common.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

An important target species in the fishery throughout its range, especially in the Gulf of Suez. In the Mediterranean it is caught in large numbers by trawl and to a lesser extent by trammel nets and long line.



1st Med. record Israel, Haifa Bay, 2006 [2005] (*as Nemipterus japonicus*).

KEY REFERENCES

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