

GOBIIDAE

gobies

Oxyurichthys petersi

(Klunzinger, 1871)



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: *Oxyurichthys papuensis*

Meristic formula: D1, VI; D2, I + 13; P, 21-23; V, I+5; LL, 65-75; GR, 9

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongated and compressed. Two dorsal fins. First dorsal spine the longest, the rest decreasing in size. Last dorsal spine connected by small membrane to origin of second dorsal. Caudal fin lanceolate. Pectoral fin rounded to slightly pointed. Pelvic fins united, forming a complete sucking disk, originating under pectoral fin base. Head broad, median predorsal ridge. Eye dorsally in position extending above profile contour. Jaws oblique, extending back reaching almost to vertical of posterior edge of eye. Upper jaw with a single row of caniniform, curved teeth which are exposed when mouth closed. In lower jaw two rows of smaller caniniform teeth. A distinct cirrus-like flap on the upper edge of eye. Scales are cycloid and weakly ctenoid. 4-5 transverse rows of papillae under the eye (suborbital) resembling small dots.

color: back greenish grey with pale belly. A series of 4-5 dark blotches on the sides and a black spot on caudal fin base. The flap on the upper edge of eye is bright orange.

common size: 7-12 cm (max. 15 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Other species of **Gobiidae**: none with lanceolate caudal fin, cirrus on the eye and predorsal ridge.

Blennidae, Tripterygiidae, Clinidae and Callionymidae: two or more dorsal fins.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on small benthic invertebrates. Spawning season in the summer and fall.

habitat: benthic, sandy or muddy substrate to depths of 70 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea endemic.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Ashdod, Israel, in trawl as *Oxyurichthys papuensis* (Ben-Tuvia, 1983); successively recorded in Syria (Sbaihi and Saad, 1992), Mersin Bay (Kaya *et al.*, 1992) and Gokova Bay (Bilecenoglu *et al.*, 2002) in Turkey.

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

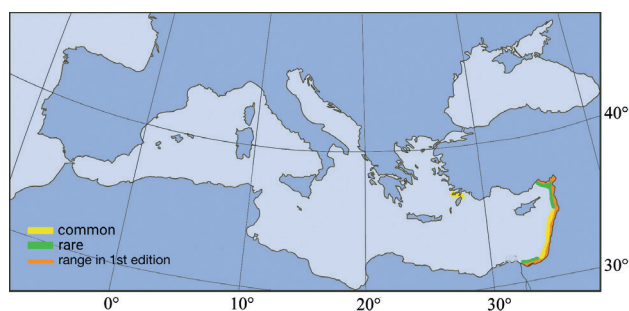
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very common in the Eastern Basin.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

Caught in large quantities in trawl. Non-commercial. This species experienced a population explosion almost immediately after invasion.



1st Med. record
Ashdod, Israel,
1983.

KEY REFERENCES

- Ben-Tuvia A. 1983. An Indo-Pacific goby *Oxyurichthys papuensis* (Valenciennes, 1837) in the eastern Mediterranean. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 20: 1-39.
- Bilecenoglu M., Taskavak E., Mater S. and Kaya M. 2002. Checklist of the marine fishes of Turkey. *Zootaxa*, 113: 1-194.
- Sbaihi M. and Saad A. 1992. Données nouvelles sur des espèces de poissons téléostéens pêchées pour la première fois dans les eaux territoriales Syriennes. *Proceeding des Travaux de la Semaine de Science*, Damas, 3: 83-105.