

**SPARIDAE**

seabreams, porgies

**Pagellus bellottii**

Steindachner, 1882



Drawing : Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: *Pagellus coupei*  
 Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, XII+9-11; A,  
 III+10; P, 15-16; V, I+5; LL, 54-60;  
 GR, 9-10 lower and 5-6 upper.

**SHORT DESCRIPTION**

Body oblong and compressed. Head large, with upper profile convex, becoming more abrupt in adults. Scales on cheeks and operculum. Occipital scales extending forward to the anterior margin of eye. Mouth small, terminal, and slightly oblique, with a band of conical and slender teeth (at least 8) in front, and two rows of molars at back in both jaws. Dorsal fin single, with last spines and first soft rays about equal in length. Pectoral fin long and pointed. Pelvic fin just behind pectoral fin bases, with axillary scale. Caudal fin forked.

**color:** silvery red. Inter-orbital slightly darker. Small blue spots on flanks. Dark red mark at origin of lateral line and upper margin of operculum. Fins dusky or pinkish. Caudal fin with narrow red margin. Small shaded area at pectoral basis. Inside of mouth whitish.

**common size:** 20-25 cm (max. 42 cm).

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

- *Pagellus erythrinus*: anal fin with 8-9 soft rays. Length of anal fin basis smaller than distance from snout to posterior margin of eye.
  - *Pagellus acarne* and *P. bogaraveo*: occipital scales not reaching vertical of eye center, and inside of mouth orange-red.
- Species of the genera *Sparus* and *Pagrus*: no more than 4-6 canines in front of jaws.
- *Lithognathus mormyrus*: about 15 transverse grey stripes on sides, and posterior nostril slit-like.
  - *Diplodus* spp.: incisiform teeth in front of jaws.

Species of the genera *Dentex*, *Spondyliosoma*, *Oblada*, *Crenidens*, *Sarpa* and *Boops*: lateral teeth conical or pointed, not molariform.

### BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Hermaphroditic protogynous. In the Atlantic, intermittent spawning from May to November (in Mediterranean presumably spawns during summer), reaching maturity at 1-4 years of age. Omnivorous, with a predominantly carnivorous diet, including crustaceans, cephalopods, small fish, amphioxus and worms. Gregarious.

**habitat:** demersal on hard or sandy bottom to 250 m depth. Common at 100 m depth, with spawning migrations to shallower waters.

### DISTRIBUTION

**Worldwide:** eastern Atlantic, from Bay of Biscay to Angola, and Canary Islands.

**Mediterranean:** recorded first in Morocco and Algeria as *Pagellus coupei* (see Dieuzeide, 1960); successively recorded in Almería, southeastern Iberian coast, Alboran Sea (Lucena *et al.*, 1982), off Syria (Sbaihi and Saad, 1992) and Israel (Fricke *et al.*, 2014) in the eastern Mediterranean.

### MODE OF INTRODUCTION

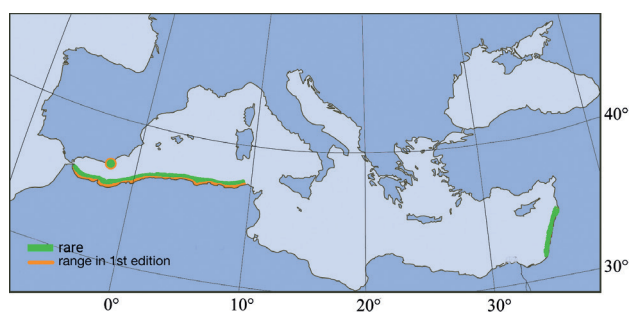
Via Gibraltar.

### ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare.

### IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

Caught with trammel net, beach seine net, longline and handline. Marketed fresh in Morocco and Algeria. Caught in large quantities along the eastern Atlantic, as the most abundant sparid species on the West African coast together with *Dentex macrophthalmus*.



1<sup>st</sup> Med. record  
Morocco and  
Algeria, 1960.

### KEY REFERENCES

- Carpenter K.E. and De Angelis N. (Eds.) 2016. The living marine resources of the Eastern Central Atlantic. Volume 4: Bony fishes part 2 (Perciformes to Tetradontiformes) and Sea turtles. FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes, Rome, FAO. pp. 2343–3124.
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- Fricke R., Golani D., Sonin R. and Appelbaum-Golani B. 2014. First record of the Red Pandora *Pagellus bellottii* from Israel, south-eastern Mediterranean (Teleostei: Sparidae). *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 7: e130.
- Lucena J., Abad R. and García L. 1982. Primera cita en el Mediterráneo español de *Pagellus coupei* Dieuzeide, 1960. *Investigacion Pesquera*, 46(1): 51-54.
- 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.