

Pagrus major

Temminck and Schlegel,
1843



SPARIDAE
porgies

Photo: Miya

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits rocky substrate at depths of 10-50 m; also found on soft bottoms. Adults migrate into shallow depths to spawn in late spring and summer; juveniles occur mainly in shallow areas.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: in 2004, nine individuals of *Pagrus major* were collected near Zadar (Molat Island), Croatia (Dulčić and Kraljević, 2007). These individuals were likely escapes from mariculture in the Adriatic. It seems that this species had established a permanent population in a very limited area within the Zadar archipelago (Adriatic Sea). In 2018, four individuals were collected in the Amvrakikos Gulf and Echinades islands, Ionian Sea (Cladas *et al.*, 2019).

Original distribution: Northwest Pacific, part of Southern China Sea (Philippines excluded) and northward to Japan.

KEY REFERENCES

- Cladas Y, Spala K., Duodoumis V., Ketsilis-Rinis V., Batargis C., Koutsikopoulos C. 2019. Presence confirmation of non-native species *Pagrus major* in the Eastern Mediterranean. *Oceanogr. Fish Open Access J.*, 9(2): 555756.
- Dulčić J. and Kraljević M. 2007. On the record of red seabream *Pagrus major* (Temminck and Schlegel, 1843) (Osteichthyes: Sparidae) in the Adriatic Sea. *Scientia Marina*, 71(1): 15-17.

Rhabdosargus haffara

Forsskål, 1775



SPARIDAE
porgies

Photo: David Darom

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits shallow water over sandy or silty substrate to depths of 30 m in the vicinity of rocks or coral reefs. Feeds mainly on mollusks or hard body crustaceans. It crushes its prey with its well-developed molar teeth. Eggs and larvae planktonic. It has not been sighted in the Levantine coastal waters for years, which casts doubts about its current settlement.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: recorded in Israel (Golani, 1992).

Original distribution: Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf.

KEY REFERENCE

- Golani D. 1992. *Rhabdosargus haffara* (Forsskål, 1775) and *Sphyræna flavicauda* Rüppell, 1833- new Red Sea immigrants in the Mediterranean. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 40: 139-140.