

## PARALICHTHYIDAE

### sand flounders

# Paralichthys lethostigma

Jordan and Girard, 1884



Photo: Daniel Golani

#### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Benthic species on muddy substrate to depths of 40 m. Euryhalinic species often found in brackish and even freshwater. Adults feed mainly on fish and crustaceans. Young fish feed on small invertebrates.

#### DISTRIBUTION

**Mediterranean record:** a single specimen was collected by trawl at depths of 35-50 m along the coast of Israel (Golani *et al.*, 2015), a likely mariculture escapee.

**Original distribution:** Atlantic coast of north America, from North Carolina to Mexico.

#### KEY REFERENCE

- Golani D., Sonin O. and Rubinstein G. 2015. Records of *Paralichthys lethostigma* and *Sciaenops ocellatus* in the Mediterranean and *Channa micropeltes* in Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), Israel. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 8: e39.

## BALISTIDAE

### triggerfishes

# Balistoides conspicillum

Bloch and Schneider, 1801



Photo: John E. Randall

#### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Lives next to coral reefs at depths to 75 m. Solitary species. Feeds on large invertebrates such as sea urchins, crustaceans and molluscs with hard bodies.

#### DISTRIBUTION

**Mediterranean record:** Costa Daurada, Sitges, Spain, 2012, (Weitzmann *et al.*, 2015) (underwater picture).

**Original distribution:** Indo-West Pacific, from South Africa to Samoa. Not found in the Red Sea.

#### KEY REFERENCE

- Weitzmann P., Azzurro E. and Marcader L. 2015. First sighting of *Zebrasoma flavescens* (Teleostei: Acanthuridae) and *Balistoides conspicillum* (Teleostei: Balistidae) in the Mediterranean Sea: Two likely aquarium releases. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 161(1): 147-150.