

BLENNIIDAE

blennies

Petroscirtes ancylodon

Rüppell, 1838



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, X-XI + 17-19; A, II + 17-19; P, 13-15; V, I + 3

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongated and compressed. Dorsal fin long, continuous and without notches, its origin before pectoral fin base. Anal fin long, originates at midpoint. Last dorsal and anal rays attached to caudal peduncle by small membrane. Pelvic fin thoracic, well before pectoral fin base. Curved head with blunt snout. Mouth inferior. Close set of 20-40 incisor teeth in each jaw (their number increases with fish growth). Fang-like canines in front of upper jaw and very long, slightly curved fangs in lower jaw. Several fine cirri on head. Gill openings above pectoral fin base. Body scaleless.

color: body yellow-brown with irregular brown blotches. Dorsal and anal fins with series of black blotches.

common size: 5-10 cm (max. 12 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Omobranchus punctatus* and *Parablennius thysanius*: the canine teeth of upper and lower jaws of similar size.

Other blennids: lack of huge large fang teeth in the jaws.

Gobiidae: pelvic fins united to form sucking disc.

Tripterygiidae: three dorsal fins.

Callionymidae: two dorsal fins; Pelvic fin I + 5.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on small benthic invertebrates. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: shallow, sandy shore often covered with algae.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea to the Arabian Gulf.

Mediterranean: recorded first at Nizzanim, Israel, beam trawl (Goren and Galil, 1989) ; Iskenderun Bay, Turkey (Taskavak *et al.*, 2000). Recorded in Rhodes (Corsini-Foka *et al.*, 2005).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

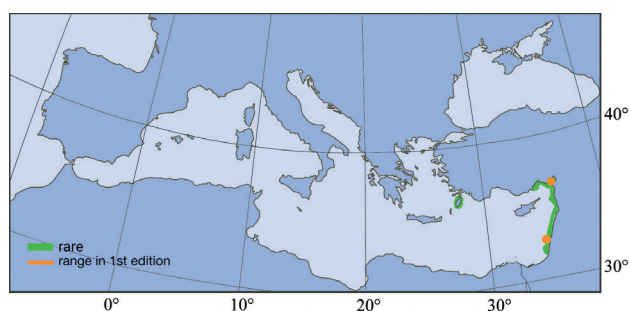
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Not rare, several specimens have been collected in the Mediterranean.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Nizzanim, Israel,
1989.

KEY REFERENCES

- Corsini-Foka M., Kondylotos G., Margies P. and Economidis P.S. 2005. Lessepsian migration of fishes to the Aegean Sea: First record of *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Tetraodontidae) from the Mediterranean, and six more fish records from Rhodes. *Cybium*, 29(4): 347-354.
- Goren M. and Galil B. 1989. *Petroscirtes ancylodon*: first Lessepsian migrant blenny in the eastern Mediterranean. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 36:125-128.
- Taskavak E., Bilecenglu M., Basusta N. and Mater S. 2000. Occurrence of *Pteragogus pelycus* Randall, 1981 (Teleostei: Labridae) and *Petroscirtes ancylodon* Rüppell, 1838 (Teleostei: Blenniidae) in the eastern Mediterranean. *Cybium*, 29(4): 347-354.