

HAEMULIDAE

grunts

Pomadasys stridens

(Forsskål, 1775)



Photo : Michel Bariche

Relevant synonyms: Rhonciscus stridens

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, XII + 13-14; A, III + 7; P, 16-28; V, I + 5; LL, 57-60; GR, 21-24

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body oblong and compressed. Dorsal fin deeply notched, its origin on vertical line of pectoral fin base. Penultimate dorsal spine much smaller than ultimate. Second anal spine larger and thicker than first and third spines. Caudal fin moderately forked. Round head, convex dorsally. Small mouth. Maxilla slipping under the preorbital bone when mouth closed. Supramaxilla absent. Jaws with bands of villiform teeth. Two pores and a median pit on the chin. Small ctenoid scales.

color: body - yellowish silvery-grey with white belly. Three longitudinal brown yellow-gold stripes. Black spot on the upper margin of operculum.

common size: 7-16 cm (max. 20 cm TL).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Pomadasys incisus*: no longitudinal stripes.

Teraponidae: no pores or pits on the chin.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on benthic invertebrates and small fishes. Eggs and larvae are planktonic. Produces clicking sounds upon capture by grinding the pharyngeal teeth, the swim bladder acting as a resonating chamber.

habitat: coastal waters.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea, east Africa from Mozambique to the Arabian Gulf.

Mediterranean: a first record (Torchio, 1969) in Gulf of Genoa, Italy; a second record (Ben-Tuvia, 1976) in Bardawil Lagoon, Northern Sinai, Egypt; later record in Lebanon (Mouneimne, 1977) and more recently Anatolian coast, Turkey (Bilecenoglu *et al.*, 2009; (Akyol and Ünal, 2016) and Cyprus (Iglesias and Frotté, 2015).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

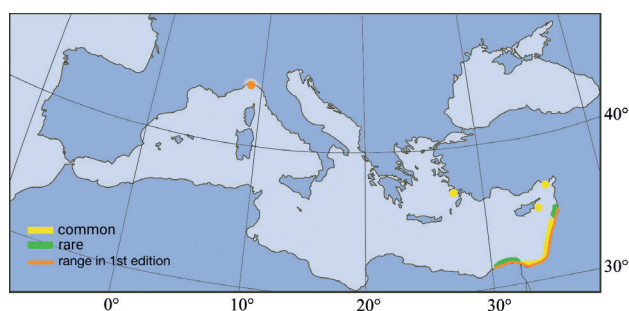
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Remains relatively rare in the Mediterranean; very common on sandy shores in the Red Sea (Golani, 1993).

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

No commercial importance.



1st Med. record
Gulf of Genoa,
Italy, 1969

KEY REFERENCES

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- Bilecenoglu M., Kaya M. and Eryigit A. 2009. New data on the occurrence of two alien fishes, *Pisodonophis semicinctus* and *Pomadasys stridens*, from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Mediterranean Marine Science* 10 (2): 151-155.
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