

PRIACANTHIDAE

bigeyes, glasseyes, bullseyes

Priacanthus sagittarius

Starnes, 1988



Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: None
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D, X+13-14; A, III+14-15;
 P, 17-19 ; V, I+5; LL, 62-72

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body ovate, deep and strongly compressed. Large head, its upper profile straight. Mouth strongly oblique, the lower jaw projected. Jaws reach back to the vertical of the third to the middle of eye. Two rows of small teeth merge into a single band. Small patches of vomerine and palatine teeth. Very big eye, its diameter is 40-50% of head length. Preoperculum margin serrated. Continuous dorsal fin, its spines increasing in size. Caudal fin emarginated. The entire body and head covered with small scales.

color: body generally pinkish-red. Several orange-brown dots on dorsal and anal fins and a black mark at pectoral fin base.

common size: 15-30 cm (max. 35).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Sargocentron rubrum*: alternating longitudinal red and white stripes on the body.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Nocturnal fish. Feeds probably on fish and large invertebrates. Eggs and larvae pelagic. Juveniles settle at 5-6 cm.

habitat: in open area and near soft substrate.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Indo-Pacific

Mediterranean: Several specimens were recorded from Israel, Lebanon and Turkey (Goren *et al.*, 2010; Golani *et al.*, 2011; Yapici and Hasbek, 2018).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

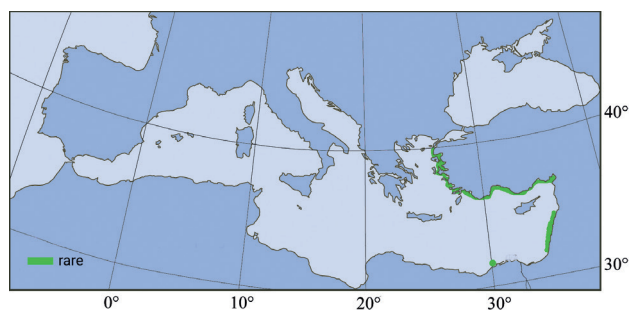
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Israel, 2010.

KEY REFERENCES

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- Yapici S. and Hasbek D. 2018. Further sighting of *Priacanthus sagittarius* in the Levantine coast of Turkey. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 19(2): 411-412.