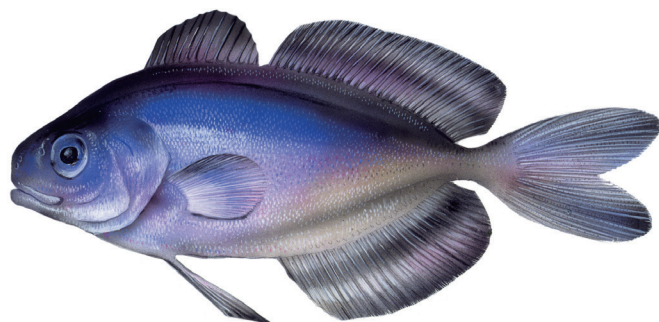


NOMEIDAE

drift fishes

Psenes pellucidus

Lütken, 1880



Drawing : Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: *Cubiceps ismaelensis*
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D1, X-XII; D2, 27-33; A, II-III+26-33; P, 18-20.

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body compressed, with narrow caudal peduncle. Medium-sized mouth, ending under anterior part of eye. Teeth in lower jaw knife-like; small and gently curved in the upper jaw. Two dorsal fins, the first originated above the operculum vertically in front of pectoral fin origin. Caudal fin forked. Very small scales, covering dorsal and anal fins bases. Tubes scales of lateral line close to dorsal profile.

color: dark blueish to grey-brownish and purple. Upper margin of dorsal fins and lower margin of anal fin dark.

common size: 12-16 cm (max. Mediterranean 60 cm, elsewhere 80 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Tetrapterus* spp.: body cylindrical and elongated, first dorsal fin origin behind vertical of pectoral fin origin.
- *Centrolophus* spp. and *Schedophilus* spp.: a single dorsal fin.
- *Cubiceps* spp.: 20-26 soft rays in the second dorsal fin.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on zooplankton and small pelagic fishes.

habitat: Oceanic species, with epipelagic or mesopelagic juveniles, often associated with jellyfish and floating objects. Adults demersal on the continental slope.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: temperate and warm waters of Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Algeria (Dieuzeide and Roland, 1955) and successively recorded from Morocco (Maurin, 1962), Strait of Messina (Costa and Fanara, 1994), Balearic Islands (Riera *et al.*, 1995), Gulf of Lions (Quignard and Tomasini, 2000), Sardinia (Follesa *et al.*, 2006) and Gulf of Gabes, Tunisia (Ghanem *et al.*, 2016).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

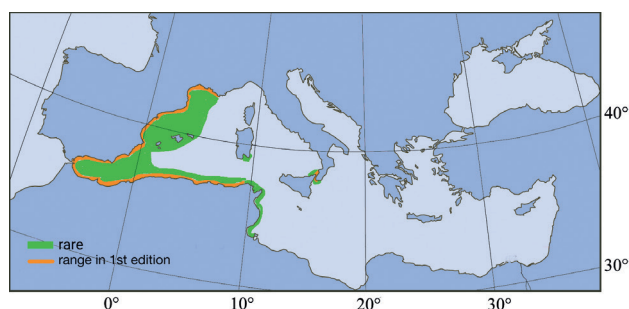
Via Gibraltar.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare. Since its first record, several specimens have been captured in Balearic Islands and the Strait of Messina.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

No commercial value.



1st Med. record
Algeria, 1955.

KEY REFERENCES

- Costa F. and Fanara P. 1994. Prima segnalazione nelle acque italiane di *Psenes pellucidus*- Lutken 1880 (Pisces: Moneidae). *Ann. Ist. Mag. "Felice Bisazza"*, 1993-1994: 140-143.
- Dieuzeide R. and Roland J. 1955. Sur un Stromateidae nouveau du genre *Cubiceps*. *Bulletin des travaux publiés par la station d'aquaculture et de pêche de Castiglione*, 7: 341-368.
- Follesa M.C., Cabiddu S., Sabatini A. and Cau A. 2006. First record of *Psenes pellucidus* (Perciformes, Actinopterygii) in the Sardinian waters (central western Mediterranean). *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 36(1): 77-79.
- Ghanem R., Rifi M., Souissi J.B., Azzurro E. 2016. On the occurrence of the bluefin driftfish *Psenes Pellucidus* Lutken 1880 (Perciformes, Nomeidae) in Tunisian waters (Mediterranean Sea). *Journal of Applied Ichthyology*, 32(2): 359-361.
- Riera F., Grau A.M., Pastor E. and Pou S. 1995. Faunistical and demographical observations in Balearic ichthyofauna. Meridionalization or subtropicalization phenomena. *Actes du Colloque Scientifique (Okeanos): La Méditerranée: variabilités climatiques, environnement et biodiversité*. pp. 213-220.