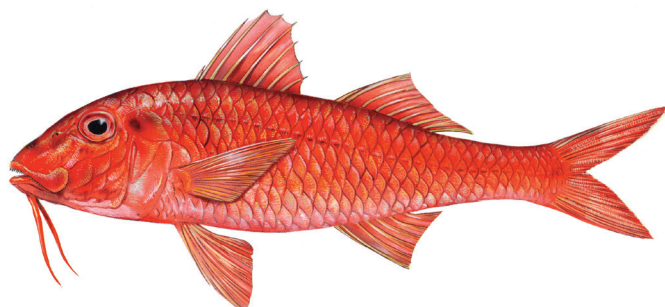


MULLIDAE

goatfishes

Pseudupeneus prayensis

(Cuvier, 1829)



Drawing : Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: None
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D1, VIII; D2, I+8; V, I+5; LL, 28-29

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongated and compressed towards the tail. Upper profile of head moderately convex. One spine on posterior margin of operculum. Mouth subterminal and slightly protruding, with prominent conical teeth in both jaws, some clearly visible even when mouth is closed. No teeth on vomer and palatines. Pair of stout barbels under the chin. Scales large and slightly ctenoid. Two well-separated dorsal fins. First spine of first dorsal fin very short. Pelvic fins comparatively large, and inserted below the pectoral fins. Caudal fin deeply forked.

color: rosy, with three or four red lines along the body.

common size: 30-35 cm (max. 55 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Mullus* spp.: no teeth in the upper jaw.
- *Upeneus* spp.: Teeth on vomer and palatines.
- *Parupeneus forsskali*: a black longitudinal stripe running from the snout to below the end of second dorsal fin base and a black spot on the upper caudal peduncle.

Other **mullids**: no spine on opercular margin, and no teeth visible when mouth is closed.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on benthic and sub-benthic invertebrates detected by chemoreceptor-rich barbels on the chin.

habitat: muddy or sandy substrate and also rocky bottoms down to 300 m depth. Usually upper 50 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: eastern Atlantic from Mauritania to Angola.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Alboran Sea, southwestern Mediterranean (Reina-Hervás, 1987), subsequently off Palamós, Spain in northwestern Mediterranean (Mercader, 2002), off Tunisian coast in central Mediterranean (Azzouz *et al.*, 2011) and off Lebanon in eastern Mediterranean (Gerovasileiou *et al.*, 2017).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

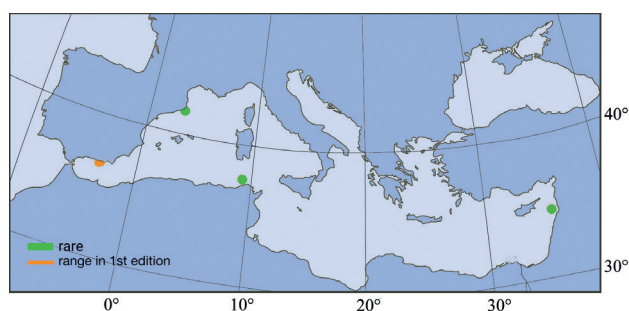
Via Gibraltar.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

In the Atlantic, it is a major targeted commercial species off West Africa, being caught primarily by bottom trawl and occasionally by trammel net and gillnet, mainly at depths of 30-50 m.



1st Med. record
Off Málaga, Spain
(Alboran Sea),
1987.

KEY REFERENCES

- Azzouz K., Diatta Y., Mansour S., Boumaïza M., Ben Amor M.M. and Capapé C. 2011. First record of the west African goatfish, *Pseudupeneus prayensis* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Mullidae), off the Tunisian coast (central Mediterranean). *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 41(2): 133-136.
- Crocetta F. and Bariche M. 2017. Four marine fishes of different origin in Lebanon. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 18(2): 377-379.
- Mercader L. 2002. Première capture de *Pseudupeneus prayensis* (Mullidae) en Mer Catalane. *Cybium*, 26(3): 235-236.
- Reina-Hervás J.A. 1987. Análisis de la ictiofauna infralitoral en el sureste español (Mediterráneo Occidental). *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, 28: 73-89.