

Pteragogus trispilus

Randall, 1981



Photo : Oussama Hamed

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: *Pteragogus pelycus*

Meristic formula: D, XI + 8-9; A, III + 8 -9; P, 13-14; V, I + 5; LL, 23-24; GR, 12-16

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body moderately deep and compressed. Dorsal fin continuous, its rays longer than its spines. Caudal fin rounded. Anal rays progressively longer until penultimate, last ray shorter. First pelvic rays very long in males, much shorter in females. Head profile straight to slightly concave in large males. Mouth terminal with distinct lips. Anterior of jaw with two pairs of recurved canine teeth. The second pair curves outward. Preoperculum serrated, number of serrae increases with fish growth. Cycloid scales.

color: body brown-red to greenish yellow with elongated dark brown-red spots along lateral line. Black spot on the upper part of the first 2-4 interspinous dorsal membrane. Conspicuous black blotch on the operculum with yellow ring near its edge.

common size: 5-8 cm (max. 11 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The shape and the color patterns of this species differ significantly from all other Mediterranean species

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on small benthic invertebrates. Eggs and larvae planktonic. Clear sexual dimorphism, male larger, more colorful with filamentous first pelvic ray reaching at least the middle of anal fin base.

habitat: coastal waters, usually with seagrass to depth of 35 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea to eastern Africa, to Delgoa Bay, Madagascar and Mauritius.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Haifa Bay, Israel (Golani and Sonin, 1992) ; successively recorded in Rhodes (Corsini and Economidis, 1999) and northern Cyprus (Kaya *et al.*, 2000).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

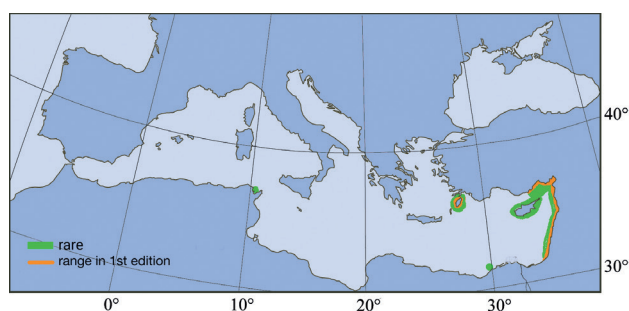
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Frequent in Israel and near Rhodes.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None. Most of the Mediterranean specimens were collected by trawl.



1st Med. record
Haifa Bay, Israel,
1992.

KEY REFERENCES

- Corsini M. and Economidis P.S. 1999. Distribution extension of two Lessepsian migrants found in the marine area of the Island of Rhodes (Aegean Sea, Greece). *Cybium*, 23: 195-199.
- Golani D. and Sonin O. 1992. New records of the Red Sea fishes, *Pterois miles* (Scorpaenidae) and *Pteragogus pelycus* (Labridae) from the eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology*, 39: 167-169.
- Hamed O., Miled Fathalli N. and Chakroun Marzouk N. 2018. First record of the Lessepsian migrant *Pteragogus trispilus* Randall, 2013 (Osteichthyes: Labridae) off the Tunisian coasts, Central Mediterranean Sea. *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, 59: 115-119.
- Kaya M., Bilecenoglu M. and Golani D. 2000. New record of a Lessepsian migrant *Pteragogus pelycus* Randall, 1981 (Teleostei: Labridae) for northern Cyprus. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 20: 65-68.
- Randall, J.E. 1981. Two new species and six new records of labrid Fishes from the Red Sea. *Senckenbergiana Maritima*, 13(1/3): 79-109.