

CLUPEIDAE

herrings, sardines

Sardinella gibbosa

(Bleeker, 1849)



Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: None
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D, 17-19; A, 18-20; P, 14-16; V, 8;

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongate and compressed, its depth 24-30% in SL. Head (21-25% in SL) with pointed snout and small mouth, with minute teeth on the lower jaw. Series of 32 scutes along the belly. 9-13 striae on fronto- parietal on top of the head. Triangular dorsal fin in middle of body. Anal fin base long with short rays. Forked caudal fin, its middle rays ca. 53% of its length. Pectoral rays in ventral position. Pelvic fin under dorsal fin. Number of gill rakers increases with size, for specimens larger than 150 mm SL, 24-34 on the upper arm of the first gill arch and 46-67 on the lower arm.

color: Back silvery-gray to metallic blue. Light-gray to white belly. Some fresh specimens have yellow longitudinal line

common size: 12-15 cm (max. 17 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Sardinella maderensis*: 77-166 gill rakers on the lower arm of the first gill arch (for specimens larger than 150 mm SL).
- *Sardinella aurita*: Body depth less than 23 % of SL.
- *Allosa* spp.: has distinct median notch in upper jaw.
- *Herklotichthys punctatus*: the lower part of supramaxilla is much larger than the upper part.
- *Dussumieria elopsoides*, *Etrumeus golanii* and *Spratelloides delicatulus*: no scutes on the belly.

Engraulidae: upper jaw much longer than lower jaw.
 Jaws reaching back well behind eye.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Schooling migratory species. Feeds on zooplankton (mainly copepods), and occasionally on phytoplankton.

habitat: inshore pelagic.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea, Indian Ocean to Indonesia, Taiwan and Korea.

Mediterranean: Israel (Stern *et al.*, 2015).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

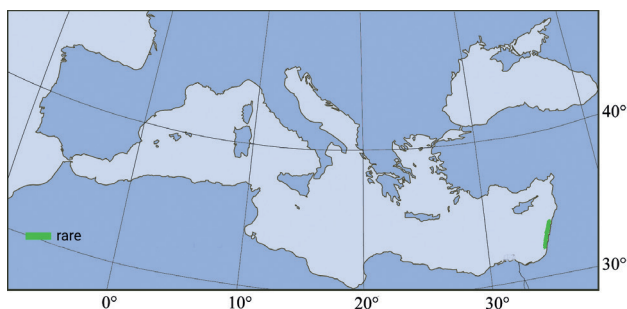
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Reported only from Israel but possibly also in other countries, since it may be confused with *Sardinella maderensis*.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

In the Mediterranean it may be caught with trammel net and purse seine with other clupeids. A commercial species in its original range.



1st Med. record
Israel, 2008

KEY REFERENCES

- Stern N., Rinkevich B. and Goren M. 2015. First record of the Goldstripe sardinella – *Sardinella gibbosa* (Bleeker, 1849) in the Mediterranean Sea and confirmation for its presence in the Red Sea. *BioInvasions* 4: 1, 47-51.
- Whitehead P.J.P. 1985. Clupeoid fishes of the world (suborder Clupeioidi) Part 1- Chirocentridae, Clupeidae and Pristigasteridae. *FAO Species Catalogue*. FAO, UN, Rome. X+303 pp.