

SCARIDAE

parrotfishes

Scarus ghobban

Forsskål, 1775



Photo : Wikimedia

Relevant synonyms: *Scarus guttatus*, *Callyodon ghobban*
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D, IX+10; A, III+9; P,15-16; V, I+3; LL, 22-24

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body oblong. Continuous dorsal fin originating above pectoral fin. Caudal fin varying from small in female to lunate and large in male. Round snout with terminal mouth and beak-like teeth; teeth in both jaws fused to form dental plates with a median suture. Lip covers more than half of the dental plates. Large scales. Three rows of scales on cheek.

color: great variety of colors during different life stages, from blueish in center of scales surrounded by light orange or beige in young to bright green dorsally on salmon pink background in males; occasionally red highlights or blackish-blue bars on body. Green stripes surround mouth.

common size: 10-50 cm (max. 90 cm TL).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Sparisoma cretense*: red to gray coloring, green absent; single row of scales on cheek.

Labridae: teeth not fused.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Herbivorous, scraping algae from surface of rocks. Protogyny hermaphrodite. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

habitat: rocky substrate in shallow waters.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Indo-Pacific.

Mediterranean: Israel (Goren and Aronov, 2002; Golani and Levy, 2005), Lebanon (Bariche and Saad, 2008), Cyprus, Turkey and Kastellorizo Island, Greece (Apostolopoulos and Karachle, 2016).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

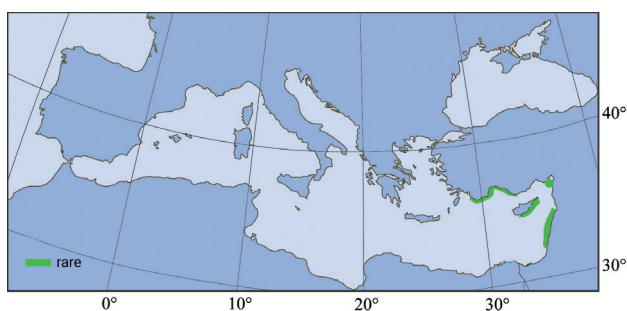
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare. In the last two years, more specimens were observed and collected in the same area (near Haifa bay).

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Israel, 2001.

KEY REFERENCES

- Apostolopoulos G. and Karachle P.K. 2016. New records of two species in Hellenic waters (Kastellorizo Island): *Scarus gobban* (Forsskal [sic], 1775) and *Oxyurichthys petersi* (Klunzinger, 1871). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 17(1): 244-245.
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- Golani D. and Levy Y. 2005. New records and rare occurrences of fish species from the Mediterranean coast of Israel. *Zoology in the Middle East*, 36: 27-32.
- Goren M. and A. Aronov 2002. First record of the Indo-Pacific parrotfish *Scarus gobban* Forsskål, 1775, in the eastern Mediterranean. *Cybium*, 27(3): 239-240.
- Randall J.E. 1986. Scaridae. pp. 706-714. In: Smith M.M. and Heemstra P.C. (eds.). *Smiths' Sea Fishes*. Johannesburg. Macmillan South Africa.