

## SCATOPHAGIDAE

scates

**Scatophagus argus**

Linnaeus, 1766

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY**

Inhabits coastal marine environments, estuaries and freshwater sources. Very euryhaline species. Feeds on benthic invertebrates, algae and detritus. Reaches sexual maturity at 14 cm (females) or 12 cm (males). Reproduction occurs in marine environment but the juveniles and subadults inhabit freshwater, estuaries and mangrove swamps.



Photo: E. Zammit

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Mediterranean record:** only a single specimen recorded in 2007 from the Marsaxlokk fish market, Malta (Zammit and Schembri, 2011). Probably a small population was established in Malta. (P. Schembri, pers. comm.).

**Original distribution:** Indo-Pacific from the Persian Gulf, southern India to Japan and Fiji.

**KEY REFERENCE**

- Zammit E. and P.J. Schembri 2011. An overlooked and unexpected introduction? Occurrence of the spotted scat *Scatophagus argus* (Linnaeus, 1766) (Osteichthyes: Scatophagidae) in the Maltese Islands. *Aquatic Invasions*, 6 (Suppl. 1): S79-S83.

## POMACENTRIDAE

damselfishes

**Abudefduf hoefleri**

Steindachner, 1881



Photo: A. Vella

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY**

Lives in the vicinity of coastal rocky reefs. Feeds on zooplankton. Lives in pairs during the spawning season. Eggs are demersal and guarded by the male.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Mediterranean record:** a single individual recorded from Delimara, Malta in 2014 (Vella *et al.*, 2016). In Malta, Deidun *et al.* (2016) also reported the occurrence of several individuals.

**Original distribution:** Eastern Atlantic Ocean from Senegal to Benin.

**KEY REFERENCES**

- Deidun A., Castriota L., Falautano M., Valenzia A., Role T. and Sciberras A. 2016. Further evidence of the Atlantic presence in the central Mediterranean of *Acanthurus monroviae* and of *Abudefduf hoefleri* within Maltese coastal waters. In: Proceedings of the 51<sup>st</sup> European Marine Biology Symposium, Rhodes, 26-30 September 2016. 76 p.
- Vella A., Vella N. and Darmanin S.A. 2016. The first record of the African Sergeant, *Abudefduf hoefleri* (Perciformes: Pomacentridae), in the Mediterranean Sea. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 9: 1–5.