

SCIAENIDAE

drums croakers

Sciaenops ocellatus

Linnaeus, 1766



Photo: Daniel Golani

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Found over sandy and muddy substrates in coastal waters and estuaries. Feeds on fish, crustaceans and mollusks. Spawning season between August and September.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: several individuals were recorded from Israel (Golani and Mires, 2000; Golani *et al.*, 2015) and from Licata, Sicily in 2016 (Langenek *et al.*, 2017). All these records are likely escapees from aquaculture farms.

Original distribution: West Atlantic from New York to Florida and Mexico.

KEY REFERENCES

- Golani D. and Mires D. 2000. Introduction of fishes to the freshwater system of Israel. *The Israeli Journal of Aquaculture Bamidgeh*, 52: 47-60.
- Golani D., Sonin O. and Rubinstein G. 2015. Records of *Paralichthys lethostigma* and *Sciaenops ocellatus* in the Mediterranean and *Chana micropeltes* in Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), Israel. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 8: e39.
- Langenek J., Marcelli M., Bariche M. and Azzurro E. 2017. Social networks allow early detection of non indigenous species: first record of the red drum *Sciaenops ocellatus* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Sciaenidae) in Italian waters. *Acta Adriatica*, 58(2): 365-370.

EPHIPPIDAE

batfishes

Platax teira

Forsskål, 1775



Photo: Daniel Golani

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits shallow coastal waters usually rich with vegetation to depth of 70 m. Feeds probably on large invertebrates. Young specimens often observed associated with drifting algae; they also swim in close proximity to artificial objects in the water.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: two records only, from Karaada Island, Turkey in 2006 (Bilecenoglu and Kaya, 2006) and from Ashdod, Israel in 2010 (Golani *et al.*, 2011).

Original distribution: Wide Indo-west Pacific distribution from the Red Sea and South Africa to Australia and Palau.

KEY REFERENCES

- Bilecenoglu M. and Kaya M. 2006. A new alien fish in the Mediterranean Sea – *Platax teira* (Forsskål, 1775) (Osteichthyes: Ephippidae). *Aquatic Invasions*, 1(2): 80-83.
- Golani D., Sonin O. and Edelist D. 2011. Second records of the Lessepsian fish migrants *Priacanthus sagittarius* and *Platax teira* in the Mediterranean and distribution extension of *Tylerius spinosissimus*. *Aquatic Invasions*, 6 (Suppl. 1): S7-S11.