

SIGANIDAE

rabbitfishes, spinefoots

Siganus luridus

(Rüppell, 1828)



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, XIV+10; A, VII+8-9; P, 16-17; V, I+3+I; GR, 18-22

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body deep, ellipsoid, compressed. Dorsal fin origin above pectoral fin base. First dorsal spine small, directed forward and usually embedded in the skin. Dorsal ray portion margin round. Caudal fin truncated. Anal fin origin beneath 8-10 dorsal spines, its margin round. Pelvic fin origin behind pectoral fin base, its inner spine connected by a membrane to the abdomen. Head slightly concave with blunt snout. Mouth small with distinct lips. Maxilla not reaching vertical of eye. Close set of incisor teeth in a single row. No teeth on the palatine nor on the vomer. Small scales embedded in skin.

color: dark brown to olive green with a touch of yellow on fins.

common size: 10-22 cm (max. 30 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Siganus rivulatus*: caudal fin forked.

All other families: less than 7 spines in anal fin.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Juveniles form large schools, while adults have been observed usually in small groups. Herbivorous, feed mainly on coarse brown algae, such as *Sargassum* spp., *Padina* spp., *Dictyota* spp. and *Sphacelaria* spp. Spawning season lasts from April to August. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: rocky or hard substrate, usually covered with vegetation.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea, eastern Africa to Mauritius and Reunion Island to the Arabian Gulf.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Israel, in 1955 (Ben-Tuvia, 1964) it rapidly spread through the eastern Mediterranean, reaching Tunisian shores in 1969 (Ktari-Chakroun and Bouhalal, 1971). Later, this species extended its distribution through the Sicily strait (Pelagie Islands and Malta) and Sicily (Azzurro *et al.*, 2007), the Gulf of Lions (Daniel *et al.*, 2009), south and north Adriatic Sea (Dulčić *et al.*, 2011; Azzurro *et al.*, 2017)

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

Via the Suez Canal.

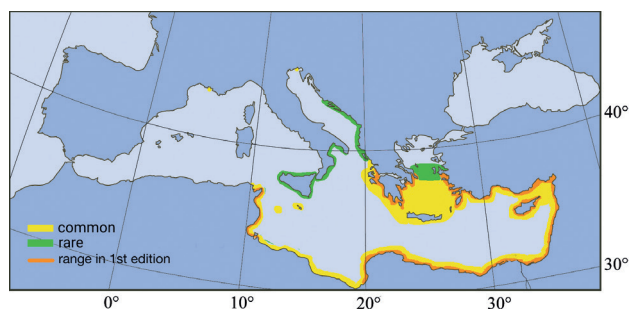
ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very common.

speculated reasons for success: presumably occupied an unsaturated niche with only scarce herbivorous indigenous fish species.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

Adults caught by trammel net and juveniles occasionally by purse seine. All spines slightly venomous. Stinging is very painful but no lethal cases have been reported. Several cases of ciguatera-like effects have been attributed to its consumption.



1st Med. record
Israel, 1955.

KEY REFERENCES

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