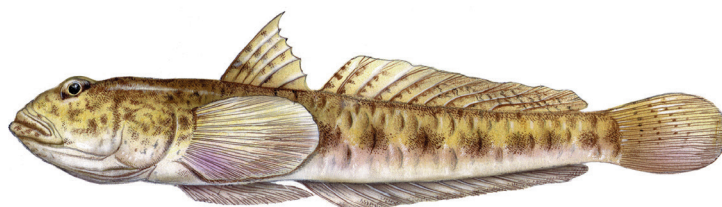


Silhouetta aegyptia

(Chabanaud, 1933)



Drawing : Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: *Gobius lesueuri aegypticus*, *Minictenogobiops sinaii*

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D1, V-VII; D2, I+9-11; A, I+11-12; P, 13-15; LL, 24-28

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongated, becoming compressed from midpoint. Two dorsal fins. First dorsal spine elongated (in males). Second dorsal fin and anal fin long and opposite. Caudal and pectoral fins rounded. Pelvic fins united forming a complete sucking disk, originating under pectoral fin base. Head broad with convex snout. Eyes dorsolateral in position extending above profile contour. Mouth oblique with distinct lips. Maxilla reach back beneath rear of eye. Caniniform teeth arranged in jaws in 3-5 rows, larger in outer row. Most scales ctenoid, none on breast.

color: body beige with series of dark blotches along midline and fine dots at dorsal fin base.

common size: 2-4 cm (max. 5 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

From other **gobiids**: the arrangements of sub-orbital papilla.

Balennidae, Tripterygiidae, Clinidae and **Callionymidae**: two separate pelvic fins.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

A small cryptic species feeding on small invertebrates, chiefly herpacticod copepods and nematodes. Long spawning season lasts from March to September, peaking in May. Reaches sexual maturity after less than a year when length is close to 20 mm. Gonochronistic species with sexual dimorphism. In males, first dorsal spine elongated.

habitat: benthic. Shallow sandy shore to depth of 5 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Northern Red Sea. Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Suez and the Suez Canal.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Bardawil Lagoon, northern Sinai, Egypt (Miller and Fouda, 1986)*; successively recorded in Ashdod, Israel (Golani, 1998).

*Note: recorded earlier by Ben-Tuvia (1978) as *Gobius* sp.

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

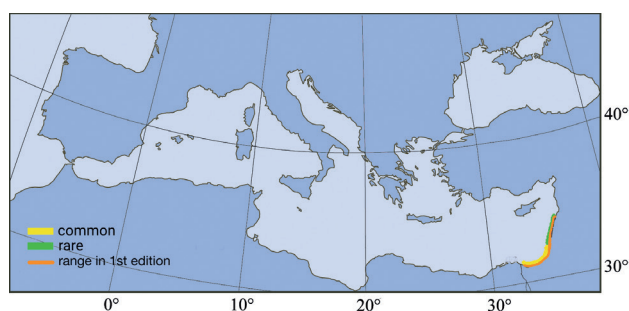
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very common in Bardawil Lagoon.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Bardawil Lagoon,
northern Sinai,
Egypt, 1986*.

KEY REFERENCES

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- Fouda M.M., Hanna M.Y. and Fouda F.M. 1993. Reproductive biology of a Red Sea goby, *Silhouetta aegyptia*, and a Mediterranean goby, *Pomatoschistus marmoratus*, in Lake Timsah, Suez Canal. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 43: 139-151.
- Golani D. 1998. Distribution of Lessepsian migrants fish in the Mediterranean. *Italian Journal of Zoology*, 65 (Suppl.): 95-99.
- Miller P.J. and Fouda M.M. 1986. Notes on the biology of a Red Sea goby *Silhouetta aegyptia* (Chabanaud, 1933) (Teleostei: Gobiidae). *Cybium*, 10: 395-409.