

CLUPEIDAE

herrings, sardines

Spratelloides delicatulus

(Bennett, 1831)



Drawing : Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: None
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D, 12-13; A, 3-11; P, 11-13; V, 8

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongated, slightly compressed. Belly round and smooth without series of scutes. Dorsal fin origin before midpoint. W-shaped scute at the base of the pelvic fins. Relatively large scales easily detached with continuous vertical striae across them.

color: back blueish-grey with grey to silvery flanks.

common size: 4 - 6 cm (max. 8 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Etrumeus golanii*: pelvic fin origin behind end of dorsal fin base; presence of adipose eyelid.
- *Dussumieria elopsoides*: dorsal fin origin behind midpoint.

Other clupeids: presence of series of scutes along the belly.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Schooling species. Feeds on zooplankton.

habitat: inshore pelagic.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: wide Indo-Pacific. Red Sea to Samoa and southern Japan.

Mediterranean: from two original records in Israel (Ben-Tuvia, 1978), the population has recently extended and is frequently collected.

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

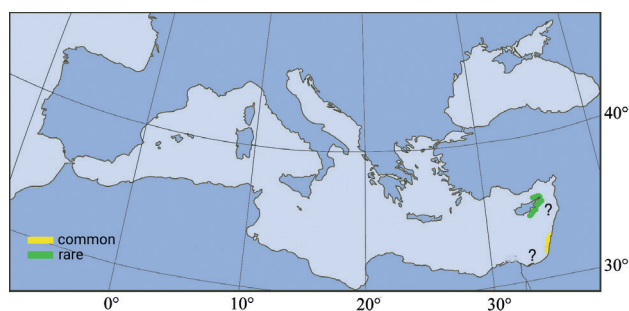
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Its population has increased greatly in the last two decades; many specimens were collected using beach seine along the sandy shore of Israel.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None in the Mediterranean. In some regions it is used as bait.



1st Med. record
Israel, 1978

KEY REFERENCES

- Ben-Tuvia A. 1978. Immigration of fishes through the Suez Canal. *Fishery Bulletin*, 76:249-255.
- Golani D. 2002b. Lessepsian fish migration - characterization and impact on the eastern Mediterranean. In: Öztürk B. and N. Basusta, (eds.), Workshop on Lessepsian Migration Proceedings. *Turkish Marine Research Foundation*, Istanbul, 1-9 pp.
- Whitehead P.J.P. 1985. Clupeoid fishes of the world (suborder Clupeoidei). Part 1 - Chirocentridae, Clupeidae and Pristigasteridae. *FAO Species Catalogue 7*. FAO, UN, Rome. X+303 pp.