

CALLIONYMIDAE

dragonets

Synchiropus sechellensis

Regan, 1908



Relevant synonyms: None
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D1, IV; D2, 8; A, VI +1; P, 18-19; V, I + 5

Photo : M. Gokuglu

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Elongated body with slightly depressed head (3.1-3.5 times in SL). Short snout. Large eyes (2.3-3.2 times in head length) with very short distance between them. A preoperculum spine with three upward recurved points. Small sub-lateral gill opening without free operculum flaps. Two dorsal fins, the first fin of the male much higher than the second. The second dorsal fin and anal fins membrane deeply incised. Pectoral fin rounded. Pelvic fin thoracic with wide base. Caudal fin rounded. No scales on the body.

color: Brownish-red body with brown marks. Large black blotches on the first dorsal fin and two wide vertical bars on the caudal fin. Grey to white belly.

common size: 5-10 cm (max 12 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Synchiropus phaeton*: preoperculum spine with two upward points.
- *Callionymus* spp.: dorsal gill opening. Large membrane behind second to last dorsal ray.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on small benthic invertebrates.

habitat: sandy or muddy substrate to depth of 50m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea, Western Indian Ocean, south-western Pacific Ocean (Chesterfield Island to New Caledonia).

Mediterranean: Gulf of Antalya, Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt (Alexandria), Rhodes (Kondilatos *et al.*, 2016).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

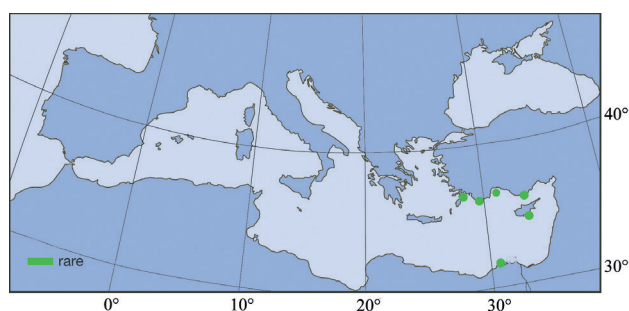
Probably via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare. Only few specimens were collected in the Levant.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Gulf of Antalya,
Turkey. (Gökoglu
et al., 2014).

KEY REFERENCES

- Akel E.H.Kh. and Rizkalla S.I. 2017. A new Lessepsian migrant fish *Synchiropus sechellensis* Regan 1908 (Teleostei: Callionymidae) in Egyptian Mediterranean waters. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 18(2): 379-380.
- Fricke R. 2002. Annotated checklist of the Dragonet Families Callionymidae and Draconettidae (Teleostei: Callionymoidei), with comments on callionymid fish classification. *Stuttgarter Beiträge zur Naturkunde Serie A (Biologie)*, 645: 1-103.
- Gökoglu M., Özvarol Y. and Fricke R. 2014. *Synchiropus sechellensis* Regan, 1908 (Teleostei: Callionymidae), a new Lessepsian migrant in the Mediterranean Sea. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 15(2): 440-442.
- Kondylatos G. Corsini-Foka M. Apostolopoulos G. and Zenetos A. 2016. *Synchiropus sechellensis* (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Callionymidae), a new alien in the Aegean Sea and Hellenic waters. *Acta Adriatica*, 57(1): 187-191.