

SERRANIDAE

groupers

Variola louti

Forsskål, 1775



Photo: Arik Diamant

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits rocky and coral reef substrate to depths of 240 m but usually in the upper 20 m. Feeds mainly on fishes and to a lesser extent on large crustaceans. Females reach sexual maturity at 33 cm SL. Eggs and larvae are pelagic.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: a single specimen was photographed at depth of 21 m near Zephyros, Cyprus (Huseyinoglu and Jimenez, 2019). This species could have been released in this location or arrived via the Suez Canal.

Original distribution: wide Indo-Pacific including the Red Sea.

KEY REFERENCE

- Huseyinoglu M. and Jimenez C. 2019. First observation of *Variola louti* (Forsskål, 1775) from the Mediterranean. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 20(1): 243.

TERAPONIDAE

terapons

Terapon jarbua

Forsskål, 1775



Photo: Daniel Golani

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits coastal sandy soft substrate in coastal waters and brackish water. Feeds on fish and benthic invertebrates. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: Israel (Golani and Appelbaum-Golani, 2010).

Original distribution: Indo-Pacific.

KEY REFERENCE

- Golani D. and Appelbaum-Golani B. 2010. First record of the Indo-Pacific fish the Jarbua terapon (*Terapon jarbua*) (Osteichthyes: Terapontidae) in the Mediterranean with remarks on the wide geographical distribution of this species. *Scientia Marina*, 74(4): 717-720.