

TETRAODONTIDAE

pufferfishes

Tylerius spinosissimus

(Regan, 1908)

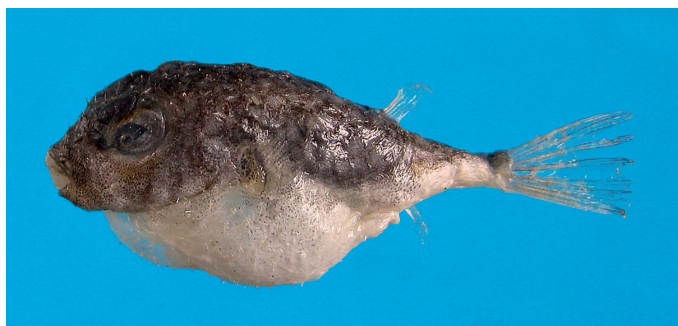


Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: None
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D, 8-7; A, 6-7; P, 14-15

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body inflatable; when not inflated elongated and more or less round in cross section. Dorsal and anal fins opposite each other, posterior in position. Caudal fin truncated. Pectoral fin short and round, located behind the gill slit. Two large teeth in each jaw with median suture. The entire body except the caudal peduncle covered with small spinules.

color: dark grey on the back with light grey to whitish belly. Dark spots scattered on the back and belly.

common size: 5-15 cm (max. 20 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Tetraodontidae: the body is either smooth or, if spinules present, they do not extend posteriorly beyond dorsal fin.

Diodontidae: A single tooth in each jaw.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Not known.

habitat: swim near the bottom at depths of 90-400 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Indo-west Pacific from South Africa to Taiwan and Australia and Red Sea.

Mediterranean: Greece, Rhodes (Southeastern Aegean Sea) (Corsini *et al.*, 2005), Israel (Golani, *et al.*, 2011), Turkey (Turan and Yagliglu, 2011) and Lebanon (Dailianis *et al.*, 2016).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

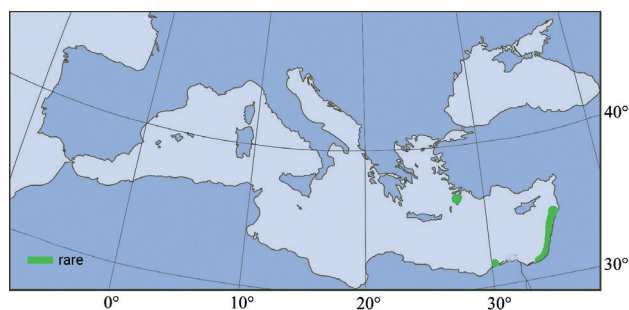
Probably from the Red Sea or by ballast water.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None.



1st Med. record
Greece, Rhodes,
2005.

KEY REFERENCES

- Corsini M., Margies P., Kondilatos G. and Economidis P.E. 2005. Lessepsian migration of fishes to the Aegean Sea: first record of *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Tetraodontidae) from the Mediterranean, and six more fish recorded from Rhodes. *Cybium*, 29: 347-354.
- Dailianis T., Akyol O., Babali N., Bariche M., Crocetta F., Gerovasileiou V. *et al.* 2016. New Mediterranean Biodiversity Records (July 2016). *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 17(2): 608-631.
- Golani D., Öztürk B. and Başusta N. 2006. *Fishes of the Eastern Mediterranean*. Turkish Marine Research Foundation, Publication n. 24, Istanbul, Turkey. 259 pp.
- Golani D., Sonin O. and Edelist D. 2011. Second records of the Lessepsian fish migrants *Priacanthus sagittarius* and *Platax teira* in the Mediterranean and distribution extension of *Tylerius spinosissimus*. *Aquatic Invasions*, 6 (Suppl. 1): S7-S11.
- Turan C. and Yagliglu D. 2011. First record of the Spiny blaasop *Tylerius spinosissimus* (Regan, 1908) (Tetraodontidae) from the Turkish coasts. *Mediterranean Marine Science*, 12(1): 247-252.