

BELONIDAE

needlefishes

Tylosurus choram

Rüppell, 1837



Drawing: Tuvia Kurz

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Epipelagic, mostly in coastal waters. Feeds mainly on pelagic fishes caught sideways in their long jaws. Large eggs with adhesive filaments that attach the eggs to floating objects.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: reported only from Israel (Parin, 1967; Golani *et al.*, 2006).

Original distribution: wide Indo-Pacific.

KEY REFERENCE

- Parin N.V. 1967. Review of the marine Belonidae of the western Pacific and Indian Ocean. *Trudy Instituta Okeanologii*, 84: 2-83.

SYNGNATHIDAE

pipefishes

Syngnathus rostellatus

Nilsson, 1855



Drawing: Tuvia Kurz

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits nearshore waters, over sandy or muddy bottom to 10 m depth. Often found among algae and eel-seagrass (*Zoostera* and *Posidonia*), which it uses as camouflage. Sexually dimorphic, the males incubating the eggs in a brood area, with pouch plates and membranous folds under the tail to protect them. In Atlantic waters, males mature at ca. 10 cm. Spawning season from April to August. Egg diameter around 1.5 mm; early free-living young at 13-14 mm.

DISTRIBUTION

Mediterranean record: one confirmed record, off Málaga, Alboran Sea (Reina-Hervás *et al.*, 1981-82). The other published Mediterranean record can be considered as misidentification (Hablutzel and Wilson, 2011).

Original distribution: Eastern Atlantic, from Norway to Bay of Biscay, southern British Isles and western coast of Portugal.

KEY REFERENCE

- Reina-Hervás J.A. 1989. Contribucion al estudio de la F. Syngnathidae (Pisces) en las costas del sureste de España. *Archivos do Museu Bocage, Nova Série*, 1(21): 325-334.