

DUSSUMIERIIDAE

round herrings

Dussumieria elopsoides

Bleeker, 1849



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: *Dussumieria productissima**
 Misidentification: *Dussumieria acuta*
 Meristic formula: D, 16-21; A, 14-18; P, 14-18; V, 8; GR, 19-26

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body elongated, slightly compressed with round belly. Snout pointed. Caudal fin forked. Pelvic fin situated behind midpoint. A single W-shaped scute at pelvic fin base. Very delicate scales, easily detached.

color: bluish grey on back, silvery on the sides.

common size: 8 - 18 (max. 20).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Etrumeus golanii and *Spratelloides delicatulus*: origin of dorsal fin in front of midpoint.

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

Engaulidae: upper jaw much longer than lower jaw.

Jaws reaching back well behind eye.

* Note: this species was considered until recently in the Mediterranean as *D. acuta*. Wangratana (1980) clearly separated *D. acuta* and *D. elopsoides*. Whitehead (1985) and Randall (1995) showed that *D. elopsoides* occurs in the Mediterranean.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Shoaling species. Feeds on zooplankton, mainly crustacean and early stages of fishes. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: pelagic, mainly inshore.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea, east Africa down to Somalia, Indian Ocean, the Philippines and northern Australia.

Mediterranean: recorded first as *Dussumieria* sp., Israel (Lissner, 1949). Successive records off Turkey (Ben-Tuvia, 1953b) and Egypt (El Sayed, 1994).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

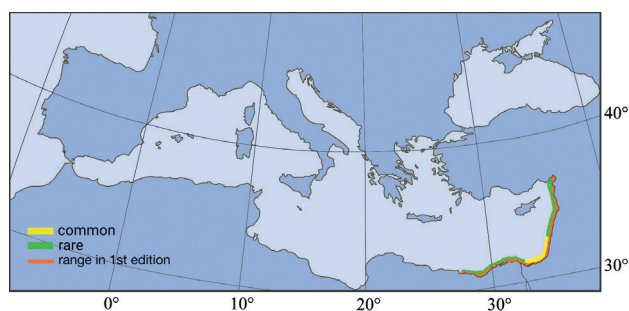
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very common in the Eastern Basin.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

Caught by purse seine along eastern Levant coasts.



1st Med. record
Israel, 1949

KEY REFERENCES

- Ben-Tuvia A. 1953b. New Erythrean fishes from the Mediterranean coast of Israel. *Nature*, 172:464-465.
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- Whitehead P.J.P. 1985. Clupeoid fishes of the world (suborder Clupeoidei). Part1 - Chirocentridae, Clupeidae and Pristigasteridae. *FAO Species Catalogue 7*. FAO, UN, Rome. X+303 pp.