

## SERRANIDAE

### groupers

## Epinephelus areolatus

Forsskål, 1775



Photo: O. Ritner

### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Inhabits seagrass meadows or silty substrate in the vicinity of rocks or coral, to depth of 200 m. Feeds, like other serranids, on fish and large invertebrates. Protogynous hermaphrodite, female mature at 20 cm and male at 30 cm. Eggs and larvae planktonic. Reaches the age of 15 years.

### DISTRIBUTION

**Mediterranean record:** only a single specimen has been recorded in 2015 from Israel (Rothman *et al.*, 2016).

**Original distribution:** wide Indo-Pacific.

### KEY REFERENCE

- Rothman S.B., Stern N. and Goren M. 2016. First record of the Indo-Pacific areolate grouper *Epinephelus areolatus* (Forsskål, 1775) (Perciformes: Epinephelidae) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Zootaxa*, 4067(4): 479–483.

## SERRANIDAE

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## Epinephelus fasciatus

Forsskål, 1775



Photo: David Darom

### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Lives between rocks and coral to depths of 150 m. Feeds on fish and large invertebrates, chiefly crustaceans and cephalopods. Probably protogynous hermaphrodite. Eggs and larvae planktonic.

### DISTRIBUTION

**Mediterranean record:** only a single specimen has been recorded, based on a photograph from Lebanon (Bariche and Heemstra, 2012).

**Original distribution:** wide Indo-Pacific. Some researchers believe that several populations may be elevated to the species level.

### KEY REFERENCE

- Bariche M. and Heemstra P.C. 2012. First record of the blacktip grouper *Epinephelus fasciatus* (Teleostei: Serranidae) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, 5: e1.