

CLUPEIDAE

herrings, sardines

Herklotsichthys punctatus

(Rüppell, 1837)



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: Haregula punctata

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, 14-15; A, 16-18; P, 15-16; V, 8; GR, 32-36

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body slender and somewhat compressed. Dorsal fin base origin before midpoint. Anal fin behind dorsal fin. Series of scutes along belly. 3-6 striae on the frontoparietal on top of the head. The lower portion of the second supramaxilla much larger than the upper part.

color: silvery-grey with black spots on the upper part of the back.
Mostly with yellow-gold line on the flank.

common size: 5 - 7 cm (max. 9 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Dussumieria elopsoides*, *Etrumeus golanii* and *Spratelloides delicatulus*: smooth belly without scutes.
- *Sardina pilchardus*: bony striae on the operculum.
- *Sardinella* spp.: 7-14 striae on the frontoparietal; upper and lower part of second supramaxilla equal in size.
- *Allosa* spp.: a distinct median notch in upper jaw (whereas *H. punctatus*, like other clupeid genera in the region has no median notch).

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Schooling species. Feeds on zooplankton. Eggs and larvae are pelagic.

habitat: shore pelagic.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea endemic.

Mediterranean: recorded first on the coast of Palestine* (Bertin, 1943). Successive records in Lebanon (Mouneimne, 1977); Iskenderun, Turkey (Whitehead, 1984), Egypt (El Sayed, 1994) Libya (Shakman and Kinzelbach, 2007). According to Elbaraasi *et al.* (2019), it is commonly found along the eastern coast of Libya up to the Gulf of Sirte.

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

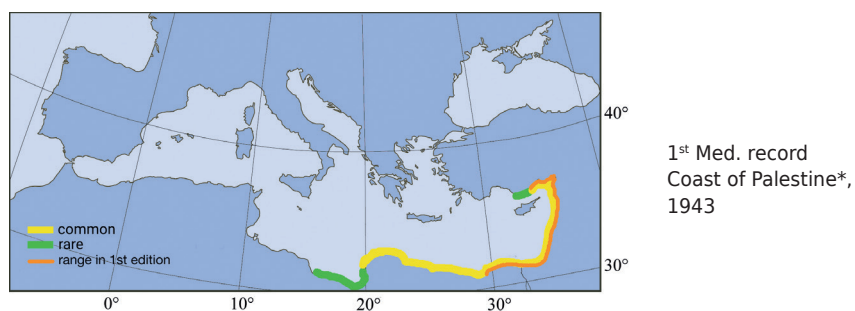
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Common along the eastern Levant coasts.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

Occasionally large schools caught by purse seine along the eastern coasts of the Mediterranean. Due to its small size, commercial importance is limited.



* Note: this record was later misidentified as *Sardinella aurita* by Ben-Tuvia (1966).

KEY REFERENCES

- Ben-Tuvia A. 1976. Occurrence of Red Sea fishes *Herklotsichthys punctatus*, *Autisthes puta* and *Rhonciscus stridens* in the eastern Mediterranean. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 25: 212-213.
- Bertin L. 1943. Les clupeiformes du Canal de Suez, comparés à ceux de la Mer Rouge et de la Méditerranée. *Bulletin du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, 2^e sér. 15(6): 389-391.
- Shakman E.A., Kinzelbach R. 2007. Distribution and characterization of Lessepsian migrant fishes along the coast of Libya. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 1(37): 7-15.
- Whitehead P.J.P. 1985. Clupeoid fishes of the world (suborder Clupeodei). Part 1 - Chirocentridae, Clupeidae and Pristigasteridae. *FAO Species Catalogue* 7. FAO, UN, Rome. X+303 pp.