

SOLEIDAE

soles

Microchirus hexophthalmus

(Bennett, 1831)



Photo : Jean-Pierre Quignard

Relevant synonyms: *Dicologlossa hexophthalma*,
Dicologlossa hexophthalma
 Misidentification: None
 Meristic formula: D, 61-80; A, 52-64; P, 5-8/4-8; LL, 85-92

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body oval. Caudal fin separated from dorsal and anal. Both eyes on right side, upper eye equal or less than its own horizontal diameter from dorsal profile and larger than interorbital length. Anterior nostril on blind side not enlarged. Anterior nostril on eyed side not reaching front of the lower eye.

color: brownish with three large dark cross-bands, each ending with one ocellus along the dorsal and anal fins. On the anterior part of the body, two narrow bands and one on the head without ocellus.

common size: 10-18 cm (max. 20 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Six ocelli on the body, three along the base of the dorsal fin and three along the base of the anal fin, distinguishing this species from all other Mediterranean soleidae.

Microchirus ocellatus: two pairs of ocelli along bases of dorsal and anal fins, dark cross-band on caudal peduncle and dark blotch on body mid-line, just posterior to ocular-side pectoral fin.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

No data.

habitat: in the Atlantic, inhabits sandy or muddy substrate in shallow waters, and occasionally it is found deeper, down to 150 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: eastern Atlantic from western Sahara to Angola.

Mediterranean: recorded off Palamós, Spain and Port de la Selva, Gulf of Lions (Matallanas, 1984). Successively recorded in Venice Lagoon, Italy (Li Greci *et al.*, 1987) and Toulon, France (Quignard and Tomasini, 2000).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

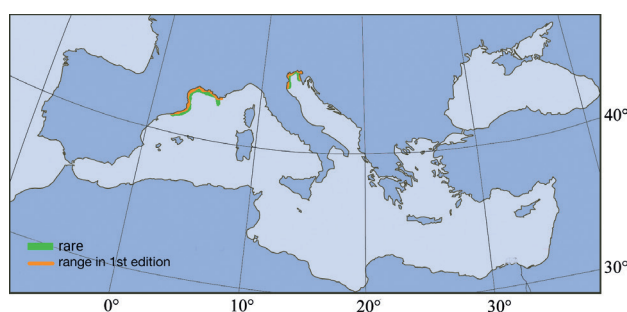
Via Gibraltar.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

In the Atlantic, it is captured with bottom trawl or beach seines and marketed fresh.



1st Med. record
Catalan Sea and
Gulf of Lions,
1984.

KEY REFERENCES

- Li Greci F., Costa F. and Berdar A. 1987. Rinvenimento nelle acque italiane di *Dicologlossa hexophtalma* (Bennet, 1831), (Pisces: Soleidae), morfologia ed otoliti. *Atti della Società Peloritana di Scienze*, 31: 25-32.
- Matallanas J. 1984. A new species for the Mediterranean and Spanish ichthyofauna: *Dicologlossa hexophtalma* (Bennett, 1831) (Pisces, Soleidae) from Catalan waters. *Cybium*, 8: 95-96.
- Quignard J.P. and Tomasini J.A. 2000. Mediterranean Fish Biodiversity. *Biologia Marina Mediterranea*, 7(3): 1-66.