

Gobiidae, Amblyopinae

gobies

Trypauchen vagina

(Bloch and Schneider, 1801)



Photo : Daniel Golani

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, IV+40-49; A, I+39-46; P, 15-18; LL, 80-115

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body slender and compressed beyond the head. Upper profile of head convex. Several crests on top of the head. Slightly oblique mouth, reaching back to the vertical of the eye. In both jaws outer rows of recurved canine teeth and small sharp teeth in the inner rows. Very small rudimentary eyes covered with layer of skin. Small pouch with horizontal slit on the upper margin of the operculum. Very long dorsal fin, originating slightly beyond pectoral fin origin, confluent with caudal fin. Anal fin originating at approximately third of body length and confluent with caudal fin. Pectoral fin crescent shaped. Funnel shaped pelvic fins. Body covered with small cycloid scales.

color: body and pectoral fin uniformly red. Other fins translucent to off-white.

common size: 10-20 cm (max. 23 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The color pattern of this species differs significantly from all other Mediterranean species.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Burrows its body into mud or silt. Feeds on small invertebrates.

habitat: benthic fish found mainly in muddy substrate. Enters estuaries and rivers.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Indo-Pacific but not yet recorded from the Red Sea.

Mediterranean: Israel and Turkey.

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

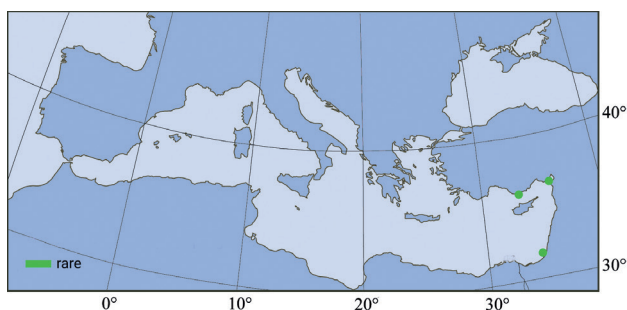
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None in the Mediterranean.



1st Med. record
Israel, 2009.

KEY REFERENCES

- Akamca E., Mavruk S., Ozyurt C.E. and Kiyaga V.B. 2011. First record of the Indo-Pacific burrowing goby *Trypauchen vagina* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) in the North-Eastern Mediterranean Sea. *Aquatic Invasions*, 6 (Suppl. 1): S19-S21.
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