

**CARANGIDAE**

jacks, scads, runners

**Alepes djedaba**

(Forsskål, 1775)



Photo : Luca Castriota

Relevant synonyms: *Atule djeddaba*, *Caranx calla*,  
*Caranx calla*, *Caranx djeddaba*.  
 Misidentification: None  
 Meristic formula: D1, VIII; D2, I + 22-25; A, II + I - 18-20;  
 P, 19-23; V, I + 5; LL, 77-88; GR, 38-47.

**SHORT DESCRIPTION**

Body ellipsoid and compressed. First dorsal triangle. Second dorsal fin long and elevated anteriorly. Caudal fin deeply forked. Anal fin with two detached spines followed by a single spine attached by a membrane to soft rays, some of which is elevated anteriorly. Last dorsal and anal fin rays elongated. Lateral line has a series of scutes (enlarged and thickened scales) arched anteriorly and straightens under the first to third dorsal rays. Small comb-like teeth in a single continuous row. Well-developed eyelid covers the posterior portion of the eye.

**color:** back grey with white belly. Caudal fin and the posterior part of lateral line yellow. A distinct black spot on the upper margin of operculum.

**common size:** 10-20 cm (max.30 cm).

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

*Lichia amia*, *Nancrates ductor* and *Seriola dumerili*: no scutes on lateral line.

- *Trachurus* spp.: enlarged scutes throughout the flank.
- *Caranx* spp. and *Pseudocaranx dentex*: scutes present only in posterior of flank.
- *Decapterus russelli*: two papillae on the margin of shoulder girdle.

**Teraponidae, Haemulidae, Sparidae, Siganidae** and **Serranidae**: a single dorsal fin.

**Scombridae**: presence of finlets.

**BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY**

Schooling fish, often occupies turbid waters. In the Mediterranean feeds mainly on fishes; elsewhere, reported to feed on planktonic crustaceans.

**habitat:** inshore pelagic.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Worldwide:** Indo-Pacific. Red Sea, eastern Africa including Madagascar to Philippines, Sumatra and Taiwan.

**Mediterranean:** recorded first in Palestine as *Caranx calla* (Steinitz, 1927); successively recorded in the Aegean Sea (Bini, 1960), Egypt (El Sayed, 1994), Libya (Shakman and Kinzelbach, 2007) and Tunisia (Hattour and Bradai, 2013).

**MODE OF INTRODUCTION**

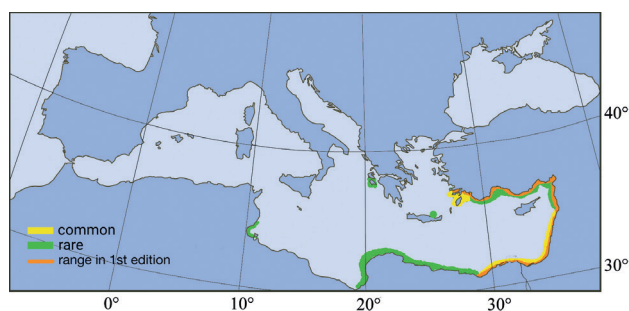
Via the Suez Canal.

**ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS**

Very common species in the Eastern Levant.

**IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS**

Large schools caught by beach seine, purse seine and trammel net.



1<sup>st</sup> Med. record  
Palestine, 1927.

**KEY REFERENCES**

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- Peristeraki P. 2013. Westward range extension of the Lessepsian migrant the Shrimp Scad *Alepes djedaba* (Forsskål, 1775) in the Mediterranean. *Annales, Series Historia Naturalis*, 23(2): 115-118.
- Shakman E.A. and Kinzelbach R. 2007. Distribution and characterization of Lessepsian migrant fishes along the coast of Libya. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 37: 7-15.
- Steinitz W. 1927. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Küstenfauna Palästinas. I. *Pubblicazioni della Stazione Zoologica di Napoli*, 8(3-4): 311-353.