

CYNOGLOSSIDAE

tonguesoles

Cynoglossus sinusarabici

(Chabunaud, 1913)



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: *Dollfusichthys sinus-arabici* / *Dollfusichthys sinusarabici*

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, 99-101; A, 78-79; V, 3-4; LL, 54-60

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body flattened and elongated, both eyes on left side. Dorsal fin originating in front of eyes, very long, together with anal fin confluent with caudal fin. A single pelvic fin on midventral edge of the blind side confluent with anal fin. Pectoral fins absent. Snout rounded anteriorly, curved hook-like reaching the vertical of eyes. Mouth inferior and asymmetrical with small teeth present only on the blind side. Small eyes, very close together. Small scales, very fine ctenoid. A single straight lateral line on the eye side.

color: eye side beige with several dark brown blotches on dorsal and anal fins, blind side white.

common size: common 7-15 cm (max. 20 cm).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

- *Symphurus* spp.: mouth terminal.

Soleidae and **Pleuronectidae**: eyes on the right side.

Bothidae, **Scophthalmidae** and **Citharidae**: dorsal and anal fins are not confluent with caudal fin.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Feeds on benthic invertebrates. Eggs and larvae are planktonic.

habitat: benthic. Sandy substrate to depth of 25 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: Red Sea endemic.

Mediterranean: recorded first in Israel (Ben-Tuvia, 1953a); successive records from Turkey (Akyuz, 1957) and Egypt (El Sayed, 1994).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

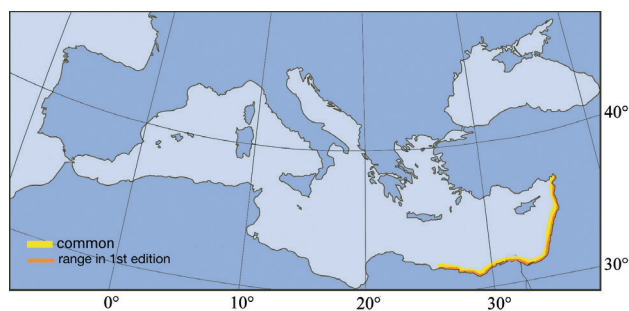
Via the Suez Canal.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Common.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

Caught in shallow water trawling. No commercial value due to its small size.



1st Med. record
Israel, 1953.

KEY REFERENCES

- Ben-Tuvia A. 1953a. Mediterranean fishes of Israel. *Bulletin of the Sea Fisheries Research Station, Haifa*, 8: 1-40.