

**TERAPONIDAE**

terapons

**Pelates quadrilineatus**

(Bloch, 1790)



Photo : David Darom

Relevant synonyms: None

Misidentification: None

Meristic formula: D, XII-XIII + 8-11; A, III + 9-11; P, 14-15; V, I + 5; LL, 66-75; GR, 39-4

**SHORT DESCRIPTION**

Body oblong and moderately compressed. Dorsal fin continuous, the spinous part arched and its membrane slightly incised. Caudal fin truncated. Pelvic fin origin slightly beyond pectoral fin base. Mouth terminal, jaws extending back to the vertical line of posterior nostril. Upper jaw with three bands of teeth and two bands in the lower jaw. No vomerine or palatine teeth. Preopercular angular and serrated. Two spines on the operculum at eye level, the lower stronger and longer but not extending beyond opercular edge.

**color:** a yellowish, silver-grey background with 4-7 longitudinal black thin stripes running to caudal fin base.

**common size:** 7-15 cm (max. 22 cm).

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

- *Terapon jarbua*: longitudinal stripes curved downward. Striped caudal fin.
- *Terapon theraps*: the width of the longitudinal stripes is equal to the intervals between them.
- *Terapon puta*: longitudinal stripes extend to caudal fin. Lower opercular spine extends to or beyond operculum edge.
- *Pomadasys stridens*: two pores and a median pit on the chin.

Other families: lack of two spines on the operculum (three spines in Serranidae); lack of longitudinal dark stripes (young specimens of *Epinephelus costae* have brown longitudinal stripes).

**BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY**

Feeds on small invertebrates. Spawning season in the summer.

**habitat:** coastal water to depth of 20 m.  
Penetrates estuaries.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Worldwide:** wide Indo-Pacific. Red Sea to South Africa, to Japan and northern Australia.

**Mediterranean:** recorded first in Bardawil lagoon, northern Sinai, Egypt (Ben-Tuvia, 1977); successively recorded in Lebanon (Mouneimne, 1977), Iskenderun, Turkey (Mater and Kaya, 1987) and Egypt (El Sayed, 1994).

**MODE OF INTRODUCTION**

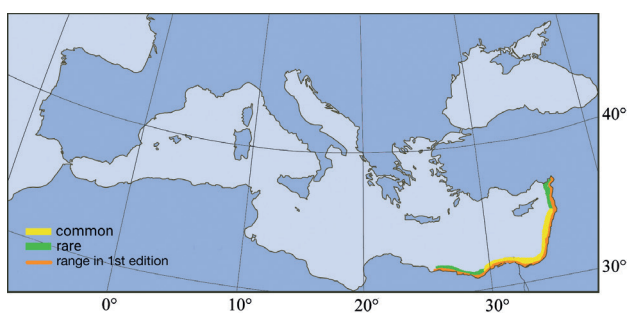
Via the Suez Canal.

**ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS**

Remains relatively rare in the Mediterranean.

**IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS**

Rarely caught in trammel nets. No commercial value.



1<sup>st</sup> Med. record  
Bardawil lagoon,  
northern Sinai,  
Egypt, 1977.

**KEY REFERENCES**

- Ben-Tuvia A. 1977. New records of Red Sea immigrants in the eastern Mediterranean. *Cybium*, 3: 95-102.
- El Sayed R.S. 1994. Check list of Egyptian Mediterranean fishes. *National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries*, Alexandria, Egypt. 77 + IX pp.
- Mater S. and Kaya M. 1987. *Doga Turk Zooloji Dergisi*, 111: 45-49.
- Mouneimne N. 1977. Liste des poissons de la côte du Liban (Méditerranée orientale). *Cybium*, 1: 37-66.