

**First record of the Tropical Halfbeak
Hyporhamphus affinis (Günther, 1866) in Tunisia
(Teleostei: Hemirhamphidae)**

By Ragnar Kinzelbach

R. KINZELBACH (2007): Erstnachweis des eingewanderten Tropischen Halbschnäblers *Hyporhamphus affinis* (Günther, 1866) in Tunesien (Teleostei: Hemirhamphidae). Rostocker Meeresbiologische Beiträge 18: S. 82-83

Kurzfassung. Der Tropische Halbschnäbler *Hyporhamphus affinis* (Günther 1866), Familie Hemirhamphidae, ein Vertreter der Lesseps'schen Arten im Mittelmeer, wurde, weit ab vom ersten Fundort im Libanon 1964, erstmals in Tunesien nachgewiesen.

Abstract. The Halfbeak fish, *Hyporhamphus affinis* (Günther 1866), which is considered to belong to the Lessepsian marine fish species in the Mediterranean Sea, was found for the first time in Tunisia, far away from the first record in Lebanon in 1964.

Key words: Tropical Halfbeak fish, *Hyporhamphus affinis*, Lessepsian migration, exotic fish species, Tunisia.

Two halfbeak species (Hemirhamphidae) have so far made their way into the Mediterranean as Lessepsian migrants. *Hemiramphus far* (Forskål, 1775) is now found in many places in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, (SHAKMAN & KINZELBACH 2006 2007), whereas *Hyporhamphus affinis* (Günther, 1866) has only reliably been identified in Lebanon's coastal waters (GEORGE ET AL. 1964). It was also reported to have been found in Turkey, but this is unconfirmed.

On 9 September 2007 a withered 23 cm long specimen of *Hyporhamphus affinis* was found in the stone packing around the harbour basin at Houmed es-Suq (Humtsouk), Jerba, Tunisia. It had probably been caught with a fishing rod in the harbour, which reaches depths of 3m, and thrown back in disappointment. The water temperature near the surface was 22°C. The specimen was kept in a dry place, then transferred to ethanol (70%) and deposited in the Rostock University collection (ZSRO Os 610). It was identified on the basis of GOLANI ET AL. (2002).

References

- GEORGE C. J., ATHANASSIOU V. A. & BOULOS I., 1964. The fishes of the coastal waters of Lebanon. Miscellaneous papers in the Natural Sciences, The American University of Beirut **4**: 1-24.
- GOLANI D., ORSI-RELINI L., MASSUTI E. & QUIGNARD J.-P. 2002. CIESM Atlas of Exotic species in the Mediterrean. Vol. 1. Fishes. CIESM publishers, Monaco.
- SHAKMAN E. & KINZELBACH R. 2006. The Halfbeak Fish, *Hemiramphus far* (Forskål, 1775) in the coastal waters of Libya. Zoology in the Middle East **39**: 111-112, Heidelberg.
- SHAKMAN E. & KINZELBACH R. 2007. Distribution and characterization of Lessepsian migrant fishes along the coast of Libya. Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria **37** (1): 7-15.

Anschrift des Verfassers

Prof. Dr. Ragnar Kinzelbach
Fachbereich Biowissenschaften
Institut für Biodiversitätsforschung
Allgemeine und Spezielle Zoologie
Universitätsplatz 2
18055 Rostock
Germany

Email: Ragnar.kinzelbach@uni-rostock.de