



Get to know more about me.....!!

Pterois miles (Bennett, 1828)

 Lionfish



Size

When I am an adult, I measure approximately 35 cm to 40 cm. My growth is quick: I can measure 20 cm at the age of 2 years.



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Habitat

I am recognized because of my elegance, but I can also be dangerous. I like to be in rocky and coralligenous bottoms, between the surface and more than 300 m deep. During the day, I often hide in dark cavities and small overhangs. I am rather lonely but I socialize sometimes within small groups. In estuaries and murky waters, my colour is variable, more or less dark. Indeed, depending on the context, I can change colour in a few minutes.



Origins

I am a tropical fish. Native to the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea, I entered the Mediterranean area through the Suez Canal. Because of the global warming, this region is becoming an El Dorado for me!

With my cousin *Pterois volitans*, from the Pacific, I am also present in the Caribbean Sea where I am considered as an invasive species.



Diet

I eat fish and crustaceans, which I hunt mainly at night by poisoning them thanks to my long pectoral spines that I can fold down like a net.

Source: Wikipedia, DORIS



Eat me!

In the Mediterranean, I am not yet very popular in restaurants because of my thorns (most of which are poisonous). But my flesh is considered tasty when tasted! Choosing me could help better regulate my population and my development in the Mediterranean, which sometimes comes at the expense of other local species.