

SMALL RED SCORPIONFISH

Scorpaena notata
Rafinesque, 1810



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Actinopteri
Order: Perciformes
Family: Scorpaenidae

2 subspecies recognized



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: Adults can reach a maximum length of 24 cm but are usually no bigger than half this size. Head almost square-shaped with big eyes and large mouth. Body looks warty. Coloration variable, from reddish to brown with clear and dark mottling.

Range: The species is found in north-eastern Atlantic from France to Senegal, including Azores, Madeira and Canary Is. Also in Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Habitat: Rocky bottoms and cliffs, near shore, down to depth of 100 meters.

Behavior: Usually solitary and primarily nocturnal, relies on its camouflage to remain undetected amongst rocks. Feeds on small fishes and invertebrates.

Status in the wild: This species remains locally common but some declines have been noted, probably because of fishing and habitat degradation.

In captivity: This species is very rarely displayed in captivity and is known from less than 10 public collections in Europe. It might be displayed in one or two American aquariums or may even be absent from there. Never bred in captivity.