



Tadpole-Fish *Raniceps raninus* (L.)

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Irish Naturalists' Journal **24**: 155-157). *S. pachygaster* appears to have been gradually increasing its range northwards into NW European waters since the late 1970s (Quigley, D. T. 2002 *Sherkin Comment* **32**: 4; Wheeler, A. & Clarke, K. R. 2002 *Journal of the Marine Biological Association, U.K.* **82**: 177-189)

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Tadpole-fish *Raniceps raninus* (L.)

During December 2001 a specimen of the tadpole-fish measuring 21.5cm T.L. and weighing 125.0g, was captured by the MFV 'Golden Feather' (Skipper: Mr Arthur Hand, Dingle) while trawling NW of the Basket Islands (V2595), Dingle, Co Kerry. The identity of the specimen was confirmed using the key given by Svetovidovi (A. N. 1986 *Fishes of the North-eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* **2**: 680-710).

The status of *R. raninus* in Irish waters was recently reviewed by Quigley, D. T. G., O'Shea, J. & Flannery, K. (1997 *Irish Naturalists' Journal* **25**: 332-336). Although the species appears to have a fairly widespread distribution around the Irish coast, it seems to be relatively common in only a few areas (W, SW, E and NE) and uncommon or completely absent from other areas (SE). More information regarding its distribution in the latter areas is required.

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Partial albinism in black sole *Solea solea* (L.)

A black sole *Solea solea* L. measuring 28.7cm T.L. and exhibiting partial albinism was captured during June 2003 by the MFV 'Rose Crest' (Skipper: Mr Gerald Fitzgerald, Ballinskelligs, Co Kerry) while trawling at a depth of c100m SSW of the Skellig Islands, Co Kerry (V2561). The specimen was almost completely white apart from a small area of normal pigmentation on the anterior ocular side which included the head and opercular region. There were also faint traces of pigmentation on the tip of the caudal fin and posteriorly on the outer margins of the dorsal and ventral fins.

According to Wheeler (A. 1969 *The fishes of the British Isles and north-west Europe*. Macmillan, London), albinism is by no means uncommon (amongst the flatfish group – Pleuronectiformes), but is usually incomplete (partial), part of the eyed (ocular) side retaining its normal colour. Albinism and particularly partial albinism has been previously reported in a number of flatfish species from the same area in Irish waters, including: *S. solea*, plaice *Pleuronectes platessa* L., flounder *Platichthys flesus* (L.) and turbot *Scophthalmus maximus*