

2

**THE
FISHES OF MALTA**


Dedicated
to
Mrs. Colson
of Clifton House, Sierra
in token of
Respect and Esteem.

**THE
FISHES OF MALTA**

WITH THEIR
MALTESE, ITALIAN AND ENGLISH NAMES,
AND SEASON.

BY
GEORGE CRISPO-BARBARO
MARQUIS OF ST.-GEORGE,
VENETIAN PATRICIAN,
AUTHOR OF VARIOUS WORKS,
MEMBER OF SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

THIRD EDITION.



MALTA
Printed by *A. Pugliesovich*
123D Strada Britannica, Valletta
1885.

PREFACE

TO
THE FORMER EDITION.

Think nought a trife, though it small appear;
Small sands the mountain, moments make the year,
And trifles life. — YOUNG.

This catalogue is offered to the Public as a mere alphabetical list of the fish to be found in the waters immediately surrounding Malta and Gozo. I have, however, thought it worth the while to publish it, for the information of those who would like to know what fish is to be had here, and when it is procurable and most palatable.

An interesting sketch of the fish inhabiting the Maltese waters, is given by the Rev. Mr. Seddall, in his *History of our Island* (1); and there also exists a "Catalogue of the different kinds of fish of Malta and Gozo," published in 1838, by Mr. Gaetano Trapani, who was, at the time, First Clerk in the Office of the Magistrate for the Markets (2); but those who wish to consult a scientific treatise on the subject should refer to the elaborate work of my learned friend Professor Gavino Gulia (3).

CRISPO-BARBARO-ST. GEORGE.

Villa Barbaro, Tarxien, 3 Sept. 1885.

(1) *Malta: Past and Present*, by the Rev. Henry Seddall, B.A., T.C.D., Vicar of Danany, lately Chaplain of the Military Sanatorium at Malta. London; Chapman and Hall, 1870.

(2) *A Catalogue of the different kinds of fish of Malta and Gozo, with their Maltese, Latin, English, and French names, as well as their Season*. Malta: 1838.

(3) *Tentamen Ichthyologiæ Melitensis*, auctore Gav. Gulia. Melitæ: 1861. I in 8vo.

THE
FISHES OF MALTA

- Acciola* (1). Ombrina-Lopes. White Tunny. Summer.
Alonga. Tonno alilunghe. Long finned Tunny. Summer.
Aringa. Aringa. Herring. Summer. Very rare.
Arznella. Zerro. Streaked Sparus. Spring.
Auràta. Orata. Gilthead. Perennial.
Baghal. Tordo rosso. Red Wrasse. Winter.
Bakkaliau tal hama. Postenula. Whiting. March to June.
Ballottra. Pecorella. Five-bearded Rockling. Perennial.
Ballottra tar-ramel. Galera. Bearded Ophidium. Perennial.
Barbùn. Rombo comune. Dab. September.
Barbùn rar. Fagiano di mare. Turbot (2). Very rare.
Bazùga. Fravolino. Bogoraveo. September,—rare.
Bekkaccia. Soffietto lungo. Bellows-fish. Rare.
Biès (3). Pesce rondine. Flying Gurnard. Perennial,—rare.
Bobin. Maggiore labbrone. Thick-lipped grey mullet. Perennial
Boll (4). Pastinaca. Sting Ray. Summer.
Boxbox (5). Tordo. Wrasse. Summer.

(1) When young, this fish is called *Cerviola*.

(2) WILLUGHBY, p. 94, F. 2.

(3) or *Falkun*.

(4) This fish, when young, is known by the name of *Sorc*.

(5) or *Buxih*.

- Budakkra*. Galletto. Gattoruginous Blenny (6). Perennial.
Budakkra tal ghain. Blennio Pesce-cane. Butterfly-fish. Perennial.
Buras: see *Mulett*.
Buri. Musino. Grey mullet, var. Perennial.
Burqàx. Boccaccio. Learned rock-fish. Perennial.
Burqàx-Hanzir: see *Hanzir-Burqàx*.
Buwahhal. Succiapietre. Sucking-fish. Perennial.
Buwih: see *Boxbox*.
Busaq. Ciprinulo. Globe-fish. Very rare.
Buzellièka. Buffetto marino. Mulgranoc. Perennial.
Castardella: see *Msella pastarda*.
Cerna (7). Ombrina Cerna. Rock-Cod. Perennial.
Cerviola: see *Acciola*.
Ciaula (8). Castagnolo. Marroon. Summer.
Cippullazza (9). Scorfano. Sea-scorpion. Winter.
Cippullazza tal fond (10). Scorfano da fondo. Sea-scorpion, var.
Winter.
Debba. Tordo. Wrasse. Summer.
Dentici. Dentale. Four-toothed sparus. Perennial.
Dott abiad. Dotto bianco. Perch. Perennial.
Dott isued. Dotto di fondo. Perch, var. Perennial.
Falkun: see *Bies*.
Fanfru. Fanfano. Pilot-fish (11). Autumn.
Fiamma: see *Pixxi Fiamma*.
Gabdoll. Pesce Lamia. White Shark. Rare.
Gallina (12). Capone Panaricolo. Gurnard. Winter.
Gattarell (13). Gattuccio. Small-spotted dog-fish (14). Winter.
Gattarell. Gattuccio boccanera. Black mouthed dog-fish (15).
Winter.

(6) MONTAGU, Mem. Wern. Soc. vol. II. p. 447.

(7) Makes delicious soup.

(8) Favourite food of the feline race.

(9) Nutritious.

(10) or *Cippullazza ta ghaina*.

(11) COUCH, M. S.

(12) or *Tigiega*.

(13) or *Qattus*.

(14) YARRELL, Brit. Fish. vol. II. p. 367.

(15) " " " " " " 375

- Gattarell tar-rokkal* (16). Gattopardo. Large-spotted dog-fish (17). Winter.
- Ghadma*: see *Pampier*.
- Gharàb*. Tordo. Black Wrasse. Perennial.
- Gharusa*. Zigurella. Rainbow Wrasse. Perennial.
- Gharusa armla*. Zigurella di Giofredi. Wrasse. Perennial.
- Ghiruiela*: see *Xilpa*.
- Gremàula tal bahar*. Ago marino. Deep-nosed Pipe-fish. Perennial.
- Gringu abiad* (18). Grongo di rena. Conger. Winter.
- Gringu isued* (19). Grongo di scoglio. Conger, var. Winter.
- Gurbell*. Corvello. Rough-tailed stickleback. Perennial.
- Giurdien il bahar*. Pesce-porco. Sea-snipe. Perennial.
- H addiela*. Torpedine. Electric Ray. Winter.
- Hamiema*. Pesce aquila. Eagle ray. Winter.
- Hanzir-Burqax* (20). Sacchetto. Rock-fish. Perennial.
- Hanzir il bahar*. Cerna di scoglio. Thorny perch. Perennial.
- Hauuad*. Manfrone. Red toothed sea Bream. Perennial.
- Hmar*. Capolepre. Pilot-fish, var. Autumn.
- Kahlia*. Occhiata. Black Tail. November to May.
- Kaplat*. Capolato. Grey Mullet. Perennial.
- Kavall*. Maccarellò. Common Mackerel (21). Summer,—rare.
- Kelb il bahar*. Pesce-cane azzurro. Blue shark. Perennial.
- Kubrit*. Tonnessa. Tonna. Summer.
- Kurazza*. Pesce martello. Balance-fish. Perennial.
- Kurunella*. Occhione. Atherine. Winter.
- Iacci*. Laccia. Shad. Summer.
- Lampuka ta ghedduma tauuali* } Pesce-cappone. Coryphene.
Lampuka ta ghedduma lixx } August to December.
- Lhudi* (22). Tordo ebraico. Jew Wrasse. Perennial.
- Linguata*. Sogliola. Sole. Perennial.
- Lipp*. Tinca marina. Bastard Sole. Winter.

(16) or *Qattus ta rokkal*.

(17) YARRELL, Brit. Fish. vol. II. p. 373.

(18) or *Gringu tal port*.

(19) or *Gringu ta barra*.

(20) or *Burqax-Hanzir*.

(21) PENNANT, Brit. Zool. vol. III. p. 353, pl. 62.

(22) or *Merkant*.

- Litz*. Luccio marino. Garpike. Summer.
Makku. Bianchetta. Whitebait. Winter.
Marlots. Marluzzo. Common Hake. Spring.
Marlotz imperial. Merluzzo imperiale. Hake, var. Very rare.
Martspàn. Pesce scaro. Scarus. Summer.
Matsola ta bla xeuca. Palombo canesca. Tope. Winter.
Matsola tax-xeuca. Spinarola canesca. Picked dog-fish. Winter.
Matsun. Ghiozzo. Goby. Winter.
Matsun tad-demm. Mazzone. Red Goby. Winter.
Matsun tal hagra. Brocciolo. Black Goby (23). Winter.
Matsun zbirr. Paganello. Paganel Goby. Winter.
Merkant: see *Lhudi*.
Mingus. Marmorozza. Striped sparus. Summer.
Minnula: see *Paizan*.
Mirla. Tordo merlo. Wrasse. Summer.
Moghza. Muso lungo. Sharp snouted sparus. Summer.
Mola: see *Pixxi Luna*.
Moxt: see *Pixxi San Pietru*.
Msella. Aguglia. Needle-fish. November to May.
Msella imperiala. Aguglia imperiale. Great needle-fish. Nov. to May.
Msella pastarda. Aguglia-cristarella. Saury pike. Nov. to May.
Mulett (24). Cefalo. Grey Mullet, var. Perennial.
Mulett tac-ciarruta safra. Cefalo della Garza d'oro. Grey mullet, var. Perennial.
Mulett ta l'imciarrat. Acucotto. Grey mullet, var. Perennial.
Munqara. Zerro. Smare. Summer.
Munqara pastarda. Mendola. Smare. Summer.
Murina. Murena. Muræna (25). Autumn.
Murlin ahdar. Tordo verde. Green wrasse. Summer.
Murlin innikket. Tordo a tacchie gialle. Yellow spotted wrasse. Summer.
Murruna. Capopiatto. Grey shark. Rare.
Nciova. Alice. Anchovy. October.
Nemusa. Alice minuta. Small anchovy. October.
Pagell. Fravalino. Spanish bream. September to May.
Pagru. Dentice prajo. Braize. Perennial.
Paizan (26). Mendola. Cockrell. January to May.

(23) PENNANT, Brit. Zool. vol. III. p. 288, pl. 42.

(24) or *Burds*.

(25) Is of exquisite flavour.

(26) or *Minnula*.

- Palamit*: see *Plamtu*.
Pampier (27). Organo. Piper. Perennial.
Parpaniol. Labro. Mixed wrasse. Winter.
Petricia. Martino pescatore. Sea-devil (28). Perennial.
Pitsintùn. Presentone. Spanish mackerel. Autumn.
Pixxi Fiamma. Fiammetta. Red bandfish. Spring,—rare.
Pixxi Gatt. Bavosa. Clouded blenny. Perennial.
Pixxi Kurnuta. Folcora. Sea-rocket. September to May.
Pixxi Luna (29). Pesce Luna. Short sun-fish. Very rare.
Pixxi Rosa. Canario. Holy-basse. Rare.
Pixxi San Pietru (30). Pesce San Pietro. John Dory. Perennial,—rare.
Pixxi Spad. Pesce Spada. Swordfish. Aug. to Dec.
Pixxi Tmun. Remora. Common Remora. Rare.
Pixxi Trumbetta. Tamburo. Boar-fish. Rare.
Pixxi Tunnu. Pesce Tondo. Great Shark. Rare.
Pixxi Xabla (31). Pesce Sciabola. Scabbard-fish. Spring.
Plamtu (32). Palamito. Bonito. Autumn.
Qalfat. Lampreda di mare. Lamprey. Rare.
Qamar. see *Pixxi Luna*.
Qattus: see *Gattarell*.
Qattus tar-rokkal: see *Gattarell tar-rokkal*.
Raja lixxa. Barracola. Homelyn Ray. Perennial.
Raja tal fosos. Arzilla pietrosa. Thornback. Winter.
Raja tar-ramel. Raja di rena. Sand Ray. Winter.
Rebecchin (33). Arzilla monaca. Sharp-nosed Ray. Winter.
Rondinella (34). Pesce volante. Flying-fish. Nov. to May.
Rusetta. Pesce Pettine. Razorback. September.
Salamùn. Trota. Salmon. Very rare.
Sallùra. Anguilla. Common Eel. Winter.
Saràga. Salacca. Pilchard. Perennial.

(27) or *Ghadma*.

(28) FLEMING, Brit. An. p. 214, sp. 147.

(29) or *Mola*, or *Qamar*.(30) or *Mozt*.(31) or *Xabla*.(32) or *Palamit*.(33) or *Violin*.(34) or *Rondun*.

- Sardina*. Sardella. Sardine. Summer.
Sargu. Sarico rigato. Egyptian Sargus. Perennial.
Saurella. Soretto. Horse-Mackerel (35). Summer.
Saurella imperialis. Sfodaro imperiale. Imperial Mackerel.
 Summer.
Saut. Pesce ragno. Sole, var. Winter,—very rare.
Serra. Seriola. Seriole. Rare.
Serran. Sciarano. Smooth Serranus. Perennial.
Serp il bahar. Grongo balearico. Conger, var. Rare.
Sgamirru. Sgomero. Bastard Mackerel. May.
Sia. Pesce Segà. Mackerel, var. Rare.
Skalm. Lucertola. Sea Lizard. Perennial.
Skorfna. Scrofanello. Father-lasher. Perennial.
Sorc : See *Boll*.
Sparlu. Sparletto. Sparus, var. Perennial.
Spnotta. Spigola. Bassè. September.
Stillira. Ombrina-stella. Cross-spine. Autumn.
Sturiun. Storione. Sturgeon. Very Rare.
Sultan ic-ciaul. Re di Triglie. Beardless Mullet. Winter.
Tannuta. Scorzone. Black Bream. Summer.
Tartarella : see *Xilpa*.
Tigiega : see *Gallina*.
Tirda tal lok. Tordo comune. Common Wrasse. Summer.
Tirda tal passa. Tordo Pavone. Peacock Wrasse. Summer.
Tirda tal uarda. Tordo Occhiato. Rose Wrasse. Summer.
Tirda tad-triçç. Tordo Olivaceo. Green Wrasse. Summer.
Tirda tax-xahma. Tordo fosco. Brown Wrasse. Summer.
Tombrell. Tombarello. Bastard Mackerel. May.
Tonn. Tonno. Tunny. Summer.
Tracna. Tracina. Weaver-fish. Winter.
Trilia hamra. Triglia rossa. Red Mullet. Nov. to Feb.
Trilia tal faaxxi sofor. Triglia a striscie gialle. Yellow striped
 mullet. Nov. to Feb.
Uizgha tol bahar. Stringa. Dragonet, var. Perennial,—very rare.
Violin : see *Rebekkin*.

Vopa. Boga. Boops. Perennial.

Xabla : see *Picxi Xabla*.

Xilpa (36). *Sarpa*. Salp. Summer.

Xirghien. *Sargone*. Jew *Sargus*. Perennial.

Xkatlu. *Squadrolino*. Skate. Perennial.

Xorrafa. *Mendola*, var. *Cockrell*, var. Summer.

Zbirr : see *Matsun zbirr*.

Ziemel. *Cavallaccio*. Short-nosed *Hippocampus* (37). Perennial.

Zombrell. *Capone ubriaco*. Red Gurnard. Perennial.

Zondu. *Pesce Prete*. Star-gazer. Perennial.

(36) This fish, when very young, is called *Tartarella*; when older, *Ghiruiela* or *Xilpa tal halib*; and when full grown, *Xilpa*.

(37) or Sea-horse. — JENYN, *Man. Brit. Vert.* p. 489, sp. 177.

