

The National Marine Biological
Analytical Quality Control Scheme
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# Fish Ring Test Bulletin F-RT08

2014/2015

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## **RING TEST DETAILS**

Fish Ring Test #08

Type/Contents - General

Circulated - 03/02/2014

Completion Date - 06/02/2015

Number of Participating Laboratories - 16

Number of Results Received - 17\*

Table 1. The summary of differences shown for each specimen.

Con a alma a m	0	Canalas	Taxonomic errors for 17 returns		
Specimen	Genus	Species	Genus	Species	
FRT0801	Clupea	harengus	1	1	
FRT0802	Dicentrarchus	labrax	0	0	
FRT0803	Callionymus	lyra	0	2	
FRT0804	Trisopterus	luscus	0	4	
FRT0805	Pleuronectes	platessa	6	6	
FRT0806	Agonus	cataphractus	0	0	
FRT0807	Cottus	gobio	6	6	
FRT0808	Lepidorhombus	whiffiagonis	1	2	
FRT0809	Scomberesox	saurus	0	0	
FRT0810	Oncorhynchus	mykiss	3	3	
FRT0811	Coregonus	autumnalis	0	1	
FRT0812	Sprattus	sprattus	3	3	
FRT0813	Clupea	harengus	0	0	
FRT0814	Salmo	trutta	1	1	
FRT0815	Merlangius	merlangus	0	0	
		Total differences	21	29	
		Average differences /lab.	1.2	1.7	

Synonyms and spelling errors are not included.

<sup>\*</sup>Multiple data entries per laboratory permitted

Table 2. The identification of fauna made by participating laboratories for F\_RT08 (arranged by participant). Names are given only where different from AQC identification.

	Taxon	LB2102	LB2103	LB2104	LB2106	LB2107
F_RT0801	Clupea harengus					
F_RT0802	Dicentrarchus labrax					
F_RT0803	Callionymus lyra					
F_RT0804	Trisopterus luscus	-	- minutus		1	
F_RT0805	Pleuronectes platessa			Platichthys flesus		Platichthys flesus
F_RT0806	Agonus cataphractus	-			1	
F_RT0807	Cottus gobio			Gobius niger		
F_RT0808	Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis	-			1	
F_RT0809	Scomberesox saurus	-			1	
F_RT0810	Oncorhynchus mykiss		Salmo trutta		Salmo salar	
F_RT0811	Coregonus autumnalis	-			1	
	Sprattus sprattus			Sardina pilchardus		
	Clupea harengus					
	Salmo trutta	-				
F_RT0815	Merlangius merlangus					

	Taxon	LB2108	LB2109	LB2110	LB2111	LB2112
F_RT0801	Clupea harengus				Alosa fallax	
F_RT0802	Dicentrarchus labrax					
F_RT0803	Callionymus lyra					
F_RT0804	Trisopterus luscus					- minutus
F_RT0805	Pleuronectes platessa				Microstomus kitt	Microstomus kitt
F_RT0806	Agonus cataphractus					
F_RT0807	Cottus gobio		Gobius paganellus		Lipophrys pholis	Callionymus lyra
F_RT0808	Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis					
F_RT0809	Scomberesox saurus					
F_RT0810	Oncorhynchus mykiss					
F_RT0811	Coregonus autumnalis					
	Sprattus sprattus	Sardina pilchardus				
	Clupea harengus					Sardina pilchardus
F_RT0814	Salmo trutta					
F_RT0815	Merlangius merlangus					

Names in [] are not counted as an error. [] indicate a synonym or a spelling error.

<sup>\*</sup> indicates a spelling error in addition to a taxonomic error.

Table 2. The identification of fauna made by participating laboratories for F\_RT08 (arranged by participant). Names are given only where different from AQC identification.

	Taxon	LB2114	LB2116A	LB2116B	LB2117
F_RT0801	Clupea harengus				
F_RT0802	Dicentrarchus labrax				
F_RT0803	Callionymus lyra	- reticulatus	- maculatus		
F_RT0804	Trisopterus luscus	- minutus			
F_RT0805	Pleuronectes platessa	Platichthys flesus	Platichthys flesus		
F_RT0806	Agonus cataphractus	- 1			
F_RT0807	Cottus gobio	Gobius paganellus			Myoxocephalus scorpius
F_RT0808	Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis	Limanda limanda			
F_RT0809	Scomberesox saurus				
F_RT0810	Oncorhynchus mykiss	1			
F_RT0811	Coregonus autumnalis	- albula			
F_RT0812	Sprattus sprattus	- 1			
F_RT0813	Clupea harengus				
F_RT0814	Salmo trutta				
F_RT0815	Merlangius merlangus	- 1			

	Taxon	LB2125	LB2126	LB2127
F_RT0801	Clupea harengus			
F_RT0802	Dicentrarchus labrax			
F_RT0803	Callionymus lyra			
F_RT0804	Trisopterus luscus		- minutus	
F_RT0805	Pleuronectes platessa			
F_RT0806	Agonus cataphractus			
F_RT0807	Cottus gobio			
F_RT0808	Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis			Lepidorhombus boscii
F_RT0809	Scomberesox saurus			
F_RT0810	Oncorhynchus mykiss	Salmo trutta		
F_RT0811	Coregonus autumnalis			
F_RT0812	Sprattus sprattus			
F_RT0813	Clupea harengus			
F_RT0814	Salmo trutta	Oncorhynchus mykiss		
F_RT0815	Merlangius merlangus			

Names in [] are not counted as an error. [] indicate a synonym or a spelling error.

<sup>\*</sup> indicates a spelling error in addition to a taxonomic error.

Table 3. The identification of fish made by participating laboratories for F\_RT08 (arranged by specimen). Names are given only where different from the AQC identification.

	F_RT0801	F_RT0802	F_RT0803	F_RT0804
Taxon	Clupea harengus	Dicentrarchus labrax	Callionymus lyra	Trisopterus luscus
LB2102				
LB2103				- minutus
LB2104				
LB2106				
LB2107				
LB2108				
LB2109				
LB2110				
LB2111	Alosa fallax			
LB2112				- minutus
LB2114			- reticulatus	- minutus
LB2116A			- maculatus	
LB2116B				
LB2117				
LB2125				
LB2126				- minutus
LB2127				

Table 3. The identification of fish made by participating laboratories for F\_RT08 (arranged by specimen). Names are given only where different from the AQC identification.

	F_RT0805	F_RT0806	F_RT0807	F_RT0808	F_RT0809
Taxon	Pleuronectes platessa	Agonus cataphractus	Cottus gobio	Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis	Scomberesox saurus
LB2102					
LB2103					
LB2104	Platichthys flesus		Gobius niger		
LB2106					
LB2107	Platichthys flesus				
LB2108					
LB2109			Gobius paganellus		
LB2110					
LB2111	Microstomus kitt		Lipophrys pholis		
LB2112	Microstomus kitt		Callionymus lyra		
LB2114	Platichthys flesus		Gobius paganellus	Limanda limanda	
LB2116A	Platichthys flesus				
LB2116B					
LB2117			Myoxocephalus scorpius		
LB2125					
LB2126					
LB2127				- boscii	

Table 3. The identification of fish made by participating laboratories for F\_RT08 (arranged by specimen). Names are given only where different from the AQC identification.

	F_RT0810	F_RT0811	F_RT0812	F_RT0813	F_RT0814	F_RT0815
Taxon	Oncorhynchus mykiss	Coregonus autumnalis	Sprattus sprattus	Clupea harengus	Salmo trutta	Merlangius merlangus
LB2102						
LB2103	Salmo trutta					
LB2104			Sardina pilchardus			
LB2106	Salmo salar					
LB2107				- [herengus]		
LB2108			Sardina pilchardus			
LB2109						
LB2110						
LB2111						
LB2112				Sardina pilchardus		
LB2114		- albula				
LB2116A						
LB2116B						
LB2117						
LB2125	Salmo trutta				Oncorhynchus mykiss	
LB2126						
LB2127						

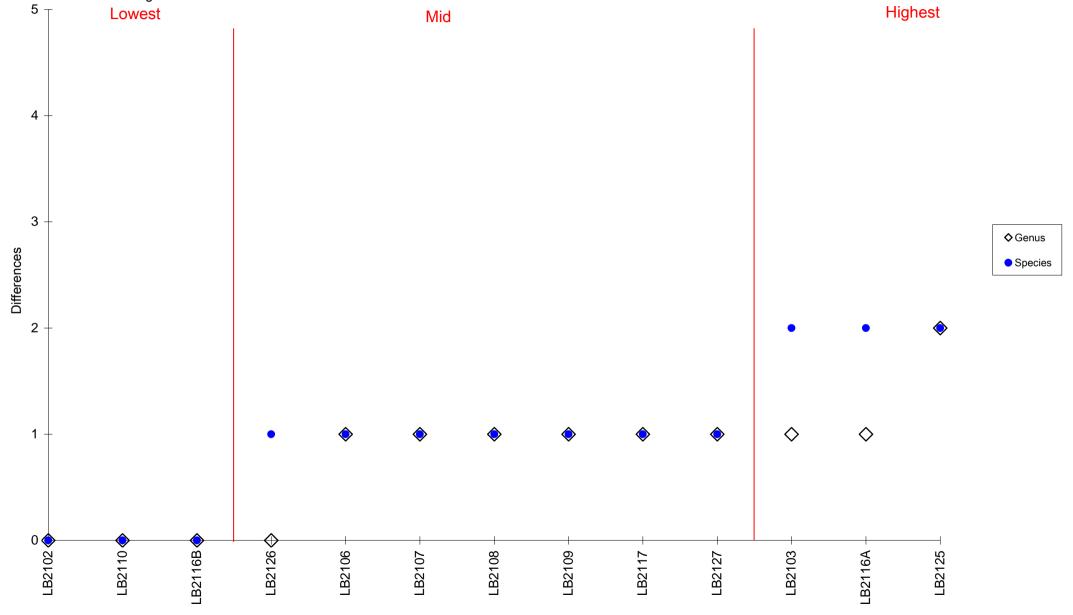
Table 4. Literature used by participants for F\_RT08 specimens.

Specimen	Literature Cited for F_RT08 Identification
F_RT0801	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland 2004, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0802	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0803	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0804	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0805	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0806	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0807	Online www.Fishbase.org; Lythgoe and Lythgoe1971
F_RT0808	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0809	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland 2004, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0810	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0811	Wheeler 1969, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0812	Wheeler 1969, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0813	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0814	Wheeler 1969, Maitland 2004, Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0815	Wheeler 1969, Wheeler 1978, Maitland and Herdson 2009

Table 5. Literature used by TUM for F\_RT08 specimens

Specimen	Literature Cited for F_RT07 Identification (errors corrected)
F_RT0801	Wheeler 1978
F_RT0802	Maitland and Herdson 2009 (EA fish ID)
F_RT0803	Maitland and Herdson 2009 (EA fish ID), Wheeler 1978,
F_RT0804	Wheeler 1978
F_RT0805	Wheeler 1978
F_RT0806	Wheeler 1978
F_RT0807	Online www.Fishbase.org; Lythgoe and Lythgoe1971; Maitland and Herdson 2009
F_RT0808	Wheeler 1978
F_RT0809	Maitland and Herdson 2009 (EA fish ID)
F_RT0810	Maitland and Herdson 2009 (EA fish ID)
F_RT0811	Maitland and Herdson 2009 (EA fish ID)
F_RT0812	Wheeler 1978
F_RT0813	Wheeler 1978
F_RT0814	Maitland and Herdson 2009 (EA fish ID)
F_RT0815	Wheeler 1978

Figure 1. The number of taxonomic differences from the AQC identification of specimens distributed in F\_RT08 for each of the participating laboratories. Arranged in order of increasing number of differences.



## Specimen Images and Detailed Breakdown of Identifications

The common names provided include those stated in FishBase (<a href="http://www.fishbase.org/search.php">http://www.fishbase.org/search.php</a>) first, followed by other commonly used names, where appropriate. An additional terminal character has been added within each LabCode (small case sequential letters) to denote multiple data entries from each laboratory, *i.e.* two participants from laboratory 2101 would be coded as Lab 2101a and Lab 2101b. For details of your LabCode please contact your Scheme representative or Thomson Unicomarine Ltd.

(Figure view codes: A=anterior; P=posterior; L=lateral; D=dorsal; V=ventral)

## F\_RT0801 - Clupea harengus (Herring) (Figure 1a, 1b and 1c)



Figure 1a (F\_RT0801) - L

Substratum: Sand. Salinity: High.

Depth: Benthopelagic / Oceanodromous.

Geography: S.W. England



Figure 1b (F\_RT0801) - *D* 

Figure 1c (F\_RT0801) - **L** 

One generic difference and one specific difference recorded.

Laboratory 2111 identified as *Alosa fallax* which has a notch in the midline of the jaw and radiating ridges on the gill covers. Anal fin ray count is 18 – 23 whereas for *Clupea harengus* it is 16 – 18.

Figure 1b shows the jaw of *C. harengus* which has no notch in the midline.

Figure 1c shows the gill cover without radiating ridges.

## F\_RT0802 - *Dicentrarchus labrax* (Bass) (Figure 2)



Figure 2 (F\_RT0801) - L

Substratum: Mixed. Salinity: High.

Depth: Dermersal / Oceanodromous.

Geography: Brixham.

No differences recorded.

## F\_RT0803 - Callionymus lyra (Common Dragonet) (Figure 3a and 3b)



Figure 3a (F\_RT0803) - L

Two specific differences recorded.

Substratum: Sand. Salinity: Full.

Depth: Demersal. Geography: East Anglia.



Figure 3b (F\_RT0803) - L

Laboratory 2114 identified this specimen as *Callionymus reticulatus* which has only 3 spines on the preoperculum which point up and backwards and no spine at the base. The first dorsal fin is short with 3 rays. In adult males, the last ray of the dorsal fin is branched and elongate. Dorsal fin has a black and white spot. Juveniles and females have an entirely black dorsal first dorsal fin.

Laboratory 2116a identified as *Callionymus maculatus* which has dorsal fins with two rows of alternating dark and light spots. Males have a high dorsal fin. *Callionymus lyra* males have a very elongate first ray in the first dorsal fin. Juvenile and females have uniform fin colour.

Another feature that can assist identification amongst the dragonets are the ray counts. C. reticulatus has 10 rays in the second dorsal fin, whereas C. maculatus has 9 (rarely 10) rays and C. lyra has 8-10 rays.

Figure 3b shows the four spines of the preoperculum of *Callionymus lyra*.

## F\_RT0804 - *Trisopterus luscus* (Bib/ Pouting) (Figure 4a, 4b and 4c)

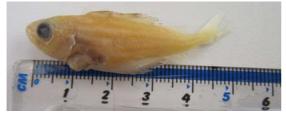


Figure 4a (F\_RT0804) - L

Substratum: Mixed. Salinity: High.

Depth: Benthopelagic / Oceanodromous.

Geography: Scotland.

Four specific differences recorded.



Figure 4b (F\_RT0804) - L

Laboratories 2103, 2112, 2114 and 2126 all identified as *Trisopterus minutus* which has its anal fin origin positioned beneath the space between the first and second dorsal fins or anterior to it and upper jaw that overlaps the lower jaw.

Gill raker number can be a determining factor between the two species; *T. luscus* has 14 – 22 gill rakers on the first gill arch, whereas *T. minutus* has 25 – 32.



Figure 4c (F\_RT0804) - L

Figure 4b shows the anal fin origin positioned under the middle of the first dorsal fin for *T. minutus*. Figure 4c shows how close each of the three dorsal fins are at their bases.

## F\_RT0805 - Pleuronectes platessa (Plaice) (Figure 5)



Figure 5a (F\_RT0805) - L

Substratum: Mixed. Salinity: Reduced.
Depth: Demersal / Oceanodromous.
Geography: S.E. England

Six generic and six specific differences recorded.

Four laboratories identified as *Platichthys flesus* which has prickles along the length of the dorsal and anal fins and the lateral line.

Laboratories 2111 and 2112 identified as *Microstomus kitt* which has a broader body, smaller head (1/5 of its body length) and thicker

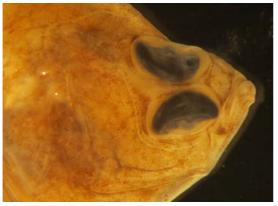


Figure 5b (F\_RT0805) - L

lips. Anal fin count is 69 - 76, whereas in *P. platessa* it is 48 - 59.

Figure 5b shows the rather thin lips of *Pleuronectes platessa*.

## F\_RT0806 - Agonus cataphractus (Pogge/ Hooknose) (Figure 6)



Figure 6 (F\_RT0806) - L

Substratum: Sand / Mud. Salinity: Full.

Depth: Demersal. Geography: N.E. England

No differences recorded.

## F\_RT0807 - Cottus gobio (Bullhead) (Figure 7a and 7b)



Figure 7a (F\_RT0807) - L

Substratum: Gravel. Salinity: Low.

Depth: Demersal. Geography: Scotland

Six generic differences and six specific differences recorded.



Figure 7b (F\_RT0807) - D

Laboratory 2104 identified as *Gobius niger* which has scales and no spine on the preoperculum. It has free rays in the upper pectoral fin and an anterior nostril with a flap on the rim. Figure 7b shows the nostril structure in *Cottus gobio*.

Laboratories 2109 and 2114 identified as *Gobius* paganellus which has scales and no spine on the preoperculum. It has free rays in the upper pectoral fin and an anterior nostril with 5 or 6 finger like branches.



Figure 7c (F\_RT0807) - V

Laboratory 2111 identified as *Lipophrys pholis* which has scales, a rounder body and no spine on preoperculum. Dorsal fin is uniform in height or notched.

Laboratory 2112 identified as *Callionymus lyra* which has a triangular head, long tail fin and 4 spines on the preoperculum.

Laboratory 2117 identified as *Myoxocephalus* scorpius which has a rounder head, 2 short spines on the preoperculum, a membrane from the gill cover that forms a flap under the throat and spines either side of the lateral line. Figure 7c shows the lack of flap under the throat in *Cottus gobio*.

Laboratory 2126 received a *Cottus perifretum* specimen rather than one that was *C. gobio*. Prickle distribution across the body determines these species apart, with prickles covering most of the body in *C. perifretum* (although males have reduced prickling). Laboratory 2126 was not marked down as they identified *C. perifretum* correctly.

#### F\_RT0808 - Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis (Megrim) (Figure 8)



Figure 8a (F\_RT0808) - L

Substratum: Soft. Salinity: Full.

Depth: Bathydemersal. Geography: Cornwall.

One generic difference and two specific differences.

Laboratory 2114 identified as *Limanda limanda* which is right eyed, *L. whiffiagonis* is left eyed with a strong curve above the pectoral fin. It also has a large head with a prominent lower jaw.

Laboratory 2127 identified as *Lepidorhombus* boscii which has two rounded dark blotches

positioned at the end of the dorsal and anal fins. Eyes are level with one another, whereas *L. whiffiagonis* has the lower eye positioned in front of the upper. Dorsal fin rays are 75 – 86 and anal rays 65 – 95 for *L. boscii*, and 85 – 94 and 64 – 74 for *L. whiffiagonis*.

#### F\_RT0809 - Scomberesox saurus (Skipper) (Figure 9)

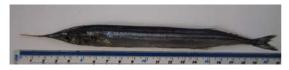


Figure 9 (F\_RT0809) - L

Substratum: Mixed. Salinity: High.

Depth: Pelagic-oceanic / Oceanodromous.

Geography: E. England

No differences recorded.

## F\_RT0810 - Oncorhynchus mykiss (Rainbow Trout) (Figure 10a and 10b)



Figure 10a (F\_RT0810) - L

Substratum: Mixed. Salinity: Low.

Depth: Benthopelagic. Geography: Lincolnshire

Three generic and three specific differences recorded.



Figure 10b (F\_RT0810) - L

Laboratories 2103 and 2125 identified as *Salmo trutta* which has red spots on the body and lacks the iridescent pink rainbow stripe from the head to caudal base. It has 8 – 10 dorsal fin rays and 8-12 anal fin rays.

Laboratory 2106 identified as *Salmo salar* which lacks the iridescent pink stripe from the head to the caudal base. There are 10 - 12 dorsal fin rays and usually 9 - 11 anal fin rays.

O. mykiss has 10 - 12 dorsal fin rays, 8 - 12 anal fin rays and a body lacking red spots. Figure 10b shows the characteristic pink stripe.

## F\_RT0811 - Coregonus autumnalis (Pollan) (Figure 11a and b)



Figure 11a (F\_RT0811) - L

Substratum: Gravel. Salinity: Low.

Depth: Benthopelagic. Geography: Ireland

One specific difference.

Laboratory 2114 identified as *Coregonus albula* which has a superior mouth (mouth is in an upturned position).

Figure 11b shows the terminal position of the mouth for *Coregonus autumnalis*.



Figure 11b (F\_RT0811) - L

## F\_RT0812 - Sprattus sprattus (Sprat) (Figure 12)



Figure 12a (F\_RT0812) - L

Substratum: Mixed. Salinity: High
Depth: Pelagic-neritic / Oceanodromous.
Geography: S. W. England.

Two generic and two specific differences recorded.



Figure 12b (F\_RT0812) - L

Laboratories 2104 and 2108 identified as *Sardina pilchardus* which has ridges on the gill covers. The pelvic fin origin is positioned behind the dorsal fin origin. It lacks a sharply scaled body and the last anal fin rays are elongate.

Figure 12b shows the pelvic fin origin just in front of the dorsal fin origin in *Sprattus sprattus*.

## F\_RT0813 - Clupea harengus (Herring) (Figure 13a and b)



Figure 13a (F\_RT0813) - L

Substratum: Sand. Salinity: High.

Depth: Benthopelagic / Oceanodromous.

Geography: S.W. England

One generic and one specific error recorded.



Figure 13b (F\_RT0813) - L

Laboratory 2112 identified as *Sardina pilchardus* which has ridges on the gill covers. The underside is faintly ridged unlike the sharply-scaled body of *C. harengus*. The dorsal fin origin is above the deepest part of the body, whereas in *C. harengus* it is positioned behind the deepest part of the body and the last anal fin rays are elongate.

Figure 13b shows the gill cover of *Clupea harengus* in which ridges are absent.



Figure 13c (F\_RT0813) - L

Figure 13c shows the origin of the pelvic fin is positioned behind that of the dorsal fin which is also positioned above the deepest part of the body.

## F\_RT0814 - Salmo trutta (Brown Trout) (Figure 14a and 14b)



Figure 14a (F\_RT0814) - L

Substratum: Gravel. Salinity: Reduced.

Depth: Benthopelagic. Geography: Scotland

One generic difference and one specific difference.

Laboratory 2125 identified as *Oncorhynchus mkiss* which has an iridescent pink rainbow stripe from the head to the caudal base. The



Figure 14b (F\_RT0814) - L

species lacks red spots on the body, but has numerous black spots on the body and fins, especially on the adipose and tail fins. Dorsal fin ray numbers also differ; *O. mykiss* has 8 – 12, whereas *S. trutta* has 8 – 10.

Figure 14b shows the red spots on the body of Salmo trutta.

## F\_RT0815 - *Merlangius merlangus* (Whiting) (Figure 15)



Substratum: Mixed. Salinity: High. Depth: Benthopelagic / Oceanodromous.

Geography: East Anglia

Figure 15 (F\_RT0815) - L

No differences were recorded.

#### References

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Whitehead, P.L.P., Bauchot, M.L, Hureau, J.-C., Nielsen J. and Tortonese, E. (eds) (1984-1986) *Fishes of the North-eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.* Vols. 1-3. Paris: Unesco.

FishBase - http://www.fishbase.org/search.php

World Register of Marine Species - http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=search

## **Specimens**

Please return all specimens to the below address:

Attn: Sarah Hussey Thomson Unicomarine Compass House Surrey Research Park Guildford

Canaloi

Surrey

GU2 7AG