MarLIN
Marine Information Network
Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

Greater sand eel (*Hyperoplus lanceolatus*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence–based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

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2008-04-17

A report from:
The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/2176]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (https://www.marlin.ac.uk)
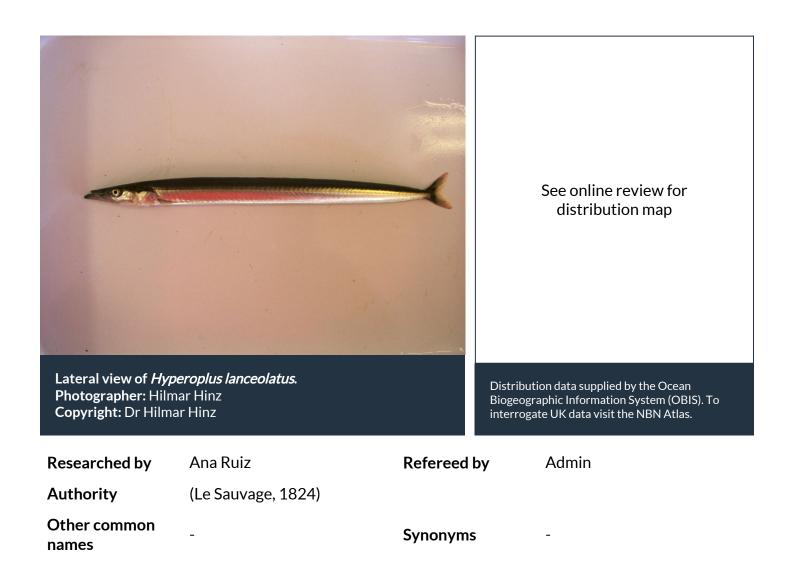
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Lateral view of *Hyperoplus lanceolatus*.
Photographer: Hilmar Hinz
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See online review for
distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean
Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To
interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Ana Ruiz	**Refereed by**	Admin
Authority	(Le Sauvage, 1824)		
Other common names	-	**Synonyms**	-

Summary

🏷 Description
The greater sand eel has a long, thin body with a pointed jaw. It has a single long dorsal fin and an anal fin that is about half the length of the dorsal. It has a small forked tail. Silvery appearance. The belly and lower sides are silver, the back and top sides are bluish-green. It can reach 32 cm in length.

📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland
Widely distributed around Britain and Ireland.

📍 Global distribution
-

🖼 Habitat
Found over clean sandy seabeds; from the shore down to about 150 m.

↓ Depth range
-

🔍 Identifying features

- Silvery eel-like fish.
- Dark spot on each side of the snout.
- Two pointed teeth in the palate.
- Upper jaw not protractile.
- Forked tail.

🏛 Additional information

Spawning takes place in spring and summer over sandy grounds. The eggs stick to the sand grains. It feeds on small planktonic animals floating in the water and on worms, small crustaceans and small fish. It can be confused with *Ammodytes tobianus*, but greater sand eel is larger and individuals greater than 20 cm long are likely to be this species.

✔ Listed by

⌗ Further information sources

Search on:

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