

Colletteichthys dussumieri (Valenciennes, 1837)



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Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Batrachoidiformes

Family: Batrachoididae

Genus: *Colletteichthys*

Species: *C. dussumieri*

Colletteichthys dussumieri or *Batrachus dussumieri* or *Austrobatrachus dussumieri* as flat toadfish is a sedentary and solitary species that lives partly buried in soft sand and mud or concealed in rock crevices, in coral reefs or in sea grass or weedy bottoms and in tidal pools, where they function as ambush predators feeding. They prefer high saline waters and also experts in camouflage therefore flat toadfish lives in the demersal, marine environment. Size of *C. dussumieri* is 14 cm in Iranian Waters of Persian Gulf (Kish Island). Their ability to change color to lighter or darker shades at will and their mottled pattern makes them difficult to see. Toadfishes are said to be quiet vicious and will snap at almost anything upon the slightest provocation. Toadfishes do not school, but they are gregarious and tend to congregate together. They have limited dispersal ability because of their demersal eggs which lack pelagic larvae. Compared to other fishes, they are sluggish in nature. This species is dimorphism and spawning only once in a year. Toadfish are well known for their ability to "sing", males in particular using the swim bladder as a sound-production device used to attract mates.

Food: *Colletteichthys dussumieri* is feeding fish, prawn, crab, isopod, squilla and mullusca.

Distribution: *Colletteichthys dussumieri* found in Western Indian Ocean including the Persian Gulf and along the coasts of Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka.

