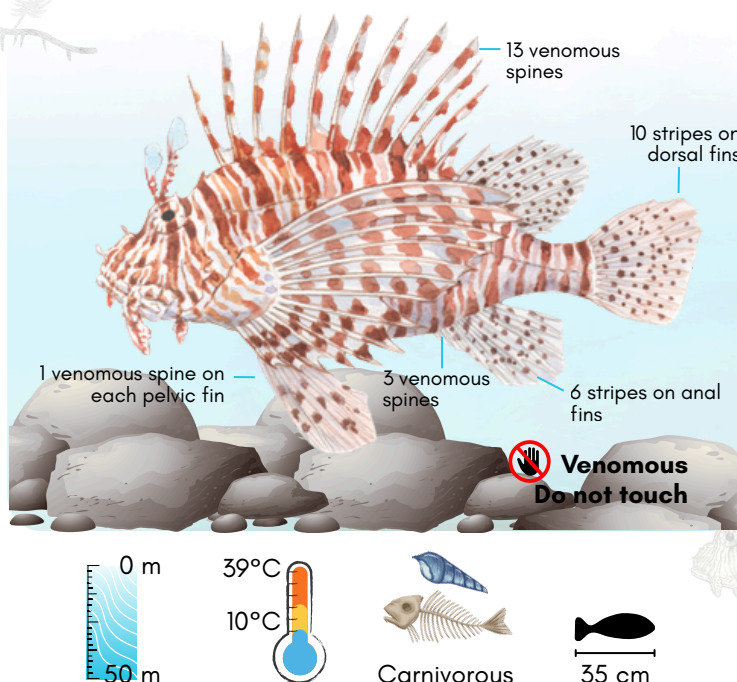
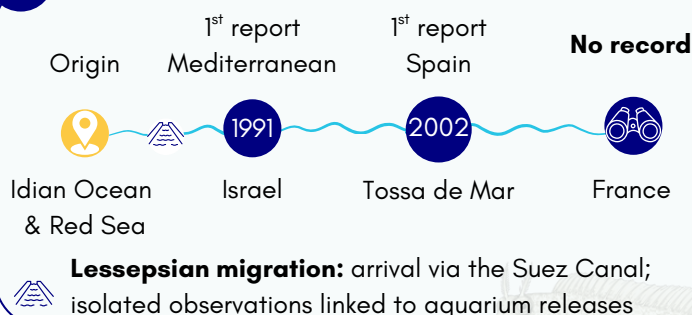


Devil

firefish - *Pterois miles*



ITS HISTORY



ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The lionfish's arrival in the Mediterranean **alters the composition of fish communities** due to its voracious predatory nature. In the Western Atlantic, its invasion led to a **65% reduction in local prey biomass**. It **competes** with **native predators** and **disrupts trophic networks**. In the Mediterranean, the **absence** of **natural predators** facilitates its expansion. Economically, it **threatens fish stocks** and generates **management costs**. Its venomous spines also pose **health risks**. However, its edible flesh and artisanal potential open **commercialization** opportunities.

FUN FACTS

18 venomous spines

High culinary interest

Produces 2 million eggs/year

Sources (details page "Credits"): Barker et al. (2018); Bottacini et al. (2024); Kimball et al. (2004); Kletou et al. (2016); Phillips et al. (2021); Savva et al. (2020)

IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

Body shape: pectoral fin shaped like a feather, protuberances above the eyes and below the mouth, long dorsal spines

Color: Brown-orange and white stripes



SIMILAR SPECIES

No similar species in the Mediterranean.

Red lionfish - *Pterois volitans*

Species found only in the **Pacific** and **Northwest Australia**, distinguishable from *P. miles* only by genetic analysis



Clearfin lionfish - *Pterois radiata*

Native species of the **Red Sea**



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