



Photographer: Robin Gibson



Source: wikipedia



Source: British Marine Life Study society

The Giant goby - *Gobius cobitis*

Information from MARLIN: <https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/1305#top>

Description

The giant goby *Gobius cobitis* is Britain's largest goby. It has relatively small and well spaced eyes, a short tail stalk and a deep body throughout its length. Greyish to olive brown in colour with 'pepper and salt' speckling. Dark blotches appear along and below the lateral midline. The edges of the dorsal, tail and anal fins are light greyish in colour. Breeding males are darker in colour than females. It reaches up to 27 cm in length.

Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

The distribution of *Gobius cobitis* in Britain is restricted to the south-west coast of England, from Wembury to the Isles of Scilly.

Global distribution

Found in the eastern Atlantic, from the western English Channel to Morocco, the Mediterranean, the Black Sea (except north-west) and the Gulf of Suez.

Habitat

In Britain, *Gobius cobitis* is found typically in the intertidal in high shore rock pools on sheltered shores. It is often found in brackish water with *Ulva* spp. present in the rockpools.

Depth range

Intertidal to up to 10m

Identifying features

Small scales.

Scales on top of the head do not extend to the level of the eyes.

Upper rays of pectoral fin free of membrane.

Lobes at front edge of pelvic fin disc distinct.

A large goby, reaching a maximum of 27cm in length.

Additional information

It inhabits high shore rock pools, often with a freshwater input.