

Description of a new stromateoid fish from the Miocene of St. Eugène, Algeria

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A single specimen of the axial skeleton of an elongate fossil stromateoid fish, collected from the Upper Miocene (Messinian) St. Eugène locality of north-western Algeria, is identified as a new species *Ariomma geslini* sp. nov. of the family Ariommatidae. It is based on a unique combination of features, including morphology and arrangement of pleural ribs, structure and orientation of anterior portion of the anal fin, unique sequential arrangement of anal-fin pterygiophores in relation to the haemal spines, and presence of large cycloid scales and meristics. The morphology and orientation of the first anal-fin pterygiophore indicate that *A. geslini* sp. nov. is probably related to the amphi-Atlantic species *A. bondi* and *A. melanum*. The analysis of the fossil record of the Stromateoidei suggests that the ariommatids were already in existence at least as early as the Eocene.

Key words: Teleostei, Perciformes, Ariommatidae, Miocene, Messinian, Algeria.

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