

FIRST REPORT ON THREE GENERA OF CEPHALOPODA NEW FOR THE
ADRIATIC SEA

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Summary. In the bathyal zone of the Southadriatic pit, we identified three genera of Cephalopods, each represented in this area by one species, that have not yet been found in the Adriatic Sea although their presence was suspected. The species collected are: Rossia macrosoma (Delle Chiaje, 1829), Scaeurghus uniccirrhus (Orbigny, 1839) and Pteroctopus tetracirrhus (Delle Chiaje, 1830).

Résumé. Dans l'étage bathyal de la fosse de l'Adriatique Sud, nous avons identifié trois genres de Céphalopodes jusqu'à présent inconnus dans la Mer Adriatique, bien que leur présence fut soupçonnée. Dans cette région, chacun des trois genres est représenté par une seule espèce. Il s'agit de Rossia macrosoma (Delle Chiaje, 1829), Scaeurghus uniccirrhus (d'Orbigny, 1839) et de Pteroctopus tetracirrhus (Delle Chiaje, 1830).

Although the Adriatic as a whole is one of the best investigated areas, our knowledge of the biology of the bathyal fauna of the Southadriatic pit is still limited. We assumed that in this area, which is connected with the Eastern Mediterranean, more species or genera of Cephalopods may exist than earlier investigations had revealed.

We collected material from 25 stations, covering a wide area of the Southadriatic pit, at depths ranging from 50 to 500 meters. Trial-catches were carried out at a speed of 2.5 Nm per hour. During seasonal investigations over a few years (1972-1974), we could identify three genera of Cephalopods that are new for the Adriatic Sea. Each genus is represented by a single species in the bathyal zone of the Southadriatic pit.

Actually, 32 species of Cephalopods are known from the Adriatic; 29 were already listed by Gamulin-Brida and Ilijanic (1972).

Among the Sepioidea, we have recorded the genus Rossia with the species Rossia macrosoma (Delle Chiaje, 1829) and among the Octopoda, we found Scaevurgus unicirrhus (d'Orbigny, 1839) and Pteroctopus tetracirrhus (Delle Chiaje, 1830).

Rossia macrosoma. This species is common in the Western Mediterranean. It occurs also in the Eastern Mediterranean, the North Sea and the North Atlantic where it seems to live in the circalittoral zone. In the Southadriatic area, it was not found in depths less than 200 m. In the investigated part of the bathyal zone (200 - 500) it occurs at every depth. In one haul, we caught up to 10 specimens and catches without this species were rare. The maximum mantle length was 6.5 cm; most specimens had a mantle length of 4 - 5 cm. The average weight was 37.1 g. The species was usually collected together with Eledone moschata, Illex coindetii and Todarodes sagittatus.

Scaevurgus unicirrhus. This species was only found on the profile "Mouth of Bojana" - open sea, at depths of 200- 400 m. We collected 2 to 3 specimens per haul; the average weight of the animals was 65.1 g. Scaevurgus unicirrhus was usually caught together with Rossia macrosoma, Illex coindetii and Todarodes sagittatus.

Pteroctopus tetracirrhus. This is the less abundant species in the bathyal zone of the Southadriatic pit. We never collected more than one specimen per haul. In the whole area, the species lives between 200 and 400 m. The average weight of the animals was 285 g. They were usually collected together with Eledone moschata and Illex coindetii.

These three species, new for the Adriatic Sea, seem to occur only in the bathyal zone.

References

- Gamulin-Brida (H.) and Ilijanic (V.), 1972.- Contribution à la connaissance des Céphalopodes de l'Adriatique. Acta adriatica, 14 (6).