

FISHES OF THE GENUS *Epigonus* COLLECTED BY THE R/V
 "S. LOBIANCO" IN THE SOUTHERN ADRIATIC AND THE TYRRHENIAN SEA
 (Osteichthyes: Apogonidae)

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ABSTRACT - In the years 1972-1980 the R/V "S. LoBianco" made some fishing surveys on deep-water trawling grounds of Southern Adriatic sea and Sicily.

During these cruises all three species of *Epigonus* known for the Mediterranean sea were collected: *E. denticulatus* and *E. telescopus* in the Southern Adriatic sea, *E. denticulatus* and *E. costanciae* in the Southern Tyrrhenian sea.

RESUME - Entre le 1972 et le 1980 la N/R "S. LoBianco" a effectué des essais de pêche au chalut sur les fonds bathyals de l'Adriatique sud et des mers de Sicilie.

Parmi le matériel ramassé figurent les trois espèces du genre *Epigonus* connues pour la Méditerranée. *E. denticulatus* et *E. telescopus* ont été recueillis dans l'Adriatique sud, *E. denticulatus* et *E. costanciae* ont été recueillis au large de la côte septentrional de Sicilie.

Tout le matériel étudié est déposé dans la collection de référence de notre Institut.

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The Ichthyological reference Collection of the Istituto di Ricerche sulla Pesca Marittima includes seven lots (16 specimens) of Apogonid fishes of the genus *Epigonus* collected during deep-water fishing cruises of the R/V "S. LoBianco" in the Southern Adriatic sea and off Northern coasts of Sicily and in previous investigations carried on by Dr. Bombarce in the Gulf of Castellamare (Northern Sicily).

The Collection includes all three species at present known for the Mediterranean basin.

In the species list number and size (as Standard Length) range of

specimens, as well as sampling localities (geographic position refers to net lowering) are given for each lot.

Morphometric and meristic data useful for species identification were recorded according to techniques outlined by MAYER (1974), but are not herein reported.

Epigonus telescopus (Risso, 1810)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: 2 specimens, 291-388 mm SL, 23 February 1973, South Adriatic sea, off Gargano promontory (41°51'N, 17°05'E), depth 735-805 m, Leg. C.Froglia.

REMARKS: This is the first time that the presence of *E. telescopus* in the Adriatic sea is documented. SOLJAN (1975) dubitatively listed this species on the ground of a citation, without any other data, by POLJAKOV et al. (1958).

Epigonus denticulatus Dieuzeide, 1950

MATERIAL EXAMINED: 2 specimens, 130-139 mm SL, 6 July 1972, South Adriatic sea, S. of Lagosta (Lastovo) Is. (42°22'N, 16°55'E), depth 490-520 m, Leg. C.Froglia. - 2 specimens, 135-138 mm SL, 20 August 1978, South Adriatic sea, S. of Lagosta (Lastovo) Is. (42°22'N, 16°52'E), depth 330 m, Leg. C.Froglia. - 2 specimens, 118-147 mm SL, 21 July 1972 South Adriatic sea, off Gargano promontory (42°06'N, 17°00'E), depth 460 m, Leg. C.Froglia. - 5 specimens, 54-91 mm SL, July 1970, Sicily, Golfo di Castellamare, depth 500 m, Leg. G.Bombace.

REMARKS: The presence of *E. denticulatus* in the southern Adriatic sea was already reported by BOMBACE and FROGLIA (1973) who examined present material collected in 1972.

Epigonus costanciae (Giglioli, 1880)

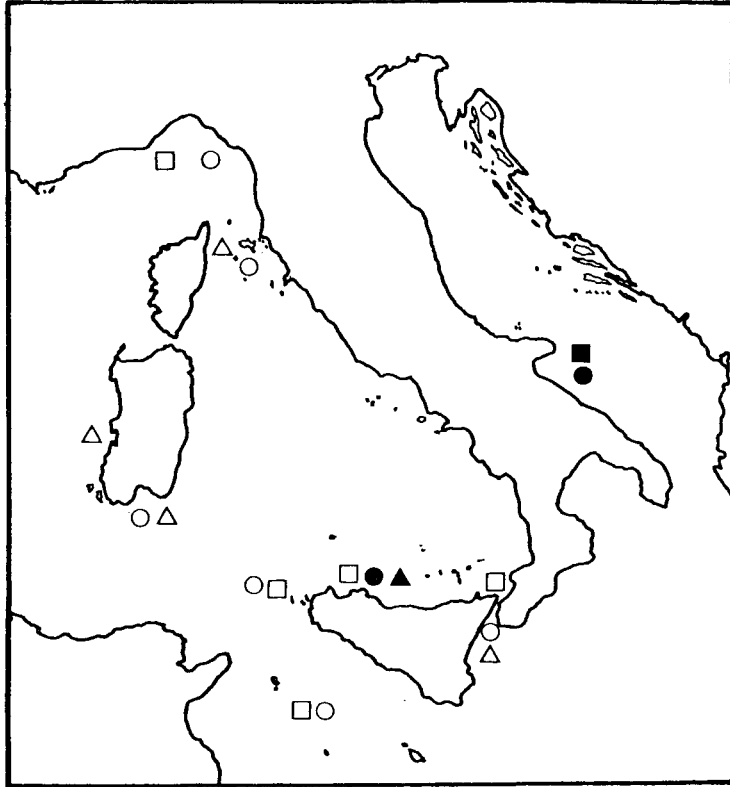
MATERIAL EXAMINED : 1 specimen, 88 mm SL, July 1970, Sicily, Golfo di Castellamare, depth 500 m, Leg. G.Bombace. - 2 specimens, 82-97 mm SL, 6 June 1974, Sicily, Golfo di Patti (38°13'N, 15°09'E), depth 400 m, Leg. C.Froglia.

REMARKS: The status of this species, for long time considered a junior synonym of *E. telescopus*, was recently clarified by MAYER and TOR NESE (1977).

Our specimens, collected off northern coasts of Sicily, are within the known distribution range of the species in the Mediterranean basin (MATALANAS, 1977).

Up to now this is the only species of *Epigonus* not found in the Adriatic sea. Only extensive researches on deep-water ichthyofauna of southern Adriatic and Eastern Mediterranean could verify if *E. costanciae* is restricted to western Mediterranean basin.

Distribution of the species of *Epigonus* in the Italian seas, based on our material and recent literature records, is summarized in the figure.



Records of *Epigonus* in the Italian seas: □ *E. telescopus*, ○ *E. denticulatus*, △ *E. costanciae*; (open symbols for literature records, black symbols for present material).

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