

SEPIOLIDS FROM THE ADRIATIC SEA (MOLLUSCA, CEPHALOPODA)

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ABSTRACT: The species of the family Sepiolidae from the Adriatic Sea are listed and references are given for the ones recorded in the last decade: Rossia macrosoma, Sepiola ligulata, Rondeletiola minor, and Sepietta neglecta, a species new for the Adriatic.

The family Sepiolidae (Mollusca, Cephalopoda) is represented in the Mediterranean by 15 species (TORCHIO, 1968), of which only six were reported by GAMULIN-BRIDA and ILIJANIĆ (1972) as living in the Adriatic Sea. Actually a previous work (RUDOLPH, 1932) recorded, in addition to those six species, the presence of Sepiola affinis. During the last decade the presence of four more species was detected and therefore the list of the Sepiolids from the Adriatic needs to be brought up to date (table 1).

The newly recorded species are:

Rossia macrosoma, first reported by MANDIĆ (1973) from the Southadriatic pit; JARDAS (1979) lists the various Adriatic findings. This species is fairly common along the southern Italian coast as well.

Sepiola ligulata, found by LUMARE (1974) in several areas of the central Adriatic.

Rondeletiola minor, reported by LUMARE (1974) who netted one specimen off Termoli (Italy). We have collected many sepiolids of this species, associated with Sepietta oweniana, from the catches of trawlers fishing along the coast of Bari Province (Italy).

Sepietta neglecta, a species new for the Adriatic Sea. One specimen was collected on March 1979 from the catch of a local fishing-boat trawling on a muddy bottom off Molfetta (Bari, Italy), at a depth between 30 and 50 m. It was associated with a large number of specimens of Sepiola rondeleti and S. oweniana.

The specimen of S. neglecta was a sexually mature male with spermatophores and a well developed hectocotylus, which made comparatively simple its identification after the original description by NAEF (1916). Its total length, without tentacles, was 5.2 cm.

The hectocotylus, which closely resembled the one depicted by NAEF (1916), bore four small, pedunculate suckers at the base; the copulatory apparatus consisted of a little distinct median elevation followed by an evident flask-like second elevation, by a small tooth, and finally by the curved outer tooth; the inner row of suckers of the distal part of the arm bore four enlarged suckers, the fourth of which was a little larger, followed by smaller ones. The tentacles were very delicate and their weak development was particularly evident when compared to tentacles of S. oweniana.

As to the geographical distribution, RUDOLPH (1932) reports that S. neglecta was found only in the Tyrrhenian Sea, and emphasizes its absence from Adriatic collections. TORCHIO (1968) gives a wider distribution, from the Eastern Atlantic Ocean to the Western and, doubtfully, the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. About the dubious presence in the Eastern Mediterranean, it can be added that DIGBY (1949) identified two specimens from Turkish waters as "probably Sepietta neglecta".

Table 1: Family SEPIOLIDAE

Subfamily ROSSIINAE

Rossia macrosoma (DELLE CHIAJE, 1829)

Subfamily SEPIOLINAE

Sepiola rondeleti LEACH, 1817

Sepiola steenstrupiana LEVY, 1912

Sepiola ligulata NAEF, 1912

Sepiola intermedia NAEF, 1912

Sepiola robusta NAEF, 1912

Sepiola affinis NAEF, 1912

Rondeletiola minor (NAEF, 1912)

Sepietta oweniana (ORBIGNY, 1839)

Sepietta neglecta NAEF, 1916

Sepietta obscura NAEF, 1916

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