

## STOMATOPOD LARVAE OF THE AEGEAN SEA

Ismet ÖZEL

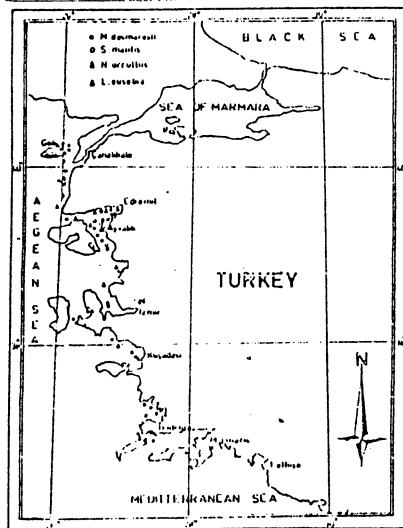
Ege University, Faculty of Science  
Biology Division, Hydrobiological Department  
Bornova-Izmir/TURKEY

RESUME: Des échantillons de plancton ont été collectés dans 85 stations lors de recherches effectuées dans la mer Egée en 1977, des larves de Stomatopodes ont été trouvées dans 50 d'entre elles. Pour les échantillons collectés entre Bodrum dans le sud et Gökçeada dans le Nord de la mer Egée, 4 espèces de larves de Stomatopodes ont été identifiées (*Nannosquilloides occultus*, *Platysquilla eusebia*, *Meio-squilla desmaresti* et *Squilla mantis*).

Although there are some studies on the adult Stomatopods, there isn't any research work on their larvae in the Aegean Sea except for the Izmir Bay (Özel and Koray, 1983). Stomatopod larvae have been reported from Crete (Bacescu and Mayer, 1961), Israel (Williamson, 1967) and Egypt (Steur, 1938) in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

During 1977 investigations have been carried out in 85 stations located in the Aegean sea yet from the plankton samples collected Stomatopod larvae have been found in only 50 stations. Surface hauls have been done using a standard type plankton net with a mesh size of 565  $\mu$ , oblique hauls have also been done occasionally. 196 samples have been collected belonging to the pelagic stage. The investigation has been carried out in two regions, one being the south and the second being the North Aegean (Fig.).

In the south Aegean Sea investigations have been carried out between the gulf of Izmir and Bodrum beginning



from 20<sup>th</sup> of April until 1st of May 1977. In the north Aegean Sea however studies have been carried on between the gulf of Izmir and Gökçeada from 10.6.1977 until 15.6.1977 covering a six-day period. In the southern part of the Aegean Sea, two species being *M. desmaresti* (108 individuals) and *P. eusebia* (5 individuals); in the northern part of the Aegean Sea *S. mantis* (4 individuals), *M. desmaresti* (39 individuals), *Nannosquill-*

*lodes occultus* (28 individuals) and *P. eusebia* (6 individuals) have been identified.

In the northern part of the Aegean Sea *M. desmaresti* and *N. occultus* larvae are abundant; *S. mantis* and *P. eusebia* larvae are scarce. In the southern part however, *M. desmaresti* larvae are abundant and widely distributed whereas *P. eusebia* are rarely found.

Özel and Koray (1983) have reported the larvae of *N. occultus* (May-September), *P. eusebia* (April-July), *M. desmaresti* (May-November), *S. mantis* (June-November) in the gulf of Izmir. The reason *S. mantis* and *L. occultus* larvae have been found in the southern part of the Aegean Sea may be because plankton hauls have been done in the month of April.

Together with this in a recent study carried on adult Stomatopods three species from the Aegean Sea (*N. occultus*, *M. desmaresti*, *S. mantis*) have been reported. Whereas only two species *Oratosquilla massevensis* and *S. mantis* have been reported (Kocataş, 1981).