

**Distribution of the Zoea larvae of *Ethusa mascarone* (Herbst, 1782)
(Brachyura, Decapoda) in the Aegean Sea**

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The family Dorripidae is represented in the Aegean Sea by *Medorippe lanata* (Linné, 1766) and *Ethusa mascarone* (Herbst, 1782), (Kocataş, 1981). The zoea larvae of them are similar, but they are easily distinguishable from one another by the dorsal spine-rostrum length and the presence or absence of a pair of spines on carapace. Descriptions of the larval stages of *E. mascarone* have been made by Kurian (1956), Bourdillon-Casanova (1960) and Heegaard (1963). However, the zoea larvae of only *E. mascarone* have been found in the plankton samples collected in the Aegean Sea. These larvae have also, previously been reported from several localities in the Mediterranean Sea: abundantly from the SW coast of Portuguese between June and September (Paula, 1987); from the Catalonia coast of Spain, only in June (Fuste, 1987); in the bay of Algeria, rarely in June-July (Seridji, 1970); in the Gulf of Marseille, from the beginning of summer to the end of autumn (Bourdillon-Casanova, 1960) and in the vicinity of Mljet in the Adriatic Sea, common from May to November with maximum in May (Kurian, 1956).

This study has been based on the zooplankton samples, collected with two conical nets, mesh size 0.569 mm and 0.330 mm by surface and vertical hauls in the Aegean Sea in April and June, 1977 and in the Gulf of Izmir in 1987.

Totally, 287 specimens have been found in the samples which were hauled generally in surface waters from April to November. Mean Total lengths of the specimens are in accordance with Bourdillon-Casanova's (1960) measurements, except that in our material, Rostrum lengths are nearly equal to or longer than Dorsal spine lengths. And also, the average lengths at the stage IV are greater than her values (Tab. 1).

Table 1.- Mean values (mm) of Dorsal Spine (DS), Rostrum (R) and Total Lengths (TL).

	Aegean Sea			Marseille (B.C., 1960)		
	DS	R	TL	DS	R	TL
Zoea I	2.060	2.104	4.758	2.15	2.00	4.80
Zoea II	2.933	3.147	6.808	3.50	2.50-2.75	6-8.00
Zoea III	3.792	4.054	8.787	4.00	3.00	8.50
Zoea IV	4.960	5.108	11.275	4.00	3.60	9.20

Table 2.- Distribution of *E. mascarone* larvae and investigated parameters of the research stations (The last five stations are situated in the Gulf of Izmir).

Geographic location	Stages	N.ind.	Depths	Temp. °C	Sal.‰	Date
39°34'00" N 26°54'30" E	Zoea I	1	24m	21.3	38.05	13.6.1977
39°30'30" N 26°36'00" E	Zoea I Zoea III Zoea IV	2 1 1	66m	21.3	37.95	13.6.1977
39°27'00" N 26°25'00" E	Zoea I Zoea II Zoea III	13 11 1	110m	22.3	37.92	12.6.1977
39°02'30" N 26°46'00" E	Zoea I Zoea II Zoea III Zoea IV	187 42 13 1	40m	21.5	37.85	11.6.1977
38°44'00" N 26°40'30" E	Zoea I	1	70m	19.4	38.70	11.6.1977
38°43'00" N 26°29'00" E	Zoea II	1	110m	15.0	38.72	19.4.1977
30°40'00" N 26°37'00" E	Zoea I Zoea III Zoea IV	1 3 2	70m	21.0	38.70	28.6.1987
38°28'30" N 26°51'30" E	Zoea I	1	38m	22.8	37.88	27.7.1987
38°27'30" N 26°47'30" E	Zoea I Zoea II	1 1	47m 47m	20.1 23.5	37.60 38.40	10.10.1987 7.7.1987
38°25'30" N 26°39'00" E	Zoea I Zoea II Zoea I	1 1 1	29m 29m 29m	21.5 24.0 23.5	38.70 38.74 38.76	28.6.1987 27.7.1987 25.8.1987
38°25'30" N 26°48'30" E	Zoea I	1	29	22.6	37.64	27.7.1987

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