

Additions to Holothuroidea of the Adriatic Sea

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In the Adriatic Sea, in the frame of a number of research programs, several holothurians were collected which previously were seldom recorded, or were even not found in the area. The material was sampled by SCUBA diving, by means of a Van Veen 0.1 m² grab, or by otter trawl.

Holothuria helleri Marenzeller, 1878, has not been noted in the Adriatic Sea in the past hundred years, except for a specimen noticed by Tortonese (1965) in the Venice lagoon. Only recently 5 specimens, 16-32 mm long, were collected among algae at a 1-2 m depth in the area of the Istrian Peninsula, Losinj Island, and at the Kornati Archipelago (Fig. 1).

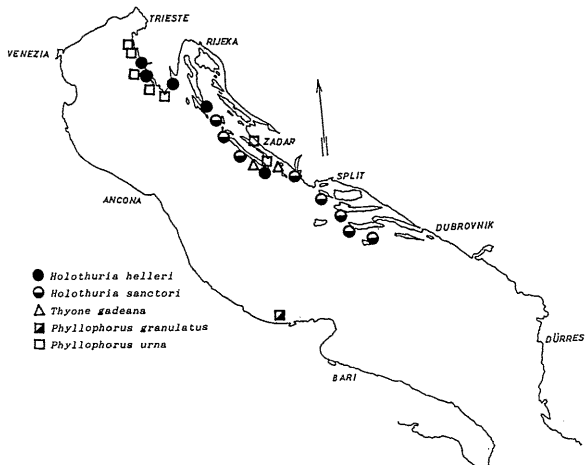


Fig. 1. Recent findings of some holothurians in the Adriatic Sea.

Holothuria sanctori Delle Chiaje, 1823, was noted in the area for the first time only a few years ago (Zavodnik, 1985). Recent information, mostly provided by Ms. J. Belamaric, widely expanded its distribution pattern (Fig. 1). Specimens were noted at 4-15 m depth, usually in hard bottom crevices and under rock projections.

Thyone gadeana Perrier, 1902, was not previously recorded in the Adriatic Sea. In 1987 I sampled 5 specimens, 16-54 mm long, at the Kornati Archipelago in the central Adriatic. Collections were made at four stations, on silty sediment, at 82-105 m depth. The ossicles and calcareous ring corresponded to the description of Reys (1959).

Phylloporus granulatus (Grube, 1840) is also a new species for the area. One 50 mm long specimen was captured on grey mud by Mr. A. Simunovic on 8 December 1984 at a "Pipeta" station H1 (42°00'11" N, 15°05'20" E), at a 22 m depth. The ossicles were in accordance with those figured by Koehler (1927), Heding & Panning (1954), and Cherbonnier & Guille (1971). Most tables have been modified, carrying a low multi-columnal spire, dome- or cone-shaped, a finely and irregularly perforated disc.

Phylloporus urna Grube, 1840. Recent findings (Fig. 1) of this well-known but rarely noted species (Mayer, 1937) reinforce the supposition that in the Adriatic Sea it is most frequent in the shallow north-eastern part of the basin.

Consequently, the present information increased the number of Adriatic holothurian species to 36, which is 73% of the Holothuroidea listed in the Mediterranean (Tortonese, 1980).

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