ASPECTS ON THE BIOLOGY OF BLACKSPOT SEABREAM, PAGELLUS BOGARAVEO (BRUNNICH, 1768) IN THE NORTHERN AEGEAN SEA (GREECE)

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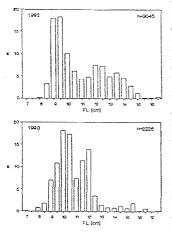
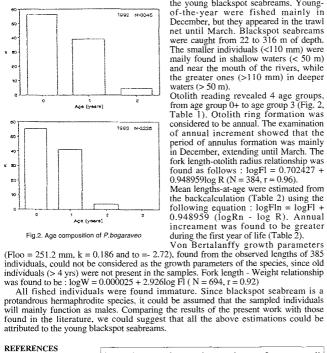


Fig. 1 Length-frequency distribution of P.bog



Pagellus bogaraveo is a demersal fish, common in the western coast of the Atlantic Ocean and the Western Mediterranean, but quite rare in the Eastern Mediterranean or absent from the Black Sea (FISHER et al., 1987). Although some works on the biology of the species in the Western Mediterranean and the Atlantic have been published (COUPE, 1954; RAMOS & CENDRERO, 1967; SANCHEZ, 1983; KRUG, 1989), no information is available from the Eastern Mediterranean and especially the Greek waters. A total of 5 271 individuals was collected seasonally from June 1992 to December 1993, by a 400HP commercial trawler 1993, by a 400HP commercial trawler equipped with a cod-end mesh size of 14 mm, in the Thermaikos Gulf, the Gulfs of mm, in the Thermaikos Gulf, the Gulfs of Chalkidiki and the Thracian Sea (Greece). Fork length, weight and sex were recorded. Age was determined by otolith reading. FISHPARM (PRAGER *et al.*, 1989) was used for the estimation of von Bertalanffy growth parameters. The length-frequency diagram of the caught blackspot seabreams showed that fork lengths ranged from 70 to 175 mm (Fig. 1). Since larger individuals are known to exist in the Greek waters (pers. observ.), the main bulk of the fished individuals, ranging from 90 to 140 mm, could be considered as representative of the young blackspot seabreams. Young-of-the-year were fished mainly in December, but they appeared in the trawl net until March. Blackspot seabreams were caught from 22 to 316 m of depth. The smaller individuals (<110 mm) were maily found in shallow waters (< 50 m) and near the mouth of the rivers, while the greater ones (>110 mm) in deeper waters (>50 m). Otolith reading revealed 4 age groups, from age group 0+ to age group 3 (Fig. 2) Chalkidiki and the Thracian Sea (Greece).

Otolith reading revealed 4 age groups, from age group 0+ to age group 3 (Fig. 2, Table 1). Otolith ring formation was considered to be annual. The examination annual increment showed that the

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Length classes	0	1	2	3	N
70 - 80	1	0	0	0	1
80 - 90	7	0	0	0	7
90 - 100	55	0	0	0	55
100 - 110	64	10	0	0	74
110 - 120	13	52	0	0	65
120 - 130	0	71	0	0	71
130 - 140	0	53	1	0	54
140 - 150	0	27	23	0	50
150 - 160	0	1	5	0	6
160 - 170	0	0	1	0	1
170 - 180	0	0	0	1	1
N	140	214	30	1	385
Mean FL	100.2	126	146	175	
Table 1. Length	-age key	of P.bogarav	eo in the N	lorth Aegea	n Sea
Age group	N	Mean obs. FL	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3
1	214	126	111.7		
2	30	146	114.1		142.7
3	1	175	118.9	152.8	175
Mean FL			112.0	143.1	175
Annual increament			112.0	31.1	31.9

 Pagellus
 cantabricus

 (Asso)of Northern Spain
 Annual increament

 112.0
 31.1

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