

# THE EXISTENCE OF 4 IMMIGRANT FISH SPECIES FROM THE RED SEA IN THE SYRIAN COAST (THE ORIENTAL MEDITERRANEAN)

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In order to make an environmental and systematic survey on fishes in the Syrian coast, we begin in May 1991 to collect fish specimen directly from the sea by sailing with demersal trawl launches which belong to the marine fishing center in Lattakia, and with small and big boats which belong to fishermen. These boats and launches use many methods in fishing (long line, many kind of seines ...). Our voyages have covered all the region from the Turkish boundaries in the north to Baniyas city in the south.

Consequently, we have determined 150 species which belong to 112 genera which follow 69 families, which follow in turn 15 orders, which belong to the super order Teleostei.

In a very artistic and scientific way, we have preserved samples of these fishes inside glass vessels which are firmly closed in the laboratory of Oceanography and Aquatic Environment in Tishreen University. In our research, we have recorded the existence of 4 species for the first time in the Syrian regional water. Comparing the systematic properties with the modern systematics keys (WHITEHEAD *et al.*, 1986; FISHER *et al.*, 1987), we found that these species belong to the fishes of the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. These fishes migrated to the Mediterranean through the Suez canal. Ben-Tuvia was the first to point to the migration of these species and to record their existence in the Mediterranean, in the southern Israeli coasts. We are not aware of any further evidence supporting the existence of these species in the Eastern Basin of the Mediterranean (PAPACONSTANTINO, 1988; MOUNEIMNE, 1977).

This migration took place as a result of the environmental changes which happened to the Eastern Basin of the Mediterranean sea. The environmental characteristics of the Mediterranean water became so close of those of the Red Sea and this in turn explains the migration of these fishes toward east of the Mediterranean. Are there other reasons ?

Family	species	date	method of fishing	depth
Apogonidae	<i>Apogon taeniatus</i>	3/12/92	demersal trawl	45 m
Callionymidae	<i>Callionymus filamentosus</i>	1/7/93	demersal trawl	65 m
Cynoglossidae	<i>Synoglossus sinusarabici</i>	25/3/93	dynamite	3 m
Gobiidae	<i>Silhoueta aegyptia</i>	2/4/93	demersal trawl	45 m

Table 1 : Names of immigrant species, Family, Depth of caught, methods and date of fishing.

	<i>A. taeniatus</i>	<i>C. filamentosus</i>	<i>S. sinusarabici</i>	<i>S. aegyptia</i>
Total length C.m	10,5	10,8	12,5	11
Standard length C.m	9,3	8,2	11,7	8,8
Body depth C.m	3,4	1,5	3,7	1,8
Head length Cm	3,2	2,4	2,3	2,7
Eye diameter C.m	0,8	0,6	0,3	0,7
First dorsal fin rays	VII	IV	100	VI
Second dorsal fin rays	I+8	9	-	I+10
Anal fin rays	II+6	9	78	11
Scales in lateral series	25	-	-	26

Table 2 : Morphometric and meristic characteristics (We have taken the average of 5 individuals)

## REFERENCE

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