

THE DRIFTFISH, *CUBICEPS GRACILIS* (LOWE, 1843) (PISCES, NOMEIDAE): A NEW RECORD FOR THE AEGEAN SEA

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Abstract

Eight specimens of very rare species *Cubiceps gracilis* (LOWE, 1843) (Pisces, Nomeidae) were caught from the Sigacik Bay (Aegean Sea). A recent record of the species was confined to Antalya Bay (eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey). By this record, its distribution range at Turkish seas has extended to the Aegean Sea.

Keywords : Aegean Sea, Biogeography, Eastern Mediterranean, Fishes.

Introduction

Cubiceps gracilis is an oceanic fish distributed in the eastern Atlantic, western Mediterranean [1] and western Pacific [2]. Also, it was well known in Adriatic Sea [3]. A previous record was given from the Turkish coasts of Mediterranean (Antalya Bay) [4]. Therefore, the present report constitutes the first record of this species in the Aegean Sea.

Material and methods

On 11st September 2005, eight specimens of *Cubiceps gracilis* (Fig. 1) were sampled by a commercial trawl (F/V Hapuloglu, 23 m length and 550 HP), in Sigacik Bay (from 38°08' N, 26°42' E to 37°55' N, 26°44' E). Depth range of the fishing ground was 150-473 m. The specimens were captured during day time (08.00-11.30 a.m.).

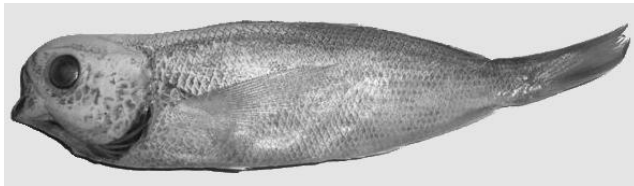


Fig. 1. General view of *Cubiceps gracilis* captured from Sigacik Bay, Aegean Sea.

The specimens were identified according to [5], fixed by 40% formalin and stored in the Ege University Faculty of Fisheries, Turkey. Morphometric measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1 cm (Table 1).

Tab. 1. Meristic and morphometric characters recorded in examined specimens of *C. gracilis* in the Aegean Sea (Sp. specimen; minimum and maximum value are given in parenthesis).

	Sp. 1	Sp. 2	Sp. 3	Sp. 4	Sp. 5	Sp. 6	Sp. 7	Sp. 8	% SL (min.-max.)
Total Length (TL)	17.2	16.7	16.5	17.4	17.5	18.0	17.3	16.1	-
Fork Length (FL)	15.0	14.8	14.7	15.5	15.5	15.9	15.7	14.3	-
Standard Length (SL)	14.2	14.0	14.0	14.5	14.6	14.8	14.5	13.4	-
Snout to eye	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	6.74±0.44 (5.71-7.75)
first dorsal fin	5.0	4.8	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.8	34.14±0.74 (32.86-35.82)
second dorsal fin	7.2	6.9	7.0	7.2	7.6	7.4	7.1	6.7	50.08±0.66 (48.97-52.05)
Pectoral fin	4.5	4.1	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	3.9	29.64±0.91 (27.14-31.69)
Pelvic fin	5.6	5.4	4.8	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.3	4.9	36.84±1.08 (34.29-39.44)
Anal fin	8.4	7.9	7.7	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.4	7.9	57.55±0.93 (55.00-59.15)
Maxilla length	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	6.67±0.32 (5.63-7.14)
Eye diameter	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	6.67±0.32 (5.63-7.14)
Head length	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	28.79±0.55 (27.70-29.85)
Body height	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.5	25.79±0.54 (24.65-26.90)
Pectoral fin leght	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	32.05±1.04 (30.14-34.33)
Interorbital distance	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	8.61±0.46 (7.75-9.70)
First dorsal fin	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	
Second dorsal fin	I+22	I+22	I+22	I+22	I+22	I+22	I+22	I+22	
Anal fin	II+22	II+22	II+22	II+22	II+22	II+22	II+22	II+22	

Diagnosis

Body elongated and compressed. Head large (27.70-29.85), predorsal (32.86-35.82), preanal (55.00-59.15); snout short, round (5.71-7.75), eye large (5.63-7.14) and interorbital distance wide (7.75-9.70); all percentage of standard length (SL). Small mouth reaching back to the vertical of the anterior of the eye. A single row of small conical teeth in both jaws. Small granular teeth in broad patches on the tongue and roof of the mouth. Upper gill arch with nine rakers and lower with 16, the raker below the angle is the largest, sub-equal to the longest gill filament. Two dorsal fins, first with 11 spines, the last four spines are separated. Second dorsal fin with 22 rays. Anal fin with two spines and 22 rays. Base of pectoral fin at 45° angle to body axis. Pelvic fin with a single spine and five rays, its origin on the vertical of the posterior edge of the pectoral fin base. Scales on the head reach almost to the posterior nostril.

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