

# ON A COLLECTION OF OPISTHOBANCHS (MOLLUSCA, GASTROPODA) FROM THE LEVANTINE COAST OF TURKEY

S. Ü. Karhan <sup>1\*</sup>, E. Kalkan <sup>2</sup>, M. B. Yokes <sup>3</sup>, H. Balkis <sup>1</sup> and C. Dalyan <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Biology, Istanbul University - unsalkarhan@yahoo.com

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Environmental Sciences, Bogaziçi University

<sup>3</sup> Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Haliç University

## Abstract

A small collection containing ten species of opisthobranch gastropods reported here from the Levantine coast of Turkey. Of these species *Facelina annulicornis* and *Pruvotfolia pselliotes* are new records for the Levantine Sea.

**Keywords:** *Gastropods, Mollusca, Levantine Basin*

The knowledge of opisthobranch fauna of the Levantine Sea is very incomplete and needs to be improved when compared to the other parts of the Mediterranean. Although, some contemporary studies from Turkish coast [e.g. 1,2] have provided important insights into the Opisthobranch fauna of the region, most of the current knowledge is based upon some old studies from Turkish and Israeli coasts [e.g. 3,4].

The specimens reported here were obtained during a faunistic survey conducted on the coasts of Samandag and Yayladagi (Levantine coast of Turkey, close to the Turkish-Syrian border) between October 2008 and May 2009. Collection of the specimens was carried out by SCUBA diving. All specimens were photographed alive, were preserved in 70% ethanol and are stored in the Istanbul University Science Faculty Hydrobiology Museum, Turkey. Of the ten opisthobranch species identified *Facelina annulicornis* and *Pruvotfolia pselliotes* are new records for the Levantine Sea.

## Collection

*Aplysia parvula* Guilding in Morch, 1863

Material examined: Yayladagi, 35°57'05"N, 35°55'10"E, under stone, depth 9 m, 02.V.2009, 1 specimen

Previous records from Levantine Sea: Turkey, Gulf of Fethiye [1], Gulf of Antalya [2]; Israel [4]

*Aplysia depilans* Gmelin, 1791

Material examined: Yayladagi, 35°57'05"N, 35°55'10"E, under stone, depth 4 m, 02.V.2009, 1 specimen; 35°58'59"N, 35°57'22"E, under stone, depth 6 m, 03.V.2009, 1 specimen

Previous records from Levantine Sea: Turkey, Mersin [3], Tasucu [5], Kas and Gulf of Antalya [2]

*Pleurobranchus testudinarius* Cantraine, 1835

Material examined: Yayladagi, 35°58'59"N, 35°57'22"E, on sand, under stone, depth 6 m, 03.V.2009, 1 specimen

Previous records from Levantine Sea: Turkey, Kas [2], Gulf of Antalya [1,2]; Israel [4]

*Hypselodoris picta* (Schultz, 1836)

Material examined: Yayladagi, 35°57'05"N, 35°55'10"E, rocky, depth 7 m, 02.V.2009, 1 specimen

Previous records from Levantine Sea: Turkey, Kas [1], Gulf of Antalya [1,2]; Israel [4]

*Hypselodoris infucata* (Ruppell & Leuckart, 1830)

Material examined: Yayladagi, 35°57'05"N, 35°55'10"E, under stone, depth 3-5 m, 02.V.2009, 3 specimens

Previous records from Levantine Sea: Turkey, Gulf of Iskenderun [6], Gulf of Fethiye [7]; Israel [8]

*Flabellina rubrolineata* (O'Donoghue, 1929)

Material examined: Samandag, 36°10'23"N, 35°52'43"E, rocky, depth 12 m, 25.X.2008, 1 specimen

Previous records from Levantine Sea: Turkey, Kas [2,7], Gulf of Antalya [2,7,9]; Israel [10]

*Dondice banyulensis* Portmann & Sandmeier, 1960

Material examined: Yayladagi, 35°58'59"N, 35°57'22"E, rocky, depth 16 m, 03.V.2009, 1 specimen

Previous records from Levantine Sea: Turkey, Mediterranean coast [9], Kas and Gulf of Antalya [1,2]

*Spurilla neapolitana* (Delle Chiaje, 1823)

Material examined: Yayladagi, 36°00'34"N, 35°58'48"E, rocky, depth 3 m, 03.V.2009, 1 specimen

Previous records from Levantine Sea: Turkey, Kas [2], Gulf of Antalya [3]

*Facelina annulicornis* (Chamisso & Eysenhardt, 1821)

Material examined: Yayladagi, 36°00'34"N, 35°58'48"E, rocky, depth 3 m, 03.V.2009, 1 specimen

Remarks: This species recorded for the first time from the Levantine Sea. The

closest records are from Bodrum (Turkish Aegean coast) and Istanbul (Sea of Marmara) [2].

*Pruvotfolia pselliotes* (Labbe, 1923)

Material examined: Yayladagi, 35°58'59"N, 35°57'22"E, under stone, depth 6 m, 03.V.2009, 1 specimen

Remarks: This species recorded for the first time from the Levantine Sea. The closest record is from Istanbul (Sea of Marmara) [2].

## References

- 1 - Türkmen A. and Demirsoy A., 2009. Contributions to the Eastern Mediterranean Opisthobranchia (Mollusca:Gastropoda) Fauna of Turkey. *Turkish Journal of Zoology*, 33:57-68.
- 2 - Yokes M.B., 2009 Additions to the knowlegde of opisthobranchia from Turkey. *Triton*, 20:5-19.
- 3 - Swennen C., 1961. On a collection of Opisthobranchia from Turkey. *Zoologische Mededelingen*, 38: 41-75.
- 4 - Barash A. and Danin Z., 1971. Opisthobranchia (Mollusca) from the Mediterranean waters of Israel. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 20: 151-200.
- 5 - Buzzurro G. and Greppi E., 1996. The lessepsian molluscs of Tasucu (South-East Turkey). *La Conchiglia*, 28 suppl. (279): 3-22.
- 6 - Çevik C. and Öztürk B., 2001. A new lessepsian mollusc *Hypselodoris infucata* (Rüppell and Leuckart, 1830) (Gastropoda: Nudibranchia) for the coasts of Turkey. *Turkish Journal of Zoology*, 25: 27-30.
- 7 - Yokes M.B. and Rudman W.B., 2004a. Lessepsian Opisthobranch from Southwestern Coast of Turkey; Five New records for Mediterranean. *Rapports et procès-verbaux des réunions Commission Internationale pour l'exploration scientifique de la Mer Méditerranée*, 37: 557.
- 8 - Barash A. and Danin Z., 1973. The Indo-Pacific species of mollusca in the Mediterranean and notes on a collection from the Suez canal. *Israel Journal of Zoology*, 21(3-4): 301-374.
- 9 - Yokes M.B. and Rudman W.B., 2004b. Aeolidiina (Opisthobranchia, Gastropoda) species recorded in Turkish waters: 11 new records for Turkey. In: Gencil C, Özgüle M.C., Kemik N. and Egi S.M. (Eds.) SBT 2004, 8th Underwater Science and Technologies Meeting Proceedings, 26-28 November 2004, Istanbul, Turkey, pp:60-69 (in Turkish).
- 10 - Gat G., 1993. *Flabellina rubrolineata* (O'Donoghue) and *Phidiana indica* (Bergh) (Nudibranchia Aeolidioidea), two new Lessepsian immigrants in the Eastern Mediterranean. *Journal of Molluscan Studies*, 59: 120.