

Occurrence of *Pteragogus pelycus* RANDALL, 1981 (Teleostei: Labridae) and *Petroscirtes ancyodon* RÜPPELL, 1838 (Teleostei: Blenniidae) at the east- ern Mediterranean coast of Turkey

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Two Lessepsian immigrant fishes, *Pteragogus pelycus* RANDALL, 1981 and *Petroscirtes ancyodon* RÜPPELL, 1838, are being recorded for the first time from the eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey. The inclusion of these species has increased the list of Lessepsian fishes to 29 for the Turkish seas.

Key words: *Pteragogus pelycus*, *Petroscirtes ancyodon*, Lessepsian migration, eastern Mediterranean

INTRODUCTION

The invasion rate of the eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey by new Red Sea fishes has accelerated in recent years. Up to now, 30 species of Lessepsian migrant fishes have been listed from the Turkish seas (TAŞKAVAK *et al.*, 1998). However, a further examination of two unsubstantiated records (*Therapon puta* and *Tylosurus chorum*) given by TORCU (1994) revealed a misidentification and is currently recognized as invalid. Among two recent records given by BASUSTA *et al.* (1998), *Taeniura grabata* is not a Lessepsian migrant (DOR, 1984; D.GOLANI, pers.comm.), and *Himantura uarnak* was previously reported from Mersin Bay (BEN-TUVIA, 1966).

On 22 January 1997, a specimen of *Petroscirtes ancyodon* (63.1 mm, SL) was caught with a fishing rod at a depth of 2m near Arsus, İskenderun Bay (Fig.1). The water temperature at the site was 16° C and the substrate consisted of biogenic rocks enclosed in sand.

During a study carried out at Ovacık-Mersin Bay (Fig.1), a male *Pteragogus pelycus* specimen (75.3 mm, SL) was captured with a hand-net at a depth of 1m on 24 August 1998. Substrate at the site was mostly rocky with small fractions of fine sand. An additional specimen was observed on the same day by the second author during a scuba dive at a nearby site of 4m in depth, where the substrate was sandy covered with meadows of the Lessepsian sea grass, *Halophila stipulacea*.

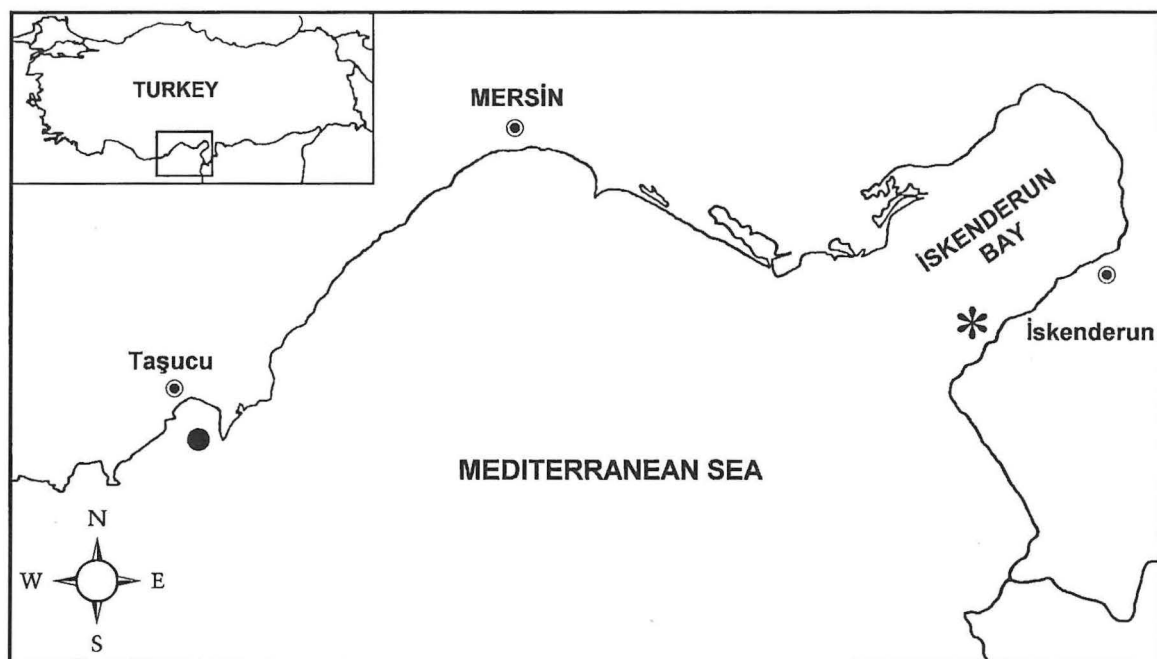


Fig. 1. Sampling location of *Pteragogus pelycus* (•) and *Petrosciartes ancylodon* (*) along the eastern Mediterranean coast of Turkey

The specimens were preserved in 70% alcohol and deposited in the fish collection of Ege University. Morphometric measurements were determined by a caliper of 0.05 mm accuracy and the meristic counts were made under a magnifying glass (x10).

SPECIES ACCOUNT

Pteragogus pelycus RANDALL, 1981 (Fig. 2)

Description

Dorsal rays XI + 9; anal rays III + 9; pectoral rays 13; pelvic rays I + 5. Lateral line complete with 24 pored scales (the last one greatly elongated), bent sharply downward below soft portion of dorsal fin to midlateral peduncular portion; median predorsal scales 4; cheeks scaled to below center of eye. Head length 2.5, body depth 2.9, dorsal fin base 1.9, anal fin base 3.3, all in standard length (SL). Eye diameter 6

and snout length 3.5 in head length. First soft ray of pelvic fins very long in males extending as far as the midpoint of anal fin base, 2.4 in SL; caudal fins strongly rounded and moderately long, 2.7 in SL. Posterior preopercular margin with moderately sized serrae, 28 on the left and 24 on the right side. Dorsal profile of head straight to somewhat convex; two pairs of slightly recurved canine teeth projecting anteriorly in jaws.

Color (of fresh specimen)

Mainly reddish-brown but somewhat darker below the dorsal fin base. Lateral line with distinct irregular elongate brown and pale spots. A large black spot on each of first three interspinous membranes of dorsal fin, rest of dorsal fin membrane light with brown upper and yellow-green lower margin. Anal and ventral fin light with a yellowish margin on the former. Caudal fin membrane with rows of brown dots along edges of rays. A large blackish spot on the opercle broadly edged with yellow (pigmented epidermis of spot easily damaged), located

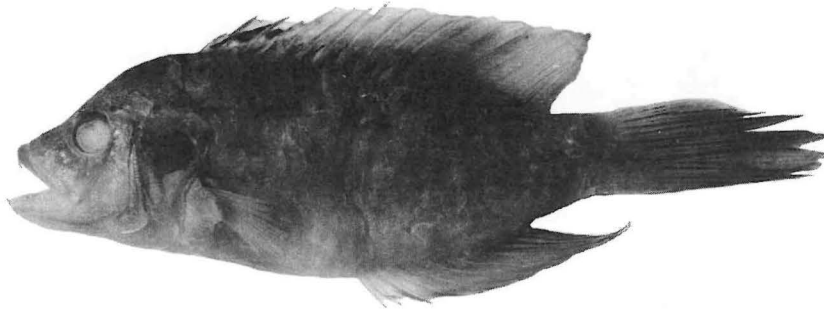


Fig. 2. *Pteragogus pelycus* (7.53 cm, SL) from Ovacik, Mersin Bay

slightly lower than eye. Black spots anteriorly in dorsal fin broadly rimmed with yellow. Orange eye with dark pupil.

Remarks

Pteragogus pelycus is distributed throughout the Red Sea and along the eastern coast of Africa (SMITH, 1965), where it inhabits seagrass beds at depths ranging 0.5 to 28m (RANDALL, 1981). *P. pelycus* is the only Lessepsian labrid to be found in the Mediterranean and it was first recorded from the eastern Levant by GOLANI and SONIN (1992) from Haifa Bay, Israel. The species was later included in the Cypriot (KAYA *et al.*, in press) and the Aegean Sea ichthyofauna (CORSINI and ECONOMIDIS, 1999). The single specimen presented herein consents the successful establishment of the species in the Mediterranean Sea.

The morphomeristic characters of the single specimen are in accord with the descriptions of RANDALL (1981) and GOLANI and SONIN (1992), except for the number of preopercular serrae determined by GOLANI and SONIN (*op.cit.*) which is substantially lower than the Akkuyu Bay specimen. However, RANDALL (*op.cit.*) pointed out that the number of preopercular serrae gradually increases with respect to the standard length of the species.

Petroscirtes ancyledon RÜPPELL, 1838 (Fig. 3)

Description

Body smooth without scales, elongate, compressed laterally. Dorsal rays XI + 19; anal rays II + 18; pectoral rays 14. Last dorsal and anal fin ray attached to caudal peduncle with a membrane. Anterior nostril between front of eye and tip of snout as a short tube, posterior nostril above front of eye as a hole. Gill opening small, entirely above pectoral base. Incisor teeth on both jaws, 40 on the upper and 32 on the lower. A very large and curved canine on each side of lower jaw. Head length 3.7, body depth 4.7, dorsal fin base 1.3, anal fin base 2.5, all in standard length (SL). Eye diameter 4.4 and snout length 5.8 in head length. Interorbital distance slightly lower than eye diameter. A short cirrus on dorsum of eye, 3 in eye diameter; a relatively short postorbital cirrus above posterior margin of eye; symphyseal cirrus of fleshy appearance, directly under the large canines on lower jaw; 2 conspicuous cirri on preopercle associated with 3rd and 5th preopercular pores; predorsal cirrus present; 2 posttemporal cirri slightly above and in front of upper attachment of opercular membrane; 2 nuchal cirri associated with pores. Cephalic sensory pores distinct (for full account see GOREN and GALIL, 1989).

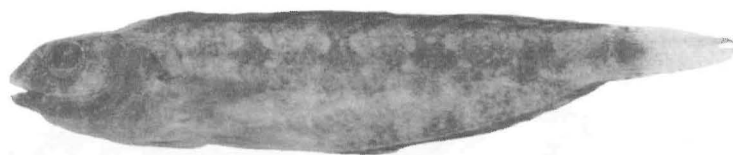


Fig. 3. *Petrosirtes ancylodon* (6.31 cm, SL) from Arsus, Iskenderun Bay

Color (of preserved specimen)

Body light gray with irregular longitudinal stripes and dark blotches (6-7) on the sides. Anal and dorsal fins mottled with black spots. Several light ocelli under dorsal fin base. Pelvic, pectoral and caudal fins colourless.

Remarks

Petrosirtes ancylodon is the first Lessepsian immigrant blennioid in the Mediterranean, which was hitherto recorded only off Nizzanim, southern Mediterranean

coast of Israel (GOREN and GALIL, 1989). The present specimen was collected at 2 m, in accordance with the vertical distribution of its representatives inhabiting the Red Sea (GOREN and GALIL, *op.cit.*).

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**Pojava riba *Pteragogus pelycus* RANDALL, 1981
(Teleostei: Labridae) i *Petroscirtes ancyllodon* RÜPPELL, 1838
(Teleostei: Blenniidae) na istočnomediteranskoj obali Turske**

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SAŽETAK

Dvije migracijske lesepsijske vrste riba *Pteragogus pelycus* RANDALL, 1981 (Teleostei: Labridae) i *Petroscirtes ancyllodon* RÜPPELL, 1838 su po prvi put registrirane na istočnoj mediteranskoj obali Turske. Uvrštavanjem ovih dviju vrsta lesepsijskih riba koje se nalaze u turskom moru povećao se popis na ukupno 29 vrsta.

