

**The First Record of Megrim,
Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis
(WALBAUM, 1792) in Iskenderun Bay
(Northeast Mediterranean Sea)**

Nuri BAŞUSTA¹, İhsan AKYURT¹, Asiye GİRGIN²

¹The University of Mustafa Kemal, Faculty of Fisheries, PK 23, 31200
Iskenderun, Turkey

²The University of Firat, Faculty of Fisheries, 23000 Elazig, Turkey

Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis (WALBAUM, 1792) has been officially recorded for the first time in Iskenderun Bay (36°50'N; 36°00'E). This finding strongly declares that *L. whiffiagonis* is present in the Turkish territorial waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

Key words: *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*, megrim, Iskenderun Bay, first record

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INTRODUCTION

Megrim, *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis* (WALBAUM, 1792), belongs to the family of Scophthalmidae. This family consists of 5 genus: *Lepidorhombus*, *Phrynorhombus*, *Psetta*, *Scophthalmus*, *Zeugopterus* with 18 species (NELSON, 1994). *L. whiffiagonis* is widely distributed species found in Atlantic coasts from 64° N (including Iceland) to 26° N (Cape Bojador) (NIELSEN, 1986), and in the Mediterranean Sea, from the southern shores of Spain to the Eastern Aegean Sea (NIELSEN, 1986;

JARDAS, 1996), shores of Greece (PAPACONSTANTINO, 1988), Western shores of Egypt (BAUCHOT, 1987), Morocco, Tunisia (BAUCHOT, 1987), Algeria (BAUCHOT, 1987; DJABALI *et al.*, 1993). *Lepidorhombus boscii* and *L. whiffiagonis* have recently been recorded in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (GOLANI, 1996). However, only *Lepidorhombus boscii* has been recorded in the Turkish Seas (FISCHER *et al.*, 1987; KAYA, 1993; ANONYMOUS, 1993). On the other hand, *L. whiffiagonis* has simply been listed among fishes distributed in Turkish waters but without any explanation such as date, location, morphological features etc., and without any references. Thus with this brief communication *L. whiffiagonis* has been for the first time officially recorded in the Turkish waters in spite of its presence in the species list given by NIELSEN (1986), AKŞIRAY (1987), MATER and MERİÇ (1996) and FROSE and PAULY (1999).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Four specimens of the species have been captured by a commercial trawl (150-200 m depth) in Iskenderun Bay (36°50'N; 36°00'E) in May 1997. The specimens have been identified as *L. whiffiagonis* by using diagnostic characteristics described by NIELSEN (1986). The specimens were kept in laboratories of Faculty of Fisheries, The University of Mustafa Kemal.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Morphometric measurements and meristic counts of the specimens are shown in Table 1, and its picture is given in Fig. 1.

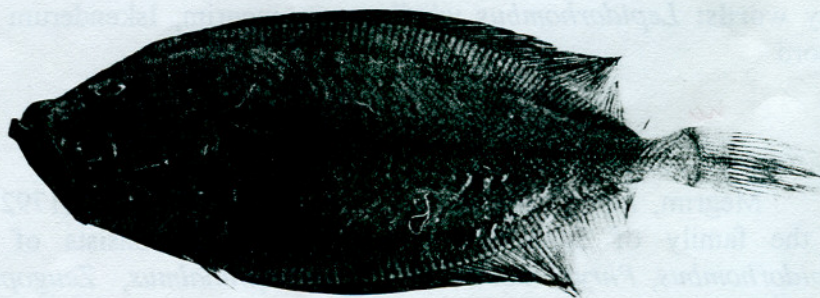


Fig. 1. *Megrim*, *L. whiffiagonis* from Iskenderun Bay, Turkey
(TL = 281.5 mm)

Table 1. *Morphometric measurements and meristic counts of the L. whiffiagonis from Iskenderun Bay (Turkey)*

Measurements	Fish				Unit
	1.	2.	3.	4.	
Total weight	117	68	45	55	gr
Total length	281.5	218.1	192.7	210.4	mm
Body depth	88.6	68.6	60	61	mm
Head length	72	61.2	54	58	mm
Eye width	18.7	16.5	15.7	16.4	mm
Eye height	13.1	11.2	11	11.1	mm
Lower jaw length	44.5	35.8	29.4	34.5	mm
Upper jaw length	41.7	34.5	28.2	33.3	mm
<u>Meristic counts</u>					
Dorsal fin rays	90	87	86	86	
Anal fin rays	70	68	65	66	
Lateral line scales	105	100	98	98	

This species can be distinguished from its closely related congeneric *L. boscii* by having eye diameter less than snout and the absence of dark spots on the dorsal and anal fins (NIELSEN, 1986). The present morphometric measurements and meristic counts of *L. whiffiagonis* is in congruent with the other studies (D 85-91, A 67-75, LL 95-100, JARDAS, 1996; D 85-94, A 64-74, LL 95-109, NIELSEN, 1986; D 80-94, A 61-75, LL; DJABALI, 1999). All findings strongly declare that *L. whiffiagonis* is present in the Turkish territorial waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

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SAŽETAK

Prvi nalaz plosnatke oštronoske *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis* (WALBAUM, 1792) u zaljevu Iskenderun (sjeveroistočni Mediteran)

Nuri BAŞUSTA¹, İhsan AKYURT¹, Asiye GİRGIN²

¹Sveučilište Mustafa kemal, Fakultet ribarstva, P.P. 23, 31200 Iskenderun, Turska

²Sveučilište Firat, Fakultet ribarstva, 23000 Elazig, Turska

Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis (WALBAUM, 1792) po prvi se put spominje za Iskenderunski zaljev (36° 50' N; 36° 00' E). Ovaj nalaz svjedoči o prisustvu ove ribe u turskim vodama Mediterana.

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Institut za oceanografiju i ribarstvo
21000 Split, Hrvatska

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
21000 Split, Croatia
Tel.: 385+21-358-688
Fax: 385+21-358-650
E-mail: Marusic@izor.hr

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