

FIRST RECORD OF A LESSEPSIAN MIGRANT, *POMADASYS STRIDENS* (ACTINOPTERYGII: PERCIFORMES: HAEMULIDAE), FROM THE AEGEAN SEA, TURKEY

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Abstract. A new record of a Lessepsian migrant, the striped piggy, *Pomadasys stridens* (Forsskal, 1775), in Turkish waters is reported herewith. The specimen was captured off the Akyaka coast in Gökova Bay, SE Aegean Sea and measured 130 mm in total length. Other measurements and counts are also provided, as well as the list of other Mediterranean records. This finding constitutes the first record of this fish from the Aegean Sea and the third record from Turkish marine waters. It is also the northernmost report of this species in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Keywords: new record, extension range, measurement, Mediterranean

The family of Haemulidae accommodates 133 species. In this number there are four species native to the Mediterranean (Froese and Pauly 2016). The only Mediterranean non-native species of this family is the striped piggy, *Pomadasys stridens* (Forsskal, 1775).

Pomadasys stridens inhabits coastal waters and swims in schools over sandy substrates to a maximum depth of 25 m (Golani et al. 2006, Froese and Pauly 2015). It feeds on crustaceans and fish (Froese and Pauly 2016). Reproduction occurs in the summer months, and eggs and larvae are planktonic (Ben-Tuvia and McKay 1986, Golani et al. 2002).

Pomadasys stridens is known from the Indian Ocean where it has been recorded from: Red Sea, off South Africa, off Western India, and from East Africa (from Mozambique to the Arabian Gulf) (Golani et al. 2002, Froese and Pauly 2016). It is very likely that the fish entered the Mediterranean from the Red Sea via the Suez Canal and its known records stretch from Egypt (Golani et al. 2006) to the Gulf of Iskenderun, Turkey (Bilecenoglu et al. 2009).

In the Mediterranean Sea, *Pomadasys stridens* was recorded for the first time from the Gulf of Genoa, Italy by Torchio in 1969 (Golani et al. 2002). It was later found in Bardawil Lagoon (Northern Sinai, Egypt) by Ben-Tuvia (1976). Golani (1998) reported that *P. stridens* occurred between Egypt and Lebanon in the south-eastern Mediterranean coasts. More recent records were given in Table 1.

On 3 November 2015, one specimen of *Pomadasys stridens* (Fig. 1) was captured by a trammel net (56 mm stretched mesh size) from Gökova Bay, SE Aegean Sea (37°02'N, 28°18'E) at a depth of 30 m. The specimen was fixed in 5% formaldehyde solution and stored in the fish collection of the Ege University, Fisheries Faculty (ESFM-PIS/2015-07).

The specimen was measured to the nearest 1 mm (Table 2). Brief description of the specimen: body oblong and compressed with small ctenoid scales; colour silvery with three golden longitudinal stripes on upper half of body; pronounced dark spot on upper corner of opercle. All presently determined measurements, and colour patterns

Table 1

Recent records of *Pomadasys stridens* in the Mediterranean Sea

Location	Coordinates	Depth [m]	Record Date	Number collected	Size, TL [mm]	Reference
Yumurtalık, Turkey	36°49', 35°54'	20	18 Oct 2009	6	133–158	Bilecenoglu et al. 2009
Coasts of Israel	31°43', 33°05'	15–270	2008–2011	18	69–145	Edelist 2014
Iskenderun, Turkey	36°04', 36°32'	—	2011–2012	335	76–177	Erguden et al. 2015
Cape Greco, Cyprus	34°57', 34°05'	20	20 Sep 2014	1	149	Iglésias and Frotté 2015
Gökova Bay, Turkey	37°02', 28°18'	30	03 Nov 2015	1	130	Presently reported study

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Fig. 1. *Pomadasys stridens*, caught from Gökova Bay, SE Aegean Sea (ESFM-PIS/2015-07), Photograph by O. Akyol

Table 2
Morphometric and meristic characters of the specimen of
Pomadasys stridens, (ESFM-PIS/2015-07) captured in
Gökova Bay, SE Aegean Sea, Turkey

Character	Size		Count
	[mm]	[% of]	
Total length (TL)	130		
Fork length (FL)	123	94.6 TL	
Standard length (SL)	111	85.4 TL	
Maximum body depth	35	26.9 TL	
Predorsal fin length	39	30.0 TL	
Prepectoral fin length	34	26.2 TL	
Preal anal fin length	68	52.3 TL	
Head length (HL)	33	25.4 TL	
Eye diameter	9	6.9 TL	
Preorbital length	10	30.3 HL	
1st dorsal fin rays			XII
2nd dorsal fin rays			13
Anal fin rays			III + 8
Pectoral fin rays			16
Ventral fin rays			I + 5

are in accordance with the descriptions of Ben-Tuvia and McKay (1986), Golani et al. (2002, 2006), Bilecenoglu et al. (2009), and Froese and Pauly (2016).

The presently reported finding constitutes the first record of this fish from the Aegean Sea and the third record from Turkish marine waters. It also represents the northernmost record of this species in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The presence of recently recorded 361 specimens of *Pomadasys stridens* in different localities and years (i.e., Iskenderun, Yumurtalık, and Israel coasts) (Table 1)

indicates a successful establishment of this fish along the Eastern Mediterranean coasts. However, one specimen found in Cape Greco, Cyprus and the presently reported new record also indicate that *P. stridens* has been advancing westward step by step.

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